



**WMS/LSS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER**

**Vol. 28, No. 5, November/December 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, July, August) at 7:00 PM, North Port Community United Church of Christ, located at 3450 S. Biscayne Blvd. Dinner with the speaker this month will be held at the Myakka Oyster Bar at 5:00 PM. Meetings are free and open to the public.

**ARCHAEOLOGY OF FLORIDA EVERGLADES TOPIC OF  
NOVEMBER 14 MEETING**

Gulf Coast University graduate student Katarina Stroh will be the speaker at the November 14 WMS/LSSAS meeting of the WMS/LSSAS. Her topic is "The Wedgworth Midden (8PB16175) Field School and Excavations."

The Wedgworth Midden (8PB16175) is a tree-island site located in Belle Glade, Florida, just south of Lake Okeechobee. This site, along with other tree-island sites, plays a significant role in the analysis of prehistoric life in the Everglades. The Wedgworth Midden provides insight to the past environment of the northern Everglades and how the peoples who inhabited the tree islands utilized resources in that area. During the 2016 field season, students from Florida Gulf Coast University had the opportunity to participate and learn from the site's excavation. The field school allowed students to train in methods of archaeological data collection while also contributing to the growing information of prehistoric south Florida. (See Tree Islands p. 2.)



FGCU Graduate Student Katarina Stroh

**MINOAN AND MYCENAEAN CIVILIZATIONS TOPIC OF  
DECEMBER 12 MEETING**

Dr. Bernice Jones will be the speaker at our December 12 meeting of the WMS/LSSAS, with a presentation titled "Haute Couture in Ancient Greece: The Spectacular World of Ariadne and Helen of Troy."

Her PowerPoint presentation will bring to life the fabulous world of the Minoan and Mycenaean civilizations of 2000–1200 B.C.E. immortalized by Homer. By stepping through time into their splendid palaces decorated with scenes of courtly life, their special rituals are reconstructed along with the magnificent costumes worn to carry them out. Of the utmost luxury and decorated with exquisite patterns and appliques of gold and precious gems and topped with exquisite jewelry, the costumes are the royal regalia of queens and goddesses. No longer preserved, the costumes are replicated through detailed analysis of art and texts, and draped on live models posed as in art and juxtaposed with the sculptures and wall paintings they imitate.



Dr. Bernice Jones

Fragments of frescoes found out of context are digitally reassembled and reconstructed to restore once lost, spectacular scenes of palatial and everyday life. Ultimately, the reconstructed costumes and wall paintings virtually bring Homer's heroes and heroines to life and emphasize their concurrent ancient, contemporary, and eternal significance.

Dr. Jones received her Ph.D. from the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, in the Art and Archaeology of Greece, Rome, and the ancient Near East, specializing in costumes and interconnections in the Bronze Age Aegean. She has taught at Queens College, Parsons School of Design, Ringling College of Art and Design, and Manhattanville College's Summer in Greece Program. She has published her findings in her book, *Ariadne's Threads: The Construction and Significance of Clothes in the Aegean Bronze Age, 2015*, and prestigious journals. She has lectured nationally and internationally on Minoan and Mycenaean dress and on her digital reconstructions of Aegean frescoes. Her costume replicas have been the subject of exhibitions both here and abroad. Dr. Jones has participated in archaeological excavations in Greece (Santorini/Thera) and is a member of the Archaeological Institute of America, the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, and the Southeastern College Art Conference (SECAC).

This should prove to be another educational and exciting presentation, so please join us at our December 12 meeting!

#### TREE ISLANDS (from p. 1)

Ms. Stroh is a forensic studies master's student at Florida Gulf Coast University, concentrating in human identity and trauma analysis. She received her bachelor of science from Florida Gulf Coast University in forensic studies, criminal justice, and legal studies, with a special interest in anthropology. She participated in the Wedgworth field school in 2016 and continued research the following year, analyzing and identifying patterns within the faunal assemblage collected.

Come to the November meeting and get a glimpse of the archaeology of the Florida Everglades and how students learn about the past, which helps prepare them for their future careers.

#### THE LANDING OF COLUMBUS TOPIC OF OCTOBER MEETING

*By Judi and John Crescenzo*

On October 10, 2017, WMS/LSSAS member and archaeologist Kathy Gerace gave a fascinating presentation: "Where did Columbus first land in 1492 — the Archaeological Evidence." Gerace earned her MS in anthropology/archaeology from Michigan State University. Her teaching experience on San Salvador in the Bahamas in 1971 led to further scientific studies and the establishment of a field station, which eventually became part of the University of the Bahamas.

During his journey to the New World, Columbus kept a log, which he gave to the King and Queen of Spain. A copy was kept in his family, later transcribed by a friar, and named *Diario*. The *Diario* was lost until 1825, when it was found hidden in a library in Spain. As time passed, numerous theories evolved about where Columbus landed, but all agreed that it was somewhere in

the Bahama archipelago.

Per the *Diario*, Columbus could have landed on Grand Turk, then Cat Island or Saint Salvador in the central Bahamas. By the mid-1800s, it was thought that the landing may have been in San Salvador, and in 1942, Samuel E. Morison's biography of Columbus named the landing place as San Salvador. During the Quincentennial in 1992, pinpointing the exact landing place gained interest.

A 1986 National Geographic meeting, "Columbus and his World," was held on San Salvador. The conference focused on identifying Columbus, his ships, and navigation. New translations of the *Diario* and landfall theories were discussed. Early maps and archaeological evidence were presented, along with discussions on Lucayan Indian life ways and responses to European contact.

Proving a landing site required that the island must be along the track noted in the *Diario*. The site must fit the description and also be the same place identified by Ponce de Leon in his 1513 log. It must also be the location of Guanahani as shown on early 16th-century maps.



WMS/LSSAS Society Treasurer Kate Cattran presents Kathy Gerace with our World Famous Tee-shirt.

An effort was made to meet these criteria. In 1987 and 1996, Douglas Peck of Bradenton, Florida, sailed a wooden boat to trace the route of Columbus, and he ended up in San Salvador. He followed the trade winds but did not consider currents because Columbus would not have known of these. The second criterion was that the island fit the description of Guanahani, a large flat island with a lake in the middle. Columbus also described a harbor with a narrow entrance, as he had gone ashore to trade with Indians and explore. Because the area near Samana could not be navigated, it was eliminated.

Criterion 3 was that the route of Columbus led through the Bahamas to the Ragged Island Chain and Cuba. Indians had guided Columbus, so they most likely went where they could take canoes. The Indians tried to take Columbus on the west coast of Long Island, but it was too shallow to navigate so he turned around, perhaps going back to Fortune Island.

Criterion 4 was a comparison with the 1523 log of Ponce de Leon, and it was found that the islands listed could easily be

located. Ponce de Leon had identified Guanahani, which is the present San Salvador. The last criterion was met by locating both Guanahani and Samana on as shown on the Spanish maps of Juan de la Cosa from 1500. Because Columbus never sailed north from Guanahani, Samana could not be the first landfall.

Dr. Charles Hoffman and Dr. John Winter completed further studies on the topic in the 1960s. In 1980, they met in Miami and compared the San Salvador site to descriptions in the *Diario*. Columbus noted that he landed at a village, there were two to three villages where he rowed, and there were six houses on land that looked like an island but was not. In 1981, Gerace met Hoffman in the Dominican Republic and discussed the fact that the site where Columbus landed would still have some of his trade items on it. Hoffman believed the Long Bay site to be where Columbus landed. It included evidence of the villages mentioned in the *Diario*, but not six houses that were supposed to be located on a high rock. As the rock had eroded, it could not be excavated, although some Indian pottery was found there.

Specific trade items Columbus mentioned included glass beads, cotton thread in balls, javelins, hawks' bells, bowls and glass cups, *blancas* (small-denomination coins), and points meant to be put on the ends of laces. Yellow and green glass beads, bronze buckles, a ring for shoes, ship spikes, Spanish jar fragment, and a point were uncovered at Long Bay.

The beads were analyzed by Dr. Robert Brill from the Corning Museum of Glass, who found that they were ringlet beads, which were manufactured much differently than seed beads. Lead found in the beads matched that of a glass industry in Spain. There were also two types of pottery from Europe. Analysis showed they came from the same Spanish source, but the lead matched that of Rio Tinto in Spain — the area from which Columbus departed. The clays came from the same sediments in southern Spain near Rio Tinto, strengthening proof that these artifacts were left by Columbus. The shoe buckle was made of lightly leaded bronze, similar to that used in Spain in the late 1400s, and the lead source was Spain. The buckle was probably made for the African Slave trade, and the D-ring could have been a buckle or part of the ship's hardware.

The first Columbus monument was erected on San Salvador in 1892 to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the landing. In 1942, the Nassau government erected another monument for the 450th anniversary, which brought visitors to the island. In 1992, a woman obtained title to the land near Long Bay and erected a cross on the beach in Monument Park, so no further research was conducted there. In 1992, two additional monuments were donated by the Japanese because they believe Columbus had originally set out to find Japan.

However you feel about Columbus and the tragic history that followed regarding the indigenous populations of the New World, it is part of history and we thank Kathy for sharing her research and story with us!

## **DAIRY QUEEN VENICE SUPPORTS WMS/LSSAS AND OTHER NON-PROFITS**

Our November Dairy Queen (Venice) fundraiser will be held November 20 (third Monday of the month). Dairy Queen will

donate 10% of their proceeds from all sales from 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM. The December fundraiser will be December 18. Some of our members and friends are making it a monthly event. So head to Dairy Queen November 20 and/or December 18 and have a burger and cone and help support the WMS/LSSAS!

## **WMS/LSSAS SUPPORTS THE RESTORATION OF THE THREE GRACES FOUNTAIN**



WMS/LSSAS Board Member Joan San Lwin, Treasurer Kate Cattran, Membership Secretary Linda Massey, and Steve Koski (photographer) do some grounds keeping at the Three Graces in October.

Preservation and Restoration of the historic Three Graces Fountain is closer to reality. Sarasota County has determined that the sculpture can stay in its original location on US 41 and Ortiz and will not be effected by US 41 widening. Improvements to the median surrounding the structure will need to be made, which will be undertaken. Next will be securing funding for restoration. The WMS/LSSAS voted to adopt the fountain to help with its upkeep and support the restoration in any way we can. More information to follow.

## **CALL FOR SUPPORT OF THE MYAKKAHATCHEE CREEK/LITTLE SALT SPRING WILDLIFE CORRIDOR CROSSING: A message from the WMS/LSSAS Board**

By Joan San Lwin

The Myakkahatchee Creek/Little Salt Spring WILDLIFE CORRIDOR is being impacted by the extension of Spring Haven Drive from Pan American Blvd. to Price Blvd. The improvements dictate the need for a WILDLIFE CROSSING across the new extension at a strategic location (please see 2017 March/April WMS/LSSAS Newsletter at [wmslss.org](http://wmslss.org)). Due to the concerns of the road improvements on our local wildlife, the WMS/LSSAS, Friends of Little Salt Springs, and North Port Friends of Wildlife have met with City Commissioners and staff to discuss the WILDLIFE CORRIDOR and potential options to make the crossing as safe as possible for deer, bobcats, raccoons, possums, gopher tortoises, and other animals that will be using the crossing. The good news is the North Port Commissioners are receptive to taking precautionary measures to mitigate any

adverse effects to wildlife to the greatest extent practicable.

At the next Commission meeting to be held November 13, 5:00 PM at North Port City Hall, City staff is going to request that the Commission approve the hiring of a Wildlife Crossing expert in order to ensure the best possible outcome for the many animals that could be affected. Those who care about our local wildlife should attend this meeting and show your support.

You can also fill out a "Request to Speak" card and give it to the City Clerk; the public may comment during the course of the meeting for up to 3 minutes. For those unable to attend, an email can be sent simultaneously to all Commissioners using the email address: [commissioners@cityofnorthport.com](mailto:commissioners@cityofnorthport.com).

Please urge the Commissioners to support the Little Salt Spring/Myakkahatchee Creek WILDLIFE CORRIDOR and the hiring of a WILDLIFE CROSSING consultant for the ongoing plans for the Spring Haven Drive extension. Thank you!

**SYMPOSIUM ON LITTLE SALT SPRING TO BE HELD AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI IN FEBRUARY**

Professor Traci Ardren, Chair of the Anthropology Department at the University of Miami, is planning a symposium on Little Salt Spring in February. Still in the planning stages, the topics will cover underwater archaeology, past research at Little Salt Spring, and potential future research. The University of Miami is considering keeping Little Salt Spring open to continuing research with collaborators. That's all great news!

The WMS/LSSAS and the Friends of Little Salt Spring will look into chartering a bus if we can get enough members and friends to make the event. More information will be in the January/February Newsletter when more information is available.

Lee Newsom and Andrew Hemmings will speak about research they have done on materials from LSS, Jessi Halligan will share some of her Paleo-Indian research from north Florida, Jason O'Donoghue will explain the importance of preserving springs, and Mike Waters will give a keynote address that helps place LSS within current research on the peopling of the Americas. After all that great info, we have a panel discussion on the future of LSS which will involve representatives from FPAN, Steve Koski and John Gifford, perhaps someone from the Florida Aquarium, and Fritz Hanselmann, the new Underwater Archaeologist at UM.

**OCTOBER 21 INTERNATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY DAY SUCCESSFUL EVENT!**

The WMS/LSSAS set up a Table for International Archaeology on October 21 at Bayshore Park on Charlotte Harbor from 10 AM – 2:00 PM. The event was hosted by the Florida Public

Archaeology Network, Charlotte County, and the Charlotte County History Center. Also participating were the Southwest Florida Fossil Society, Collier County Museums, Randell Research Center, Friends of the Mound House, and several others organizations. More than 100 folks showed up throughout the day to enjoy the activities, displays, food trucks, walking tour, and the beautiful weather and setting on the harbor.



WMS/LSSAS President Steve Koski and Board Member Joan San Lwin speak with participants and attendees at International Archaeology Day at Bayshore Park.

**FLSS NEWS**

The next meeting of the Friends of Little Salt Spring will be held November 21 at the Morgan Center at 6207 W Price Blvd., North Port, FL 34291 (adjacent to Herron Creek Middle School and Butler Park, across the street from North Port High School). A presentation on the local outreach events will be discussed by Florida Public Archaeology Network staff Jeff Moates, Sara Ayers-Rigsby, and LSS Site Manager Steve Koski.

**2017 OFFICERS**

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