



WMS/LSS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 20, No.2, March/April 2009

A 501(c)3 Corporation and Chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society

The Warm Mineral Springs Archaeological Society meets the third Thursday of each month (except June, July, and August) at the North Port Public Library in the Nello Juliano Room at 6:30 P.M. The meetings are free and open to the public.

SHIPWRECKS OF FLORIDA KEYS TOPIC OF MARCH 19 MEETING

Archaeologist Jeff Moates will be the speaker at our March 29 meeting. His topic will be "Shipwrecks in the Florida Keys." The Florida Keys has numerous shipwrecks dating from the early Spanish period to recent historic times that have run aground in hurricanes and other inclement events. Some were laden with gold from Mexico on their way to Spain, others general ships of pleasure and commerce.

From 2004 to 2006, Jeff worked with a team of archaeologists from the Florida Department of State, Bureau of Archaeological Research on 15 shipwrecks in the Keys. Included in the investigations was a survey for and establishment of the 1733 Galleon Trail and documentation of the Mystery Wreck and the Brick Wreck. Each has a different story to tell but collectively they make up part of the Florida's rich maritime heritage submerged in the Florida Keys.

Jeff is the Director of the West Central Regional Center of the Florida Public Archaeology Network at University of South Florida. He earned a Masters degree in History/Historical Archaeology and a Bachelors degree in Anthropology from the University of West Florida, Pensacola. He is a Florida native who grew up in Bradenton. We last heard

from Jeff at the November 15, 2007 meeting when he spoke on the Maritime Museum in Cortez, then serving as curator of the Museum. His presentation was followed by a field trip to the historic fishing village of Cortez and the Maritime Museum. That was fun.



Jeff Moates speaks to middle school students at Weeden Island

APRIL MEETING TO BE ANNOUNCED

Due to a last-minute cancellation, the speaker for our April 16 meeting will be announced at the March 19 meeting, via email, newspaper, word of mouth, our website (www.geocities.com/wmslssas/), telepathically or any other way we can think of. The May/June newsletter will come out in early May.

EARLY SETTLEMENT ALONG LAKE OKEECHOBEE

By Phil Trembley

On Thursday, February 19, the Society welcomed Jim Pepe, an archaeologist with Janus Research in St. Petersburg. Jim also teaches archaeological classes at Florida Gulf Coast University. For several years, Janus Research has been conducting archaeological research associated with the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Project located at Lakeside Ranch in Martin County east of Lake Okeechobee. During his Power Point presentation, the speaker explained that the Army Corps was attempting to clean up the water entering the lake. They are achieving this goal by slowly pumping water upstream. The water then filters through wetlands on its way back down to Lake Okeechobee. Federal and state regulation mandate that lands that are to be affected by Corps activities must be extensively tested for the presence of archaeological sites and historic properties to make sure no significant cultural resources listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places will be adversely effected.



President George Haag presents Jim Pepe with our world famous t--shirt

Those that will be adversely impacted may be preserved if possible or excavated if impacts are unavoidable.

Four sites were located during testing by Pepe and crew. They were located on ridges where creeks once crossed through before the lake was diked. The sites are on slightly elevated terrain and are mostly vegetated with oak trees, with some cypress in the lower surrounding flatlands. The middens are composed of freshwater mussel shells and a good deal of broken pottery. Dark layers below the shells indicate times of stability, while the light layers are sand washed up from the lake during heavy storms.

Pottery recovered from the sites dates from three to four thousand years ago (late Archaic) and into the Glades period, with sites containing Bell Glade pottery, a sand-tempered variety with drag marks on the outer surface. In addition to sherds, additional artifacts include sparse lithic (stone) tools, a grinding stone, shell tools and beads, shark teeth, and bone tools made from deer bone. Charred elderberry and pokeweed seeds suggest use for food or medicine. A few Seminole glass beads were also recovered that date from the mid-19th century.

Great presentation, Jim. Thanks for sharing!

LITTLE SALT SPRING 27-METER LEDGE UPDATE TOPIC OF JANUARY 15 MEETING

by Phil Trembley

Dr. John Gifford was our speaker at the January 15 meeting of the WMS/LSSAS. He discussed his most recent research efforts on the 27m ledge at Little Salt Spring during the National Geographic-funded project conducted in July 2008 (see January/February 2009 newsletter). He was in town for two weeks conducting research with his class of six UM graduate students on "Techniques in Underwater Archaeology." Considerable local interest was demonstrated by more than 80 people in attendance, some having to stand in the hall.

Little Salt Spring was formed 15,000 to 20,000 years ago when the roof of an underground cavern collapsed. At that time, Florida was approximately twice as wide as it is now due to the late Pleistocene glaciers and was populated with large now-extinct mammals such as mammoths and mastodons, saber-tooth cats, bison, and many others. Deer and many animals living today roamed as well (See LSS UPDATE page 4).

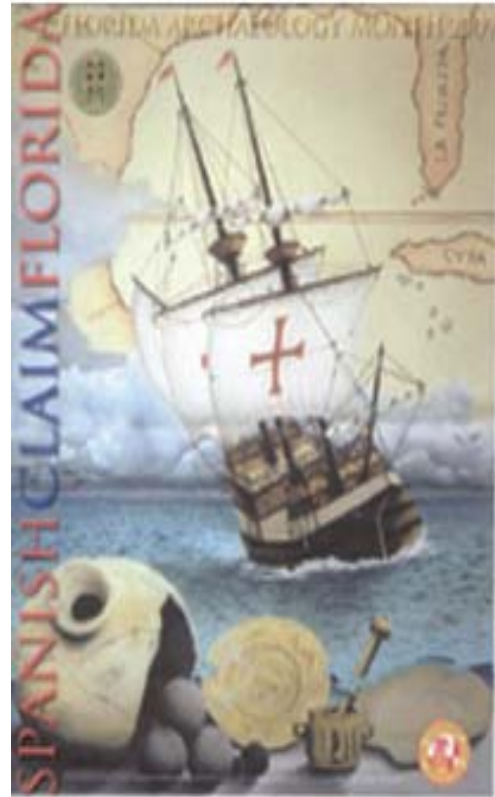
MARCH IS FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH!

In celebration of Florida Archaeology Month, we have several special events planned. The theme of 2009 Florida Archaeology Month is “Spanish Claim Florida!” This is a time to learn about the early Spanish explorations in La Florida, attempts at colonization, lost ships, and the devastating effects their arrivals had on the indigenous Florida inhabitants that led to the collapse of their culture and basic annihilation. A fascinating, yet tragic story.

Florida Archaeology Month is an annual event occurring in March of each year and is coordinated by the Florida Anthropological Society (FAS, and supported by the Department of State, Division of Historical Resources. Additional sponsors for 2009 include the Florida Archaeological Council, UWF Archaeology Institute, Florida Public Archaeology Network, state and local museums, historical commissions, libraries, and public and private school systems. The purpose of the event is to provide opportunities for Florida residents and visitors to learn about the extensive archaeological resources in Florida and their precarious existence (www.flarchmonth.com/).

The Warm Mineral Springs/Little Salt Spring Archaeological Society of North Port is hosting several events in celebration of FAM 2009. Join us for these FAM special events:

March 10, 2009: We have been invited to join Time Sifters of Sarasota on a field trip to the **South Florida Museum** in Bradenton. Those attending will meet at the Museum at 3:00 PM for a guided tour by Valerie Jackson Bell, Curator of Exhibits. The tour will be followed by an early dinner at a nearby restaurant at 5:00, to return to the Museum for a lecture presentation at 6:00 PM at the Museum’s planetarium by Mary Glowacki on “The Anhaica Apalache and the DeSoto Expedition: What Are the Facts?” This will be another Trail of Florida’s Indian Heritage Speaker Series event that will be sure to be of interest to early Spanish-period history buffs. The lecture is free and open to the public. There may be a charge for the museum tour, but the discounted admission price will be \$9 general, \$7 for seniors as guests of Time Sifters. If you are interested in attending the tour, please call Valerie at 746-4131 x 16 to reserve a spot. Visit their web site for directions, exhibits, parking, etc. at www.southfloridamuseum.org.



2009 FAM poster. Artwork by Eric Hinote, designed by Nancy Miller, printing funded by the Florida Public Archaeology Network

March 12, 2009: a special showing of the 108-minute video, “Cabeza de Vaca,” will be held at the North Port Library in the Nello Juliano Room at 6:00 PM. The tale is based on the true story of the four survivors of the failed 1527 Narváez expedition. After separating from the rest of the crew, walk 6,000 miles in a period of eight years through Florida, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, New Mexico, and into North Mexico. Cabeza de Vaca was one of four survivors from the expedition of over 300 who set out.

March 19, 2009: Archaeologist Jeff Moates on 15 shipwrecks of the Florida Keys (see article in this newsletter).

March 21, 2009: Field trip to De Soto National Memorial in Bradenton. FAM 2009 posters and bookmarks will be available at the March 19 meeting. This should be a very interesting field trip. The posters and bookmarks were available at the February meeting as well. At 10:00 AM, the Living History Camp will give a costumed demo with weapons, etc. We can also take a self-guided nature-trail hike of about 1/2 to 1 mile (there is a choice of trail lengths). Here is also a 20-minute video on de

Soto that we can watch as well.

We will meet at the North Port Library at 8:00 AM for a 8:15-sharp departure for a 9:45 arrival. This should be a fun and interesting FAM event. Visit their website to see what the park has to offer at www.nps.gov/deso/index.htm.

Through the month of March: the WMS/LSSAS will set up a small exhibit in two cases at the North Port Library on Spanish exploration and the Indians they encountered. Several educational poster boards from the LSS exhibit will also be set up in the children's section, with one or two in the adult section for some early history of the area.

To learn more about FAM and special events around the state, visit <http://www.flarchmonth.com>.

LSS UPDATE cont. from page 2

The 27-meter ledge is located 90 feet from the spring surface and its width varies from 5 feet to 20 feet. The remains of a giant tortoise (*Geochelone crassiscutata*) were found in 1975, with a reported wood stake stuck between the plastron and carapace. The stake was radiocarbon dated 12,030 radiocarbon years before present. It is on display at the Florida State Museum in Tallahassee. With 95% of the ledge still unexplored, Dr. Gifford is hoping a second grant from National Geographic will materialize that will enable excavation on the north side of the ledge where the remains of a second giant tortoise are located. Additional Paleoindian remains have been found on the 12 m (40-foot) basin of the spring, where wood artifacts including wood stakes have been recovered during early research in the 1970s, as well as recently over the last 16 years. The wood artifacts and stakes have been dated to 9,500 radiocarbon years or 10,500 calibrated (actual) years before present. A deer antler with cut tines and 28 parallel notches found in Operation 9 in 2005 dated to 10,000 calibrated years before present. Middle Archaic remains dating 5,000 to 7,000 rcy before present have been recovered as well. Dr. Gifford concluded his presentation with a videotape showing the 27m ledge team excavating portions of the giant tortoise and methods used to clear visibility using an underwater scooter. The University of Miami is currently on a fundraising campaign to raise \$1 million to build one of four buildings to serve the research facility and preserve, one of which will operate as an education center for local schools and the public. Moe info in the May/June NL.

We thank Dr. Gifford for his great presentation!



Vice President Phil Trembley presents Dr. Gifford with thank you card

NORTH PORT CELEBRATES 50-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

North Port is 50 years old! Well, it was incorporated 50 years ago in 1959, but North Port's first residents actually arrived more the 12,000 years ago, so the WMS/LSSAS is also celebrating North Port's 12,000-year history—hence the new 2009 logo on the cover! To celebrate North Port's 50th Anniversary, the City is planning a year of events that will kick off February 28 with a big parade along Price Blvd. from Appomattox Blvd. to City Hall and a festival at the Government Complex at City Hall, followed by fireworks at 7:00 PM. By the time you get this in the mail, the parade and festival will be over, but we'll tell you all about it in the next newsletter (of course, you'll know all about it because you were there). The WMS/LSSAS plans to set up a booth with information on archaeology, the Society, and our local treasures, Warm Mineral Springs and Little Salt Spring. Other events scheduled include:

March 21, Festival Under the Stars, featuring a special concert featuring the North Port High School Band and the Jerry White Big Band at the North Port Performing Arts Center. The performance starts at 7:00 PM, with a hospitality reception in the courtyard starting at 6 PM. Tickets are \$10 and at the box office at the NPHS (941-0426-8479).

April 4, North Port Games, featuring fun athletic games for all age groups, including races, volleyball, softball, swimming, bike rides, skateboarding, hula hoop, jump rope, 3-legged races, horseshoes, and more. The event is from 8:00 AM to

4:00 PM at Dallas White Park in back of the NP YMCA.

June 20, Anniversary Gala, featuring live entertainment, dinner and a dance. Information on more events will be in the May/June newsletter. Visit www.cityofnorthport.com for more details on events, times, and locations.

JANUARY 24 FIELD TRIP TO RANDELL RESEARCH CENTER MEMORABLE EVENT

It had been some time since we took a trip to Pineland to the Randall Research Center and 15 members and guests were hosted by archaeologist Michael Wilde. We got a chance to see the new Education Center, walk a portion of the Calusa Heritage Trail, see an open excavation unit, walk the mounds, and enjoy the beautiful site, home of one of the largest mound complexes in southwest Florida. Dr. Marquardt, Karen Walker, Donna Ruhl, Irv Quitmyer, and many other University of Florida researchers, students, and volunteers have been learning from the past and teaching what they have learned for more than 20 years. The WMS/LSSAS is a Friend of the Randell Research Center and we support their efforts to preserve, conduct research, and educate the public on the Calusa Indians of the Charlotte Harbor area.

Thank you, Mike, for sharing your time and knowledge with us. For more information, visit www.flmnh.ufl.edu/RRC/.



Education coordinator, Mike Wilde talks members of the WMS/LSSAS on a tour of the Calusa Heritage Trail January 1, 2009



TRAIL SPEAKER SERIES AT CHARLOTTE COUNTY HISTORY CENTER FEBRUARY 21

By Judi Crescenzo

As part of the Trail of Florida's Indian Heritage 2009 Archaeology Speaker Series, Dr. John Gifford spoke at the Charlotte County History Center in Charlotte Harbor on February 21st. His presentation, "Window into America's Deep Past" placed Little Salt Spring in the Paleo Indian and Archaic periods about 12,000 to 6,000 years ago and stressed the importance of artifacts discovered in the spring from 1958 to the present. Through slides and video clips, the audience was able to envision how the spring looked 12,000 years ago as compared to today. Significant artifacts from the spring include deer-antler tools, a bone bead, base of wooden mortar, two green stone pendants, and more. Animal remains uncovered were bones from a saber-tooth tiger, giant ground sloth, paleo llama, and mastodon. Oak stakes present in the lower basin of the spring at the 40-foot drop off were also described, along with changes in water depth over the years. Dr. Gifford explained that the 1976 discovery of a turtle carapace with a stake in its body led highly trained divers to revisit the same area in July 2008 with funding from National Geographic. He ended with an 8-minute video, "Little Salt Spring: Portal to America's Prehistoric Past," which explained the importance of Little Salt Spring as one of the earliest archaeological sites in North America, with the potential to redefine human history if future efforts provide human remains dating earlier than 12,000 years ago. And the series continues with:

March 10, 2009: Mary Glowacki, Ph.D., Public Lands Archaeology Supervisor, Bureau of Archaeological Research, "The Anhaica Apalache and the De Soto Expedition"; 6:00 to 8:00 pm, South Florida Museum, 201 10th St. West, Bradenton, 941-746-4131.

March 21, 2009: Nancy Marie White, Ph.D., Professor of Anthropology, Department of Anthropology, University of South Florida, "Adventures in Northwest Florida Jungle Archaeology"; 1:30 to 2:30 PM, Collier County Historical Museum, 3301 E. Tamiami Trail, Naples,

239-774-8476.

March 26, 2009: Christopher M. Still, Florida Heritage Artist Museum of Florida Art and Culture, South Florida Community College, 600 W. College Dr., Avon Park, 863-784-7240.

April 18, 2009: James J. Miller, Ph.D. (Former State Archaeologist), Heritage Planner, "Latest Research in the Bahamas;" 2:00 to 4:30 PM, Historical Museum of Southern Florida, 101 West Flagler St., Miami, 305-375-1615.

April 18, 2009: Robert S. Carr, M.A., Executive Director, Archaeological and Historical Conservancy, Inc., "The Bahamas Legacy: New Discoveries in the Northern Bahamas"; 2:00 to 4:30 PM, Historical Museum of Southern Florida, 101 West Flagler St., Miami, 305-375-1615.

ANOTHER WAY TO HELP THE SOCIETY, SURF THE WEB

By Linda Massey

Surf the web? The WMS/LSS Archaeological Society is now listed with "Goodsearch.com." If you use Google or some other search engine, please use goodsearch.com from now on instead. When you go to their page, you can type in the name of our society and then press "Verify." We are on their list. Then, every time you do a search, we will get a small amount of money. With the price of stamps, this could cover the cost of one of our mailings eventually. We have already made \$1.29, Wooppii! Every cent counts in this economy, our own mini-stimulus package.

And, if you plan to purchase anything using the internet, begin your shopping at this page and we will get a percentage of the amount spent. Cool!

DUGOUT CANOES AND CANOE CLUES: PADDLING INTO FLORIDA'S PAST

by Phil Trembley

An interesting and informative presentation by Donna L. Ruhl was held at the fourth annual Calusa Heritage Day held on Saturday, February 21, 2009, at the Randell Research Center. Ms. Ruhl is an Environmental Archaeologist employed by Florida Museum of Natural History. The lecture was attended by four members of the WMS/LSS Archaeological Society. The day's events featured archaeological exhibits, guided site tours, Calusa technology and the afternoon lecture described below.

Approximately 400 dugout canoes have been

documented throughout the state of Florida—prehistoric and historic (Seminole). The oldest find was located in 1960 under five feet of muck. A drought in 2000 at Newnan's Lake just east of Gainesville exposed over 100 prehistoric canoes. Over 50 were excavated and studied. Carbon 14 dating indicated that 12 were over 1,300 years old, four were 2,300-2,700 years old, and 36 were 3,000-5,000 years old. Over 90% were made of pine. Pine has a resin interior, which is easy to burn. In addition, pine is tall, with long lengths without limbs. Cypress was used in 4% of the finds at Newnan's Lake. The oldest find (31' long) and the youngest find were made of cypress.

Four "styles" of dugout canoes include those with a round bow, those with a blunt bow, those with a pointed bow, and those with an extended front. When the interior of the dugouts is examined, one can see the procedure for hollowing out, characterized by "chip and burn." In South Florida, of the 24 documented canoes, only one was found on the Gulf Coast. This 41' canoe had an extended bow. North Central Florida is where most of the canoe finds have occurred. In addition to the rivers and lakes available for canoe transportation, the prehistoric people constructed canal systems that allowed travel from the west coast to the east coast. Canoe travel was often the fastest way to transport people and large heavy loads over long distances. Watercraft provided a means to transport hunter-gatherers to new areas that were often unreachable otherwise. Poles and paddles were used to guide the canoes.

The excavation and examination of a prehistoric canoe is a very expensive process and so many are left in place, but their whereabouts are documented. There are many more canoes yet to be discovered; especially, according to the presenter, Paleoindian canoes.

LSS HIGH SCHOOL INTERN OFF TO COLLEGE

We just heard that North Port High School LSS intern Jessica Askew has been accepted to Lycoming College in Williamsport, PA. The major she will study is Archaeology and Culture of the Ancient Near East. Jessica spend much of her time prior to her volunteer internship volunteering at LSS prior to the start of school during the July 2008 National Geographic-funded project on the 27m ledge.



LSS intern Jessica Askew processes 27 m ledge specimens in the lab in July 2008.

She became familiar with processing, photographing, and describing the recovered specimens; entering information in the database; and initiating the curation process.

To say she was a help would be an understatement. After the ledge specimens were processed and entered in the database, Jessica began going through specimens recovered over the last few years, changing water, rebagging in archival plastic bags, printing and applying new labels, comparing photographs for specimen stability, and reshelving.



Intern Jessica Askew enters information in the database

After her internship was completed, Jessica returned on several occasions over the next semester and continued to volunteer. She also participated in a grant competition by the Moose Club by giving presentations on her internship to North Port fifth graders and had to write an essay on the process and describe how the kids responded. She was awarded

\$500 for her participation and, if her essay is selected out of a number of other participants, will be eligible for a \$12,000 scholarship from the Moose Club. We will certainly miss her and wish her the best on her new endeavors. It will be exciting to watch her progress in her academic career. Congratulations, Jessica and good luck with the scholarship and new adventures!

NEWS BRIEFS/INFO/EVENTS

We would like to thank all those who have renewed their membership for 2009 and all our new members! For those who have yet to renew or join for the first time, please do so. We need your support!

March 7 WMS/LSSAS Yard Sale will be held at the Warm Mineral Springs Motel on US 41 (I don't know how they put up with us every year, a testimony to their patience and good nature). Come join the fun. We really have some nice items this year and there will be something for everyone I'm sure. We would like to thank all those who have helped in previous years and who are helping this year. We also thank Historic Spanish Point for their donation of their yard sale items. If you would like to help, please come by. The more the merrier. We will be loading the UHaul at 4:00 PM Friday afternoon at the lab at LSS and driving to the Motel at 7:00 AM for an 8:00 opening, and will run to 1:00 PM. All remaining items will be taken to Good Will at the end of the day. This is our only fundraiser, so come and support the Society. Hope to see you there!

Visit Historic Spanish Point, our local premier prehistoric shell mound and historic site in Osprey. Lots of exciting events and programs are scheduled in the coming weeks. Check them out at www.historicspanishpoint.org. The WMS/LSSAS is a supporting member.

Visit the Florida Anthropological Society website at fasweb.org. The WMS/LSSAS is a Chapter Member and we need to maintain 10 active members to maintain our chaptership (if that's a word), so consider joining FAS and receive their quarterly newsletter and journal *Florida Anthropologist*.

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 3rd 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 3rd 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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WARM MINERAL SPRINGS/LITTLE SALT SPRING ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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