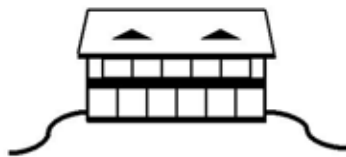




Archaeological and Historical Tours of The Mound House are offered every Wednesday and Saturday between 10 and 2, October through May. The Archaeology Laboratory, volunteer opportunities, and group tours are available year round.

Directions from the North - Take I-75 to Exit 131 Daniels Parkway (also Southwest Florida International Airport exit). Follow Daniels Parkway west. Turn left on Six Mile Cypress. This road becomes Gladiolus Drive at U.S.41. From Gladiolus, turn left on Summerlin Road (869) and left on San Carlos Boulevard (865). San Carlos Boulevard becomes Estero Boulevard on Fort Myers Beach. Follow Estero Boulevard to the left down the island approximately 3 miles. Turn left on Connecticut Street. The Mound House is located at the end of Connecticut Street on the left hand side.

Directions from the South - Take I-75 to Exit 116 Bonita Beach Road (865). Bonita Beach Road becomes Estero Boulevard when you are on Fort Myers Beach. Follow Estero Boulevard up the island approximately 3 miles. Turn right on Connecticut Street. The Mound House is located at the end of Connecticut Street on the left hand side.



The Mound House
289 Connecticut Street
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931

Advisory Committee

- Fran Myers, Chair*
- Bill Grace, Vice-Chair*
- Penny Brown*
- Terry Cain*
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The Mound House

Volume 1 Number 2 Spring 2004

Happenings

The Mound House excels in state grant competition

By Theresa Schober

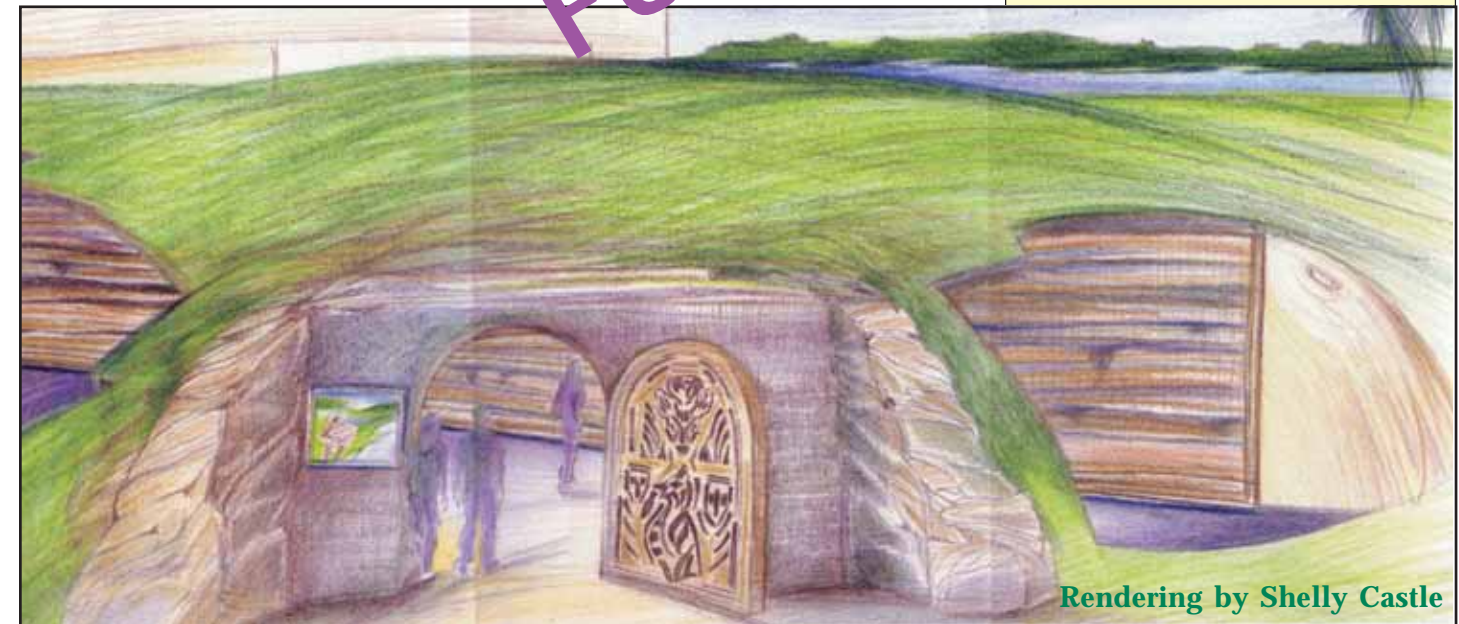
A 1958 swimming pool at The Mound House will soon be the site of an archaeological exhibit that will allow visitors to walk into a Calusa Indian shell mound. The space currently taken up by the nonfunctional pool will be transformed into an underground room to showcase the layers within the mound over a 30 to 40 foot distance. These layers are akin to an earthen history book. Each layer in the ground represents a chapter of human behavior or period in the past. The beginning of the book is at the bottom of the mound with new layers continuing to accrue on the top. When completed, this exhibit will allow residents and visitors the unique opportunity to read the past 2,000 years of occupation at the site.

The funds for this exhibit will come from the State of Florida general legislator that began its budget hearings in March. The exhibit received a ranking of 2nd out of 95 projects by the Florida Historical Commission in the current year's grant cycle. However, this equates to a ranking of 48th overall as the legislature rolled over 46 projects from 2003 due to budget cuts.

As this newsletter is headed to the printers, the state budget is a few hundred thousand shy of the Mound House project receiving funds this year. Although the good news is that 46 historic preservation projects will be fully funded throughout the state this year! The Mound House will reapply and likely receive funding in 2005.

Grant-Funded Projects

- ✓ \$14,600 from the West Coast Inland Navigation District to produce a safe kayak landing area on the northern edge of the property. Kayaks and supplies will also be purchased to provide educational tours of the estuary.
- ✓ \$2,900 from the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program to produce a set of laminated maps of Estero Bay in the vicinity of The Mound House to supplement future kayak tours. In addition, this grant funds the production of a small booklet on human use of southwest Florida environments over the last 10,000 years.
- ✓ \$2,500 from VISIT Florida & \$2,000 from Florida Humanities Council for the production of a tri-fold full-color brochure of the Mound House.
- ✓ \$5,000 from the Claiborne and Ned Foulds Foundation towards the renovation of the ca. 1920s garage on the property to house restroom facilities. Additional funds for this project have been requested from the Tourist Development Council.



Rendering by Shelly Castle



The Elusive “Captain” Jack DeLysle

By John Crayton

Captain Jack DeLysle lived in The Mound House during the roaring '20s and is responsible for a number of additions and alterations to the original William Case bungalow. DeLysle also went to great lengths to promote Crescent Beach, as Fort Myers Beach was known at the time, during its first great wave of development. True to the period, DeLysle disappeared from the headlines as rapidly as he appeared.

Jack DeLysle's arrival in southwest Florida was inauspicious. In January 1921, Jack and his brother John were arrested when their ship the *Aurelia* ran aground off of Gordon's Pass near Naples. The ship allegedly carried up to 1,000 cases of rum from Havana. The contraband disappeared and DeLysle and his brother were speedily acquitted and DeLysle made a rapid transition from outlaw to respectable citizen.

Due to his service as an aerial photographer for the British during World War I, DeLysle liked to be called “Captain Jack”. By April, he and his wife Winifred had settled in Fort Myers and were frequently mentioned in the local society pages. DeLysle was an active civic booster and journeyed across the state to

promote the area. He was also associated with the creation of a local baseball team, serving as manager and second baseman.

In June 1921, Captain Jack began purchasing land from Case's subdivision surrounding The Mound House. By August, DeLysle was operating the “Seminole Sands” casino at the Gulf end of Connecticut Street with a bathhouse and hotel under construction.

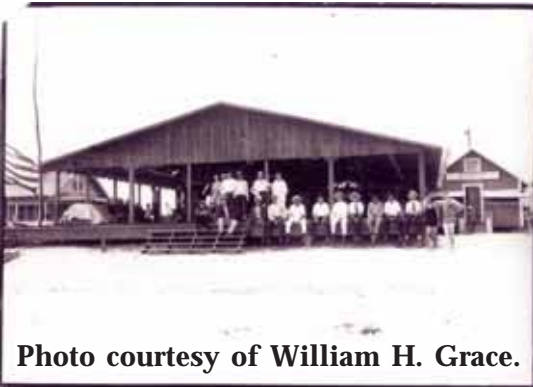


Photo courtesy of William H. Grace.

DeLysle's investments epitomize 1920s boom and bust development. Although Seminole Sands enjoyed initial popularity, by 1923, business has shifted to Nelson's Casino further north on the island and the building burned

down in 1924. DeLysle, apparently well over extended, defaulted on his mortgages and the property reverted back to William Case. Captain Jack leaves the area by 1926, and marries Elsie May Matthews in Enfield, North Carolina on September 29, 1926.

The House That Jack Built...

DeLysle's 1921 modifications of the Case home are his lasting legacy on Fort Myers Beach. At an estimated cost of \$30,000 he extended the structure to the north and added a full second story to the house. Recent restoration work has found evidence of these additions in the distribution of beaded board inside the structure.



The Mound House ca. 1921-1924. Photo courtesy of William H. Grace Collection.

Internship Program A Success Story

By Theresa Schober

Students from Florida Gulf Coast University have contributed to the growing needs of The Mound House through a small internship program. To date, students in Anthropology, Communications, English, and History have conducted semester-long projects at the site. Internship projects are tailored to student interests but also benefit the Mound House by increasing our accessibility to the public and our knowledge of the property.

John Crayton, a senior in History, spent last fall scouring through

mortgage and deed records and newspapers from the 1920s. His research corresponds with the time period that the Mound House was expanded into a full two-story house by Jack DeLysle (see article above). John's project provided him with research experience in primary sources while solidifying the site's knowledge of a previous inhabitant. John presented a summary of this research at the Estero Island Historic Society in February. Future research will target this area with the hope of finding descendants that may have additional photographs of the

property.

This spring, The Mound House welcomes Christina Gerwitz as an intern in public relations. Christina is passionate about writing, anthropology, and working with the public. She is assisting the site by penning articles on our activities for newspapers and providing tours to site visitors on Fridays.



From the Directors

This past year The Mound House bustled with activity and planning! At this time in 2003, we printed the first edition of this newsletter and were celebrating great successes in volunteer recruitment (see page 10) and program development (page 8). We anticipated this newsletter would be a biannual occurrence yet here it is, a year later, and we have struggled to find enough time to tell you all about the many happenings at the facility.

During the past year it became necessary to prioritize the infrastructural needs of The Mound House. Although not as enticing as the many tours and programs we were able to offer last spring, we have written and been awarded a number of grants to support a full-color brochure for the facility; a kayak landing, kayaks, and educational materials for tours from the Mound House grounds; transformation of the swimming pool into an archaeological and educational exhibit; and worked on administering an upgrade of electrical and other utilities. In addition, we are moving forward with a preservation plan for the structure that will allow our advisory board to choose a period of restoration. All of these things are keeping us busy and, when complete, will enhance our ability to offer more diverse programs and activities in future years.

As always, we seek to involve as many people from the community in our programs and development as possible. Please drop by and see what's happening. We look forward to meeting you.



Corbett Torrence instructs Codirector Theresa Schober in atlatl throwing at the Volunteer Appreciation event, May 2003.

The Mound House Happenings
Volume 1 Number 2

EDITORS: Theresa Schober
& Corbett Torrence

CONTRIBUTORS: John Crayton, Darlene Hartley
Theresa Schober, Corbett Torrence

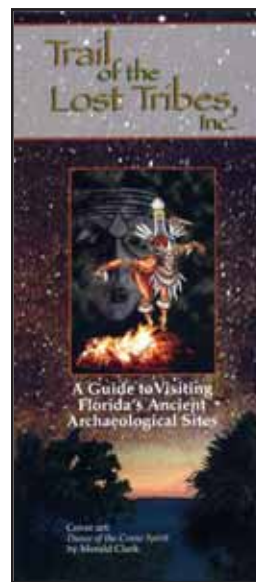
News and Noteworthy ...

Continued from Page 9

The Mound House appears in “Trail of the Lost Tribes” brochure

Since 2003, The Mound House has been a member site on the “Trail of the Lost Tribes”, Inc. The Trail is a nonprofit network of organizations, historical sites, and museums that share a commitment to promoting awareness, responsible visitation, and preservation of the remaining cultural sites on Florida's Gulf Coast.

For the past two years, the Trail has offered a free archaeology speaker series to educate the public about Florida's unique heritage. The third speaker series will run in 2005 and The Mound House has been asked to host an event. Co-Director Corbett Torrence will present his research on the nearby site of Mound Key, the capital of the Calusa Indians at the time of Spanish contact in southwest Florida. This free public lecture will coincide with other family-oriented activities at the site and boat tours to Mound Key.



The Mound House hosts National Estuaries Day Events

On September 29th, The Mound House provided the backdrop to a multi-organization educational celebration of the preservation of our natural resources. Former Vice-Mayor Terry Cain was instrumental in obtaining a small grant from the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program to host activities at the facility. Booths were set up by Estero Bay Buddies, Friends of Matanzas Pass Preserve, Lee County Parks and Recreation, the Southwest Florida Trail Association, the Tourist and Development Council, and The Mound House. Lee County Parks & Rec offered kayak tours of the Calusa Blueway paddling trail, Lynda Kruse of the University of Florida Extension Service offered presentations on the Florida Yards & Neighborhoods program and conducted native plant tours, and Co-Director Corbett Torrence discussed the history of human-environment interactions in southwest Florida. A larger event is in the planning stages for this fall.



Kayakers enjoy a paddle on the Calusa Blueway. Regular kayak tours will soon depart from The Mound House.

Volunteer Spirit Inhabits Mound House

By Theresa Schober

Since the acquisition of The Mound House by the Town of Fort Myers Beach with grant funds from Florida Communities Trust, the goal for the property has been to produce a public center for the preservation and promotion of southwest Florida's fascinating cultural and environmental heritage. Attaining this goal requires tremendous community support for our operation in a residential neighborhood and the dedication and regular contribution of many volunteers.

In the first two years of Town ownership of the facility, a handful of volunteers from the community offered tours of the historic house on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 12 to 2, September to April. In the last two years, tour offerings have been expanded with the house open from 10 to 2 on three days per week. In addition, the Treasures of the Sea Program funded by the Town has worked in conjunction with the Mound House property.

Volunteers have also contributed to other facets of Mound House operations including participating in archaeological excavation and screening, processing artifacts from the site including reconstruction of a virtually complete Calusa cooking vessel recovered in 2002, producing cordage for a Calusa net, assembling and staining picnic tables and park benches, assisting with school programs and special events, photo-documenting our activities, and restoration work on the structure. With surprisingly little convincing, Joyce Heckman even donned hip waders and headed into the pool to loosen the drain while other volunteers eagerly await the opportunity to repaint or stain the interior of the structure!

This type of support from our volunteers has allowed the current directors to focus their time on grant-writing, marketing the facility, and infrastructural development. We want to extend our sincere thanks to all of the individuals who contribute. You are the spirit of The Mound House. a 'refreshing' dip.

Page 10 Mound House Happenings Vol. 1 No. 2 Spring 2004

The Directors want to extend our sincere appreciation to the following 74 individuals that have contributed over 2,350 hours (and counting!) to The Mound House programs since the fall of 2002. This facility belongs to the residents of Fort Myers Beach and we are proud to have you participate. Thank you Ginger Anderson; Warren Babcock; Greg Bachman; A.J. Bassett; Jean Belknap; Lowell & B.J. Bingham; Judy Bousquet; Jenn Brown; Terry Cain; John & Genie Clarke; Elizabeth Clement; Ann Compton; Doris & Richard Cook; John Crayton; Jennifer DeWitt; Barbara, Andrea, & Kira Dobbs; Dwight Doherty; Natalie Doyle; Trudi Edelman; Clarence & Marilyn Engwall; Alisha Fisher; Christina Gerwitz; Scott Goodwin; Amy Gorman; Steve Graebner; Charlie & Dee Harrison; Bill & Darlene Hartley; Joyce Heckman; Audréé Inglis; John & Sharon Inskip; Kevin, Christie, Callum Jago & Ansel Cohen; Ben Johnson; Bets Jordan; Win King; Joanne Kuypers; Kelly Leary; Lora Barbara Lemmon; Pat Mabury; Regan & Jason McBride; Char Merrill; Cindy Mestas; William Moss; Mildred O'Connell; Pete Patchin; Pete & Susie Perenkovich; Tylar Samuels; Mary Ann Scott; Jim & Millie Sernovitz; Bridget Shaidnagle; Betty Smith; Ceel Spuhler; Donna Varneke; Brooke Wamsley; Tom Winter; Marianne & Kim Worden; Amber Wynn; Dolores & Roy Yost.

Volunteer Appreciation Day

To show appreciation for the time and effort contributed by volunteers at The Mound House, the Mound House Advisory Board (CELCAB) and Co-Directors hosted an activity-filled day in their honor. In contrast to assisting in programs for the benefit of visitors to the facility, volunteers got to dig in and play! Activities included an atlatl throwing competition at the Calusa deer, a timed pottery reconstruction contest, and a stylistic challenge to make a creative pot out of Play-Doh. Following a picnic on the grounds, everyone participated in a game of Calusa Jeopardy.



Ceel Spuhler loads the atlatl with Corbett Torrence for her first throw.



Joyce Heckman takes a 'refreshing' dip.



From left to right around the table: Betty Smith, Marilyn Engwall, Vice-Mayor Terry Cain, Marianne Worden, Cindy Mestas (standing), Darlene and Bill Hartley, and Mary Ann Scott fashion Play-Doh pots.

Labor of Love

Volunteers Unmask Original Walls and Ceilings at Mound House

By Darlene Hartley

Not heat, glue nor sparks stopped these dedicated volunteers! During the summer of 2003 the restoration of the interior of The Mound House began. Pete and Susie Perenkovich, Joyce Heckman, Char Merrill, and Mary Ann Scott embraced the task of removing the acoustic ceiling tiles and veneer paneling installed inside the house during the late 1950s or 1960s. Removal of the veneer and wood furring strips required a crowbar, often producing sparks when nails firmly embedded in the walls let go. Hammers tap-tap-tapped and putty knives scrapped to dislodge the thick black glue that attached the paneling to the furring strips. Copious perspiration was expended despite floor fans blowing full throttle in the unairconditioned structure. This volunteer effort took over 250 hours to complete, a contribution equalling thousands of dollars in labor to the Town of Fort Myers Beach.

Discovered under the veneer paneling and acoustic tiles was beautiful beaded board walls and ceilings painted dark pink and green. The beaded board mirrors the additions to the house made by Captain Jack DeLysle who also operated a casino, dancing pavilion, and bath house on the Gulf.

Joyce Heckman made another historical "find" while packing up books inside the Mound House. The majority of the books remain from Florence Long, who lived in the house until her death in 1994. However, some of the books were the ca. 1911 grade school texts (including homework) of Dr. James who operated the Shell Mound Experiment Station from 1947 to 1950.

The packing and interior restoration work was done in preparation for an electrical upgrade at the Mound House.

The Town is also in the process of hiring an architectural firm to produce a preservation plan for the facility that will evaluate the structure and recommend a period of restoration. The goal is to apply for state funds to support restoration work in May 2005, possibly beginning work in 2006.

Joyce Heckman remarks that regardless of the obstacles the summer presented, she would do it again "in a minute." She loves all of the varied tasks that she has done at the Mound House mainly due to Theresa and Corbett making it fun and interesting. She looks forward to the day that Mound House is restored and is recognized as the island treasure that it is.



Pete Perenkovich (above and left) uses a pry bar and putty knife to delicately expose beaded board walls and ceilings that date to the 1920s house expansion by Captain Jack DeLysle.



More than 250 hours were invested last summer to return the house to its original interior.



Joyce Heckman (above) and Susie Perenkovich (left) remove nails and staples that held the cardboard ceiling tiles in place. We have Will and Florence Long to thank for covering rather than resurfacing the beaded board. The use of furring strips prevented damage to much of the trim work and protected surfaces until their rediscovery.



Photos by Cindy Mestas.

Mound House Happenings Vol. 1 No. 2 Spring 2004 Page 3

Archaeological Trench has Utility

By Corbett Torrence

In January, a 660 foot long trench was excavated in the middle of the Mound House's western access drive. The trench, averaging four feet deep, will house new electrical, sewage, and telephone lines. Placing these utilities underground eliminates the need for poles and unsightly cables that would detract from the Mound House's historical ambiance. Our use of ground penetrating radar (GPR) during the 2002 archaeological investigation of the site, and analysis of old aerial photos, revealed that portions of the proposed trench would encounter archaeological deposits.

An archaeological plan was devised, and once again volunteers were screening ancient materials, while Florida Gulf Coast University's Cultural Resource Management Program mapped and analyzed the trench profile.

Years of excavation at local mound sites has revealed that these sculpted masses of shell, bone, and earth are not just ancient refuse piles that formed from the gradual accumulation of garbage. Instead our research indicates that they were built in stages and grew as a result of episodic mound building events. Alternating layers of predominately shell capped with earth represent building episodes. These layers called strata enable archaeologists to determine the timing of building events and how the shape and size of the mound changed, while the contents of the layers allow us to reconstruct activities and behaviors that occurred at a particular time.

The shell layers are the building blocks of the mound. One might expect that the materials in the shell

layers would become progressively older with depth. However this is not always the case. Sometimes the age sequence of the strata is inverted so that old materials rest on top of younger ones. This is because the Calusa recycled and/or borrowed shell materials from previous deposits. One could draw an analogy between Calusa mounds and the Dome of the Rock and Al-Aksa Mosque in Jerusalem built ca. A.D. 700. Some of the stones used in this building were recycled from the Second Temple built in ca. 516 B.C. and centuries later expanded by Herod but destroyed by the Romans in A.D. 70. The stones



Dr. John Schultz (foreground) is assisted by Tom Winter in conducting a GPR survey of the mound area.

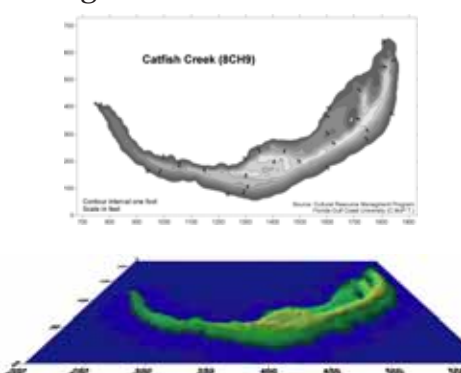
used to construct the Al-Aksa Mosque, like the different building layers in mounds, date to different time periods.

So there is much an archaeologist has to decipher when investigating a mound. Typically, our excavations provide small, vertical views into the mound, but trenches provide long continuous vistas of deposits enabling insights that can not be gleaned from small excavations. By studying the orientation and changing materials in the trench strata we have made several new discoveries and were able to reaffirm

some previous observations.

Prior to twentieth-century landscaping activities at The Mound House, it appears the mound forked into two ridges or became bifurcated at its northern end. This is evidenced by the varying slope of the underlying shell strata. The bifurcating ridge phenomenon is noted at other ridge sites, such as at the Catfish Creek site in Charlotte County. The low area between the ridges may have been associated with Calusa fish capture or storage activities. At The Mound House, the intervening low area was filled in during the 1950s and some of the materials were archaeological. In fact, Shell Mound Boulevard is named because the original mound stretched further northward than it does today and was leveled and used as a foundation for much of the subdivision.

On the west side of the mound the strata suggest that a pond was once located here. Black mangrove muck infused with



Note elongated shell ridge areas at the Catfish Creek site in two-(upper image) and three-dimensions (lower image with 3x vertical exaggeration). Shell strata at The Mound House suggest the original ridge bifurcated where the historic garage and the northern edge of the property are today.

Continued from Page 8

organizations, and a training exchange network with other environmental and cultural facilities in southwest Florida. The training exchange invites other facilities to bring their volunteers to The Mound House for programs in the prehistory and history of southwest Florida free of charge in exchange for a tour of their facility for our volunteers. The overarching goal is to broaden the knowledge and experience of volunteers in all organizations to the diversity of resources in the area to better assist visitors.

In addition to the programs mentioned above, the current electrical upgrade to The Mound House and the completion of a kayak landing area on the grounds this spring will allow us to offer on-site lecture programs and tours of the back bay in the near future.



Photo by Christina Gerwitz.

Left to right: (back row) Kim and Marianne Worden, Theresa Schober, Scott Goodwin, Regan McBride, Dwight Doherty, Bill Hartley, Pat Mabury, Diane Thomas, Joanne Kuypers, (front row) Corbett Torrence, Christina Gerwitz, Sally Stein, and Betty Smith.

Mound House volunteers saw a real Calusa deer and many birds and snakes during a recent visit to Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary. The tour was arranged and lead by Sally Stein, volunteer coordinator at Corkscrew, as part of the volunteer exchange. Corkscrew volunteers will visit Mound House later this year.



News and Noteworthy ...

Farewell to Fuscia Trees

Due to their deteriorated condition and potential for great damage to the historic home, the two African Walnut (*Fuscia*) trees that straddle the former entrance of The Mound House were removed this spring. The decision to remove the trees proved challenging as they are about 50 years old and are embedded in the memories of many individuals on Fort Myers Beach. Two young African Walnuts will be nursery grown until such time that they can be reintroduced to the property in an appropriate location.

What's in a Name?

The Mound House property faces a segment of Estero Bay known as *Matanzas Pass*. While conducting historical research in 2002, Corbett Torrence found conclusive evidence that the name Matanzas Pass is derived from an encounter between Juan Ponce de Leon's fleet and the Calusa. On the afternoon of June 5, 1513 after taking on fresh water from an island, Ponce de Leon's vessel was attacked by 20 'shielded' canoes, some of which were lashed together in pairs. The Spanish

captured five canoes, took four captives, killed several other Calusa and named the place *Isle Matanza* for the Indians they had killed there (matanzas translates to slaughter). The name Isle Matanza appears on Freducci's map that was drafted in either 1514 or 1515 along with two other place names - *Jucci* (or possibly Tucci) and *Stabba*. Matanzas Pass is an artifact of this place name, while Staba is a reference to Escambaba or Mound Key. However, the exact location of Isle Matanza is difficult to know for certain. It could refer to the pass between Lover's Key and Estero Island, Estero and San Carlos Islands, San Carlos with Sanibel Island, or Sanibel and Captiva Islands.

Fishing Tales

The Mound House and Bay Oaks Recreation Center teamed up for the first annual Kids' All-American Fishing Derby last May. Participants aged four to fourteen competed to catch the



Larry Lichstein won first prizes for the heaviest and longest fish in the under seven age category.

longest, heaviest, smallest, and most fish. Local businesses generously donated bait, food, and prizes. Derby rules included the safe practice of catch and release so that participants could enjoy fishing while also preserving the estuaries natural resources. The second annual derby will be held in the summer.

Volunteer Ben Johnson will be missed

The late Ben Johnson was an ardent supporter and volunteer at the Mound House since he first visited us last spring. Ben volunteered extensively in the area, including work with the C.R.O.W. wildlife rehabilitation center and serving as board member for friends groups at the Barefoot Beach Preserve and Six Mile Cypress Slough. He also explored his diverse interests by auditing courses at FGCU including four courses from Mound House Co-Directors.

Ben was a hands-on person. At the Mound House he participated in the cordage workshops, the recent trench excavations, and in other special events including attending last years Calusa Camp with granddaughter Savannah.

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The Past is a Blast at The Mound House

By Theresa Schober

The Mound House mission is to inform and educate Florida residents and visitors about Florida prehistory, Calusa Indians, early pioneer settlement, and life on Estero Island as it relates to the William H. Case House. In addition, our aim is to teach people about the sensitive marine and estuarine environments upon which past cultures and present inhabitants of southwest Florida have always depended. This mission drives our educational programs that focus on understanding the past through experiential learning.

Educational programs for school children target 3rd and 4th grades when Florida history is an important part of the curriculum. Free programs at The Mound House explore the history and prehistory of the property with an emphasis on how we know what we know -- interpreting the past through archaeology and historical documents. Some of our activities

include exploring trays of fish bones and shells from recent archaeological excavations on the property to understand ancient diet, exploring resources available in the estuary, and ancient net technology with indigenous plants. These hands-on activities stress the importance of the local environment to the Native American inhabitants of the region and to early homestead families.



Beach Elementary students are all smiles.

Adult programs include historical tours of the house, a weekly volunteer archaeology laboratory, presentations to local community

Continued on Page 9



Theresa Schober leads a ceramic analysis class in archaeology lab.

Calusa Campers

In conjunction with Archaeology Month 2003, FGCU student intern Regan McBride developed and ran the first Calusa Camp at Mound House. The camp was designed to teach kids about the site's history and the Calusa through hands-on activities



Campers mold clay into Calusa pots. and exploratory learning projects. Campers made clay pots, harvested golden fibers from the cabbage



Savannah Johnson with her hand-made necklace. plam to make cordage for necklaces, and made Calusa masks from their own face molds. Similar activities were also featured in a Calusa Day for the Bay Oaks Recreation Center summer camp program.



Visitors twist the inner bark of the sea hibiscus into two-ply cordage to make Calusa jewelry.



Photos by Cindy Mestas

wood fibers and peat attests to the once swampy nature of this space. The surface of the mangrove muck can be traced over 200 feet, and banks of the old pond or lagoon are clearly visible by the steeply sloped layer. Beneath this mangrove muck is culturally sterile, gray sands.

Meanwhile our volunteer screeners further substantiated some of our interpretations made after the 2002 field season. Once again, we find the mound building layers were deposited between 100

B.C. and A.D. 700 to 800. However, along the northeast margin of the present mound, the Calusa continued to fish, process shell fish, and repair their nets well into the fourteenth century. Also recovered were olive jar fragments left by Cuban Fisherfolk in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. These folks appear to have lived on the mound in what was possibly a

seasonal fishing rancho. It is interesting that once the Calusa abandoned the site for habitation sometime around A.D. 700, that subsequent Calusa visitors appear to not to have camped here.

Much of the original undulating mound topography has been covered with fill to create level ground for the access road. The old surface is evident, and due to a lack of deposition after mound building ceased, artifacts spanning a 1,200 year period, from modern dishware, glass and metal, to

ancient pottery sherds and shell tools, lay side by side and intermixed over the buried surface. The fill layers are also interesting. The original access road visible at the extreme northern end of the trench was made of shell and sand. Based on sediment characteristics and the remains of a buried road-tar surface, the access road was built up at least two times, probably sometime after 1950.

In summary, the trench not only contains our upgraded utility lines and facilitates a historic



Trench abundant in fighting conchs (above). Andrea Dobbs screens with Christie and Kevin Jago & sons Callum and Ansel. All residents of Fort Myers Beach, Andrea worked on the 2002 excavations while the Jago family are first-time visitors (left).



Pay Mabury washes artifacts as they are recovered in preparation for analysis that will take place at the site during summer.

appearance by hiding electrical poles and power cables, but it also has great archaeological utility. The trench contributes greatly to our understanding of how the site grew and changed in appearance through time.



Trudi Edelman screens trench material amidst a backdrop of palms and Estero Bay.



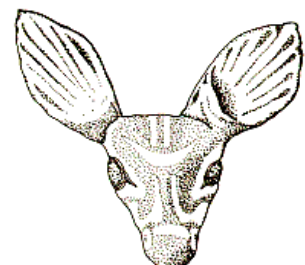
Corbett Torrence produces a detailed map of the layers (stratigraphy) in the trench profile to document changes to the site. This information correlated with artifacts recovered and radiocarbon dates will enhance our understanding of site use through time.

Photos by Theresa Schober.

Archaeology Day Full of Hands-On Opportunities

March is Florida's Archaeology Month with exciting educational events taking place around the state. The Mound House made an excellent impression at *Archaeology Day* sponsored by Koreshan State Park in March 2003 at *CalusaFest* at Collier County Museum put on by the Southwest Florida Archaeological Society on March 27, 2004.

In preparation for these type of events, volunteers Bill and Darlene Hartley sketched and painted a deer on reinforced cardboard while



See the Mound House deer on page 10.

Co-director Theresa Schober painted the head in the style of a Calusa deer mask recovered from Key Marco in the 1890s. The deer served as a target for dart throwing with an atlatl or throwing stick. In addition, The Mound House displayed student experimental archaeology projects from the introductory Archaeology course at FGCU, chatted with visitors, and peeled fiber from tree bark for kids to make cordage necklaces with shell ornaments.

Our focus with these types of activities is to provide accurate information about southwest Florida's prehistoric past including indigenous technology and subsistence practices.

Descendant's Day draws Families from New York to Florida

By Theresa Schober

For the first time in the history of The Mound House, families intimately connected with the property converged to meet each other, share stories, and view early photographs during the first Descendant's Day Picnic on November 23, 2003. In attendance were descendant's of the Ellis Family - the first Euroamerican settlers on Estero Island (Fort Myers Beach), the Gilbert Family - the first to file a homestead claim on the island, and the Case Family - who constructed and resided in portions of the existing Mound House.

In the 1870s, Estero Island, Black Island, Mound Key, and Dog Key were occupied by single families. Sam Ellis, his wife, and her son George Underhill lived on the shell mound on the bay side of Estero Island before moving to Sanibel where Ellis later filed a homestead claim. George Underhill's son George later returned to Estero Island to raise his family. Generations later, Jack and Carol Underhill of Fort Myers Beach and their daughter Janna as well as Jack's brother David, wife Donna, and son Dan are testament to one of the earliest historic occupants of the site. Jack and Carol learned of their family connection to the property by happenstance - one day, they visited the Mound House!

Robert Burton Gilbert moved his family into a house on the shell mound in May 1889 and filed a homestead claim in 1895 for three government lots totaling 171.85 acres. His family included five children from a previous marriage to Sarah Lunning who died in 1883, and nine children born between 1884 and 1923 with his second wife, Fannie Amason. Following the establishment of Lee County in 1887, Robert B. Gilbert became one of the first County Commissioners in September 1893. His eldest son, Robert Burnhardt Gilbert served briefly in this

same capacity in 1923.

Robert B. Gilbert's third son from his first marriage, Morgan Albert Gilbert, became infamous once again at the Descendant's Day Picnic as Francis Deane Gilbert read an account of Morgan's bear-hunting prowess reported to the News-Press almost 106 years earlier to the day by Morgan's father, Robert Burton (see sidebar). F. Deane Gilbert and his sister Joan Gilbert Ritter are descendant from the only child of Robert Burnhardt Gilbert and his first wife Rose Mary Welton (Francis Deane Gilbert I). Mona Gilbert Ball, who journeyed to the picnic from the east coast is the daughter of Morgan A. Gilbert.

The Mound House property was sold in July, 1909 to the Koreshan Unity Co-operative for \$1,000 and in October, 1909 to William Harrison Case for \$1,200. However, dated photographs of the site depict Cases small tudor-style cottage in 1906, so the legal recording of real estate transactions was not concurrent with residence on the property.

William H. and Milia Case added a brick bungalow to the existing tudor cottage around 1909 and in 1911 they replatted their 171.85 acres into the first subdivision on the island. A well was drilled for the subdivision with an elevated wooden water tank that eventually served 25 houses. William H. Case served as the Postmaster for the island from 1914 to 1918 and was involved in many community development projects.

William and Milia Case had a daughter, Beulah (who died in her teens) and a son, Henry Carlton. Henry Carlton Case is listed as a Koreshan Unity member and may have served as Dr. Cyrus Teed's assistant in Chicago. He married Ada Carlotta Grier and had a daughter, Elenor Carlotta, from whom William H. Grace is descended. Bill Grace and his family live in Fort Myers.



Photo by Roy Yost
Underhills, Gilberts, Cases, Historic Society Members and CELC Board Members share stories and photographs. Pictured center is Mona Gilbert Ball, daughter of Morgan A. Gilbert.



Photo courtesy of F. Deane Gilbert
Corbett Torrence
Three generations of Gilberts and Cases by the 'Banyon'.

From left to right: Glenn R. Gilbert, Joan (Gilbert) Ritter, Donna Underhill, Mona Gilbert Ball, David Underhill, F. Deane Gilbert, William H. Grace, Susan Grace, Jenna Gilbert (front), Debbie Bruckman Ritter, Lowell Ritter (front), Scott Ritter, Alissa Ritter, Robert Ritter, Irma Knappich Gilbert.



Bill Grace (left) and F. Deane Gilbert (right) discuss family history. Bill Grace is an attorney in Fort Myers and has served on the CELC Advisory Board since its inception. F. Deane Gilbert resides in New York. The two previously had corresponded about the site, but Descendant's Day provided an opportunity for them to meet.



Photo courtesy of F. Deane Gilbert



Photo courtesy of William H. Grace
The Mound House ca. 1906-1908. Following a brick addition to the front of the structure the property became known as the "Bungalow by the Banyon". The tree still grows on the property & is actually a strangler fig.



Ceel Spuhler portrays Florence Long and Milia Case in a special preview of a one-woman play that she has developed. The play will be reenacted at The Mound House Wednesdays at 11:00 & 1:00.

Fort Myers News-Press Nov. 30, 1897

Estero Island News

I thought I would, with your permission, drop you a few lines to tell you about this beautiful little island, its possibilities, sport etc. I wish you could be with us for a while and see the many things that are pleasing to the eye.

Had you been with us on the 15th inst., you might have had some rare sport. Morgan A. Gilbert went hunting, yes hunting for bear and he found three, the third and last one he shot at was a very large one, weighting about 500 pounds. He crept up to within 50 or 60 feet of the bear before being scented and as the bear raised up on his hind feet and looked at him, Morgan fired one charge into Mr. Bruin, which only enraged him and with an un-earthly yell he charged Morgan. Of course the other barrel failed to fire, then Morgan felt for his hunting knife, but by this time the bear was upon him and came with such force that he knocked Morgan about ten feet one way and the gun the other. Think what a place to be put in, over in the sand on your back expecting every second a large, ferocious brute to tear you to pieces. But to his astonishment, on arising, the brute was going at a great rate through briars, etc. into the jungle, a very dense hammock. That being about 9 o'clock at night, and not having a dog the chase had to be abandoned till daylight, when the trail was taken up and followed with great ease until it came to water, when it was found that the bear had plugged up his wounds with mud, and with difficulty the trail was followed three-fourths of a mile further, often on hands and knees, in the palmettos. In this position, to his surprise, he found himself face to face with the bear, standing on the defense and growling defiance at a distance of about five feet, and to make matters worse Morgan had his little brother, a lad about 8 years, with him. Hurriedly he bade the lad to climb a small tree at hand, before the battle should commence with bruin standing ground defying him all the time. The next thing was to be sure of his aim as he had only had one load of buck-shot and one load of No.2 shot left, so he took good aim and pulled the trigger again, and down tumbled Mr. Bruin; then the charge of No.2 shot was fired at such close rang that the wad was driven into the bear, and still he was not dead, but showed fight, with one fore leg and one hind leg broken. About this time, however, Mrs. Gilbert sent Morgan a Marlin rifle by Capt. Kindall and bear was soon dispatched. The next question was how shall we get the meat home but about this time Robt. King, who had heard the shooting, came up, and rendered valuable assistance in skinning, cutting up the meat and carrying it home. I never saw a fatter animal. The fat on the hams being an inch thick, and the hide was very pretty.



Morgan Albert Gilbert
Photo courtesy of F. D. Gilbert

I think it must have been the hand of God that saved Morgan, for he never received a scratch, although he was, as he says, knocked about ten feet and his gun the other way.

On the 16th Mr. Jessie Graham was hunting for possums in his tomato patch and ran across another bear which the dog treed and Jessie shot at it twice with a revolver without hitting anything. However the shots brought Mr. Smith and Robt. King to the scene and after a short chase bruin was laid low.

Yes we are having lots of fun and getting some fine meat. Come down and we will try to give you a pleasant time. Fishing is good as well as hunting. Crops look fine and are doing well, and although, it has been very dry for some time we can't say that tomatoes are suffering for rain.

I hope this won't find its very way to the waste basket.... You never saw a broader smile on an elephant's face than on Jessie's face after the bear he killed, and as for Morgan, well we can't describe his feelings that he had killed a fine bear, and all the while his father was in Myers. **Burton.**