



WMS/LSS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
A Chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society

Vol. 18, No 5
November/December 2007

LOCATION FOR NEXT MEETING - NELLO JULIANO ROOM, NORTH PORT LIBRARY
The Warm Mineral Springs/Little Salt Spring Archaeological Society meets the second **THURSDAY** of each month (except June, July, and August) at the North Port Public Library in the Nello Juliano Room at **6:30 pm**. The meetings are free and open to the public.

MONTHLY MEETING DATES AND TIMES CHANGE TO THURSDAY AT 6:30 PM

Due to Sarasota County budget cuts, the North Port Library's hours have been reduced. In addition, to save money, no public meetings will be held when the library is not open. This means we cannot meet on Wednesdays any longer unless we find a new meeting place. The library is open on Thursdays until 8:00 PM. The Board decided that we will try the new schedule and see how it works out.

We were able to secure the Meeting Room for our November meeting on Thursday, November 15, at 6:30 PM. We will continue to meet the second Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM beginning in January 2008 and see how that works out. However, the room is not available in December, so we are planning an alternative event (see next article).

FLORIDA MARITIME MUSEUM AT CORTEZ TOPIC OF NOVEMBER 15 MEETING

Jeff Moates, Nautical Archaeologist and Curator of the Florida Maritime Museum in Cortez, will be the speaker at the Thursday, November 15, meeting of the WMS/LSSAS at 6:30 PM (note both the day and time change).

The Florida Maritime Museum is located in Cortez, Manatee County, just off Cortez Road at 119th Street West. The museum resides in the former 1912 Cortez Schoolhouse, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and is part of a heritage site that includes the 1896



Nautical Archaeologist Jeff Moates returns from a dive.

Burton Store, the Pillsbury Boat Works, and the 100-acre FISH Preserve (Florida Institute for Salt Water Heritage) in the historic Fishing Village of Cortez. The theme of the Cortez Museum is the state's maritime history, with a focus on the fishing village of Cortez. Inside are exhibits about Cortez, commercial fishing, and maritime history of the Florida Gulf Coast from Cedar Key to Key West.

Prior to coming to the museum, Jeff served as an underwater archaeologist with the Bureau of Archaeological Research (BAR) in Tallahassee. BAR is the research and management arm for archaeology on state lands for the Division of Historical Resources, Florida Department of State. Before his employment with the State of

Florida, Jeff worked as an archaeologist for Archaeological Consultants Inc., a cultural-resource management firm based in Sarasota. While there, Jeff learned the ropes of Florida Archaeology. He managed and participated in private and public land surveys, some of which yielded archaeological discoveries dating from 7,000 years ago to modern historic times.

A long-time resident of Manatee County and graduate of Manatee High School, Jeff received a master's degree from the University of West Florida (in Pensacola) in History/Historical Archaeology. During his time in Pensacola, Jeff worked on the excavations of Florida's oldest shipwreck and many other historic sites, on land and in the water, that helped establish Pensacola as an important colonial and early American settlement. His master's thesis concentrated on documenting the wrecksite of an 1850's-era steamboat located in St. Joseph's Bay near present-day Port St. Joe, Florida.

Come to the November meeting, meet Jeff, and learn about our local maritime heritage! A field trip to museum is being planned for mid-January 2008 and will be announced in the January/February newsletter.

SPECIAL HOLIDAY EVENT TO BE HELD DECEMBER 11

by Phil Trembley

Due to the fact that we have no meeting location in December, the Board decided to have a special holiday event for all members of the WMS/LSS Archaeological Society: a sunset cruise on the good ship *LeBarge*. *The LeBarge* will depart from Sarasota Bay Tuesday, December 11, at 5:00 PM and will ply the water of Sarasota Bay, returning at 7:00 PM. The tropical-entertainment sunset cruise offers live music, a full bar, and light food that can be purchased on board. *The LeBarge* dock is located 200 yards south of Marina Jack's Restaurant on Sarasota Bay, downtown Sarasota. Boarding begins one-half hour before departure.

All attending this fellowship soiree should make their reservation by calling 366-6116. Tickets are \$20 (what a deal). This is something new for us and should be quite fun, so think about joining us! A sign-up sheet will be provided at our meeting on Thursday, November 15. For more information, check out *The LeBarge's* website at <http://www.lebargetropicalcruises.com>.

ARCHAEOLOGIST BILL BURGER WAS HONORED GUEST SPEAKER AT OCTOBER 10 MEETING

Bill Burger presented his recent research on Perico Island at the October 10 meeting at the North Port Library. Mr. Burger discussed past and current research at this famous archaeological site located at the north end of Anna Maria Sound, the southernmost end of Tampa Bay in Manatee County, the inland gateway to Sarasota Bay from



Board member Bob Dunay presents Bill Burger with our world-famous WMS/LSSAS T-shirt (pardon projector image).

Tampa Bay. This significant archaeological site, occupied from about 2000 BC to AD 200, was a coastal-village site first investigated in the late 1940's by archaeologist Gordon Willey and was the site type for what was called the Perico Island Culture. This was one of many talks by Mr. Burger, who has also led us on a tour of the Sneed Island Site at Emerson Point at the mouth of the Manatee River.

Thanks, Bill, for another interesting presentation!

ARCHAEOLOGIST STEVE KOSKI SPOKE AT THE OCTOBER MEETING ON A TERRESTRIAL SURVEY AT LITTLE SALT SPRING

Steve Koski gave a presentation on a recent terrestrial survey of land surrounding Little Salt Spring, conducted by New South Associates, a cultural-resource management firm Steve consults with in addition to his other professional duties. The two-part survey conducted in May and June of 2006 and April and May of 2007 involved the excavation of more than 400 shovel tests and 88



Board member Ann Hansen presents Steve Koski with a world famous WMS/LSSAS T-shirt.

deep-auger tests throughout the 112-acre property owned by the University of Miami. The 2006 season was funded in part by a grant from the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, and the University of Miami. The 2007 season was funded solely by UM. The research identified the vertical and horizontal boundaries of the land site surrounding Little Salt Spring and shed light on settlement, diet, and lithic-resource procurement strategies of the Middle Archaic period settlers (see September/October newsletter for additional information).

ANNUAL CHARLOTTE HARBOR NATURE FESTIVAL A HUGE SUCCESS!

by Hilda Boron and Judi Crescenzo

On November 3, members of the WMS/LSSAS set up an information table at the annual Charlotte Harbor Nature Festival held at the Charlotte Harbor Sports Complex on SR 776. The event was a huge success! It was a beautiful sunny day, and many visitors stopped at our tables to ask questions about the Society and Little Salt Spring, examine our display of replica artifacts by member Sid Scott, look through our field-trip photo albums, and pick up literature.

The organizers provided two tables and we set up under a large tent with about 12 other attending organizations. In addition to numerous replicas of artifacts, including engraved shells by Sid Scott, we had cordage for making shell bracelets, WMS/LSSAS newsletters, Florida Archeology Month posters, FAS Florida Archeology booklets, past issues of *Florida Frontier*, and membership applications for the WMS/LSSAS and FAS.

Everyone had a good time! Participants from WMS/LSSAS included Hilda Boron, Kate Cattran, Judi Crescenzo, Ann Hansen, Sandra Heacock, Steve Jaseko, and Phil Trembley. "Freddy" the gator stopped by to say hello to Hilda and Steve. Thanks to all for your help and support!



Hilda Boron and Steve Jaseko meet Freddy the alligator.



Artifact replicas by Sid Scott on display.



Ann Hansen and Hilda Boron stand by the WMS/LSSAS display tables at the CHNF.

NUMEROUS SOCIETY EVENTS BEING PLANNED

Numerous events are being planned for 2008 which will be announced in the January/February newsletter. The first will be a visit to see Jeff Moates at the Florida Maritime Museum in Cortez in mid-January. We are long overdue for another trip to the Randell Research Center, and another trip to the Mound House on Ft. Myers Beach is in order when the Shell Mound Exhibit is complete. Folks have also asked about another visit to Emerson Point at the mouth of the Manatee River. Also announced will be our 2008 list of speakers.

Everyone will be happy know that archaeologist and author Chuck Blanchard will be visiting us again in February. He has another book out that he would like to share with us. It's great when people like to visit so much they call us!! Hope to see you all at the November 15 meeting at 6:30. For those interested, we will meet this month for dinner with the speaker at My Father's Place, located on US 41 just west of Ortiz Blvd. (the road to Warm Mineral Springs) at 4:30 PM. All members are welcome.

LOCAL SOCIETY MEETINGS

Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society meets at the Weedon Island Cultural and Natural History Center, 1800 Weedon Dr. NE, St. Petersburg. For monthly meetings and activities information, contact David Burns at 813-968-7910. Visit the CGCAS website at www.cgcas.org.

Manasota Fossil Club meets the second Thursday of the month at 6:45 p.m. at the Fruitville Library east of I-75 off Fruitville Rd. at exit 210. Take a right at the first light east of I-75 on Coburn Rd. For more information contact Carol Copas at: 941-485-4155.

Southwest Florida Fossil Club meets the second Saturday of the month at Edison Community College on Airport Rd. in Punta Gorda, Room #107, at 7:00 p.m. Contact Steve Wilson at 941-993-1649, www.geocities.com/swflfossilclub.

Southwest Florida Archaeological Society meets the third Wednesday of the month at the Bonita Springs Community Center, 7:30 p.m. For program information, contact Dottie Thompson at 941-597-2269.

Time Sifters Archaeological Society meets the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at Bee Ridge Park, located on Wilkinson Rd. at Lockwood Ridge Rd., west of Beveva Rd. between Proctor and Bee Ridge. For more information, call TS newsletter editor John Jaffer at 941-955-5800.

Warm Mineral Springs/Little Salt Springs Archaeological Society meets the second Thursday of each month at the North Port Public Library in the Nello Juliano Room at 6:30 p.m. For more information, contact WMS/LSSAS Secretary Hilda Boron at 426-1719.

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