



WMS/LSS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 24, No. 4 September/October 2013

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. Welcome back! Hope you all had a nice summer!

WMS/LSSAS MEMBER HERBIANA LUDWIG TO PRESENT SEPTEMBER 10 ON HER PATAGONIA TRIP

Tuesday, September 10, WMS/LSSAS member Herbiana Ludwig will speak on her 2012 trip to Patagonia on the National Geographic ship *Explorer* at our monthly meeting. The topic was presented at the Luncheon Speaker Series at the Manasota Beach Club on April 29 and we thought it would be an interesting topic for our members. It's always nice when members are excited about informing us on one of their adventures. Herbiana will give details of the many ports visited and side trips taken, and discuss the inhabitants encountered by the first Europeans who explored and settled the southern end of South America and the southern extent of the Andes Mountains in Argentina and Chile. *Cont. p 2 Patagonia*



Herbiana Ludwig

YBOR CITY BENEATH THE SURFACE TOPIC OF OCTOBER MEETING

Archaeologist Rebecca O'Sullivan, Outreach Coordinator, Florida Public Archaeology Network (FPAN), will be the speaker at our October 8 meeting. Her topic: "Ybor City Beneath the Surface." Archaeology beneath the Ybor City we see today can tell us even more about the people who founded and lived in this bustling and unique cigar town. Staff and volunteers from the West Central Regional Center of FPAN conducted archaeological investigations at the Ybor City Museum State Park as part of a larger archaeological survey of this historic neighborhood. Located on 9th Avenue and 19th Street in Ybor City (Tampa), the city block was once the home of many cigar-factory and related-industry workers and their families. *Cont. p. 2 Ybor*



Rebecca O'Sullivan

Ybor From p. 1.

This presentation covers the background of the particular lot and their current work to connect the small forgotten things recovered during excavations throughout the area to the people of Ybor City's past and present.

A fall tour of the Ybor Museum Park will be announced in the November/December WMS/LSSAS Newsletter.

"Don Vicente Martinez Ybor came to an area of pine scrub and swamp to build what became the Cigar Capital of the World. From the opening of the first cigar factory in 1886 until the 1930s, Ybor City flourished. The urban park is dedicated to the preservation of Ybor City's unique cultural heritage. The museum, housed in the historic Ferlita Bakery, traces the rich cultural history of Ybor City and the cigar making industry." From:

<http://www.floridastateparks.org/yborcity/default.cfm>. For more information on Ybor City Museum Park, visit: <http://www.ybormuseum.org/visit-the-museum>. FPAN also has a website: <http://www.flpublicarchaeology.org/wrcr/> and a Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/FPANwestcentral>. Check them out!

Patagonia From p. 1

As discussed in our May/June 2013 newsletter, the area is diverse and beautiful, with steppe-like plains, terraces, freshwater lakes, estuaries, mountains, and glaciers that encompass the region. The area is rich in history and culture, the earliest archaeological evidence dating at 10,000 to 12,000 BC, with the first recorded visit in 1520 on the voyage of Magellan, followed by numerous explorations and founding of settlements.

The name Patagonia comes from the word *patagon*, used by Magellan in 1520 on his circumnavigation of the world to describe the native people he encountered, who were said to be twice the size of normal people. They are believed to have been the Tuhuelchees, indigenous people to the region. Later visitors also described them as giants, up to 12 feet tall. It appears that these early descriptions were highly exaggerated; however, their average 5'11" may have seemed quite large to the average 5'1" European.

Come to the meeting and learn more about this interesting and adventurous trip!

HERITAGE OF WMS TOPIC OF APRIL 2013 MEETING

By Judi and John Crescenzo

On May 14, 2013, Jodi Johnson, a student at New College of Florida, presented "The Multiplicity of Heritage at Warm Mineral Springs (WMS)—Understanding Concepts of the Complex Heritage at WMS." In her presentation, Johnson analyzed WMS through a heritage lens.

Heritage within a community is a grassroots endeavor, driven by people who control the site and push to decide its outcome. Heritage is the tangible manifestation of a community's cultural expression. History teaches us of events that actually happened, while myth includes religious and folk arts. Because people visit WMS from all over the country, these connections are complex.

Heritage connects the past and present. It is collective and gives social cohesion that is sustained by living communities. Heritage gives us a sense of well-being and is relevant to aspirations of communities—it mobilizes people and how they see the world. When a town is destroyed by a natural disaster, people will return to rebuild if their town had a cultural heritage.

However, heritage is not static and is not just about preservation. The multiplicity of heritage at WMS is part of the current debate, but it is not new. Interests in the spring have waxed and waned in the past. WMS offers the opportunity for many people to become attached—archaeologists, health advocates, architects, and hydrologists—to name a few.

Humans lived at WMS 10,000–12,000 years ago when giant sloths and mammoths roamed the area. This was 5,000–7,000 years before the pyramids and Stonehenge were built. WMS is one of the oldest sites of human habitation in the United States; it is also a cemetery of international importance. Research has shown that the people who lived at the spring were unique and unlike those at Little Salt Spring (LSS). There are only five mortuary ponds in Florida, and two—WMS and LSS—are in North Port.

The hydrology and mineral content of WMS are one of a kind. The discharged water is visited by wintering manatees and is unlike that anywhere else in the world. Archaeological efforts at WMS extend back over 50 years. The Sarasota School of Architecture by Jack West, his buildings in Sarasota, and the WMS motel and sculptures were all designed at the same time. They comprise North Port's historic district and require protection.

In studying the past, reality may conflict with "myth and imagined heritage." Examples include pirate festivals and locations where Ponce de Leon clanded in various parts of Florida. Such myths are important to connect people and tell a story. The Cyclorama at WMS was built in the late 1950s to early 1960s. Paintings in the Cyclorama show Spanish and Native peoples and depict the discovery of WMS. They provide a description of WMS from a colonial viewpoint. Our views have changed today and include the story of all of these people. The myth connecting the Fountain of Youth story with the National Register of Historic Places has created a valuable heritage.

The heritage-scape is not just about the spring—it

includes all parts of heritage past and present and how they come together. This includes archaeology, geology, and hydrology of the Deep Past, along with present environmental, economic, and tourism efforts.

Why does WMS need to be conserved, displayed, and studied while being used for education and enjoyment? There are three components: a common past, the satisfaction of current needs, and preservation for the future. The complexity of WMS offers an advantage to achieve these goals. First, everyone should be involved. Transparency is important to making decisions. Advisory groups are needed, as public officials are not experts in all of these areas. Science brings together the geology, hydrology, and archaeology of the site.

WMS has its limitations, which must be discussed before moving forward. What could be lost in our efforts? There is a need for mutual respect of each other's needs and desires, and the need to listen to each other's concerns. Moral obligations and responsibilities are important, as is an increased quality of life for all. Getting involved in the process by expressing ideas and supporting that which is important to each of us lets our voices be heard. As Theodore Roosevelt stated, "Do not let selfish men or greedy interests skin your country of its beauty, its riches or its romance."

BIG NEWS! MAY 2014 ANNUAL FLORIDA ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING TO BE HOSTED BY WMS/LSSAS IN PUNTA GORDA

By Steve Koski, adapted from FAS July Newsletter

The 2014 Annual Meeting of the Florida Anthropological Society will be hosted by the Warm Mineral Springs/Little Salt Spring Archaeological Society and held in Punta Gorda, Florida, May 9–11, 2014. Punta Gorda (<http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/about/history.html>) is a quaint historic city rich in local and regional history located just south of, and at the mouth of, the Peace River and Charlotte Harbor. It has a nice historic district that was revitalized after the devastating effects of Hurricane Charlie in 2004.

The meeting will be held at the Charlotte County Conference and Event Center which is located on the Peace River. (<http://www.charlotteharbormeetings.com/>),

The Four Points Sheraton, located right on the river and just one block away from the Conference Center, will serve as the Conference Hotel. We are able to secure the reasonable room rate of \$89.00 and will forward room-registration information once it is available. The venue selected for the banquet is Laishley Crab House (<http://www.laishleycrabhouse.com/>), which is another block from the hotel and, you guessed it, also right on the river. So, it will be a river-walk kind of meeting. The historic

downtown district is only a block away from the hotel and within walking distance. Friday-night reception and FAC Stewards of Heritage Awards location is still to be determined.

The event location was selected because of its proximity to North Port, concentration of most conference activities are within walking distance: event center, hotel, restaurant, and historic downtown. And Sarasota-based Time Sifters Archaeological Society is considering hosting the 2015 FAS Annual Meeting in Sarasota, so there could be two years of meetings in close proximity. It will be great!

The 2014 FAS Committee is hard at work making arrangements and planning events and tours. There should be plenty to do. While we admit Punta Gorda is not St. Augustine (2013 location) or Tallahassee (2012 location), or Orlando (2011 location), or Pensacola (2010 location), we are confident Punta Gorda and the region's charm, historic character, and hospitality will make for a great meeting! This will be a first for us, so we really want to make it a splendid event.

More information and details on events, along with hotel and conference registration and the call for papers, will be in the next FAS Newsletter and on the FAS website. We hope once again to cover a broad range of Florida archaeology, anthropology, and history topics, as well as current research. We'd like to see the entire state represented: from Paleoindian (FAM 2014 theme) through the Archaic and post-Archaic regional cultures and into the historic period. We hope to have both a prehistoric and a nautical underwater session, as well as feature sites in both Charlotte and Sarasota Counties.

Interested in participating? We will need all able hands and minds. Various committees will be forming and sign-up sheets for those members interested in participating will be available at the October meeting. There will be a sponsorship committee, registration committee, volunteer committee, program committee, vendor committee, and more. Stay tuned!

ARTCALUSA EXHIBIT, PROGRAMS, AND EVENTS SCHEDULED IN NOVEMBER

By Theresa Schober

"ARTCALUSA, Reflections on Representation" a Viva Florida event, will be held from November 1–29, 2013, at the Sidney and Berne Davis Art Center, Fort Myers, FL. It has been organized by the Lee Trust for Historic Preservation. Paintings, works on paper, and sculpture will be exhibited in the newly restored Capital Gallery

ARTCALUSA is a group exhibition featuring Florida's leading historical artists working today, each of whom produces works of art based on scholarly research findings and experimental approaches in archaeology and history.

ARTCALUSA visually interprets the life and experiences of Florida's indigenous peoples through their contact with early European.

Exhibiting artists include Luc Century, Merald Clark, Charles Dauray, Chris Kreider, David Meo, Theodore Morris, Dean Quigley, Hermann Trappman, and Jackson Walker. The College of Life Foundation has generously underwritten the exhibition that is co-curated by Theresa Schober and Barbara Hill.

The exhibition opens with an exciting and thought-provoking set of events and programs. On November 1st, join us at the Florida Anthropological Society-sponsored VIP reception with the artists, where Dr. Jerald Milanich will explore the 420-year-old mystery of Theodore de Bry's engravings in his presentation, "Tattooed Ladies: Do Theodore de Bry's Iconic 1591 Engravings of Florida Indians Reflect Reality or Something Else?" Tickets for the VIP reception are \$50 and available through the art center at www.sbdac.com or (239) 333-1933. A published exhibition catalogue of all works will also be available for purchase.

On November 2nd, join the artists and a panel of archaeologists including Ryan Wheeler, Steven Koski, Theresa Schober, and American Indian literature scholar Gretchen Bataille in a discussion of the visual arts, archaeology, and history to reflect on how imagery of the past is developed and its effect on promoting a deeper understanding of culture. Discussions will address how representations of science and art coincide and conflict in our appreciation of Florida history. The November 2nd program is free to the public as part of a two-year Making History Memorable partnership between the Lee Trust and the Florida Humanities Council. Space is limited and reservations will be required.

A limited room block for the ArtCalusa exhibition opening has been established at Hotel Indigo, a boutique hotel in the Fort Myers historic River District. Discounted rates of \$109 and up are available for Friday, November 1, and Saturday, November 2nd, valid for booking with the group code "ACE" through October 1, 2013. For reservations, please contact the hotel directly at (239) 337-3446 or online at: <http://www.ihg.com/hotelindigo/hotels/us/en/reservation/roomrate>.

The Sidney and Berne Davis Art Center has operated since 2003 in a beautifully restored United States Post Office constructed in 1933. One of only a few masterpieces of Neoclassic Revival architecture in Florida, the building was designed by prominent architect Nat Gaillard Walker. In addition to its ornate decorative details, the building's massive columns are made of Florida Key limestone, with

walls embedded with coral formations and sea shells. The building was converted into a federal courthouse in the 1960s, but vacated in 1998 when a new courthouse was constructed nearby. The historic restoration and adaptive reuse of the structure has been undertaken by Florida Arts, Inc. and funded with grants from the Division of Historical Resources, Department of Cultural Affairs, City of Fort Myers, and individual and corporate donors.

Please see the Lee Trust website (www.leetrust.org) in the coming weeks for updates on this unique exhibition in partnership with the statewide Viva Florida 500 commemoration. For more information, please contact Theresa Schober at MakingHistoryMemorable@gmail.com.

The Lee Trust for Historic Preservation is a volunteer-based charitable organization founded in 1993 to promote historic preservation through education, advocacy, and property acquisition. The Florida Humanities Council has awarded more than \$8 million since 1971 to support statewide humanities programs that promote and preserve Florida's diverse cultural heritage.

NOVEMBER 2013 SEAC CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN TAMPA

The 70th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Archaeological Conference will be held from November 6–9, 2013, in Tampa at the Westin Harbour Island Hotel. While FAS is our regional statewide anthropological and archaeological organization, with annual meetings held throughout the state, SEAC is the regional southeastern organization with annual meetings held all over the Southeast. "Viva Florida" is the theme for this year's conference, commemorating the 500th anniversary of the earliest-documented arrival of the Spanish to our state, led by Ponce de Leon; however, the programs will include all aspects of archaeology in the Southeastern U.S., including prehistoric and historic archaeology, methods, theory, and public archaeology.

Paper and poster presentations will run from Thursday morning through Saturday noon. There will be a reception at the Tampa Bay History Center Thursday evening and a Friday-night "tacky tourist" dance at the hotel. Saturday-afternoon field-trip options provided: Crystal River Mounds State Park (\$30 and 3-hour roundtrip transportation); a walking tour of Ybor City; Public Archaeology Day at Centennial Park, across street from Ybor City Museum; and more. And you'll be in Downtown Tampa and can visit the Florida Aquarium, just two blocks from the Tampa Bay History Center, a must-see attraction!

Interested in an educational mini-vacation to Tampa? Go to SEAC's website and click on "annual meeting" at: <http://www.southeasternarchaeology.org/>.

TIME CAPSULE SLATED FOR BURIAL

You may have seen the recent local press release about a time capsule slated for placement at Historic Spanish Point December 14, 2013, that won't be opened until 2071, for Sarasota County's 150th anniversary. It will be placed above ground at the historic Osprey School House, where the administrative offices, gift shop, and meeting rooms at Historic Spanish Point are located. Visitors will be able to view the sealed capsule until the opening 58 years from now. A ceremony is planned for the day of placement.

Viva Florida 500 Time Capsule Committee members will decide what will go into the capsule and there was a request for public input over the last couple of months. There will be letters from the public and politicians, and suggestion boxes have been placed in our local libraries.

Capsules were provided to 67 counties throughout Florida by the Department of State, Division of Library and Information Services, so it's not just a local event.

Time Capsule Committee Member Bill Goetz, also on the Sarasota County Historical Commission and Secretary of the Friends of Little Salt Spring, made replicas of the two green stone pendants found at Little Salt Spring in 2005 and 2006 during archaeological research by the University of Miami to include. Pottery, glass, textiles, black-and-white photographs, microfilm, and other items will be included.

The youngest member of the Time Capsule Committee, six-year-old Lilly Goetz, proposed that they ask Sarasota aerialist Nik Wallenda for a pair of shoes he used for one of his performances. She thought it would be cool. Good idea, Lilly!

More information will be provided in the November/December WMS/LSSAS Newsletter.

MANATEE MINERAL SPRINGS PARK TO HOLD EVENT OCTOBER 19

From Reflections website <http://www.reflectionsofmanatee.com/>

On October 19, 2013, from 11:00–3:00, Manatee Mineral Springs Park will hold their Viva Florida Pioneer Annual Heritage Festival at Reflections of Manatee, Inc., located at 1312 14th St. E., Bradenton, FL 34208, 3 blocks north of SR64.

Celebrate with Reflections volunteers and members at our annual pioneer party. This family-fun event hosts smoked mullet and turkey dinners with all the fixin's by donation, and Pioneer games for young and old. This year, as we celebrate 500 years of exploration, our famed "Coins in the Hay" will be filled with Spanish doubloons and Chuckie Cheese coins; it's a big draw for the children. Open to the public, bring the grandkids.

Celebrate National Archaeology Day with students from New College of Sarasota Archaeology Lab under the

direction of Dr. Uzi Baram. Educational tours of the museum houses will be conducted, along with archaeological information of excavations. Artifacts found on site will be displayed. Events include the unveiling of their paths and educational signage.

Admission is Free and the public is invited!

TRAIL OF FLORIDA INDIAN HERITAGE

The 13th Annual TFIH Board Meeting will be held October 18 and 19 in Naples, Florida. On Friday, October 18, a welcoming reception will be held at the Naples Depot Museum.

Saturday, October 19, the board meeting will be held at the Collier County Museum from 9:00–10:00 AM. All are welcome and coffee and pastries will be provided. The annual board meeting will immediately follow from 10:00 AM to noon, with lunch from 12–1:30 (on your own). All attendees will then be invited for a tour of the Marco Island Historical Museum from 2:00–3:30. Free round-trip transportation will be provided from the Collier County Museum.

The WMS/LSSAS is a member of the TFIH, which, as its name implies, promotes Florida's Native America Heritage, past, and present through a network of partners that encourage preservation, education, and responsible visitation to our historical and archaeological sites and museums throughout the state. Members receive booklets and brochures for educational purposes that list more than 62 locations from Pensacola to Key West where you can learn about Florida's rich history.

Please RSVP with number attending to Gary Vincent, Museum Manager, Naples Depot, by October 4, 2013: garyvincent@colliergov.net, (239) 262-5119.

For more information please visit <http://trailoffloridasindianheritage.org/> and for Collier County Museum locations, www.colliermuseums.com In browsing the Trail's informative website, I came across the link to "Principles of Archaeological Ethics" from the Society of American Archaeology, the national professional organization for archaeology in the Americas. Archaeological ethics is one of the first things students of archaeology are taught and learn throughout their undergraduate and graduate studies. They are as meaningful today as they were in 1996 when officially adopted by the SAA. Visit the link below to read SAA's Archaeological Ethics. <http://www.saa.org/AbouttheSociety/PrinciplesofArchaeologicalEthics/tabid/203/Default.aspx>.

The WMS/LSSAS adheres to these SAA archaeological ethics and officially adopted the ethic standards of the Florida Anthropological Society in its By-laws in 1990, posted on the FAS website at:

http://www.fasweb.org/docs/FAS_Ethics.pdf.

CHARLOTTE COUNTY HISTORY CENTER TO HOST EXHIBIT

"Beaches, Creatures, and Cowboys: Florida Movie Posters" is the theme of the traveling exhibit of the Museum of Florida History that will be at the Charlotte County History Center from September 19 to January 25. There will be an opening reception of the exhibit at the CHHC September 19 at 5:00 PM. Please RSVP by September 12 to (941) 629-7278.

Numerous movies have been filmed in Florida going back to the 1930s, seen at movie and drive-in theaters. The exhibit will feature many of the posters that promoted these movies, as well as photographs of some of the drive-in theaters where they were shown.

To go along with the theme, on September 27 at 1:30, the CCHC will host a program called "Hurray for Hollywood!"

WMS/LSSAS AND FRIENDS OF LSS

by Steve Koski

While similar in some aspects, and while many of our members are members of both groups, there are considerable differences between the two groups. The WMS/LSSAS (a 501(c)3 corporation) was founded by Wilburn "Sonny" Cockrell in 1990 as the Warm Mineral Springs Archaeological Society, as an archaeological and historic-preservation-minded public-interest group, as well as for support of the Florida State University-administered Warm Mineral Springs Archaeological Research Project. That initial research project began in 1972 and continued through 1979 when Sonny was the Florida's State Underwater Archaeologist. In the early 1980s, the project was revived by the Florida State legislature with support from Senator Bob Johnson (Sarasota). Many of the founding members of the WMSAS (more than 250) were volunteers and participants at the Manasota Key-site excavations of late 1988 through mid-1989. When funding for WMS research ended in the early 1990s, the WMSARP was discontinued.

In 1992, Sonny asked Steve Koski, who worked with Sonny as an Assistant Underwater Archaeologist at WMS from 1986–1989, to take the helm of the WMSAS, which he did.

Over the next few years, Koski began working as a volunteer and temporary employee at Little Salt Spring with Dr. John Gifford, Associate Professor of Marine Archaeology at the University of Miami, which owned LSS. Because of the group's increased involvement at LSS, the board changed its name to the Warm Mineral Springs/Little Salt Spring Archaeological Society. Hence the

WMS/LSSAS was born, indicating our past and continued interest in the research and preservation of both national treasures; and we continue to be a strong, vibrant, positive, apolitical support and public-interest group for archaeological research and historic preservation.

The Friends of Little Salt Spring was founded in April 2012, after a presentation by Koski at a Vision North Port meeting in February 2012. Several in attendance broke off in a discussion group and discussed how to support the site, research, and education interests, and assist the University of Miami in their vision for a research and education center at the LSS Archaeological and Ecological Preserve. With almost 200 members they stand ready to assist with needs at LSS during and after possible acquisition by Sarasota County (see LSS Update below). So in some ways, LSS needs Friends now more than ever.

We have also been getting many questions lately from concerned members and citizens on the state of affairs at WMS and LSS. In many cases, especially in regard to WMS, I know little more than what has been published in the press recently and in the last year or more. All that I know regarding WMS is that due a lack of consensus between North Port and Sarasota County Commissions on the ITN and operator after the contract with Cypress Lending ran out, the site is closed. However, on a hopefully good note, bids for a short-term contract to operate the spring have been submitted by Warm Mineral Springs Sarasota Management LLC and Cambridgeshire Investment of Port Charlotte and will be discussed at the September 9 North Port Commission meeting. More on LSS in the next article.

Several folks have also asked me if we were associated with the newly formed Friends of Warm Mineral Springs. With all due respect to their good board and members, the answer would be no, not at this time. The boards of the WMS/LSSAS and the FLSS are not involved with the FWMS and they have not approached us for support.

LSS UPDATE

Certainly there are lots of changes and uncertainties going on with our local national treasures and I am optimistic that things will turn out in the best interests of both sites and the public, regarding preservation and historic traditional access and use.

Good news regarding LSS is part of the equation. While the University of Miami has decided to change course in regard to the ownership and continued research with the retirement of the director, Dr. John Gifford, they have applied to Sarasota County for conveyance of the property under their Environmentally Sensitive Lands Program. The University of Miami has owned the site since 1982 and

provided protection and stewardship of the 112-acre property and national treasure and supported unprecedented underwater archaeological research. The site would not be in the pristine condition it is today if it were not for the stewardship of the University.

On June 6, 2013, the LSS application came before the Environmentally Sensitive Lands Committee. Presentations were made by UM Counsel, a UM Senior Associate Dean, a UM/RSMAS LSS Research Associate, representatives from the Florida Aquarium (who have assisted in research since 2005), and representatives from the WMS/LSSAS and Friends of LSS.

In two unprecedented votes during that meeting, LSS passed through two tiers of eligibility criteria and moved to the County Commission for a vote.

On June 18, during a Sarasota County Commission meeting, LSS came up for a vote for acceptance into the ESLP. Again, UM representatives and about 30 local supporters were there; many of whom spoke. And again, a unanimous vote was cast in favor of acceptance.



June 18 LSS supporters: left to right: Maria Gralia (UM Counsel), Jennifer Goetz, Bill Goetz (FLSS Correspondence Secretary, Sarasota County Historical Commission, Pres. Ancient Waters Foundation), Jodi Johnson (VP, WMS/LSSAS, Sarasota County Historical Commission, VP Ancient Waters Foundation), Joanna Talley (FAS Treasurer), Gloria Fike (past FAS board member), Paul Rossi, Manuel Verdeguer (VP FLSS), Karen Binkoski (FLSS board member), Sherry Svekis (President TimeSifters Archaeological Society), Martha Ardran (co-founder and board member, Florida Native American Heritage Trail), Steve Koski (archaeologist, LSS Site Manager), Dr. Traci Ardren (UM Senior Associate Dean, Associate Professor of Anthropology, Chair of UM Anthropology Department).

Now UM and County counsel and administrators are in negotiations and working on details of the conveyance, and hopefully all will go well. The SC Commission and Natural Resources staff understand the significance of the property

as an archaeological and ecological preserve and see the research and education potential.

June 18, 2013, Presentation to County on LSS

Following is *Koski's three-minute presentation to Sarasota County Commissioners prior to their unanimous vote to accept LSS in ESLP. Others who spoke for three minutes were UM Counsel Maria Gralia, Traci Ardren (UM Senior Dean and Anthropology Department Chair), Manuel Verdeguer (VP FLSS), and Jodi Johnson (VP WMS/LSS Archaeological Society).*

LSS is one of the most significant 112-acre parcels of property in the southeastern United States, both in terms of its natural resources and its unprecedented cultural resources.

LSS was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979 and is eligible for nomination as a National Historic Landmark; the acreage surrounding the spring and spring run is a pristine climax-community bay-head hammock, never disturbed, and is a relic ecosystem dating from the late Pleistocene through early Holocene. LSS is a third-magnitude spring providing 600,000–900,000 gallons of water daily, which meanders along an undisturbed spring run through 500 meters of LSS property, the ninto a ditch as it leaves the property, eventually entering the Myakkahatchee Creek, Myakka River, and Charlotte Harbor. The hammock s and fields contain five species of ground orchids, three of which are protected. One, *Sacolla lanceolata* var. *peludicola*, has never before been found north of the Fakahatchee Strand in Collier County—a time capsule and living-research and education laboratory providing a rare glimpse into our geological, hydrological, archaeological, paleontological, and environmental past.

While certainly vegetation communities change through time due to environmental changes, this succession occurred gradually and naturally because of conditions at the spring. The 12,000-year-old tapered wood artifact found on the 27 m ledge and apparently inserted between the plastron and carapace of a giant tortoise, *Geochelone crassicutata*, was made from native red mulberry. Red mulberry is still present around the spring, some individuals as tall as 25 feet, representing a local endemic species and leftover from the Pleistocene.

In terms of habitat connectivity, an adjacent five-acre parcel containing 24 residential lots bisected by Price Blvd. was acquired by Sarasota County c. 2005 and contains evidence of the Middle Archaic habitation area, and an adjacent slough owned and protected by the Sarasota County School board is part of the LSS mortuary pond, once utilized by the Archaic inhabitants.

Also noted is its proximity to the Myakkahatchee Creek, a corridor with now serves a as green-way for local fauna

between LSS and the creek through a wooded ±60-acre parcel owned by the Sarasota County School Board and Butler Park, owned by the City of North Port.

It is imperative that this property be protected and preserved in perpetuity, that research be allowed to continue by qualified institutions, and that educational venues be considered, one that would allow limited public access for educational programs for our students and public without compromising the sensitivity of the ecosystem, which is of utmost importance.

This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Sarasota County. We believe LSS is a perfect fit for the Environmentally Sensitive Lands Program due to the significance and uniqueness of the property and the County's record of managing its acquired natural and cultural resources, as well as its interest in the management and study of our water resources at LSS. We believe a balance can be achieved through conservation, education and public access, and that LSS will be a grand asset for Sarasota County and the City of North Port.

Thank you for your consideration.

Editors note: That's all for now folks, I had several great photos to add, but the text ended right at

eight pages. The NL can only be four, six, eight or ten pages, so perhaps next time. Hope to see you at the September 10 meeting!

2013 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT...George Haag (georgehaag1@gmail.com)
VICE PRESIDENT.....Jodi Johnson (jodi.johnson@ncf.edu)
SECRETARY.....Hilda Boron (941.426.1719)
MEMBERSHIP.....Linda Massey (lmassey628@msn.com)
TREASURER.....Kate Cattran (Roleencattran@aol.com)

For a color pdf copy of the newsletter go to
www.wmslssas.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John Crescenzo • Judi Crescenzo • Robert Dunay
Lorraine Hawkins • Sandra Heacock • Steve Koski •
Carol Myers • Tena Doctor • Wilburn Cockrell, Honorary

Newsletter Editor: Steve Koski (941)423-0835,
skoski@rsmas.miami.edu; Media Correspondent: Linda
Massey, lmassey628@msn.com; Librarian, Lorraine
Hawkins (941)743-6919, landlhawk@aol.com

WARM MINERAL SPRINGS/LITTLE SALT SPRING ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
P.O. 7797 North Port, Florida 34290

www.wmslssas.org

www.facebook.com/FriendsOfLittleSaltSpring

