



WMS/LSS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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

The Warm Mineral Springs/Little Salt Spring Archaeological Society meets the second Tuesday of the month (except June-August) at 7:00 PM, at the North Port Community United Church of Christ located at 3450 Biscayne Blvd. Meetings are free and open to the public.

MANASOTA KEY SITE TOPIC OF SEPTEMBER 11 MEETING

Jean Airey, Vice President of the Lemon Bay Historical Society, will be the speaker at the September 22 meeting of the WMS/LSSAS. Her topic will be "The Manasota Key Site."

In December of 1988, a 1,700-year-old Indian cemetery was uncovered during the construction of a home on Manasota Key. The find resulted in a several-month archaeological excavation to document the remains disturbed by construction and those that would be disturbed within the proposed construction area.

The meticulous work was conducted by Sonny Cockrell, the Director of the Florida State University Warm Mineral Springs Archaeological Research Project, and his staff, with numerous dedicated volunteers. Cont. p. 2.



HILL COTTAGE MIDDEN AT HISTORIC SPANISH POINT TOPIC OF OCTOBER 9 MEETING

Archaeologist Ryan Murphy, Curator at Historic Spanish Point, will be the speaker at the October 9 meeting of the WMS/LSSAS. His topic will be "The Hill Cottage Midden: A Monumental Achievement."

The Hill Cottage Midden is a Late Archaic Shell Ring that is part of the Palmer Site at Historic Spanish Point in Sarasota County, Florida. Shell rings dating to the Late Archaic period can be found along the coast of the Southeastern United States between South Carolina and Florida. These unique features provide archaeologists with some of the earliest examples of monument construction within the region, suggesting an increasing cultural complexity during the Late Archaic.



30-acre Historic Spanish Point

In a 2006 report by Dr. Michael Russo, with the National Park Service identified several shell-ring sites as potential National Historic Landmarks because they "represent the first, earliest, oldest, largest, or most complex examples of architecture, settlement, exchange, technology, ethnic identity, cultural traditions and social organization of this period in this large region of the United States and thus constitute national levels of significance." The Hill Cottage Midden was identified within this study as containing valuable information regarding the development of pottery, changes in social formations, and connections to other regional cultural traditions. This lecture will discuss the Hill Cottage Midden within the larger context of shell-ring sites, focusing primarily on the emergence of social stratification, craft specialization, and early monument construction.

Historic Spanish Point is one of our premier local archaeological and historic sites located in Osprey, Florida; see <http://historicspanishpoint.org/>. The 30-acre property contains Indian shell mounds dating from the Late Archaic period (5,900–3,200 BP) and Manasota period (3,200–1,000 BP) and historic components dating from as early as 1867 with the arrival of the Webb family. Mrs. Potter Palmer purchased the pioneer homestead in 1910 and developed the 350-acre property known as Osprey Point. In 1976, the site became the first site in Sarasota County to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places. In 1980, the Palmer heirs donated the National Register site to Gulf Coast Heritage Association.

Five historic buildings reside on the property, including a restored schoolhouse on US 41, the 1901 Guptill House that lies on top of the Cottage Hill Midden, the White Cottage built in 1885, Point Cottage, and Acorn Cottage. There is also Mary's Chapel, reconstructed in 1986, and the reconstructed Webb Packing House. Four historic gardens remain from the Palmer era that are maintained for public viewing. Interpretive exhibits on the Palmer era are located in White Cottage, and the Guptill House is furnished in a late-19th/early-20th-century setting. The Window to the Past exhibit, which takes you inside a prehistoric shell midden, is a one-of-a-kind and must-see feature on the property. Visit their website provided above for special events and programs.

Curator Ryan Murphy is a graduate of the University of Central Florida, where he majored in Anthropology. Currently, he is a candidate for an M.A. in Humanities with a concentration in History from California State University, Dominguez Hills. As Curator for Historic Spanish Point in Osprey, Florida, his responsibilities include the management and care of a nearly 20,000-object collection,

the preservation of several historic buildings, as well as the on-going conservation of the Palmer Site (8SO2).

Ryan's presentation will be followed by a field trip to Historic Spanish Point October 20, 2012.

MANASOTA KEY SITE (cont. from page 1)

Efforts were coordinated through the State Archaeologist and staff with the Florida Division of Historical Resources, Bureau of Archaeological Research.

Sixty-six interments were discovered and excavated within the footprint of the home and pool before construction was allowed to continue. It is likely that several more remain on the properly undisturbed, as only land that was to be disturbed by construction was excavated. An analysis of the remains was conducted by the Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research physical anthropologist David Dickel and reported in the 1991 Florida Archaeological Reports #22 "Descriptive Analysis of the Skeletal Collection from the Manasota Key Cemetery, Sarasota County, Florida (8So1292)."

Jean became involved in the Manasota Key Site many years after the excavations when a volunteer who had worked at the site sent photographs and other material to the Elsie Quirk Library to be kept for their historic archive. Jean was asked to design a display for the Lemon Bay History Festival in 2009. Wondering what happened afterwards, she started using Internet searches and turned up Dr. Dickel's 1991 report on the bones and, eventually, looking for a final report, got in touch with George Luer and Steve Koski, archaeologists who worked at the site.

Wanting to assist with further progress, she offered to pull together some of the data that Steve and the County had preserved over the years in the hopes this might prove useful in producing a final report on the site. Using the reporting capability of a true relational database, some interesting information is available already. Analysis of the sparse artifact assemblage has been conducted with assistance from the WMS/LSS Archaeological Society with the hope of incorporating it with Jean's research accomplishments to produce a final report on the discoveries.

Come to the September meeting and learn about this fascinating site.

WARM MINERAL SPRINGS AND LITTLE SALT SPRING TOPIC OF MAY 8 MEETING

by Judi and John Crescenzo

On May 8, 2012, Bill Goetz, an anthropology student at State College of Florida, presented "Reflections of the Past—the Historic Springs of Sarasota County." His talk

covered the history of both Warm Mineral Springs (WMS) and Little Salt Spring (LSS).

His discussion included the early days of the development of the WMS spa in the late 1940s/early 1950s by the Daley family; the legend of the Fountain of Youth believed to have been sought after by Ponce de Leon in 1513; the fountain sculpture on US 41 and Ortiz Blvd. by artist Sophie Jonstone; and the fascinating history of research at both WMS and LSS from the earliest discoveries to the present.



Bill Goetz is presented our famous WMSLSSAS teeshirt by President George Haag.

Discoveries at both springs began in 1958 when retired Colonel Bill Royal began his explorations seeking sharks' teeth and other relics in the springs. He observed stalactites lining the cavernous ledges of both springs and artifacts, human remains, and extinct animal bones on the ledges and speculated they could be as old as 10,000 years. No one believed him, including some of the nation's foremost anthropologists and archaeologists. With the assistance of Eugenie Clark, founder of Cape Haze Marine Laboratory (Mote Marine Laboratory), Royal excavated a human cranium from the 45-foot ledge at WMS containing brain matter. An associated log near the human remains was determined to be $10,000 \pm 200$ radio carbon years old, vindicating Royal's hypothesis on the antiquity of his finds. An article appeared in *American Antiquity* in 1960 by Royal and Clark titled "Natural Preservation of Human Brain, Warm Mineral Springs, Florida."

In 1971, Carl Clausen, Florida's first Underwater Archaeologist, went to WMS and verified the early date. The brief work resulted in the 1975 *Journal of Field Archaeology* report "The Early Man Site at Warm Mineral

Springs, Florida" by C. J. Clausen, H. K. Brooks, and A. B. Wesolowsky.

Florida's second State Underwater Archaeologist, Wilburn "Sonny" Cockrell, followed Clausen and conducted several seasons of excavations in the 1970s and 1980s, resulting in the 1978 article by W. Cockrell and Larry Murphy in *Archaeology of Eastern North America* publication "Pleistocene Man in Florida," and many others. Clausen focused his efforts at LSS on a project funded by General Development Corp. In 1972, a Historic Places plaque was placed at WMS and in 1992, one was placed at LSS.

In 1975, Dr. Reynold Ruppé of Arizona State University visited WMS to work with Sonny on an early burial. Sonny was one of Rey's graduate students at ASU. Bill Royal showed Ruppé the underwater Venice Beach site, which initiated several seasons of work there. In 1986, Steve Koski, a graduate student and research assistant of Ruppé's at ASU, came to Florida for a remote-sensing survey off the coast of Venice, Florida, funded by the NSF. There he met Sonny Cockrell, who offered him a job as an assistant underwater archaeologist at WMS, where he worked from 1986–1989. State support at WMS ended in 1991. In 1996, Curt Bowen completed a mapping project of WMS, and during the project a portion of Bill Royal's ashes were interred far back in the cave at the bottom of the spring.

In contrast to WMS, Little Salt Spring has been much less disturbed. Royal was also responsible for some of the earliest discoveries there and getting researchers to examine the site. Clausen shifted his interest to LSS in 1972, established the research compound there in 1975, and lived and worked there from 1975 to 1980. His discoveries were outlined in the 1979 *Science* article "Little Salt Spring, Florida, a Unique Underwater Site."

In 1982, General Development donated LSS to the University of Miami. Shortly thereafter, they hired marine archaeologist Dr. John Gifford. He worked briefly with Clausen on a small excavation in the mid-1980s and did some coring of the bottom in 1990. In 1992, he conducted a four-month project in the basin in several 2x2 m units and conducted some work on the 27 m ledge with a grant from the Florida Division of Historical Resources. That is when Steve Koski met Dr. Gifford and began working with him intermittently through the years until his part-time appointment in 2004 and full-time research associate appointment in 2008. Since 1992, Gifford has continued to work with his students on short-term annual projects, in collaboration with science divers with the Florida Aquarium and researchers with Penn State and other universities.

Exceptional discoveries have been made in the basin of LSS from 1992–2012 during two- to three-week field sessions, as well as on the 27 m ledge, where they have spent two to three weeks per summer from 2008–2011.

GREAT TIME HAD BY ALL AT CROWLEY MUSEUM AND NATURE CENTER IN MAY

by Joan San Lwin

The last field trip of the spring season was definitely in the category of “last but not least.” On Saturday, May 26, 2012, 14 of our members had a spectacular time at the Crowley Museum and Nature Center, located at 16405 Myakka Road, Sarasota, FL. It is open Thursday through Sunday, 10 am until sundown, with a nominal admission fee.



Volunteer Dixie Stone Resnick talked about the history of the Crowley Museum and Nature Centers

Executive Director Laney Poire gave us an informative talk, with one of her informative volunteers, Dixie Stone Resnick, who discussed the history of the property and how it became the Crowley Museum and History Center. Dixie showed us numerous Indian artifacts found on the property, and they were thrilled with insights that Steve was able to provide on their collection found there over the years.

The visitsarasota.org website states: “This ‘Jewel on the Myakka’ is a 190-acre wildlife sanctuary with 5 native Florida habitats and 1800’s pioneer history buildings and museum. It engages your senses with wild nature trails and historic pioneer buildings using provided tour booklets.”

There is a lengthy boardwalk, with an observation tower, picnic tables, education programs, and the most user friendly and informative self-guide pamphlet that this author has ever seen. You can take a guided-history tour through a homestead cabin, the historic Tatum house, the



Crowley Director Laney Poire gave us a tour of Indian Fields at Crowley to WMS/LSSAS and FLSS members during their visit

pioneer museum, blacksmith shop, sawmill, and Tatum Ridge one- room schoolhouse. Crowley has ADA-compliant facilities, rental facilities, a gift shop, snacks, parking and restrooms. As an added bonus, on Saturdays there is a local farmers’ market.

Another wonderful activity that is offered during high season is CONCIERGE CAMPING: for a nominal fee, all you bring is a sleeping bag and everything else is provided, including food and tents (the best part may be that the campsites are mere steps away from a permanent structure that houses restrooms). Founders William Jasper Crowley and Edina Truchot incorporated the Nature Center and Pioneer Museum in 1974. Successions of dedicated community volunteers and financial support have emphasized education, enjoyment, and stewardship.

Missed the trip and would like to go on your own sometime? Visit their website at www.crowleyfl.org or give a call at (941)322-1000.

Thanks to Laney and Dixie for providing such a pleasant and informative historic experience to our attending members!

MAY 5 FIELD TRIP TO CAYO COSTA

by Judi Crescenzo

On May 5, 2012, WMS/LSSAS members Lorraine Hawkins, Mary Williams, and John and Judi Crescenzo attended Cayo Costa Heritage Day. The weather was perfect, and after an hour’s boat ride to the island, participants were transported by tram to various parts of the island to enjoy the day’s events. These included historic/nature tours, shell walks, pioneer storytelling, and cordage/palm-weaving demonstrations. Everyone was treated to a pioneer-style lunch of smoked mullet, pulled

pork, black beans, and heart-of-palm cole slaw. There was plenty of time to relax on the beach before departure!

During the trip from Boca Grande, the boat passed by the Tarpon Tournament and passengers were able to see the tarpon scales reflected in the sunlight.

HISTORIC EVENT HELD AT INDIAN MOUND PARK MAY 5

Also on May 5 was a special event at Indian Mound Park at Paulson Point in Englewood to celebrate Historic Preservation Month and the completion of new interpretive kiosks and recently completed restoration work. Artist Herman Trapmann, who designed much of the artwork for the kiosks and historian Elizabeth Nealy were there for the event as were representatives from the Florida Public Archaeology Network, Sarasota County Historic Preservation Board, Historical Commission, Friends of Indian Mound Park, Friends of Sarasota County History Center, WMS/LSSAS, Friends of Little Salt Spring, and Friends of Sarasota County Parks. That's a lot of Friends!



Friends of Indian Mark Park Chair Don Schilke and Director of Sarasota County History Center Lorrie Muldowney at Indian Mound Park

The Director of the Sarasota County History Center Lorrie Muldowney welcomed all guests and Sarasota County Commissioners Carolyn Mason and Christine Robinson were on hand to talk about the significance and importance of preserving our local cultural heritage. Sarasota County is a leader in the state in regard to cultural and natural resource preservation through their programs, policies, and ordinances and the Sarasota County History Center plays a huge role in their success. We are truly fortunate to live in a county and state that take these finite resources into consideration for the benefit of the public.

PSU VISITED LSS IN JUNE

by Steve Koski

Underwater archaeology is not the only research that goes on at LSS. From June 6 through June 16, 2012, researchers from Penn State University, University of Miami, and Florida Aquarium collaborated on a research project at Little Salt Spring and Warm Mineral Springs to conduct water, sediment, plankton, and microbial studies.



Dr. Gifford, Lawrence Bird, Jenn Macalady, Casey Coy, Rick Gomez and Steve Koski at LSS or June 2012 research

Included in the expedition were PSU's geomicrobiologist Dr. Jennifer Macalady, graduate student Lawrence Bird, post-doctoral student Dr. Trinity Hamilton, and geologist Dr. Tim White. UM Research Associate and LSS Site Manager Steve Koski helped facilitate operations and assisted with the underwater-data collection process with Dr. White.

On June 7, UM/RSMAS Associate Professor Dr. John Gifford and Dive Safety Officer Rick Gomez were on site with Florida Aquarium Director of Dive Operations Casey Coy. Gomez and Coy scheduled a deep dive to collect water samples from the main vent at 248 feet and sediment samples from the bottom for Jen's research. They returned June 12 for another round of deep water sampling.

For underwater samples from 10 to 60 feet, Dr. Tim White and Steve Koski took shallow sediment cores from the basin at LSS at 35, 25, 15, and 10 feet, and cyanobacteria and green sulfur bacteria samples from the lower slope of the 40-foot basin, stalactite-rimmed dropoff at 40–55 feet, and 60-foot ledge.

In LSS, profile casts were taken with a YSI-sonde instrument. Readings were taken every two seconds, measuring dissolved oxygen, temperature, pH, conductivity, salinity, and chlorophyll as the instrument was slowly lowered to the bottom of the spring. Water samples were

recovered from various depths from the center dock and filtered for plankton analysis. Other sampling included PAR (photosynthetically active radiation) nutrients (NO_2 , NO_3 , NH_4^+), dissolved H_2S , DIC concentrations, and $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ of DIC. Lab analyses are being conducted on sediments, and filtered plankton samples include bulk $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and $\delta^{15}\text{N}$, lipid analyses and $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ of specific compounds of interest (biomarkers), and optionally DNA sequencing.

Laurence's objective is to make a budget (sources and sinks) for an interesting bacterial biomarker (hopanoids) that was previously identified in the sediments and to understand the diagenesis/decomposition of hopanoids in the sediments. Hopanoids are preserved on billion-year time scales and are useful for paleoenvironmental interpretations of the early Earth.

Trinity's objective will be to understand what affects the outcome of competition between the two ancient groups of bacteria (cyanobacteria and green sulfur bacteria) that make up the red biofilm observed in both LSS and WMS. This is important because both are phototrophs, but only cyanobacteria can produce oxygen. This question has bearing on the Great Oxidation Event (~2.0 billion years ago). It is also related to Laurence's work in the sense that the cyanobacteria are the likely source of the biomarker hopanoids. [A portion of the above summary is from an excerpt from an email from Macalady to Koski June 2012.]

For comparative analysis, limited sampling was conducted at WMS. On June 13, Jenn Macalady, Trinity Hamilton, and Steve Koski were on site at 0800. Koski took his kayak to the center and took a sonde cast from the surface to the bottom at about 120 feet and recovered 500 ml water samples from the surface, 5, 10, 15, and 20 meters for analysis. On June 15, they returned WMS for a dive to collect cyanobacteria and biofilm from 35–75 feet and sulfur bacteria samples from the creek.

Dr. Macalady will send a report to the City and County with the results of their data analysis when completed. They were certainly excited about all that was accomplished and appreciative that they could collect samples from LSS and WMS. Thanks go to Penn State University, the University of Miami, Florida Aquarium, Sarasota County, and North Port for facilitating this important research.

FLSS NEWS

The Friends of Little Salt Spring has become a Chapter of the Friends of Sarasota County Parks. While LSS is not a park and is not open to the public at this time, at sometime in the future, increased public access will be possible. Benefits of being a chapter member include

liability insurance for all FLSS volunteers who participate on projects conducted at LSS or any other location if signed up (in the planning stages and to be proposed to UM). Also, event liability insurance is provided for a small fee if any fundraising events are conducted on site.

Members of the WMS/LSSAS and FLSS set up a table



Anita Kubasiewicz and Sandra Heacock (right) talk to folks at North Port Newcomers day on the significance of LSS.

at "Newcomers Day" at the North Port Library. Members Lyn and Dave Runfeldt brought some LSS materials, and Anita Kubasiewicz and Sandra Heacock represented the Friends at the table. Information on FLSS and WMS/LSSAS newsletters were distributed to those interested.

LSS NEWS BRIEFS

By Steve Koski

Research Donations to LSS Mean a Lot

We are pleased to announce that WMS/LSSAS and the FSS have contributed a total of \$300 toward LSS research to be used toward a standard radiocarbon date. This is in addition to the \$500 recently donated by the History and Preservation Coalition of Sarasota County. (See May/June WSMLSSAS Newsletter). One specimen selected for dating so far is the charcoal fragment associated with a giant extinct tortoise from the 27 m ledge that was identified and recovered during the filming of *Ocean Mysteries* with Jeff Corwin of the Georgia Aquarium. We can thank our collaborators at the Florida Aquarium for introducing us to Jeff and the *Ocean Mysteries* producers. The program is available for check-out from our library and will be available at the September 11 meeting.

Three Articles on LSS Appeared in August

August was a productive month for articles on LSS. Associate Editor Larry Evens of *Living on the Suncoast* wrote an informative feature article detailing aspects of the research, finds, and fundraising campaign for an onsite research and education center. Take a look at <http://livingonthesuncoast.com/2012/07/31/Little-Salt-Spring>. The magazine goes out to more than 35,000 folks in Sarasota and Manatee counties.

WMS/LSSAS and FLSS member Bill Goetz wrote an article that appeared in the August issue of *North Port Magazine*, a widely circulated magazine in our area. It also details aspects of the site, research finds, and fundraising campaign, and mentioned the support of the FLSS and WMS/LSSAS. Check out the article at <http://www.northportonline.com/flash-mags/aug12/index.html>.

Ann Klockenkemper, writer with the *North Port Sun*, wrote a nice article for the paper on August 17 detailing Penn State's visit to LSS discussed in a previous article in this issue. Not bad press for one month!

Extinct Tortoise Material Shipped to PSU for Analysis

Twenty-one elements from the extinct tortoise excavated in 2011 have been shipped to Penn State to be examined by Paleontologists Russ Gram and Lauren Milideo. Lauren was on site in July of 2011 during the 27 m ledge field session and she examined all of the more than 60 elements of tortoise and sloth bones that were recovered. The analysis will be used for part of the LSS chapter for a book being written on cave archaeology.

Conserved Wood Artifacts from LSS to Arrive in October

More than 50 wood artifacts that have been conserved at Texas A&M's Conservation lab will be returned to LSS in October. The conservation was made possible by a grant from the Jacarlene Foundation of Tampa. Steve Koski spent more than 40 hours preparing the specimens for shipping in September of 2010; the silicone and polymer process takes over one year to complete. It is certainly the largest and oldest collection of wood artifacts in the US, and many of the artifacts are suitable for exhibit, hopefully one day at LSS when a research and education center is built.

Isaac Results in Precautionary Evacuation

While Isaac caused little damage to SW Florida the weekend of August 25, because of uncertainties in the storm's path as of Saturday, critical specimens at LSS were evacuated to Patriot Storage on Toledo Blade in North Port.

Patriot Storage Manager Jill Luke (a FLSS member) donated storage space and the Patriot Storage Truck during the threat to move nearly 100 plastic containers filled with specimens from LSS. Bill Goetz and Linda Massey assisted in the removal and return. Thanks go to Linda and Bill, Jill Luke and Patriot Storage for their valuable assistance. The threat to the specimens and artifacts at LSS is real until a new hurricane proof research lab is built on site, one thing the FLSS hope to help bring to fruition. We were lucky, as it could have been worse.



Jill Luke with Patriot Storage assisted with precautionary evacuation of LSS specimens during threat from Isaac.



Little Salt Spring specimens temporarily moved to Patriot Storage under threat of Tropical Storm Isaac.

WMS/LSSAS AND FLSS FIELD TRIPS PLANNED

Four field trips are planned for the coming three months for our WMS/LSSAS members. We are also opening up our field trips to Friends of Little Salt Spring members who might also like to go along.

September 15, 2012: A trip is planned to the South Florida Museum located at 201 10th St. W., Bradenton. We

will meet in the parking lot of the NP Library at 8:45 AM for a 9:00 AM departure and 10:00 arrival. For more info visit <http://www.southfloridamuseum.org/> or call (941)746-4131.

Take I-75 north to exit 220b (SR 64), go west on 64 to downtown Bradenton, past US 41, and go right at 10th St. West. Parking is in the lot between the Museum and the Marina.

October 20, 2012: We will head to Historic Spanish Point in Osprey following Ryan Murphy's presentation October 9. We will meet at the NP Library parking lot at 8:45 AM for a 9:00 AM departure and 9:45 arrival. For more info visit <http://historicspanishpoint.org/>.

November 4, 2012: Cedar Point Park, 2300 Placida Rd. Englewood; 25 year celebration 10:00-5:00 with presentation by George Luer on "Archaeology of Lemon Bay, 3:00 PM.

November, 2012 (date to be announced): We will travel to the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center at their Alligator Creek location at 10941 Burnt Store Road in Punta Gorda for a tour of the facility and nature walk to the Acline Indian Mound. For more info visit <http://www.checflorida.org/>.

HOPE YOU ALL HAD A GREAT SUMMER!

Our fall programs start September 11 and we welcome all who have returned to the Sunshine State as well as those who never left. We look forward to seeing you all at the September meeting. We are planning a great variety of speakers and field trips and hope you can participate. Our

September raffle will be four tickets to Warm Mineral Springs Spa, compliments of Manager Gene Vaccaro and our dinner with the speaker this month will be at the Evergreen Café at WMS at 5:00 PM. All members are welcome to join us. Thank you for your friendship and support!

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