



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 to all! We want to thank all our members and guests for their support in 2013 and look forward to another exiting year of presentations, field trips and events.**

**CRYSTAL RIVER SITE IN CITRUS COUNTY TOPIC OF
JANUARY 14 MEETING**

Kassie Kemp, MA student in archaeology at the University of South Florida will be the speaker at the January 14th meeting. Her topic will give an overview of the Crystal River site in west-central Florida, Levy County, and provide more recent findings on the site's ceramic collection. The Crystal River site was once a sprawling ceremonial center, attracting people from great distances. This complex of burial and temple mounds is one of the longest continually occupied sites in Florida. **Cont. P. 2**



January Speaker Kassie Kemp

**MOUND KEY IN LEE COUNTY TOPIC OF FEBRUARY 11
MEETING**

Archaeologist Theresa Schober will be the speaker at our February 14 meeting with a presentation titled, "Mound Key: Where the New and Old Worlds Collided Remnants of elevated mounds and ridges, sculpted canals and watercourts remain a visible yet subtle reminder of the once thriving Calusa society in today's southwest Florida landscape.

Careful archaeological excavation reveals how and when this landscape was constructed, and its



Theresa Schober profiling a unit wall at the Mound House pool excavation in 2006

relationship with the development of the Calusa through time culminating in the highly complex, stratified chiefdom controlling the southern third of the Florida peninsula by Spanish contact. Mound Key - the Calusa capital - remains the first specific location documented in the voyage of Juan Ponce de León in 1513 that named La Florida.

Biography: Archaeologist Theresa Schober is a PhD candidate at University of Florida. Originally from western Canada, Schober has worked in south Florida since 1998, conducting archaeological excavations at and documenting a variety of south Florida shell mound, midden, and mortuary sites. Her research has focused on the settlement and use of the Estero Bay estuarine system on Florida's Gulf coast by the Calusa Indians including extensive investigations into how and how quickly mound sites were constructed. Schober also directed the restoration and exhibit development at Mound House and Newton Park on Fort Myers Beach securing \$4 million for educational, exhibit, and historic preservation initiatives and two awards from the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation. She serves as Vice President for the Florida Anthropological Society and Archaeological Research Cooperative, and is an active member of the Lee County Historic Preservation Board. Currently, Schober is directing a programming partnership between the Lee Trust for Historic Preservation and the Florida Humanities Council exploring representations of the past which including co-curating the successful ArtCalusa: Reflections on Representation exhibition held in Fort Myers in 2013.

The meeting will be followed by a field trip with two alternative dates, March 3 or April 14, 2014 (to be announced). Sign-up sheets and details will be available at the January and February meetings, or call Hilda Boron at 426-1719 for availability and reservations. For more information go to <http://www.floridastateparks.org/MoundKey/>. Or wait for our February meeting and find out about Mound Key first hand!

CRYSTAL RIVER Cont. from P. 1

Though the Native Americans who lived there are now long gone, their impressive earthen architecture remains.

The mound complex attracted early archaeologists who discovered beautifully decorated pottery, shell, and copper artifacts. The remarkable earthen structures and artifacts earned the Crystal River site a place among the most famous archaeological sites in Florida.

Although the site is well known, there is still much to learn about the people who once thrived on the bountiful Crystal River. Recent research conducted at USF hopes to reveal some of what is yet uncertain about the site. Ms. Kemp will discuss her research concerning the pottery uncovered at Crystal River by archaeologists in the mid-

20th century and how this research adds to the broader understanding of the site.

Ms. Kemp is a current graduate student at the University of South Florida, working under Dr. Thomas Pluckhahn on the Crystal River Early Village Archaeological Project (CREVAP). She was the Assistant Field Director at the CREVAP field school for the 2011 and 2012 field seasons, where the research focused on competition and cooperation at the Crystal River site. She is currently working on thesis research concerning the ceramics at Crystal River. She is also the Outreach Assistant at the West Central Regional Center of the Florida Public Archaeology Network. Come to the January meeting and learn about this fascinating site!

NEWS FLASH: THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI DONATES LSS TO SARASOTA COUNTY!

Hot of the press in January 7, 2013 North Port Sun, "UM Agrees to Donate Little Salt Spring." This is big news. In a recently released letter from UM General Council to Sarasota Commission Chair Carolyn Mason, "I am pleased to announce the board of Trustees of the University of Miami has approved the donation of the property known as Little Salt Spring, located in the City of North Port in Sarasota County, Florida to Sarasota County for inclusion in the Environmentally Sensitive Land Acquisition Program." This is what the WMS/LSSAS and Friends of LSS have been waiting to hear. The FLSS formed in April, 2012 to assist UM and LSS Research Associate and Site Manager at the Little Salt Spring Archaeological and Ecological Preserve with volunteer opportunities where needed in regard to site stewardship, land management, maintenance, public outreach, education, and local fundraising efforts. Those efforts have been on hold pending the conveyance of the property. The groups are now poised to assist the County in that endeavor. The University has demonstrated their responsible stewardship in their tenure over the last 30 years and in their decision to convey the property to a local entity, such as the Sarasota County in their ESLA Program, which is in a position to continue in the preservation and efforts.

We applaud the University of Miami for their donation and Sarasota County for recognizing this unique opportunity. More information on the progress of the conveyance will be provided when available. Stay tuned.

FLORIDA'S FIRST PEOPLE TOPIC OF MARCH 11 MEETING

Archaeologist Dr. James Dunbar will be the speaker at the March 11 meeting. He will present on aspects of Florida's first people, Paleoindians, and discuss their tool forms and what we know about their lifeways.

March is also Florida Archaeology Month and the theme is Florida Paleoindians, so this will fit right to the theme. Jim has worked extensively on the underwater Page Ladson site on the Aucilla River in north Florida and at other Paleoindian sites in the state, and he has an acute knowledge of their stone tools. His Master's thesis and Ph.D. dissertation are on stone-tool technology of the Paleoindian period and he is considered a leading expert in the field. We are fortunate to have Jim visit from Tallahassee to speak with us on his research. More information on the March presentation will be presented in the 2014 March/April WMS/LSSAS Newsletter.

ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE NORTHWEST YUCATÁN TOPIC OF DECEMBER 10 MEETING

[Adapted with permission from notes and verbatim text provided by the speaker]

Archaeologist Dr. Anthony Andrews, professor at New College of Florida, spoke on his research in North Yucatán titled "Surveying Cycles of the Longue Durée in Northwest Yucatán: 3,000 Years of Towns and Ballcourts, Cities and Temples, Villages and Haciendas." What started out as a three-to-four-year research survey project in the region in 1999, blossomed into a massive archaeological survey or cultural-resource-management project involving more than 850 square miles, its boundaries defined by the city of Mérida and the ports of Celestún and Progreso. It is the largest area ever subjected to intensive survey in the Maya Area.



Dr. Anthony Andrews receives our world famous tee-shirt from President George Haag.

The original research design called for an investigation of the long-term subsistence and settlement patterns and their relationship to the shifting political geography of the region. That area of Northwest Yucatán has historically been the most arid region, with the lowest rainfall patterns and the lightest population. The landscape is mostly made up of low tropical thorny scrub forest, with extensive swamps and lagoons in the coastal regions.

People in this region have traditionally made their

living through low-level subsistence farming. In prehispanic times, this would have involved the cultivation of corn, beans, squash, and numerous lesser crops, as well as fishing and harvesting salt on the coast, and foraging in the forests. Following the arrival of the Europeans, the same patterns persisted along with the raising of free-ranging bush cattle. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, much of the region was taken over by large haciendas dedicated to the cultivation of henequen or sisal fiber, which was exported worldwide for use in rope, cordage, and twine. This industry phased out in the mid-20th century, and the area has reverted to basic subsistence and cattle raising, and, in the last few years, the eastern part of the region has given way to large-scale urban development.

As the original survey project wound down in 2003, the Federal and State governments began several development projects in the research area, to the west of Mérida. These include two new cities, with a massive street grid, 50,000 housing units, industrial areas, office parks, a zoo, and a stadium. Also underway was a new highway to connect Mérida to the ports of Sisal and Celestún, and a few lesser projects.

Given their previous work in the area, Dr. Andrews and team were picked to do the conservation archaeology prior to the development of all these projects. His original assistant director, Fernando Robles, a Mexican colleague, is now supervising the massive survey, with several crews conducting survey and excavation projects that include 12 archaeologists, a half a dozen or so local students, and, depending on the type of work being carried out, from 50 to 100 field-crew workers. In addition to the main headquarters in Mérida, the project has field camps in the villages of Caucel and Ucu, where they have laboratories for processing, analyzing, and storing artifacts, and storing tools.

When they began their research, previous surveys had recorded the location of 69 prehispanic sites. Given the reputation of the region as being one of marginal subsistence and its history of very low population density, they assumed they would at most find another 50 or so settlements. Instead, more than 260 prehispanic sites were recorded, ranging from small rural hamlets to substantial urban settlements. The sites date from Middle Preclassic times, starting around 1000/800 BCE, to the time of the arrival of the Spanish in the 16th century. Crews have conducted test excavations at several dozen of these sites, and large-scale excavations at least ten settlements. In addition to prehispanic sites, they have also recorded about 160 historic sites. These include rural ranchos and hamlets, and historic villages, towns, and ports, and date from the 16th century to the present.

This project has resulted in the most extensive and

intensive regional survey ever conducted in the Maya area, and the first to include the historic periods. Dramatic new data on the Preclassic period—so far they have not found evidence of Archaic or Early Preclassic occupation, so it appears that the earliest settlers arrived in the Middle Preclassic period from somewhere else, with fully developed agriculture and ceramics. They lived in small villages and led a farming way of life. There is evidence of substantial socio-cultural complexity, and a three-tiered hierarchy of sites, perhaps ruled by elites in the town of Xtobo, in a pattern generally similar to that of a chiefdom.

Through their research, they have gained a greater understanding of the Classic Period political geography of the region with the preliminary identification of a major polity, or kingdom, based at the capital city of Tzemé. And they documented changing settlement patterns through time, confirming older patterns such as the Classic Maya collapse, and adding new wrinkles to other periods. Especially interesting is wide abandonment of rural regions in modern times. And finally, the conservation work will provide a model for future development projects, and the ways modern archaeology can contribute to the past and the future of our heritage.

We want to thank Dr. Andrews for sharing his research, offering this fascinating presentation, and providing text from his notes for this summary.

MANATEE RIVER COMMUNITIES TOPIC OF NOVEMBER 12 MEETING

By Judi and John Crescenzo

On November 12, 2013, Sherry Svekis, President of Time Sifters Archaeology Society and Vice President of Reflections of Manatee, presented "The History Beneath our Feet—Archaeology and the Manatee River Communities." The Manatee River communities are located at the mouth of the Manatee River at Tampa Bay and Anna Maria Island. Significant historic sites are the Portavant Temple Mound, DeSoto National Memorial, Manatee Mineral Springs, Gamble Plantation, Manatee All of these focus on Anglo-American development of the region.

The first plat of Bradenton shows major plantations on the river, where sugarcane, molasses, timber, and cattle were produced. The tabby-house ruins at DeSoto Monument are credited to William Henry Shaw, who lived

there from 1843 to 1856. Manatee Mineral Spring was settled by pioneers Josiah Gates, Ellen Clark, and their son. The property was used for a trading post and blacksmith shop. In 1869, Captain John Curry built a house in the area.



Vice President Jodi Johnson Presents Sherry Svekis with our famous tee-shirt

Community histories taken from memories of settlers may glorify the lives of settlers, while historical documents tell another story. Women were part of history, but are not mentioned in deeds, town-council transcripts, and correspondence to state legislatures. When Josiah Gates and Robert Gamble settled there, they used slave labor, but in the past this was ignored.

In 1939, DeSoto National Memorial was named by Congress as the site where DeSoto landed. Today this is believed to be untrue. Because of the original purpose of the monument, its focus has been on DeSoto. The tabby house on the nature trail is the most obvious landmark, but it does not fit with the monument's focus because it credits Shaw for building the house. The fact that Shaw came with his family and slaves is not mentioned.

Archaeologists at Manatee Mineral Spring used radar tomography to survey the area. They created a film with slices like an MRI to a depth of 70 inches. A pattern of circles appeared on the scan. In 2008, a black stain or post mold was found on the soil, where a structure once stood. In 2013, excavations revealed soil color changes. Blue shell-edged ceramics from 1780–1800 and a pipe of white kaolin clay were uncovered. The size of the pipe opening dates it to the early 1800s.

A 1900s map shows the Manatee River as a natural defense line. The maroons (escaped slaves) fled Spanish Florida in the late 1700s and early 1800s. Pressure arose from Georgian settlers moving south. A large number of escaped slaves moved south of the Manatee River and lived in freedom. Within two months of Andrew Jackson's arrival in Florida, 300 Black Seminoles were captured and returned to slavery. Perhaps the tabby building on Shaw's property was used as a barn, smoke house, or slave house. In 1765, it could have been used as part of a Cuban fishing rancho; 1813–1821 as a trading post; 1834–1836 as a fishing ranch; 1843–1856 as Shaw's homestead;

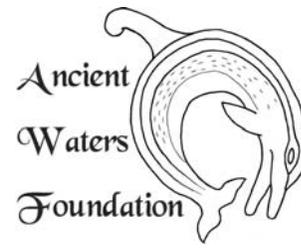
1860–1899 as a cattle-loading station; 1861 as a Civil War Confederate outpost; and in 1878 as a yellow fever quarantine station. Likewise the Village of Manatee Spring has had many uses. From 900–1700, it was inhabited by Native Americans, and in 1793 it was used by the Spanish. From 1813–1821, it was part of Angola; in 1842, it was the homestead of Henry Clark's family; in 1852, it was occupied by Dr. Franklin Branch; in 1859, John Curry lived there; and in 1864, it was occupied by the 2nd Regiment of the Colored Infantry. In 1865, it provided a hiding place for Judah P. Benjamin of Gamble Plantation.

Archaeology tells of daily life and people who were ignored in history books, such as women, children, slaves, and Native Americans. Tours, speakers, brochures, open discussions, and informative displays offer new interpretations. A walkway was recently installed around the spring, including twelve panels showing all the people who once lived there. The importance of the spring was recognized in the 1990s, and Reflections of Manatee, a non-profit group, was formed.

2014 ANNUAL MEETING—SLATE OF OFFICERS ANNOUNCED

The annual meeting of the WMS/LSSAS will be held at the beginning of the January 14 general meeting, where the 2014 slate of officers will be announced and the nominees voted into office. We want to thank our Nominating Committee—Hilda Boron, Tena Docter, George Haag and Linda Massey—for providing the slate at our January 4 board meeting.

The slate for the 2014 officers and directors board include: Steve Koski, President elect; Vice President, Jodi Johnson, serving her second year of her term; Secretary Hilda Boron, re-elect; Treasurer Kate Cattran, re-elect; Membership Secretary Linda Massey, re-elect; Lorraine Hawkins, re-elect; Sandra Heacock, re-elect; Carol Myers, re-elect; Tena Docter, re-elect; and Wilburn Cockrell, founding honorary member. New nominated directors include: Rita Buchanan, Keith Buchanan, George Haag (outgoing president), Roger Hostetler, and Betty Nugent. Come to the meeting and welcome our newly elected board members! We want to extend tremendous thanks to our 2013 Officers and Board of Directors for helping make 2013 one of our most successful years. We could not have done it without you all! And a special thanks go to our outgoing officers and directors: President George Haag, who has severed in that position since October of 2003!; Judi and John Crescenzo (January 2007); and Bob Dunay (March 2005). It has been an extreme pleasure to know and work with you all over the years and we hope to continue to see you at future meetings and events!



JANUARY 11 ANCIENT WATERS FOUNDATION FORUM

The Ancient Waters Foundation is hosting a community forum with a panel of experts on Warm Mineral Springs and Little Salt Spring at the Morgan Family Center in North Port January 11 from 10 am to 2 pm. The Center is located at 6207 W. Price Blvd., off the road between Butler Park and Heron Creek Middle School. This event is being sponsored by the City of North Port, Sarasota County, Friends of Little Salt Spring, and the Warm Mineral Springs/Little Salt Spring Archaeological Society, as well as the New College Public Archaeology Laboratory and Florida Public Archaeology Network. The forum will be moderated by Sarasota County Historian John McCarthy.

This will prove to be an important event for all those interested in the known science of WMS and LSS and what further research can provide. The panel will discuss aspects of the springs relating to their knowledge and profession, and will include prepared questions and questions from the audience. Topics such as known science, history of research, multilevel components of local and national significance, community value, and future potential will be discussed. Light snacks and refreshments will be provided.

The panel includes Dr. Uzi Baram, Professor and Director of the New College Public Archaeology Lab; Michele Cotty-Loger, Archaeologist and Ancient Waters Foundation Board Member; Dr. John Gifford, Geoarchaeologist Professor Emeritus with the University of Miami and previous Director of Science at Little Salt Spring from 1982–2012; Cliff Harrison, Sarasota County Senior Hydrogeologist; Joe King, Local Architect and expert on the Mid-century Modern Sarasota School of Architecture and Curator of the current exhibit at the Chidsey Library Building; Steve Koski, Archaeologist and Site Manager of Little Salt Spring and Ancient Waters Foundation Board Member; Dr. George Luer, Archaeologist who is renowned and respected throughout the State and has published on Little Salt Slough and Nona Spring Sites; John Ryan, Environmental Supervisor, Sarasota County Environmental Utility – Sarasota; John Ryan Sarasota County Hydrologist; Walter W. Stein, Paleontologist, Curation Specialist, Author, and Ancient Waters Foundation Board Member.

WMS/LSSAS YARD SALE FEBRUARY 22

The time has come yet again for our annual yard sale to be held Saturday, February 22, 2014, from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. The sale will be held next to the Warm Mineral Springs Motel, located at corner of Ortiz Blvd. and US 41. The WMS Motel is a local landmark in itself, a historic building designed by famous architect Jack West, a student of Frank Lloyd Wright. It's where all our monthly speakers and research associates stay who come from out of town. Please help support the Society by donating your good, but no longer needed, items to a good cause. Our funds support our monthly speaker series; bi-monthly newsletter; event costs; memberships to historic preservation organizations such as Historic Spanish Point in Sarasota County, the Florida Humanities Council, the Florida Anthropological Society, History and Preservation Coalition of Sarasota County, and Randell Research Center in Lee County; and archaeological research projects through volunteer assistance and analysis funding.

We welcome any member who would like to help out in preparation, pickup, pricing, loading the day before, set up, or the sale itself. It takes about 10 dedicated people the day of the event.

Please bring your items to the January 14 and February 11 meetings. To drop off items or for pick up of items (if you are unable to drop them off), please call Hilda Boron at 941.426.1719. Help make this our best sale ever. Thank you for your support!

2014 FIELD TRIPS BEING PLANNED

Three exiting field trips are being planned in the coming months:

March 3 or April 14, 2014 (to be confirmed): Mound Key Archaeological State Park is a remote site located on Estero Bay. This will be a Florida Archaeological Month event. The site is located on Estero Bay in Lee County and is managed by Koreshan State Park. Visit one of the largest Indian mounds in SW Florida that served as the home to paramount chief of the Calusa, Carlos.

Take a pontoon cruise to Mound Key with Banana Bay Tour Company with noted SW Florida archaeologist Theresa Schober. The tour will follow the February 11 meeting presentation by Ms. Schober, who will take us to the mound from West Bay Dock. The trip is \$45 per person and snacks and water are provided. All proceeds to benefit Friends of Koreshan State Historic Site for production of the documentary.

Come to the February meeting and learn about the history of Mound Key, get a wealth of information on the history of the key, and learn what to expect on the field trip. A sign-up sheet will be available at the January and February meetings.

April 5, 2014: On loan from the Museo di Leonardo Da Vinci in Italy, the Da Vinci Machines Exhibition has arrived at Bradenton Municipal Auditorium, located at 1005 1st Ave. W., Bradenton, Fla. It's right across from the South Florida Museum. The best part is that the ticket price of \$23.95 (\$20.95 for 62 and older) includes the South Florida Museum!

The exhibits are the original pieces built from da Vinci's designs by third-generation Florentine artisans; the exhibition is one of only three touring the world. It contains more than 60 inventions by the inventor and artist. Exhibition models are presented in four major themes: military machines, flying machines, nautical and hydraulic, and principles of mechanics. That's two museums in one day, with lunch in between or after. And we get to see Snooty the Manatee as well!

May 31, 2014: Members are invited to join us for a field trip to the Mound House on Ft. Myers Beach, another fascinating Indian mound in Lee County. More information will be in the March/April and May/June Newsletters.

FRIENDS OF LSS TO HOLD ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 22

The annual meeting of the Friends of Little Salt Spring will be held January 22, 7:00 PM at the Imagine School, 2757 Sycamore Street, North Port, FL. From Toledo Blade Blvd, north of Price Blvd, south of I-75, east on Panacea (right from Price, left from I-75), first right onto Sycamore Street. School and parking on right.

Dr. William Dunson with the Lemon Bay Conservancy will give a presentation on the Wild Flower Preserve, an 80-acre parcel of land in Englewood that the Conservancy acquired for protection and maintains. Once a golf course it was slated for a 400 unit development that was opposed by the public. The community came together, formed the Conservancy and today has more than 600 members. A goal I see could be achieved by the FLSS.

Dr. Dunson will discuss how the Conservancy was formed, how they acquired the property, how they raised more than 800,000 dollars, and how they maintain the property and conduct educational tours and programs for the public. Such valuable information can be useful to the FLSS in the support of the acquisition of Little Salt Spring as a potential partner with Sarasota County and other organizations. The LBC is having an open house on January 25 and several of our members are planning to attend. The Wild Flower Preserve is a success story in the conservation of sensitive lands that could be used as a model for other similar projects.

For more information on the LBC visit www.lemonbayconservancy.org/index.html.



Members of The Lemon Bay Conservancy on a recent visit to LSS include Pat and Eric Peterson, Jean and Mitch Leavitt, Bob and Merrill Horswill, Bob and Margaret Dunson.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COALITION OF SARASOTA COUNTY SOCIAL TO BE HELD JANUARY 18

The Fourth Annual HPCSC Social will be held at the beautiful Manasota Beach Club January 18, 2014 at noon. The MBC is located at 7660 Manasota Beach Road in Englewood right on the Gulf of Mexico and Lemon Bay. The social will include a vintage fashion show and luncheon sponsored by the Southwest Historical Organization of Resources and Education (SHORE). Tickets are \$25 and limited seating of 50 is available. SHORE founder Betty Nugent will be at the January 14 WMS/LSSAS meeting and will have tickets available, if there are any left. It really should be a fun event.

The WMS/LSSAS and the Friends of LSS hosted the third annual HPCSC social "Ancient Waters Celebration" held at Warm Mineral Springs in January 2013, with keynote speaker Dr. John Gifford. It was a tremendous success, with a turnout of 115 persons, and we raised \$3,500 for the analysis of the faunal remains from the basin of Little Salt Spring for co-authored publication (in progress).

This will be a smaller, more intimate event and at such a beautiful coastal setting. The exhibit will run until April 15. For information and reservations, call Betty at 941.475.2696.

TIME CAPSULE DEDICATION HELD

A group of about 50 folks attended the Time Capsule Dedication at Spanish Point held on December 14. Items selected for the dedication were submitted by the public and selected by the Time Capsule Committee of the Sarasota County Historical Commission. The items represent life in Sarasota County in 2013 and won't be opened until 2071 on the 150th anniversary of Sarasota County. All libraries in the state were given time capsules

for Viva Florida 500, commemorating the 500th anniversary of the arrival of Ponce de Leon—not a celebratory event to Florida's Native Americans. The youngest member, 7-year-old Lilly Goetz, was asked to serve on the committee while attending a committee meeting with her father, Commission member Bill Goetz. Lily is the youngest official member



Sarasota County Time Capsule

ever to serve on a Sarasota County committee. She had an idea to ask Nik Wallenda for the pair the shoes he used to walk the Grand Canyon, but was not disappointed when she was offered an eight-inch piece of the cable used to walk across the canyon. Nik's mom Delilah was the keynote speaker at the event. Quite a memorable occasion, and Lilly will be 65 when the capsule is opened. Perhaps she will be the keynote speaker at that ceremony!



Time Capsule Committee Members and Advisers: Lorrie Muldowney, Manager of the Sarasota County History Center; Ann Hardy, Sarasota County Library Services; Ryan Murphy, Sarasota County Archaeologist; Sandra Gutowski, Historical Commissioner; Bill Goetz, Historical Commissioner; Russ Gutmann, Historical Commission Chair; Ellen India, Sarasota County Library Services; Jodi Johnson, Historical Commissioner; Lily Goetz, Viva Florida 500 Time Capsule Committee; Gloria Lopez, Historical Commissioner.

MARCH IS FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH

The theme for 2014 Florida Archaeology Month is "Florida's First Inhabitants." Interestingly, North Port, in Sarasota County, happens to have two of the most significant and notable sites with Paleoindian components in the Western Hemisphere—Warm Mineral Springs and Little Salt Spring. And, coincidentally, this is the year the WMS/LSSA Society is hosting the Annual meeting of the Florida Anthropological Society. Rumor has it that the 2014 FAM poster may feature WMS and LSS.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR RAFFLE DONORS

A special thanks to those who have provided raffle items for the meetings: Gary Rowe, with his donation of sharks' teeth found while diving off Venice Beach; Roger Hostetler, with his donation of stone projectile points; Hilda Boron, for her donation of Spanish Point tickets; Tena Docter, for her donation of gem stones; Judith Ribarick, for her donation of South Florida Museum tickets; and all other generous donors I may have missed.

At the December meeting Board Member Sandra Heacock won a beautiful projectile point crafted and donated by Roger Hostetler. The point was made from what he calls opaline glass, which has the appearance of opal. Our raffles are a great success, lots of fun, and are a great help in offsetting our monthly expenses. We greatly appreciate all who participate!

2014 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE IS ON!

Thanks to all our loyal members who helped make 2013 one of our best years ever! It's time to please renew your membership if you have not done so. While our meetings are free and open to the public, we have annual operating expenses we could not meet without membership support. Membership forms are included within the January/February Newsletter with addressed envelopes, so please renew for 2014 or become a new member! And there is more to come in 2014 with our great monthly speaker series, field trips, hosting of the 2014 Annual Meeting of the Florida Anthropological Society at the Charlotte Harbor Event and Convention Center May 9–11.

FAS 2014 ANNUAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE TO BE HOSTED BY WMS/LSSAS

Planning continues for the 2014 Annual Florida Anthropological Society Meeting to be held in Punta Gorda, May 9–11, 2014. The FAS 2014 Planning Committee will be working hard over the next few months to make this a successful meeting and we are confident it will be. And there will be plenty of volunteer opportunities for members. The next FAS 2014 Committee Meeting will be held on Thursday, January 16 at Kate Cattran's house (426.9345). Please see the December/November WMS/LSSAS Newsletter for all the news available information to date. Can't find your copy? Go to www.wmsslssas.org, then Newsletters, Nov/Dec issue.

EDITORS NOTE: Someone asked me again this morning if we were affiliated in any way with the Friends of Warm Mineral Springs. While we respect their intentions, the board of the WMS/LSSAS and Friends of LSS are not affiliated with the newly formed Friends of WMS. We are in strong support of opening the springs in its traditional historic use in conjunction with continued research and collaborative responsible management and stewardship under City and County ownership and will assist in any capacity we can to help bring this to fruition.

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