



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 the North Port United Community Church of Christ at 7:00 PM located at 3450 Biscayne Blvd. Meetings are free and open to the public

SEPTEMBER 13 MEETING ON SEMINOLE WAR PERIOD ARCHAEOLOGY

Starting off our fall speaker series after a three-month hiatus will be archaeologist Dr. Annette Snapp, with a presentation entitled "Searching for Ephemeral Evidence in the Wilderness: The 2011 FGCU Field School." Co-Director of the 2011 FGCU field school, Dr. Snapp will present the field methods and preliminary thoughts about on-going work from this summer's field school. Their work centered around the examination of a tree island on the Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation that was believed to have been Waxy Hadjo's Landing, located on the western edge of the Everglades. *See Sept 13 P.2*



Archaeologist Annette Snapp

RESEARCH CONTINUES IN THE 13 M BASIN AND 27 M LEDGE AT LSS

S. H. Koski

In the April/May 2011 *WMS/LSSAS Newsletter* there appeared an article on the January research at LSS with students from the University of Miami. The article described the continuing research in Operation 14, a 2x2 m excavation unit on the mid-slope of the basin 8.3–8.7 m below the surface, with a discussion on some of the exciting artifacts recovered. Well, another six-day field session was conducted in Operation 14 in March 2011 with University of Miami archaeologists and Florida Aquarium science divers. During the field session, another 10 cm level was excavated in Operation 14 and even more spectacular artifacts in an exceptional state of preservation were recovered in an area that appears to represent some type of activity area, exposed when water level was lower than, or near, the excavation area. Seven days and 10 cm may not sound like much; however, more than 70 items were exposed, including four artifacts. Worked deer antler, the completed end of one of the circumscribed shafts recovered in January, and another apparent "throwing stick" were recovered. In addition, something quite unique was exposed in situ: an intact compound tool made of wood and bone, possibly some type of hunting tool, used



UM and Florida Aquarium 27 m ledge crew (first of two shifts) in July 2011

by its maker ca. 9,000 rcyBP. No similar complete artifact has been found to date in Florida, or perhaps the entire Southeast. Tremendously exciting week.

But there's more. From July 18–28, 2011 another ten-day field session was conducted on the 27 m (90-foot) ledge. This was our fourth summer session on the ledge, initiated in 2008 with a grant from the National Geographic Society. That grant carried us through two three-week summer sessions in 2008 and 2009, the 2010 and 2011 sessions being funded in part by the Florida Aquarium with an \$11,000 research grant. We also received a GREAT boost by an anonymous donor, who came by for one of Steve Koski's tours of the site and gave a \$5,000 contribution toward the project, \$2,500 to be used for radiocarbon dates and \$2,500 toward the one-million dollar capital campaign for a research and education building on site (more on that in the Nov/Dec 2011 Newsletter).

The Florida Aquarium has been assisting with research at the spring by providing trained science divers since 2005. This year, in addition to assistance from the Florida Aquarium, a graduate vertebrate paleontologist from Penn State, Lauren Milideo, was on site to examine the bones as part of her dissertation research. Paleobotanist Dr. Lee Newsome from Penn State also was on site for several days looking at wood specimens recovered. Notable archaeologists Barbara Purdy, Jim Dunbar, and Traci Ardren also made site visits to see the activity.

More than 60 tortoise elements, other bone, wood, and charcoal were exposed, illustrated, photo- and video-documented, and recovered. All tortoise elements were examined by Ms. Milideo, all wood specimens were



Distribution of extinct tortoise remains in the SE corner of Unit 2735A on the 27 m ledge

examined by Dr. Newsome, and all specimens are currently being processed for analysis and curation with assistance from State College of Florida intern and anthropology undergraduate Ben Gomez.

Dr. Gifford will be presenting to our group on the most recent discoveries at our January 10 meeting when his class will be here again, so stay tuned! To read more, go to wmslssas.org and see our March/April 2011 Newsletter and the June Florida Archaeological Council newsletter at: <http://flarchcouncil.org/newsletters/FACno83.pdf>.

SEPTEMBER 13 *cont from page 1*

The location was used by Federal troops and the Seminole during the Seminole Wars. FGCU students under the guidance of professionals undertook subsurface explorations based on the results from both ground-penetrating radar and metal detecting.

Dr. Snapp is currently the new Director of the SW Florida Region Florida Public Archaeology Network at FGCU. To learn more about FPAN, visit: <http://www.fpan/>. She received a Master's degree in Applied Anthropology with a concentration in Public Archaeology from the University of South Florida and a Master's and Ph.D. in Ethnology and Museum Ethnography from the University of Oxford. She is a member of the Register of Professional Archaeologists and the Florida Archaeological Council, and has conducted archaeological investigations in Southwest Florida over the span of two decades.

Come to the September meeting and learn more about our state's rich history!

OCTOBER 11 MEETING

Information on our October speaker will be forthcoming prior to the meeting via mail, email, and newsletter. Or just show up October 11. I doubt very much you will be disappointed. November through May speakers will be announced in the November/December 2011 Newsletter and I think you'll be impressed!

MAY 2011 TOPIC ON CAPE HAZE ARCHAEOLOGY

By Judi and John Crescenzo

Michele Cotty-Loger, Archaeologist for the Charlotte Harbor Preserve State Park, delivered our final presentation of the spring season on May 10, 2011. Her topic,

"A Preliminary Investigation into Cape Haze Shell Middens," resulted from recent grant-funded investigations of the Cape Haze area conducted with George Luer.

Shell middens have been threatened by looters digging trenches, invasion by exotic plants and animals, and erosion. Therefore, archaeologists must patrol the sites, learn more about them, analyze and report deposits that have been vandalized, and accurately map erosion.

The Cape Haze Mound is located in a residential neighborhood and, as part of Loger's investigations, its edges were traced using Trimble GPS. Records and reports were made for new sites, with updates of known sites. Artifacts were collected and diagnosed, and their sites recorded. Plants, shell foods, recent disturbances, evidence of looting, and animal damage were also noted.

Infrared satellite imagery was used to locate possible sites, and boats enabled exploration of the mangroves, which presented a challenging landscape. Many sites were small, but some were large, such as Eagle Nest, which took three days to study. Mapping was completed using a Trimble Handheld GPS unit, which takes 20–30 seconds to record a point from satellite. Maps were submitted to confirm erosion, and edges were compared to determine the speed of erosion and how it can be reduced.

Looters searching for fictitious treasures have left trash and destructive pits behind. Mapping of spoil-pile edges will eliminate any future confusion about their being aboriginal in nature. Exotics, such as feral hogs, speed the process of erosion, and Brazilian peppers are choking out native plants. The large amount of trash on the sites has created a new archaeological signature; cleanup is suggested, with possible trash studies.

Loger and Luer's investigations have located over 30



Archaeologist Michelle Cotty-Loger accepts our world famous tee-shirt from WMS/LSSAS President George Haag

known sites and an additional 30 or more new sites. Fewer than 12 locations have been confirmed as not being sites. The edges of all sites were traced and cataloged for the creation of maps. The next step is to make topographical maps with more details. Analysis and dating has been started on over 200 artifacts in an effort to determine their original sources.

Looter pits at Big Mound Key have been cleared of excessive debris. The wall layers were measured, identified, and described, and photographs were taken. Layers were analyzed and new profiles drawn. Radioactive dating of some shell species from the profile is being conducted. Smaller shells were more likely the food sources, while larger shells would have been used for tools. Dates will help to determine how and when parts of the midden were built up so that refined topographical maps can be created. It was noted that the most recent parts of the midden are near or in the water. The next step will be to trace the edges and finish mapping.

It is also important to educate the public and protect these sites. Studies bring up such questions as: Where did they get water? How many people were there? Where did they put human waste? Where did they get clay, and did their craft-makers specialize? Did they have gardens? Were the features of each site familial or communal? Were there shell/fishing territories? How, when, and why did these complexities develop? Loger plans to continue the effort to answer these questions.

This was Michele's first presentation—ever—and she did a great job! Thanks so much for coming and sharing your exiting research with us!

ANCIENT WATER MANAGEMENT IN HONDURAS WAS TOPIC OF APRIL'S 2011 MEETING

By Judi and John Crescenzo

On April 12, 2011, Zaida Darley presented "The Dirt on Prehispanic Water Management at Palmarejo, Honduras," an examination of how ancient Mesoamerican people managed water supplies. Darley has a B.A. in Anthropology and a Master's Certificate in GIS from the University of South Florida, and she is currently completing her M.A. in Applied Anthropology while working for the Florida Public Archaeology Network West Central Region.

Darley began her presentation by stating the importance of studying agriculture to learn about past societies. Larger populations require intense agriculture, which causes a social class structure to develop based on who provides versus who gets food and water.

For example, the ancients of Mesoamerica created islands of willows and crops, with channels between them that were wide enough for navigation. Less privileged people worked to build up the land plots, which were owned by the wealthy.

Twenty to thirty years ago, archaeologist Vernon Scarborough studied basic drinking water in Mesoamerica, including power and control of water. The Mayan lowlands get a large volume of about 2,000 mm of rainfall per year, but during dry months another water source is needed. The Mayan city of Tikal is considered an anomaly because it is not near a source of water; however, it has seasonal swamps and depressions that were used as retention ponds. It was designed so that the elite lived near the purest water at the top of the mountain, and Scarborough believed they might also have used flood gates to regulate water flow. Another Mayan example is Copan, which has a river, lagoons, and reservoirs. Because the river is laden with silt when it rains, it could have been used as a causeway to slow the water while fresher water remained in lagoons for the elite. Roof drains on buildings show that water was directed to lagoons or reservoirs.

Darley's focus for study was the Palmarejo Valley. Although it is not Mayan, it shared the same water problems because of a six-month drought each year. Palmarejo Valley had a definite social hierarchy, as evidenced by the ball court, patio, civic ceremonial platform, and elite residences. But Palmarejo had seasonal streams only, so how did inhabitants survive droughts?

Two excavations, the center of the reservoir, and one trench were studied to determine if the stream flowed into the reservoir or if people diverted it. Excavation of the



Archaeologist Zaida Darley accepts our world famous tee-shirt from President George Haag.

stream revealed layers indicating episodes of water that deposited soil and flowing water. Layers of snails prove that it was submerged or muddy, so there must have been a perennial stream. The unit in the reservoir contains clay and gray-to-green soils, which suggest there was once water. It is unknown exactly when water was in this area, but a carbon sample dates to Pre-Classical.

Auger probes across the reservoir were done to test the soils. It was found that a trench flowed away from the reservoir, but a perennial stream flowed between two buildings. North and south plazas suggest that water was directed to the reservoir, and there may have also been a weir. Although the wettest auger probes were in the center of the reservoir, soils tell a different story.

Minimal water for drink and food preparation is 7 liters per person per day; 15–20 liters would be needed for hygiene. Based on soil samples at Palmarejo, there was only enough water to support 52 people during droughts—not the 400–600 population believed to have lived there. Therefore, the 52 people using this water during droughts must have been elite while others walked to a stream two hours away.

The size of the modern reservoir may not be accurate and soil chemistry is better proof of whether there was enough water in the past, so many sites may have to be restudied. Mayan art shows symbols of water on headdresses and architecture, indicating that the wealthy controlled water. Water lilies in art may mean that people used them to filter the water. Another means of filtration was cascading or flowing water. Check dams also allowed for cleaner water. There were seasonal springs, but

bedrock prevented accessing them at Palmajero. Thank you for sharing Zaida!

FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH SPECIAL MEETING IN MARCH 2011 ON NATIVE PLANT USE

By John and Judi Crescenzo

In celebration of the 2011 Archaeology Month's theme, "Native Peoples/Native Plants," on March 8th, Michele Williams, Ph.D., RPA, Director of the Southwestern Region of the Florida Public Archaeology Network at Florida Atlantic University, presented "Weeds and Seeds: Dining on the Riches of Southeast Florida." Dr. Williams began by explaining the purpose of the Florida Public Archaeology Network, which promotes conservation, study, and presentation. Everyone can help by learning and passing on their knowledge to others, volunteering, and petitioning lawmakers to encourage the preservation of Florida's past.

Dr. Williams provided a brief timeline from prehistory to today. Approximately 10,000 years ago, early humans hunted megafauna. By 6,000 BP, the modern coastline, the Everglades, and Lake Okeechobee had formed and were probably occupied for the first time. At 2,000 BP, complex cultures and mounds had evolved. By 500 BP, the Spanish had arrived in Florida, causing the loss of 80–90% of prehistoric people from disease and warfare.

Williams focused her presentation on the Tekesta tribe of southeastern Florida 2,000 years ago. Through zooarchaeology, skeletal remains have been analyzed and compared to modern foods to learn about the native diet. Paleoethnobotany has provided further insight into plants used in prehistory. Because food rots, only the charred, inert remains of plants can be used in microscopic studies. Studies in South Florida are unique because of environmental interfaces and the ease of movement.

Tree islands in the Everglades provide unique food sources because two environments meet. A tree island is a natural hammock that offered a dry place for natives to camp. Natives dug canals for travel during dry periods, so quick movement was always possible. Deer, raccoon, squirrel, and opossums sought refuge on tree islands during the wet season, and fish were concentrated in pools during the dry season so that food was readily available. Other Everglades food sources included snakes, alligators, and birds. The underwater tubers of sawgrass, pickerel weed, pond weed, and cattails were consumed, along with coontie roots, cabbage-palm hearts, and acorns from live oaks.

The ocean and ocean's edge with their mangroves, beaches, estuary, and deep-ocean



President George Haag presents Michele Williams with our world famous tee-shirt

environments also supplied food. Natives caught and ate dolphins, fish, and oysters from the ocean, and used whelks and conchs from the ocean's edge for food and tools. Edible plants in these areas included coco-plum, seagrapes, and seaweeds. Most ocean calories were obtained from netting fish or oysters, which were easy to catch. Nets with bone or wood floats were used to catch fish along the water's edge.

Freshwater rivers and riverbanks provided transportation to the ocean and a source of fish, opossums, and deer. Plants along riverbanks included prickly pear pads and fruits, muscadine grapes, and ground nuts. Dugout canoes were used for transportation, the remains of which were discovered at Newnan Lake in northeastern Florida.

Lake Okeechobee is a huge, shallow, freshwater source that once had a 13-mile-wide forest along the southern edge. Natives along the lake ate alligators, snakes, and freshwater fish such as catfish. Many archaeology sites around Okeechobee show evidence of shell processing, proving that people had access to coastal areas. Plants in the forest included the pond apple, passion flower, and elderberries. Meats were preserved by drying and smoking or packing with herbs or salt.

South Florida is unique in that it had no prehistoric agriculture. North Florida had corn, beans, and squash, and may have traded with southern peoples. The natives of southern Florida had twelve continuous months of available plants and animals, so they had no need to farm. Because they had a complex society with a social hierarchy, they are considered "complex hunter-gatherers."

We want to thank Michele for her informative presentation!



North Port Library March 2011 exhibit on Native Plants for Florida Archaeology Month

MARCH 2011 EXHIBIT AT NORTH PORT LIBRARY ON NATIVE PLANTS FOR FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH

Members of the WMS/LSSAS got together at Judith Ribarick's house a few afternoons and put together an exhibit on Florida's Native Plants for Florida Archaeology Month. The exhibit was put in the double-sided case in the main lobby of the North Port library. It featured the two-sided, informative FAM 2011 poster with plants used by native peoples. We also placed the "shell midden" exhibit made by members for last year's FAM exhibit on Indian Mounds, which depicts the stratigraphic profile of a portion of an Indian mound representing various accumulated layers of shell and living surfaces.

Thanks go to many, but Judith Ribarick, Judi Crescenzo, and Carol Myers need special thanks for their concept and set up and take down of the exhibit. They look forward to next year's FAM theme, as yet to be determined.



Side two of NPL FAM 2011 exhibit

SPEAKER SERIES AT NEW COLLEGE ON THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF SPANISH LA FLORIDA ANNOUNCED

New College Public Archaeology Laboratory and Time Sifters Archaeological Society have teamed up through a grant from the Florida Humanities Council to present a speaker series titled "The Archaeology of Spanish La Florida." Presentations will be held at the Mildred Sainer Pavilion, New College, at 5313 Bay Shore Road, Sarasota, Florida, at 6:00 PM (just south of the Ringling Museum of Art at the west end of University Parkway, exit off I-75).

The series will kick off **September 21** with a presentation by archaeologist **Kathleen Deagan**, distinguished research curator emerita and Lockwood Professor of Florida and Caribbean Archaeology at the Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida. The topic of her presentation is "**Ft. Mose: America's Black Fortress of Freedom.**" By 1738, more than 100 freedmen had escaped bondage in South Carolina to find

refuge with the Spanish in St. Augustine. In the same year, 38 men formed a Spanish militia company and, together with their families, established a community and a fort named Garcia Real de Santa Teresa de Mose. During the 1980s, archaeological and archival research was concentrated on Ft. Mose, leading to the relocation of the site, a reconstruction of the material world of the settlers, some extraordinary historical documents, a nine-year traveling exhibit, and considerable political tension. This lecture will explore the history, research, and contemporary political context of this National Historic Landmark.

February 15, archaeologist **Robin Moore** will present **"These Old Streets: The Archaeology of Spanish St. Augustine."**

May 16, archaeologist **Della Scott-Ireton**, North West Regional Director of the Florida Public Archaeology Network, will present **"The Emmanuel Point Ships: Florida's Earliest Shipwrecks."**

More information on upcoming presentations will be in the January/February 2012 Newsletter.

While the presentations are free, reservations are recommended. For online reservations go to donate.ncf.edu/events; click La Florida to make your reservations. Or call 941-487-4888 or 487-4157.

HAVE YOU CHECKED OUT OUR WMS/LSSAS LIBRARY?

Hello! Welcome back. Our Library is waiting for you to check out our books. I hope to see more books checked out. Also, I would love to have feedback on the books checked out as to your ideals, opinions, etc. on the books. Books will be available at our September meeting along with a list of available books that can be brought to our next meeting for checkout. See you there!
Your librarian, Lorraine Hawkins

SEPTEMBER IS THE MONTH TO VISIT LOCAL ATTRACTIONS!

This September, discover Sarasota and Manatee Counties, places with many great attractions to explore. To celebrate, Sarasota County Tourist Development is offering "30 Days of Discovery" to promote our local attractions, featuring **2-for-1 admission to: GWIZ The Science Museum, Historic Spanish Point, Mote Aquarium, South Florida Museum, and the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art.** With a special coupon found at www.30daysofdiscovery.com, your family can experience Sarasota and Manatee Counties beyond the beaches.

SEPTEMBER 24 WMS/LSSAS FIELD TRIP PLANNED TO RINGLING MUSEUM AND NEW COLLEGE PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY LAB

To kick off our fall season, we are planning our first field trip to the Ringling Museum of Art, followed by an afternoon trip to nearby New College Public Archaeology Lab! We will not only get two-for-one admission to Ringling (\$10-\$12.50), but two-for-one excitement by combining the two events. The Public Archaeology Lab trip will be hosted by Dr. Uzi Baram, professor of anthropology and director of the New College Public Archaeology Lab. This will prove to be an exciting day!

We will meet at the North Port Library at 8:30 AM and travel to the Ringling Museum of Art. We plan to dine in the museum café (\$7-\$15) and drive a short distance to the Archaeology Lab after lunch (You can also bring your lunch if you prefer). The Ringling Museum is located at the end of University Parkway off I-75 (last Sarasota Exit going north); the lab is a short distance north of the museum. For more info on Ringling, go to <http://www.ringling.org/>, and for the Public Archaeology Lab, go to <http://www.ncf.edu/pal>.

FAS MAY ANNUAL MEETING IN ORLANDO WELL ATTENDED

The Annual Meeting of the Florida Anthropological Society was held at the Shakespeare Theater in Orlando May 6-8, 2011. Attendees gathered at the center Friday night for the welcoming reception, and Saturday was filled with three sessions comprising more than 30 papers on Florida archaeology and anthropology-related subjects.

There were many interesting and well-attended presentations. Steve Koski presented a paper on "Early through Middle Archaic Design Elements on Artifacts from Little Salt Spring (8SO18), Sarasota County, Florida," which was attended by more than a 100 persons. LSS was also represented by a poster entitled "Vegetation Changes During the Last Deglacial and Early Holocene: A Record from Little Salt Spring Florida," by USGS scientists Christopher Burnhardt, Debra Willard, and Bryan Landacre, and UM/RSMAS archaeologist Dr. John Gifford.

The banquet followed the meeting that evening at The Taproom at the Historic Dubsdread in the College Park Community, where FSU archeologist Dr. Glen Doran gave the Keynote presentation on the Windover archaeological site and discussed the importance of the Florida Anthropological Society. The meeting was very informative and, as always, a fun time.

FAS MEMBERSHIP

We want to thank all those WMS/LSAS members who are also members of the Florida Anthropological Society. The WMS/LSSAS is a Chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society, one of 17 FAS Chapters throughout the state. To maintain our Chapter membership, we need to maintain a minimum of 10 FAS memberships. Thirteen of our current members are 2011 FAS members. Thank you!

Benefits of FAS membership include the quarterly FAS newsletter with news from around the state and the quarterly journal, *The Florida Anthropologist*. The FA contains articles on Florida archaeology and research conducted by professional and avocational archaeologists throughout the state. Chapter benefits include participation in the direction of the FAS through a selected Chapter Representative with voting privileges on the FAS board, access to speakers, assistance with projects and publications, guidance if requested, as well as credibility.

The last issue of the FA, March 2011, contains an article by Dr. John Gifford and Steve Koski titled "An Incised Antler Artifact from Little Salt Spring." Two other articles in that issue are concerned with a site in Sarasota County, "The Yellow Bluffs Mound Revisited," by George Luer, and "Radio Carbon Dating of the Yellow Bluffs Mound (8SO4)," by George Luer and Daniel Hughes.

Interested in more information on Florida archaeology and FAS membership? Go to <http://www.fasweb.org/>.

EDITOR'S COMMENT

There was much to put in this double issue and as usual, there were articles that I had to omit. Hopefully, I will

be able to add them in the Nov/Dec NL. Or I may put out a special issue.

I again want to thank all who contributed and helped with this issue of the newsletter; Judi and John Crescenzo, Lorraine Hawkins, Hilda Boron, and of course, my proof reader, Valerie Grey of Grey Matter Consulting.

Don't forget about our September 24 field trip to Ringling Museum and New College Public Archaeology Lab! Sign up at the September meeting.

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