



**WMS/LSS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER**

**Vol. 26, No. 3, May/June 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 S. Biscayne Blvd. Meetings are free and open to the public. Come one come all!

**HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE OF SARASOTA COUNTY  
TOPIC OF MAY 12 MEETING**

Architect Joe King will be the presenter at the May 12 WMS/LSSAS monthly meeting. His topic will include important historic structures of Sarasota County. Joe is an architect practicing in Bradenton, Florida, and principal of King Architecture, and president of Old Cypress Construction.

Joe is a leading scholar of postwar modernism in Florida. His work includes comprehensive research and an exhibit on the career of Jack West, the architect of the facilities at Warm Mineral Springs. He is co-author, with Christopher Domin, of *Paul Rudolph: The Florida House*, an award-winning book published by Princeton Architectural Press, and an exhibit of the same name that has travelled to architecture schools and museums around the country. See King, p. 2

**“ARCHAEOLOGY WORKS – LITTLE SALT SPRING,”  
AN EVENT TO BE HELD JUNE 13 AT MORGAN FAMILY  
CENTER**

*By Steve Koski*

Mark your calendar and attend an exciting event to be held June 13 at the Morgan Family Center off Price Blvd. in North Port from 1:00 – 3:00 PM.

The Friends of Little Salt Spring have joined in a collaborative effort with the Florida Public Archaeology Network, with support from the WMS/LSS Archaeological Society, to produce “Archaeology Works – Little Salt Spring.”

Archaeology Works will provide those attending a glimpse into the wonders of Little Salt Spring through a variety of educational discussions and activities designed for students, families, and anyone interested in learning about Little Salt Spring.

Several hands-on stations will demonstrate aspects of early Native American lifeways; learn how stone tools were made, learn how cordage was made and make a beaded bracelet; see how big game was hunted and go on a mammoth hunt with an atlatl (prehistoric spear thrower). You will see reproductions of stone, shell, bone, wooden tools, and much more. Several large informational posters on the environment and archaeology of Little Salt Spring will be available for viewing, and take a selfie by a giant illustration of LSS. Fun for the whole family.

Little Salt Spring is a 112-acre archaeological and ecological preserve currently owned by the University of Miami (since 1982) and has been operated as a research facility. The University has offered the property to Sarasota County under their Environmentally Sensitive Lands Program and the conveyance is in progress and expected to be completed in the next few months. Sarasota County is dedicated to protecting the



Architect Joe King at Warm Mineral Springs in April 2015

natural and cultural resources under current conservation restrictions. Educational programs and level of public access will be considered once the conveyance process is complete. It is also hoped that funding can be secured through academic collaborators to continue aspects of the ongoing research in archaeology, paleontology, hydrology, and geology, as well as continued environmental studies. The Friends of Little Salt Spring and WMS/LSSAS stand ready to assist.

The significance of the property is unprecedented and has served as an ecological refuge for more than 15,000 years. It contains evidence of some of our first visitors to Florida more than 12,000 years ago and served as an oasis for the procurement of resources in the late Pleistocene and early Holocene, 12,000–8,600 years ago. Today too, it is an oasis and ecological refuge surrounded by the burgeoning City of North Port. The spring and surrounding slough also served as a mortuary pond 8,000–6,000 years ago. No other property in the Southeastern United States shares so many aspects of significance, which makes preservation so paramount.

Come to the June 13 event at the Morgan Center 1:00-3:00 PM and learn more. The Morgan Center is located at 6207 West Price Blvd., North Port.

All students will receive a LSS Archaeology Works - LSS information and activity booklet, and those who participate will receive a free one-year membership to the Friends of Little Salt Spring. Perhaps one day “Archaeology Works” can be held at the spring itself!

#### **KING (cont. from page 1)**

Joe is currently building a replica of the 1952 Walker Guest House designed by Paul Rudolph to be on display at the Ringling Museum for one year starting in November 2015. Our May 12 meeting should prove to be another exceptionally good meeting you won't want to miss.

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

*From March/April WMS/LSSAS Newsletter*

On May 13, 2015 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 in the late 1950s. The presentation will be held at the North Port Library in the Youth Activities Room at 6:00 PM.



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

Special guests Sean and Brooks Paxton will introduce the video as both participated in the interview with producer Curt Bowen.

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. We also had another well attended showing at our November 2014 general meeting.

Dr. Clark passed away on February 25, 2015 at 92. See “Passing of the Shark Lady...” in the March/April WMS/LSSAS Newsletter.

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

#### **SARASOTA COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGIST RYAN MURPHY SPOKE AT OUR APRIL 14 MEETING**

On April 14, 2015, Ryan Murphy, Sarasota County Archaeologist, presented an overview of the goals and procedures of Sarasota County Historic Resources. He opened with a description of materials available to the public at the Sarasota Historical Resources Center at 6062 Porter Way, including manuscripts, news articles, exhibitions, biographies, photographs, digital images, and archaeological collections from the 1960s onward from all of Sarasota County.

Collections management includes exhibits, preservation, cataloging, education, and restoration. The goal is to go into the community to educate and promote a connection with our history. Educational exhibits have been presented downtown at the Chidsey library, where lectures and meetings are held. Other projects include walking tours, such as a recent one at Phillippi Estate. Green historical markers also help people to understand local history.

The Community Heritage Awareness and Management Program (CHAMP) is linked to New College Public Archaeology Lab, where internships are offered to college students who work with Uzi Barum. In a two-year project at Phillippi Estate, students completed ethnographic studies by interviewing visitors and observing how they used the park. Students also set up a booth at the farmers' market to educate visitors, because when people realize parks belong to the community, they become more supportive. In 2016, new interpretive signs will be posted throughout Phillippi Park, and small excavations will be performed.

The Water Atlas Program records the oral histories of locals. In 1976, the Historic Marker Program was set up by the Sarasota Board of County Commissioners, and there are now over 100 markers in the county. Historic Resource Preservation began in 1995, and identifying signs protect cultural resources. A review of development permits identifies cultural resources to protect them. Beginning in 1997, historic designations are listed on a local register of historic places. Buildings 50 years or older have historic integrity. Incentives include flexibility in the interpretation of buildings and zoning codes, and potential

exemptions from an increase in ad-valorem taxes “attributed to a qualifying improvement.”

Chapter 66 of the County Code outlines the Historical Commission Advisory Board. Article I concerns general definitions. Article II deals with the Historical Commission of sixteen members with four-year terms, including one youth. Roles of the Commission include providing recommendations, following guidelines, and setting up historical markers.

Article III includes historic and archaeological-resource protection, with a review of applications for development, recognition and reviews, and site-development plans. Critical Area Plans and Comprehensive Plan amendments are reviewed in order to protect historic and archaeological resources. Potential impacts on the significances of historic resources include construction, alteration, demolition, tree removal, water, and sewer. The Department can only delay a project for 45 days, but the Historic Preservation Board can delay it for one year.

Determination of historic significance makes a site potentially eligible for the national or local Register of Historic Places. Under consideration are integrity, association with significant events and individuals, embodiment of distinctive characteristics, and yield of information on prehistory or history. Protection requirements include a cultural-resource assessment survey for historic resources and development of a predictive model, such as digging a trench and recording stratigraphy. All materials must be screened and documented for both history and prehistory. Soil types, elevated ridges, and the proximity to fresh water and other archaeological sites are noted. A determination is made of no effect or adverse effect, which can be avoided, minimized, or mitigated. A practical project alternative must not cause undue hardship on the use of the property. Mitigation can include further archaeological excavation or relocation of structures.

Article IV refers to the Historic Preservation Designation. The Historic Preservation Board consists of seven members who serve three-year terms. The Board looks at national and local register designations. They provide nominations and extensive documentation, which are reviewed in public hearings. Certificates of appropriateness are completed for demolition, relocation, alteration, and contributions to the designation of historic resources, while remaining in accordance with the Secretary of Interior’s standards for rehabilitation of historic buildings. Guided by historic characteristics and aesthetic interests, plans for reuse and effects of those plans on the character of the surrounding area are considered. It is decided if a building can be moved without damage and if the relocation site is compatible with the character of the original district.

Procedures for certification of appropriateness include a pre-application meeting for discussion, filing of the permit application, and being placed on the Historic Preservation Board agenda, where the application must be reviewed within 35 days and be advertised to the public. Actions can include granting the certificate, granting with modifications and conditions, or denying

the certificate, which can be appealed within fifteen days.

Article V concerns tax exemptions, and historic properties are exempted from ad-valorem taxes in Sarasota County for restoration, renovation, or rehabilitation. Eligible properties must be locally designed and consistent with the Secretary of Interior’s standards and guidelines for rehabilitation of historic buildings. Improvements must be equal to or greater than 15% of the assessed value of the property to meet state criteria, and work must be completed within two years.

We thank Ryan for his most informative and interesting discussion on the important work involved with Sarasota County’s Historic Resources, located at 6062 Porter Way, Sarasota, FL, 34232; phone 941-861-5000. The center is open Monday through Friday 9 :00 AM – 5:00 PM with research hours 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM Monday through Thursday. Make a visit and check out all they have to offer! See more at [www.scgov.net/History](http://www.scgov.net/History).

### **ARCHAEOLOGIST DR. MIKE RUSSO SPOKE AT OUR MARCH 10 MEETING FOR FAM**

*By Judi and John Crescenzo*

To celebrate Florida Archaeology Month, on March 10, 2015, Dr. Mike Russo, Archaeologist with the National Park Service, Southeast Archeological Center in Tallahassee, presented “Shell Ring Architecture of the Archaic.” Dr. Russo explained that since the discovery of shell rings in the 19th century, their function has been of interest.

Shell rings exist in U, C, or circular shapes. Sometimes there are numerous rings attached to a major ring, such as the Rollins site near Jacksonville. In Florida, most shell rings are U-shaped and large, while shell rings in South Carolina are small and C-shaped. Common features include circular, continuous piles of shell, with oysters always dominant. Shell rings on the southeast coast of the U.S. date to the Late Archaic 5,000–3000 BP.

At Dismal and Russell Keys in the Everglades, shell rings from the Late Archaic were used for burials, living spaces, and canals. But shell rings were made of discarded shells, so were they just accumulated garbage or a structure with a purpose? Society in the 1840s did not believe Indians could have built these structures. Between 1840–1894, mounds were dug up, described, and classified. Museums displayed artifacts, and stratigraphy made it possible to determine which artifacts were oldest. Regions using the same artifacts were placed into a historic, cultural chronology. Chronology was first based on pottery materials and styles, and later it was based on radio-carbon dating.

The first shell ring at Lighthouse Point, SC, was discovered by William Drayton in 1802. He believed that the palisade wall was created to protect the village from floods. Sapelo Island, GA, was studied in 1873 by William McKinley, who measured the rings, thinking they may have been a place for torture, sports, or dance. Speculation at this time was based on observations and included no data.



WMS/LSSAS Treasurer Kate Cattran offers NPS Archaeologist Mike Russo with our world famous tee shirt (which he probably has on right now, I'm guessing, I know I do).

In 1897, archaeologist C. B. Moore of Philadelphia studied Sapelo Island Ring I. He followed the coast and dug into mounds, measuring and noting differences in pottery. In 1925, Laura M. Bragg and Anne King Gregorie from the Charleston, SC, Museum, thought that the five shell rings were villages. Gregorie believed that people lived on the platform in the center and threw shells outside onto the ring. In 1932, the Chester Field Ring was mapped on the Carolina coast; the rings were measured, and evidence of ceremonies, arrowheads, and other materials was noted and kept in a museum.

Prior to WWII, descriptions and travelogues mentioned the shell rings. From WWII to the year 2000, there were 50 reports, theses, and articles written. The theoretical approach included cultural history and linked pottery types. In the 1960s, the environmental approach linked food eaten with the environment. From 1965–1985, there were reports on what was eaten, ceramics used, and how long people stayed in the area.

A shell ring at Sewee, SC, was tested to determine the ring's purpose. It was believed that when the tide came into the ring, fish also entered the opening, which could then be shut. But the fish-trap theory was disproved because the rings were high and dry; none were built in a marsh.

Horr's Island in southwest Florida, the focus of Russo's study, was the first shell ring discovered in Florida. From 1989–1995, Horr's Island was studied before it was developed. Trenches were bulldozed across the site, cutting through the plaza and into the circles of shell to facilitate the examination and study of the stratigraphy. Open units exposed living features, such as a fire pit, overlapping hearths, and post holes where living shelters may have existed. There were three mounds at Horr's Island, and Mound A is the tallest in southwest Florida. It included a ground surface, where ceremonial burning was completed before sand was put onto the mound. The sand dune was reddish with a lighter color on top; it contained animal remains in the light colored beach sand, and it was topped with sand of different colors. Horr's Island showed social complexity in its ringed plazas, ceremonial mounds, monumental rings, and

permanent villages with pottery.

There have been many reactions to the idea that shell rings were ceremonial. Rollins Shell Ring, BP 3800, is built like a stadium, so was it used for ceremonies or were the rings simply garbage? The difference between 19th-century speculation and ceremonial hypotheses is that the speculation was based on observations only, while hypotheses were based on examination and testing. This led to other hypotheses with the addition of new data, and all phenomena must be explained. Ecofunctional conclusions do not address what is found in the shell rings.

Russo pointed out that U-shaped villages in Indonesia are shaped like modern meeting rooms, with the leader at the space across from the opening. Circular rings are egalitarian, where everyone is at the same level. Social space theory includes upper and lower levels, with the high point in U-shapes nearly always across from the opening. In a circle, the tallest point is opposite the lowest point.

Environmental-materialists believe that garbage is garbage, and people don't live on top of garbage. However, today there



More than 50 members and guests joined us for a presentation on Ancient Shell Rings by Dr. Mike Russo.

are sites like Mt. Trashmore at Virginia Beach and Cesar Chavez Park in San Francisco, where trash is used as the basis for memorials. It was proposed that Sewee was used to store fresh water for use by a village. However, according to a video, tests conducted by the SE Archeological Center of the National Park Service prove that a shell ring would not hold water. In a large-scale experiment at Apalachicola, a ring 10–12M across and 4M thick drained in five minutes. When shell and sand were compacted into the rings, the drainage rate was slower, taking more than 15 minutes to drain. It was shown that oyster shell is one of the worst natural materials to hold water and shell rings are very permeable, so any water appearing in rings had to be tidal. Russo concluded that shell rings were used for terrestrial, daily activity, rituals, burials, and social purposes—not to hold water—and the shape of the rings is cultural.

## FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH EXHIBIT AT NORTH PORT LIBRARY WELL RECEIVED

*Adapted from March/April WMSLSSAS NL*

The WMS/LSSAS Society set up a small exhibit in the main lobby of the North Port Public Library through March to celebrate Florida Archaeology Month. The exhibit focused on



Front side of FAM exhibit set up at the NP Library



Back side of the FAM exhibit set up at the NL Library.

the 2015 FAM theme, “Innovators of the Archaic,” and was very well received. “Florida Archaeology Month exhibits are the most popular of all our exhibits, especially with our local students,” said NP Librarian Janis Russell.

The double-sided glass case featured some of the innovations of the Archaic, such as the diversification in stone projectile-point types, and 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, was 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, were featured, as well as reproductions of fiber-tempered pottery, twine, and cordage. The double-sided FAM posters were available upon request in the children’s section of the library and more than 150 were distributed.

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, dispersment 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 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.

## 2015 FAS ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD IN SARASOTA MAY 29-31.

Time Sifters Archaeological Society of Sarasota will host the 2015 Florida Anthropological Society Annual Meeting to be held in Sarasota May 29–31 at the Sarasota Hyatt Regency. The registration links and additional information are available on the FAS website [www.fasweb.org](http://www.fasweb.org). Registration is \$60, banquet \$50, and there is a nominal charge for some of the Sunday events.

The meeting kicks off Friday with a series of FAS, FAC and FPAN board meetings.

Friday afternoon is the FAS Education Committee: A combination of a panel discussion and a workshop that focuses on media and press relations which concern anthropological events and topics, including a how-to on developing a press kit. Communications specialist, Emily Jane Murray, will be on hand to answer questions and direct the workshop Friday afternoon.

The Friday-evening reception will be held at the Charles Ringling Mansion, hosted by co-organizer Professor Uzi Baram. Watch the sunset over the bay at this stellar historic building that is part of the New College campus. Meet your friends while you enjoy drinks, hors d'oeuvres, and entertainment.

Saturday will have a full day of more than 45 paper presentations held in three concurrent sessions, followed by a banquet at the Hyatt with keynote speaker and “Dean of Florida Archaeology,” Dr. Jerry Milanich.

Sunday morning schedule of events will include:

9am – Morning cruise on Sarasota Bay. Prehistory, history, and humor presented at lightning speed by a native Sarasotan, John McCarthy.

9am – Dive Trip. Join underwater archaeologist Jeff Moates on this unique field trip to the USS *Narcissus*, one of Florida's twelve Underwater Archaeological Preserves. Lunch included.

Those who attend the cruise will return in time for the late-morning and afternoon events.

11:30am – Historic Spanish Point. There is over 5,000 years of human history on this 30-acre National Register site. Features include “A Window to the Past,” a unique exhibition built inside a prehistoric midden, and an Archaic Period horseshoe-shaped midden.

11:30am – Manatee Mineral Spring and Gamble Plantation.

Visit two sites important to understanding the history of the first Florida settlement south of Tampa Bay.

This should be a great meeting and a great opportunity to learn what Florida archaeologists are up to.

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

Two Anthropology students were awarded a \$200 grant from the WMS/LSSAS to help supplement costs of attending the FAS Annual Meeting to be held in Sarasota May 29–31 (see previous article for details). Eligible students will present a paper or poster on their research Saturday, May 30, in the poster-session room or in one of three concurring sessions held that day. The WMS/LSSAS Student Grants were awarded to Jennifer Green, a second year graduate student at Florida Atlantic University, for her poster titled “A Reassessment of the

Jupiter Inlet I Site: Archaeomalacological Data as a Paleoenvironmental Indicator,” and Jillian Okray, a second-year graduate student studying historical archaeology at the University of West Florida, for her paper titled “History through Another Lens: Assessing the Elemental Variability of Artifacts Types through Portable X-Ray Florescence (pXRF) Spectrometry.”

Money for the grants came from the WMS/LSSAS FAS Student Support Fund raised at the 2014 FAS Annual Meeting hosted by the WMS/LSSAS held at the Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center May 8–11. We raised \$600 from donated materials that were raffled at the meeting. The board voted to donate all proceeds from the raffle to encourage student participation. The money can be used for expenses pertaining to the meeting: hotel, registration, and travel. The remaining funds will be rolled over to support student participation at the 2016 FAS Annual Meeting to be held in Orlando.

## MARCH 14 FIELD TRIP TO HISTORIC SPANISH POINT A FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH EVENT

On March 14, several members traveled to Historic Spanish Point to join the Florida Public Archaeology Network (West Central Region) Jeff Moates, Rebecca O'Sullivan, Kassie Kemp and Brittany Yabczanka; and Sarasota County Archaeologist Ryan Murphy to attend a special Florida Archaeology Month Event “Archaeology Works – Mounds and Middens.”

The event included an indoor workshop telling the tale of the landscape of middens and the mounds at this premier 30-acre archaeological and historical site located in Osprey, representing more than 5,000 years of coastal living. After the workshop, we toured several areas of the property including a burial mound, excavated by archaeologist Ripley Bullen from 1959–1962; the Window to the Past, an exhibit that takes you inside one of the shell mounds, and the Archaic Cottage Hill Midden, an early shell ring site.



Sarasota County Archaeologist Ryan Murphy speaks to those attending Archaeology Works at Historic Spanish Point at the Cottage Hill Midden on Sarasota Bay

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.

Many thanks to all the folks at FPAN and Sarasota County Archeologist Ryan Murphy.

For those of you who would like to go, 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](http://www.historicspanishpoint.org).

### **SHELL-TOOL TECHNOLOGIES TOPIC OF NORTH PORT LIBRARY EVENT TO BE HELD MAY 20**

What can shells tell us about past people's daily lives?

Come out to the North Port Library located at 13800 S. Tamiami Trail Wednesday, May 20, 6:00-7:30 PM. to learn how to identify different shell types found in Florida, the ways Native Americans used them, and how archaeologists use shells to learn about the past.

The Florida Public Archaeology Network, West Central Florida Regional Office at USF in partnership with the North Port Library, will conduct a program on "Shell Tool Technologies of the Gulf Coast" in the Nello Juliano Room. Adults and children 10 and above will benefit from this interesting presentation about shell-tool use in prehistoric times.

To register or for more information: call 941-861-1307 or 861-5000 or go to [www.scgov.net/library](http://www.scgov.net/library)

### **WARM MINERAL SPRINGS CYCLORAMA ONE OF LAST IN THE NATION**

*By Bill Goetz*

Did you know that the Cyclorama at Warm Mineral Springs is one of the last in the entire nation?

The year was 1959 and Warm Mineral Springs was gearing up to host the State of Florida Quadricentennial Celebration. The feature presentation was the Warm Mineral Springs Cyclorama with narration by radio legend, Lowell Thomas. The cyclorama featured a 28 minute presentation about Juan Ponce De Leon and his search for the mythical "Fountain of Youth," at Warm Mineral Springs. Opening day of the Quadricentennial in December of 1959 brought between 12,000 and 15,000 people to see the Seminole Indian Village, Cyclorama, and other attractions set up for the event. The Spa buildings and Cyclorama were designed by famed Sarasota School of Architecture's, Jack West and the Cyclorama mural was painted by Sarasota artist, Don Putman. The Cyclorama is still intact down to the original Lowell Thomas presentation and continues to serve as an interesting display of the average mid-century American colonial viewpoint towards native cultures.

While the story may be a myth with no historic documentation from De Leon's time, the building and its historic significance is real and the fate of the building is in North Port's hands. A structural evaluation and preservation considerations for Cyclorama and other WMS structures are in need as they are some of North Port's oldest buildings and certainly their most significant.



The Cyclorama at Warm Mineral Springs



One of the many exhibits in the Cyclorama at Warm Mineral Springs

### **SHOW US YOUR WMS/LSSAS TEE SHIRT**

Please take your WMS/LSSAS tee shirt with you when you travel. People have asked me about the "world famous" in reference to our tee shirts and think it's a joke. What! No, really, just like our local springs, our tee shirt is nationally and internationally known. So, what we need is photos of members with their tee shirts on in all corners of the nation and the world. I need some vindication that I am not fabricating the global fame of our tee shirt.

We would really like to get high-altitude photos, so take one on the plane, give one to your favorite pilot, or better yet, your Sherpa. I can see an underwater shot in the making (brilliant). Let's get a photo from Easter Island, the Galapagos, UK, Hawaii, Australia, Bahamas, multiple Florida Springs; you get the idea. Florida Springs are in desperate need of attention for multiple reasons. So bring your WMS/LSSAS tee shirt with you when you travel, take photo in some far away place, and I'll put a photo of you in the newsletter.

**ELIZABETH MASSEY WILL BE MISSED BY THOSE WHO KNEW HER**

Long-time Society Member Elizabeth Schoenacher Massey, 96, of North Port, FL, passed away peacefully Friday, March 13, 2015, at home under the care of Tidewell Hospice and her daughter Linda. She was born Sept. 17, 1918, in Brooklyn, NY,



Liz Massey at a local event

to Elizabeth (nee McClinchey) and Aloysius Schoenacher and was the firstborn of six children. In 1943, she began working for the Western Electric Corporation in Brooklyn, and became a proud member of the Communication Workers of America Union.



Stone memorial placed in the garden at the NP Library in dedication to Elizabeth Massey's 25 years of volunteer service inlaid with cut glass

Through her career as an electronics technician at Western

Electric she also worked in Philadelphia, Pa., and King of Prussia, Pa., retiring in 1981.

In 1946, she married Thomas Massey, and later had one child, Linda (Florida). She moved to North Port in 1982, and worked as a volunteer at the North Port Library for 25 years. Locally she was also a member of the Warm Mineral Springs/Little Salt Spring Archaeological Society, People for Trees, the Allamanda Garden Club of North Port and Friends of Little Salt Spring, among other organizations.

As a WMS/LSSAS member, she attended almost every meeting over the last 20 years and participated on many of our field trips and dinner meetings with her daughter Linda, Membership Secretary for Society for more than 20 years. She was our oldest and most gracious member and will be missed considerably.

On April 15 at 5:00 PM, in recognition of her 25 years of volunteer service at the North Port Library, a ceremony was held and a memorial stone was placed in a garden at the library in honor of her years of service. Numerous library staff, Friends of the North Port Library, Members of the WMS/LSSAS and members of other organizations she belonged to were in attendance. All gathered for refreshments and conversation following the dedication in the Nello Julliano Room. It was a nice event held in her honor.

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