



**WMS/LSS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER**

Vol. 22, No. 5 November/December 2011

*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

**TERRESTRIAL SURVEY AT LITTLE SALT SPRING  
TOPIC OF NOVEMBER 8 MEETING**

Have you ever wondered how archaeologists know where a site is or where to "dig"? Wonder no more after our next meeting. Back by default, not necessarily by popular demand (couldn't get a speaker), Steve Koski will be the speaker at the November 8 meeting of the WMS/LSSAS.

During a three-week field season in 2006 and another in 2007, an archaeological survey was conducted on the 112-acre Little Salt Spring property. The survey was conducted to identify any prehistoric or historic archaeological sites on the landscape and evaluate their significance for the inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The underwater component of the site (8SO18) is listed on the NRHP and there is a known land component on the property (8SO79), but a comprehensive survey to determine the boundaries of the land component had never been conducted.

It is considered due diligence and good stewardship on the part of the University of Miami, which plans to build a modest research and education facility on the property, to know where those resources are located so they can be protected during any future land modifications, as minimal as they may be. The work was conducted by New South (see **LSS Survey**, p. 2)

**BONE CHEMISTRY AND ANCIENT DIETS IN THE NEW  
WORLD TOPIC OF DECEMBER 13 MEETING**



USF Professor Dr. Robert Tykot will be the speaker at our December 13 meeting; his topic "Reconstructing Ancient Diets in the New World thru Bone Chemistry"

"You are what you eat" applies to archaeological skeletal remains, and many analytical studies are being done to address the importance of maize, meat, and marine foods in the human diet. Human and faunal remains from the past preserve elemental and isotopic signatures which reveal their dietary patterns and environmental circumstances. More specifically, the amount of strontium and barium in human bones, along with carbon, nitrogen and oxygen isotope analyses on human bone, teeth, and hair informs us about the diet of individuals and of groups

of people, particularly differentiating between seafood, freshwater fish, maize and certain other specific plants, and trophic differences in the diet (e.g. vegetarians vs. hunters). Examples of his research in the New World will focus on the spread of domesticated maize to both North and South America, and on the importance of fishing. There are results for early maize in Florida, and in Andean South America; differences between high and low status individuals in Mesoamerica, and in Ecuador; and surprising variation in the importance of seafood along the Atlantic, Pacific, and Gulf coasts.

Robert H. Tykot, Professor of Anthropology at the University of South Florida, received a BS in Archaeology and Chemistry (1983) and an MA in Classical Archaeology from Tufts University, and an MA (1993) and PhD (1995) in Anthropology from Harvard University. His research emphasizes scientific analysis of archaeological materials, and includes trade of obsidian and marble in both the Mediterranean and in Mesoamerica, and isotopic and elemental analysis of skeletal remains to look at diet and mobility in the Americas and in Europe (text provided).

#### **LSS SURVEY (cont. from p. 1)**

Associates' St. Augustine office, contracted by the University of Miami with a Special Category grant from the Florida Division of Historical Resources. At that time, Koski was a full-time employee of New South and planned the sampling strategy and directed the field work. A better understanding of the distribution of cultural resources was gained, site boundaries were further defined, and evidence of an Archaic seasonal campsite not previously known was identified.

#### **JANUARY MEETING TO UPDATE LITTLE SALT SPRING 27 M LEDGE RESEARCH**

Mark your calendar for January 10, 2012, when Dr. Gifford will return to give a presentation on current research on the 27 m ledge at LSS. Initiated in 2008 with a grant from the National Geographic Society, the project has continued annually during summer field sessions with science-diver and financial support from the Florida Aquarium. Interesting discoveries have been made and additional radio-carbon dates will be presented at the January meeting.

A follow-up presentation be held at the Selby Library in Sarasota the following evening, January 11, so Sarasota folks can share in the excitement. As an added bonus, many of the bone artifacts recently returned from the conservation lab at Texas A&M will be on display along with shell and stone tools from the site. Hopefully, these

artifacts, along with selected wood artifacts, will be on permanent display at LSS after the new research and education-center building is completed when the University of Miami's LSS capital campaign goal is reached. More information will be presented in the January/February newsletter.

#### **HISTORIC TURPENTINE INDUSTRY TOPIC OF OCTOBER 2011 MEETING**

By Judi and John Crescenzo

On October 11, 2011, Dr. Sandi Forney of the Anthropology and Archaeology Department at State College of Florida presented "Dem Teppentiners: an Extension of the Plantation System," a study of the turpentine industry in late 19th- and early 20th-century Florida. Ms. Forney's presentation was accompanied by photographs and postcards of turpentine workers in Florida, along with a sample Herty pot used in the industry.

The turpentine industry, known as naval stores, began in the Revolutionary era and, by the Antebellum period, had moved to the Carolinas and Florida. Turpentine camps were established and financed by producers who moved to new areas after depleting forests. By the 1830s and 1840s, it was the third largest industry after cotton and tobacco. From 1910 to 1930, 80% of workers in the turpentine industry were African Americans.



SCF Adjunct Professor Sandi Forney receives our world famous tee-shirt from Vice President Judith Ribarick

Three areas of activity in a turpentine camp included the crop of longleaf or yellow pine from which gum was extracted, the camp where workers lived, and the distillery where gum was processed. Workers toiled from dawn to dark from April through November. A worker was expected to make 75-100 box cuts per day to allow gum to flow from the trees. The gum flowed into aluminum or clay Herty pots, which were hung on the tree below metal gutters.

Every three weeks, dippers would move the gum into barrels at a rate of two barrels per day. Chippers kept track of 5,000 trees, which they visited once a week.

There were no societal outlets for the workers, who were dependant on producers for their survival. Workers had no rights but were expected to obey camp rules, so bosses or woods riders on horseback carried whips and pistols for discipline. Isolation of camps made exploitation and brutality possible. As in the plantation system, owners supplied housing to workers. A 22-x-24-foot wooden structure with no floors or windows was valued at \$10, had two rooms, and housed six people. Instead of cash, workers were paid in scrip, which could be used only at the company store. Low wages of \$8 to \$10 per month meant that purchases must be made on credit, so workers sank into debt. Because of isolation, they could not leave to find other employment.

Thanks go to Ms. Forney for her informative and interesting presentation!

### SEMINOLE ARCHAEOLOGY TOPIC OF SEPTEMBER 2011 MEETING

By Judi and John Crescenzo

On September 13, 2011, Dr. Annette Snapp, Director of Florida Public Archaeology Network Southwest Region at Gulf Coast University, presented "Searching for Ephemeral Evidence in the Wilderness: The 2011 Florida Gulf Coast University Archaeological Field School." Dr. Snapp's behind-the-scenes glimpse of the field-school project included photographs of the excavation and historic maps of the area.

The property explored is labeled on old maps as Florida Seminole Waxy Hadjo's property. It is located on the west edge of the Everglades and the north edge of Big Cypress Swamp. Waxy Hadjo's name is also listed in several historical documents, including the 1811 muster roll of Florida Seminoles sent to Oklahoma. In 1855, Waxy's Landing was used as a staging location for Ft. Shackelford.

Waxy Hadjo's Landing was explored using the results of earlier investigations, ground-penetrating radar, metal-detecting surveys, and surface-survey results. Goals included exploring the stratigraphy; estimating the chronology for the site; determining the scope of human use; recreating diet patterns; and analyzing ceramic, shell, bone, and lithic artifacts.

Four college students were assigned to study each 2m-x-2m excavation unit. Recovered artifacts were washed, bagged, identified, counted, and labeled. Finds included alligator, fish, turtle, snake, deer, and mammal bones.



Vice President Judith Ribarick presents our tee-shirt to Dr. Snapp

Bone bi-points were discovered and may have been used for throat-gorge fishing. Pottery sherds were uncovered and will require further study for identification. One lithic flake and one Seminole Russian Blue Bead were also found. Marine shell artifacts included a horse-conch hammer, strombus adze, quahog adze, surf clam, and small terrestrial snails.

Students will continue to analyze and attempt to answer questions, such as: How effective was GPR in placing the units? What can be said of discrete habitation episodes? Does evidence show distinct patterns and changes? Why is the Seminole presence so ephemeral? What types of pottery and lithics were used? Was the marine shell traded or did people travel to the coasts? Why were there no military artifacts? Was the area explored actually a landing or just a tree-island site?

Very interesting presentation. Thank you, Dr. Snapp!

### FIELD TRIP SCHEDULED DECEMBER 3 ON MYAKKA RIVER!

I received a call from Terry Shugant, proprietor and captain of the Terry's River Tours on the Myakka River. Perfect timing as I was working on the NL. He asked me a couple questions about LSS and asked if there were scheduled visitation times he could promote on his Myakka River tours ([www.terryrivertours.com/index.html](http://www.terryrivertours.com/index.html)). I said that at this time we do not have scheduled public openings at present due to the lack of facilities on site, but that I do arrange small group tours on a case-by-case basis. I mentioned that the University of Miami was on a capital campaign for a research/education-center building and, once complete, we would be doing scheduled tours on a monthly basis with educational programs for local school children and the public. Kind of my standard line now until the vision becomes a reality.

In any event, while I had him on the phone, I mentioned that I had heard about his interpretive tours on the river on his thirty-passenger pontoon boat and asked about a trip for us.

So, on Saturday, December 3, 2011, a WMS/LSSAS field trip is scheduled for a tour on the Myakka River with Terry and crew. The boat will leave Snook Haven, located at the end of Venice Ave. (off River Road) at 11:30 (be there by 11:10). The tour takes about an hour, and we will cruise up and down the river while listening to a discussion on the history of the county, Myakka River, plants and animals in the area, and other neat stuff.

The river boat ride will be followed by lunch at Snook Haven, worth the trip in itself. Cost of the trip is \$13.95 (cash only) and lunch cost is dependent on what one orders, but a reasonable fare.

I think this will be a fun and informative experience. Bring a camera, and water or drink is okay, but coolers are discouraged as Snook Haven is a restaurant.

#### **"HANDS ON" BOXES OF FOSSILS AND SHELLS DONATED TO NORTH PORT CHILDREN'S LIBRARY**

In our last newsletter, there was an article on one of our charter members who passed away, Winnifred "Winnie" Ziel. We had an opportunity to meet her daughter and son-in-law, Rose and Ralf Gladfelter, who spend part of the year in Englewood, at one of our meetings and they donated Winnie's shell and fossil collection to the Society at her request. She had been collecting from our local beaches for years.



Carol Myers and Judith Ribarick (first and second from right), present NP Library staff Janet Hansen, Shana Hinze, and Carolann Palm-Abramoff with "hand on" shell and fossil boxes for children section.

At one of our board meetings, one of the members suggested we make up a couple "hands-on" boxes for the

children's section of the North Port Library, with shells and fossils so children can see, touch, and learn about some of Florida's natural wonders. So, Carol Myers and Judith Ribarick got together and prepared plastic containers with a variety of numbered shells and fossils with a list of common names and donated them to the children's section of the North Port Library on September 16, 2011. I think Winnie would have liked that.

#### **MEMORABLE FIELD TRIP TO RINGLING MUSEUM OF ART AND NEW COLLEGE ARCHAEOLOGY LAB**

We had a most enjoyable field trip to the Ringling Museum, followed by a visit to the New College Public Archaeology Lab, on September 24, 2011, which just happened to be a free museum day. Several members met at the Ringling at 10:00 AM and toured the Museum grounds, exhibits, and the Ca' d' Zan, the one-time residence of John and Mable Ringling located on Sarasota Bay. From there we went a short distance to the New College Public Archaeology lab, where we met archaeologist Dr. Uzi Baram. He gave a grand tour of the lab and described many of the projects his students have been working on, including a project to survey and document grave markers at the Galilee Cemetery established in 1932, including public outreach and interpretation; the Looking for Angola project, including an inventory of all the excavated artifacts from Manatee Mineral Spring Survey; and teaching the archaeology and environment of Sarasota Bay/Manatee River to elementary school children.



WMS/LSSAS members Carol Myers, Helen Gardner, Carola Keonig, John and Judi Crescenzo and Steve Koski listen to Uzi Baram (center) discuss the Looking for Angola project

"New College Public Archaeology Lab serves to facilitate student learning in archaeological methods and techniques by providing workspace for student projects. NCPAL's mission helps ground students' understanding of

the contemporary relevance and ethical practices of anthropology, and provides opportunities for them to engage in the process of public archaeology" (<http://www.ncf.edu/pal>).

As an added bonus, Dr. Baram took us on a tour of his office on Sarasota Bay, two doors down from the Ca' d' Zan built in 1925-1926 by John Ringling's brother and business partner, Charles. The estate was purchased by New College in the 1960s. The former residence is now used for faculty offices, student lectures, and fundraising events.

"The estate was built in 1925-26 as the winter retreat for the Charles Ringling family in what was known as the Shell Beach subdivision, platted in 1896 [now the historic New College Palmer Campus]. The compound was designed to be completely self-sufficient, including staff quarters, farming and livestock. In addition to the main mansion, Charles built another gracious bayfront home for his daughter, Hester Ringling Sanford, and her children, now known as Cook Hall. The two bayfront homes are connected by a covered walkway that creates a transition between the two architectural styles. Within months of the completion of the construction, Charles died, but Edith Ringling and their daughter continued to reside on the estate for many decades. Both structures are listed on the National Register of Historic Places" (<http://www.ncf.edu/home/about-us/history/ringling-legacy>). Many thanks to Dr. Baram for generously spending his time with us on his day off.

### **WMS/LSSAS YARD SALE TO BE HELD FEBRUARY 18**

The WMS/LSSAS yard sale will be held Saturday, February 18! As you know, this is our only real fundraiser and helps support the publication of our newsletter; speaker honorariums, dinner, and motel; and preservation-related memberships to the Florida Anthropological Society, Historic Spanish Point, Florida Humanities Council, Sarasota Preservation Coalition, Randell Research Center, and others. Memberships to these organizations help support their preservation and education efforts and give us discounts on group visits. So please, gather your yard-saleable items and donate them to the Society, where they will go to support a good cause: us!

### **LOCAL ARCHAEOLOGIST TO SPEAK IN PUNTA GORDA**

Archaeologist George Luer will speak November 10, 2011, at an event hosted by the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center. The topic of his presentation is "Visions of the Calusa and Tocobaga Indians in the Charlotte Harbor Area." The program will be held at the

Visual Arts Center located at 210 Maude Street, Punta Gorda, at 4:00 PM in the Goff Gallery, with refreshments at 3:30 PM. Take US 41 south over the Peace River Bridge to East Marion Street toward Fisherman's Village to Maude Street. Left on Maude to Visual Arts Center. From I-75 take the US 17 exit (Duncan Street) toward Punta Gorda, to East Marion, then left on Maude.

## **LITTLE SALT SPRING NEWS**

### **LSS BONE ARTIFACTS RETURN FROM TAMU CONSERVATION RESEARCH LABORATORY**

Twelve of approximately 20 bone artifacts were recently returned to Little Salt Spring from the Conservation Research Laboratory (CRL) at Texas A&M University (TAMU). TAMU/CRL is also in the process of conserving more than 50 wooden artifacts from LSS using a silicon/polymer technique and they will be returned in the coming months, as the wood-conservation process takes several months longer to complete than bone. The wood artifacts had been kept in distilled water in the lab to keep them stable and, when returned, will be dry and exhibit ready.

The wood and bone artifacts were able to be conserved through a generous grant from the Jacarlene Foundation of Tampa. One of their board members was present at a presentation by Dr. John Gifford at the Florida Aquarium Speaker Series in 2010. She was impressed with the site and artifacts and invited UM to submit a proposal for artifact conservation. Earlier, Dr. Gifford had sent a 10,000-year-old wooden stake to conservator Jim Jobling at TAMU/CRL for conservation through a silicon/polymer technique. He liked the results, did some research, and decided that was the most applicable technique for LSS wood and bone artifacts. The artifacts will soon be ready for exhibit, hopefully at Little Salt Spring in the near future.

The University of Miami is currently on a \$1-million fundraising campaign to build a research and education-center building to facilitate research needs and provide a classroom and exhibit space for educational programs for local school children and the public. UM would like to see the site more available for public visitation through scheduled tours, educational programs, and interpretive nature walks—providing a balance of research, public access, education, and habitat conservation. The site truly is one of a kind in regards to its pristine natural and cultural resources—an ecological preserve, gateway to the past and living museum right in our own backyard.

## STATE COLLEGE OF FLORIDA INTERNS ASSIST IN LAB AT LSS SPRING

During 2011 summer- and fall-semester sessions, LSS lab assistance has been provided by two State College of Florida anthropology undergraduate students. During the summer semester, undergraduate student Ron Tichenor assisted Steve Koski and worked independently after instruction, processing specimens recovered during the 2011 March field session in the basin of LSS in Operation 14 and worked on the database. Ron also took digital photo micrographs of all the lithic material recovered from the 2006/2007 terrestrial survey at Little Salt Spring, where more than 100 lithic flakes (stone tool debitage) were recovered from some of the 480 shovel tests excavated throughout the property.



State College of Florida intern Ben Gomez photographs extinct tortoise elements in the LSS lab

This semester, Ben Gomez has assisted with the processing of specimens from the 2011 27 m ledge field session, which consists primarily of extinct tortoise remains excavated during the season's recovery effort (see last WMS/LSSAS Newsletter).

The internship program was arranged between SCF provost Darlene Welder-Johnson, Dr. Gifford, and Steve Koski, working with adjunct faculty professor Sandi Forney (our October speaker). The experience has been beneficial to SCF and the students who participate by providing firsthand archaeological laboratory experience and to LSS by providing needed assistance in the lab. This is a pilot program and we hope that more interns can be accepted at the LSS research facility in the near future when the research and education center is built.

## ADVENTURE GUIDE GROUP VISITS LSS

On Sunday, October 30, UM Dive Safety Officer Rick Gomez (center rear) visited LSS with the Miami Adventure Guides dads and kids. They were on their way back to Miami from a fossil hunting camping trip on the Peace River, where they camped in the rain, canoed down the Peace River, and looked for fossils; so a trip to LSS fit right in with their adventure-filled weekend. There, they got a tour of the spring and lab and learned about our local natural and cultural resources. Quite a bright group and they had great questions about the early Indian of Florida, the spring, artifacts found, extinct fossil bones, alligators in the spring and more.



Adventure Guides visit LSS

## TOUR DE NORTH PORT VISIT LSS

On Sunday, October 23, about 25 participants of the second annual Tour de North Port fundraiser bike ride made a brief stop to see LSS on their ride by the entrance of the archaeological and ecological preserve located off Price Blvd. A "rest stop" was selected at the entrance to LSS to distribute water and snacks to the riders and so folks could see the historic marker that can be seen from the sidewalk. Two hundred twenty-two cyclists took to the streets and sidewalks of North Port to ride a 15-, 35-, or 65-mile distance. That morning, 32 registered for the event. It's amazing what can be accomplished with a small band of dedicated volunteers and an even smaller budget! The sponsor, People for Trees, provided breakfast, lunch, four fully stocked rest stops, SAG mobile support, route monitors, and ride T-shirts! All proceeds benefited "Tree University," a People for Trees vision to create a truly unique, exciting Eco-Center complete with treehouses and canopy walks.



Tour de North Port riders visit LSS

### AUDUBON LECTURE ATTENDEES TOUR LSS

More than a dozen bird enthusiasts visited Little Salt Spring October 13 following a presentation by a local Audubon Society member at the North Port Public Library set up by librarian Janis Russell. At the library presentation, the speaker emphasized the need for the protection of our birds and turtles, and what we can all do to achieve this. At the spring, guests received a brief background on the spring and site in the student dorm, where they viewed several educational posters, then got a tour of the spring and north trail conducted by Steve Koski. Not many birds were out that late in the morning, but folks did get a chance to see a belted kingfisher working the water for minnows, a little blue heron, our winter resident grebe diving for fish from the surface, two moorhen, and a few other species. We also have a tri-colored heron that has been frequenting the water's edge lately. Both the kingfisher and grebe are migratory birds that show up in late September/early October.

I have seen the annual return of one or more kingfishers over the years and a lone grebe has been wintering for about four years. The little blue heron is a daily visitor and the pair of moorhen spend most of the year as permanent residents, but leave for a couple months in the summer, perhaps as food resources are more plentiful elsewhere. Another recent part-time resident is a tricolored heron, who arrived a month or so ago. Carolina wrens are frequently heard in the hammock, but seldom seen unless you are looking for them. Numerous cardinals are present much of the year. Pileated and red-bellied wood peckers are frequently seen, and great egrets begin to roost



Audubon lecture group visit LSS

in the trees around the east side of the spring at night when the weather cools. There were seven there early Monday morning. An anhinga is frequently seen and an occasional cormorant visits. Both species are usually solo arrivals. Great blue herons are occasionally seen roosting in trees and fishing in the shallow edges of the spring, and pair of green herons reside on the property. These are just a few of our many local avian residents often seen throughout the property.

### KISSIMMEE VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL CONSERVANCY VISIT LSS

On May 28, 2011, eight members of the Kissimmee Valley Archaeological and Historical Conservancy from the Lake Placid area took a field trip to Little Salt Spring. It was a great group of folks who are a very active in archaeological and historic preservation in their area. They are also Charter Members of the Florida Anthropological Society and have hosted several FAS annual meetings over the years. They are involved with archaeological excavations at the Blueberry site, where we have taken a memorable field trip as a group and were treated to a fantastic tour by site owner Ann Reynolds and archaeologist David Butler. We really need to go back soon, as it was a most memorable event (see Jan/Feb 2009 WMSLSSAS newsletter). During their visit to LSS, Steve Koski gave a brief presentation on the history of the site and property; led a walk to the spring, where some ventured out on the floating walkway to the center dock; and took them to visit the lab, where they were shown some of the artifacts that have been recovered over the years.



KVAHC visit LSS

During their visit to LSS, Steve Koski gave a brief presentation on the history of the site and property; led a walk to the spring, where some ventured out on the floating walkway to the center dock; and took them to visit the lab, where they were shown some of the artifacts that have been recovered over the years.

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### WARM MINERAL SPRINGS/LITTLE SALT SPRING ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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