



The Archaeological Society of Southern Florida



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Newsletter of the Society

November

President: Barbara Tansey
Gray

Editor: Mary Ellen Gray

DIGGING IN ISRAEL: LOOKING FOR THE LOST ARCHIVE OF ANCIENT HAZOR by Associate Professor Curtis McKinney

Hazor, a Canaanite site that dates before Israel and is mentioned in the Bible, was the original site of the dig that Curtis McKinney applied to assist with this summer. Hazor, a literate society, based on cuneiform texts found on tablets, is actually on the site where seven cities were stacked upon each other. The crews' task was to excavate down through the layers of cities. Hazor- conquered or burned? Evidence was being sought as the crew looked for the top of the "burn" layer, or for the weaponry. Goal: get to the floor of the Persian level and then to the "burn" layer.

Ready? Reset your circadian clock. Awaken around 3 a.m. and be ready to start digging by 4 a.m. Dig a 5 meter by 5 meter square, just shoveling dirt to get to the next level. Stop for the day in the early afternoon when the heat becomes blistering and the sun bakes everything.

After two and one half weeks of work (of the six planned), the army ordered the excavation stopped and evacuated the team out, due to nearby shelling. With the dig stopped, Curtis used this opportunity to travel around locally, visiting as many sites as fast as he could; Carmel, Carmel Caves, Tal Dean, Christian sites such as the Garden of Gethsemane, Sea of Galilee, hot springs of Tiberius, and one day at Petra.

Deterred by the rockets that hit the building next to theirs, and an abruptly shortened project? Not at all. Curtis is already scheduled to return to Israel next summer to continue the dig.

Join us at our next meeting on November 9th, 7:00pm, at the Deering Estate Auditorium, located at 16701 S.W. 79th Ave, Miami. For directions, contact Barbara Tansey at 786.457.0918. Hope to see you there!

** Please note the new starting time, 7:00pm, for the meeting. The ASSF board will meet at 6:30pm unless otherwise noted.

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Mark your calendars for these upcoming events...

ASSF SPEAKER SCHEDULE – 2006

Nov. 9 Curtis McKinney – Trip to the Holy Land

Dec. 9 Holiday Celebration at the Read's home

ASSF SPEAKER SCHEDULE – 2007

Jan. 11 Brenda Lazendorf - Biscayne National Park's The Underwater Shipwreck Trail

Feb. 8 Bob Carr -2006-07 - Archaeology Update

March 8 Ray Stewart – The Birth of Archaeology in the World

April 12 Claude Alix – The Lost Colonies of the Americas

May 10 Joan Blank - TBD

June 14 Dr. Anne Stewart – Native Americans of Alaska



HOLIDAY PARTY 2006

I certainly hope you've been good this year. If so, please mark your calendar for our annual holiday dinner party, to be held Saturday, December 9th, at the Key Biscayne home of Beth & Gordon Read. Please bring a covered dish. See you there!

Historic Plantation Getting a New Life

Florida Today 9/24/06 Palm Coast Condensed by Mary Ellen Gray

Coquina rubble juts out of the ground where a well once provided water for one of the largest plantations in northeast Florida while two archaeologists sit in the dirt under a pavilion working to preserve what early Spanish settlers used as an outdoor kitchen about 200 years ago.

Joseph Hernandez's, 1st Hispanic congressman in the U.S., and first mayor of St. Augustine, Mala Compra plantation burned down during the second Seminole War and the site was relatively unknown for 150 years. Located at Bing's Landing, off State Rd. A1A, this site will become an outdoor museum thanks to state grants and excavations. Archaeologists began work on the site in 1999 after a county attorney wondered about a concrete wall on land the county commission had just purchased for a park. He found a historical map of the plantation, and since then archaeologists have collected more than 14,000 artifacts from the site.

Flagler County officials are finally readying the former plantation to be an interactive archaeological site. It is now on the Register of Historic Places. Marsha Chance, senior archaeologist at Jacksonville's Environmental Services is coordinating the project and its preservation. Preservation of the site was broken into phases based upon available funding.

First, archaeologists did excavation and "mapped" the site for structures. Then conservationists were consulted to evaluate the best preservation way for the Hernandez plantation remnants. A pavilion was built over the site to minimize moisture and water on the dated buildings. Walkways will be built around the structures with informational kiosks, and displayed artifacts. The site should be open to the public by next summer.



OUT AND ABOUT IN OCTOBER

Barbara Tansey recently had the opportunity to meet with Bill Irving, the new director of the Deering Estate. Bill has had more than a 30 year relationship with Dade County, beginning his employment with the Parks and Recreation Department in Dade County, then moving to the Miami Beach Parks Department, eventually returning to the Dade County Parks Department again.

Discussion ensued regarding the ASSF use of the Deering Estate Auditorium for our monthly meetings. Bill Irving will graciously allow us to continue to meet at the Deering Estate, as the relationship has been mutually beneficial to both organizations. In conclusion, both parties are interested in continuing to expand our relationship in the future.

ASSF CODE OF ETHICS:

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1. Members of the Society agree to promote archaeological site preservation and conservation, to excavate only endangered sites as part of a qualified research group, to not excavate archaeological sites for the unscientific collecting of artifacts

Florida Anthropological Society
FAS membership application/renewal form

YES, I want to join **FAS**. I enclose \$ _____
 STUDENT, \$15 REGULAR, \$30 FAMILY, \$35
 INSTITUTIONAL, \$30 SUSTAINING, \$40
 PATRON, \$100 LIFE, \$500 BENEFACTOR, \$2,500

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____
ZIP CODE _____
PHONE (W) _____ (H) _____

Mail to: Florida Anthropological Society
c/o Beth Sarney
5331 Lansdowne Way
Palmetto, Fl. 34221

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN FLORIDA

ASSF membership application/renewal form

I have read and will abide by the Objectives and Code of Ethics of ASSF listed below, and I wish to apply for membership.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____
Zip Code _____
Phone (w) _____ (h) _____

CHECK ONE: New Member Renewal
CHECK ONE: Individual (\$20) Family (\$25)

Mail to: Barbara Tansey
2495 N.W. 35th Ave.
Miami, Fl 33142

Address

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, November 9, 2006
Location: The Deering Estate, Auditorium
SPEAKER: Curtis Mckinney
OFFICERS: Barbara Tansey, President; Beth Read, Vice President; Brian Conesa, Treasurer; Pat Cervi, Secretary.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Gary Beiter, Carter Burrus, Jr., Bob Carr, Richard Haiduven, George Cummings, Darrell Cunningham, Curtis Mckinney, Stanley Kiem, Seth Lefkow, Jim South, Mary Ellen Gray and Lisa Jacobson.
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