



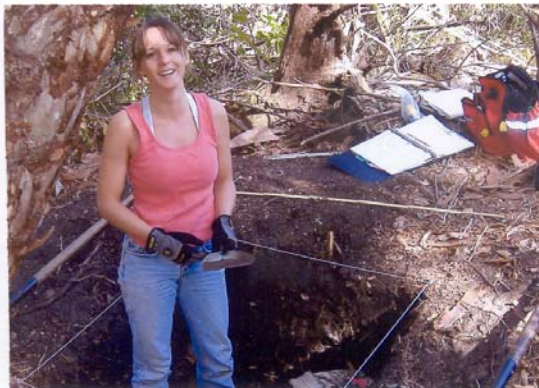
WMS/LSS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
A 501(c)3 corporation & Chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society

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May/June, September/October 2008 (double issue)

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.

ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE PICAYUNE STRAND IN COLLIER COUNTY TOPIC OF SEPT. 11 MEETING

University of South Florida graduate student and archaeologist Cynthia G. Thomas will be the speaker at our September 11 meeting. Her topic is the Archaeology of the Picayune Strand, Collier County. For eight weeks in 2005 and ten weeks in 2006, New South Associates conducted a phase I and II archaeological-assessment survey under contract with the Army Corps of Engineers for the Picayune Strand Restoration Project, part of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan. Ms. Thomas served as crew chief on the project. The Picayune Strand lies in a portion of southern Golden Gates Estates, which is now a state park. In the 1960's, a real-estate development company cleared a portion of a cypress swamp, dug ditches and canals to drain it, and paved miles of platted streets for a residential development. It must have sounded like a profitable idea at the time. Well, to their surprise, the portion that was cypress swamp severely [Cont'd page 5]



Cynthia Thomas at Picayune Strand.

LIFE AND DEATH IN THE LATE ARCHAIC OF SOUTHEASTERN FLORIDA TOPIC OF OCT. 9 MEETING

South Florida archaeologist Alison Elgart will be the speaker at the October 9 meeting of the WMS/LSSAS. Her topic will be "Life and Death in the Late Archaic Southeastern Florida."

A cemetery and discrete burials discovered at the Hiatus #2 site (DA3283), a Late Archaic to Glades Period site located on the Pine Island Ridge in Broward County, can inform us about the quality of life, social organization, and ideas about death during this time period. The cemetery area, located on the southeastern edge of the site in association with the habitation component, held many juvenile burials. At least four children aged six to ten years and one adolescent aged about 16 were found in this area, constituting an unusually high percentage of juvenile remains compared to similar sites. Two discrete burials, located west of the cemetery area, contained adults. One of these burials contained a small female of advanced age



Alison Elgart at 8DA3283.

with evidence of two healed traumas of unknown etiology. These mortuary patterns are compared to other contemporaneous sites in southern Florida, and to later burial practices, including the analysis of animal burials at the Miami Circle site.

Ms. Elgart received a B.A. in anthropology from Binghamton University and an M.S. and Ph.D. in biological anthropology from Cornell University. Her interests are in health and disease in prehistoric populations. She worked as an archaeologist and biological anthropologist for the Archaeological and Historical Conservancy located in Davie, Florida, from 2001-2004, and excavated many sites in southern Florida. Alison spent a brief period of time as the City of Miami's first (and last) City Archaeologist, during which time she implemented the City's historical ordinance and helped protect archaeological sites in Miami. For the last four years, she has been teaching biological anthropology, archaeology, and biology classes mainly at Florida Gulf Coast University.

SARASOTA COUNTY COMMISSIONER JON THAXTON SPOKE AT MAY 8 MEETING

The Florida scrub jay was the subject of the May meeting with speaker Sarasota County Commissioner Jon Thaxton. What do scrub jays have to do with archaeology and history? All right, not our normal archaeology-, history-, historic-preservation-related topics; but we learned that many areas of scrub-jay habitat in Sarasota County are areas where archaeological sites are as well: high ground usually associated with a nearby water source. So, the protection of scrub habitat, in many cases, results in the protection of cultural resources as well. Interesting. In addition, the preservation of natural resources is equally as important to the protection of cultural resources. In many cases, they go hand in hand.

The scrub jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*) is an endangered species due to habitat loss, and it is a native, endemic Florida bird. While it is also found from Washington state east to Wyoming and Colorado, to southern California and central Texas, an isolated population was established in Florida. They need elevated, well-drained sandy soil and low scrub-oak vegetation frequented by fire to survive. In fact, that is the only ecosystem in which they can maintain their population because of their relatively high mortality rate. Snakes are their primary predator; however, when near residential areas, domestic and wild cats play a role in their mortality rate.

Commissioner Thaxton presented a fascinating summary of his research on the Florida scrub jay. He showed us historic maps of scrub-jay habitat in Sarasota County and compared them with the remaining habitat and found that there has been a loss of more than 50 percent. A large population is present in Oscar Scherer

Park in Osprey, where a portion of his study was conducted. He banded all birds in the park and numerous remaining birds scattered throughout the county in residential areas. While their habitat has been fragmented, some scattered populations remain; however, because of their higher mortality rate, those populations cannot maintain themselves. Interestingly, he found that those urban birds had a higher birthrate (more eggs per nest), likely due to more abundant food resources, but also had an unsustainable population because of increased mortality.

We thank Commissioner Thaxton for taking time from his incredibly busy schedule to come and speak about a long-time passion--understanding and protecting the endangered Florida scrub jay. Thanks, Jon!

PREHISTORIC SHELL-MOUND BUILDERS OF HISTORIC SPANISH POINT TOPIC OF APRIL 10 MEETING

by Phil Trembley

The WMS/LSS Archaeological Society hosted Laura Dean, Marketing Director of Historic Spanish Point, at our April 10 meeting on Prehistoric Shell Mound Builders of Historic Spanish Point. Laura has a family history in Florida dating back to the turn of the 19th century, and proudly lets people know it. With a life-long interest in history and archaeology, she brings enthusiasm to her position at Historic Spanish Point. Her nearly life-long study of archaeology began at age 7.

Ms. Dean stated that she had been a volunteer at Spanish Point since 1987. Presently, Spanish Point has 200 volunteers and 14 paid staff. Spanish Point provides visitors with information on botanical specimens native to Florida, in addition to descriptions of three distinct eras: the prehistoric occupation (5000 BC to 1000 AD), the historic pioneer occupation (1867-1911), and the historic Palmer period (1911-1980).

Ms. Dean's presentation focused on the prehistoric mound-building cultures in Florida. The Hill Cottage Midden, one of the oldest on the west coast, was excavated by archaeologist Ripley Bullen and was found to be a horseshoe-shaped mound. Radiocarbon dating indicated that the mound is 5000 years old. A grant has been submitted to the Florida Division of Historical Resources for additional research at the shell mound by archaeologist Mike Russo with the National Park Service. The research will determine if the mound is eligible for placement on the National Historic Register of Historic Places. Volunteer opportunities will also be available when research begins early next year. Stay tuned.

The speaker also presented descriptions of another shell mound located at Spanish Point, started about 2,000 years ago and occupied for about 1000 years, and of an associated burial mound that Bullen [Cont'd page 5]



WMS/LSSAS member Mary Williams presents Jon Thaxton our world-famous T-shirt at the May 2008 meeting. Photo by Linda Massey.



Laura Dean accepts world-famous WMS/LSSAS T-shirt from Vice President Phil Trembley. Photo by Linda Massey.

LSS RECEIVES NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC RESEARCH GRANT

by Steve Koski

July 2008 was an exciting month at Little Salt Spring! The University of Miami/Rosenstiel School of Atmospheric Science recently received a grant from the National Geographic Society, Committee for Research and Exploration to continue work on the 27m ledge where original researcher Carl Clausen conducted excavations in the mid-to-late 1970's. Dr. John Gifford, Director of Research at Little Salt Spring, wrote the grant, entitled "Underwater excavation on the 27-meter ledge, Little Salt Spring, Florida." The fieldwork was conducted from July 7 to July 30, 2008.

UM/RSMAS divers included Director of Research Dr. John Gifford, Dive Safety Officer Rick Gomez, archaeologist Steve Koski, and UM/RSMAS undergraduate student Laura Rock. Collaborating in the effort were staff from the Florida Aquarium: science divers Casey Coy, Mike Terrell, Jason Minear, and Tom Wagner. All divers are American Academy of Underwater Science (AAUS) accredited research divers.

For several months prior to the project, the eight divers had training in mixed gas and deep technical diving at LSS during several weekends in preparation for the project that would allow them to safely access the ledge and resume work. Dr. Gifford and Steve Koski made several exploratory dives in March to evaluate areas for investigation and isolated two potential areas: one on the north side of the ledge and one on the south side. On the north side, a complete extinct tortoise is present, and on the south side is the area where Carl Clausen found an extinct giant tortoise (*Geochelone crassicutata*) with a sharpened stake apparently inserted between the plastron and carapace, dating to 12,030 RCY BP, as well as elements from a giant ground sloth (*Megalonyx* sp.).

While numerous artifacts dating to the late Paleoindian period have been recovered in the basin of the spring, only one artifact representing the early Paleoindian period (c. 12,000 RCY BP) has been recovered: the wood stake and associated tortoise. Over the years, the find has been the subject of controversy over its association, dates of the tortoise and stake, and whether it was carbonized, and some have questioned the artifact itself. The current research on the ledge will help resolve the controversy of early Paleo visitation at Little Salt Spring.

More than 40 dives were made to the 27m ledge (26m in the area worked) and all were video taped. We worked in two teams of three, and each team made one to two 60-minute dives per day with a four-hour surface interval between dives. Dr. Gifford led one team and Koski the second. One person videoed the progress of each dive while the second assisted with the excavation. Three 1x1m units were excavated, two to the east of Clausen's trench and one to the west. Finds included additional tortoise, sloth, and other faunal remains; charcoal; and botanical specimens. Analysis of the material is underway and specimens have been selected for radiocarbon dating.

During dive operations, a mixture of gas comprising 32-35% oxygen and 12-15% helium was used, mixed on site by Dive Safety Officers Rick Gomez (RSMAS) and Casey Coy (FA). Air, enriched with oxygen, allowed divers to extend bottom time and limit decompression, while helium helps to reduce the effects of nitrogen at depth.

The last three days of the project, National Geographic documentary producer Dave Porfiri and film crew were on site to film the progress and are planning a short documentary to air on the National Geographic Channel. A longer documentary may result as research continues and the analysis of data unfolds.

Caption for photo in next column:

2008 27m ledge research team. Back row: Tom Wagner, Laura Rock, Jason Minear, Mike Terrell, and Rick Gomez. Front row kneeling: Dr. John Gifford, Casey Coy, and Steve Koski. Photo by Tripod.



HISTORY OF CHARLOTTE HARBOR AND BOCA GRANDE PRESENTED BY CHUCK BLANCHARD

by Phil Trembley

Chuck Blanchard spoke to our group March 13 and his presentation included displays of historic charts and photographs of Charlotte Harbor and Boca Grand and recitations from his newly published book, *Boca Grand: Lives of an Island*. His discussion included aspects of the earliest inhabitants thousands of years ago, the mound-building Calusa; the legend of Jose Gasparilla; the history of Boca Grande (including interviews with early historic settlers' descendants); and preserving and managing Charlotte Harbor's cultural treasures.

When the prehistoric Indians regionalized in southwest Florida, such as the Calusa at Charlotte Harbor, they had developed a complex society in large settlements of a permanent nature based, not on agriculture, but on the abundant productivity of the estuary within and surrounding Charlotte Harbor. The trend toward regionalization began around 800 AD. These societies vanished within 200



Chuck Blanchard receives a world-famous WMS/LSSAS T-shirt from Vice President Phil Trembley. Photo by Linda Massey.

years after the Spanish arrived in the 1500's.

During the 1700's, Cuban fishermen established a series of fish ranchos along the southwest coast of Florida. These settlements developed into permanent coastal homesteads employing hundreds of Cubans hired to cure the fish that would then be transported to Cuba. They learned salt curing from the Calusa, and many Cuban fishermen married Calusa women. Reports indicate that by 1768, heavy amounts of mullet were being shipped to Cuba.

Chuck also read excerpts from his book from interviews and accounts of descendants of early settlers and those who grew up on Boca Grande. Fascinating accounts of a bygone era.

Interested in reading about the history of Boca Grande? Chuck donated one of his books to the WMS/LSSAS library, and it will be at the September meeting for any member to check out for one month.

WMS/LSSAS RECEIVES CHAPTER RECOGNITION AWARD AT ANNUAL FAS MEETING IN MAY

The 2008 Annual Meeting of the Florida Anthropological Society was held May 3-5 in Ybor City. The event was hosted by the Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society. Great location for a meeting--historic downtown Ybor!

An opening reception, hosted by the Florida Archaeological Council, was held Friday evening at the Ybor Museum State Park. The guest speaker that evening was by Tampa lawyer Dale Swope, who spoke on the ethnic history of Ybor City--a fascinating speaker and story. The Florida Archeological Council's Stewards of Heritage Awards were given to those who have made significant contributions to the preservation of our cultural heritage. Accepting Stewards of Heritage Awards was Marty Ardren, nominated by Jim Miller for her work with the Trail of Florida's Indian Heritage, and George "Boots" Boyer, nominated by Christian Davenport for his assistance with the Lake Okeechobee Survey in Palm Beach County.

Paper presentations were held Saturday at the Italian Club, where two concurrent sessions were held from 8:15 AM to 4:25 PM. Numerous papers on Florida archaeology and historic preservation were presented. Steve Koski presented paper on the terrestrial archaeological survey at LSS conducted in the fall of 2006 and 2007. That evening, the banquet was held at the Italian Club where an exceptional buffet dinner was served. After dinner, University of South Florida archaeologist Brent Weisman was the keynote speaker and spoke on historic archaeology in the Tampa Bay Area.

After the keynote speaker, FAS President Patty Flynn presented awards to FAS chapters and individuals. To our complete surprise, the WMS/LSSAS was given the



Steve Koski accepts the FAS Art Lee Chapter Award from FAS President Patty Flynn and Mrs. Art Lee and her son, Arthur. Photo by Sheila Stewart.



Steve Koski brings the FAS Art Lee Chapter Award home. Pictured are board members present at the May meeting: Judi Crescenzo, Hilda Boron, John Crescenzo, Steve Koski, Linda Massey, Ann Hanson, Carol Myers, and Jon Thaxton.

Annual FAS Chapter Award for outstanding contributions in 2007 for our preservation initiatives, cooperation with academic institutions and government agencies, and public outreach. Steve accepted the award on behalf of the WMS/LSSAS. Due to the recent passing of the founder of the Chapter Award, SWFAS member and past FAS president Art Lee, the Chapter Award was renamed the Art Lee Chapter Award. We are proud to be the first recipients of the Art Lee Chapter Award! Congratulations to all board members and members who participated in our events to help make this possible.

Steve brought the Chapter Award home and presented it to the board at the May meeting. What's Sarasota County Commissioner Jon Thaxton doing in the photo? Well, if it were not for Commissioner Thaxton, we never would have gotten award. It was Jon who initiated the preservation of the lots across the street from LSS by proposing to the County Commission that the land should be preserved from imminent development. In 2002, Marty Ardren, Bill Korp, and Steve Koski of Time Sifters Archaeological Society and WMS/LSSAS met with Jon and presented a plea to preserve the private land, consisting of 25 lots on five acres, which contain a significant component of the Little Salt Spring midden and cemetery site. Jon said that this is just the kind of project in need of county attention and devised a plan to acquire the lots for preservation and passive public access. To date, all but one lot has been acquired and the last is being sought. North Port's support is acknowledged as well. Thank you, Jon, the Sarasota County Commission, and the city of North Port!

Back to the FAS meeting. On Sunday, several of the meeting attendees went to the Florida Aquarium to view the Little Salt Spring Exhibit and listen to a presentation on Little Salt Spring by Florida Aquarium Diving Supervisor Mike Terrell. The Florida Aquarium staff and volunteer science divers have assisted with research at LSS since 2005.

After Mike's presentation, Steve got a chance to dive the shark tank with the Florida Aquarium Dive Master and his assistant, who photographed the event. Now that was fun. They actually spiked the bottom with a couple of chert flakes for Steve to find. You never know where you'll find evidence of human visitation. The highlight of the dive was when a goliath grouper came over and basically sat on Steve's head. I think he liked the bubbles going through his gills (the grouper's gills). You should have seen his bulging eyes (Steve's eyes). Thanks to all at the Florida Aquarium who made that dive possible. Thanks go to CGCAS. Great job!



250-pound grouper positions to rest on Steve's head (you can run but you can't hide!). Photo by Patty Flynn.

PICAYUNE STRAND (Cont'd from page 1)

flooded every year and the development failed.

In 2000, the Army Corps initiated a project to restore the land by removing the roads, filling in the ditches, and letting the natural hydrology and landscape recover. Prior to that work, environmental and archaeological assessments were conducted under state and federal laws to gain an understanding of the natural and cultural resources present for their protection. The archaeological-assessment survey was designed to locate unknown and previously known site locations in the project area and to evaluate their significance under National Register of Historic Places criteria.

A crew of 10 to 16 field archaeologists spent a total of 18 weeks over a two-year period in some of the most beautiful months of the year, as well as the most miserable. Intense heat with no wind; encounters with poisonous snakes; billions (yes, billions) of mosquitoes; temperatures in the high 90S's; and traversing through barley penetrable terrain with poison ivy, briars, Brazilian pepper, oaks, pines, cypress, swamp dogwood, and other tropical and subtropical plants were the daily norm. But some beautiful areas and sites were discovered that made it all worthwhile.

Ms. Thomas has a B.A. in Anthropology from Mercer University, Macon, GA. She is currently a graduate student in Anthropology at the University of South Florida. Prior to that, from 2005 to August 2008, she was a field archeologist and laboratory analyst with New South Associates, a cultural-resource management firm located in Stone Mountain, GA, and St. Augustine, FL. Her experience includes phase I and II archaeological-assessment surveys at numerous tracts and sites in central and south Florida.

Come to the September meeting and hear about the less romantic side of field archaeology and what the Army Corps is doing to restore and preserve some of Florida's valuable resources.

MOUND BUILDERS (Cont'd from page 2)

excavated in 1959. The excavation yielded over 8500 pottery sherds with styles

of the 429 burials identified in the sand mound were found in the flexed position. Bullen's findings are housed at the Museum of Natural History in Gainesville under the Osprey Collection.

This program was a very interesting look at one of the cultural treasures right here in Sarasota County and was very well received. Thank you for your visit, Laura. We hope to visit you at Spanish Point soon!

For more information on Historic Spanish Point, visit www.historicspanishpoint.org.

LITTLE SALT SPRING EXHIBIT FEATURED AT CHARLOTTE COUNTY HISTORY CENTER

by S. Koski

The Charlotte County History Center of Charlotte Harbor is hosting "Dive into the Past: the Archaeology of Little Salt Spring." The exhibit opened August 5 with a well-attended opening reception and will continue through November 15, 2008.

Brought to you by the Charlotte County History Center, Sarasota County History Center, and the University of Miami, the exhibit provides a tantalizing look at the region, dating back to the first Floridians 6,000-12,000 years ago.

The exhibit was set up early August by Guest Curator Steve Koski and Don Dubrul, CCHC Exhibit Designer. CCHC Director Linda Coleman organized the event and staff members Debra Fabiszak (Program Coordinator) and Connie Jarvis (Administrative Assistant) prepared the promotional brochure and made preparations to receive the exhibit. The exhibit had been at the Florida Aquarium the last several months.

The seven educational posters were designed by Dan Hughes, Sarasota Archeologist, and first opened at the Sarasota County History Center. Due to its success and requests, it has traveled to the North Port Library for Florida Archaeology Month 2006 and made two trips to the University of Miami, Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science libraries, of the University of Miami libraries.

The exhibit consists of seven educational posters on archaeology, underwater archaeology, Little Salt Spring, the Environment surrounding Little Salt Spring, the Paleoindian and Archaic components, and the Little Salt Spring slough, which served as a cemetery site in the Middle Archaic 6,000-7,000 years ago. The exhibit also features a variety of stone, bone, and shell artifacts recovered over the years and a 10,500-year-old wooden stake, one of several identified, driven into the lower slope of the 40-foot basin.

The spring and slough lie on 112 acres owned by the University of Miami, and a five-acre parcel containing the village component and portion of the cemetery is



Profile of LSS greets visitors at the entrance to the Charlotte County History Center.



LSS on display at the Charlotte County History Center.

owned by Sarasota County and will become a passive park and preserve.

On September 26, at 1:30 PM, archaeologist Steve Koski will offer a Power Point presentation on LSS that will include aspects of the recent 27m ledge research. In February, Dr. Gifford is speaking as part of the Trail of Florida's Indian Heritage state-wide speaker series. More information on that presentation will be announced in the January/February newsletter.

Visit the Charlotte County History Center and see the exhibit for yourself. Exhibit hours are from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday through Friday and 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM Saturday. CCHC is located at 22959 Bayshore Road, Charlotte Harbor, FL. From US 41 going south, take a right on Edgewater and the first left on Bayshore; going north, cross the Peace River Bridge and turn left on Bayshore; from I-75, take exit 167 and follow Harborview Road west, cross US 41 to Edgewater, and turn left on Bayshore. For more information, call the CCHC at 941-629-7278.

ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH 2008 FIELD TRIP TO FORT DESOTO ENJOYABLE EVENT

by Judi Crescenzo

On March 29th, WMS/LSS celebrated Florida Archaeology Month 2008 with a field trip to Fort DeSoto in St. Petersburg. Participants visited the Quartermaster Storehouse building/museum and took an exciting guided tour of Battery Laidley, where original cannons, historic military photographs and a painted artist's conception of a Tocobaga Indian mound were displayed. Construction of Fort DeSoto began in 1898, when a shipload of stone for the cement mix did not arrive on time. The fort was constructed using a shell and cement mix. It was used as a quarantine station from 1889-1899 and was important in the defense of Tampa during the Spanish American War. By 1922, Fort DeSoto became outdated with the development of airplane surveillance.

Some of the group took a ferry trip to Egmont Key State Park in the afternoon. Egmont Key is a historic island and wildlife refuge with an 85-foot lighthouse, which has been in use since 1848. Fort Dade held Seminole prisoners in 1858 and was part of a coastal defense plan during the Civil and Spanish-American Wars to protect residents of Tampa. LSS visitors to Egmont Key were able to view Fort Dade, an original red brick path, and the remains of military housing deserted in 1920--along with beautiful gulf views, gopher tortoises, nesting osprey, and dolphins. Everyone had a wonderful day! Participants included John and Judi Crescenzo, Vi Page, and Bruce Hamill.

See the March/April WMS/LSSAS Newsletter for more info or visit www.floridastateparks.org/egmontkey.



Judi Crescenzo, Hilda Boron, and Sandra Heacock conduct a twine and bracelet workshop at YMCA Camp.

WMS/LSSAS CONDUCTED SUMMER PROGRAM FOR YMCA

We were asked to conduct a program for the summer camp at the YMCA on June 13, so Hilda Boron, Judi and John Crescenzo, Sandra Heacock, and Steve Koski packed up our "stuff" and headed out. Steve gave a brief introduction to archaeology to about 20 camp girls and boys and talked about North Port's prehistory at Little Salt Spring and Warm Mineral Springs, our two local treasures. Hilda, Sandra, and Judi displayed some reproductions of artifacts by Sid Scott and demonstrated twine making, and all the children made bracelets and necklaces with the twine they made. They also brought some large shells so the children could draw design motifs on the outside. I was impressed with some of the designs and necklaces some of them made. All were worn proudly. The biggest and toughest boy made the nicest necklace and wore it home. Another made one for his mom.

Steve demonstrated the use of an atlatl made by Terry Powell that he picked up at a bargain price at the FAS meeting in May in Ybor City and fashioned a Newnan point made by Claude van Order on a shaft made from a palm frond as a demonstration piece. He also made several other darts that fly like the wind. When asked who wanted to go on a mammoth hunt, everyone was in. When asked who



Steve Koski demonstrates the atlatl and prepares to get far out of the way when its their turn. Look at how nice and orderly they are--a miracle. Photo by John Crescenzo.

would like to volunteer to be the mammoth, one lad enthusiastically raised his hand. He declined when it was explained what that entailed.

Due to the enthusiasm, John and Steve took the kids in small groups outside for a mammoth hunt in the adjacent park. You have to be "veery, veery quiet" hunting mammoths, Steve explained, because they spook really easily and there is only one thing worse than being in the middle a mammoth stampede and that is being stalked by a saber cat, also around when the first occupants were in North Port 12,000-10,000 years ago. Many of the kids did pretty well for their first time, girls as well as boys. Although we failed to spot or kill any mammoths, overall the hunt was a success. It's not about the kill, it's about the hunt. No one got skewered and all had a good time. Kids can be exhausting.

THE FLORIDA MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM

On April 19, 2008, Steve Koski completed all three modules in the University of Florida "Florida Master Naturalist Program." The program consists of three 40-hour modules on Florida ecosystems: uplands, wetlands, and coastal systems. These modules were conducted at Shamrock Park in Venice and taught by Debbie Dixon, former Director of the Crowley Museum and Nature Center; however, classes are taught all over the state by several individuals. The modules included classroom lectures and video presentations and field trips to such places as Shamrock Park, Myakka State Park, Carlton Reserve in Venice, Oscar Scherer Park in Osprey, Little Salt Spring in North Port, Lemon Bay Park, Cedar Point, Stump Pass in Englewood, and other locations. Steve took the class to design and develop interpretive trails through various habitats on the Little Salt Spring property for guided educational tours so visiting students and public can learn about our finite cultural and natural resources. Want to learn more about the Florida Master Naturalist Program? Visit <http://www.masternaturalist.ifas.ufl.edu/>. I would highly recommend the classes to anyone who wants to learn about Florida ecosystems and the delicate balance needed to maintain their health.

THE WMS/LSSAS AN FAS CHAPTER

The WMS/LSSAS is a Chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society. To maintain our Chapter status, ten of our member members also need to be members of FAS. Several of our board members are FAS members and a few general members are as well. However, we need a couple more. Members receive the quarterly FAS newsletter and four journals, *Florida Anthropologist*, during the year.

The entire most recent volume, March-June 2008, is concerned with the archaeology of the Charlotte Harbor Preserve State Park. Numerous articles are included, many by folks who have spoken to our group: George Luer, Chuck Blanchard, Theresa Schober, Corbett Torrance, and more. That one issue is worth the cost of an annual membership. Did you know that Little Salt Spring and Warm Mineral Springs are in the Myakka watershed of the Charlotte Harbor Basin? So we contribute to Charlotte Harbor as well.

Interested in joining FAS? Students can join for \$15, Regular membership is \$30, Family \$35, Sustaining \$40, Patron \$100. Check out their website, where membership forms are available. Membership forms will also be available at the September 11 meeting.

FLORIDA ANTHROPOLOGIST GOES DIGITAL

This is BIG NEWS. A tremendous resource is now available on the internet, provided by the University of Florida Special Studies Collections. All volumes of the *Florida Anthropologist* (journal of FAS) from 1948 to 2005 are now available online! This will be appreciated by all those interested or conducting research in Florida archaeology. Interested? Go to <http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/UFDC/UFDC.aspx?s=flant&b=UF00027829> and check it out. That doesn't mean that you should let your membership lapse or not subscribe, as the online copies are only through 2005.

FPAN TO OPEN NEW CENTER AT MOUND HOUSE

[from the SWFAS 2008 July-August Newsletter]

The Mound House at Ft. Myers Beach is excited to announce its selection as the Southwest Florida Regional Center of the Florida Public Archaeology Network. Established by the Florida Legislature in 2004, the Network strives "to stem the rapid deterioration of this state's buried past and to expand public interest in Archaeology." Each of the eight network centers across the state is staffed with a public archaeologist and outreach coordinator, whose roles are to increase awareness of Florida's rich heritage by fostering visible public outreach programs, partnering with other educational organizations, assisting local governments in their efforts to preserve archaeological resources, raising awareness of state programs by providing venues for regional training, and assisting in the identification of sites eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The Southwest Regional Center will serve Charlotte, Glades, Lee, Hendry, and Collier Counties.

WMS/LSSAS NEWS BRIEFS

- With deepest sympathy, we send our condolences and sincere thoughts to WMS/LSSAS President George Haag, who recently lost his wife Dorothy on June 22, 2008, from complications from a long illness. Dorothy attended many of our speaker dinners, meeting presentations, and field trips with her husband George over the past many years and she was a pleasure to have as a member. Over the last couple of years, George has been wonderful in caring for all her needs, while maintaining his duties as president--a true expression of his love and kindness, as well as his dedication. We look forward to George's return to North Port from Colorado soon and send our very best wishes.

- The WMS/LSSAS participated in several events over the last few months that included setting up archaeology tables at Warm Mineral Springs Earth Day Festival April 12 and at the People Trees "Tree Festival" on April 19. Volunteers set up tables under our tent and laid out display artifacts and tool reproductions, Archaeology Month Posters, and information on archaeology. They also held mini-twine-making workshops for kids, so they can make their own beaded bracelets and necklaces. Judi and John Crescenzo, Hilda Boron, Sandra Heacock, and Phil Trembley participated.

- A field trip was held at the Florida Maritime Museum in Cortez March 15. A great time was had by all who attended. We thank then-Curator Jeff Moates (now the Director of the Central Gulf Coast Region of the Florida Public Archaeology Network) for leading the tour.

- A nature walk and pepper-pull at LSS scheduled for October 18. If you are interested in seeing the various ecosystem of LSS and helping to control the growth of Brazilian pepper, this might be something you would be interested in attending. The first ten members who sign up will have the opportunity to see the spring, spring creek, and surrounding hammocks, fields, and wetlands, and to learn about the diversity of plants and animals present at the 112-acre LSS archaeological and ecological preserve and research facility. After the walk, those willing and able can help with the exotic vegetation removal project by pulling Brazilian pepper shoots in the hammock and along the trails. The tour will be led by resident archaeologist and Florida Master Naturalist Steve Koski. Call 423-0835 to reserve a spot and for details. Hopefully, we can begin to schedule these on a monthly basis through the fall and winter.

- The LSSRF accepted its first intern, North Port High School student Jessica Askew. Jessica is a senior and would like to be an archaeologist. Her guidance counsellor emailed Dr. Gifford, inquiring about the possibility and, after meeting Jessica, he decided it would be a good opportunity for her and a help to the research facility. Jessica volunteered during the July research, assisting with the processing of the specimens that were recovered. She became familiar with the database and photographing, measuring, and storing the 12,000-year-old specimens. "Jessica

learned the process quickly and she was a big help. We look forward to working with her at the site," Gifford said.

- The LSSRF has entered into an agreement with the North Port High School to temporarily store archaeological specimens and special equipment during mandatory evacuation in the event of expected category-1-or-stronger hurricane winds at the research facility.

- Thanks to NPHS Principal George Kenney and Science teacher Laura David for helping to work out the details of the arrangement. Hopefully, we won't need their assistance, but are keeping a close eye on Ike. If anyone would like to help in the event of an evacuation, please call Steve at 423-0835 to be placed on the emergency contact list (he'll need the help!).

- The WMS/LSSAS donated a heavy-duty wagon to the LSSRF. The wagon can be used to haul specimens from the truck to the evacuation shelter at the North Port High School and for hauling scuba tanks from the compressor to the spring. The wagon is rated to carry up to 1,200 pounds of gear and was purchased at Tractor Supply for \$94.99. What a deal! It can be used with sides up or removed. Three sets of doubles will fit on the wagon and that will make it easier for divers to get tanks to the chickee at waterside. My back feels better already.

- Beginning in January 2009, our meetings will be held on the third Thursday of the Month due to conflicts with several other local meetings that board members are involved with. As you may know, our second Wednesday of the month meetings had to be changed because of changes in NP Library hours and cutbacks. The January 2009 meeting will be held on the 15th. We hope this works out for everyone.

- The WMS/LSSAS board is currently planning field trips and events for

fall/winter 2008/2009. Details will be announced in the November/December newsletter.

Well, that's all I can think of at the moment, but I know I missed something. Any information I did miss will be in the next November/December issue! This is the last time I miss a newsletter.



New 1,200-pound-capacity wagon donated by WMS/LSSAS to LSSRF.

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/swffossil club.

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 the Jack J. Geldbart Auditorium, Selby Public Library, 1331 First Street, Sarasota. 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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