



WMS/LSS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 28, No. 2, March/April 2017

A 501(c)3 Corporation and Chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society

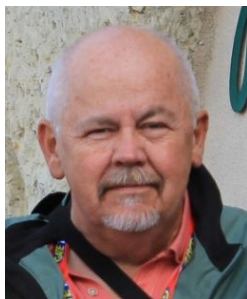
The Warm Mineral Springs/Little Salt Spring Archaeological Society meets the second Tuesday of the month (except June through August) at 7:00 PM, North Port Community United Church of Christ, located at 3450 S. Biscayne Blvd. **PLEASE NOTE: MARCH 14 MEETING LOCATION CHANGE (March only) TO FAMILY TABLE RESTAURANT (back meeting room), 7 PM (dinner at 5 PM), 14132 Tamiami Tr. North Port**

ARCHAEOLOGY YEAR IN REVIEW 2016 ON MARCH 14

Time Sifters VP “Smitty” Smith will present “Archaeology Year in Review” at the March 14 meeting. Smitty reviews dozens of significant reports of archaeological discoveries around the world before narrowing it down to eight to present to us. He reminds us there is more to archaeology than just the classical civilizations, and his presentation tries to capture how large the field of discovery has become. He also highlights some of the new UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Smitty was born in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. He lived in Virginia most of his life, with the exception of three years in England. He moved to Florida five years ago, lives in Bradenton and is currently retired.

He loves to travel with his wife Sandy and they are currently working their way through Europe, having visited England, Scotland, Ireland, France, Germany, Austria, Spain, Belgium, Netherlands, Switzerland, Czech Republic, Croatia, Slovenia, Montenegro, Hungary, Greece, Israel, Italy, and Malta. (see Review p. 2)



Time Sifter's VP “Smitty” Smith

NORTHERN MAYA LOWLANDS TOPIC OF APRIL 11 MEETING

Dr. James Ambrosino will present “Warfare and Destruction in the Northern Maya Lowlands at the Site of Yaxuna, Yucatan, Mexico.”

During nine field seasons from the mid-1980s through the 1990s, the Selz Foundation Yaxuna Archaeological Project, under the direction of David Freidel, conducted extensive mapping and site excavation geared towards addressing a variety of archaeological questions. One of the major goals of the project was the study of warfare between large polities in the Northern Yucatán and the examination of Yaxuna as a possible battleground area. The site is centrally located within the northern peninsula in close proximity to the large site of Chichen Itza, but it is also physically connected to the large site of Coba to the east by way of a 100-mile-long raised road. Yaxuna was occupied from at least 500 BC to as late as AD 1500 and witnessed several warfare episodes and political takeovers, but



Dr. James Ambrosino at FAS Annual Meeting 2016.

it was one dated to the Terminal Classic Period approximately AD 900 that stands out in terms of scale and its impact on the future of the site.

Excavations at one of the large pyramid groups at Yaxuna revealed hastily built fortification walls dated to the Terminal Classic Period, as well as evidence of intentional and ritualized destruction. In particular, work at a building interpreted as a council house showed the structure to have been desecrated and pulled down on top of a carpet of smashed ceramics. This talk will discuss the evidence for and implications of ritualized destruction and warfare from these excavations.

Dr. Ambrosino is currently a Senior Project Archaeologist at Cardno in Riverview, Florida. He also serves as Treasurer for the Florida Archaeological Council. For the past 20 years or so, he has focused on prehistoric archaeology in Florida and throughout the Southeast, but he earned his Ph.D. studying Maya archaeology. Jim spent four summers in the field at Yaxuna and one summer in the laboratory in Merida, Yucatán, analyzing materials from the excavations.

This sounds like a great field trip! Hope you can make it to the April 11 meeting.

REVIEW (cont'd from p. 1)

Smitty has also visited Iceland, Canada, Peru, and Mexico. In April, he is going to Morocco for 10 days. He is an award-winning professional photographer and loves soccer (a ManU fan). He coached soccer for over 20 years, including High School Varsity. He raced cars for four years until the money ran out; now he watches from the fence!

And now that he has gotten all that out of his system, he can devote time to his passion: History/Archaeology. He is a rabid reader of anything he can get his hands on about history and archaeology. He joined Time Sifters three years ago and is currently the Vice President.

OHIO UNDERGROUND RAILROAD TOPIC OF FEBRUARY MEETING

By Judi and John Crescenzo

On February 14, 2017, in celebration of Black History Month, WMS/LSSAS member Judi Bauer presented "The Ripley, Ohio, Underground Railroad." As the great niece of Reverend John Rankin of the Underground Railroad in Ohio, Bauer has a special connection and interest in this exceptional National Historic Site.

Rev. John Rankin was born in 1793 in Tennessee. He married Jean Lowry in 1816 and moved to Ohio in 1817, where he began the Ripley First Presbyterian Church in 1822. Rankin held strong anti-slavery views and read the abolitionist newspaper *The Liberator*, by William Lloyd Garrison. Rev. Rankin also wrote several anti-slavery books between 1836 and 1868, including *Letters on American Slavery*. He later wrote his autobiography at age 80.

Anti-slavery literature before the Civil War consisted mostly of pamphlets and speaking events. James Gillespie Birney of the Liberty Party moved to Ohio, where he published anti-slavery



Board member Judith Ribarick presents Judi Bauer our world famous tee-shirt

literature. Slavery sympathizers in Cincinnati destroyed Birney's offices there. Levi Coffin headed the Ohio Underground Railroad, which began in North Carolina, to help escaped slaves flee to freedom. In 1850, Rankin served as president of the Liberty Party. Conductors were those who guided runaway slaves to safe houses, where they were hidden in wagons and carted through the forests to escape. As part of the Underground Railroad, Rankin and his family successfully harbored over 100 escaped slaves per year.

Rev. Rankin inspired Harriet Beecher Stowe's book, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, in 1852. The story of escaped slave Eliza crossing the frozen Ohio River and staying with the Rankin family is related in Stowe's book, which helped mobilize the North against slavery. Family relationships among slaves were negative because their families were not recognized by law. Twenty-five percent of slave sales destroyed marriages.

Conductors on the Kentucky side of the Ohio River awaited the arrival of escaped slaves. Lanterns were turned toward the Rankin house so they would know that passengers were on their way. It was illegal and dangerous to harbor slaves because, if caught, participants would be shot by bounty hunters. Bounty hunters attempted to capture escaped slaves and bring them back to their owners for profit. When the coast was clear, slaves at the Rankin house were put into wooden barrels on carriages and taken north or east through the woods to the shores of Lake Erie, with Canada and freedom as their ultimate goal.

The Rankin house was known as "Slavery Refuge." In 2015, it was restored. It is a small house with two bedrooms on the second floor for the children, and on the first floor were a living and dining room. The family usually cooked outdoors. Slaves were hidden inside the house walls, inside a hutch, under the steps or front porch, and in the basement. A 2013 archaeological dig alongside the house uncovered bullets, mini-balls, buttons, and pottery.

Ohio had the most trails in the Underground Railroad. When they were hidden, slaves wondered if they were being trapped. The Rankin house basement was made of stacked rock, with tunnels of rock and brick that led slaves into the dense woods where they were met with carriages.

The Rankin house sits at the top of a stairway on the Ohio

River. The steps to “Liberty Hill” extend 300 feet upward from the Ohio River to the Rankin home. The original steps, known as “Freedom Steps,” were carved into mud and dirt but later replaced by logs and railroad ties. In the 1980s, the steps were replaced because they were unsafe. Sponsors paid \$100 per step to cover the cost of replacement.

Rankin was never caught harboring slaves, and he lived to be 93 years old. The bronze bust of Rev. Rankin in the Maplewood Cemetery was presented by the Historical Society. In 1997, the National Park Service made Rankin’s home a National Historic Landmark. Visitors can tour Rankin’s house and the church where he preached for 40 years. They can also visit the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati, where the story of Rankin is displayed on the second floor. An actual slave pen, where captured slaves were temporarily kept by bounty hunters, was moved to the Freedom Center. A slave-pen map shows the slave-trader network that led to the largest slave market in the South.

To accompany numerous photographs of Rankin’s house and family, Bauer provided maps, a book list and pamphlets about the Underground Railroad, Rev. Rankin, and the Freedom Center.

We appreciate Judi coming to speak to us on a part of her family history during Black History Month. The effort of Rev. Rankin and his family made a great difference to the lives of hundreds of people.

GOODNOW MOUND IN HIGHLANDS COUNTY DISCUSSED AT JANUARY MEETING

by Judi and John Crescenzo

On January 10, 2017, Bill Goetz presented “The Goodnow Mound: A Case and Field Study in Colonial Influences on Indigenous Cultures of Florida.”

The Goodnow Mound is located in the southern portion of the Central Highlands on the Lake Wales Ridge in Highlands County, Florida. Another important site, Blueberry, is located just 12 miles south and both appear to have been occupied by native peoples at the same time: in the late prehistoric, early historic period during the time of first contact with the Spanish, as evidenced in the amazing artifacts recovered that provide a wealth of information for research and interpretation.

Bill’s synthesis of the site described the early work of archaeologists John Griffin and Hale Smith in 1948, who worked for the Florida Board of Forestry and Parks, resulting in the first published work on the site and the first archaeological publication of the Florida Parks Service. Two more archaeological excavations followed. In the 1960s, when the site was slated for development, the owners of the site allowed avocational archaeologists to further excavate the site, resulting in its nearly completed excavation.

Numerous trade beads uncovered indicate that this was an important trade area. Beads were made from glass, metal, and shell. Pottery, silver pendants, and iron artifacts were also found. A pair of scissors wrapped in beads, the most fascinating object discovered, must have been a highly revered object.

While the loss of this important site is tragic, all of the



WMS/LSSAS board member Jack Bauer presents Bill Goetz our world famous tee-shirt

artifacts in the private collection were donated to the Museum of Florida Art and Culture in Avon Park (see the March/April 2016 WMS/LSSAS Newsletter), where much of the collection is on display and available for academic research. There is much to learn from the study of objects recovered from the Goodnow Mound in comparison to other sites in the region that can help us understand early interactions between Native Americans and the invading cultures that led to the devastating consequences in the years that followed their arrival.

Bill is currently the Manager of the Historical Exhibits and Education Center in Sarasota. He is on the Sarasota County Historical Commission, Sarasota County Historical Marker Committee, and Sarasota County Historical Education Committee. He also serves as Vice President of the Friends of Little Salt Spring and is an active member of the Warm Mineral Springs/Little Salt Spring Archaeological Society.

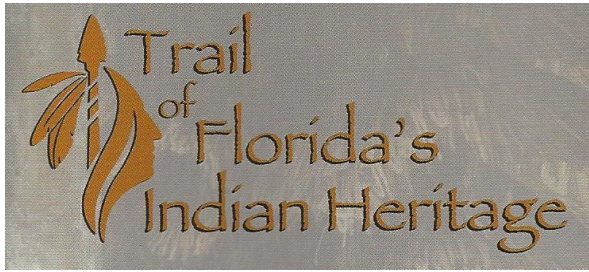
We thank Bill for his time in sharing his knowledge on this important site.

MARCH IS FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH — JOY!

This year’s theme for FAM is “Engineers of the Mississippian Period, AD 1000–1600.” The Mississippian period is a time of cultural florescence in the southeastern United States. It is a time when hierarchical chiefdom societies flourished along the Mississippi River and its tributaries in numerous states in the southeast and extended into Florida. It is generally associated with intensive maize agriculture, but not widely known in central to south Florida. While many groups maintained their distinct cultures, the Mississippian concepts influenced a great regional area.

In celebration of Florida Archaeology Month 2017, the WMS/LSSAS, in partnership with Sarasota County Libraries and Historical Resources, set up a small exhibit in the inner lobby of the North Port Public Library. Members of the society built a replica of a shell midden/mound profile depicting the various layers of building episodes and black-dirt living surfaces. The exhibit depicts artifacts and reproductions of incised pottery; shell, bone, and stone tools; baskets; and some of the food resources available during the time period.

Florida Archaeology Month is designed to encourage visitors



What better way to celebrate Florida Archaeology Month than to visit an archaeological or historic site, or go to a museum or event? And there is no better way to find any of the above than the new Trail of Florida's Indian Heritage brochure. The Trail has a great history beginning with its founding in 2000 "by independent-heritage interpreters Karen Fraley and Marty Ardren, with a goal of developing a network uniting publicly accessible pre-Columbian archaeological sites in Florida for cross-marketing and educational purposes. The Trail of Lost Tribes (as it was then called) received immediate and enthusiastic support from managers of such sites, archaeologists, and Dr. James J. Miller, then State Archaeologist of Florida and Chief, Bureau of Archaeological Research, Department of State."

According to their website <http://www.trailoffloridasindianheritage.org/>, The Trail of Florida's Indian Heritage, Inc., is a Florida nonprofit 501(c)3 membership network of archaeological sites, history museums, heritage interpreters, and county, state, and national parks working together with the mission: To promote responsible site visitation and public education of Florida's Indian heritage. The Trail's new "Guide to Visiting Florida's Indian Heritage Sites" will be available at the March 14 and April 11 meetings. The informative brochure has a trail map with 69 sites you can visit throughout Florida, 30 along the west-central to southwest coast from Cedar Key to Naples. For an absolute wealth of information, go to the web link above and learn more! You could be there for hours and then hit the road!

UPCOMING FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH EVENTS (YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS)

March 15, 2017: The excitement continues at Phillippi Estate Park with another "Archaeology Day" event. The day will feature a radiocarbon-dating workshop from 1:00 – 3:00 PM; sponsored by Sarasota County Parks and Natural Resources, Historical Resources, New College Public Archaeology Lab, and the Florida Public Archaeology Network. Those who attend will learn what radiocarbon dating is and the process of how samples are selected, analyzed, and interpreted. Four shell specimens from the thousands recovered from the January 2016 excavations were sent for radiocarbon dating and those dates will be revealed at the workshop. The recent radiocarbon samples came from the Prodie Shell Midden, located on the Phillippi Estate property along the shore of Phillippi Creek under heritage oaks. These are the first dates obtained from the shell-midden site, believed to have been occupied sometime during the Manasota Period, between 2,500 and 1,300 years ago. But when, specifically, were people living at the site and for how long? Those attending will be some of the first to know. The

program will be held at the Edson Keith Mansion (built in 1906).

Wednesday is also a Phillippi Estate Park Farmers Market Day (held during season), so come early and plan to have lunch and do a bit of shopping. Lots of fruits and vegetables, arts and crafts, and food vendors.

There's more. The day will also feature a tour of the Edson Keith Mansion at 10:00 AM and walk around the historic Farmhouse (which is in the process of restoration for interpretive exhibit) by park manager Priscilla Brown; followed by a walking site tour of the Archaic lithic scatter site and Prodie Shell Midden by Sarasota County Archaeologist Steve Koski at 11:30. Another great day at one of Sarasota County's premier historic park sites! For more information and to RSVP for the workshop, contact Park Manager Priscilla Brown at pbrown@scgov.net or 941.316.1309.

March 25, 2017: Calusa Heritage Days will return to the Randell Research Center on Pine Island at Pineland in Lee County. If you like to be outdoors, like to learn about Indian mounds and the people who constructed them, enjoy interesting presentations and demonstrations, then this is an event you don't want to miss.

There will be a variety of things to do for both adults and children on the beautiful 67-acre University of South Florida property located in the heartland of the Calusa. The site complex contains seven recorded archaeological sites comprising an archaeological district including protected Indian mounds, sand burial mound, shell middens, a man-made canal between two mounds that extend the width of Pine Island, and more. The Research Center is managed by the University of Florida, whose many researchers have worked for nearly 30 years, resulting in multiple publications, including the most recent, a massive 935-page monograph, *The Archaeology of Pineland, a coastal Southwest Florida Site Complex, AD 55-1710*, edited by William H. Marquardt and Karen J. Walker. This is a perfect field trip for Florida Archaeology Month because the occupation of the site extends into the Mississippian period.

This will be an outdoor festival of events featuring archaeology, ecology, and history celebrating the Calusa legacy; with speakers, local-technology replicators, exhibitors, crafts, artist displays, harbor cruises, children's activities, native foods, and more. Several of our members have attended over the years.

The event will take place on the grounds of the Calusa Heritage Trail and Randell Research Center, located at 13810 Waterfront Drive, Pineland, with parking on-site. Please consider carpooling with your friends, family, and neighbors. There will be a \$5 donation requested (you can't afford not to go). This will be an on-your-own field trip, but there will be a sign-up sheet at the March 14 meeting for those who may want to carpool. Those who want to carpool can meet at the North Port Library in the far side of the parking lot at 8:15 AM for 8:30 departure. For more information, go to: <https://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/index.php/rrc/home/>

ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY: AN EVENT WITH ARTIST AND ARCHAEOLOGISTS

On April 8, 2017, the Friends of Sarasota County History Center will host an event, "Art and Archaeology," at the Chidsey

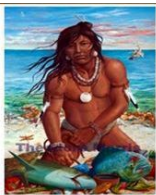
Historical Exhibits and Education Center from 1:00 – 3:00 PM. The event will focus on the visiting exhibit “Lost Tribes,” by Theodore Morris, a painter who depicts Native American portraits in their natural settings. Theodore will be joined by archaeologists Theresa Schober, Steve Koski, and special guests.

How do we know what we know about Florida’s prehistory and early history and where does the artist get information that leads to the people and scenes they represent?

ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY



Artist Theodore Morris at his Florida’s Lost Tribes Exhibit



Free and Open to the Public

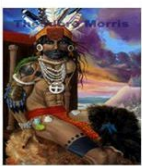
Saturday, April 8th, 1-3:00pm

Historical Exhibits and Education Center
701 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota phone: 941-361-2453

Artist, Theodore Morris along with Florida Anthropological Society, President, and Archaeologist, Theresa Schober, and Sarasota County Archaeologist, Steve Koski will be discussing the art and archaeology behind the Florida’s Lost Tribes Exhibit. Come view the exhibit and learn from the experts about Florida’s lost tribes!



Presented by the Friends of the Sarasota County History Center (foschc.org) along with:



Sarasota County
Historical Resources



Historical accounts, archaeological data and interpretation, artifacts, ethnographic analogy, and environmental settings are some of the ways artists gather information about the past; and most importantly, imagination and artistic talent.

So, come and see the exhibit, talk to the artist and archaeologists, and perhaps get a new perspective on the past from what they know, or what they think they know. This should prove to be an engaging and interactive event.

2017 FAS ANNUAL MEETING IN JACKSONVILLE MAY 5-7

Adapted from FASweb.org

The 69th Annual Meeting of the Florida Anthropological Society will be held in Jacksonville May 5–7, 2017. The meeting

will be hosted by the University of North Florida (UNF) and the Archaeological Institute of America – Jacksonville Society. The meeting presentations and related events will be held on the UNF campus, Jacksonville. This should really be another great meeting. The WMS/LSSAS hosted the 2014 Annual FAS Meeting in Punta Gorda, which was spectacular. The 2015 meeting was hosted by Time Sifters in Sarasota, and the 2016 was hosted by Palm Beach Archaeological Society in Jupiter (both also spectacular). I could go back to the first I attended in 1987 and I don’t recall one that was not an exciting, informative, and memorable three days of events, with Friday’s workshops and evening reception; Saturday’s meetings, presentations, vendors, and evening banquet; and Sunday’s fields trips.

Registration is \$50, with a student rate of \$20 until March 17, 2017, then late registration fees go to \$60 and \$30 for student.

The conference hotel is the Sheraton Jacksonville, within a few miles of the UNF campus. A special conference rate of \$99 per night is offered by the Sheraton Jacksonville Hotel. The conference rate is available until April 13, 2017, although subject to availability.

The Friday-evening reception will take place in an open courtyard adjacent to the UNF Archaeology Lab (Building 51). Reception attendees will have the opportunity to view displays showcasing Jacksonville archaeology courtesy of the Archaeology Lab, Jacksonville Museum of Science and History (MOSH), National Park Service’s Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve, and Big Talbot Island State Park. Their featured exhibit will include artifacts from the Mill Cove Complex, a St. Johns II mound center and village (AD 900–1250). Drinks and light hors d’oeuvres will be available. Fun stuff.

Saturday-morning and -afternoon paper and poster presentations will take place on the UNF campus, which is what the meeting is all about, bringing colleagues, students, professional and amateur anthropologists and archaeologists together every year to share research, stories, ideas, and cheers.

There will be a student-prize competition with books awarded, a \$500 Dorothy Moore Student Grant, \$500 Chuck and Jane Wilde Archaeological Research Award, \$500 Sally McKeige Student Research Award, and two \$200 WMS/LSSAS student Travel Grants awards—all to encourage anthropology and archaeology students to participate and help support their attendance and research.

The Saturday night banquet (\$40) will be held at the Adam W. Herbert University Center, overlooking a nature preserve and lake. Cocktail Hour will be from 6:00–7:00pm, and the banquet runs from 7:00–9:00 pm. Three dinner choices are available. The banquet cost includes two drink tickets for beer, wine, soft drinks, and water, and a cash bar will be available.

The Keynote Speaker at the banquet is the renowned Paleoindian archaeologist Dr. Jim Dunbar. A list of interesting tours will be available Sunday. This is going to be another great FAS meeting, so if you’re interested, please try to attend.

For information on registration, hotel reservations, program and list of paper presentations (when available), go to FASweb.org.

FRIENDS OF LITTLE SALT SPRING INTRODUCE MYAKKATCHEE CREEK, LITTLE SALT SPRING GREENWAY CORRIDOR INITIATIVE.

An environmental initiative by the Friends of Little Salt Spring is gaining momentum. The concept of the Myakkahatchee Creek, Little Salt Spring Greenway Corridor was introduced at the Annual Meeting of the Friends of Little Salt Spring January 17, 2017 during a presentation by Steve Koski titled "The Archaeology of the Uplands at Little Salt Spring and Significance of the Ecology Surrounding the Spring." He explained the overall concept developed by the Friends of Little Salt Spring to establish a conservation corridor from Myakkahatchee Creek to Little Salt Spring to maintain an open-land access for wildlife from one conservation area to another, a distance of approximately 0.5 miles.

January 30, 2017 an article appeared in the North Port Sun by the Viewpoint editor, "Little Salt Spring: Preserving, Protecting a Unique Heritage," stating "Our Position: The Little Salt Spring greenway corridor deserves serious consideration."

The editorial was followed by an article by FLSS President and guest columnist Lawry Reid that appeared in the North Port Sun February 1, 2017, "Preserving Green Corridor Near Little Salt Spring."



The Myakkahatchee Creek/Little Salt Spring wildlife corridor (outlined in red)

From the FLSS web site:

<http://www.friendsofittlesaltspring.com/wildlifecorridor.html>

"The goal of the initiative is to preserve the approx .5 mile natural corridor that connects the Myakkahatchee Creek with the Little Salt Spring Archaeological and Ecological Preserve. This last remaining natural corridor is threatened by development that would further fragment the Little Salt Spring Archaeological and Ecological Preserve from Myakkahatchee Creek; effectively isolating this sensitive property and disconnecting it from abutting native habitats that also serve as critical pathways for naturally occurring wildlife species inhabiting the region extending from the creek to the spring." "This initiative would extend the conservation corridor from Myakkahatchee Creek, just south of Butler Park, north, through approx +/- 6 acres of private vacant land and approximately +/- 60 acres of vacant wooded land owned by the Sarasota County School Board abutting the 112-acre Little Salt Spring Archaeological and Ecological

Preserve."

The plan would require the acquisition of private land (35 lots owned by two owners) and a conservation easement of all or a portion of the vacant School Board, Heron Creek Middle School woods property. The road design and pending construction of the Spring Haven Drive extension would also need to take this vital natural corridor into consideration.

Once Preserved, this Natural Corridor Would:

- Be compatible with and complement the City of North Port Myakkahatchee Creek Greenway Master Plan;
- Preserve the last remaining wildlife corridor connecting the Myakkahatchee Creek environmental preserve to the Little Salt Spring environmental preserve, crossing the proposed Spring Haven Drive road extension;
- Expand passive nature trails from Butler Park into six or more additional acres;
- Provide ecological educational opportunities in the form of a living laboratory for the students of Glenallen Elementary School, North Port High School, and Heron Creek Middle School;
- Prevent further fragmentation of a critical ecosystem (Little Salt Spring) and provide a buffer for a relic ecosystem surrounding the spring, which has survived through natural succession from the late Pleistocene (ending 11,000 BP) through the Holocene era (11,000 BP to present). This is one of the most significant natural and cultural resources in the Southeastern United States.



Little Salt Spring, 18,000 years of natural habitat succession with up to 14,000 years of human visitation and habitation.

TWO LONG-TERM WMS/LSSAS MEMBERS LEAVING THE AREA WILL BE MISSED

Editor, Steve Koski

As a charter member of the WMS/LSSAS, founded as the Warm Mineral Springs Archaeological Society in 1990, I've been fortunate and blessed to know most of the members, some certainly more than others, and many have become friends. Some join for a year or two; others have been with us many years and have become loyal and dedicated members. I can't write about them all, but I would like to take this opportunity to

thank and say farewell to two members we have known and who have been active in the Society for many years: Elfrieda Wurtz and Helen Gardner, who are leaving the state to be closer to family members. We will certainly miss them.



WMS/LSSAS President Steve Koski thanks Elfrieda Wuerz and Helen Gardner for their years of support.

Doing a little background research, I see that Elfrieda is listed as the WMSAS Treasurer in the May/June 2001 newsletter), taking over from the late Earl Lewis. She was then elected to the board in 2004 and served through 2008 and continued her membership and involvement to date, attending many of our field trips and events and most of our meetings.

Helen joined the organization before we started keeping records, and has been an active member ever since. Both Helen and Elfrieda have been active in many of our events and field trips and almost all meetings over the years. I know I speak for the board and members who know you Elfrieda and Helen when I say thank you for helping to make the WMS/LSSAS a better organization through your support and presence. We wish you the very best!

WMS/LSSAS WEBSITE TO BE UPDATED

With the passing of our dear friend in late 2016, long time WMS/LSSAS member and our web site manager Bill Gibson, we have hired Laura Dean, secretary of the Historic Preservation Coalition of Sarasota County and web design master to redesign and manage our web site. Please stay tuned.

Our deepest and sincere condolences go to Barbara Gibson and family for their tragic loss. Bill was active in so many organizations in the city, county, and local not-for-profits. He not only managed the site for no compensation, he paid the \$100 annual fee. Bill will be missed by the masses who knew and worked with him.

WMS/LSSAS ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD APRIL 11

The Annual Meeting and voting in of new officers and directors will be held at the beginning of our April 11 meeting. Our By Laws state:

Officers and Directors

The Society shall be governed by an executive board, herein referred to as the "Board". The Board shall be comprised of the officers and not less than 6 directors. One of the Board directors shall be a professional archaeologist and not subject to term limitations. The Officers shall be the following: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Directors shall be elected for a staggered three-year term. President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary shall be elected for a term of two years. If after the term of an officer is completed and the nominating committee cannot find a suitable candidate for the position, the officer may be re-elected for a one-year term.

The 2017 slate of officers and directors are: Officers: President, Steve Koski (re-elect one year); Vice President, Linda Elligott (second year of three-year term); Secretary, Hilda Boron (re-elect one year); Kate Cattran (re-elect one year). Directors: Rita Bass (second year of two-year term); Judie Bauer (second year of two-year term); Jack Bauer (second year of two-year term); Loraine Hawkins (re-elect one year); Rik Jimison (new nominee) Linda Massey, Membership Secretary (re-elect one year); Carol Myers (re-elect one year); Betty Nugent (re-elect one year); Judith Ribarick (second year of two-year term); Joan San Lwin (new nominee); and George Haag, Honorary.

Thanks to all for your support in 2016!

OFFICERS

- PRESIDENTSteve Koski, skoski1044@aol.com
- VICE PRESIDENTLinda Elligott, lewildland@gmail.com
- SECRETARY..... Hilda Boron (941)426-1719
- TREASURERKate Cattran, Roleencattran@aol.com
- MEMBERSHIPLinda Massey, lmassey628 @msn.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Rita Bass • Judi Bauer • Jack Bauer • George Haag (Honorary)
- Lorraine Hawkins • Carol Myers • Betty Nugent • Judith Ribarick

- Newsletter Editor: Steve Koski, skoski1044@aol.com
- Media Correspondent: Linda Massey, lmassey628@msn.com
- Librarian: Lorraine Hawkins, landhawk@aol.com

Warm Mineral Springs/Little Salt Spring Archaeological Society

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