



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.
HAPPY NEW YEAR 2013!

**ANTHROPOLOGY OF ZANZIBAR TOPIC OF
JANUARY 8 MEETING**

Dr. Erin Dean, Assistant Professor of Anthropology at New College of Florida, will be the speaker at the January 8 meeting of the WMS/LSSAS. Her topic, "Gender, Genies, and Genomes: Agricultural Knowledge in Rural Zanzibar," will discuss agricultural practices of an indigenous population on an east African island.

In the village of Jongowe in the Zanzibar archipelago, women are the guardians of extensive agricultural knowledge. Yet male authority circumscribes this feminine sphere in the form of ritual and scientific "experts." Annual planting is dependent on the advice and goodwill of majini (genies or jinn), spiritual beings who are ritually summoned, celebrated in song and dance (ngoma), and formally consulted by elder male ritual leaders. Cont. **Zanzibar P.2**



New College Anthropology Professor Dr. Erin Dean

**BLUEBERRY SITE IN HIGHLANDS COUNTY,
FLORIDA, TOPIC OF FEBRUARY MEETING**

We look forward to welcoming back archaeologist Dr. David Butler to our February 12 meeting, with an update on his research at the Blueberry site, located on the eastern edge of the Lake Whales Ridge on a relic southern shoreline of Lake Istokpoga in Lake Wales, Highlands County.

The site is located on a 102-acre parcel protected by its owners Anne and Charles Reynolds. It is believed to have been a large Belle Glade period village, occupied from A.D. 600-1700, but evidence of earlier visitation is present as well. Cont. **Blueberry p. 2**



Dave Butler (lower right) with Science teacher Gordon Davis and his Archaeology Class with KVAHC members at Blueberry site

ANCIENT WATERS CELEBRATION AND SOCIAL EVENT PLANNED FOR JANUARY 27 AT WMS!

If you have not picked up your tickets to the Ancient Waters Celebration to be held January 27 at WMS, they can be purchased at the January 8 meeting. Less than half of the 110 tickets are left.

The event is the Third Annual Social of the Historic Preservation Coalition of Sarasota County. The event will be hosted by the WMS/LSS Archaeological Society, Friends of LSS, and the management at Warm Mineral Springs, and will serve as a fundraiser for the Society and to help raise funds for the analysis of archaeological faunal and botanical specimens from Little Salt Spring. It will be held in a large tent at Warm Mineral Springs. Tickets are \$30 per person and include a pass to WMS spa to be used at a later date, a \$20 value.



Light painting photo of LSS by Curt Bowen

The event will begin with a with social hour and hors d'oeuvres provided by Publix Super Market, followed by dinner provided by Chef Ted Weinberger of the Evergreen Café.

The afternoon event will feature opening introductions and a brief presentation on the archaeology of WMS by archaeologist Steve Koski, followed by keynote speaker Dr. John Gifford on "Archaeological Mysteries of Little Salt Spring," highlighting more than 20 years of research.

There will be a raffle of a beautiful hand-crafted replica of the greenstone pendant made by Bill Goetz found at LSS in 2005, and a silent auction with numerous valuable items including an annual pass to WMS, framed prints by artists Ted Morris and Dean Quigley, a pastel of Mary's Chapel at Historic Spanish Point by artist Judi Crescenzo, an oil painting of Myakkahatchee Creek by artist Allain Hale, a light painting of LSS and prints of WMS and LSS by

Curt Bowen, and a reproduction of a bone-handle stone knife and Newnan projectile point by Roger Hostetler.

All proceeds after expenses will go toward the support of WMS/LSSAS events and the faunal and botanical analysis of specimens from LSS. This will be quite an exciting event. For ticket information, contact Kate Cattran at 426-9345 or roleencattran@aol.com.

ZANZIBAR (cont. from p. 1)

At the same time, the Zanzibari government has introduced agricultural extension programs that bring new seed varieties, different planting calendars, and alternative farming techniques to the village, and these technical innovations are also controlled by men. By considering the ritual practice of summoning genies through spirit-possession ceremonies, the introduction of new farming "technology," and women farmers' actual agricultural practice, this presentation explores the ordering of agricultural knowledge based on gendered notions of expertise.

This is certainly a different subject from Florida archaeology, but it will be good to expand our global awareness and it is sure to be an interesting subject. Please join us January 8 in welcoming Dr. Dean to our meeting!

BLUEBERRY (cont. from p. 1)

The site includes low sand mounds and sheet midden with intact features, including dozens of post molds from structures that once were present at the site, pit features, and associated artifacts.

More than 10,000 ceramic sherds have been recovered, along with charcoal and bones from hearths, which have helped to date the site through artifact typology and radiocarbon dating. The faunal remains lend insight into the diet of the occupants, who subsisted on both aquatic resources and land animals—a truly fascinating and spectacular site.

Numerous volunteers have assisted in the ongoing research, including local school groups and members of the Kissimmee Valley Archaeological and Historical Conservancy.

Dr. Butler last spoke to us in December of 2008 on his research, which was followed by a field trip December 20th.

This presentation will be followed by a field trip to the site in March 2013, date to be announced. This was certainly one of the most exciting field trips we have had, and we look forward to a return visit.

ARCHAEOLOGY OF LEMON BAY TOPIC OF DECEMBER 11 MEETING

Judi and John Crescenzo

On December 11, 2013, archaeologist Dr. George Luer presented "Early Lemon Bay and Cedar Point Archaeology." He explained what a shell midden is and then described four important archaeological sites in the Lemon Bay area: Cedar Point Shell Heap, Indian Mound Park, Manasota Key Cemetery, and the Englewood Mound.

The Lemon Bay Indians were fisher-folk and hunter-gatherers about 4,000–5,000 years ago. They managed the land and executed controlled burns. Through skills and hard work, their population grew. The main part of their diet was fish, but they also ate land mammals and aquatic reptiles, and plants played an important role in their diet. Pottery sherds were uncovered and some types can be used to date sites because of their distinct styles that evolved over time. The Lemon Bay Indians should not be considered as a part of natural history because they created their own evolving cultures, like modern humans do.

The Lemon Bay sites include shell middens, cemeteries, and burial mounds. Shell middens reveal camp life through remains of house floors, burials, bones, shells, and pottery. Middens are not just trash—they preserve a complex record of the past. Occupations were built on top of each other and can be studied to reconstruct cultures. The Cedar Point Shell Heap has a full range of occupation, but it is later than Little Salt Spring. The Indian Mound contains rich faunal material to reveal details about diet. The Manasota Cemetery gives clues to the health of individuals, and the Englewood Mound reveals a ritualistic society.

In 1959, Ripley Bullen, an archaeologist with the Florida Parks Service, was present when the Army Corp of Engineers destroyed Cedar Point during the dredging of the intracoastal waterway. At that time, there was no federal legislation to protect this cultural legacy. In 1969, Bullen wrote an article for the New Orleans Anthropological Symposium in which he described a large marine shell midden that had been bulldozed. He was fortunate to see items that had been collected, including fiber-tempered pottery sherds. In 1975, Bullen again mentioned early pottery and suggested a rise in sea level.

In 1993, Dr. Luer worked for the Lemon Bay Conservancy, mapping and completing shovel tests at a sand mound located where Lemon Bay High School now stands. He also surface-collected Late Archaic shouldered shell adzes at Cedar Point. Luer recently wrote an article for the Florida Anthropological Society in which he



Archaeologist George Luer accepts our world famous WMS/LSSAS tee shirt from member Betty Nugent

compared these shell adzes to others from Cortez and concluded that Lemon Bay tools were a new form.

In 1965, Paulsen Point (now known as Indian Mound Park) was found to hold human burials. At that time, a large amount of spoil was added to the site during intracoastal waterway dredging. Today, Indian Mound Park contains only a remnant of the original mound. The area was surveyed in 1965 and test pits were dug. Chipped stone tools, perforated shell tools and ornaments, and stamped and shell-imprinted pottery were uncovered. The study of sand-tempered plain rim sherds showed functional differences and changes over time. The site also revealed many fish bones. The Indians also used long bones of deer for tools; they ate ducks, deer, raccoons, birds, and turtles. They probably caught many green sea turtles and crabs in their nets, but fish were the major part of their diverse diet.

The Manasota Key Cemetery was discovered during construction of a home in 1988. The burials were dated to the Manasota Period 2,000 years ago. The cemetery held 34% sub-adults, 20% adult males, 14% adult females, and 32% adults of unknown sex. There was a high death rate among children, and the average age at death was 29. Evidence of broken arms, flattened teeth, infections, anemia, and congenital disorders was found. Scars on skulls show that the Indians suffered from the disease yaws, which is caused by a spirochete.

In the 1930s, as part of a WPA project with the State of Florida and the Smithsonian Institution, the Englewood Mound was excavated. The mound had once contained a burial pit, and elaborate mortuary ceremonials took place there. Bundles of long bones were probably moved from a charnel house for burial. Shell cups with red ochre were found, along with many "killed" (broken) pottery vessels. It

was part of the mortuary ceremony to break an item after drilling a hole in the bottom. Gourds of African origin were also discovered; these could have floated across the sea to later be cultivated by the Indians. Some ornamental gourds with complex designs were mimicked in ceramic forms.

Today North Port's cultural resources need protection, and the results of excavations must be analyzed and published. In 1962, North Port was subdivided. Price Blvd. was built in 1973, which led to the discovery of the Little

Salt Spring slough site, located adjacent to Little Salt Spring. In 1977, Carl Clausen found evidence of burials, plant remains, and a fire in the slough. In 1977, the midden was discovered by Calvin Jones, and in 1978, Dr. Luer observed the process. Dr. Luer returned in 1979–80 and at various times thereafter. In 2000, he wrote a scientific article on the site which was published in the *Florida Anthropologist*, and in 2001 he sketched Clausen's old trench units. In 2002, Dr. Luer wrote a special bulletin, again in the *Florida Anthropologist*, on the archaeology of Upper Charlotte Harbor, which described significant sites in North Port including the one near Little Salt Spring that contained an upland Archaic period habitation area 6,000–8,000 years old. He gave a copy to Time Sifters member Marty Ardren, who contacted Steve Koski. Ardren, Koski, and another member of Time Sifters met with then County Commissioner John Thaxton, who spearheaded the acquisition of 24 lots adjacent to Little Salt Spring that were threatened with destruction through residential development—a significant success story initiated by local citizens involving local historic preservation initiatives. More effort is needed, however, for continued archaeological preservation, scientific analysis, and publication of North Port's finite significant cultural and natural resources.

ANCIENT WATERS TRAIL CONCEPT REVEALED AT NOVEMBER 13 MEETING

Judi and John Crescenzo

On November 13, 2012, State College of Florida student Bill Goetz presented a concept for the "Ancient Waters Trail" in North Port. As part of this concept, the Trail would lead from US 41 to Warm Mineral Springs to Little Salt Spring and onto and along portions of the Myakkahatchee Creek.

The first section of the Trail would start at US 41 and Ortiz Blvd. at the historic Warm Mineral Springs Motel and fountain, and continue along Ortiz to WMS. Architect Victor Lundy designed the motel, built in 1958; he was also responsible for the federal tax building in Washington, DC, and an IBM building in NJ. His structures are part of the Sarasota School of Architecture and he designed the



Bill Goetz accepts our world famous WMS/LSSAS tee shirt from Vice President Judith Ribarick

unique Warm Mineral Springs motel ceiling to resemble palm trees with drainage in the center. Near the motel is a sculpture by Sophie Johnstone, which was installed in 1958. Envisioned at that location is a historic marker describing the motel and fountain.

Halfway down this leg of the Ortiz portion of the trail is a unique abandoned building that is an example of mid-century modern architecture. It has a concrete roof and appears to have no leaks. The walls are high and would allow for shelves and displays so that, with renovations, it could become the Ancient Waters Museum.

The facilities at Warm Mineral Springs were designed by Jack West and include the Cyclorama, which was built for the Quadricentennial in 1960. This structure was used to depict Ponce de Leon's landing and the Fountain of Youth theme; however, it is now only used for storage. The building is still in good shape, but it requires mold removal and a new roof; the murals inside are viable, but need some touchups.

Across the road from WMS is Salt Creek, the outflow from WMS, portions of which could be cleaned and utilized as a nature trail. As part of the Ancient Waters Trail, the property could be preserved and protected in a pristine state.

From WMS, the Trail would continue via bike or car along Trionfo Ave. to Biscayne, then to Glenallen Blvd. to Price Blvd. to Hyder Terrace at the Little Salt Slough Park, a five-acre wooded parcel adjacent to Little Salt Spring acquired and protected by Sarasota County with assistance from the City of North Port. The parcel contains archaeological evidence of a Middle Archaic habitation site and wetland slough associated with a component of the underwater site at LSS. It will make a great location for a passive environmental park. It is hoped that eventually

portions of the 112-acre University of Miami-owned Little Salt Spring Archaeological and Ecological Preserve could be included in the Trail, perhaps on scheduled days for guided educational nature walks when funding is secured for a research and education facility on that property.

From Little Salt Slough Park, the Trail would then proceed along Price Blvd. to the Myakkahatchee Creek and connect to wooded trails along the creek. North Port owns much of the land along the creek, including Myakkahatchee Park located off Reistertown Rd. The creek drains a large expanse of land north of Estates Dr. and past SR 72. Little Salt Spring Creek also flows into it contributing six hundred thousand to one million gallons per day a third magnitude spring. Other creeks may also feed it, or portions may be spring fed. There are karstic areas along the creek, along with deep holes. During the summer, the water level may reach 16-feet above sea level. The Myakkahatchee is diverse in life forms and history with associated archaeological sites and the possible remains of a turpentine industry. Public access could foster awareness and protection of our significant natural and cultural resources.

Community involvement could be a component of the Ancient Waters Trail through scheduled clean-up days to encourage responsible access, protection of city drinking-water supply, and protection of the natural and cultural resources along its course. As stated by retired Director of Sarasota County Parks and Recreation John McCarthy, we should preserve history for today and the future.

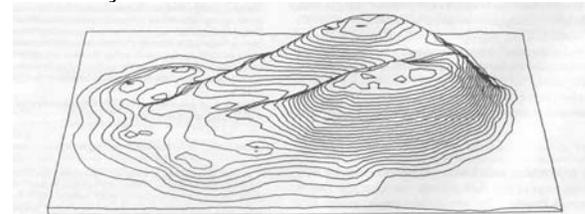
WMS/LSSAS ANNUAL YARD SALE TO BE HELD FEBRUARY 16

The time is approaching for our annual yard sale! We are on a drive to collect nice items for our annual yard sale to be held February 16 at the Warm Mineral Springs Motel on US 41 and Ortiz Blvd. Please bring your items to our meeting January 8, or arrange for drop-off or pick-up by calling Hilda Boron at 426-1719. This has been our only fundraiser and we can't get through the year without the additional revenue that helps to support the newsletter and quality monthly programs and events, so please help us out! We thank our many members and friends who have donated items in the past and encourage you to continue to participate in this annual event. If you would like to help price items, load the U-Haul truck on the afternoon of February 15, help set up the morning of February 16, or man a table, please contact Hilda Boron at the above number. Help make 2013 our best year yet!

DECEMBER 8 A BUSY DAY WITH HIKE TO THE ACLINE MOUND AND TRIP TO CROWLEY NATURE AND CULTURAL CENTER

S. Koski

On December 8, a small group of WMS/LSSAS members met John Aspiolea Manager of the Charlotte Harbor Preserve State Park at the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center at Alligator Creek in Punta Gorda for a morning hike to the Acline Mound. It was a perfectly beautiful day that included a pleasant two-mile round-trip walk to the 18-foot-high U-shaped bifurcated platform-topped shell mound. There was only one short area where we had to wade through a few inches of water. The mound, located in a mangrove marsh south of Alligator Creek, once had a view of Charlotte Harbor, which is now mostly blocked by vegetation. Large gumbo and oaks now occupy the mound, with an understory of stopper shrubs. A primitive path meanders though the mound that is steeply backed by the creek.



SURFER contour map of the Acline Mound, C. Torrence (*FA Pub. No.14, 1999 p. 89*)



John Aspiolea, Manager of the Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserve State Park reviews maps of the Acline Mound before the hike

The mound is adjacent to a large habitation area (8CH479) consisting of a shell midden with an adjacent pond. It was originally recorded on the Florida Master Site File by archaeologist James Miller in 1975 during an archaeological survey in the area. In 1979 George Luer

made a series of visits to the mound and noted that it resembled other mounds in the Caloosahatchee region while contrasting to mounds in the Tampa Bay Region (Torrence 2000). In 1988, while visiting sites in the area, Luer made a detailed sketch map of the mound and noted numerous vandal pits. In 1995, Robert Patton completed an archaeological survey of a portion of the CHPSP surrounding the Acline Mound and Whidden Branch Mound located less than one mile south of the Acline Mound. In 1996 Corbett Torrence produced an accurate topographic map of the mound. In 1999, Patton returned to the mound as part of a state funded survey in the CHPSP for the Charlotte Harbor Mounds Survey II. The survey was conducted in an attempt to describe in detail Charlotte Harbor mounds and sites in terms of chronology and cultural significance and place the sites in regional context. To summarize Patton's findings, the Acline Mound was probably formed at the location of a Caloosahatchee IIA midden (A.D. 650-800) at some time in the early Caloosahatchee IIB period (AD 800-1200). The construction period is important because monumental structures often commemorate important people or ideas. The mound is contemporaneous with other large mounds in the Charlotte Harbor area and likely socially and politically related.

During the period of construction, Mississippian culture peoples throughout the Southeast Gulf coast were building similar monumental structures. The study of the Acline Mound and other mounds in the Charlotte Harbor area lend insight in the social and political development of the local inhabitants in relationship to regional cultural influences.

The Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center at Alligator Creek is located off Burnt Store Road in Punta Gorda. The address is 10941 Burnt Store Road. For more information, call 941-575-5435 or visit their website at <http://www.checflorida.org/>.

DECEMBER 8 SUGAR CANE HARVEST FESTIVAL AT CROWLEY NATURAL AND CULTURAL HISTORY CENTER

S. Koski

From the Acline Mound hike, we went directly to the Crowley Natural and Cultural History Center for their Annual Sugar Cane Festival. There was food, bluegrass bands, games, cane pressing, weaving, blacksmith demonstrations, horseback riding, pony rides, storytelling, and much more. We took a walk down the boardwalk to the observation tower overlooking the flood plain of the Myakka River and stayed for the storytelling around a bonfire. It was an absolutely beautiful day.

Next year we will be sure to promote the event and make it a field trip.



Seminole Indians and Florida cowboy reenactors have discussion at Crowley Natural and Cultural Center



Boardwalk out to the Myakka Prairie at Crowley

The next event at Crowley Nature and Cultural center will be their annual Southwest Florida Heritage Festival on February 9 from 10-5. Also free, with a \$2 parking donation. Civil War skirmishes, cowboy shootouts, real working cowboys, crafts, kids' area, antique-car show, farmers' market, reenactors, blacksmithing, cracker cows and horses, pony rides, and live music will be part of the fun. At the same time there will be a Church Social held at the Old Miakka Methodist Church, with good old-fashioned preaching, a wedding ceremony under the arbor, guided tours of the cemetery, gospel music, and much, much more. For more information on this event and other upcoming events and workshops at Crowley, go to their website <http://crowleyfl.org/>.

2013 VIVA FLORIDA!



2013 marks the 500th anniversary of the founding of Florida by Spanish explorer Ponce de Leon. While Florida was not “discovered” by the Spanish explorer, the anniversary marks the first documented landing by Europeans on the east coast of Florida in 1513 (even though one of the first Indians he encountered on the west coast spoke Spanish). The expedition was followed by numerous other expeditions by French, Spanish, and English explorers and settlers over the next three hundred years. Their presence altered the course of history and proved devastating to the lives and culture of the native populations living here.

Florida’s rich history or prehistory goes back at least 12,000 years, so Viva Florida also celebrates the state’s rich cultural heritage, places, archaeological and historic sites, and events of the past that helped shape the present and guide our future. There are many events that will take place throughout the year to commemorate our rich cultural heritage. To learn more about Viva Florida and events, visit their official web site at <http://www.fla500.com/overview.php?lang=en>.

STONE-TOOL MANUFACTURE DEMONSTRATION AND WORKSHOP PLANNED FOR FEBRUARY

Stone-tool technologist Roger Hostetler, who is donating reproductions for the Ancient Waters event for our silent auction, will be demonstrating his stone-tool manufacture techniques at a workshop hosted by the WMS/LSSAS, the date to be determined and announced—a Saturday in late February/early March.



Stone tool technologist Roger Hostetler displays a dovetail point he recently made.

The demonstration will be held at Butler Park in North Port on a Saturday in late February or early March. More details will be offered when available.

LSS NEWS

S. Koski

Dr. Gifford will be arriving with his class at LSS January 2 for a 10-day field session with his Under Water Archaeology Techniques class. During their visit, the students will learn the techniques involved in underwater archaeology and actually work on excavating a 10 cm level in Operation 14, a 2x2 m unit on the mid-slope of the basin at LSS. Incredible discoveries have been made in Op 14 that represent activities that took place in the basin prior to inundation and utilization as a mortuary pond 8,500–9,500 radiocarbon years before present.

Shell, bone, wood, and stone artifacts have been found that reflect the manufacture and use of tools used during the late PaleoIndian to early Archaic period by people who lived around the spring. The peat above the sand in the excavation area demonstrates that the artifacts and associated specimens have not seen the light of day since the spring flooded sometime around 8,500 years ago. Two curved wooden throwing sticks (of six found at the site) and three circumscribed wood shafts have been found, a testament to the exceptional preservation of wood. Some of the oldest bottle-gourd fragments have also been found in direct association with artifacts, demonstrating their use as containers nearly 10,000 years ago and implying possible cultivation.

Information on the January class and discoveries will be reported in the March/April WMS/LSSAS Newsletter.

FRIENDS OF LSS ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 15 AT IMAGINE SCHOOL

The Friends of LSS will hold their annual meeting January 15 at 7:00 PM at the Imagine School located off Toledo Blade Blvd. at 2747 Sycamore St., Upper Campus. The School is located between Price Blvd. and I-75. From I-75 take a left at the second light on to Panacea (right coming from Price), take the 1st right on to Sycamore St., turn right at 2nd drive entrance to Imagine School Upper Campus, and turn left through metal gates. 2nd building on right is 2747 Sycamore St. This is not the same place they met the last two meetings; it is across the street. Topics will include an update on LSS ongoing research being conducted the first two weeks in January, info on the Ancient Waters January 27 social event and fundraiser, Ancient Waters Trail update, and the faunal and botanical analysis at LSS.

WMSLSSAS MEMBERSHIP DRIVE IS ON!

Special thanks to all 2012 WMS/LSSAS members and those who have renewed for 2013! We really had a great year of programs, field trips and events this past year and look forward to yet another year of interesting and educational programs, field trips and events. But, we couldn't do it without your support. Dues are our main source of income and help pay for the publication and mailing of the newsletter, speaker accommodations and honorarium, memberships to preservation minded organizations such as the Florida Anthropological Society (of which we are a Chapter), Florida Humanities Council, Randell Research Center, Historic Spanish Point, Friends of North port Library, Crowley Natural and Cultural Center, and others.

So please renew your membership today so we may continue our educational, research, and historic preservation minded efforts. Thank you!

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