



WMS/LSS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 26, No. 2, March/April 2015

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 through 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.

ARCHAIC SHELL RINGS TOPIC OF MARCH MEETING

Mike Russo, Archeologist with the National Park Service, Southeast Archeological Center, Tallahassee, will be the speaker at the March 10 meeting of the Warm Mineral Springs/Little Salt Spring Archaeological Society. His presentation, "Shell Ring Architecture of the Archaic," will focus on a particular type of shell feature recognized in the Late Archaic period (NPS spelling, archeology).

Large rings of shell are found around the world from Peru to South Africa to Japan, and perhaps most prominently along the Southeast US from 5000–3000 BP (before present). The discovery of the rings in the early 19th century were met with wide-ranging speculations as to their functions—were they dikes, stadiums, meeting places, or simply garbage dumps distinguishable from other and more numerous prehistoric shell discard piles simply because of their unusual shape? In the last fifty, years with rise of the new "scientific archaeology," considerations of the rings' functions (See Shell Rings, P. 2)

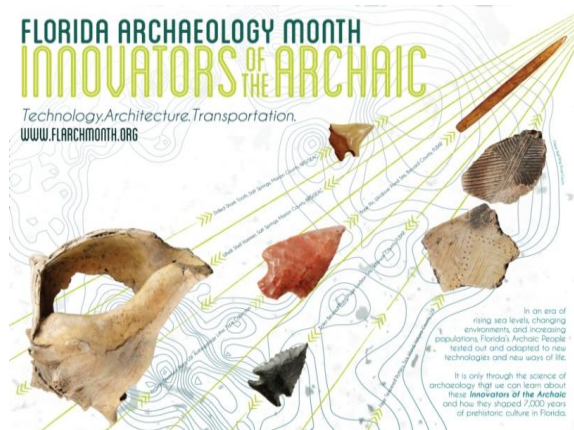


NPS Archeologist Dr. Mike Russo

MARCH IS FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH!

The theme for FAM 2015 is "Innovators of the Archaic." The Archaic is a general term archaeologists use to describe the Native American people in the Americas from about 9,500 to 3,000 BP and is divided into the Early Archaic (9,500–8,000 BP), Middle Archaic (8,000–5,000 BP), and Late Archaic (5,000–3,000 BP). Each period reflects changes recognized in the archaeological record through time following the Paleoindian period (13,000–9,500 BP) at the ending of the Pleistocene epoch and the beginning of the Holocene epoch (c. 10,000 BP).

This year's FAM poster depicts the changes that occurred in both the environment and the people during the Archaic period: sea-level rise and relative stabilization, dispersement of human populations over the landscape, diversification in artifact technologies, the establishment of the food-rich estuaries, coastal-resource exploitation resulting in shell-midden and mound formation, population growth leading to socio-political



2015 FAM Poster (front)



2015 FAM Poster (back side)

complexities and settlement regionalization, and the first appearance of fiber-tempered pottery, to name a few regional developments. In other words, a lot was going on.

Last year's theme was focused on the Paleoindian: "Tracing Florida's First People." The two FAM posters depicted both WMS and LSS using night photography by Curt Bowen. How cool was that? Fifteen thousand posters of our local treasures were printed and distributed throughout the state. The WMS/LSSAS alone distributed over 800 copies of the FAM 2014 poster.

Florida Archaeological Month (FAM) is an annual event sponsored by the Florida Anthropological Society (FAS); the Florida Archaeological Council; the Department of State, Division of Historical Resources; the Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Recreation and Parks; and the Florida Public Archaeology Network. The purpose of the event is to provide opportunities for Florida residents and visitors to learn about the extensive archaeological resources in Florida and their precarious existence. The event highlights some of the important archaeological research projects being conducted by the State of Florida, universities, and private for-profit and non-profit organizations statewide. Florida Archaeological Month strives to teach about the importance of stewardship of both historic and pre-historic archaeological resources.

For more information on FAM and events throughout the state, visit www.fpan.us/FAM.

SHELL RINGS (from P.1)

have been largely limited to using the remains to determine what the folks ate and how the environmental conditions must have differed from today. Over the last decade or so, several archeologists have aspired to achieve a better understanding of shell rings, mapping their shapes in intricate detail, exploring their features, and hypothesizing broader social and ceremonial use, not simply places of garbage. A discussion of the competing interpretations of what shell rings were used for will be presented, concluding that whatever they may represent, they were a distinct cultural innovation distinct from settlements that came before and strongly influencing the prehistoric pattern of settlement and ceremony for the next 2,000 years that

followed their abandonment.

Dr. Russo did his graduate work at the University of Florida and received an MA degree in 1986, with a thesis on "Human Exploitation of Faunal Resources on the St. Johns River," and completed his Ph.D. in 1991, with a dissertation on "Archaic Sedentism on the Florida Coast: A Case Study from Horr's Island."

This will be a special program for Florida Archaeology Month held each March to celebrate our state's rich cultural heritage and one you won't want to miss. Hope to see you there!

ARCHAIC EXHIBIT SET UP AT NORTH PORT PUBLIC LIBRARY FOR ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH

The WMS/LSSAS Society set up a small exhibit on the Florida Archaic in the main lobby of the North Port Public Library, located at 13800 S. Tamiami Trail.

The double-sided glass case features some of the innovations of the Archaic, such as the diversification in stone projectile-point types, bone and shell tools; and, in the Late Archaic, steatite (soap-stone) and fiber-tempered pottery. The saber-cat cranium featured in last year's exhibit, representing one of the animals that were around during the Paleoindian period, has been replaced by a deer cranium, representing the extinction of many of the Pleistocene mammals. Deer continued to be utilized during the early Holocene epoch with an increase in reliance as a food source and for leather, sinew, bone tools, and a variety of other uses.

Stone-tool reproductions by Roger Hostetler, representing examples from the Early, Middle, and Late Archaic period, are featured, as well as reproductions of fiber-tempered pottery and more. The double-sided FAM poster will be available at the March 10 meeting and in the children's section of the library upon request, but adults can get a copy, too!

MARCH 14 FIELD TRIP TO HISTORIC SPANISH POINT FOR FAM EVENT

We plan to take a field trip to Historic Spanish Point for a tour and event to celebrate Florida Archaeology Month March 14, 2015, from 10:00 AM to Noon. The Florida Public Archaeology Network (West Central Region) and the Sarasota County History Center are partnering with the Gulf Coast Heritage Association to provide "Archaeology Works, Mounds and Middens at Historic Spanish Point."

The event will include a hands-on workshop telling the tale of the middens and the mounds at this premier 30-acre archaeological and historical site and living museum located in Osprey.

There is so much to see at the 30-acre site located on Sarasota Bay: shell middens and mounds representing more than 5,000 years of coastal living, including a Late Archaic shell-ring mound that will be discussed at our March 10 meeting, a later-period mound with the "Window to the Past" exhibit, and the prehistoric burial mound excavated by archaeologist Ripley Bullen from 1959–1962. The historic component includes the early homestead of John Webb and family, who moved to the property in 1867. The Webb family planted citrus, sugar cane,

and many varieties of vegetables. The family built a packing house to prepare their crops for market and took in boarders. They built a chapel near the shore in the 1860s and many of their family members are buried there.

The next historic phase began in 1910 with the arrival of Chicago socialite Bertha Palmer, who purchased thousands of acres for cattle ranching, citrus groves, and real-estate development. The Webb homestead was part of the land she chose for her 350-acre estate, which she named "Osprey Point." She preserved the pioneer buildings and connected them with lavish formal gardens and lawns, many of which are still present and preserved by the Gulf Coast Heritage Association.

Another good reason to come the March 10 meeting and learn about shell rings is so you will have a greater understanding of their significance on the March 14 field trip!

Those coming from North Port will meet at the North Port Library at 9:00 AM for a 9:10 departure.

Historic Spanish Point is located on Sarasota Bay at 337 N. Tamiami Trail. For more information on Historic Spanish Point, go to www.historicspanishpoint.org.

APRIL SPEAKER TO BE ANNOUNCED

Our April 14, 2015, speaker will be disclosed in a special announcement to all members and guests on our email list and in the local newspapers prior to the next meeting. I'd like to say it's a big secret, but, truthfully, I have been too busy to get an April speaker. But rest assured, you will not be disappointed! Our May 12 speaker will be announced in the May/June WMS/LSSAS Newsletter and local newspapers.

HISTORIC SEMINOLE VILLAGE TOPIC OF FEBRUARY MEETING

By Judi and John Crescenzo

On February 13, 2015, Meg Stack, a Ph.D. student at the University of South Florida in Tampa, presented an informative program on her research, "Utilizing Georeferencing in Archaeology: A Quest to Find the Seminole Village of Chocachatti." A map of Seminole and Black Seminole Villages created in 1823 by Horatio Dexter, an agent of the U.S. government, was used. Questions explored in Stack's study included whether a political organization was emerging in the villages, did it change the landscape or serve the economy, whether there were artifacts showing a material culture, and if there was evidence of ethnogenesis. Ethnogenesis can be defined as a cultural blending of material cultures, and because trails between sites indicate interaction, these locations were of special interest. The village of Chocachatti is of historical and cultural significance because it was important to these early Upper Creeks of Florida, who later became known as the Florida Seminoles. One question involved in her research was "How can we find this and other early sites when so much time has passed and so many changes to the landscape have occurred?"

In 1767, Chocachatti was settled by Upper Creek Indians from Eufaula, Alabama. Chocachatti was in the area of Brooksville today. It is believed that these Indians evolved into Seminoles at Chocachatti, which had been the headquarters of



Meg Stack receives our world-famous T-shirt, thank-you card, and LSS Quigley print from President Steve Koski at Feb. 13 meeting.

the Seminole Nation. What was once described as a very clean area of cleared land, a few years later was in decline and described as unhealthy with unfit water. After the second Seminole war of 1835–1842, Chocachatti was burnt to the ground and the location became hard to find. After designation as a historic-landmark site, an effort began to narrow down its location.

Using GIS (Georeferencing Information Systems) gives a measurement of the landscape rather than the ecosystem. Evidence of interaction with the environment was sought. Historic ecology shows the human-environmental relationship and whether the villagers were unified by interaction over time and great distances. When a group of people on their way to Florida intermingled with others and shared at Chocachatti, this caused changes sufficient that they became a different group: the Seminole. With exposure to conflict after the village was burnt, the landscape was altered.

Archaeology is not just a group of passive items—it is concerned with how the artifacts manifest beliefs, customs, and behaviors. How are the diverse meanings significant? When cultures share, analysis of the materials shows degrees to which people used them and the extent to which changes became part of the culture.

GIS helps to connect the past to the present. Combining geophysical survey, laser mapping, and images from the air from satellite imagery with historical maps can help to locate a site. Georeferencing Dexter's 1823 map integrates aerial and topographical maps. Trails, water and fields can be matched, even though they change somewhat. The purpose is to see the interconnectedness of villages through trails that indicate trade routes.

This information provided a possible location of Chocachatti, and ground studies were performed. A land-management map of 1847 delineated the town that had burnt down years earlier. But documents may be wrong, so a surveyor's notes were used. In the field, none of the boundary features could be found because today there is a highway in that location. It was

decided that this was the wrong area.

Progress was made when another area was chosen for ground-penetrating radar. Hopefully, this will culminate in a field school during the summer of 2016, where modern-day Seminoles can participate in the excavation of their past.

To close her presentation, Stack showed a video of the Hernando County Historical Society ceremony to place the state historic marker. The ceremony included a Seminole blessing of the marker, re-enactors who were descendants of a Black Seminole family, and various other speakers.

We thank Meg for her visit and for sharing her interesting research, and wish her the best in her quest to find the village of Chocachatti.

FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH MYTH TOPIC OF JANUARY MEETING

By Judi and John Crescenzo

On January 13, 2015, Arielle Bernhard, New College of Florida graduate, presented "The Fountain of Youth in Florida Heritage." Bernhard was one of nine students who participated in the Student Paper Competition at the Annual FAS meeting in Punta Gorda in May 2014 and was the first-place winner. Her presentation covered the Fountain of Youth myth in Florida history, how the Fountain of Youth Park in St. Augustine has evolved, the importance of archaeology, and how this might be applied to our local Warm Mineral Springs.

Possible landing sites of Ponce de León include Brevard County, St. Augustine, Warm Mineral Springs, Ponce de Leon Inlet in Daytona, and Ponce Springs. A well-known explorer from Spain, Ponce de León was famous in his time. Born in 1474, he fought the Moors and, in 1493, he came to the New World to colonize. In 1504, he traveled to Hispaniola (Haiti) to stop a rebellion, and in 1508 he contracted with King Ferdinand to explore San Juan (Puerto Rico) as governor. During his travels, he was stripped of power and argued through the courts to regain his position. In 1511, he took an offer from King Ferdinand to find Bimini, which lay to the north of Hispaniola.

For his journey, Ponce de León had to buy his own boats, and in 1513 he headed north from Hispaniola. In March 1513, he first saw Florida and thought it was an island. He may have landed somewhere on the east coast, but that location is lost to history. He followed the coast and discovered the Gulf Stream, reaching the Dry Tortugas and north at least as far as Charlotte Harbor, and had a hostile encounter with the Calusa before returning to Hispaniola. He then traveled to Spain to give an account to King Ferdinand, but the king had died. In 1521, de León organized a second expedition to the Charlotte Harbor area with 200 men, but he was ambushed by Calusa and mortally wounded. He died of his wounds and was buried in Cuba.

Were the stories of the search for the Fountain of Youth simply myth or were they created to make Ponce de León seem foolish? The Spaniard Fontenada, who was rescued from the Calusa after being held captive, later wrote memoirs that enhanced the myth of the Fountain of Youth. In 1885, Washington Irving also wrote *Spanish Voyages of Discovery*,

consolidating the Fountain of Youth story as a romantic tale.

Tourism in Florida began in the 1890s and people headed to Florida for health, spiritual growth, and sportsmanship. Alligator hunting became popular. After the Civil War, the Caribbean image of Florida offered a new identity in a tropical paradise. In 1890, when Henry Flagler's railroad was extended from NY to St. Augustine, along with hotels for tourists, the Fountain of Youth became a tourist destination. In 1909, the property in St. Augustine was purchased, and evidence of the Spanish early period surfaced.



Arielle Bernhard receives our world famous tee-shirt and thank-you card from Vice President Jodi Jonson at the Jan. 13 meeting.

Today, the 16 acres at the St. Augustine Fountain of Youth property include a Spanish watchtower and pier. Archaeology has been ongoing since in 1934, when a gardener dug up a human skeleton. In 1976, the University of Florida field school began, and it continues today. Dr. Deagan, Research Curator of Archaeology for the Florida Museum of Natural History, discovered some of the oldest Spanish pottery and a continuous wall. The area was occupied by Spanish friars in 1572, and in 1588 Franciscan friars became more active in the area. Dr. Deagan continues to seek defensive walls using a GIS map. So far, she has found darker soil, indicating a wall. The Pedro Menendez de Aviles and Nombre de Dios Missions have been reconstructed, and exhibits at the Fountain of Youth Park recreate a Timucua Village. There is also a boatyard where a Spanish-style ship is being reconstructed.

How seriously should the Fountain of Youth myth be taken in the future? While the Fountain of Youth Park has been used for study, the Warm Mineral Springs site has been promoted for pleasure and health. Community involvement and preservation, emotional bonds with the past, and heritage (both tangible and traditional) have revealed Florida's history at St. Augustine and Warm Mineral Springs.

ANNUAL WMS/LSSAS FEBRUARY 21 YARD SALE HUGE SUCCESS

This year's annual yard sale at the Warm Mineral Springs



Folks meander at the WMS/LSSAS Annual Yard Sale for great deals.

Motel turned out to be another smashing success! Total tally: \$1,372.79!

We could not have pulled it off without our core of volunteers too numerous to mention. The event is no small task and it takes months to collect, price, box, and get ready for the event, then another effort to load, deliver, set up, and spend the morning and early afternoon. Things were happening so fast I did not get a group shot of all the volunteers, which I have in the past.

Thanks to all who donated items and helped prior to, and the day of the sale. What a beautiful day, what a job!

ECO FEST EVENT HELD IN NORTH PORT FEBRUARY 7

The Friends of Little Salt Spring and the WMS/LSS Archaeological Society teamed up to attend Eco Fest at North Port City Hall Park. Nice turn out and we had a pretty constant stream of folks at the station both days. We had our tent and three tables set up with information on the FLSS and WMS/LSSAS, with the FLSS rack card, WMS/LSSAS newsletters, and membership forms for both groups; with a display of the archaeological materials, Little Salt Spring posters, the saber cat cast, some of Roger's artifact reproductions, atlatls, LSS posters, and lots of cheerful faces. Thanks to Lawry and Linda Reid, Steve Koski, Sandra Heacock, Bill Goetz, George Guy, Ron and Maria Kunda, Dave and Lyn Runfeldt, and all others who helped.



FLSS President and WMS/LSSAS member Lawry Reid demonstrate the atlatl to folks at Eco Fest, while FLSS members Dave and Lyn Runfeldt back up as far as humanly possible.

As part of the Eco Fest event, the newly formed Friends of

North Port Wildlife, organized by FNPWL President Edie Driest, planned a tour to Myakka State Park and Warm Mineral Springs. Fifty participants headed out on a bus from Eco Fest to Myakka State Park for a walking tour led by biologist Dr. Bill Dunson and naturalist Allan Hale. Steve Koski met the group at Warm Mineral Springs after their Myakka trip and gave them a PowerPoint presentation on "Our Local Treasures, Warm Mineral Springs and Little Salt Spring," followed by a walk around the spring.

Thanks to Erin Bryce with the City of North Port and WMS management for helping set up for the presentation.

The tour was made possible with the help of Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program and People for Trees.

The field trip was quite successful, as Edie mentioned that she could have filled three busses for the trip.



Friends of NP Wildlife listen to a presentation on WMS and LSS by archaeologist Steve Koski, who worked at the site from 1986–1989.



FNPWL tour WMS after Koski's presentation.

JANUARY FIELD TRIP TO ENGLEWOOD HISTORIC SITES WELL ATTENDED

On January 17, 2015, fifteen members of the Warm Mineral Springs/Little Salt Spring Archaeological Society set off to Englewood to see a few of the historic sites. Our first stop was at the Historic Lampp House, located at 604 Perry Street, Englewood, owned by WMS/LSSAS board member Betty Nugent. The house was built in 1928 by Pat Lampp for him and his wife Edith Ainger Lampp. Betty purchased the house in 1995, the second owner, and restored it to its historic context. She is a founding member of the Historic Organization of Resource and Education (SHORE), an Englewood, not-for-profit

historic-preservation organization. SHORE Treasurer David Colby and member Wendy O. also attended. The house is furnished in early 20th-century décor, with early period photographs. After a visit to the Lampp House, we made a visit to the Historic Green Street Church Museum, also built in 1928 by Pat Lampp. The church is owned by the Lemon Historical Society, which has done a wonderful job restoring the interior and exterior over the years with grants, fundraising events, donations, and tender loving care. The church is used for community events, lectures, and meetings, and is available for lease for weddings and events.



WMS/LSSAS members and guests line up on the porch of the Lampp House.

Following the visit to the Green Street Church, we traveled a short distance down the road to Sarasota County-owned Indian Mound Park for an exquisite vegetarian lunch on the bay front that Betty had prepared for us and Kate made some incredible apple squares. The park contains the remaining portion of the Paulsen Point Site, a low shell-midden ridge where Indians lived along the bay for more than 2,000 years. During lunch, Betty gave a brief talk on the history of Paulsen Point, where Indian Mound Park is located, and Steve gave a brief talk on the Indians of Lemon Bay and the Paulsen Point site.

Many thanks to Betty for giving us a tour of her historic home and for providing lunch at Indian Mound Park, and to the Lemon Bay Historical Society for having a special opening for us at the Green Street Church Museum; a most pleasant, informative and enjoyable day! Thanks to Betty, SHORE, and the Lemon Bay Historical Society.

VALENTINE'S DAY AIR-POTATO HUNT HELD AT LITTLE SALT SLOUGH PRESERVE

What better way to celebrate approaching Florida Archaeology Month than by cleaning up a Middle Archaic archaeological site?

The FLSS and WMS/LSSAS came together for our biannual air-potato hunt at Little Salt Spring Slough Preserve, a 5-acre parcel of land across the street from Little Salt Spring, where a component of the Middle Archaic habitation site is located. Twenty-four quarter-acre parcels of land slated for development were acquired by Sarasota County, with help from the City of

North Port, to protect the archaeological resources located there. The land will be used as a preserve and, one day, a passive park.

Close to 500 lbs of air potatoes were collected in the two-hour event, followed by lunch, thanks to Publix supermarket. This is the third time Publix of Toledo Blade has supported our cleanup efforts at the Slough Preserve.

Most of the air potatoes are confined to the southwest corner of the parcel around the 1980s residence, the only lot built on along the east side of Hyder Terrace.

We hope to get back in the spring when the new air-potato vine shoots start so we can dig out the potatoes and treat the new shoots to inhibit a new crop, hopefully leading to full eradication.

Another invasive exotic on the property is Brazilian pepper that has invaded the borders of the property and slough. That is next on the list. We envision that when the 112-acre LSS property across the street is conveyed to the county, we can reinitiate the restoration and exotic-vegetation-eradication project Steve Koski initiated more than 10 years ago, that has been put on hold during the property transfer. There should be a lot of interesting work to do when that happens, and we should be ready! We would like to thank all who participated and Sarasota County Parks and Recreation Department and Lynda Becherelli and Jerris Foote for their support and help on the Little Salt Slough Preserve potato hunt and habitat restoration project.



February 14 air-potato-hunt crew at LSS Slough Preserve, holding 2015 Florida Archaeology Month posters, offered to all who attended.

2015 FAS ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD IN SARASOTA

From the November/December WMS/LSSAS NL

Time Sifters Archaeological Society of Sarasota will host the 2015 Florida Anthropological Society Annual Meeting to be held in Sarasota May 29–31. We are fortunate to have this event and conference once again in our area after hosting it ourselves in Punta Gorda in 2014. That was a great meeting!

They are excited to announce that Dr. Jerald Milanich will be the Keynote Speaker at the Saturday-evening banquet. In 1969, Milanich (still in his doctoral program) led the excavation of the Yellow Bluffs Mound in Sarasota, so it is fitting that he return here to talk about his 50 years in Florida archaeology.

New College and the New College Public Archaeology Lab have graciously agreed to host the Friday-evening welcoming reception. Those attending will enjoy drinks and hors d'oeuvres

on the exquisite Sarasota bayfront. Reservations are already coming in at the conference hotel (which is also the conference venue). There is a negotiated rate of \$129/night at the beautiful Hyatt Regency, which is half off their standard rate and a really great deal for this AAA Four Diamond Hotel and 2013 TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence Winner.

Visit <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/TSAS> to book your room. The TSAS conference committee is working out the details of the call for papers, registration, and field trips, so stay tuned for more news in the next newsletter.

Information on registration, call for papers and posters, student-paper competition, student grants, etc. are available at: www.FASweb.org. Check it out!

WMS/LSSAS TO SUPPORT ANTHROPOLOGY STUDENT TRAVEL GRANTS FOR FAS 2015

The WMS/LSSAS is pleased to offer three \$200 supplemental travel grants to eligible students who present a paper or poster at the FAS 2015 Annual Meeting in Sarasota.

With the \$600 we raised from the raffle at the 2014 FAS Annual Meeting held in Punta Gorda at the registration table hosted by the WMS/LSSAS, the Board decided to use the money to encourage student participation. The money can be used for expenses pertaining to the meeting: hotel, registration, and travel.

How to apply: Students enrolled full-time in an undergraduate or graduate program and first-time FAS presenters are eligible and invited to apply. For consideration, send a letter of request for an FAS 2015 Travel Grant with your paper or poster abstract, copy of student ID, and proof of registration to Jodi Johnson at: jjohnson@ncf.edu no later than March 25. Selection of awards will be based on a review of the letter application, abstract, and proof of conference registration and university enrollment.

LSS NEWS

Conveyance: Things are happening on the state and county level regarding the conveyance of LSS to Sarasota County under their Environmentally Sensitive Lands Program. We have been informed that we can expect finalization early in the next fiscal year and we continue to stand by to hear word. Information will be made available as soon as more is known.

The WMS/LSSAS and Friends of LSS support the transfer and stand ready to assist with volunteers for educational programs, public outreach, site tours, fundraising, and land management if and when needed.

VENICE MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES EXHIBIT NEWS

A new exhibit, "Making Waves: Venice Area Beaches Then and Now," is available for viewing until June 29, 2015, at the Venice Museum and Archives, located at the historic Triangle Inn, 351 Nassau St. South, Venice, Fla. (in back of the Venice Public Library). From sea turtles to surfing, Making Waves is a fun and informative exhibit that explores the past and present of Nokomis, Venice, and Caspersen beaches, and looks at their future preservation.

Learn the history behind the creation of the public beaches and their pavilions, see before-and-after beach-renourishment photos, find out which sea turtles call our beaches home, and other fun-in-the-sun facts every "beach bum" should know.

Highlights from the museum's permanent collection include beach-related photos and postcards from the 1920s to 1990s, vintage bathing suits, and more. A video and photography display of incredible local surfing and skimboarding was made possible through collaborations with VeniceJetty.com, Gulfster.com, local surfers, and skimboarders. Several boards are on loan from area manufacturers Zap Skimboards (Venice) and One World Surf Designs (Sarasota). Bring the kids for hands-on activities and Hang Ten! After checking out the exhibit, head for Venice Beach, only a mile away from the museum—just a 4-minute drive, 6-minute bike, or 20-minute walk. They also have an impressive display room with fossil collections from Venice Beach.

The mission of the Venice Museum and Archives is to collect and preserve historical and archeological material relating to Venice and the communities of Nokomis, Laurel, and Osprey, whose histories have all been interwoven from 1867 to the present time.

TRIPS TO MOUND KEY AVAILABLE MARCH AND APRIL 2015 WITH A FIELD TRIP PLANNED APRIL 20

This spring, a series of guided tours to Mound Key with archaeologist Theresa Schober are offered on each of five Mondays (March 9, 23, and 30, and April 13 and 20), morning and afternoon departures, with Banana Bay Tour Company. Tours last approximately 3.5 hours, launching from Estero.

The WMS/LSSAS is scheduling a field trip April 20, 2015 for those of you who missed our last year's field trip to Mound Key with Theresa on March 3, 2014, after her February 11, 2014, presentation. Eight members went on that trip and had an exceptionally grand time.

Details on cost (\$45 last year), signup sheet, and meeting location will be available at the March 10 meeting. For more information, see our 2014 January/February, March/April, and May/June WMS/LSSAS Newsletters.

Mound Key was the capital village of the Calusa Indians. The dominant tribe in south Florida, the Calusa were visited by Ponce de León in 1513, as he claimed Florida for Spain. A fort was later constructed on the island by Pedro Menéndez de Avilés that housed one of the first Jesuit missions in North America. The guided archaeological tour of the island lasts approximately 1.5 hours and includes walking up and down the steep inclines of two mound surfaces, including a visit to the highest point in Lee County (other than the landfill!). Groups will explore Calusa history and the role Mound Key and southwest Florida played in early colonial expansion efforts and the ultimate founding of the United States of America.

If you would like additional information or assistance making your reservation, please do not hesitate to contact Theresa at (239) 851-9040.

PASSING OF "SHARK LADY" EUGENIE CLARK FELT BY MANY

The world lost a great local research scientist with the passing of Dr. Eugenie Clark at age 92 on Wednesday, February 25, 2015. She was a pioneering ichthyologist, shark researcher, best-selling author, and founder of Mote Marine, with a long list of impressive credentials in an academic career spanning more than 70 years.

She was one incredible woman and scientist, who began her career in the 1940s and '50s when the field was dominated by men, and rose to the top in her field, set the standard in marine research, and encouraged women to enter the field of science. Author of numerous books and hundreds of journal articles, with thousands of dives "under her weight belt," her impact in the field of ichthyology is legendary. She published her first book, *Lady with a Spear*, in 1953 and continued publishing until her death.

For an overview of her many accomplishments, see local articles in the *North Port Sun* ("Mote Mourns the Shark Lady," 2/27/15) and the *Herald-Tribune* ("Passing of Shark Lady," 2/26/15, and "Mourning at Mote, 2/27/15); both papers had exceptional coverage. I also saw a *National Geographic* memorial article on their website at the address below (copy and paste if you have the electronic copy of the newsletter): <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2015/02/150225-eugenie-clark-shark-lady-marine-biologist-obituary-science/>.

One thing that all the articles I read on Eugenie did not mention was her years of diving at Warm Mineral Springs and Little Salt Spring with the late Col. Bill Royal, who made some of the first archeological and paleontological discoveries at the spring beginning in 1958 and 1959. She heard of the blind tarpon and WMS Spring and wanted to investigate, met Bill Royal, and the two helped bring the finds to the scientific community with the first publication on WMS in *American Antiquity* (1960): "Natural Preservation of Human Brain, Warm Mineral Springs, Florida."

SPECIAL SHOWING OF EUGENIE CLARK'S VIDEO INTERVIEW MAY 13 AT NORTH PORT PUBLIC LIBRARY

On May 13, 2015, 6:00 PM, the WMS/LSSAS will partner with the North Port Public Library to present a local tribute to Eugenie Clark's life with a video interview on her early years of diving at WMS and LSS.

The Friends of Little Salt Spring had a showing of the video at one of their 2014 meetings, and the WMS/LSSAS had a showing at the May 2014 Annual Meeting of the Florida Anthropological Society we hosted in Punta Gorda to a standing-room-only crowd of more than 100 anthropologists and

archaeologists from all over the state, and had another well attended showing at our November 2014 general meeting.



Eugenie Clark in Japan 1980
(photo by *National Geographic* photographer David Doubilet)

We thank producers Curt Bowen of *Advance Diver Magazine* and the Shark Brothers, Sean and Brooks Paxton of Think Out Loud Productions, for providing the video.

2015 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE STILL ON!

Thanks to all our new and renewed members, and please keep those renewals coming in. We have a combined 81 members for 2014/2015 and we are shooting for 100 for 2015. Please help us to reach our goal! We couldn't do it without you. It is our intent to continue to provide informative and educational programs at our monthly meetings, field trips to exciting places, and participation at local events that will be published in our bimonthly newsletter. Join the fun!

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