



**WMS/LSS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER**

Vol. 23, No. 3 May/June 2012

*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 United Community Church of Christ located at 3450 Biscayne Blvd. Meetings are free and open to the public.

**WARM MINERAL SPRINGS TOPIC OF MAY 8 MEETING**

State College of Florida anthropology student Bill Goetz will speak on Warm Mineral Springs at the May 8 meeting. Mr. Goetz stated, the historic and cultural significances of Warm Mineral Springs and Little Salt Spring in North Port, FL, are continually being studied and assessed. These springs provide an unparalleled perspective of past and present human endeavors. They are a window into the past, and they function to answer some of the deepest questions about our region's ancient history. In more recent history, the sites have been a beacon and inspiration for archeologists, paleobiologists, and geologists; artists, naturalists, and ecologists also flock to North Port for the Springs. (Cont. WMS page 2)



State College of Florida Student Bill Goetz

**APRIL MEETING DISCUSSED FOUNDING OF NEW SMYRNA**

By Judi an John Crescenzo

Dr. Arlene Fradkin presented "Britain's Ambitious Florida Adventure: Turnbull's Smyrna Settlement (1766-1777)" on April 10, 2012. She explained that although Florida was historically a Spanish colony, from 1763 to 1783 Florida was under British rule. At that time, England gave land grants to settlers as a way to obtain otherwise expensive crops.

Dr. Turnbull, a Scot from Great Britain, took the first land grant in New Smyrna from 1766-1777. It was located along the Indian River at Ponce de Leon Inlet. Although



Dr Arlene Fradkin receives our world famous tee-shirt from President George Haag

Turnbull used slaves to set up the colony, he chose people from the Mediterranean region as settlers because they were accustomed to hot weather and were desperate after three years of crop failures in their homeland. Turnbull recruited about 1,100 Minorcans (from the island of Menorca near Spain) and 200 Greeks, along with 100 Italians and others who signed contracts as indentured servants. In 1768, the settlers made a four-month trip to Florida.

Upon arrival, the people were angered by inadequate housing, lack of food, insects, and disease. The settlement was designed to accommodate only half that number of settlers. They felt abused by difficult working conditions, and unrest grew into open rebellion. The main insurgents were Italian and Greek, while the Minorcans remained neutral. However, because of a common religion and background, intermarriage, and shared hardships, they blended together into a Minorcan community.

Deprivations of the settlers have been documented. Although Turnbull had poor managerial skills and saw laborers as a commodity, he tried to maintain their health. Records show he provided barrels of meat, but the colonists remained sick and hungry. Their settlement spread out over eight miles, so they also felt isolated. Various buildings were constructed, and a canal network for drainage and transportation was built. The Minorcans grew corn, rice, hemp, and indigo, which was considered "king of the dyes." Indigo was processed through a steeper vat, beater vat, mud vat, and drying house on the plantation; it was then cut into small bricks.

Some of the dissatisfied settlers went to St. Augustine, the capital of British East Florida, to give depositions against Turnbull. They found tropical storms frightening and destructive, disliked the isolation, and no longer believed Turnbull would free them. They told of brutal beatings by overseers, rape, lack of food, and murders. Consequently, Governor Patrick Tonyn of St. Augustine cancelled the indentures and allowed the people move to St. Augustine in 1777. After fleeing the plantation, the settlers followed a Minorcan lifestyle.

Despite modern development, remnants of coquina walls at Old Fort Park, Old Stone Wharf, and canals near New Smyrna Beach remain visible. From 1996–1997, a Turnbull colonist's house was excavated, revealing a central chimney, a mortar-sand and shell floor, and a post-beam frame. The structure probably once had a palm-thatch roof.

Recent archaeology has pinpointed the location of Turnbull's settlement. From 1998–2002, a grant-funded survey uncovered over 40 sites with foundations, chimneys,

ceramics, gun parts and a possible indigo-processing site. Artifacts found were all 18th-century British items, except for one Minorcan medal.

In 1996, midden deposits were excavated, but the shells were not kept for study. Screening of the site revealed over 5,000 bone and tooth fragments. Faunal remains were mostly from wild animals. Remains of fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals were uncovered, showing that despite Turnbull's delivery of meats and livestock, the settlers were hungry and had to fish and hunt to survive on the tidal-creek marsh.

A mid-1760s cartographer noted many kinds of fish and houses along the river at that time, showing that the colonists had canoes and an extensive knowledge of fishing, which they learned in Florida. They had eaten mullet from the Mediterranean area, so this was a familiar food. Settlers also hunted deer and small mammals. Historic records indicate that the Minorcans had little time to fish and hunt because they had to clear land and tend harvests, but archaeology proves that they were dependent on natural resources for survival.

A community of Minorcans survives to this day in St. Augustine, preserving their culture.

#### *WMS (continued from page 1)*

Unfortunately, the sites have also attracted looters, treasure hunters, and fortune seekers looking to cash in on the perceived wealth offered by the springs. Tales of Warm Mineral Springs being the fanciful Fountain of Youth have drawn people seeking healing from its waters for many years, including, allegedly, the famed Conquistador, Ponce de Leon.

Bill Goetz is a student of anthropology at State College of Florida and serves as a Commissioner on the Sarasota County Historical Commission.

Come to the May meeting and get yet another perspective on our local North Port treasures.

#### **CIVIL WAR SHIP WRECK NARCISSUS TOPIC OF MARCH METING**

*By Judi and John Crescenzo*

On March 13, 2012, Mike Terrell, Dive Safety Officer at the Florida Aquarium in Tampa, presented "USS Narcissus: Then and Now." As Terrell explained, the Florida Aquarium Center for Conservation and Research has become involved with dives in open water and archaeology.

A grant in 2006 allowed for a shipwreck survey of Tampa Bay, including dives at Egmont Shoals to explore the USS Narcissus, which was first noticed in the 1970s



Mike Terrell accepts our world famous Tee-shirt from President George Haag.

and documented in the 1990s by sport divers. The ship was completely uncovered in 2006 due to storms and low water levels, but only further exploration could determine if this was the USS Narcissus.

The USS Narcissus was originally launched as the Mary Cook, an 81-foot-long, 18-foot-wide Civil War tug. In February 1864, it was commissioned by the US Navy for the Civil War and was armed with guns for defense. As a blockade boat, it worked from Mobile Bay to Pensacola in northern Florida. During the Battle of Mobile Bay in August 1864, the ship was sunk and sat at the bottom of the bay for three weeks. In December 1864, it was rescued and brought in for clean-up and repairs. In 1865, the ship was re-launched to help with clean-up efforts after the war. On January 1, 1866, the USS Narcissus left Pensacola with another ship, the Althea, on a voyage to New York. However, after a storm near Tampa Bay on January 4, the Narcissus was unable to reach shore and had to anchor out at the mouth of the bay.

After the storm, debris from the USS Narcissus was found on the beaches, along with a sailor's body. It is thought that perhaps the ship ran aground on the section where earlier repairs had been made, hitting the boiler. All on board were killed. The Althea recorded this event, then continued on to New York.

Today at the site of the Narcissus are a propeller with blades and drive shaft, the steam engine, fragments of the boiler, the anchor, and smokestack. The hull is becoming more exposed, and a signal lantern has been found. Because the lantern is a significant artifact and was loose and apt to be carried away by currents, it was brought to the surface. The lantern includes a piece of a glass globe with a ring incised to look like a rope, and it has a manufacturer's tag riveted to it. The lantern is now in

Tallahassee, where it will be cleaned in hopes that the tag will reveal its origins.

The Narcissus site is considered a federal war grave owned by the state of Florida because it is located only two miles offshore, but it is also a naval vessel. It took eight months to get the Navy's permission to recover the lantern, which will eventually go on display at the Tampa Aquarium.

The wreck has become so encrusted that the ship is indistinguishable from the reef. Hard and soft corals have grown on the wreck, while goliath grouper and other fish have adopted it as their home.

Friends of the Narcissus worked to establish the USS Narcissus as Florida's 12th underwater archaeological preserve. The shipwreck has also been nominated as a water park, and this process is in the final stages. The shipwreck will be in the hands of the community so that people can visit the site and police it.

During the question-and-answer period, it was stated that the identity of the USS Narcissus was confirmed by the Althea's log and because the engine fit the description of the Narcissus. The site was revisited and measurements taken, which were identical to measurements on drawings of the Narcissus when it was built. For further information, visit [www.facebook.com/friendsofnarcissus](http://www.facebook.com/friendsofnarcissus), where the site will be monitored and postings can be made.

## FRIENDS OF LITTLE SALT SPRING GROUP FORMS

By S. H. Koski

A new group has formed in the area specifically to support efforts at the 112-acre Little Salt Spring property. The objective (from the new Bylaws): To serve as a local support group for the University of Miami Little Salt Spring Archaeological and Ecological Preserve and work with the LSS site manager to: provide volunteer opportunities where needed in regard to site stewardship, land management, maintenance, research, public outreach, and local fundraising efforts; and, to help bring the University of Miami's vision for an on-site research and education center to fruition for the benefit of the public through continued research, scheduled educational programs and interpretive site visits.

The Friends governing board accepted a proclamation for the group which states:

WHEREAS, Little Salt Spring is an outstanding cultural and natural resource of national significance listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is an eligible National Historic Landmark; and

WHEREAS, Little Salt Spring is a time capsule of information pertaining to Florida's earliest human visitation and paleo-environmental conditions from the late Pleistocene Paleoindian Period through the Middle Archaic Period 12,000–6,000 radiocarbon years before present; and

WHEREAS, a multi-disciplinary research and education center at Little Salt Spring would provide exceptional benefits to scientists, university and K–12 students, and the public;

THEREFORE, WE THE FRIENDS OF LITTLE SALT SPRING recognize the cultural and natural significance of Little Salt Spring and property and see the outstanding potential and benefit of the property as a multi-disciplinary research and education center and offer our assistance to the University of Miami in bringing their vision to fruition.



FLSS officers (seated) with visiting dignitaries, WMS/LSSAS friends and supporters. Seated (left to right) FLSS Recording Secretary Linda Ferrier-Reid, President Lawry Reid, Membership Director Jill Luke, Correspondence Secretary Bill Goetz, Treasurer Lyn Runfeldt, Vice President Dave Runfeldt. Standing (left to right) UM/LSS site manager, archaeologist, and FLSS liaison Steve Koski, WMSLSSAS board members John and Judi Crescenzo, North Port City Planner Michelle Norton, WMS/LSSAS membership secretary Linda Massey, WMS/LSSAS board member Sandra Heacock; WMS/LSSAS Secretary Hilda Boron, WMS/LSSAS Treasurer Kate Cattran, WMS/LSSAS board member and Society Librarian Lorraine Hawkins, WMS/LSSAS board member Mary Williams, and Sarasota County Executive Director of Community Service John McCarthy.

The Friends had their "kick off" meeting Monday, April 23, at the Mullen Center and more than 60 persons were in attendance; sixty joined as new members. Those who attended and joined included many WMS/LSSAS members, lots of new faces from the community, and Sarasota County and North Port Officials such as Sarasota County's Executive Director of Community Service John McCarthy, and North Port Planner Michelle Norton. Voted into office that evening were Lawry Reid, President; Dave Runfeldt, Vice President; Lyn Runfeldt, Treasurer; Jill Luke,

Membership Director; Linda Reid-Ferrier, Recording Secretary; and Bill Goetz, Corresponding Secretary.

Many who could not attend sent letters of support. One from Sarasota County Commissioner Christine Robinson states: "On behalf of the Board of County Commissioners, congratulations to the Friends of Little Salt Spring on their formation to support a hidden jewel in our community. Little Salt Spring is a scientific and historical resource that needed a connection to the community to spread the vision of a research and education center. We are excited to know that you are providing that important role. We are proud to welcome the Friends of Little Salt Spring to our circle of Friends, which stretches from parks to libraries to trails to environmentally sensitive lands in all parts of our county. We wish you much success and look forward to working with you to support the Springs! Sincerely, Christine Robinson, Chair BCC."

North Port Commissioner Tom Johns sent a letter stating: "Unfortunately, our Commission meeting is at 6 PM on the 23rd, so it is unlikely I will be able to attend the Little Salt Springs 'Kick Off' and Charter Membership meeting.

"I have long been aware of the archeological significance of Little Salt Springs and the important scientific research conducted there by UM [Dr. Gifford] and our good friend Steve Koski. I concur with your proclaimed mission statement and congratulate you and the other 'friends' for championing this North Port Treasure.

"Though I am unable to attend the meeting on the 23rd, please be assured that I support your efforts and, if possible, would like to be considered as a member of the 'Friends of the Springs.' Best Wishes and Regards, Tom Jones, Commission Chair, City of North Port."

And the Gulf Coast Foundation Director of Community Investment sent a letter stating: "Gulf Coast Community Foundation recognizes that Little Salt Spring is arguably one of the most important archaeological sites in the country. Past and current research of its cultural and natural resources by the University of Miami has been vital in producing a better understanding of Florida's earliest inhabitants. To create a significant research facility with public access at the 112-acre preserve would enhance those discoveries while providing unparalleled educational opportunities for local students and our entire community. Gulf Coast commends the Friends of Little Salt Spring for their proactive efforts to lend and foster community support so the university can fully realize its vision for this archaeological treasure right in our own backyard." Signed, Chris Pfahler, Director of Community Investment, Gulf Coast Community Foundation.

Folks have asked whether there is a conflict with the mission of the WMS/LSSAS and FLSS. My answer is no; in fact, I see each group complementing each other in a partnership of cooperation. Many FLSS have already joined WMS/LSSAS and many WMS/LSSAS have joined the FLSS. The WMS/LSSAS is a general archaeological and historic preservation-minded group concerned with all aspects of archaeology, history, and historic preservation. They conduct monthly meetings, sponsor field trips to archaeological sites and museums, and participate in events, etc. The FLSS have formed specifically for support of LSS and the University of Miami's "Vision." There will be links to each other's websites and each may assist in the planning and operation of events, tours, etc.

The FLSS now has now has more than 75 members (in less than one week), including one corporate membership (Florida Aquarium) and one business membership (Patriot Storage), and we foresee many more supporters becoming Friends. They are in the planning stages, scheduling tours of LSS for members, planning events and volunteer opportunity, and prioritizing action items. They plan to have a website and possible Facebook page. For information on membership, review Bylaws, contact Membership Director Jill Juke at Patriot Storage at [bobcatrail@partiotstorage.com](mailto:bobcatrail@partiotstorage.com).

### FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH FIELD TRIP TO GAMBLE MANSION CONNECTS ONE MEMBER'S LOCAL HISTORY

By Judi Crescenzo and Lorraine Hawkins

March 11th was the perfect day for an Archaeology Month field trip about the Civil War in Florida. Several of our members and their guests visited the Gamble Plantation in Ellenton for a tour of the mansion. The Daughters of the Confederacy, dressed in period costumes and acting as docents, recreated a Civil War era atmosphere within the mansion. The architecture was impressive, with massive walls, a huge cistern, and a well that once provided water to those living on the plantation. On the grounds, Civil War re-enactors displayed a soldier's tent, food, weapons, and other equipment. One re-enactor spoke of the high cost of tea and explained that it was purchased in small blocks, from which scrapings were taken to brew the beverage. The Patten House, a Victorian-style structure, was also open for tours to provide a glimpse into daily life at the end of the 19th century.

Demonstrations of sugarcane pressing and free tastes of the final product were offered. Refreshments were available for all to enjoy.

One field-trip member, Lorraine Hawkins, with a Florida family history going back to the Civil War, used to go to the Patten House as a child to visit her aunt Ida Mel, who once lived there.



WMSLSSAS Board member Lorraine Hawkins stands next to a photo of her aunt on the desk at the Patton House at Gamble Mansion Park

During the tour, she saw a photograph of her aunt on a desk in one of the rooms. Lorraine said, "I learned that the person in the photo was my aunt Ida Melville Patten Weesner (1895–1995). My Grandmother Verda Mae Weesner Downall is how I am related to Aunt Ida Mel as we called her. She dressed in white gloves with hat and every hair in place—was in every way a perfect lady. I tried so hard to walk like her. It was a very confident stride. She is buried in the cemetery next to her husband Walker Jay Weesner (1893–1947), just around the corner from the Gamble Plantation. I never knew him, as I was born in 1944. The docent at the Patten House that day was new and was trying to learn everything that was there. I explained that I had been in that house many times to visit my Aunt Ida Mel (as I knew her) and her mother, who lived there until she passed away. She turned the photo over, and on the back was written who she was. If it had not been brought to my attention, I would not have known, because when I knew her, she was totally white haired."

Lorraine went on to state, "This has been a great time for me as to my personal history, etc. [field trip, working on the Florida Archaeology Month Civil War exhibit at the North Port Library]. I have enjoyed this and have learned so much. The flag I have [that was displayed in the NP Library exhibit] was from the Downall side of my history; my Grandfather's sister (Effie Downall Haywood). She lived in Thonotosassa with an outhouse (yes, there was a chamber pot under the bed), no electricity, and a real icebox with an iceman who brought her a huge block of ice for the icebox

every week as I recall. She did have a kerosene heater that she put the cast iron on to heat to iron her clothes. I stayed weekends with her, and was told that when you hear gunshots in the middle of the night, get down on the floor. Anyway, she was a 'Daughter of the Confederacy.' I learned at Gamble Plantation what it takes to be a Daughter of Confederacy. You have to prove your linkage to the Confederacy."

Great local connection to history, Lorraine; a moment when the past comes alive. Thank you for sharing!

To learn more about the Gamble Mansion or if interested in a visit on your own, go to: [www.thegambleplantation.com/](http://www.thegambleplantation.com/).

### SARASOTA COUNTY PROCLAIMS MARCH 2012 AS FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH

On March 13, at a Sarasota County Commissioners meeting, a "Proclamation in recognition of March 2012 Florida Archaeology Month" was read to all in attendance. The meeting was broadcast on Sarasota County Cable News Channel. WMS/LSSAS Secretary Hilda Boron and Time Sifters President Sherry Svekis were present to accept the proclamation and many WMSLSSAS members were also present. After the reading and presentation, Steve Koski presented each Commissioner, the County Manager, the County Council, and other County officials a Florida Archaeology Month poster and the recently published booklet, Florida Civil War Heritage Trail, a Florida Heritage Trail publication by the Florida Association of Museums and the Florida Division of Historical Resources. The Proclamation read:

WHEREAS, Sarasota County has a diverse and rich array of archaeological resources, and is expanding opportunities to experience the prehistory and history of the County; and

WHEREAS, the enjoyment and appreciation of our collective past strengthens a sense of place, fosters community involvement and promotes sensitivity to cultural diversity; and

WHEREAS, March 2012 has been designated as Florida Archaeology Month by the Florida Anthropological Society;

NOW, THEREFORE, WE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA, do hereby proclaim March 2012 as Florida Archaeology Month.

Following the reading and acceptance of the proclamation, Dr. John Gifford gave a brief presentation on

LSS to the Commission and showed the 10-minute professional documentary on LSS by David Profiri of Mind Flow Media.

Judi and John Crescenzo matted and framed the proclamation, which now hangs in the dorm lab at Little Salt Spring, where we often meet for our board meetings. It hangs next to our FAS Chapter Award given to the group at the 2008 FAS Annual Meeting for our public outreach efforts. Another proud moment in our history!



Florida Archaeology Month Proclamation by Sarasota County Board of Commissioners

### FAS ANNUAL MEETING IN TALLAHASSEE MAY 10-13

The 64th Annual Meeting of the Florida Anthropological Society will be held May 11–13 in Tallahassee. This year's meeting will be hosted by the Panhandle Archaeological Society at Tallahassee (PAST). The theme for this year's event is "Forever Changed, La Florida" to spotlight and highlight the significance of Florida's Spanish colonial heritage, beginning with Ponce de Leon's 1513 landing and ending when Florida became a territory in 1821.

The meeting will be held at Mission San Luis, a Florida mission-period property owned by the state and now a National Historic Landmark. The extraordinary Mission San Luis de Talimali was established in 1656 when Spanish authorities decided to locate their western capital among the Apalachee on one of the city's highest points. San Luis boasts a recently constructed state-of-the-art conference facility and museum—the setting of FAS 2012.

Friday will be a day of board meetings at Mission San Luis for the Florida Public Archaeology Network, Trail of

Florida's Indian Heritage, Florida Archaeological Council, and Florida Anthropological Society. The meetings will be followed by a reception in the Courtyard and FAC Awards in the Council House.

Saturday will be a day of paper presentations in three concurrent session rooms. Steve Koski will be presenting a paper co-authored by John Gifford entitled "Current Excavations on the North Slope of the Basin at Little Salt Spring (8SO18), Sarasota County, Florida." The presentation will be followed by the banquet and awards ceremony in the Mission Room. Keynote speaker at the banquet will be Dr. Bonnie McEwan, Director of Archaeology at Mission San Luis, noted researcher and author, with music and dancing to follow until 10:30 PM.

Workshops, site tours, kayak adventures, and other events are part of the festivities.

Annual FAS meetings are a time when Florida and southeast archaeologists, professional and avocational, come together to meet, share ideas, socialize, and support Florida archaeology.

For more information on registration and accommodations, go to <http://www.fasweb.org/>.

#### **FIELD-TRIP OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED MAY 5 AND MAY 26**

**Indian Mound Park in Englewood** will hold a special event this Saturday, **May 5, at 10:00 AM**. There will be a program by Sarasota County Archaeologist Jodi Pracht, followed by refreshments provided by Friends of Indian Mound Park. Other events in town at historic properties will occur as well.

Indian Mound Park, also known as the Paulsen Point Site, was first recorded as an archaeological site in 1953 by Dr. John Goggin of the University of Florida's Archaeological Laboratory. When the Intracoastal Waterway was dredged through Lemon Bay in the early 1960s, soil was placed on the site to create the 10-acre park we know today. In 1964, Sarasota County purchased the park and expanded the boat launch and recreation area.

To get there, drive through Historic downtown Englewood on Dearborn Street and follow the brown signs to Indian Mound Park off Green Street.

**Cayo Costa Heritage Day May 5 from 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM.** Several members also plan on going to Cayo Costa for their Heritage Day event. There will be a full day of activities to celebrate the heritage of Cayo Costa State Park, with historical and nature tours, demonstrations, great food, pioneer fishing-family storytelling, and more. The event is being hosted by the Friends of Cayo Costa State Park, whose goals are to secure funds to enhance visitor

services, raise awareness and protect the park's unique natural resources, provide opportunities to all visitors, and meet long-term goals of building a permanent interpretive/nature center. Sound familiar? Travelers are expected to make their own boat reservations, if space is still available, by calling Tropic Star Cruises at 239-283-0015, which leaves from Bokielia on Pine Island. We also found out Monday that boats also run from Punta Gorda and Boca Grande. The number for information on those trips is (941)- 301-8687.

**Crowley Museum and Nature Center Field trip postponed until May 26.** Due to another event that day at Crowley, our field trip was postponed until May 26. We will meet at the NP Library at 8:30 AM for a departure at 8:45 for a 10:00 AM arrival. Bring a lunch for an on-site picnic. There will be a sign-up sheet at the May 8 meeting. For more information see the March/April WMS/LSSAS NL or go to [www.crowleyfl.org](http://www.crowleyfl.org).

#### **HISTORY AND PRESERVATION COALITION OF SARASOTA COUNTY DONATES TOWARD RESEARCH AT LSS**

The History and Preservation Coalition of Sarasota County (HPCSC) recently donated \$500 to the University of Miami to assist with research at Little Salt Spring. LSS Director of Research Dr. John Gifford was delighted and said the donation would go toward a needed AMS radiocarbon date on a specimen or artifact from LSS.

The Coalition is a group of more than 20 historic- and preservation-minded organizations scattered throughout Sarasota County with a similar focus: history and historic preservation. Each group sends a representative to each meeting every other month to discuss their group's events and activities. WMS/LSSAS is one of many members.

In the past, most groups worked independently with little communication between groups. The Coalition brings these groups together to get to know each other, find out what each is doing, share information, and assist with publicity and activities when possible.

This is the first of such donations the Coalition has provided to a project and they hope to do more philanthropic activities in the future. Each year, the Coalition selects one of the groups and has a fundraising event to assist that group. This year, they plan to support the WMS/LSSAS through a luncheon at the Ringling Museum in Sarasota, followed by a presentation at the Asolo Theater. Dr. Gifford will be the keynote speaker for the event. More details will be provided when they become available. For more information on the Coalition and to see

all the members, go to:

[www.scgov.net/historycenter/Preservation/coalition.asp](http://www.scgov.net/historycenter/Preservation/coalition.asp).

#### EDITORS CORRECTION AND CLARIFICATION ON MARCH/APRIL NL ARTICLE ON VENICE BEACH SITE SHK

In the March/April WMSLSSAS newsletter, I made an error in dates on the Venice Beach Site, indicating the mound was occupied AD 1700. That was a misprint. When I realized the error, after the mailing, I went through all published dates on the Venice Beach site and wrote a "final final" issue and sent it to all on our mailing list with an email address. Those who only get the snail-mail version did not get the "final final." My apologies. This is the clarification: "Ruppé estimated the midden and mound was occupied sometime during the Perico Island Period c. 300 BC to AD 500 (now called Manasota Period). A radiocarbon date of  $1,981 \pm 85$  RCYBP was recovered from the underwater component by Ruppé in 1974. Koski also did some limited mapping and underwater excavations at the site in 1986, while on vacation from his work with Sonny Cockrell at Warm Mineral Springs. Koski dated one of 53 underwater wood stakes he found at  $1,700 \pm 70$  RCYBP, and another date came from a charcoal feature at  $2,940 \pm 80$ . A decorated sherd recovered by a local diver indicated a Weeden Island component, c. AD 300 to AD 1,200 (Ruppé et al., 1980, Bureau of Historic Sites and Properties, Bulletin No. 6; Koski 1988, *Underwater Archaeology Proceedings from the Society For Historical Archaeology Conference*, Reno, Nevada 1988)."

**EDITORS NOTE:** Again, I had three more articles to add, but ran out of space and time. I hope to include them in the September/October WMSLSSAS Newsletter

#### HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!

We will be taking our summer hiatus from monthly meetings June, July, and August. Many of our members leave for the summer, some go on vacation, and it's rather hot for summer outdoor field trips. Any events held will be announced via email. We wish all Members and Friends a GREAT summer and thank you all—we greatly appreciate your interest in the Society, friendship, and support!

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