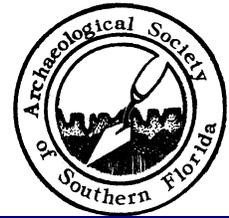




The Archaeological Society of Southern Florida



Volume 39, Issue 2

Newsletter of the Society

February 2014

President and Newsletter Editor: Mary Ellen Gray

Archaeology Close to Home

Biscayne National Park Updates: Totten Key after Hurricane Sandy and Maritime Archaeology

Hurricane Sandy caused significant shoreline erosion and archeological site damage at the "Totten Key Complex" on Totten Key in Biscayne National Park. The archeological site is a Tequesta Indian settlement dating to pre- and post-Spanish Contact. The site includes a long shoreline earthen midden and a stone burial mound, (the only known Native American burial site in the park and the only stone burial mound known in the continental US). Neither the earthen midden nor the burial mound have been the subject of any professional archeological investigations in the past and very little is currently known about them. The earthen midden is a shoreline feature and the extraordinarily high tides associated with Hurricane Sandy caused substantial erosion of the site. It has also left the eroded edge of the midden in increased danger of further loss, as it has destabilized what remains. The full extent of the site is unknown and it is therefore unknown how much is left of the site. Complete loss could happen during the next storm event.

This project is ongoing so the information we discuss here will be **EXTREMELY** current.... discussion will focus on the results of this investigation.

Though Biscayne National Park is the current home of over 70 known historic shipwrecks, most were stripped of diagnostic cultural materials in the decades before the establishment of the park. The remains of HMS *Fowey* exist as one of the few examples of a submerged archaeological site within the park that presently contains a substantial material culture assemblage associated with a known archaeological site. The mission statement of the NPS is "to preserve unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations". In addition, given that HMS *Fowey* was a military craft that sank while in the service of the British Crown, the government of the United Kingdom maintains sovereignty and ownership of the wreck under Articles 95 and 96 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. The shipwreck is the subject of the NPS's only currently existing Memorandum of Understanding concerning the management of a foreign owned shipwreck in federal waters. With these obligations to the preservation of the site in mind, Biscayne National Park has partnered with members of the NPS's Submerged Resources Center (SRC) and Southeast Archeological Center (SEAC) to determine the best management practices for BISC-20. As such, Biscayne National Park wishes to conduct exploratory archaeological investigation at BISC-20 in order to provide accurate data regarding the current condition of the site as well as the full extent of the *in-situ* portion of its main central component (the extant hull and surrounding debris field). The new archeological data will be utilized to define the footprint of a stabilization effort designed to protect the site from continued destruction caused by changing local environmental conditions and looting.

Joshua Marano is a recent graduate from East Carolina University's Program in Maritime Studies and has earned a MA degree in maritime history and nautical archaeology where his research focused on the application of social theory to maritime archaeology. Mr. Marano is currently working as at Biscayne National Park. Mr. Marano has previously been employed as an archaeological technician for the State of North Carolina and has participated in several major maritime archaeological projects. In addition to his interest in archaeology, Mr. Marano is an active member of the United States Coast Guard Reserve where he serves as a Second Class Petty Officer at USCG Station Wrightsville Beach, NC.

Please join us for an informative and intriguing presentation on Thursday, February 13th, at 7:00 p.m. at the Deering Estate Auditorium, 16701 S.W. 72nd Ave., Miami. Hope to see you there. Bring a friend or two, since this is a topic of interest to many.

Have you paid your ASSF Annual Dues?

Please note: 2014 dues are due! Plan to pay Brian at the meeting in FEBRUARY, Individual (\$20,) Family (\$25). Dues may also be mailed to Brian Conesa at 22425 S.W. 162 Ave., Miami.



Dig In



It's Time for You to Help



Let's FINISH this project! Now that winter has arrived, it's time to enjoy the cooler outside air while screening the piles of dirt located adjacent to Everglades Outpost, 35601 S.W.192 Ave., Homestead. We'll also be sorting bagged materials from previous screenings. We're planning for Saturday mornings beginning, February 15 from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Your assistance is needed and appreciated! Please make plans to come help. Bring your trowel, sandals or boots, energy and enthusiasm.

An Inside Look at an 18 Million-Year-Old Fossil Dig Site in Florida

By Robin Lloyd | December 31

It took only 10 minutes for paleontologists to dig up a scientifically important tortoise fossil this fall when a group of science writers visited the Florida Museum of Natural History's Thomas Farm site. Elsewhere, you might have to dig for hours to find anything of value. The 18 million-year-old site north of Gainesville is one of the most species-rich vertebrate fossil locations in the world, and the best Early Miocene site in North America, says site manager David Steadman, an ornithologist at the museum. "Florida is a paleontologist's toybox," he said.

Hundreds of thousands of fossils of modern and extinct birds, lizards, alligators, frogs, toads, bats, rodents, bear-dogs (yes!), camels, rhinos and other mammals, including three species of small, three-toed horses (*Archaeohippus blackbergi*, *Parahippus leonensis* and *Anchitherium clarencei*), have been unearthed at this site going back to when a farmer started piling up old bones that got in his way as he dug for a well there in the 1930s. Such discard heaps are called spoils piles, and amateur and professional paleontologists often toss their less intriguing dirt or busted, boring finds onto such heaps for kids and other visitors to paw through in case anything important was missed. Museum curators and other paleontologists dig now at Thomas Farm, but most of the work is done by volunteers, who can get up to speed in about two hours of training on how to non-destructively remove some of the most fragile now-blackened fossils, especially skulls, from gray layers of sand.

As happens a lot in life, the animals in their pre-fossil stage didn't mean to die at this site. Many fell into what was then a 90-foot-deep sinkhole where the farm is now located. The smaller crawlers and flyers that fossilized there were likely pooped, coughed or upchucked into the hole by predators roosting near its lip.

For the past few decades, Museum teams have used little screwdrivers to dig down in 10-centimeter intervals to look for fossils in meter-square patches of a grid they've laid over the sinkhole. The hole filled up fast in geologic time, so all the fossil life in it is about the same age.



Fossil of ungulate hoof dug up at Thomas Farm on 11/5/13.

Picking through the spoils pile at Thomas Farm.

Edited from Past Horizons 3 January 2014

8,000-year-old artifacts unearthed in Minnesota

An archeological dig in the suburbs south of Minneapolis (Minnesota, USA) is turning up artifacts thousands of years old at the future site of a bridge project.

Before work begins, federal historic preservation laws require scientists to find out what's beneath the dirt, so archaeologists began digging on the border of Shakopee and Chanhassen.

"Cold weather's good because we're working in a wetland and it helps to freeze the ground and make it easier to work with," explained Frank Florin, Florin Cultural Resource Services LLC. The crew has been at it for six weeks now and as traffic passes by the site, 8,000 years ago it was a place hunters and gatherers stopped. "There's very few sites in Minnesota that are that old and this well preserved," said Florin. "This site, a lot of it is capped below six to ten feet of more recent sediment so it's quite well preserved."

One of the finds is a spear point that's believed to be about 8,000-years-old; all of the artifacts found will be given to the Minnesota Historical Society. The crew has another two weeks of work. They'll be back in the spring at another nearby site and then construction will begin on the road nearby.

Upcoming Events

Save the Date: Sat., March 15, 2014: 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Annual Archaeology Day at the Deering Estate at Cutler

There will be activities and programs for the entire family , including educational activities, expert lectures and walking tours of the historic Tequesta Trail. The ASSF will have a display. Please write this on your calendar as your assistance is needed. A sign-up sheet will be available at the March 13th meeting so you can select the time period that you'll be there to help.

Assistance is also needed on Friday, 3/14 at Everglades Outpost to load the materials and displays to transport to the Deering Estate property.

Wishing a Speedy Recovery

Brian Conesa is recuperating at home. Let's send a supportive note or card to our loyal officer and Board member to brighten his day.

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 February 13, 2014, 7pm

LOCATION: The Deering Estate, Auditorium

SPEAKER: Josh Marano

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

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.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Mary Ellen Gray can be reached at meg007@comcast.net

ASSF web page at:

www.archaeologicalsocietyofsouthernflorida.org

Deering Estate: www.deeringestate.org

Everglades Outpost 35601 SW 192 Ave.

Homestead, FL 33034