



WMS/LSS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 27, No. 4, September/October 2016

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, North Port Community United Church of Christ, located at 3450 S. Biscayne Blvd. Meetings are free and open to the public.

**MAPPING ARCHAEOLOGICAL LANDSCAPES TOPIC OF
SEPTEMBER 13 MEETING**

We welcome the return of Michele Cotty Loger to our September 13 meeting of the WMS/LSSAS, where she will present "New Advances in Digital Archaeology." Her presentation will focus on the latest mapping technologies using remote sensing and GIS (geographical information system) for predictive site mapping and surveying with iPads.

For archaeologists, context is everything. Spatial context is critical in understanding how people utilized the landscape around them and interacted with each other, and how that changed through time. The latest mapping technologies provide another tool for archaeologists to locate undiscovered sites and record their data. Mrs. Loger will discuss these technologies and their application to her research.

She last spoke at our May 2011 meeting on research (Continued p. 2 LANDSCAPES)

**KOLOMOKI MOUNDS OF SOUTHWEST GEORGIA TOPIC
OF OCTOBER 11 MEETING**

Archaeologist Shaun West will be our speaker at the October 11 meeting of the WMS/LSSAS; his topic, "A Shifty Settlement: The Prehistory of Kolomoki."

Kolomoki, located in the Chattahoochee River valley of southwestern Georgia, was among the largest villages of the Middle and Late Woodland periods in the Southeastern United States. From its founding around 350 CE, Kolomoki was of regional importance and remained so for approximately 600 years. During this interval, significant changes took place at the site; at least 11 earthworks were constructed, and Kolomoki's village grew to nearly a kilometer in diameter, far surpassing nearby contemporaneous villages. In contrast to previous interpretations of the site, the results from recent investigations at Kolomoki paint a picture of a socially diverse



Archaeologist Michele Cotty Loger utilizing LIDAR technology



Archaeologist Shawn West conducting a gradiometer survey

KOLOMOKI (from page 1)

settlement with a dynamic history. Mr. West obtained his B.A. in anthropology at the University of Florida, where, after attending a summer field school, he became committed to archaeology. After graduating from UF, he was employed for nearly three years as an archaeological field technician at a local cultural-resource-management firm, which provided him with experience working on a variety of projects across the state of Florida and elsewhere. In 2014, he was accepted to the graduate program at the University of South Florida to study archaeology in the Department of Anthropology and is currently finishing his thesis on the Woodland-period site of Kolomoki in southwestern Georgia, where he has been investigating several aspects of the formation and development of the village community that once occupied the site.

This should prove to be another interesting meeting you will not want to miss.

LANDSCAPES (from page 1)

she conducted with George Luer on the state-grant-funded archaeological investigations into Cape Haze shell middens for the Charlotte Harbor Preserve State Park. She also spent many weeks on Big Mound Key working with George Luer and others, resulting in a major special publication, "Big Mound Key Near Charlotte Harbor, Florida" (Florida Anthropological Society Special Publication No. 17, December 2014).

Michele is an archaeologist with Cardno and graduated this spring from the University of Florida with an M.S. in geomatics. Her interests include southwest Florida shell mounds and shell-tool technologies, as well as the latest GIS, remote-sensing, and data-capture methodologies.

Come to the September meeting and learn about new technologies archaeologists use to locate and record archaeological sites across the landscape to help gain an understanding of settlement systems through time.

THE SNAKE ISLAND SITE IN SARASOTA COUNTY TOPIC OF MAY 10 MEETING

Adapted from the May/June 2016 newsletter

Archaeologist and WMS/LSSAS President Steve Koski spoke at the May 10 meeting on "Snake Island, a Story of Time, Place, Context, and Change." His research on the island spans more than 20 years since discovery in 1994, resulting in the recording of the site, leading to the publication of two technical reports on his research with New South Associates on 2001 and LG² Environmental Solutions in 2014. The research led to the stabilization and protection of the Snake Island Site, a late Manasota/Weeden Island and Safety Harbor Period site (c. 600–1500 CE [Common Era, think AD]) located in Sarasota County.

Koski outlined and illustrated with PowerPoint how the site was discovered along the shore of a spoil island near the mouth of the Venice Inlet in 1994, where a shell deposit was observed eroding from the southwest shore. Over time, ceramics, shell tools, and an abundance of sea-turtle bones and other faunal materials were revealed eroding from the surface of the shell deposit and sandy beach slope in an exceptional state of

preservation. The site was recorded, the state and owners were informed of the discovery, and intermittent salvage collections were undertaken with permission from the West Coast Inland Navigation District, the owners of the island.

Background research indicated that the island was once connected to the mainland as a low tidal marsh. The marsh was cut from the mainland in 1907 during the initial dredging of the



Archaeologist Steve Koski receives yet another world-famous WMS/LSSAS tee-shirt from secretary Hilda Boron.

Intracoastal Waterway and used as a spoil site for dredged materials. It was bisected again in the early 1960s during the Intracoastal Waterway realignment and widening project.

Over time, the spoil site began to erode to reveal what lay beneath it. Below the marsh mud covered with spoil lay a coastal shell midden, apparently inundated by rising sea level.

In 2000, Koski served as Project Archaeologist for New South Associates on a Phase I archaeological study of Snake Island and other Intracoastal Waterway islands as part of the Sarasota Bay Restoration Project, funded by the Army Corp of Engineers for the West Coast Inland Navigation District, owners of the islands. In late 2013 and early 2014, he served as Project Archaeologist during the Snake Island Stabilization Project for LG² Environmental Solutions on a monitoring and documentation project funded by the West Coast Inland Navigation District conducted to protect the site. Studies resulting from these projects gave further insight into the site's occupation and utilization, resulting in two comprehensive site reports.

Snake Island is a story involving coastal habitation, discovery, long-term observations, research and interpretation, sea-level rise, erosion, loss of significant cultural resources, and stabilization and protection of the site.

FRIENDS OF LITTLE SALT SPRING JOINS THE GIVING CHALLENGE!

The two-day online fundraising event, "Giving Challenge," begins September 20 at noon and runs until September 21 noon. That's 24 hours to support your favorite not-for-profit. This year, the Friends of Little Salt Spring has joined in! AND, the

Patterson Foundation has offered a 2:1 match on any participating online donations (up to \$100.00) made to *new* partners, of which FLSS is one! This is a chance to triple your support. The Friends of the Sarasota County History Center is also a partner, as are many other Sarasota County not-for-profits. Maybe next year the WMS/LSSAS can participate.

Funding for FLSS will support: Scientific Progress (research, publications, and education) at Little Salt Spring, 1986–2013; Archaeology Works – Little Salt Spring, 2017; Teacher Professional Day Presentations; and Little Salt Spring Activity Book publication. The 2016 Giving Challenge is presented by the Community Foundation of Sarasota County, with giving strengthened by the Patterson Foundation, as well as support from the Manatee Community Foundation, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the William G. and Marie Selby Foundation, and the Herald-Tribune Media Group.

Donate online at <https://givingpartner.challenge.org/>; click Friends of Little Salt Spring, click Donate Now. There is a minimal \$25 donation and, as mentioned, because they are a new member, all donations are matched 2:1 by the Patterson Foundation (\$25–\$100). So, please visit the web site between Tuesday, September 20, at noon and Wednesday, September 21, noon to donate and support FLSS.

OCTOBER 15 IS NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY DAY!

The Archaeology Institute of America (AIA) is sponsoring National Archaeology Day October 15. The Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) is North America's oldest and largest organization devoted to the world of archaeology. The Institute is a nonprofit group founded in 1879 and chartered by the United States Congress in 1906. The AIA promotes archaeological inquiry and public understanding of the material record of the human past to foster an appreciation of diverse cultures and our shared humanity. The AIA supports archaeologists, their research and its dissemination, and the ethical practice of archaeology. The AIA educates people of all ages about the significance of archaeological discovery and advocates the preservation of the world's archaeological heritage. For more information on National Archaeology Day and the AIA, go to www.archaeological.org.

OCTOBER 15 FIELD TRIP PLANNED TO THE CHIDSEY HISTORICAL EXHIBITS AND EDUCATION CENTER FOR PRESENTATION BY WMS/LSSAS BOARD MEMBER JUDIE BAUER

On October 15, 2016, the WMS/LSSAS will take a field trip to the Chidsey Historical Exhibits and Education Center (the former Chidsey Library), located at 701 North Tamiami Trail. WMS/LSSAS Board Member Judie Bauer will be offering a presentation on her third great uncle, the Reverend John Rankin's Underground Railroad. Her presentation just happens to coincide with our visit. (Actually, the Board decided to plan the field trip when we heard Judi was speaking.) While not on archaeology, it also happened to coincide with National Archaeology Day (see previous article), so we can call it a National Archaeology Day event!



Chidsey Exhibits and Education Center

Judie Bauer's third great uncle, the Reverend John Rankin, Presbyterian minister and famous Abolitionist, was the organizer and operator of the Ohio Underground Railroad in Ripley, Ohio. His house and property, high on a hill, overlook the Ohio River and the State of Kentucky. Their property is known as "Slavery Refuge" and their "100 Freedom Steps to Liberty Hill" is available for the "hearty" to climb. It is now a state-owned museum, open to the public Memorial Day through mid-October. It was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1997.

From 1822 to 1865, it is noted that Reverend Rankin, his wife, Jean Lowry Rankin, and their 13 children were attributed to saving over 2,000 runaway slaves by giving them temporary shelter and guiding them on their journey to Canada, where they would be free.

Harriet Beecher Stowe's father was also a Presbyterian minister in nearby Cincinnati and a friend of Reverend Rankin. Their families visited one another several times and, during these visits, Harriet Beecher Stowe, as a young girl, learned of the Rankin family "saving" the runaway slave woman "Eliza" and her baby, crossing over the frozen Ohio, providing them shelter, and eventually guiding them on their journey to freedom in Canada. This story inspired Harriet Beecher Stowe to write *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.

The Cincinnati Freedom Museum dedicates one floor of this five-story building to Reverend John Rankin and all others who participated in guiding runaway slaves throughout Ohio to freedom.

Sign up for the event at our September 13 meeting or call Secretary Hilda Boron at (941)426-1719, and let her know you will be attending. There are a couple options we are working on for lunch, and all who sign up will be contacted about the details.

The Friends of The Sarasota County History Center leases the Chidsey building from the City of Sarasota and lots of things are planned for the historic building. The building soon hold the Sarasota County Historical Resources research library, education events and presentations are planned, and temporary and permanent exhibits will be designed and set up (to be announced).

Join the fun! Come to our September 13 meeting and sign up. For more information on the Chidsey Exhibits and Education Center and the Friends of the Sarasota County History Center, go to: www.foschc.org.

GREAT 2016 FAS ANNUAL MEETING MAY 19–22!

The 68th Annual Meeting of the Florida Anthropological Society was held in Jupiter, Florida, May 19–22, 2016. Palm Beach County Archaeological Society hosted this year's event at the Wyndham Grand Harbourside, which overlooks the scenic Intracoastal Waterway. Great accommodations!

The weekend of events included the Friday-evening reception at Dubois Park, which has one of the largest remaining aboriginal shell mounds on the Atlantic seaboard. Recent excavations at the multi-component National Register Historic Site yielded the rare Spanish Faceted Chevron trade beads, which have been recovered from fewer than ten New World archaeological sites! Atop the mound is the recently restored Dubois Pioneer home. Guided tours of the site and pioneer home were ongoing while guests enjoyed wine and hors d'oeuvres.

Saturday Conference Paper Presentations were held at the Wyndham Grand Harbourside Hotel in the heart of Jupiter's bustling waterfront district.

Saturday evening began with a cocktail hour (or two) at the Jupiter Inlet Light house and Museum Park, where continual tours of the 1860 light house and museum took place. What a spectacular view! We were then bussed to the banquet hall, where an elegant three-course Italian buffet-style meal awaited; with wine, beer, and host chapter's special libation, "pirate's rum punch"! All included for \$40.

Keynote Speaker: Palm Beach County Archaeologist and Historic Preservation Officer Christian Davenport discussed the archaeology of Palm Beach County and southeast Florida in general. This was followed by the FAS annual awards.

On Sunday, attendees enjoyed a variety of unique guided tours hosted by area archaeologists and specialists. All tours met in the hotel lobby at 9:00 AM and received map directions to the tour location from the conference hotel.

A number of student-grant and prize opportunities were awarded, and the WMS/LSSAS was pleased to offer three items for the student-paper-competition winner and a \$200 supplemental travel grant to a first-time student presenter. The grant could be used for expenses pertaining to the meeting (including hotel, registration, and travel).



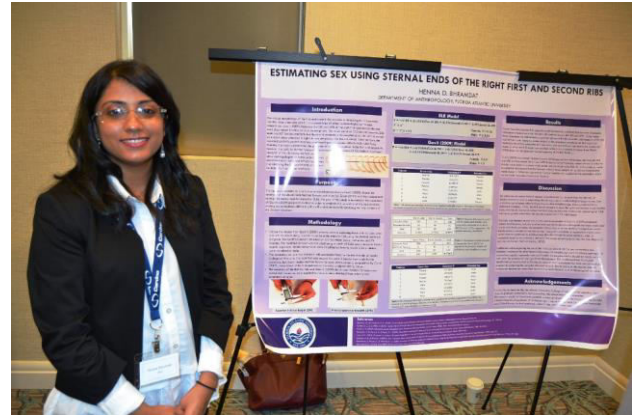
Members of the Palm Beach County Archaeological Society accept the Arthur R. Lee Chapter Award from FAS President Theresa Schober; PBCAS Founding Chair Dorothy Block, holding the award (center).

This year, the PBCAS received the prestigious FAS Chapter Award. In 2008, at the FAS Annual Meeting in Orlando, the WMS/LSSAS received the award, quite an honor. This was

another informative, fun, and memorable meeting, like so many others. To see photos of all the great 2016 FAS Annual Meeting awards' photos, go to their www.fasweb.org and click on awards.

THE RECIPIENT OF THE FAS 2016 WMS/LSSAS STUDENT TRAVEL GRANT

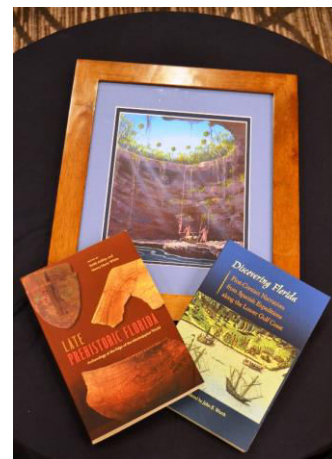
Ms. Henna Bhramdat was the recipient of our \$200 Student Travel Grant. The grant selected from applicants on several factors. Students must be enrolled full time at a college or university and must be first-time presenters of a paper or poster at the Annual FAS meeting. Selection from multiple applicants was based on content of their submitted abstract, proof of student status, and registration to the annual meeting.



WMS/LSSAS Student Travel Grant Recipient Henna Bhramdat stands with her poster presentation (photo S. H. Koski).

WMS/LSSAS DONATED TO FAS 2016 STUDENT CONTEST PRIZE

The WMS/LSSAS donated three first-prize items for the FAS 2016 Student Paper Competition. Students who entered their presented paper were judged on content, originality, and delivery. We donated a framed Dean Quigley print, *The Tortoise and the Ledge*, and two recent publications, *Late Prehistoric Florida – Archaeology at the Edge of the Mississippian World*, edited by Keith Ashley and Nancy Marie White, and *Discovering Florida – First Contact Narratives from Spanish Expeditions along the Lower Gulf Coast*, translated by John Worth.



WMS/LSSAS FAS Student Competition Prize donation

ARCHAEOLOGY WORKS — LITTLE SALT SPRING RETURNED TO THE MORGAN CENTER JUNE 18!

Due to the success of June 2015 Archaeology Works – Little Salt Spring, a second was held on June 18, 2016; again at the Morgan Center in North Port, from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM (see Sept/Oct 2015 WMS/LSSAS Newsletter). Another great success!

More than 150 students, parents, and members of the general public came this year, more than last. The event provided a number of interactive and educational activities and displays, such as prehistoric food plants, shell-tool displays, lithic-production demonstrations by Roger Hostetler, the atlatl mammoth hunt (huge success), Little Salt Spring artifact-photo display, archaeology information, and the LSS-profile selfie poster (another big hit). In addition, all students received the LSS Archaeology Activity Booklet, which was distributed to all who attended last year’s event as well.

The event is sponsored by the Florida Public Archaeology Network, Friends of Little Salt Spring, and the Warm Mineral Springs/Little Salt Spring Archaeological Society.



Attendees at AW-LSS learn about the extinct saber cat.



Twine and bracelet making and coloring part of the fun at AW-LSS.



Attendees at Archaeology Works-LSS listen to the opening introduction by FPAN educator Kassie Kemp.



FPAN West Central Region Jeff Moates and Outreach Coordinator Becky O'Sullivan lead an education session at AW-LSS.



Artifact reproduction specialist Roger Hostetler (left) discusses the manufacture of stone tools to AW-LSS attendees, while a Pleistocene mammoth hunt goes on in the background.



Archaeologist Shaun West (our October speaker) at the shell-tool education table.

WMS/LSSAS SUPPORTS COUNTY AND CITY EFFORTS TO PRESERVE AND RESTORE THREE GRACES SCULPTURE/FOUNTAIN

At the June 6, 2016, board meeting of the WMS/LSSAS, attending guest and local historic preservation advocate Bill Goetz made a presentation to the board on the Three Graces sculpture/fountain and asked if the WMS/LSSAS would consider adopting the Three Graces as a 501(c)3 corporation and support investigating options and costs for rehabilitation and restoration of the sculpture and fountain in place and helping the City and County maintain it.

The sculpture/fountain was designed and constructed by local artist Sophie Johnstone in 1958 as a destination marker for Warm Mineral Springs spa and resort at US 41 and Ortiz Blvd. However, it has not operated in many years. It is contemporaneous with the WMS Motel, on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), and the spa-related buildings and cyclorama at WMS, potentially eligible for the NRHP (the spring itself is listed on the NRHP and is an eligible National Historic Landmark). While commissioned by the former owners of WMS, evidently ownership is uncertain. A small portion is located in Florida Department of Transportation right-of-way and most is in Sarasota County right-of-way.

Bill said the object is South County's only historic artwork and rehabilitation in place will help maintain its historic integrity and significance, where it could once again regain its importance as an artistic showpiece and functioning way-marker to promote Warm Mineral Springs, Sarasota County, and North Port as a City-owned destination spa and resort.

A motion was made to adopt the sculpture/fountain; a discussion was held and the motion passed, five for (the motion) and one abstaining. Treasurer Kate Cattran said she was willing to handle any funds acquired. The details involved in the adoption will depend on the decisions made at upcoming meetings regarding the object and whether it stays in place or moved to another location, or whether it will be rehabilitated and restored to its original function as an operating fountain. The WMS/LSSAS board believes that this action is in accordance their mission to support historic preservation, conservation, research, and education.

Decisions affecting ownership and fate of the Three Graces will be discussed at upcoming County and City board meetings: Monday, September 12, at 1:00 PM, during a joint County/City

meeting at the Robert L. Anderson Administration Center in the Commission Chambers at 4000 S. Tamiami Trail, Venice, and, Tuesday September 13, at 10:00 AM at the North Port City Commission meeting at City Hall in the Commission Chambers at 4970 City Hall Blvd. Members are encouraged to attend.



The Historic 1958 Three Graces Sculpture/Fountain

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WARM MINERAL SPRINGS / LITTLE SALT SPRING ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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