

CALUSA NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHWEST FLORIDA PROJECT

INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND PALEOENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

FLORIDA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

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Horr's Island Yields A New View of the Florida Archaic

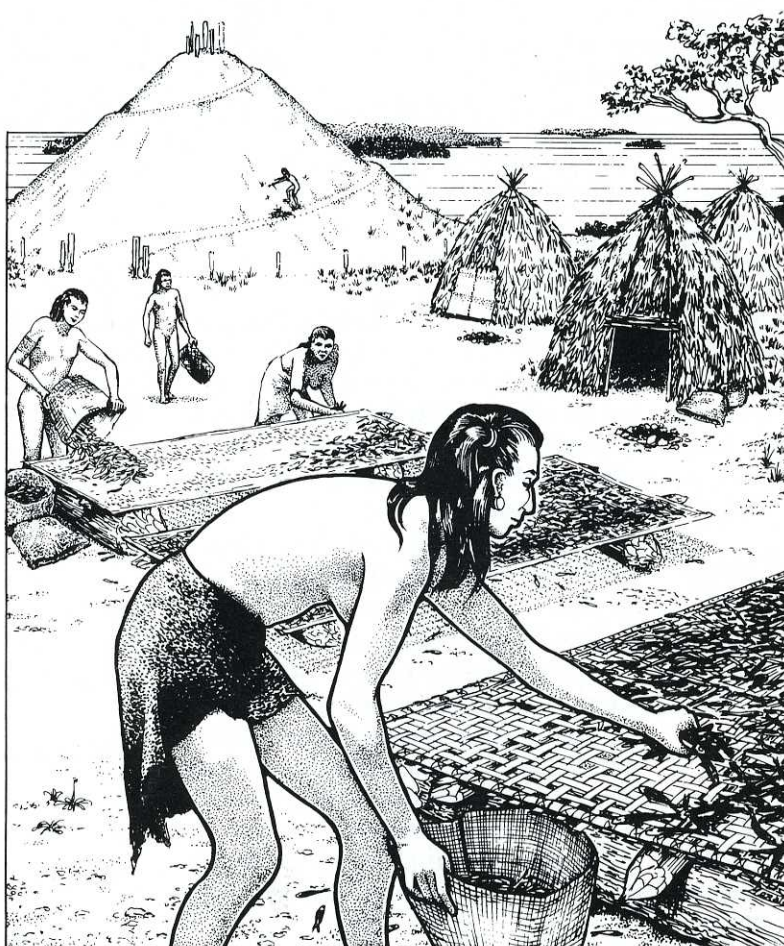
Claudine Payne

Every so often in archaeology, something happens to shake up the established view of prehistory. Sometimes the trigger is the discovery of a new site; sometimes, it's the introduction of a new technique. In the case of Horr's Island, it was a bit of both.

Archaeologists have known about the Late Archaic shell mounds and middens on Horr's Island near Naples for some time. But it was not until 1989, when Ronto Developments Marco made possible a full-scale archaeological investigation, that the true nature of the site became clear.

Archaeologist Mike Russo, who ran the project, had not worked much in southwest Florida before, but he turned out to be just the right person for the task. He was an expert on the Florida Archaic, and he had extensive training in zooarchaeology, a specialty that deals with the study of the archaeological remains of animals. This fortuitous combination of site and archaeologist led to a new view of Archaic peoples and their lifestyle.

First, the establishment view: During the Archaic period (6500-1000 B.C.),



people lived off the land, gathering wild plants and small animals, fishing and shellfishing, and occasionally hunting larger game. People lived in small groups and moved with the seasons. Because they were often on the move, their houses, if any, were temporary. They built no

permanent structures, no mounds of any sort. When people died, they were buried where they died.

What Russo found did not fit with this established view. His excavations in the area designated 8CR209 revealed more than 600 postholes, probably representing many small circular houses. It seemed that by 2800 B.C. people were living on Horr's Island year after year.

Russo knew that this interpretation went against the conventional view of mobile Archaic hunter-gatherers. So he took a closer look. Here's where the new techniques come into the picture.

Archaeologists frequently use seasonality studies to figure out when a site was occupied. Some animals have a clear seasonal growth pattern, which is reflected in their bones or shells. Study of these remains can determine at what season the ani-

mal was collected, thereby indicating when people lived at the site.

For the most part, these studies have been limited to a few species like quahog clam and deer. Russo took this idea further and developed ways of deter-

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Horr's Island Yields A New View of the Florida Archaic

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Sam Chapman and Ingrid Munck shovel-skim the sandy deposits at 8CR209, Horr's Island, revealing evidence of posts from small circular houses. (Photo by W. Marquardt.)

mining seasonality for a multitude of species, including scallops, hardhead catfish, pinfish, and threadfin herring. He and his team examined thousands of tiny fish bones and shells of all kinds. And, indeed, he found that people lived at 8CR209 on Horr's Island year-round, gathering scallops in the summer, quahogs in the winter or spring, and catching catfish, pinfish, and threadfin herring mainly in the fall. 8CR209 was a permanent, sedentary Archaic community.

But there was more. Not only did the Horr's Island Archaic people live year-round in one place, but they built a shell and sand mound nearby. Russo knew that Mound A was a deliberate construction, not just the accumulation of years of shell midden, for several reasons.

First, there was the shape — not irregular as you might expect with midden but a well-defined cone rising to a point almost 20 feet above the ground surface.

Then there was the way it was built. The researchers found no evidence of build-up of debris from years of living in that spot.

But the most telling indications of mound-building were the layers of sand that had been spread carefully over the shell from time to time. Some of the sand

layers were pure white, some were colored by the addition of charcoal. Nothing could have pointed more clearly to deliberate construction and, further, to a ceremonial use.

But what sort of ceremonial use? Russo was not able to excavate in the central part of the mound, so he cannot be positive. But on the outskirts of the mound he found two human burials, which, although they date to a slightly later time, suggest an answer.

Russo believes that Mound A was a burial mound. If he's right, the mound is the earliest burial mound known in the eastern United States.

So now archaeologists have to rethink the Florida Archaic. We know now that, at least in some places, people lived a settled life. They caught fish and collected shellfish throughout the year. And they buried their dead in mounds.

We discovered this partly through the fortunate circumstance of being able to excavate at Horr's Island. But just as important was the development of new techniques of determining seasonality.

Excavation is the most visible part of any archaeological investigation, but, as in the case of Horr's Island, the hours of tedious lab work often lead to the real discoveries.

About the Cover

Artist's conception of activities at Horr's Island about 4,000 years ago. Details, including form and shape of houses, baskets, and racks for fish processing, are conjectural. Mound A is shown in the background, with a person weeding the side of the mound. (Drawing by Merald Clark.)

Is Mound A on Horr's Island a Calusa Mound?

No, says archaeologist Mike Russo. Mound A is a completely different type of structure than the much later Calusa mounds. It was built in a different way and served a different purpose.

Compare Mound A, for example, to Brown's Mound at Pineland. Mound A is roughly 4800 years old, while Brown's Mound first came into existence 1500 years ago and accumulated over the next 800 years. Mound A is about one-sixth the size of Brown's Mound. Mound A is cone-shaped and was built of piled up shells and sand over a primary sand mound. Brown's Mound is an irregular mass of debris consisting of layers and layers of dirt, ashes, bones, and shell. Mound A was primarily a ceremonial mound while Brown's Mound served as the foundation for the houses of generations of prehistoric Pine Island residents.

Separated by 3500 years, and differences in form and function, Mound A and the Calusa mounds are not related.

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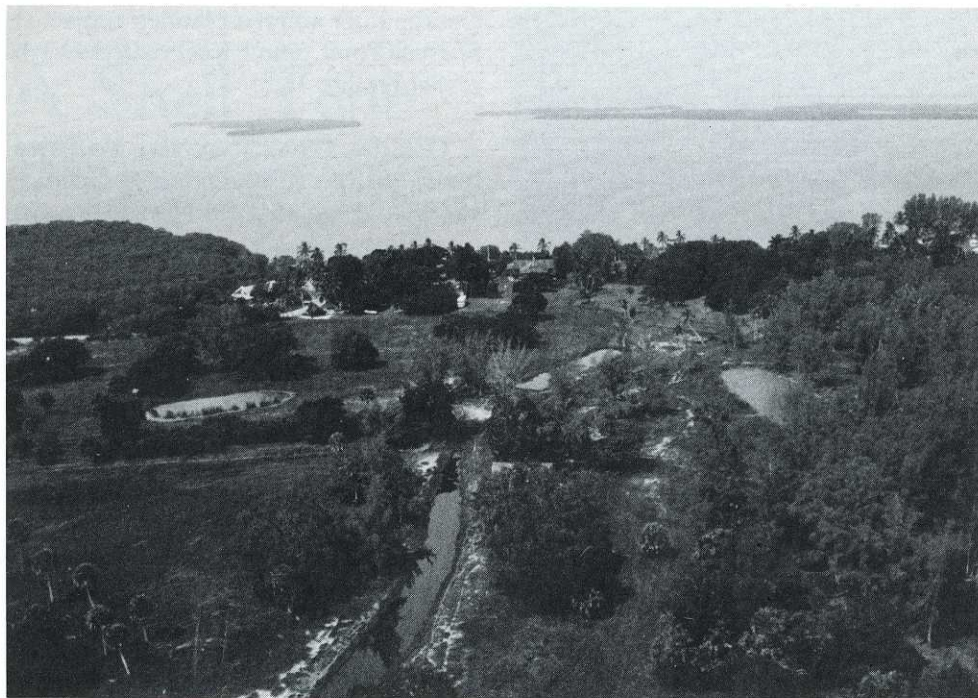
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Pineland 1992



A view of the Pineland site from the air, looking west-southwest, showing the remnants of the great Pineland canal. (Photo by W. Marquardt.)

The Mystery of the Pineland Canal

Karen Jo Walker

Some of our effort in the 1992 season will be directed toward dating the Pineland canal. Regular readers of *Calusa News* know of the amazing Indian-engineered canal that begins at Pineland and runs all the way across Pine Island (see *Calusa News* no. 4, p. 12). When Frank Cushing was at the Pineland site in 1895, the canal was still 30 feet wide and 8 feet deep.

George Luer published a valuable study of the canal in *The Florida Anthropologist* (June, 1989), suggesting that it was dug after A.D. 1000 to bring trade goods and tribute to the Calusa from the mainland. He may be right. There is, however, an alternative hypothesis — that the canal was constructed during the earliest occupation of the Pineland site.

Three of our Pineland radiocarbon dates fall into the period of A.D. 100 to 300, a time when the Gulf of Mexico sea level was up to one meter (3.3 feet) higher than it is today, according to geologists Frank Stapor and William Tanner. The canal would have been easier to dig with a higher water level. Later in time, ca. A.D. 500 to 900, a lowered water level

(below present level) would have necessitated digging the canal deeper. Waters rose again from 900 until 1400 when the "Little Ice Age" hit and waters again receded. Either (or both) of the low stands may explain the depth of the canal.

The importance of dating the Pineland canal relates to the question of when the Calusa "became complex." An engineered canal for purposes of transportation implies the use of a large labor force. This situation is usually considered to be a mark of complexity. It is also usually associated with agricultural societies of late prehistory, and we are reasonably sure that the Calusa were not farmers.

The canal may have been constructed in phases. For example, when waters were higher, say at A.D. 300, the shoreline (and thus the canal) would have been to the east of present-day Randell and Brown's mounds (these mounds did not exist then). Perhaps the canal was originally limited to the site and only later was expanded to connect Pineland with greater south Florida (supporting Luer's trade theory).

Pineland: The 1992 Season

As this newsletter goes into production, we (Karen Walker, Bill Marquardt, Corbett Torrence, and Carol Godwin) are gearing up for the 1992 field season at Pineland. Ten weeks of public archaeology will begin on March 4, 1992. We will work a four-day week (Wednesday through Saturday) at the site, and visitors and volunteers will be welcome all four days. There will be no digging or visiting at the site on other days.

Chuck Blanchard and Bob Edic will coordinate visits by school children four days a week. Chuck and Bob have been in Fort Myers since early January working on the children's educational schedule and providing workshops for teachers.

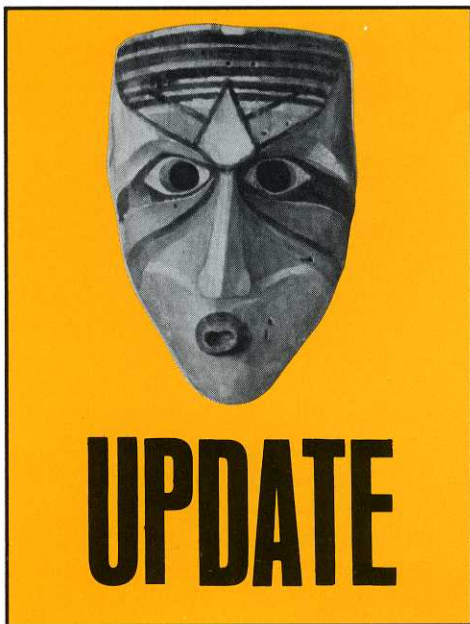
Based on artifacts from the 1990 field work, as well as a better topographic map of the site, we are now better able to pose questions about Pineland's development from its first occupation during a higher sea-level stand, around A.D. 100 to 500, through its major occupation, A.D. 500 through 1600. Some of the 1992 work will be aimed at answering these questions.

New excavations will include extensive testing across the site, including areas of the site known to be early (A.D. 100 to 300), such as the so-called "plaza" area. Another new excavation will be a small trench at the Smith Mound to try to determine when it began to accumulate. We already know that its upper part dates to the late sixteenth century.

We will complete the excavations at Brown's Mound that we had to abandon and cover at the end of the 1990 season. Volunteers will remember that these excavations revealed black organic layers that appeared to be house floors.

We need volunteers for both excavation and lab work. Those interested in signing up to volunteer at the Pineland site between March 4 and May 9, 1992, are requested to write to Carol Godwin, 2108 Broadway, Fort Myers, FL 33901. Or you may call Carol at 813-332-5824 between February 2 and May 9, 1992.

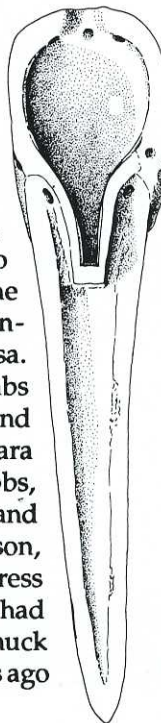
We look forward to seeing you at Pineland.



The following is a brief summary of Southwest Florida Project activities since our last report in *Calusa News* no. 5 (October, 1990).

• **July - August, 1990:** Lab work continued throughout the summer in our temporary quarters on the Museum's third level while space-saving compactors were being installed in the Anthropology collections area. Mike Russo worked on the Horr's Island report, while Ashley Swift transformed field data into finished stratigraphic drawings. Other Horr's Island work included analysis by Laura Kozuch and Irv Quitmyer (zooarchaeology), Lee Newsom (archaeobotany), Ann Cordell (ceramics), and Sylvia Scudder (sediments). Karen Jo Walker identified the historic artifacts from Useppa, while Melissa Massaro and Susan deFrance worked on Useppa zooarchaeology. Karen Jo continued her preparation of the bone artifact chapter for the monograph. Corbett Torrence began work on clams and whelk debitage from Useppa, assisted by Lisa Dorr and Chuck Allee. Chuck Blanchard planned and then carried out the summer program for children at the Nature Center of Lee County. Claudine Payne prepared *Calusa News* no. 5 for publication, while Elise LeCompte-Baer supervised artifact analysis on previously-excavated southwest Florida materials. Hermann Trappman (St. Petersburg) completed and sent to us his drawing of the meeting between Pedro Menéndez de Avilés and Calusa chief Carlos (1566), which was

used on the cover of John Hann's *Missions to the Calusa*. Bill Marquardt represented the project in Tallahassee, where the Historic Preservation Advisory Board ranked the Year of the Indian II project 2nd out of 54 projects it recommended for funding. Betty Anholt (Sanibel) joined us for a week's lab analysis in July, and Ken Horne came to take photographs for the Nature Center's planetarium show on the Calusa. Summer visitors to the labs included Diane Schmidt and son, Doris Threlkeld, Barbara Dobbs, Marguerite Stubbs, Rosemary and Al Squires, and Phyllis and Ed Thomasson, who donated a carved cypress bird figurehead Phyllis had found eroding out of the muck after a storm several years ago on Pine Island.



• **September, 1990:** We moved back into our newly-refurbished laboratories on September 4-6. Elise, with the help of Kim Peters, completed analysis of all Buck Key artifacts, and turned her attention to Cash Mound and Big Mound Key, while Mike, Ashley, Lee, Ann, and Sylvia continued work on Horr's Island materials. Chuck Blanchard conducted a teacher workshop for 42 teachers in Fort Myers and worked on the popular book. Claudine completed *Calusa News* No. 5 (it went to press on September 17) and returned to editing monograph chapters. Corbett and Chuck A. continued work on Useppa debitage, while Karen Jo organized notes and data from the Pineland field season, assisted by Lee Certain. Useppa clams were cut for seasonality research by Irv, while Arlene Rodriguez did data entry. Melissa and Susan began identification of the Pineland zooarchaeological specimens, including a detailed study of pinfish and pigfish (grunt) bones for seasonality determination. Lee Newsom spoke to the Explorer's Club in Orlando on the 17th. Bill traveled to Mound Key and the Pineland site to tape a program about archaeology in Kris Thoenke's "Exploring Florida" TV series, and on the 22nd he went to Jacksonville to receive a Merit Award for the Year of the Indian project

presented by the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation. Corbett went to Sarasota to talk with Marion Almy and George Luer about a planned project at Spanish Point. Frank Keel visited the lab on September 17th.

• **October, 1990:** *Calusa News* No. 5 was mailed to over 3,000 readers on October 15. Bill went to Santa Fe, N.M. to present a paper on the use of archaeology in raising environmental awareness. Claudine finished editing Ann's ceramics chapter, Melissa worked on graphics for her seasonality results, Corbett analyzed artifacts from Useppa, and Elise and Kim continued Pineland analysis. Chuck continued writing the popular book, while artist/illustrator Merald Clark worked on drawings representing various time periods in southwest Florida's past. Work on the Horr's Island report continued. In Boca Grande, Bob Edic conducted further oral history interviews and prepared an exhibit for the Boca Grande lighthouse celebration. U.F. Provost Sorensen and Vice President Hemp visited our labs on October 10. Other visitors included Bob and Linda Edic, Evelyn Uhlinger, and Mitchell Hope.

• **November, 1990:** Chuck Blanchard and Bob Edic conducted a teacher training workshop on the 17th at Gulf Middle School and put on a Thanksgiving program for the Useppa Island Historical Society. Corbett, assisted by Joe Sutherland, mapped the midden at the Palmer site, Spanish Point at the Oaks. Irv completed reading the Horr's Island clams for seasonality information, and Ashley photographed Horr's artifacts. Mike finished the Archaic section of the Horr's report, and Lee completed her archaeobotanical report. Claudine completed edits of Chapters 7 and 12 of the monograph. Elise and her staff, with new additions Maureen Rousseau and Topher Davis, made good progress on artifact analysis. Karen Jo did further research on sea-level fluctuations, in consultation with Frank Stapor and Rhodes Fairbridge. Bill wrote Chapter 1 of the monograph. Steve Koski visited the lab.

• **December, 1990:** Claudine edited Bill's new chapter, Karen Jo worked on

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Useppa

A Shell Tool Workshop on Useppa Island

A stirring volunteer effort on the part of Useppa Island residents and mainlanders alike resulted in the excavation of over 25 cubic meters of an Archaic shell midden and workshop site in October through December, 1989.

Radiocarbon dates show that the site on "Calusa Ridge" was occupied between 1550 and 2880 B.C., or about 3500 to 4800 years ago. Excavations and lab work led to the identification of 117 shell artifacts. These include net mesh gauges, cutting-edge tools, celts, hammers, pounders, anvils, sinkers, perforators, and dippers.

The hammers found at Useppa were not of the familiar large, whelk-shell variety, with holes cut into the shells for handles. Instead, only the center column ("columella") was used. It would be centuries before southwest Florida coastal peoples would learn to make the larger varieties of hammers and cutting tools fitted with handles.

Corbett Torrence, assisted by Chuck Allee and Lisa Dorr, has spent many hours since the excavations analyzing the shell fragments found. There are 6,667 of them, and Corbett believes that he can reconstruct the details of tool manufacture by analyzing the by-products. Thanks to careful recording by the excavators, two "workshop" areas can be described; they date to about 1550 B.C.

Two chert bifaces (chipped stone knives made from a hard, flint-like material) and four bone points were also found. Corbett believes that the bifaces were used in the reduction of large whelk shells into manageable sizes. The bone points could have served many purposes, but one of them seems clearly to be part of a composite fishhook.

Plant remains were not very well preserved in the Useppa midden, but Lee Newsom and Margie Scarry have been



Volunteers work at Useppa Island, November, 1989. Careful excavations and record-keeping by the volunteers allowed Corbett Torrence to reconstruct evidence of two shell tool "workshop" areas dating to about 3500 years ago. (Photo by W. Marquardt.)

able to identify mastic seeds, small weed seeds, and sea grape seeds. Pine, black mangrove, and buttonwood were the main fuel woods.

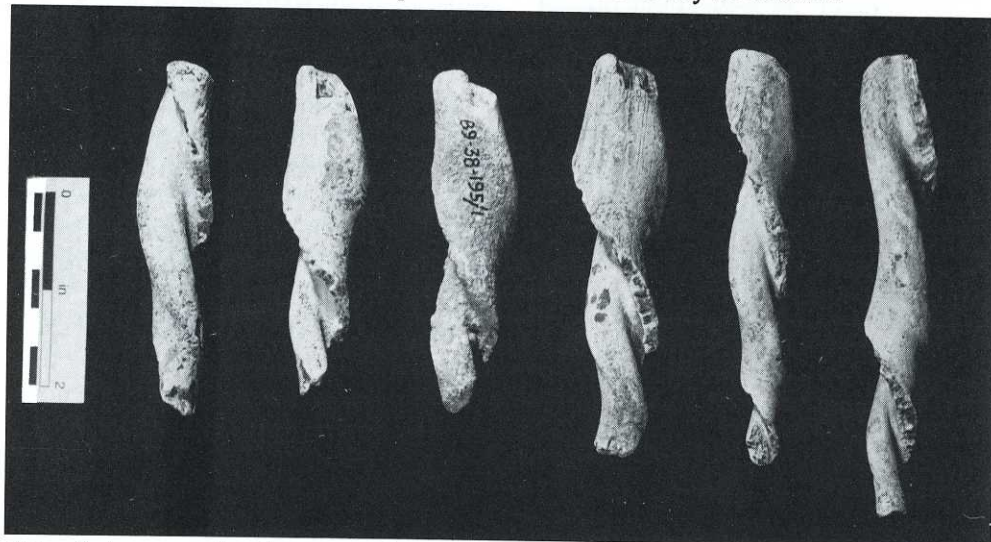
Zooarchaeological studies by Melissa Massaro show that the Useppa people ate a great deal of fish and shellfish. Analysis of some of the tiny snails, called odostomes, which adhere to the oyster shells, show that many of the oysters were harvested in the late summer-early fall.

Information on season of occupation can also be gleaned from clam shells (see *Calusa News* no. 1, p. 12 and *Calusa News* no. 2, p. 12). Irv Quitmyer's analysis of the quahog clams reveals that they were collected year-round, but especially during the spring.

As reported in *Calusa News* no. 5, the well-preserved burial found deep in the

Archaic midden was placed there about A.D. 600, nearly a thousand years after the Archaic people who made the shell tools had abandoned the site. Thus, the man would have lived at the same time that the shell ridges south of the Collier Inn were being accumulated on the island by later, pottery-making peoples.

Plans are now well underway for a museum on Useppa. A project of the Useppa Island Historical Society, it will include space for exhibits of our findings and a permanent laboratory for analysis, study, and curation of Useppa's heritage. But the fascinating story of Useppa Island, whose prehistory and history extend for over 5,000 years, is just beginning to be told. With the continued support and volunteer assistance by Gar Beckstead and the people of Useppa Island, it will be one day be known.



Columella hammers such as these were produced at Useppa Island and Horr's Island around 1500 B.C.



Artist's conception of the meeting in 1566 between Spanish governor Pedro Menéndez de Avilés and Calusa paramount chief Carlos. (Drawing by Hermann Trappman.)

Read All About It

If all goes well, Calusa enthusiasts will soon have three new books to read. One is already available, and two are close to going to the printer.

Available now is John Hann's *Missions to the Calusa*, a 460-page compilation of documents relating to the Spanish and native south Florida Indians in the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries. Many of the documents have never been published before, others only in Spanish.

The central focus of *Missions to the Calusa* is a failed attempt to convert the Calusa to Christianity late in 1697. In addition to translating the eyewitness testimony about the Calusa mission effort, Dr. Hann includes a number of documents that provide insight into broader-scale politics. An introduction places each piece in context, and a general introduction sets the mission effort within the broader framework of the Spanish colonial system.

The last part of the book documents the final half-century of Calusa existence as a culture. Stripped of their power and influence, the natives still clung stubbornly to their spiritual beliefs, and commoners still procured food for the nobles.

Missions to the Calusa sells for \$49.95,

and can be ordered from the University Presses of Florida, 15 N.W. 15th Street, Gainesville, Florida 32611. Members of the Calusa Constituency (people who donate at least \$10 per year to our research and education efforts) are entitled to a 20% discount, so for them the price is only \$39.96.

Soon to go to press will be *Culture and Environment in the Domain of the Calusa*, edited by Bill Marquardt. This will be a book of well over 400 pages, with many photos and drawings, reporting the archaeology and other research of the first five years of the Southwest Florida Project. The cost will be \$25.00 (\$20.00 for members of the Calusa Constituency).

Following shortly thereafter will be Laura Kozuch's *Sharks and Shark Products in Prehistoric South Florida*, an account of the role of sharks in south Florida prehistoric life. The book will sell for \$5.00 (\$4.00 for Calusa Constituency members).

Calusa News is still free, and will stay free as long as we continue to enjoy the support of the Calusa Constituency. *Calusa News* is published approximately once each year and sent to all who request it. Please let us know if your address changes, because bulk-rate mail is discarded if undeliverable.

Calusa on Parade

The Calusa Indians have been getting a lot of attention lately.

An article in the November, 1991, issue of *Smithsonian* magazine by William MacLeish featured the Calusa as one of five extraordinary Native American groups described in their pre-Columbian environmental contexts. MacLeish's article was based on his own research as well as interviews with Bill Marquardt and a tour of the Pineland site.

Artifacts of southwest Florida natives were featured prominently in a major exhibition, *Circa 1492: Art in the Age of Exploration*, at the National Gallery of Art in Washington October 12, 1991 to January 12, 1992. Such artifacts from Key Marco as the carved wooden deer figurehead and the seated feline figurine were among the objects assembled in a spectacular exhibition of fifteenth and sixteenth century visual art from all over the world.

The Calusa were included in Lee County's offering at the *Florida State Fair* in February, 1992, in Tampa. The exhibit, organized by Joan Carter of the Lee County Extension Service, incorporated reproductions of Calusa crafts by Robin Brown and a 9 1/2 minute video of the Year of the Indian project directed by Stuart Brown.

Calusa artifacts are also featured in an exhibit that runs from February 15 through December 31, 1992, at the University Museum, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. The exhibit's title is *Columbus and the New World: The Calusa Kingdom*. Masks, bowls, and tools of shell, wood, and shark tooth are featured, as is the seated cat, easily the best known of all south Florida Native American artifacts. The cat figurine is on loan from the Smithsonian Institution, but many of the artifacts are from the University Museum's own collections, obtained by Frank Cushing and others in the 1890s.

UPDATE

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stratigraphic correlations for Pineland, Richard Interlandi sorted deer bones collected at Pineland, and Elise and crew continued artifact analysis. Lee Newsom and Bill Marquardt lectured to U.F. professor Marty Marshall's nutrition class; they are to conduct a proximate analysis of the nutritional value of certain wild plant foods (e.g., hog plum, palmetto berries). Mike Russo successfully defended his Ph.D. dissertation, based on the Horr's Island Archaic (cover story, this issue).

• **January, 1991:** Bill Marquardt, Barbara and Reed Toomey, and Bob Edic assisted Brent Weisman and Chris Newman (archaeologists, C.A.R.L. program) in documenting the stratigraphy in a backhoe trench that had been cut several years ago at the Big Mound Key site. On January 12 Anna Roosevelt (Field Museum) gave the first of three free lectures to an audience of 100 people in Fort Myers, sponsored by the Year of the Indian project. After her talk, she was given a tour of Charlotte Harbor sites as well as those on Horr's Island, the latter conducted by Mike Russo. Frank Stapor also visited, consulting with Karen Jo Walker about their common interests in sea-level fluctuation. Bill spoke to the southwest Florida legislative delegation in Cape Coral on the 15th about the Year of the Indian project; Don Randell, owner of the Pineland site, also attended to voice his support. Michael Moseley (University of Florida) gave the second public lecture to 110 people in Fort Myers on January 26. He and Pat Essenpreis were shown some of the sites in Charlotte Harbor by boat on Sunday the 27th. Bob Edic continued his oral history interviews in Boca Grande. Sam Chapman began working with Claudine as a typographer, transforming edited chapters into publishable format on the Hewlett-Packard computer. Merald worked on illustrations of shell artifacts and on drawings for Irv Quitmyer's and Doug Jones's chapter. Ann Cordell finished the Horr's Island ceramic analysis, while Ashley Swift did text entry of Sylvia Scudder's (soils) and Lee Newsom's (archaeobotany) chapters for the Horr's report. Elise completed plans for a total

inventory and reorganization of all south Florida artifacts. Work was begun on this by Elise, lab workers Ken Nicholson and Chris Ellis, and data entry operator Arlene Rodriguez. Artifact cabinets were moved into their permanent positions on the new compactors. Karen Jo and Richard worked on Pineland zooarchaeology samples, and Chuck Allee measured gastropods and worked on clams. Scott Mitchell began a bone artifact study for his senior honors thesis.

• **February, 1991:** Bruce Smith (Smithsonian Institution) gave the third of three free public lectures in Fort Myers to 130 people on February 2. Carol Godwin began volunteer work, sorting bones, while Lisa Dorr began distribution studies of some 6,600 shell fragments excavated at Useppa. Sam completed typography on Lee Newsom and Margie Scarry's archaeobotany chapter and the tables for Ann's ceramics chapter, while Karen Jo continued her work on the bone artifacts. Chuck Allee worked on the collections improvement project with Elise, assisted by volunteers Evelyn Jost, Zack Frignoca, Nancy Szabo, and Carol Godwin, while Chris and Arlene proof-read data base entries. Bill journeyed to Punta Gorda to present a program at the Museum of Charlotte County on the 18th, and gave three talks on the 26th & 27th to about 650 people at the invitation of Northern Trust Bank. Jim Marshall (see *Calusa News* no. 2, p. 3) resumed his mapping of southwest Florida mounds with an eight-day expedition to Mound Key. Several members of the Southwest Florida Archaeological Society assisted him. Chuck Blanchard went to Portland, Oregon to discuss the Year of the Indian education programs with the U.S. Forest Service. Elise went to Albuquerque to do artifact conservation and help with disassembly and packing of the First Encounters exhibit, which is still touring the country (see *Calusa News* no. 4). Merald worked on artifact illustrations, Corbett drew maps of artifact distributions for Useppa, and Elise and Karen worked on the Pineland analysis, assisted by Ken and Richard. Lee conducted research on panicoid grasses and *Trianthema* using the scanning electron microscope. Irv Quitmyer and Elizabeth Wing completed a second draft of Chapter 9 of the monograph. Richard Beattie

(Fort Myers Historical Museum) visited the lab and museum.

• **March, 1991:** Chuck Blanchard made progress with the popular book and gave a paper at the Florida Anthropological Society meetings in Pensacola. He and Bob Edic represented the project at the Nature Center's Caloosahatchee River festival the 23rd and 24th. Bob neared completion of his report on his oral history research. Karen Jo completed her research on the bone artifacts, and Bill finished his lab work on the shell artifacts. The collections reorganization project shifted from inventory and re-boxing to physically re-arranging the collections by catalog number. On March 6 U.F. President John Lombardi recognized Bill Marquardt for being among the top 100 most productive researchers at the University of Florida. Bill went to Tallahassee for Preservation Day March 13, along with Jan Brown, Gloria Sajgo, and Bill Payne (Fort Myers); he also visited Galt Island on March 18 to confer about placement of the road for a planned housing development. Robin and Jan Brown visited the museum March 20-23, and Robin took photographs for his forthcoming book. Scott Mitchell went to Miami to study bone artifacts at the Dade County Museum. Paul and Merri Hill visited the museum and got a tour of the labs. Bill and Karen Jo joined Charlie Wilson, Jody Brown, Betty and Jim Anholt, Bud and Shirley House, and Barbara and Reed Toomey on a three-day testing project at the Wightman site, Sanibel Island, which is about to be developed. The site contains key information about sea-level fluctuations.

• **April, 1991:** Chuck Blanchard gave a talk to the Useppa Island Historical Society on April 2 and consulted at Deep Creek School on archaeological education, as well as with the Florida Parks staff and Charlotte County Historical Advisory Commission. He and Bob Edic gave a presentation to the Boca Grande Community Center April 10. Karen Jo Walker presented a paper on fishing artifact technology at the Society for American Archaeology meetings in New Orleans, April 24-27. Ken, Chris, Evelyn, Carol, Nancy, and Elise made good progress on collections reorganization

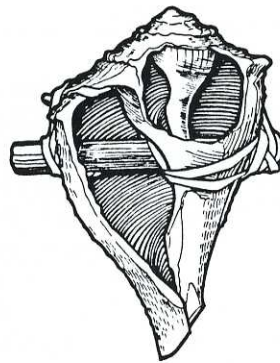
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(Above) Oral historian Bob Edic takes notes as Esperanza Woodring (Sanibel Island) recounts early fishing practices in Pine Island Sound. (Photo by K. J. Walker.)

(Right) Visitors to Useppa Island quickly became engrossed with the archaeological excavations. (Photo by W. Marquardt.)

(Below) Lee County school children walk next to the ancient Calusa canal at the Pineland site. School visits to Pineland will resume on March 4, 1992. (Photo by W. Marquardt.)



Bountiful The Calu

Through research, education, and public participation, today's Floridians are rediscovering the richness of their fishing heritage and the complexity of Florida's aquatic environment.



(Above) Deep in Operation C, Karen Jo Walker makes observations of the shell midden profile. Operation C was covered with a roof structure at the end of the 1990 season. Excavations will resume there in 1992. (Photo by W. Marquardt.) (Right) Geologist Frank Stapor stands in the bottom on a test trench in site 8CR209, Horr's Island, during his visit in January, 1991. The southwest Florida shell middens help him reconstruct rises and falls in sea-level over the past few thousand years. (Photo by W. Marquardt.)



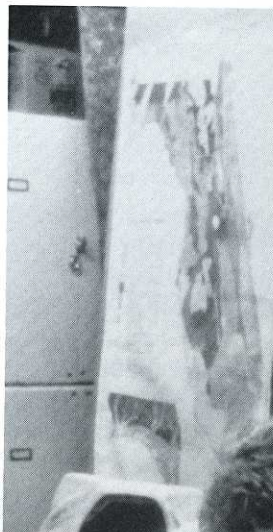
Florida governor Lawton Chiles stands with South Florida Governor Jeb Bush and W. Marquardt in Tallahassee. (Photo by Office of the Governor.)



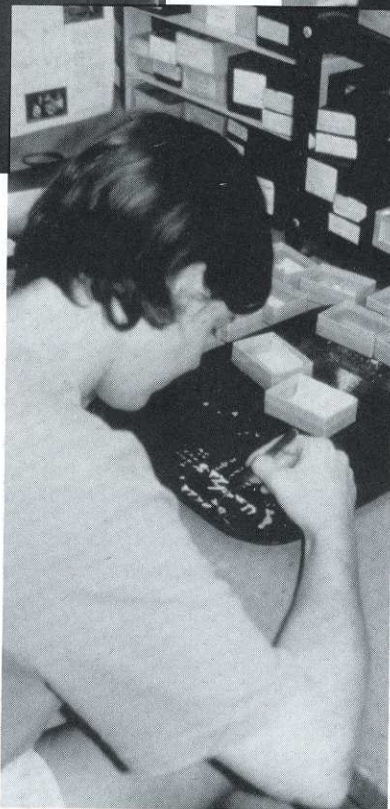
Waters — sa Legacy



on Chiles discusses Calusa ar-
t Florida Project director Bill
see on Preservation Day, 1991.
Governor, used by permission.)



(Above) Karen Jo Walker (center) ex-
plains the excavations at the
Pineland site to Smithsonian In-
stitution archaeologist Bruce Smith
(left) and Robin Brown, as project
archaeobotanist Lee Newsom looks
on. (Photo by W. Marquardt.)

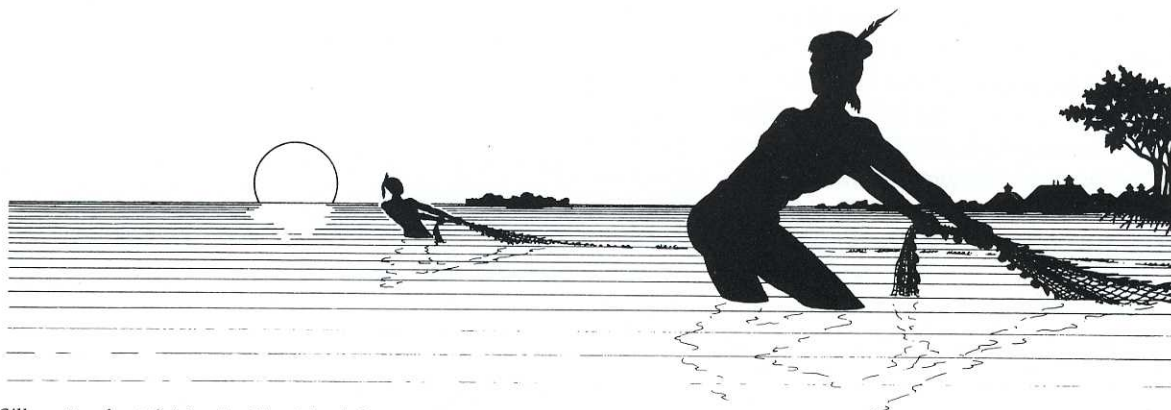


(Above) Elise LeCompte-Baer serves as
the Southwest Florida Project's collec-
tions manager and laboratory super-
visor. Here she checks on the analysis
of some pottery from the Pineland site.
(Photo by K. J. Walker.)

(Left) Zooarchaeologist Laura
Kozuch identifies fish bones in the
zooarchaeology laboratory, Florida
Museum of Natural History. (Photo
by K. J. Walker.)



Using a net mesh gauge from the Key Marco site, Mitchell
Hope demonstrates how to make a net. (Photo by W.
Marquardt.)



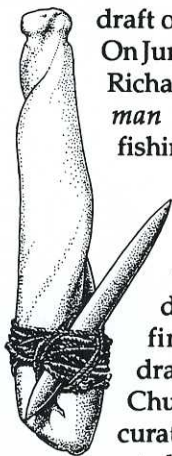
Silhouette of net fishing in Pine Island Sound. (Drawing by Merald Clark.)

UPDATE

Continued from page 7

and analysis. Sam Upchurch, Eric DeHaven, and Pliny Jewel (University of South Florida) completed the second draft of Chapter 3. The Time Sifters Archaeology Society visited the Museum and were given a tour by Bill Marquardt on April 6. A bus load of people from Naples visited the Museum and our labs on April 11, sponsored by Northern Trust. Bill received the Craighead Award for "outstanding contributions to research, education, and preservation in the prehistory of southwest Florida" from the Southwest Florida Archaeological Society on the 18th. On the 19th Bill took Bill MacLeish (*Smithsonian* magazine) on a tour of Charlotte Harbor sites. MacLeish is featuring the Calusa in an article to be published in the November, 1991 issue. Lisa and Corbett drew plots of Useppa Island shell debitage. Chuck Blanchard completed all but one chapter of the popular book.

• **May-July, 1991:** We learned in May that the Year of the Indian project would be funded for 1991-1992, but only at 60% of the needed amount. Many budget items had to be trimmed or eliminated, including publication of Chuck Blanchard's popular book and Bob Edic's monograph on the oral history of southwest Florida fisherfolk, as well as our educational video. Scott Swan joined the project as a volunteer, and he and Michelle Facto numbered the recently-acquired Van Beck collection from Collier County. Bill spent most of the summer writing Chapter 2 of the monograph and a grant proposal for completing analysis, curation, and publication for the Year of the Indian project (the part of the project cut out of the 1991-1992 budget). Assisted by Ashley Swift, Mike Russo completed the final report on the Horr's Island research project. The 1,002-page report, including chapters by Ann Cordell, Lee Newsom, and Sylvia Scudder, was submitted to Ronto Developments, Marco Island. Collections reorganization focused on the massive Fort Center collection, which took up most of May and June. Claudine made good progress on monograph preparation, while Corbett drafted maps, re-drew core logs for Chapter 3, and worked on Useppa analysis. Karen Jo completed a second



draft of the bone artifact chapter. On June 5 she was interviewed by Richard Farren of *Florida Sportsman* magazine about Calusa fishing tackle. Melissa Massaro worked on a report of her zooarchaeology results. Lisa Dorr continued her work plotting Useppa debitage patterns. Merald finished the shell artifact drawings. Elise, assisted by Chuck A. and Ken, completed curation of all materials excavated at Useppa in 1989. Data analysis and desktop publishing operations were expanded into room 137 of the museum. Bob Edic participated in the Boca Grande Community Center's "Young Naturalist" summer program for children. Corbett went to Osprey on July 29 to begin work on the "Window to the Past" excavation project at Spanish Point at the Oaks. Summer visitors to our lab included Bill Stuart, Barbara and Reed Toomey, Suzan Watts, and Armen and Diane Gederian.

• **August, 1991:** Our cooperative work with the Gulf Coast Heritage Foundation continued. Corbett supervised volunteers in clearing a profile for the planned exhibit, and Bill Marquardt, Irv Quitmyer, Laura Kozuch, Lee Newsom, and Karen Jo Walker all visited the excavations in August. Laura, Irv, and Lee are doing the seasonality, zooarchaeology, and archaeobotany interpretations of the data being gathered by Corbett and the volunteers, and the data will be immediately incorporated into the "Window to the Past" exhibit. Bill also traveled to Naples to speak to the Collier County Commission in favor of an ordinance protecting archaeological resources. Bill and Karen Jo went to Fort Myers to participate in the taping of a 10-minute video program on the Calusa being put together by Stuart Brown. Corbett returned from Osprey to resume his project work, Maria Palov and Carol Godwin joined the project as graduate research assistants, Evelyn Jost returned as a volunteer, and Tom Vogler, Mark Allen, and Janet Geraci began lab work as college work/study students. Bill began teaching a course in Archaeological Theory. Hermann Trappman visited the museum.

• **September, 1991:** Scott Swan and

Kristine Nelson joined the project as work/study students, while Betsy Carlson joined as a volunteer. Lab work focused on completing the collections reorganization and processing the Useppa and Pineland materials. Claudine neared completion of several chapters of the monograph, assisted by Scott Swan. Ann Cordell resumed work on the Pineland ceramic materials. Irv, Lee, and Laura began analysis of the Spanish Point project materials. Laura discovered dermal denticles (tooth-like elements of shark skin) in the 1/32" screen materials from the site. Visitors to the lab in September included Michael Hansinger, Robin and Jan Brown, David and Betty Price, and George and Patricia Clark. Bill Payne represented the project in Tallahassee at the grant hearings; the project was recommended for funding by the Board at \$189,000; we will not know until the spring, 1992 legislative session whether the full amount, or any part of it, will be granted. We again call on those interested in this project to write their Florida legislators early in 1992 to urge support for the completion of the Year of the Indian project. Bill and Karen Jo attended the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation meetings in Fort Myers September 19-21, where they participated in a session on public archaeology and conducted a guided tour of the Pineland site for a bus load of conference participants. Bob Chandler, a zoologist, joined Laura in helping analyze the bones from Spanish Point. Elise reported completion of the 10-month long collections re-organization project: all artifacts in the south Florida collections area are now properly boxed, numbered, and accounted for; logging of the collections information into the computerized catalog system began. Elise turned her attention to a similar reorganization of the physical anthropology holdings, a much smaller collection. Anthropology student Martha Orthoefer began a study of Type G shell hammers.

• **October, 1991:** Harry Stenger visited the museum with a video crew October 2-4 to shoot videotape for a documentary on the Spanish Point research. Preliminary reports by Irv, Laura, and Lee were delivered to project director Marion Almy on October 5. Also on October 5th, the Florida Museum hosted the state-

Continued on next page

wide meeting of the Florida Archaeological Council and the presentation of Stewards of Heritage Awards. Among those receiving awards were John Griffin, a pioneer in south Florida archaeology, and Keith Arnold, member of the Florida House of Representatives, who has been instrumental in supporting archaeology and historic preservation in southwest Florida. Before the presentation, Representative Arnold and his mother, Carol, took time to visit the project's laboratories for a personal tour. Tom Vogler and Carol Godwin continued their analysis of the Pineland artifacts from the 1990 excavations, while Ria Palov began design of a "user-friendly" data base program for collections research. Claudine and Scott made continued progress on the monograph, completing final versions of Chapters 3 and 10. Visitors in October included Charles Wilson, who conferred with Bill and Lee about a trip he wants to make from the Yucatan to Florida in a dugout canoe. During October, Bob Edic and his colleague Chuck Thomas introduced a regional adaptation of the Year of the Indian educational program to school systems in New York. Sylvia Scudder journeyed to Denver, where she presented a paper on the Horr's Island project to the meeting of the Soil Science Society of America. Chuck Blanchard's article on archaeological education was published in the October issue of *Archaeology and Public Education Newsletter*.



Close-up of a shark's tooth knife being used to engrave seagrass wood. The knife is a reproduction made by Robin Brown. The tooth is from a mako shark, the handle is buttonwood, the lashing was hand-spun and twisted from native agave fiber. Pine resin was used as an adhesive. (Photo by Robin Brown.)

- **November, 1991:** Claudine wrote the cover story for *Calusa News* no. 6, while Bill worked on the rest of the issue. *Missions to the Calusa*, our new book of documents translated by noted historian John Hann, was published in November. Also in November, Bill MacLeish's article featuring the Calusa appeared in *Smithsonian* magazine. Tom and Carol completed the midden areas from Pineland 1990, and began work on artifacts from the Smith Mound. Ray Plaza began work as a volunteer. Corbett finished the maps and profiles for Chapter 2 and returned to analysis of Useppa artifacts, assisted by Lisa. The Knight

Foundation granted us \$5000 toward publication costs of our first monograph, to be called *Culture and Environment in the Domain of the Calusa*, and Robert Dorion provided a \$2900 gift to subsidize the publication of Monograph 2, by Laura Kozuch. Laura's will concern the use of sharks and shark products by prehistoric south Florida Indians. Merald Clark designed covers for both monographs. Chuck Blanchard returned to Florida to begin working with Lee County teachers in anticipation of another season of archaeological education during the upcoming Pineland field season (March-May, 1992). Bill, Karen Jo, Corbett, and Carol met to begin detailed planning of the 1992 Pineland field research. Corbett worked with volunteers in late November at the Palmer site. Chuck Blanchard and Bob Edic were on Useppa Island over Thanksgiving to present an archaeological program for the Useppa Island Historical Society.

- **December, 1991:** Typography on several monograph chapters was finished by Claudine, assisted by Sam Chapman. Carol and Tom completed analysis of all Pineland 1990 excavated materials. Final reports on the Spanish Point analysis were completed by Lee, Irv, and Laura. Bob Edic coordinated teacher workshop registration in Fort Myers. Bill was interviewed by CBS radio about what environments were like in 1492; the interview was broadcast in late January. Karen Jo went to the Wightman site, Sanibel Island, to monitor excavation of a swimming pool there; she was assisted by Barbara and Reed Toomey, Jody Brown, and Jim and Betty Anholt.

- **January, 1992:** Chuck Blanchard and Bob Edic were in Fort Myers planning the Year of the Indian education program and holding workshops for teachers. Bill and Karen Jo went to Kingston, Jamaica to present a paper at the Society for Historical Archaeology meetings. Claudine and Sam continued work on monograph typography. *Calusa News* no. 6 went to press on January 24. Karen Jo completed the revised draft of Chapter 8 (zoarchaeology) for the monograph, and Bill began work on Chapter 13. Karen Jo, Carol, Corbett, and Elise made preparations for the upcoming Pineland field season.



From left to right, Pat Griffin, Marion Almy, Bill Marquardt, and Keith Arnold are shown at the Florida Archaeological Council's "Stewards of Heritage" awards reception, October 5, 1991, Florida Museum of Natural History, Gainesville. (Photo by Steve Koski.)

Spanish Point: 5,000 Years of Florida's Past



Gerry Warren (left) and Corbett Torrence work intently on a 1500-year-old shell midden in preparation for the "Window to the Past" exhibit. (Photo by Chris Mikula, Bradenton Herald.)

History and prehistory are alive and well in Osprey, a little town between Sarasota and Venice. Historic Spanish Point is a 30-acre environmental, archaeological, and historical park where visitors can stroll over two large shell middens, visit a restored pioneer chapel and house

with period furniture, and see exhibits on the early citrus and tourist industries.

In January, 1992, Spanish Point opened to the public an innovative new exhibit called "A Window to the Past." The exhibit allows the visitor actually to walk inside a shell midden and see the layers of

accumulated shells, bones, and artifacts. Interpretive panels explain the prehistory represented by the midden and tell how archaeologists investigated it.

The Southwest Florida Project helped with the exhibit by analyzing the plant and animal remains found in the midden deposits. Lee Newsom did the archaeobotanical analysis, while Laura Kozuch handled the zooarchaeology, with the assistance of Bob Chandler. Irv Quitmyer conducted studies of the shellfish and fish remains to determine what seasons of the year the site was occupied.

Corbett Torrence, assisted by graduate students from the University of South Florida, supervised volunteers from Spanish Point, the Time Sifters Archaeology Society, and the Southwest Florida Archaeological Society in preparing the midden for the exhibit. Marion Almy, assisted by George Luer, directed the overall research and interpretive effort, which was funded by a historic preservation grant from the Department of State, and by grants from the Florida Humanities Council and the Selby Foundation.

Spanish Point is open daily. Admission is \$4 for adults and \$2 for children under 12. It is located at 500 N. Tamiami Trail (U.S. 41) in Osprey, Florida, just south of Sarasota. For more information, phone 813-966-5214.

Good Questions

Bill Marquardt

Sometimes on a dig, someone who is not an archaeologist will say, "I want to ask you a dumb question." Then he or she will proceed to ask me a very good question. Sometimes I know the answer, or can at least suggest several possible answers.

In each issue of *Calusa News*, I am going to answer one or more questions that are asked frequently. Maybe it's a question you wanted to ask, but you thought it was a dumb question. It's not. Always feel free to ask. Here's the first one.

Question: Are you an anthropologist or an archaeologist? What's the difference?

Answer: Anthropologists study people of the present and the past. Anthropology is a science in that we study different societies and generalize about them. That is, we draw conclusions about how all human beings behave, work together, and make use of their environments. But anthropology is also history in a sense. We are all products of our past. What

our ancestors did, or what our parents believe, or what our country's laws are, all affect how we live our lives.

Like other animals, people must have food and shelter to survive as individuals, and must reproduce to survive as a species. Sciences such as biology and ecology can help us understand these aspects of human behavior, and help us see how people have adapted to their environments.

But in another sense, people are very different from other animals because we use language to communicate ideas and accumulate knowledge from generation to generation. Furthermore, all people relate to their world with symbols. The flag means something to us — it is more than a red, white, and blue cloth. When we see a red light, we know it means "Stop!" When someone we know dies, we may wear dark clothing to show our sorrow and respect for the person. However, these symbols are not universal. In China, people mourning their dead wear white, not black clothing.

If there were no historical and

symbolic elements to human behavior — if we were just like other animals — then biology would be sufficient to explain how people behave. But because people do use symbols and pass on information to one another, anthropology has a social and historical focus, too.

The particular kind of anthropology I do is archaeology. It involves people who are no longer alive, so it is very challenging to try to figure out the social and historical practices, such as customs, religion, politics, and symbolism. It is somewhat easier to discover how people of the past related to their environments (what they ate, what tools they used, the sizes and shapes of their houses), but even that is not simple. We have to dig very carefully and use fine screens to catch small bones, burned seeds and wood fragments, and artifacts, and we must spend countless hours in the laboratory studying and identifying what we have found.

So, in short, archaeology is a special kind of anthropology — it is the anthropology of past people.

In Appreciation



The members of the Calusa Constituency — those who give at least \$10 per year toward the research and education work of the Southwest Florida Project — are listed on pages 14 and 15. A warm thank you from all of us for your continued support.

We would like to say a special thanks to several people who have made exceptional efforts over the past year. First, we continue to be grateful for the support of **Don and Pat Randell**, hospitable owners of the Pineland site, who will again make their property available for our 1992 campaign of archaeology and education. Literally thousands of adults and children benefit from the Pineland experience, as anyone who has ever visited there can attest.

Bill Payne of the Nature Center of Lee County deserves a special pat on the back for serving as our local sponsor of the Year of the Indian project. He drives the eight hours to Tallahassee to lobby the legislature on behalf of the project, attends the meetings, exhorts the troops, and cheerfully keeps the books and makes sure the project's bills get paid. We couldn't do it without him.

Bill Hammond, **Rick Tully**, **Jack Bovee**, **Debbie Williams**, and many others in the Lee County schools are champs. When budgets are cut, and programs are threatened, they work even harder to make the educational opportunities happen. A nationally-recognized environmental education program such as Lee County's doesn't happen by itself, and neither does innovative archaeo-

logical education. The teachers of Lee County meet us half way and more. It is a pleasure working with them.

Stuart Brown gave unselfishly and generously of his time and expertise in the production of a 10-minute video on the Year of the Indian project. With the short version, we hope to interest a granting agency in funding a longer version. **Wayne Miller** of Lee County Mosquito Control is also thanked for his valuable assistance in getting some aerial photographs we needed for the video.

Jan and Robin Brown are still putting up with us and putting us up, after all these years. What would we do without our cozy field house at 2108 Broadway?

Michael Hansinger continued his generosity in 1991, as well, presenting us his boat, motor, and trailer, as well as a canoe for harbor survey work. Thanks to Mike, we now have a project navy.

Once again, **Kay Young** gave us the benefit of her wisdom in assisting with lobbying in Tallahassee. **Bill Payne**, **Jan Brown**, **Gloria Sajgo**, and **Robin Denson** were also instrumental in the 1991 campaign. And literally hundreds wrote to give their support to the Year of the Indian project. Thanks to each and every one of you.

In what has been an unsettlingly tight budget year, we owe special gratitude to the **Ruth and Vernon Taylor Foundation** and the **Knight Foundation**, as well as to **Paul and Warren Miller** and the **Hewlett-Packard Corporation**. **Sara Taylor Swift** has seen us through more than one financial crisis, and she continued to help sustain us in 1991. Through the kindness of **Barbara Toomey**, the **Knight Foundation** provided a \$5,000 grant to help publish our first monograph, to be entitled *Culture and Environment in the Domain of the Calusa*, expected in 1992. **Robert Dorion's** gift of \$2,900 will help subsidize the second monograph, also expected in 1992, by **Laura Kozuch**, on the prehistoric use of sharks in south Florida. **Paul and Warren Miller's** gift of \$5,000 will be matched 3:1 in equipment by **Hewlett-Packard**, which will greatly enhance our field and lab data processing and our desktop publishing capabilities.

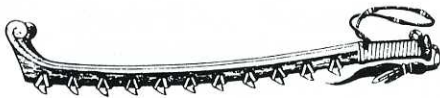
In 1991 the **Horr's Island** project came to a close with the submission of the final report to **Ronto Developments Marco**. We again thank **Ronto** personnel, and especially **Ray Harris**, for their foresight and professionalism. Due to their interest and financial assistance, we now know a great deal more about the south Florida coast during the Archaic period (see story, page 1).

Again, the **College of Liberal Arts and Sciences-Department of Anthropology** contributed our field truck, and the **Florida Museum of Natural History** provided a comfortable working environment in Gainesville. **Dara Silverberg**, **Donine Marlow**, **Darlene Novak**, and **Andrea Reddish** of the **Florida Museum** were particularly helpful, as were **Christy Morris** and **Pauli Seabrook** of the **University of Florida Foundation**. **Bob Bird** and **Cindy McMillen** of **U.F.'s Information and Publication Services** did their usual wonderful job on *Calusa News*. We consider ourselves very fortunate indeed to be associated with the **University of Florida**.

Finally, to all our volunteers, both in southwest Florida and in Gainesville, a special thanks for your invaluable assistance. You make it all happen, and we look forward to working with you again in 1992.



Volunteers **Linda Ballou** (standing) and **Barbara Toomey** drew diagrams of the complex layers of shells, bones, charcoal, and other materials at the **Randell Mound** at Pineland, 1990.



The Calusa Constituency

1990

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Archaeology Endowment Needs Your Help

In 1989 we announced the establishment of an endowment for south Florida archaeology. Since then, the Endowment has provided funds for research expenses, education, and student support. In these times of crisis in state funding to higher education, we depend even more on the endowment income to help us continue our research and educational work.

If you can help with a gift of \$500 to the Endowment, we will send you an autographed copy of John Hann's *Missions to the Calusa*, with an introduction by Bill Marquardt, a \$49.95 value.

For a gift of \$5,000 or more, we will send you a detailed replica of the famous Key Marco feline figurine. This is a Florida Museum of Natural History reproduction made from a mold of the original artifact, and is not otherwise available.

Contributions in any amount are welcome at any time and all are tax-deductible. Make checks to **University of Florida Foundation**, and mail them to Dr. William H. Marquardt, Florida Museum of Natural History, Gainesville, Florida 32611. Thank you for your help.



Wooden deer head figure excavated by Frank Hamilton Cushing at the Key Marco site in 1896. The head measures 6 5/16" x 3 5/16", the ears 4 3/4" x 2 3/8".



of plants, animals, and germs fundamentally changed both sides of the world.

The interview caused me to reflect on what the Columbian Quincentenary means to me. By now you are all familiar with the controversy surrounding the commemoration. Should we celebrate an event that drastically altered for the worse the lives of millions of innocent people? Some say that Contact was inevitable. If not Columbus, it would have been someone else. The exchange of diseases would ultimately have been just as devastating, even in the absence of slavery and forced missionization.

What I think that Native Americans would like to see happen is for us all to consider that Contact didn't have to be as brutal and devastating as it was. To Indians, Columbus represents an expansive, imperialistic European culture that has basically treated them as if they were savages from the beginning. The Quincentenary provides an opportunity to re-examine ourselves as a society. Are we today any more sensitive, any less brutal and mercenary? I think a lot of Native Americans would say they don't see much change.

As for the environment, I'm more alarmed at what has happened in the past 50 years than the past 500. We have had some tragic impacts on the environments of the Americas in only the past two generations. In southwest Florida estuaries are dying — even the Gulf of Mexico is in trouble. Wetlands and forests need better protection and wiser use throughout the hemisphere, and no place in the world needs more attention than Florida.

If we don't learn to appreciate some of the subtlety and complexity that the Indians knew well, we're going to be in deep trouble in our own lifetimes, and our children will suffer even more. There must be a way that we can live in and enjoy Florida, have productive jobs, cautiously and wisely develop, and still protect the environment for future generations. Do we really have a choice?

Have a happy, prosperous, and thoughtful 1992.
Sincerely,

Bill Marquardt,
Project Director

From the Project Director

In December I was interviewed by CBS radio about the environment Columbus would have encountered in 1492. When the interviewer asked me what Columbus would have seen, the first word that popped into my mind was "diversity." Had Columbus been able to visit all of the Americas instead of just a few islands in the Caribbean Sea, he would have seen settled, village farming life in the Northeast, Southwest, and Mississippi Valley, mobile hunter-gatherers in northern Canada, great fishing cultures in the Pacific northwest and in south Florida, and urban civilizations in the Valley of Mexico and in the Andes.

There were hundreds of languages, thousands of towns. Native Americans were not savages. They were sophisticated politicians, skilled artists, urbane traders. They were people who knew their environments well and who, in most cases, had not just survived, but prospered.

This is not to say that Native Americans did not make mistakes. Sometimes they overfished, or overhunted, or burned too much forest. Sometimes they underestimated climatic changes, or were forced to move when resources ran out. But, all in all, they lived for more than 15,000 years in the western hemisphere without eliminating the forests, endangering species, polluting the air, or running out of water. In truth, we are only beginning to rediscover today some of the intricacies of the environments that they knew so well.

The Indians gave much to the Old World: corn, beans, squash, tobacco, potatoes, peppers, and tomatoes, just to name a few plants. And before the Europeans came, there were no horses, no guns, no domesticated animals except for the dog, the guinea pig, and the Andean camelids, such as llamas. There was no use of the wheel or of sailing ships; no wheat or rye, no apples, peaches, oranges, or grapefruits. The exchange



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