



# CALUSA NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHWEST FLORIDA PROJECT

INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND PALEOENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

FLORIDA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

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## Year of the Indian Becomes Reality Pioneering education project receives full funding

**T**he Bureau of Historic Preservation of the State of Florida in cooperation with the Florida Museum of Natural History, the Nature Center of Lee County, and the Fort Myers Historical Museum has set aside nearly a quarter of a million dollars for an experiment in education entitled, "The Year of the Indian: Archaeology of the Calusa People."

The aim of the experiment is to acquaint and involve elementary and secondary school children, their teachers, and the general public of the southwest Florida community with current research into the cultural prehistory of their region.

During the last two decades the Native American heritage of southwest Florida has begun to enjoy a resurgence in interest on the part of professional archaeologists and anthropologists here in Florida and around the country.

Much of the research which has been done to date has been reported in scientific journals and other publications which are geared to those professionals.

As a result, the numbers of people who have been aware of the truly exciting developments in archaeology in southwest Florida have been small and specialized. Some, alas, have been treasure hunters and Native American artifact dealers who have sought to use scientific information for their own nefarious ends.

The Year of the Indian Project seeks to broaden the base of knowledge about the history and prehistory of southwest Florida by combining greatly expanded public education with original archaeological research and interpretation. Wider knowledge, it is hoped, will result in wider appreciation and greater protection for the fragile clues to the past which remain in the area.

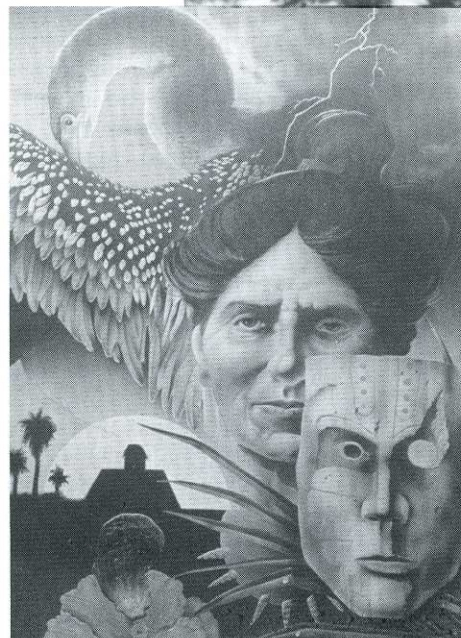
On the elementary and secondary school levels, archaeologists will work with public school teachers to place instructional units on southwest Florida's prehistoric and historic past in the curriculum.

Members of the Year of the Indian staff will travel to schools and present talks and workshops based on their own fields of research.

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*Southwest Florida Project director, Dr. William H. Marquardt at work in the field examining an artifact found on the surface of a prehistoric site.*



*Year of the Indian poster by Kathleen and Jim Mazotta.*

