



CALUSA NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHWEST FLORIDA PROJECT

INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND PALEOENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

FLORIDA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

NUMBER 4 • DECEMBER 1989

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

The 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.

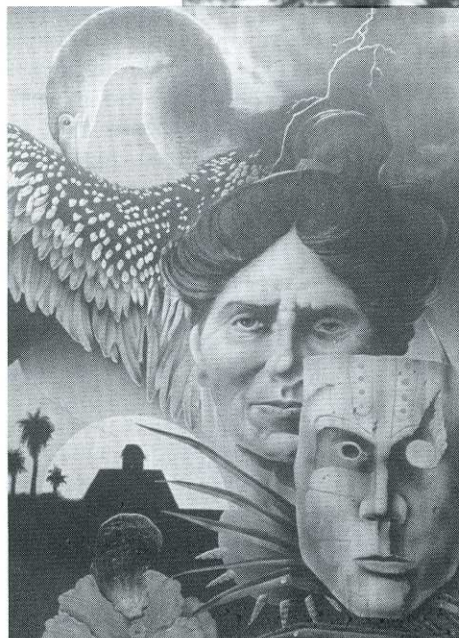
On the elementary and secondary school levels, archaeologists will work with public school teachers to place instructional units on southwest Florida's prehistoric and historic past in the curriculum.

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

Continued on page 2



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.

"Hands on" exhibits will allow students and teachers alike to get the feel of aboriginal artifacts that parallel similar objects in modern daily life.

For the general public, a Nature Center summer program will focus on the Indian heritage of southwest Florida. A multi-media show on the Indian past will be developed and featured at the Nature Center's Planetarium. A permanent exhibit on Indian use of native plants will be created for the Nature Center and a sister exhibit on the clash between Europeans and Native Americans will be created for the Fort Myers Historical Museum.

Indian artifacts will be duplicated for use in the exhibits. Publications will be prepared for audiences on all levels of education and interest, and a public lecture series will bring well-respected experts to speak to the community.

In the field, volunteer laborers under the direct supervision of professional archaeologists will share the toil and discipline of a 'dig' by helping to excavate two prehistoric sites: Useppa Island (fall, 1989), and Pineland (spring, 1990). The public will be encouraged to visit the excavations.

By making the public in general and children in particular aware of the archaeology around them; by bringing them currently developing information on a prominent but little understood segment of Florida's native population—the Calusa and their ancestors—by enhancing appreciation for the richness and complexity of the natural environment and the role played by its tenants, past and present, all will come to better understand the need to protect and preserve the cultural riches of southwest Florida for themselves and for future generations.

Behind the Year of the Indian project

Good Ideas, along with their close relatives, Good Intentions, pave a lot of roads to nowhere.

It is a fine thing, therefore, to watch a good idea forge a path of its own, get the right attention, connect the right forces, the right people, and not just get somewhere but become something in and of itself, something useful, important, faithful to the good idea's original intent. The Year of the Indian looks, so far, to be the story of just such an idea.

Jan Brown of Fort Myers had a Good Idea two years ago. It was to bring two local Lee County museums together with the Florida Museum of Natural History in a concerted public education effort that could be phrased in terms of a grant proposal and thus be submitted as a workable and affordable idea to the financial powers in Tallahassee.

She brought Bill Payne from the Lee County Nature Center and Patti Bartlett from the Fort Myers Historical Museum together with Bill Marquardt of the Florida Museum of Natural History to thrash out the logistics, to arrange budget and staff, and to set the benchmarks for successful execution.

These folks then connected the people of the various networks of interest and influence throughout the southwest Florida region who, in turn, took up the cause by phone, by mail, and in person. School children, teachers, members of archaeological study and preservation societies—all engaged in a vigorous and inspired lobbying effort that continued up to and through the budget debates at the state capitol this summer.

The result, despite across-the-board cuts on virtually all levels of state finance, is a fully-funded, pioneering education project that will run through 1990 and should have long-term effects on the shape of archaeological education in public schools around the state and elsewhere through the remaining decade of the 20th Century.

Jan Brown's Good Idea has now entered a second critical phase, that of implementation. Staff members are in place and already hard at work in the lab and the field putting flesh on the bones of the vanished prehistoric peoples of southwest Florida.

By late fall of 1989 and certainly by January 1990, the fruits of their labors will begin to appear in the schools and museums of Lee, Charlotte, and Collier counties.

If you are a student, a teacher, a member of the public at large, and you wish to share in this fascinating educational opportunity; if you would like your school or your group to become part of the schedule of activities through 1990, get in touch with us by mail or by phone at the address and telephone number below.

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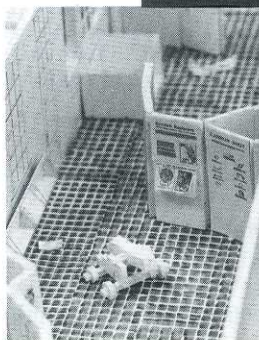
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Patti Bartlett, Director of the Fort Myers Historical Museum, checks over a computer printout while exhibit designer, Mark Appleby, gathers more information by phone as they prepare for the opening of the 'Clash of Arms' exhibit. Early contact between the Spanish and the Calusa on the west coast of Florida will be a Year of the Indian feature of the museum's presentation.



Before an exhibit is constructed, models of paper and styrofoam are built and laid out just as they will appear on the museum floor. This model shows the placement of a Spanish cannon in relation to its information panels on Spanish explorers and cannon shot.



In the construction shop of the Fort Myers Historical museum, Patti Bartlett consults with Charles Leverton, the carpenter who builds the full size exhibit displays and panels from the styrofoam models and from Mark Appleby's designs.

Mr. Leverton, who is retired, donates his time to the museum five full days a week and more when exhibit deadlines require it. He commutes from his home to his workshop and back in a very red fastback compact car.

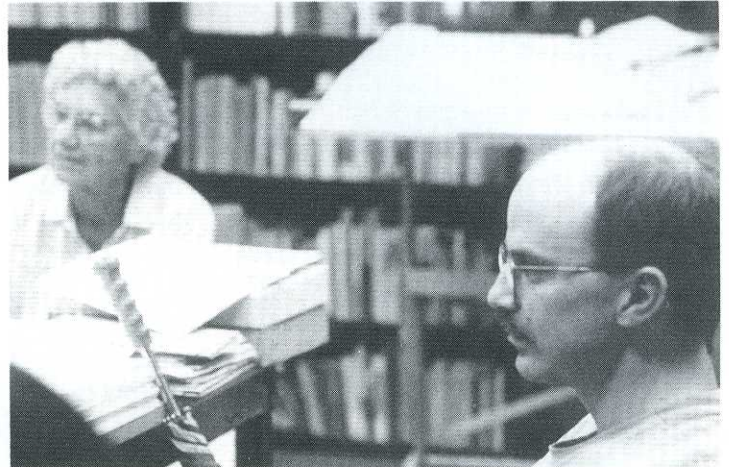
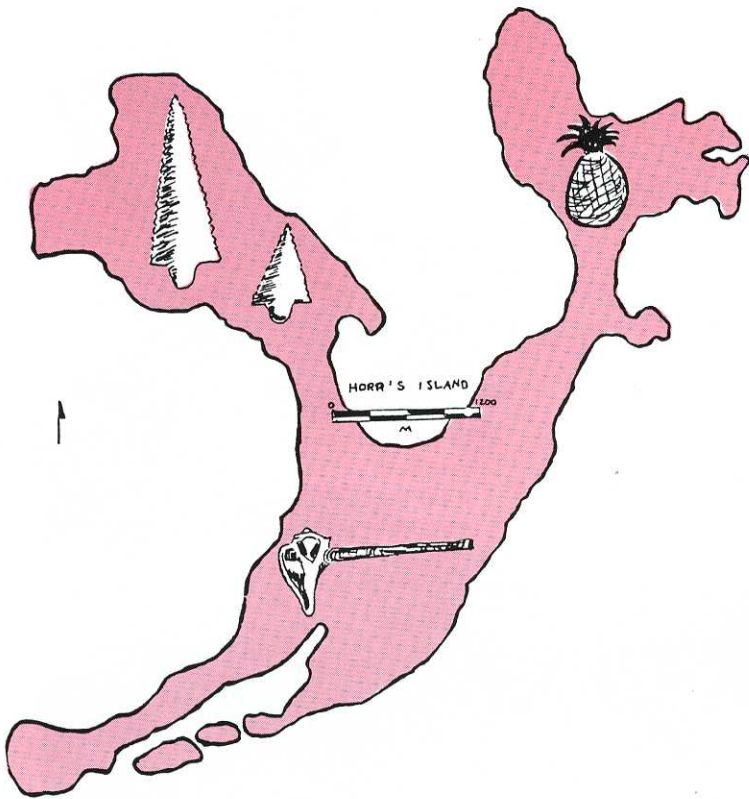


Dr. Willard Payne is the Executive Director of the Nature Center of Lee County. He is a botanist by professional academic training and has recently been accumulating information on the 'botany of the Calusa.' He will create a permanent exhibit on Indian use of native plants for the Nature Center as a featured part of the Year of the Indian Project.

*The estuarine environment of southwest Florida is recreated in a large aquarium display at the Nature Center of Lee County. This resident of the aquarium is a Striped Burrfish (*Chilomycterus schoepfi*) or Porcupine Fish. Burrfish bones are found in large numbers in Calusa and older Indian shell middens all over southwest Florida and are often mistaken for Puffer Fish which carry a dangerous poison. An important clue to the identification of a Burrfish in an archaeological site is its mouth parts which are so hard that they remain behind long after the rest of the fish has disappeared.*



THE DIGS



Mike Russo, director of the Horr's Island dig, peers into the future during a strategy session at the Southwest Florida Project office in Gainesville. Lynn Lee, volunteer veteran of many archaeological campaigns, looks on.

Horr's Island

"Progress" in the form of housing development continues to threaten site after irreplaceable archaeological site in southwest Florida.

Construction moguls and real estate barons exert constant pressure on state and local agencies to free up land for development.

Rarely is the consideration of archaeological sensitivity in desirable housing acreage anything more than a grudging inconvenience. The financial stakes are so high and there has always been a background contempt in most of the construction industry for what is seen as "nothing but old Indian junk."

On Horr's Island in Collier County an attempt is being made to change this bleak picture for the better. The angular, 300-acre island, home to prehistoric peoples for thousands of years, is slated for major housing development by Ronto Developments Marco next year.

Before construction goes forward, however, archaeologists from the Florida Museum of Natural History will spend \$180,000 of Ronto's money to conduct archaeological investigations in order to mitigate developmental impact on known sites on the island.

Horr's Island, just to the south of Marco Island in the Naples area, is named for John Foley Horr who owned the land in the late 19th and early 20th century and ran it as a plantation.

A handful of archaeological notables including Cushing, Moore, Hrdlicka, Stirling, and Goggin visited and worked on the island over the ensuing 100 years.

In 1982, as massive housing development loomed in the Island's future, Alan E. McMichael under contract from the Department of Anthropology of the Florida Museum of Natural History conducted a cultural resource assessment of Horr's.

His survey turned up a number of substantial sites representing at least four thousand years of human occupation, including massive shell middens, conical mounds, a contact period Calusa village, and a turn-of-the-century pineapple plantation.

In August, 1989, a team of scientists headed by Dr. William H. Marquardt, director of the Southwest Florida Project, spent five days at Horr's confirming the presence and condition of sites identified in the McMichael survey.



Ashley Swift, field assistant at Horr's Island, clears debris from the profile of a post mold extending deep into the ancient dune sand which underlies most of the prehistoric sites on the island. This feature occurs when support posts or poles, driven into the dune by early occupants of the site, rot entirely away over hundreds or thousands of years and are replaced by midden material which falls in from above. Archaeologists use the molds to estimate the size and nature of the dwellings or platforms the posts may have supported.

They concluded that four principal archaeological resources including a shoreline midden, the remains of John Horr's home, various shell scatters, and an Archaic, pre-pottery midden complex of disputed antiquity were directly endangered by Ronto's construction plans and needed to be rescued.

Rescue, or 'mitigation,' as it is known in the parlance of archaeology, may take the form of removal of artifacts or avoidance of sensitive areas during construction, or both.

In the case of Horr's Island the critical sites are so large that the survey team recommended a combination of rescue techniques, many of them to be carried out by Ronto's own construction equipment, crews, and architects.

On October 1, 1989, Horr's Island Project director Michael Russo, his assistant, Ashley Swift, and a crew of six field personnel left Gainesville for Naples to begin a three month "dig."

Mike Russo's name may be a new one to regular readers of *Calusa News*. He is a doctoral candidate in Anthropology at the University of Florida and his dissertation will be based in part on his findings at Horr's Island. He is particularly interested in establishing undisputed occupation dates for the Archaic midden sites.

Because of the immense amount of shell to be moved, the remoteness of the area, and the difficulty of the work, volunteers were sought from as far away as the University of Miami in Coral Gables.

By early winter 1989 the Horr's Island crew will return to Gainesville to begin the long, tedious process of sample analysis. Although this project is not technically a part of the Year of the Indian, it is a southwest Florida archaeological research endeavor and *Calusa News* will keep its readers posted as results come to light.

All that remains today of John Foley Horr's pineapple plantation home. It is of great interest to historical archaeologists because it is an example of 'tabby' construction. That is, the cement from which it was made includes large quantities of whole marine shell. A close look at the lower left hand corner of the window in the foreground shows oyster shell peeking through the mortar.

Pineapples and Pedal Steel Guitars—Horr's Island and the Hawaiian Craze

From the 1880s through the beginning of the First World War, the United States experienced a fad, a craze centered on all things Hawaiian.

The popular writer Jack London and his wife Charmiane sailed to Hawaii from San Francisco in the 1890s sending adventure narratives back to the mainland that reached newspapers all over the country.

Tin Pan Alley and the new sheet music industry cranked out hundreds of Hawaiian-type tunes complete with ukelele chords.

Pedal steel guitars came to the West Coast by the dozens and whined their way East eventually becoming part of the musical signature of the southeastern mountains.

Hawaii became an industry unto itself and continues to experience sporadic pop-fadism.

Pineapples, which had previously enjoyed a modest market supplied from plantations in the West Indies as well as from Hawaii exploded on the collective consciousness of the American public. They are native to Brazil where they were as much valued for the tough fiber of their top-knots as they were for their fruit. They were introduced to Hawaii in the early 19th century.

Demand rose so swiftly after the extension of railroads into south Florida in 1895 that local plantation owners often opted to abandon diverse crops and concentrate exclusively on pineapple production.

John Horr was one of the major south Florida plantation owners to "go pineapple." His high-ridged island south of Marco offered ideal drainage for good plant growth. Unfortunately there was not quite enough rainfall nor enough natural nutrients in the soil to sustain the voracious pineapple plants.

By the time the craze began to fade after World War I, the Horr plantation had lost both its profitability and its viability as farm land. After Horr's death in 1926 the island was abandoned and has lain fallow until the present day.





Garfield Beckstead, President of the Useppa Island Club and long-time supporter of the Southwest Florida Project.



In the late afternoon of the day before the Useppa Island dig begins, dig director Bill Marquardt and his field assistant 'shoot in' a five meter by five meter 'grid' which will provide the precise guidelines for all excavations to follow on this site. (The little flags mark the corners of each square meter.)

Much of the previous scientific excavation in southwest coastal Florida has used the vertical 'column sample' technique. This more horizontal strategy of investigation may well be able to tell archaeologists where the ancient people they are studying cooked, and ate, and slept.

Useppa Island

Useppa is a very complicated place from the point of view of prehistory.

Its unusual elevation may be traced to its previous existence as a high, mainland sand dune formed during the Pleistocene geologic episode when beach conditions were present.

Over the intervening millennia as Gulf Coast waters have risen, the Useppa dune has become an island within the protective barrier of Cayo Costa.

Whether as a waterbound entity or as part of the mainland, it is known to have hosted people as long ago as 3675 B.C. when it was apparently a collection and processing site for the early shell tool industry.

From 1000 B.C. until the early 19th century it was home or refuge to a succession of peoples who left the sherds of their ceramics in midden layer after midden layer.

From approximately A.D. 700 until well after European contact in the late 15th and early 16th centuries the people laying down the midden deposits were probably Calusa.

And that is why the Southwest Florida Project and the Year of the Indian have focused on Useppa for their fall 1989 dig. Clues to the myriad unanswered questions about the development of Calusa society may lie in the relatively undisturbed layers of certain parts of the island.

In the late 1970s and early 1980s, archaeologists J. Chapman and J. T. Milanich opened test pits at several carefully selected points around Useppa.

Public Forum Honors Archaeology's Benefactors

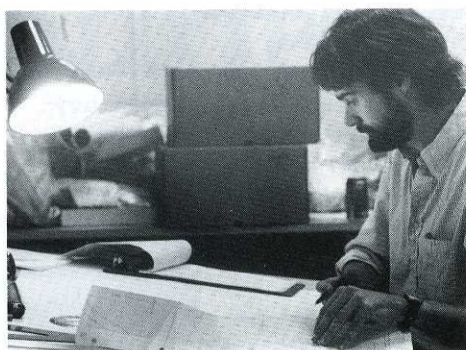
This fall, the Florida Archaeological Council is sponsoring a public forum which it has entitled, "Building the Future While Protecting the Past: A New Partnership." The forum will focus on issues associated with Florida's rapid growth and the conservation of Florida's archaeological record.

An awards ceremony honoring individuals and corporations for exemplary support of such activities will be part of the forum's agenda.

Public recognition and praise is most certainly due to those who have chosen to help rather than hinder the

study and preservation of Florida's historic and prehistoric past.

Followers of the Southwest Florida Project hope that the future holds such public praise and recognition for those individuals, such as Garfield Beckstead of Useppa Island, the Browns of Fort Myers, William Mills of Galt Island, the Randells of Pineland, and corporations, such as Ronto Developments Marco, without whose cooperation and understanding so much of the archaeological legacy of southwest Florida would have been lost.



Useppa field assistant Corbett Torrence at work at the drafting table in the Gainesville office of the Southwest Florida Project.

One such test, excavated to three meters, "revealed multiple horizontal shell midden strata each about 15 centimeters in thickness and characterized by large amounts of fishbone. One such stratum contained large amounts of sand, most did not. Some strata were separated by crushed sea urchin spines and shells.....probable hearths were present in the same strata. These were generally less than 10 centimeters thick and as much as 50 centimeters long. Future work," they go on to say, "will focus on clearing large horizontal portions of these successive midden strata..."

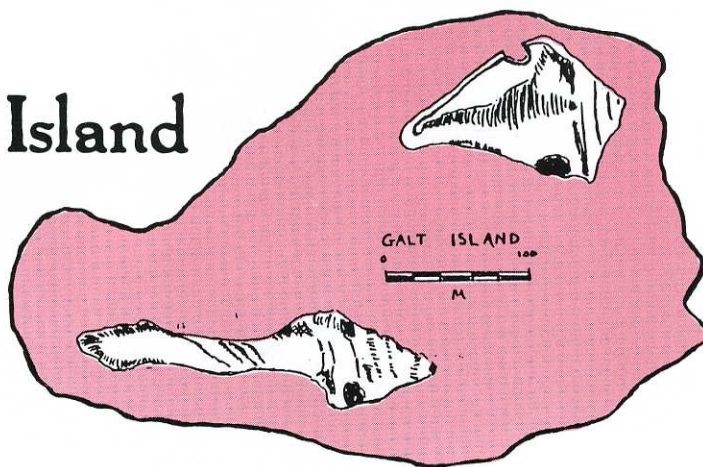
To date, very little horizontal excavation has been conducted in the realm of the Calusa and Useppa seems primed for such investigation. Think of the answers that may lie in those layers.

Where did they sleep? Where did they cook? Where did they eat? What did they eat? Did different levels of society eat different foods, as is suspected, and if they did, when did that begin to happen? Why sea urchins? Why sand?

No doubt about it; there is an exciting prospect for the accumulation of much new knowledge when, through the continued generosity and cooperation of Garfield Beckstead, President of the Useppa Island Club, scientists and volunteers break ground on Useppa this fall.

It cannot be emphasized enough, however, that it will only be after thousands of hours of painstaking analysis in the lab; hours put in far from the sunlit beauty of Useppa and the romance of the dig, that the answers, if indeed there are any there, will take comprehensible form and be able to be entered into the archaeological record of the elusive Calusa.

Galt Island



Galt Island is another complex aboriginal site which has benefited from close cooperation between developer and archaeologist.

Since 1987, Southwest Florida Project archaeologists, who have long considered Galt a prehistoric site 'of great value and significance at both regional and state levels,' have received financial assistance from owner/developer William T. Mills and the other owners of the island.

The purpose of this assistance has been to ascertain the precise location and nature of sites on the island so that construction, when it occurs, will do the least possible damage to cultural resources. Original development plans would have levelled the island, obliterating all clues to the past.

In September, 1989, Bill Marquardt and his field assistant, Corbett Torrence, with the volunteer help of Barbara and Reed Toomey and Jack Gaddy, investigated a burial site located in the island's interior.

They "transected" or trenched the site, removing shell, bone, and ceramic material for future analysis, and mapped interior construction elements for comparison with other documented mounds.

Later this fall the site will be sealed and reconstructed to its aboriginal dimensions by the landowners.

Now when construction begins, the burials will be protected rather than intruded upon by the new homes and the owners will be able to take pride in having contributed to the rare preservation, rather than the all-too-common destruction, of an important prehistoric site.

Endowment Update

Good news for the Endowment for Florida Archaeology. Since the publication of the April, 1989 issue of *Calusa News*, three major contributions toward the Endowment's \$1,000,000 goal have been received.

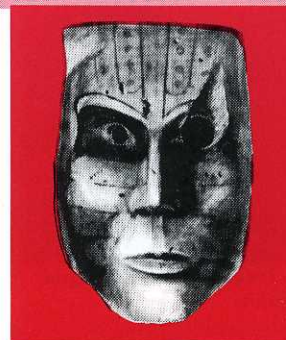
Jan and Robin Brown of Fort Myers have given \$1,000.

Shirley and Bud House of St. James City have made a gift of \$1,500 which will be matched by Wisconsin Bell Tel-

ephone Company, for a total of \$3,000.

Pat and Don Randell of Pineland have donated more than \$14,000 in stock certificates.

These and all gifts to the Endowment for Florida Archaeology are of vital importance and are received with the heartfelt thanks of all who are committed to archaeological preservation and research in southwest Florida.





First Encounters entryway banner with original design by Michael Falck.



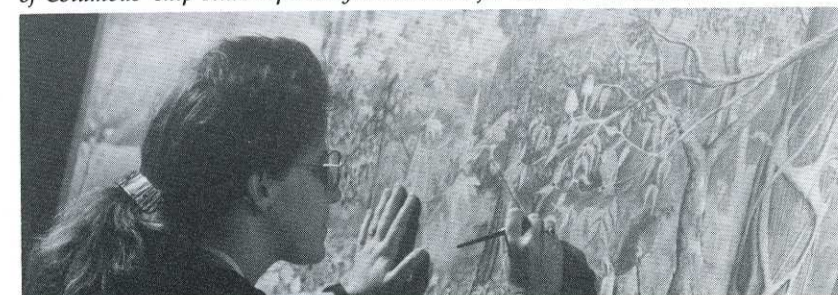
The Renaissance Ensemble directed by John Kitts provided music for the opening ceremonies.



Drs. Milanich and Dickinson on opening night.



Keith Fisher and Kim Trebatoski of the museum research staff contemplate the scale model of Columbus' ship Nina especially constructed for the First Encounters.



Stacey Breheny, resident Graphic Artist, applies final touches to one of her paintings for the exhibit.

First Enc

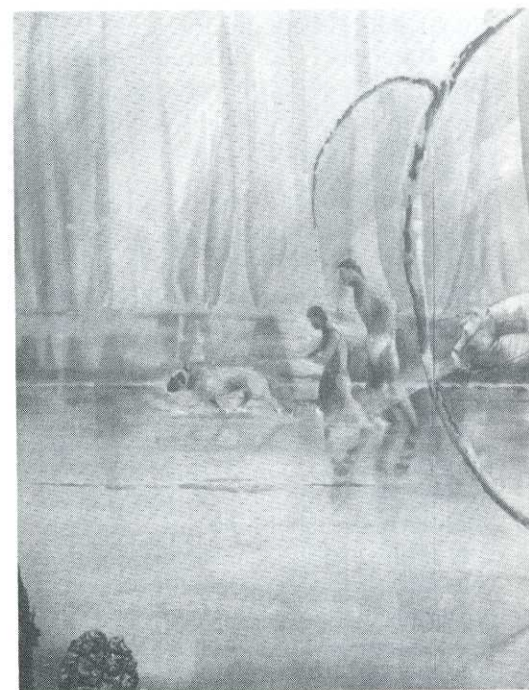
The Florida Museum of Natural History introduced a special touring exhibit on October 8, 1989. Entitled "First Encounters: Spanish Explorations in the Americas," the exhibit details the arrival of the Spanish in the New World, including the voyages of Columbus, the exploits of such adventurers as De León and De Soto, and the founding of St. Augustine by Pedro Menéndez de Avilés.

First Encounters will remain in Gainesville until January 3, 1990, and then begin a tour of the United States, returning to Florida in 1992 for the anniversary of the first voyage of Columbus.

During the festivities on the evening of the opening, Karen Walker of the Year of the Indian and the Southwest Florida Project staff was among those honored for their dedication to the completion of the exhibit.



Keri Sanders, one of those who helped put the Ninth day of First Encounters.



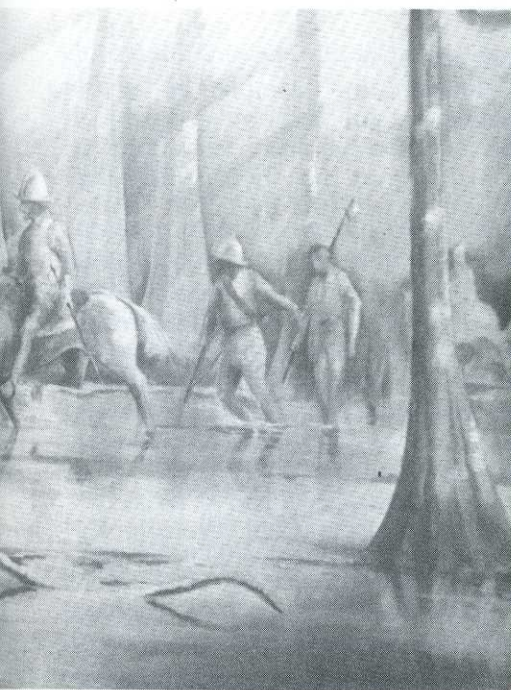
Resident Graphic Artist Michael Falck's painting of the Ninth day of First Encounters.

ounters

Students of the Calusa and of southwest Florida should note that just a few short months after driving the French from Florida and establishing St. Augustine, Menéndez entered the Charlotte Harbor area. There he met with Carlos, the supreme chief of the Calusa, and went through the pretense of marriage with Carlos' sister in order to cement an alliance. This "first encounter" marks an important step in the painful journey of the great Calusa nation into oblivion.

With the continued support of its patrons, volunteers and scientists, the Southwest Florida Project can look forward to a day when its documentation of the enigmatic prehistory and tragic history of the Calusa will be complete and Florida's forgotten Indians will warrant an exhibit of their own.

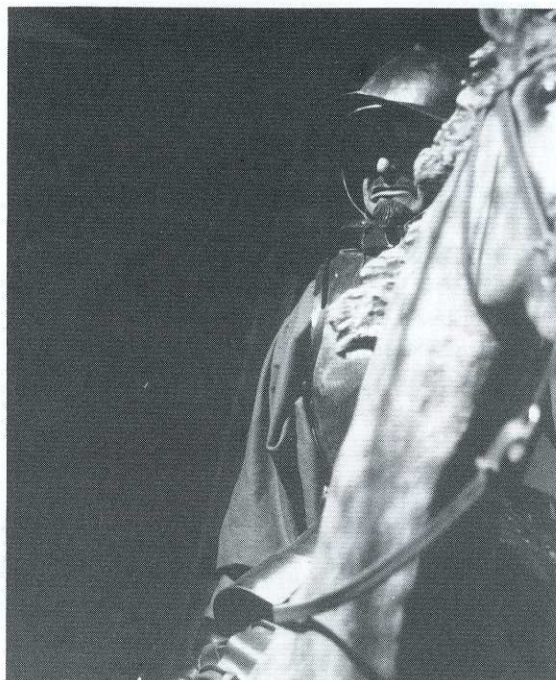
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perspective on open-



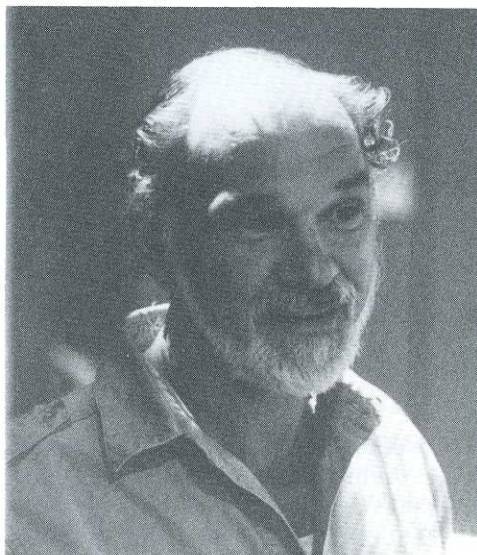
ando de Soto crossing the Withlacoochee River.



Assistant Exhibit Curator Karen Walker.



Full scale model of Hernando de Soto, armed and on horseback, as he may well have appeared to the Indians of the Southeast. The model was designed and built by Ron Chesser.



Dorr Dennis, Designer of First Encounters.



Taino petroglyph of the Goddess Atebeyra on a stone slab. The Taino people represented the most advanced society Columbus encountered on his first voyage.



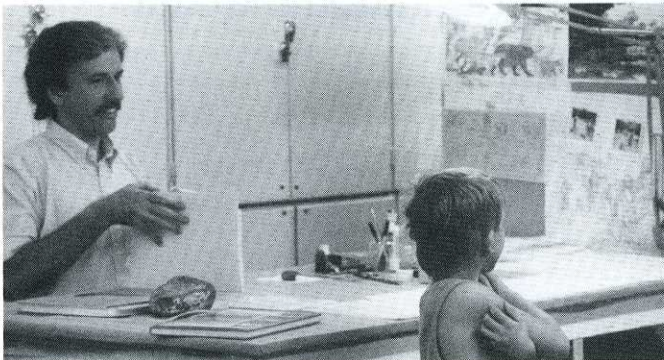
Graphic Artisan Robert Lea (with artifact handling glove) prepares a display of Caribbe artifacts.



Elise LeCompte Baer is an archaeological conservator with the Florida Museum who has been appointed research assistant to the Year of the Indian Project. She will be helping with pottery and shell tool analysis of material generated by the Pineland and Useppa digs.



Zooarchaeologist Irv Quitmyer brings his concentration to bear on a specimen collected during an unusually low tide in the Gulf just to the west of Horr's Island.

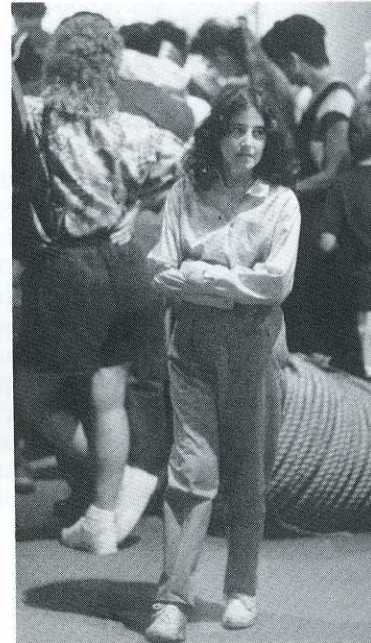


Merald Clark, staff artist for the Year of the Indian, smiles as a young visitor to the museum's Open House appraises his drawings.



Janet Rackley painstakingly assembles the sherds of a shattered bowl. She glues two matching pieces together then rests them in a container of sand, propped up with tiny sandbags. When the glue has hardened she will attach another piece, and thus, step by step reassemble the bowl until it regains the form it had when it was last touched by the people who made and used it. The map in the background shows much of the coastal realm of the Calusa.

Research



Arlene Fradkin surveys the throngs at the Florida Museum of Natural History. She is Year of the Indian liaison with regional museums in southwest Florida, helping them to create accurate and attractive Calusa Indian displays.

The Florida Museum of Natural History held its annual Open House early this fall, when, for one afternoon, the doors of the museum research facility were unlocked and the public could prowl amongst the sundry disciplines of science.

Curators and graduate students alike all took their places in the "ranges" of the lab while scores of people, some with specific questions, others responding to a general curiosity, wandered from area to area. They were frequently joined by members of the museum staff who rarely get to see what their fellow researchers are up to.

The Gainesville public is used to having the Florida Museum in its backyard, and for many the Open House is an eagerly anticipated annual event. For the majority of the readers of *Calusa News*, however, Gainesville and the museum are far away and the research facilities there may seem to be spiritual-

ly as well as physically removed from the prehistoric sites and digs of the Southwest Florida project.

Laboratory analysis at the museum and work in the field are, in fact, inseparable in the real world of archaeology. Neither one makes sense without the other.

At the conclusion of a dig, all of the thousands of bits and pieces of material collected in the field come back to the lab where they are subjected to months of close scrutiny and interpretation before conclusions are drawn about them. Very often these conclusions are absorbed into a slowly growing collection of accepted truths about the subjects under investigation (like the Calusa), and it is not until the accepted truths are themselves collected and interpreted and joined, like independently assembled sections of a large jigsaw puzzle, that the whole picture achieves

coherent form.

Consider, for example, all of the vegetable matter accumulated from all the expeditions and excavations in Calusa country over the past 100 years, beginning with the nets and wooden artifacts discovered by F. H. Cushing, and including the charred botanic samples removed from the newly exposed middens at Pineland last spring. Add to these the early observations of people like Bartram and Fontaneda and the modern techniques of microscopic, and chemical, and molecular analysis developed within the past twenty years.

From all those data and all those disciplines, a sketch of the vegetable surroundings of the Calusa is just beginning to take shape.

Plants, we now understand, filled out the caloric and mineral needs of the Calusa diet, but seem to have been opportunistically gathered rather than

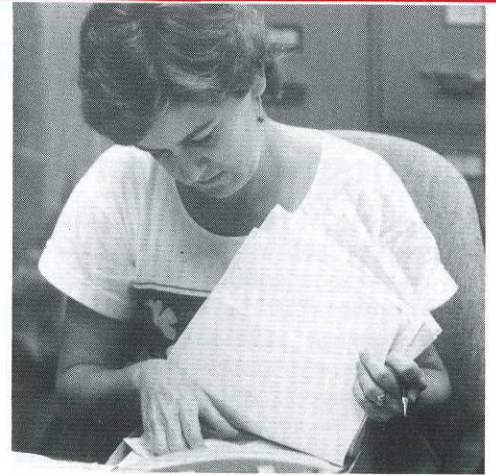
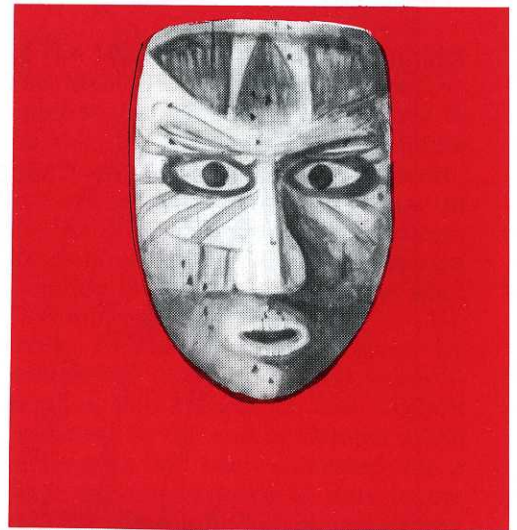
Review



The museum's foremost pottery analyst, Ann Cordell, discusses her work with visitors during the Open House.



Sylvia Scudder collects soil samples from midden sub-strata as Ashley Swift looks on. What took Sylvia two days to collect will take her months to analyze in the lab, but her chemical and molecular probing of the samples may eventually be able to tell her what activities took place at each occupation level.



Project research assistant Claudine Payne finishes editing the John H. Hann 'Mission to the Calusa' manuscript. She will help with the Year of the Indian artifact analysis while she completes her work toward a Ph.D. in Anthropology at the University of Florida.

cultivated. This is practically the reverse of the practice of Calusa contemporaries in North and Central America whose food supplies were stabilized by the cultivation of corn.

Much of the starch the Calusa consumed may have derived from *Zamia* root, which grew in abundance all around them.

The fruits they ate included coco plum, sea grape, mastic (a sticky, sweet yellow fruit with big seeds), ripe prickly pear, saw palmetto berry, cabbage palm fruit, and hog plum.

Amongst the weeds under their feet were goosefoot, portulaca, and the sprouts of the red mangrove.

Black mangrove was their fire fuel of choice; bald cypress was employed for planking. They seem to have used pine for their structural supports and their dugout canoes, and palmetto for their cordage and fishnet fiber.

How easily these "simple" statements roll into print. How many thousands and thousands of hours of comparative analysis and discussion are packed into each of them.

In other parts of the puzzle, the proportion of conclusive statement to hours or days or years of lab analysis is much the same.

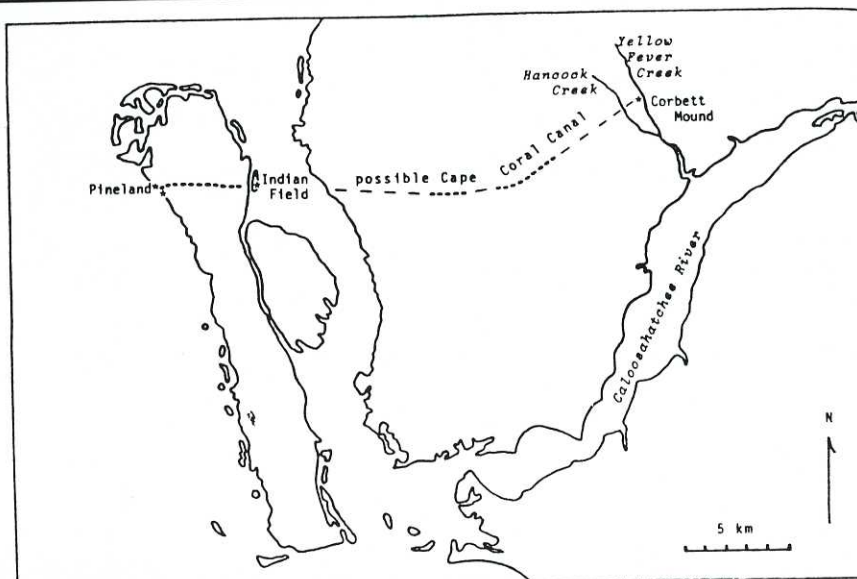
To reach the tentative and somewhat surprising conclusion that mullet, so common a food fish in modern times, does not seem to have been a large part of the Calusa diet requires the recognition and counting of hundreds of thousands of tiny fish bones separated from the shell and animal bone fragments in each midden sample.

An exhaustive comparative examination of pottery styles and the microscopic clay composition (paste) of that pottery has to precede a conclusion that trade routes must have extended scores of

miles inland from the coast.

The conclusion that a particular whelk or clam shell has been modified by human activity rather than by the action of sea or soil, and that that modification is part of a long tradition of shell tool manufacture and use, and represents a "type" of tool, requires systematic comparison and discussion once again running into thousands of lab hours.

The people pictured on these pages and many others like them, and the volunteers who donate their time to research and analysis at the Florida Museum of Natural History and at other facilities around the southwest Florida region are the paramedics and midwives of the Southwest Florida Project, breathing life, and humanity, and cultural identity into the Calusa people who disappeared from the face of Florida nearly three hundred years ago.



Canal routes reprinted from George Luer's paper in the June, 1989 issue of *The Florida Anthropologist*.

Calusa Watercraft Perspectives

The June, 1989 issue of *The Florida Anthropologist* features a major article by George M. Luer entitled, "Calusa Canals in Southwest Florida: Routes of Tribute and Exchange." The article documents the remaining evidence for a man-made canoe passage 2.6 miles long, 20-30 feet wide and 4-6 feet deep running from Pineland all the way across Pine Island to the Indian Field site north of Matlacha Pass. It also suggests the high probability of a second canal that once crossed Cape Coral from the Matlacha area to the Caloosahatchee River, thus connecting the island complexes of the coastal Calusa realm to the west, with the Okeechobee basin to the east.

The usefulness of such windless, dependable passages becomes clear when one examines alternative routes in the same area from the point of view of canoe travel.

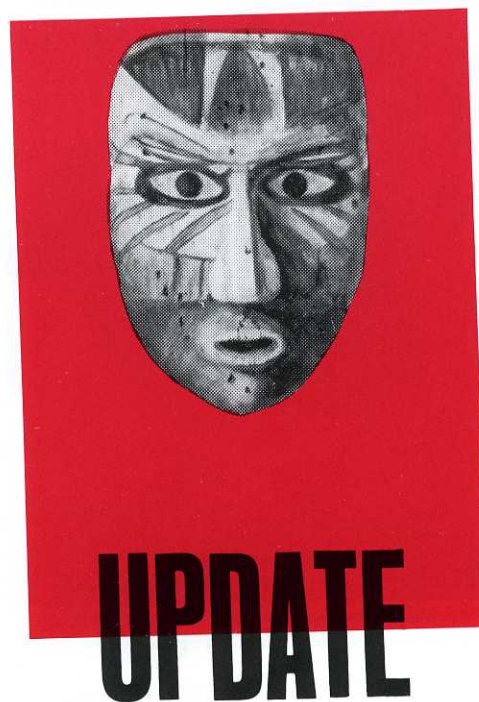
The northern end of Pine Island with its constant shoal surf and extremely dangerous tidal rips, generated by Boca Grande Pass, would have been as hazardous and unpredictable for canoe travel as Cape Horn was to ocean-going ships during the Age of Sail.

The outflow of the Caloosahatchee River and the powerful tidal flows between Point Ybel and Punta Rassa to the south would have been equally dangerous and undependable.

Goods and wares being transhipped, as Mr. Luer suggests, in pottery vessels would have been particularly vulnerable to loss over these risky waters.

The Pine Island and Cape Coral canals would have saved days of journey time, not to mention uncounted numbers of lives and quantities of goods, and would have changed the face of travel, transport, and commerce for the Calusa, much as the Panama Canal did for the Western Hemisphere.

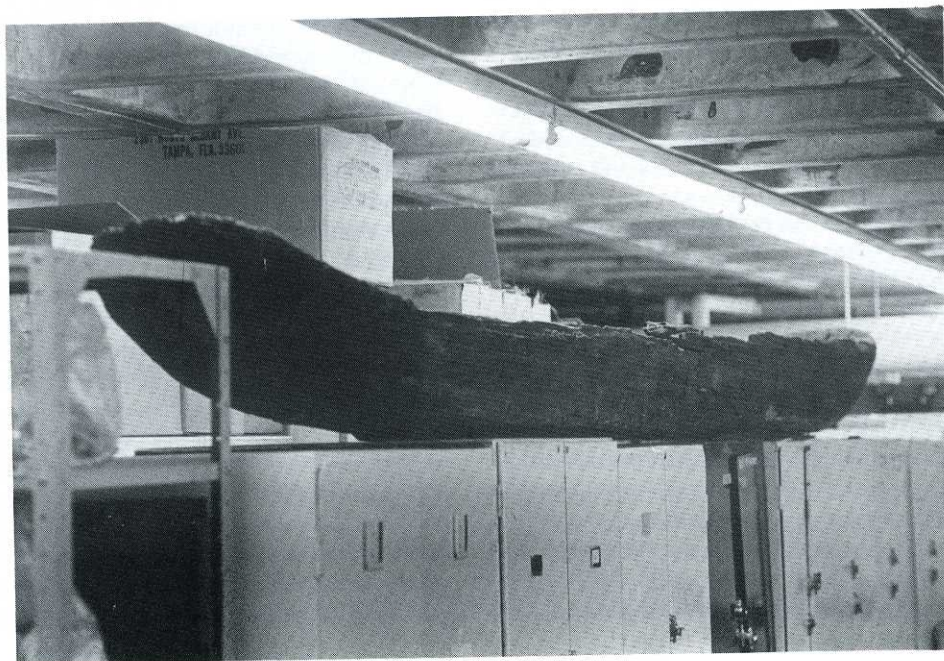
Those interested in reading Mr. Luer's article will find it referenced in the "Reading More" section of this issue of *Calusa News*.



Here is a brief summary of recent activities since our last report in *Calusa News* no. 3 (May, 1989).

- May, 1989: May 7-19 were spent at the Pineland site, continuing the test excavations begun in May of 1988. One hundred seventy people worked a total of 2,438 hours under the supervision of Bill Marquardt and Karen Jo Walker over a 13-day period. As in 1988, lab work was done in the shade of Don and Pat Randell's carport. The artifacts are currently being analyzed as this issue of *Calusa News* goes to press.

- Summer, 1989: The Pineland artifacts were sorted and made ready for analysis and curation. Karen and Bill represented the project as guests of William Mills June 17 at Galt Island for the dedication of a sculpture commemorating the Calusa Indians. Representatives of the Seminole and



One of several curated aboriginal dugout watercraft at the Florida Museum of Natural History lab.

Miccosukee tribes were also on hand to pay tribute to the ancient Native American heritage of southwest Florida. Bud and Shirley House visited the Florida Museum in Gainesville on July 7. On July 19 Karen Walker and Bill Marquardt set up an exhibit on Calusa Indian fishing technology at a Florida Museum summer children's program. Artifacts of bone and shell were featured. July and August were filled with lab analysis and organizing the two major projects that would start in September. August 14-19 found Bill Marquardt, Mike Russo, Laura Kozuch, Lee Newsom, and Sylvia Scudder in Collier county where they performed preliminary testing on Horr's Island. Twenty-seven backhoe trenches were excavated and two new sites were discovered. A report was prepared by Bill and Mike for Ronto Developments Marco based on the findings.

•September 1989: September 18-26 were spent working on the burial mound on Galt Island. For more detail see the article on Galt in this issue of *Calusa News*. Excavations confirmed that this Safety Harbor Period mound has been virtually destroyed by the depredations of pot hunters through the years. On September

30 the Horr's Island field team left Gainesville for Goodland to begin a 12-week excavation on Horr's Island.

•October 1989: Chuck Blanchard worked on *Calusa News* no. 4, and lab work continued in Gainesville. The Horr's Island crew, under the direction of Mike Russo, placed backhoe trenches into the major mounds on the island in order to ascertain the best places for careful hand-excavating. Meanwhile, the project's mailing list was transferred to dBase IV by Claudine Payne, with the help of Doug Turley. Long-time collaborator Bob Edic was hired to continue the oral history project begun first in 1986 (see *Calusa News* no. 1, p. 13; *Calusa News* no. 2, p. 5). October 14 found Bill Marquardt and Corbett Torrence in Fort Myers at the Lee County Nature Center presenting an orientation program for new volunteers. They also journeyed to Horr's Island where Mike Russo showed Bill the new test excavations there. On October 15 Bill and Corbett moved excavation and lab equipment to Useppa Island to begin the 8-week excavation season there. Arlene Fradkin, in her role of liaison person with local museums, visited with volunteers and supporters

of The Museum of the Islands and the Fort Myers Historical Museum on October 14 and 15. Lee Newsom went to Tallahassee to confer with Margie Scarry on their archaeobotanical work, and spoke to an archaeology class on the Southwest Florida Project findings. Excavations began on Useppa Island on October 18 and are to continue until December 18. The excavations and lab work are being done entirely by volunteers, under the direct supervision of Bill Marquardt and Corbett Torrence. By the end of October a 5X6 meter area had been excavated into a shell midden believed to date to the fourth millennium B.C. A new exhibit called 'A Clash of Arms,' partially funded by the Florida Department of State through the Year of the Indian project, opened on October 22 at the Fort Myers Historical Museum.

•November 1989: Papers on Southwest Florida were presented at the Southeastern Archaeological Conference in Tampa November 9 by Ann Cordell, Bill Marquardt, Lee Newsom, Mike Russo, Margaret Scarry, and Karen Jo Walker. *Calusa News* no. 4 went to press on November 15.

READING MORE

To learn more about Florida Indians, present and past, you may want to read some of these books in your school or public library. If they are not available, perhaps your librarian will order them for you.

Bartram, William

1955 *Travels of William Bartram*, edited by Mark Van Doren. Dover Publications, New York.

Bullen, Adelaide K.

1965 *Florida Indians of Past and Present*. Florida Museum of Natural History, Gainesville.

Dickinson, Jonathan

1985 *Jonathan Dickinson's Journal*. Florida Classics Library, Port Salerno, Florida.

Dormer, Elinore M.

1981 *The Calusa: Sanibel-Captiva's Native Indians*. Illustrated by Ann Winterbotham. Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation, Sanibel, Florida.

1987 *The Sea Shell Islands: A History of Sanibel and Captiva*. Illustrated by Ann Winterbotham. Rose Printing Co., Tallahassee.

Fontaneda, Do. d'Escalante

1945 *Memoir of Do. d'Escalante Fontaneda Respecting Florida*. Glades House, Coral Gables, Florida.

Gilliland, Marion S.

1975 *The Material Culture of Key Marco, Florida*. University Presses of Florida, Gainesville. [Reprinted: Florida Classics Library, Port Salerno, Florida 34992.]

1988 *Key Marco's Buried Treasure: Archaeology and Adventure in the Nineteenth Century*. University Presses of Florida, Gainesville.

Jordan, Elaine Blohm

1982 *Pine Island: The Forgotten Island*. Matlacha, Florida.

Luer, George M.

1986 *Shells and Archaeology in Southern Florida*. Florida Anthropological Society, Publication 12. Tallahassee.

1989 *Calusa Canals in Southwestern Florida: Routes of Tribute and Exchange*. *The Florida Anthropologist*, Volume 42, Number 2, published by The Florida Anthropological Society, Inc.

Milanich, Jerald T. and Charles H. Fairbanks

1980 *Florida Archaeology*. Academic Press, New York.

Milanich, Jerald T. and Samuel Proctor (editors)

1978 *Tacachale: Essays on the Indians of Florida and Southeastern Georgia During the Historic Period*. University Presses of Florida, Gainesville.

Milanich, Jerald T. and Susan Milbrath (editors)

1989 *First Encounters: Spanish Exploration in the Caribbean and the United States, 1492-1570*. University of Florida Press, Gainesville.

Neill, Wilfred T.

1956 *The Story of Florida's Seminole Indians*. Great Outdoors Publishing Co., St. Petersburg, Florida.

Solís de Merás, Gonzalo

1923 *Pedro Menéndez de Avilés: Memorial*. Florida State Historical Society, Deland.

Widmer, Randolph J.

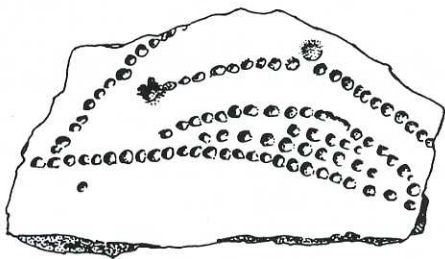
1988 *The Evolution of the Calusa*. University of Alabama Press, Tuscaloosa and London.

Williams, Lindsey W.

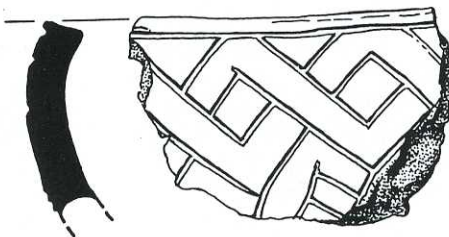
1986 *Boldly Onward*. Precision Publishing Co., Charlotte Harbor, Florida.

Wilson, Charles J.

1982 *The Indian Presence: Archeology of Sanibel, Captiva, and Adjacent Islands in Pine Island Sound*. Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation, Sanibel, Florida.



Weeden Island Punctated. Widespread in the central Florida Gulf coastal area. (Willey)



Matacumbe Incised. Paste is intermediate between Belle Glade and sand-tempered and surface finish is similar to Glades Plain. Interlocking variant of the cross-hatched diamond pattern first defined by Goggin.

Pineland

Work continued at Pineland in May of 1989.

Don and Pat Randell, whose patience and commitment to the Southwest Florida Project are already legendary, were descended upon by hoards of volunteers and sightseers.

Bill Marquardt gave the "grand tour" time and time again while volunteers labored in the excavation pits or processed dig material in the field lab. The spring sunlight beat down mercilessly on workers and gawkers, alike.

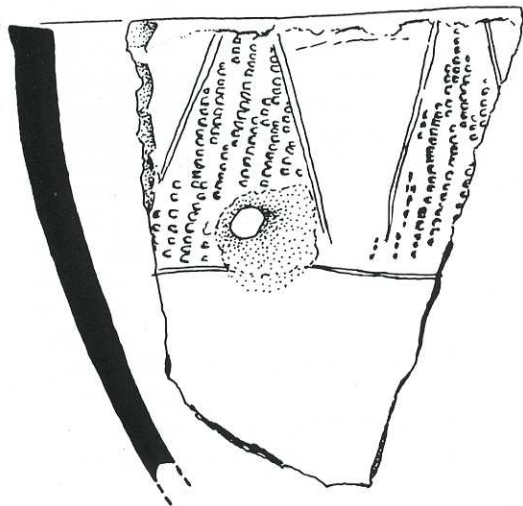
Slowly but surely, however, Pineland is justifying its reputation as an extraordinary archaeological site.

This is nowhere more evident than in the remarkable diversity of decorated pottery coming to light as the dig progresses.

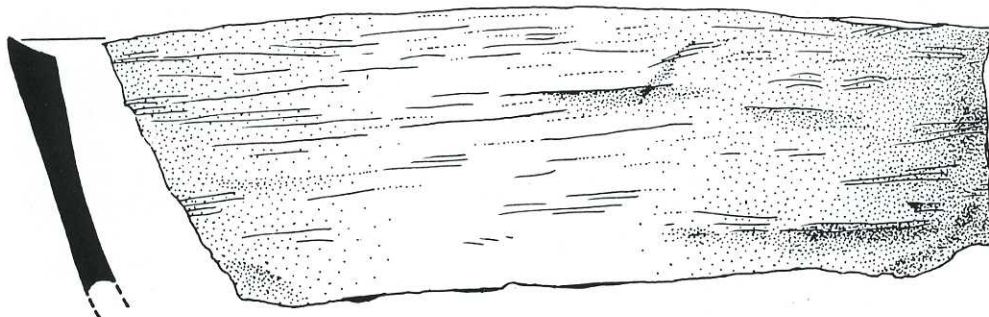
When one considers how many pottery-making traditions are represented here, and from how far away many must have come, Pineland emerges as a center of major significance in the aboriginal world of south Florida.

Year of the Indian staff artist Merald Clark has skillfully rendered a number of sherds in pen and ink, several of which are reproduced here. All of these were discovered during the 1988 and 1989 digs, and volunteers who worked at Pineland during those seasons may recognize some of them.

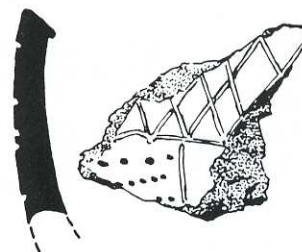
In March and April of 1990, archaeologists will return once again to Pineland. At that time, teachers and students of the public schools of Lee County will have an opportunity, through the Year of the Indian Project, to visit the dig and to learn about the fieldwork of Archaeology in the homeland of the Calusa at first hand.



Little Manatee Zoned Stamped. A Weeden Island period type occurring frequently in the Tampa Bay area. (Willey)

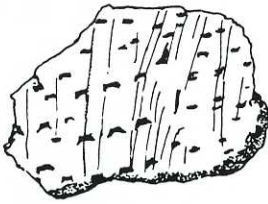


Belle Glade Plain. Scraped surface finish with abundant sponge spicules (needle-like, microscopic sponge skeletons) in the paste. (Cordell)

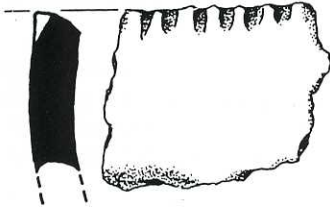


Unnamed Incised and Punctated. Paste is intermediate between Belle Glade and Sand Tempered. (Cordell)

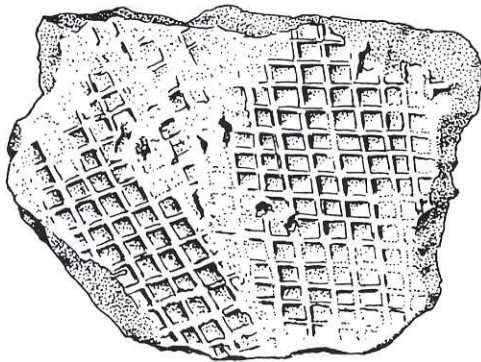
ARCHAEOLOGY FOR EVERYONE: LOCAL MUSEUMS AND OTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL OFFERINGS



Ruskin Dentate Stamped.
Probably originating in the
Tampa Bay/Manatee region.
(Willey)



Pinellas Plain. No one can
say for certain what its
center of origin is but its
presence seems to indicate
coastal trade north of
Charlotte Harbor. (Cordell)



St. John's Check Stamped.
Traditionally considered
to indicate trade with
Northeast Florida. Recent
studies may call this
view into question.
(Cordell)

FORT MYERS HISTORICAL MUSEUM
2300 Peck Street, Fort Myers.
M-F 9 AM-4 PM Sundays 1-5 PM
Featuring an exhibit entitled "A Clash
of Arms" including material from
Spanish contact with the Calusa.

**NATURE CENTER AND
PLANETARIUM OF LEE COUNTY**
3450 Ortiz Avenue, Fort Myers.
Mon.-Sat. 9-4; Sundays 11 AM-4:30 PM
Soon to feature an exhibit on Indian
use of native plants.

**NATURE CENTER,
SANIBEL-CAPTIVA
CONSERVATION FOUNDATION**
Sanibel-Captiva Road, across from Ding
Darling Center, Sanibel Island.
Winter: Mon.-Sat. 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Summer: Mon.-Fri. 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM
Featuring guided trail tours at 10:00,
11:00, and 2:00.

ISLAND HISTORICAL MUSEUM
Dunlop Road, Sanibel Island.
Thurs. and Sat. only, 10 AM - 4 PM
Featuring Calusa artifacts and some
18th century Spanish material.

**COLLIER COUNTY
HISTORICAL MUSEUM**
Corner of Airport and US 41, Naples.
Open daily, 10 AM - 4 PM.
Features a Calusa artifact exhibit.

**SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
LABORATORY**
Located in the County Government
Complex at Airport and US 41, Naples.
Lab is staffed from 10:00 AM - 1 PM,
Tuesdays and Thursdays.

**SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**
P. O. Box 9965, Naples FL 33941
Monthly meetings in Naples; local
field trips and projects.

**SOUTH FLORIDA MUSEUM AND
BISHOP PLANETARIUM**
201 Tenth Street West, Bradenton.
Tuesday-Saturday 10 AM - 5 PM, Sun-
days 1 - 5 PM.

Featuring the pottery and shell tool
collections of Montague Tallant, also an
exhibit on DeSoto (through 1989).

THE TIME SIFTERS
P. O. Box 25642, Sarasota FL 34239
Monthly meetings in Sarasota; local
field trips and projects.

**MUSEUM OF THE ISLANDS
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**
7000 Barrancas, Bokeelia FL 33922
Monthly meetings at Pine Island
Center; "Museum of the Islands" under
construction, corner of Sesame and
Russell streets, Pine Island Center.

**THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND
HISTORICAL CONSERVANCY**
P. O. Box 450283, Miami FL 33145
A non-profit organization of
dedicated preservationists, conserva-
tionists, and professional and avoca-
tional archaeologists concerned about
Florida's dwindling cultural resources.

**THE FLORIDA MUSEUM OF
NATURAL HISTORY**
Museum Road, University of Florida,
Gainesville
Featuring the "First Encounters" tour-
ing exhibit through January 3, 1989.

**HISTORICAL MUSEUM OF
SOUTH FLORIDA**
101 West Flagler Street, Miami
Featuring the largest collection of ar-
chaeological materials in south Florida.

From the Project Director

November 15, 1989

Dear Friends,

When you receive this issue we will have been working at Useppa Island for several weeks and will be looking forward to an 8-week season at Pineland in March and April of 1990. Excavations at Horr's Island are scheduled to be finished in late December, 1989. Chuck Blanchard has prepared excellent articles describing these projects and these are included in this issue.

I am overjoyed by the public response so far to "The Year of the Indian." Public education is so prominent a part of our current emphasis that the significance of the archaeological findings themselves may go initially unnoticed. However, one has only to reflect on how little we all know about Archaic coastal habitations, early estuary formation, the emergence of the coastal fishing adaptation, and the details of the past 5,000 years of South Florida prehistory to realize that the work being done by our volunteers and funded by our supporters is of the utmost scientific importance.

The Southwest Florida Project will touch many more people this year than in previous years. Besides the three digs, there will be two new museum exhibits, a multi-media slide presentation, a summer program for children, assistance to public school teachers in the preparation of archaeological curriculum materials, a series of speakers, and both scientific and popular publications.

Our donors and volunteers for 1989 will be listed in the next issue of *Calusa News*, but I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who supported this effort over the past few months. Many of you gave generously of your time in helping lobby for "The Year of the Indian." Many others gave donations of money and time to help our research and preservation efforts. Thank you, one and all, for your continuing support and genuine interest. I hope you enjoy this special issue of *Calusa News*.

Sincerely,

Bill Marquardt

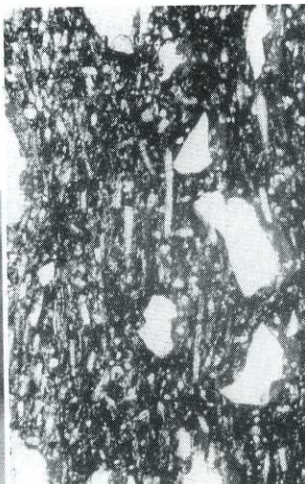
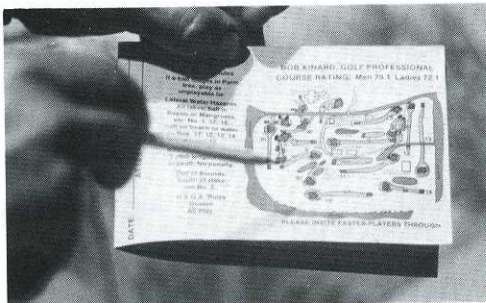
Bill Marquardt

ALPHA and OMEGA

Two views from either end of the spectrum of useful archaeological information.

An experienced archaeological informant uses a convenient local map to pin-point two suspected prehistoric sites on a golfcourse near his home.

Informants often take the first step in the process of the preservation of cultural resources which would otherwise be lost forever.



The thin, needle-like objects appearing among the larger quartz grains in this photomicrograph are sponge spicules, that is: minute siliceous parts of sponge exoskeletons.

Their occurrence in the pottery of Southwest Florida gives scientists clues to the geographical and cultural origins of that pottery.

This research is being pursued by Ann Cordell at the Florida Museum of Natural History.



WILLIAM H. MARQUARDT

The Florida Museum of Natural History

University of Florida

Gainesville, Florida 32611 USA

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