



WMS/LSS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 22, No. 1 January/February 2011

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

NOTE new meeting day, place and time beginning January 11: The Warm Mineral Springs/Little Salt Spring Archaeological Society meets the second Tuesday of the month at the North Port Community Church at 7:00 PM located at 3450 Biscayne Blvd. Meetings are free and open to the public

LITTLE SALT SPRING TOPIC OF JANUARY 11 MEETING

We are pleased to welcome back Dr. John Gifford to our January 11 meeting. Dr. Gifford is Director of Research at Little Salt Spring and an Associate Professor of Marine Archaeology, Division of Marine Affairs, University of Miami/Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science. He will present an updated overview on Little Salt Spring and discuss current research on the 27m ledge conducted over an eight-week period during the summers of 2008, 2009, and 2010, (see LSS p. 2).



Dr. John Gifford prepares to dive at LSS in August

ARCHAEOLOGIST AND AUTHOR CHUCK BLANCHARD TO SPEAK AT OUR FEBRUARY 8 MEETING

Again, we are delighted to welcome the return of Chuck Blanchard at our February meeting, who will discuss his new book "One Island, Three Hometowns: Picturing the Three Communities of Gasparilla Island 1890-1960 with Rare Eyewitness Commentary by Those Who Lived the Lives." The new book uses image archives and years of oral histories combined to produce an exciting collection of over 400 photos illuminated by eyewitness commentary to (See *Gasparilla*, p.2).



February Speaker Author Chuck Blanchard

LSS (cont from p. 1)

a project funded in part by the National Geographic Society and the Florida Aquarium. (Cont p. 2)

For those of you not familiar with the site, Little Salt Spring is a circular, 250-foot-deep sinkhole, or cenote, located in North Port. The spring lies on an undeveloped 112-acre parcel owned by the University of Miami. As early as 1959, archaeological discoveries were made in the basin of the spring 3 to 40 feet (1 to 12 meters) below the surface, dating from 6,000 to 10,500 years ago. Even deeper, on a ledge at 90 feet (27 meters), were the bones of extinct and extant Pleistocene fauna, including ground-sloth, bison, tortoise, and mammoth remains. Of unprecedented significance was an intentionally sharpened wood stake wedged between the plastron and carapace of an extinct tortoise, radiocarbon dated to 12,030 +/-30 BP, a find of considerable controversy. Numerous wooden stakes have also been identified on the lower slope of the basin, radiocarbon dated to 10,500 Cal. BP. Stone, bone, shell, and other wooden artifacts have been found in the basin of the spring, and the upper slope was used as a cemetery site in the Middle Archaic period 6,000 to 8,000 years ago.

From January 3 through January 15, 2011, Dr. Gifford will be on site with six University of Miami students enrolled in his Underwater Archaeology class. The students are assisting him and Research Associate Steve Koski with the continued excavation of Operation 14, a 2x2m unit located mid-slope on the north side of the 40-foot basin. Work is slow and tedious, and only two 10cm levels are expected to be finished during the two-week field session. Students learn the techniques of underwater archaeology under the supervision of Gifford and Koski, and important discoveries are always just centimeters away. So far this season, in only the first two days of excavations, two deer-antler artifacts have been uncovered. Wood, shell, bone, and other items identified will be labeled, illustrated, photographed, video documented, and recovered. Students will then process the items in the lab by entering the information in the data base, photographing, and curating for analysis—a great learning experience.

Come and meet Dr. Gifford and his students at the January 11 meeting!

Gasparilla (cont. from p.1)

help the readers travel in time AND look around when they get there. Historian and author Bob Edic was the image archivist for the book (who hopefully will join Chuck), Kimberly Kyle was the administrator and oral history screener, and Chuck served as composer and editor-in-chief. It's turned out to be a handsome volume with equal

measures of beauty, scholarship, and entertainment. And the way it all came together and got funded is a worthy tale of applied archaeology.

JANUARY WMS/LSSAS ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the WMS/LSSAS will be held January 11 at the beginning of our general meeting prior to our speaker presentation. A brief annual summary will be presented to our members, after which Officers and Directors will be voted into office.

2011 Slate: President, George Haag; Vice President, Judith Ribarik; Secretary, Hilda Boron; Membership Secretary, Linda Massey; Treasurer, Kate Cattran. Directors: John Crescenzo, Judi Crescenzo, Robert Duney, Lorraine Hawkins, Steve Jasecko, Steve Koski, Carol Myers, Sid Scott, Bob Strayer, and Mary Williams.

DECEMBER TOPIC: LOOKING FOR ANGOLA

By Judi and John Crescenzo

At our December 8, 2010, meeting, Dr. Uzi Baram, Professor at New College in Sarasota, presented "Collaboration and Transnational Research in Looking for Angola: New Approaches and Evidence in the Archaeological Search for Early 19th Century Maroon Community on the Manatee River."

Dr. Baram began by relating the history behind the Angola project. According to John Goggin of the University of Florida (1916–1963), groups of Black Seminoles had moved from Florida to the Bahamas. Likewise, Felix McNeil, a Seminole and grandson of Scipio Bowlegs, noted that Seminoles fled to the Bahamas. In 1990, Rosalyn Howard searched the archives for Maroons living on Andros Island in the Bahamas and discovered that, by 1923, nomadic people of Seminole descent were living there. Howard realized, however, that these were not Seminoles, but Maroons—escaped slaves living in freedom. Research confirms that many Maroons escaped to Red Bays on western Andros Island in the Bahamas, a location so isolated that it had no roads until 1968, and they were not paved until the 1980s. In 2002, Howard moved to the Bahamas, where she heard local stories of ancestors who had arrived by canoe or raft from Spanish *La Florida*.

In 1990, historian Canter Brown discovered that a group of Maroons had once lived in *Sarazota*, otherwise known as Angola. Following this lead, Professor Baram began his search for Angola. Five years ago, Vickie Oldham, a documentary filmmaker from Sarasota who had heard about the 1820s Manatee area from Brown, organized a group of scholars to help locate the early 19th-century Maroon settlement of Angola on the Manatee River,

where an estimated 700 people may have lived during the early 1800s.

Dr. Baram's approach to the Angola project represents a shift from traditional archaeology, where searches were completed by "lone rangers" who worked by themselves and reported on finds. This type of archaeology was later replaced by "engaging the public," where archaeological discoveries were explained to people who were interested. Dr. Baram's current approach is "collaboration," which includes organization and involvement by local and descendant communities, thus de-centering the archaeologist and obtaining additional information.

Dr. Baram explained that 17th–19th-century Maroon communities were created by slave revolts and escaped slaves who fled to Spanish *La Florida*. Interestingly, the remains of two sugar plantations in the area (Braden Castle and Gamble Plantation) were not built until the 19th century, so Maroons would have been able to live in freedom in that area during an earlier time period. Angola was not the only place in Florida where Maroons settled. After 1693, escaped slaves found work in domestic occupations, as artisans, and in the Spanish militia at St. Augustine. Because Spain granted freedom to escaped slaves while the British sought to recapture them, the Maroons fiercely fought as allies of the Spanish against the British.

In 1763, when Spain transferred Florida to British rule, the Maroons either fled to Cuba or the interior of Florida. Reports indicate that by 1783, fishermen in Cuba had been identified as Seminoles or Black Seminoles. Between 1783 and 1821, even though this was considered the Second Spanish period, few Spanish lived in Florida. By that time, British filibusters (those who engaged in warfare unauthorized by their homeland) had trained Seminoles to fight against the Americans. During the War of 1812, forts were built on the Apalachicola River, which attracted slaves, free Blacks, and Native Americans. Historical documents refer to the remains of "the Negro Fort" where, in 1816, Blacks armed and fought against the U.S. Navy. When a cannonball destroyed this fort in July, many fighters at the fort were killed and survivors fled.

Also in 1818, during the first Seminole War Battle of Suwannee, American forces fought the Seminoles at Billy Bowlegs's town on the Suwannee, and Lieutenant Joseph Gadsden was sent to Florida to search for Blacks and Indians. Fort Gadsden was built on the site of the destroyed "Negro fort" in order to control the river. Later archaeological digs in that area have uncovered musket balls, pot sherds, and pieces of muskets. Although Andrew

Jackson was forbidden to enter Florida himself, in 1818, he sent General William MacIntosh (who was also a Creek Chief) into Florida. Many Maroons were captured and others fled to Red Bays on Andros Island. By 1821, the U.S. had gained control of Florida's west coast through raids, and Black Seminoles fled to the Bahamas. The Second Seminole War (1835–1842) was the largest Maroon uprising, and it was fought by both Maroons and Seminoles.

Per Canter Brown's research, the Caldez Land Claim mentioned the community of Angola. An 18th-century cast-iron fire back and a wooden drum from near the Braden River have been uncovered, along with an 1816 bayonet made in either Harper's Ferry or Springfield. Closer examination of the Tabby House ruins at De Soto National Monument in Bradenton has uncovered various glass and ceramic pieces dating from 1818, which suggests that perhaps British filibusters used the Tabby House for storage.

Standard test-pit surveys were made in eastern Bradenton as part of the Angola project. Because the Army Corps of Engineers had dredged the Manatee River earlier, when archaeologist Coz Cozzi conducted searches there, nothing was found. Witten Technologies, Inc. conducted remote sensing at Manatee Mineral Spring near the Village of Manatee (used during the 1840s) in hopes of uncovering traces of Angola. The Witten survey showed the area from above, leading to test excavation units of specific areas in 2008 and 2009. Early 19th-century post holes were uncovered, and the results were suggestive.

As part of the Angola outreach program, public schools have been invited to bring students on tours, and workshops have been offered to teachers. Tabloids about Angola have been sent to students in Charlotte, Sarasota, and Manatee Counties, along with schools in Red Bays. On January 15, 2011, Angola researchers will hold a symposium to share their results and connect the pieces. A free public lecture, "Five Years of *Looking for Angola*," will take place at 5:30 p.m. at the Sainer Pavilion at New College of Florida, 5313 Bay Shore Road, Sarasota (next to the Ringling Museum).

Today in Red Bays, the Reverend Bertram Newton is encouraging oral history to learn about the past. Genealogists have been working with descendants of free Blacks and escaped slaves to create modern family connections to historical figures. The original Maroons settled on the coast at Red Bays but later had to move inland because of hurricanes. Maroons were often on the run and did not leave much behind, so it has been difficult to find traces of their settlements. However, a house foundation along the water's edge could indicate an early

Maroon site. Photographs show that the environment of coastal Florida looks quite similar to that of Red Bays. The goal of the "Looking for Angola" project is to connect various sites such as Red Bays and Angola and to develop a sense of the people's lives. Dr. Baram noted the importance of remembering and commemorating the past. He closed his presentation by inviting everyone to an open house at the New College Public Archaeology Lab on February 11, 2011. The new lab will be a center for teaching archaeology lab techniques, ethics, and contemporary relevance. Finds from the Angola project will be on display. Read on....

SYMPOSIUM ON ANGOLA JANUARY 15

If you missed December's meeting on Angola, or would just like more information from a number of speakers, New College is presenting a multi-professional symposium January 15. Read the following press release!

"Looking for Angola" Scholars Collaborate at Symposium

An idea that began as a documentary about an 1800's Black Seminole settlement called Angola, is now a multi-faceted project that includes archaeology, a documentary and website, educational programs, and a research team representing five universities and institutions in the Southeast. Scholars of the "Looking for Angola" project return to the Suncoast where the project began to participate in a symposium and public lecture. They'll review past work, discuss insights and goals, then outline a plan of action for the next five years. Their input will be presented at a lecture entitled "Five Years of *Looking for Angola*" at 5:30 p.m., Saturday, January 15, in the Mildred Sainer Pavilion at New College of Florida, 5313 Bay Shore Road, Sarasota (next to Ringling Museum). The event is free and open to the public.

Featured speakers are LFA Project Director and Marketing Director at Fort Valley State University Vickie Oldham, M.F.A; Associate Professor of Anthropology at New College of Florida Dr. Uzi Baram; Associate Professor of Anthropology Dr. Rosalyn Howard; Associate Professor of Public History Dr. Vibert White at the University of Central Florida; Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of South Carolina Terry Weik; and Director of Middle Grades Education Dr. Louis Robison of the Manatee County School District.

"We knew the search for artifacts would be a long-term effort. It's time to review successes and discuss the next steps to pursue in an effort to pay homage to Florida's earliest settlers," said Oldham. "This collaborative effort is fueled by local, state, federal, and private donor support. At

key spots on this journey, we've received great support and for that we are thankful," she added.

A new segment about the most recent archaeological excavations conducted by students and volunteers, led by Baram, will be added to an existing Angola documentary and screened at the event. "Finds suggest good archaeological potential by the Manatee Mineral Spring for locating evidence of the time period for Angola," said Baram, who spearheaded the construction of a new public archaeology laboratory at New College. "The lab allows me to organize and analyze artifacts. We started this project as a lecture with research questions and community dialogue.

I look forward to the next phase of the public archaeology program," he said. A reception sponsored by the Division of Social Sciences at New College will be held after the public lecture.

ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY OF NORTH PORT TOPIC OF NOVEMBER MEETING

By Judi and John Crescenzo

At our November 10, 2010, meeting, Jono Miller, former Director of the Environmental Studies Program and current Assistant to the Vice President at New College, presented the Environmental History of North Port. His PowerPoint presentation included early maps and later aerial photographs of the local area for comparison. Most of Route 41 in North Port remained natural habitat until 1970. In 1974, development of Myakka Estates with 10,546 houses was proposed, but a lawsuit against the General Development Company (GDC) ended that plan. By 1982, a wildlife study of the North Port area focused on fires and ecology.

A closer look at the early history of North Port reveals a survey completed in 1843-1844, when township and 36 section boundaries were laid out. In 1849, internal section lines were added, and the North Port area was labeled as "third-rate pineland." Early surveyors mentioned "Maicahatchee Creek" (now Myakkahatchee) and described three sinkholes, including Warm Mineral Springs, Little Salt Spring, and Deep Hole in the current Myakka State Park. The North Port area was described as covered by water in the wet season. In the 1800s, the land at Warm Mineral Springs was owned by the Knight family, which dealt in timber and fenced the area to keep cattle out of the spring.

In the 1920s, the trees in North Port supported a turpentine industry, and in the 1930s, the Ringling and Myakka Park areas were clear cut. In the 1930s, A. C. Frizzell began the second growth of the area, which was used for timber and cattle ranching.

Cattle were easily maintained between the natural boundaries of the Peace and Myakka Rivers. In 1931, the Murphy Act allowed payment of delinquent taxes in return for quit-claim deeds. Consequently, from 1918-1950, Frizzell acquired most of North Port for \$2.50 per acre. In the 1980s, a report on changes in North Port described various habitats and how they evolved because of drainage.

Photographs from 1948 show sloughs, which are water courses with no channels or banks. None of Frizzell's land was above 30 feet. Because North Port is very flat, when rain fell it remained there. In the 1980s, a focus on the history of North Port switched from "Fire and Wildlife" to "Development History."

In 1954, GDC paid \$2.5 million for 80,000 acres. Drainage districts were set up to dry the land for development, and North Port was conceived as a "city without taxes." On June 16, 1959, North Port officially became a city. Another 50 square miles were annexed, and GDC began creating canals using drag lines from work on Mississippi River levees. By 1978, much of the water flowed to North Port from land to the north, which was owned by the Mosaic Phosphate Company. The water flowed via the Myakkahatchee into the Peace River. Drainage and development of the area necessitated 175 miles of canals, which followed the original sloughs. Canals connected wetland areas so that they were no longer isolated. When North Port's roadways were constructed in the 1960s, they were built lower than the land in order to create dry lots. As the water table lowered, the high occurrence of lightning and burning created dryness, causing devastating fires that were interrupted by roads. Fires burned in smaller areas and were hotter. Although ranchers burned to restore grazing and encourage the growth of new grass for cattle, there is no evidence that developers burned the land.

Because building lots in North Port are higher than the roads, moisture is held in the roadways, and the weight and movement of cars causes the need for frequent road repairs. North Port is also unique in that its roads curve; because of the canal systems, roads could not be laid out in a grid pattern. When fires break out, embers lift and jump over canals. Fire trucks have to follow curving roads around canals to reach the fires. Consequently, in the 1980s, arson was common in North Port because arsonists were difficult to catch.

Another great meeting and we thank Jono for accepting our invitation and joining us for lunch at the **Evergreen Café at Warm Mineral Springs** prior to our meeting!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWEL TIME!

Thanks to all who have helped to make the WMS/LSSAS what it is today! This is the time to renew your membership. Please consider renewing or joining the WMS/LSSAS. Dues help keep the Society afloat by helping to produce and mail our newsletter, providing a modest honorarium for our speakers, and helping with general expenses. Thanks for your support!

OUR ANNUAL YARD SALE SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 26 (changed from Feb 19)

Please help make our 2011 annual yard sale another great success by donating usable items no longer needed. This is our only fundraiser and helps keep us going through the year. Our reasonable dues aren't enough to sustain us, but instead of raising dues, we have our yard sale. As usual, our sale is at the **Warm Mineral Springs Motel** on US 41, North Port's premier historic motel where we put up all our out-of-town visiting speakers and scientists.

Items can be brought to the January 11 and February 8 meetings or delivered to one of our locations, depending on size and amount. Jill Luke of **Patriot Storage** in North Port has offered one of their storage units to store our yard-sale items until the sale. They also have great deals on monthly storage units, so visit Jill for any storage needs. Tell them you are a WMS/LSSAS member. Please call Hilda Boron at 426-1729 to arrange delivery of your items, and one of use will meet you there. Many, many thanks!

FIELD TRIP TO BAY SHORE VILLAGE JANUARY 22

Our second field trip of the season will be another exciting adventure January 22, 2011, when we visit Mac and Faye Perry at the Bay Shore Village site, which just happens to be at their home, as their neighborhood lies on a large Manasota-period Indian midden. How cool is that! This will be a fun trip for all who attend. The Perry's have graciously offered a tour of their property, where they have built a small "village," and we will see an open excavation area dug by professional archaeologists assisted by members of the Gulf Coast Archaeological Society, another chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society, like us.

Mac and Faye have quite a day planned for us. They have offered to provide a tour of their property, with a presentation on the Indians of Tampa Bay, including two short videos of the excavations, followed by lunch in their backyard by the water. We will then travel one mile to the Narvaez site, a large Togobaga mound believed to be the landing site the Narvaez expedition of 1527. The site is

partially on the Anderson property; the Andersons have a house on the mound and a tour of the property on the bay will be given by Mac or Eric Anderson. This will surely prove to be yet another fascinating and memorable expedition. There is a limit to the number of members who can attend, so those attending must be signed up. Check with Hilda at the January meeting or call her at (941)426-1719. We will meet at the North Port Library at 8:15 a.m. for an 8:30 departure.

TWO ADDITIONS TO WMS/LSSAS LIBRARY

Terry Simpson, on the board of the Florida Anthropological Society, sent us two free DVD's of *Shadows and Reflections: Florida's Lost People* that will be available for check-out at the January meeting (see Librarian Lorraine Hawkins at the January meeting). The DVD was produced by the Florida Anthropological Society and features the artwork of Theodore Morris, who paints depictions of Florida Indians from all over the state in their natural setting. Very well done and interesting!

CITY AND COUNTY PURCHASE WARM MINERAL SPRINGS

As many of you know, the City of North Port and Sarasota County have purchased Warm Mineral Springs for 5.5 million that will be split between the city and county. There was a unanimous vote from the County Commission and a four out of five vote in from the City Commission, with Commissioner Yates opposed. This is good news in regards to the preservation of the remaining cultural and natural resources at the 89 acre property. More details on the purchase and Warm Mineral Springs will be included in the March/April 2011 newsletter!

Editors Note

Due to space and time limitations this month the article by Judi and John Crescenzo on our Emerson Point field trip could not be included in this issue. I thank Judi and John for their contributions this month, which were a tremendous help. An article on both Emerson Point and Bay Shore Village field trips will be included in the March/April newsletter.

2010 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT.....George Haag (geophaag@msn.com)
 VICE PRESIDENT.....Judith Ribarik 941.426.7976
 SECRETARY.....Hilda Boron (941.426.1719)
 MEMBERSHIP.....Linda Massey (lmassey628@msn.com)
 TREASURER.....Kate Cattran (EENCAT@aol.com)

For a color pdf copy of the newsletter, send a request to the editor at the email address to the right! See them all at www.wmslssas.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John Crescenzo • Judi Crescenzo • Robert Dunay • Ann Hansen • Steve Jasecko • Steve Koski • Carol Myers • Sid Scott • Bob Strayer • Wilburn Cockrell, Honorary

Newsletter Editor: Steve Koski (941)423-0835, skoski@rsmas.miami.edu; Media Correspondent: Linda Massey, lmassey628@msn.com; Librarian, Lorraine Hawkins (941) 743-6919

WARM MINERAL SPRINGS/LITTLE SALT SPRING ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
 P.O. 7797 North Port, Florida 34290
www.wmslssas.org

