



WMS/LSS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 26, No. 4, September/October 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!

THE MAYA OF BELIZE TOPIC OF SEPTEMBER 8 MEETING

Archaeologist Dr. Kara Fulton will be the speaker at the September 8 meeting, with a presentation titled “The Not So Mysterious Maya.” The ancient Maya are a people seemingly shrouded in mystique and mystery — but how enigmatic are they really? Decades of archaeological research have helped us understand how the everyday Maya lived, from commoners to kings. In this presentation, Dr. Fulton will discuss common misconceptions about the Maya and connect these ideas to various components of their culture. Topics will include an overview of Maya art, writing, calendrics, politics, and more.

Dr. Kara Fulton received her Ph.D. in Applied Anthropology from the University of South Florida. With a focus in Mesoamerican archaeology, she has conducted research in Mexico, Honduras, and Belize. She specializes in microscale-activity analysis using soil and plaster chemistry and is particularly interested in how everyday activities impact household-level and community-level social relationships. (See Maya, p. 2.)



Archaeologist Dr. Kara Fulton

PANAMA ARCHAEOLOGY TOPIC OF OCTOBER 13 MEETING

Archaeologist Dr. William Locascio, Assistant Professor at Florida Gulf Coast University, will be the speaker at the November 13 meeting of the WMS/LSSAS, talking on “Domestic Space and Communal Activity in the Village of El Hatillo, Panama.” Dr. Locascio’s research focused on testing the idea of whether or not craft production (of axes, specifically — a tool of vital importance to an agricultural community) was a primary force in the emergence of formally hierarchical societies around AD 550. His project was the third phase of work in the Rio Parita Valley and focused on excavating households of different social status (based on evidence from previous work) and from several different periods of occupation at the site. Data led him to conclude that economic activities (such as production of axes) and control over those activities were *not* a force behind the emergence of formal hierarchies in the region. Instead, it seems that households from earlier periods that seemed to elevate



Dr. Locascio excavates a profile wall with student participants.

their social status above their neighbors did so by providing space (and hosting) communal events — such as ancestor veneration, etc. This seems to have been more involved with the emergence and establishment of formal hierarchies in the region.

Dr. Locascio received his Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Pittsburgh in 2010, his M.A. (with distinction) in Anthropology from Southern Illinois University in 2003, and his B.S. in Biopsychology from Loyola University of Chicago in 1996. He has conducted archaeological research in Attu, Aleutian Islands, Alaska (prehistoric Aleut); southern Arizona (Hohokam and Archaic period peoples); southern Illinois (Woodland and Mississippian); central and southern Ecuador (Jambeli and Manteño cultures); Central Panama; Diquis Region of Costa Rica; St. Augustine, FL (historic period St. Augustine); and southwest FL (Calusa and Archaic period peoples).

MAYA (cont'd from p. 1)

Please join us for our first meeting of the season after summer hiatus and welcome Dr. Fulton. We plan on meeting for “dinner with the speaker” at the Olde World Restaurant in North Port at 5:00 PM. All are welcome. Next month’s dinner location to be announced or call Hilda Boron at 426-1719.

ARCHITECT JOE KING SPOKE ON SARASOTA COUNTY HISTORICAL BUILDINGS IN MAY

By Judi and John Crescenzo

On May 12, 2015, Joe King, architect and archivist from Bradenton, spoke on the importance of historic buildings in Sarasota County, including those at Warm Mineral Springs. King is a scholar of postwar modernism in Florida and co-author of the book *Paul Rudolph: The Florida Houses*, and an exhibit by that name has traveled around the country. King’s presentation was accompanied by historic images from the Venice Archives and Sarasota County Historical Resources.

King explained that each generation has viewed Warm Mineral Springs (WMS) in different ways. From the 1940s, people came there for mud baths. By the mid 1950s, it was developed as an attraction with plans to build homes, a community, and commercial development. Ambitious plans included a recreation center, library, boathouse, fountain of youth, and a large clinic.

Architect Victor Lundy, a Sarasota Modernist who designed Silver Springs, was hired, and he designed a pavilion that was never built. He had planned to use geometric and natural forms to link the buildings with nature by surrounding them with nature. The structures were to include bathhouses hidden in the trees and a courtyard of water features in expressive, clear architecture. The WMS hotel was designed as an inn with a series of concrete abstract palm trees, placed close together with differing heights so that light could filter through them.

WMS was advertised as the “real fountain of youth,” and it was associated with Venice because North Port did not yet exist. Buildings were to be associated with youth, health, and well being, with a purposeful design that would attract people. In the late 1950s, the three front buildings were built for Florida’s Quadricentennial and were tied to that event. Roads were built



Always cheerful board member Betty Nugent presents May speaker Joe King our world famous WMS/LSSAS tee-shirt.

to bring people to North Port for the celebration. Architect Jack West, who graduated from Yale in 1949, was hired. Because West kept a list of his projects and donated his drawings to the Sarasota County Historical Resources, they are available for study.

The WMS buildings provided a series of Quadricentennial celebration experiences on the way to the spring. Exhibits were displayed in each room, and there was a Seminole Village on one side and Cyclorama on the other side. The current walkway was also enclosed for exhibits. After walking through the buildings and exhibits, visitors reached the spring, where they watched a water ballet. In 1959, a house was planned for WMS, but it was never built. The house would have been made up of windows so that nature could be seen everywhere, unlike the enclosed Cyclorama.

In 1959, West also redesigned Main Street in Sarasota, proposing no cars, a pedestrian walk with parking nearby, and the major attraction of Bay Island. The layout was similar to that of WMS, where people would walk through an area to reach the main attraction. West also built the Hilton Leech Art Studio, which was a simple geometric structure with plenty of walls for exhibits.

The Quadricentennial celebration at WMS included all exhibits for a \$2 admission, and there was a parade with a Seminole Chief at the opening ceremony. A mural within the Cyclorama told of Ponce de Leon’s explorations there, and Lowell Thomas narrated the show. The same show was offered daily at 1 p.m. until 2002. Images of the murals inside the Cyclorama gave a glimpse into the past when late 19th-century narrated traveling shows were a popular form of entertainment.

Opening day at the exhibit drew more than 10,000 people from all over the state, and the Quadricentennial celebration ran from December 1959 to March 1960. Exhibits included the industrial might of Jacksonville and the conquistadors. The costs for building WMS were high, but this was justified because

the spring brought publicity to the area.

At the entrance to the building, West used tiles to create a map of Florida on a wall, which still remains. The hall is like tunnel that could be opened to allow light in. There is a tiled design on the wall that appears to be a diagram of the building and resembles a cross-section of the spring. In 1958–59, underwater explorations revealed the shape of the spring. Did the design of WMS intentionally mimic the shape of the spring? In the Sarasota School of Architecture, structures relate to the place and nature of southwest Florida. The undulating rhythm of the roofline ties the buildings together, and the use of glass provides light and ventilation. The Cyclorama also has a saw-tooth roofline.

The statues of dancing young women in the fountain on Route 41 were designed by Sophie Johnstone in 1957. The figures symbolize youth, a myth of optimism, and a place of rejuvenation. Another related historic building still exists on Ortiz, but its purpose is unknown. It may have held historic exhibits, including wax figures that were part of the Quadricentennial. Some of these figures may have been from the Navy Museum and France.

There was a huge investment in WMS initially, but little has changed since then. The myth of the Fountain of Youth continues to be promoted to attract people to the area to buy real estate.

The fate of the buildings at WMS and the Cyclorama, one of the few cycloramas left in the country, will be decided by the City of North Port Commission. Considerations will include viability of restoration. Public input will be an important factor in the decision-making process, so all citizens are encouraged to participate in the process. It is likely, at a minimum, that the Cyclorama may be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places; however, all buildings need to be evaluated for NRHP eligibility.

JUNE 16 EVENT “ARCHAEOLOGY WORKS: LITTLE SALT SPRING” TREMENDOUS SUCCESS!

By S. Koski

If you attended “Archaeology Works: Little Salt Spring on June 13 at the Morgan Family Center in North Port, you know what I mean when I say it was a tremendous success. Archaeology Works provided those attending a glimpse into the wonders of Little Salt Spring through a variety of educational discussions and activities designed for students and families. The event was a collaborative effort sponsored by the Friends of Little Salt Spring, Florida Public Archaeology Network, and the WMS/LSSAS. More than 100 folks attended with lots of students.

We started with an opening presentation by FPAN, West Central Region Director Jeff Moates, followed by LSS Site Manager and Archaeologist Steve Koski. Those attending then wandered about to the tables where there were a number of hands-on educational displays with plants found at LSS that could be used for food, and shell, bone and stone tools set up by FPAN, FLSS, and WMS/LSSAS. The WMS/LSSAS had table on twine and bracelet making, coloring and shell painting



Opening presentation at Archaeology Works: LSS

There were numerous photographs of artifacts from Little Salt Spring recovered during archeological excavations on display. More than 15 volunteers were there to set up and help. We couldn't have done it without them!

A large profile of Little Salt Spring hung against the wall, where those attending could take a “I love Little Salt Spring” selfie, which was a huge hit. Roger Hostetler set up a stone-tool production workshop, Bill Goetz made a life-size painting on cardboard of a young mammoth and glyptodon, and we had a mammoth hunt with an atlatl and spears that Roger made. That was big fun. North Port City Commissioner Yates was one of the few who speared the mammoth.

Each student who attended received a free copy of the *Little Salt Spring Activity Book* produced by FPAN after attending each station. We hope to make this an annual event and who knows, maybe next year we can have it at Little Salt Spring and the Sarasota County can partner, too!

Thanks go to the Florida Public Archaeology Network for bringing the concept to us and taking a leading role. And thanks to all the great folks at FLSS and WMS/LSSAS for their dedication to LSS and community education.



Vice President of FLSS demonstrated the use of the atlatl to Lilly Goetz during the mammoth hunt.

INVITATION TO EXHIBIT OPENING OCTOBER 16 AT HISTORIC CHIDSEY BUILDING AND CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Friends of the Sarasota County History Center are moving to the Historic Chidsey Building, located at 701 North

Tamiami Trail, Sarasota. They have partnered with Sarasota County to sublease the building from the City of Sarasota and they hope to open the doors to the exhibits in October 2015. A soft opening will be held Friday, October 16, from 6–8 PM for the opening of its West Gallery Exhibit with the exhibit “Paul Rudolph: The Florida Houses.” Our May speaker and guest curator architect Joe King will present the opening remarks.

This is a huge move for the group, which serves as a support organization for Sarasota County Historical Resources, and they will need volunteers to help staff the building four days a week in two three-hour shifts Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, and one four-hour shift on Saturday. They have requested that all organizational members of the History and Preservation Coalition of Sarasota County (of which the WMS/LSSAS is a member) assist the organization by providing two volunteers per month to help staff the building.

Please let us know if any of you will consider volunteering for a three-hour shift during the week or four-hour shift on Saturday one day per week or month. It would be great if we could provide two volunteers for a shift or two per month. It could be fun!

Volunteer organizations will have an opportunity to display and distribute their group’s newsletters, brochures, rack cards and fliers to visitors at Chidsey. Organizations can also display an 8"x10" flyer in their lighted wall display and groups can schedule their meeting room. This will give our organization some “Southern Exposure” to visitors from all over the world! The FOSCHC hope to have volunteers ready to help at Chidsey beginning in October.

Volunteer opportunities are available: Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays (10 am – 1 pm) or (1pm – 4 pm) or choose Saturdays (10 am – 2 pm). There will be a volunteer orientation to be announced soon. Volunteers will greet visitors, give tours of exhibits (script provided), or sell items from gift shop. Interested? A sign-up sheet with available dates in October and November will be at our September 8 meeting, or call WMS/LSSAS Secretary Hilda Boron at (941)426-1719 or FOSCHC President Betty Intagliata at (941) 484-0769.

IMPORTANT HISTORIC- PRESERVATION WORKSHOPS ON SARASOTA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN SCHEDULED SEPTEMBER 9 AND 10

By S. Koski

There will two important workshops on the Sarasota County Comprehensive Plan relating to historic preservation. All members and friends are encouraged to please attend one of these two workshops to learn of the importance of historic preservation and comment. Let the County know how you feel about historic preservation. Sarasota County needs your input; learn and help keep preservation alive and well! Then take the survey described in the next article.

When: Wednesday, September 9, 2015, 4 – 6 PM

Where: Jacaranda Library, 4143 Woodmere Park Blvd., Venice

When: Thursday, September 10, 2015, 6 – 8 PM

Where: Historic Chidsey Building, 701 N. Tamiami Trail,

Sarasota.

What is the Sarasota Comprehensive Plan and what does it mean to you? If you live in Sarasota County, it should mean a lot. The “Comp Plan” is an official, 12-chapter public document adopted by the Sarasota County Commission to guide decision-making related to the physical development of the county. It is updated every seven years and the update is currently under Cycle 6 – Historic Preservation review.

How does the Comp Plan relate to historic preservation? Chapter 1 of the Plan is titled “Historic Preservation”; it outlines the County’s commitment to historic-preservation initiatives and legislation affecting historic resources, and sets guidelines and policies. It is a powerful document that outlines the establishment of the Sarasota County Historical Commission, established by the Board of County Commissioners in 1959; the Historic Preservation Board established in 1997; the 1985 Local Government Comprehensive Planning and Land Development Regulation Act that requires coastal communities to address the preservation of archaeological and historic resources in the planing efforts; and, of utmost importance, established Sarasota County Ordinance No 87-92 (now Article II of Chapter 66 of the Sarasota County Code, creating the Department of Historical Resources. If you attended our April 14 meeting with former Sarasota County Archaeologist Ryan Murphy (see May/June 2015 WMS/LSSAS Newsletter for a refresher), you know something about Sarasota County Historical Resources and Chapters 1 and 66.

Chapter 66 of the Sarasota County Code sets forth a comprehensive set of regulations whose purpose is to protect the significance of historical and archaeological resources of Sarasota County to the maximum extent practicable, in accordance with the Comprehensive Plan.

Article III of Chapter 66 of the Code establishes a program for historic- and archaeological-resource protection.

Article IV of Chapter 66 establishes a program for historic-resource designation to protect, enhance and perpetuate properties of historical, cultural, archaeological, aesthetic, and architectural merit in the interests of the health, prosperity, and welfare of the people of Sarasota County, and authorizes the installation of historic markers to commemorate places, structures, and sites notable to Sarasota County history.

The remaining articles of Chapter 66 include much, much more important historic preservation.

The comprehensive Plan and Chapter 1 and 66 are extremely important to historic preservation in Sarasota County.

Please participate in the process by attending one of these workshops on the historic-preservation component of the Sarasota County Comprehensive Plan. Because Chapters 1 and 66 help make Sarasota County a great place to live!

To review the Sarasota County Comprehensive Plan, Chapter 1 and 66, please go to:

<https://www.scgov.net/CompPlan/Comp%20Plan%20Amendments/Forms/AllItems.aspx>. Or do an internet search for “Sarasota County Comprehensive Plan” and find the link yourself. Read on and please take a survey regarding the Sarasota County History Center and the importance to historic preservation to you!

HOW IMPORTANT IS HISTORIC PRESERVATION TO YOU? PLEASE TAKE A SARASOTA COUNTY SURVEY NOW!

Please let Sarasota County Commissioners know how important Historical Resources, the Sarasota County History Center, and historic preservation are to you. As detailed above, the Sarasota County Comprehensive Plan is under its seven-year review and two importation chapters related to historic preservation are under that review, Chapter 1 and 66. Whether you are a part time or full time residents, visiting family member, on vacation, enrolled at a college, or K1-K12 student, fill out the survey!

The survey will give you an opportunity to let planners and commissioners know if you use the History Center, and if not why not. It will give you an opportunity to let them know if you think historic preservation is important for the county to support.

Got to the link below and please take the survey now, and attend one of the work shops on September 9 and 10!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Cycle6HistoricPreservation>

Thank you!

SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, AND NOVEMBER FIELD TRIPS PLANNED

Oscar Scherer Park

On September 26, Oscar Scherer Park will host National Public Lands Day from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. There will be live music, paddle boarding, live animal exhibits, tram tours, kids' activities, and exhibitor activities. And admission is free!

This is an on-your-own event, as we just found out about it, but wanted to provide members an opportunity to check out one of our local natural-resource state parks in Sarasota County.

Located at 1843 South Tamiami Trail, Osprey, just north of State Road 681, the 1,381-acre park offers large acreage of scrubby flatwoods and makes it one of the best places in southwest Florida to view Florida scrub-jays, an imperiled species found only in Florida, and other birds are abundant. In addition to viewing wildlife, an array of other land-based and water-based recreational activities awaits you. The park provides opportunities for canoeing, fishing, swimming, picnicking, hiking, bicycling, camping, and wildlife viewing. Visitors looking for wildlife will find that early and late in the day are the best times. Canoeists and kayakers can paddle along South Creek, a tidal blackwater stream, which flows to a nearby bay. Canoes and kayaks can be rented. There is always something to do at Oscar Scherer State Park.

Check out what the park has to offer at: <https://www.floridastateparks.org/park/Oscar-Scherer>

Southwest Florida Museum

On October 17, WMS/LSSAS members and guests will carpool to the Southwest Florida Museum in Ft. Myers. Housed in the former Atlantic Coastline Railroad depot, the museum is home to the history of Southwest Florida. Paleoindians, the Calusa, the Seminoles, Spanish explorers, and early settlers are just a few of the people you will meet as you view their exhibits.

An authentic replica of a pioneer "cracker" house, a 1926 La France fire pumper, and a 1929 private Pullman rail car are also part of the museum. In addition, the museum also houses an extensive artifacts collection detailing early civilization, the Fort, the first settlers, the cattlemen, the turn of the century, the military, and the agriculture, boating and fishing industries in Fort Myers.

The museum is located at 2031 Jackson St., just one block south of Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. in historic downtown Ft. Myers, approximately 4 miles west of I-75, exit 138 (old exit 23). It is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 AM to 5 PM.

Admission: \$9.50+tax for Adults; Seniors (55+) and AAA members receive \$1 discount; Students, including adult students with current ID: \$5.00+tax. Children 4 and under are free. Adults are welcome to enjoy an audio tour, based on device availability. Museum members are always free. Group Tours of 10 or more (reservations required): Adult Group Tours are \$7.50+tax per person; Children group tours are \$4.00+tax/ child.

Arrangements will be made for a group tour and those carpooling can meet at the North Port Library at the far end of the lot at 8:45 for a 9:00 AM departure for a 10:00 AM arrival. A sign-up sheet will be at the September and October meetings. For more information go to <http://swfilmuseumofhistory.com/> or call (239)321-7430.

Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

We have been talking about it for years, and now, finally, on November 21, members and guests are traveling to the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum on the Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation. There is so much to see and learn, with its more than 30,000 unique artifacts and archival items; permanent and traveling exhibits; photographs; life-time depictions of traditional cultural practices; a mile-long boardwalk through a cypress swamp to a living Seminole village, where crafts are made and sold; renowned beadwork, basketry, wood carvings and patchwork; and much more.

No need to worry about driving; we have chartered a bus that holds 50 people. The cost will be \$45 per person and includes admission. We are looking into lunch options that will be an additional charge. There may be a few seats left and you can find out and sign up at the September meeting, or call secretary Hilda Boron at 426-1719. There is really something exciting for everyone. See what the museum has to offer at <http://www.ahthithiki.com/>

ARCHAEOLOGY WORKS PHOTOS

There were so many great photos taken at Archaeology Works: LSS, many posted on the FLSS Facebook page, and we will try and get more on soon as well on the WMS/LSSAS website and Facebook page. Volunteers are welcome to help make this happen if you like to work with photos and are familiar with Photoshop or another photo editing program, contact the newsletter editor at the email on the last page. Hope to see to September 8!



The woolly mammoth (by Bill Goetz) appears on the horizon



Roger Hostetler stone-tool knapping (photo By Tami McNally).



Hilda Boron and Linda Massey man the WMS/LSSAS table at Archaeology Works: LSS (photo by SHK).



North Port City Commissioner Linda Yates warms up for shot at the mammoth at the mammoth at Archaeology Works: LSS (photo SHK).

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