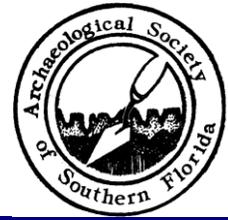




The Archaeological Society of Southern Florida



Volume 38, Issue 7

Newsletter of the Society

September 2013

President and Newsletter Editor: Mary Ellen Gray

Archaeology and Chicle: A Sticky Combination

The story of when, by whom, and how this sticky substance came to America is full of twists and turns, and made some Americans very rich, rich enough to build a ballpark in Chicago.

Chicle has been chewed by the people of the Americas for the past two thousand years. In Aztec society, the manner and place in which gum was chewed determined one's status in society. Many previously unknown archaeological sites owe their discovery to chicleros, men who gather chicle during the rainy season. These chicleros must shift location each season in order to give the trees a 4-5 year rest between tapping the Chicozapote Tree. The ancient Maya used the wood of this tree for lintels on which to carve hieroglyphic inscriptions.

Our presenter, ASSF member, Dr. Anne Stewart was born in Indiana. Near her home were Adena Indian mounds which helped her develop a life-long interest in Precolumbian cultures. She received her BA from Baldwin Wallace University, MS from Florida State and Doctorate from Nova Southeastern. Anne worked with Earthwatch on four archaeological projects in Mexico and has lectured on several cruise lines on archaeological subjects. Besides serving two terms as president of the Institute of Maya Studies, she has given frequent programs for them as well as other archaeology groups in Florida. Anne has served as the education chair for the Florida Lighthouse Association, as a passion for lighthouses is something she shares with her husband.

FREE SAMPLES of chicle!

Join us on Thursday, September 12th, at 7:00 p.m. at the Deering Estate Auditorium, 16701 S.W. 72nd Ave., Miami. Hope to see you and your friends there for this informative and enjoyable presentation.

View Archaeology programs online at www.archaeologychannel.org

Launched in 2010, the free Video news from T.A.C. (The Archaeology Channel,) has presented seventy-three stories on highly varied topics in 13 U.S. states, and 24 other countries. The link for cable and tv channels showing these programs is posted at the Video Guide link.

National Park Service Signs Agreement with Great Britain to Protect 18th-Century Shipwreck

An 18th-century British warship that sank in 1748 near present-day Miami is now protected by the National Park Service under terms of an international memorandum.

“This agreement underscores the significance that our agency and the British Royal Navy place on cultural resources,” said National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis. “In addition to preservation of this important site, the formal memorandum of understanding is the basis for future cooperative projects.”

Commodore Eric Fraser of the British Royal Navy represented the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in signing the Memorandum of Understanding to protect the sunken ship *HMS Fowey*. The wreck is located in Biscayne National Park. “The United Kingdom is hugely grateful for the professional diligence and care shown by the National Park Service in the protection of the historic wreck of *HMS Fowey*,” said Fraser. “This memorandum will see UK and US organizations working closely together in the further exploration of the site and it sets an excellent framework for collaboration in future projects.”

On June 27, 1748, *HMS Fowey*, a fifth rate frigate struck a coral reef and sank, coming to rest on the sea bed. The wreck was discovered inside the park by a local sport diver in the 1970s. National Park Service divers later identified the wreck as that of *HMS Fowey*.

Jarvis said the *HMS Fowey* site is a nationally significant archeological resource, listed in the National Register of Historic Places. “As an archeological site it continues to provide information about 18th-century maritime life and the historic maritime landscape of South Florida.”

The memorandum of understanding recognizes British title to the wreck and the intention of the National Park Service to continue to care for it in accordance with its own policies, the Sunken Military Craft Act of 2004, and the UNESCO convention on Underwater Cultural Heritage. The National Park Service and the British Navy will also exchange information and consult on management and future preservation of the site.

Biscayne National Park Superintendent Brian Carlstrom described the value that the agreement would have for the park and its resources, saying, “This is the latest step in the continuing preservation effort for *Fowey*, and solidifies our relationship with the British people in protecting our shared heritage for the enjoyment and education of future generations.”

Although the wreck is closed to the public, the National Park Service Submerged Resources Center produced a video tour which is available. Charles Lawson, from Biscayne National Park will be our presenter on November 14, and will discuss this agreement as well as update us about other recent underwater archaeological findings in the south Florida area.

Learn more at www.nps.gov, "Like" us on Facebook www.facebook.com/BiscayneNPS, or "Follow" us on Twitter www.Twitter.com/BiscayneNPS.

Help Wanted to Dig In!

Please plan to participate in the wet screening on Saturdays, from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Following protocol, members are screening the piles, twenty truck loads of dirt from the downtown Miami Met Square location which have been relocated to the property adjacent Everglades Outpost at 35601 S.W. 192nd Avenue, Homestead.. Our society's assistance has been requested for screening this dirt, and recording their finds. The dirt is conveniently located close to the Outpost parking lot and also near a shaded area.

Bring a trowel, and wear appropriate clothing/footwear. The looming piles are still awaiting your eagle eyesight and unbridled enthusiasm.

Over the past seven months members have unearthed artifacts from several different centuries. Included in the mix are pieces from a 17th century Spanish mission, from an 18th century British plantation, from 19th century Fort Dallas, from the second and third Seminole Wars, and from an English plantation. They found some unique items: black glass made of iron slag which stopped production in the 1870's, animal bones, rectangular headed iron spikes, pottery rims, blue and white patterned china and pottery sherds. Several dedicated members participate weekly. Their help is truly appreciated, but progress is slow with only a few members helping each Saturday.



Global Archaeology Day

Starting in 2013, National Archaeology Day, the annual celebration initiated by the Archaeology Institute of America (AIA) in 2011, will be known by its new name: International Archaeology Day. The change was made to better represent the increasingly popular event's global appeal. While Florida celebrates March as Archaeology Month, the first International Archaeology Day will be observed on 10/19/13, and subsequent events will be held annually on the third Saturday in October.

International Archaeology Day's three main goals are to raise public awareness of archaeology as a discipline, profession and resource; to emphasize the fact that archaeology is everywhere; and to unite the larger archaeological community through a focal point. Archaeology Day was conceived initially as a public outreach activity and after a successful nationwide celebration in October 2011, the events expanded exponentially in October 2012, including seven other countries. The event's popularity stems from the fact that a large portion of the general public is fascinated by archaeology and archaeological discoveries. Archaeology day provides opportunities for the public to participate in a wide variety of interactive archaeological activities.

Visit www.archaeologyday.org for a calendar of events.

ASSF 2012 SPEAKER SCHEDULE

October 10: Mario Ferrante: Archaeology and Culture of Southern India

November 14: Charles Lawson: Recent Nautical Archaeology in the Biscayne National Park area

December 2013: Holiday Party

Raffle Items Requested

Do you have any treasures that could be used as a raffle item at a future meeting?

What do you have that an ASSF member might enjoy owning?

As our meeting attendance continues to increase, this is another opportunity to help our treasury.

Please look around, and then bring your items to the September meeting.

"Thanks" in advance for your help!

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 Pat Balanzategui
P.O. Box 1434
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549-1434

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
35601 SW 192 Ave.
Homestead, FL 33034

ASSF CODE OF ETHICS:

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.
2. All artifacts and material Society projects are the property of the Society.

ASSF OBJECTIVE:

To provide a formal means by which individuals and institutions interested in archaeological and anthropological studies in South Florida and related areas may come together for mutual benefit.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday Sept. 12, 2013, 7pm

LOCATION: The Deering Estate, Auditorium

SPEAKER: Dr. Anne Stewart

OFFICERS: Mary Ellen Gray, President; Carter Burrus, Vice President; Brian Conesa, Treasurer; Susan Hangge, Secretary, FAS Rep.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Bob Carr, Barbara Tansey, George Cummings, Curtis McKinney, Ernest Lent, Juan Riera, Beth Read, Richard Haiduven, Stanley Kiem, Darrell Cunningham, Seth Lefkow.

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ASSF web page at: <http://assf.tripod.com>

Deering Estate: www.deeringestate.org

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