



WMS/LSS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 30, No. 2, March/April 2019

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 and August) at 7:00 pm. General meetings are held at the North Port Community United Church, located at 3450 S. Biscayne Blvd. The March dinner prior to the meeting will be held at the Myakka River Oyster Bar, 121 Playmore Dr., Venice, at 5:00 pm. Meetings are free and open to the public.

**PREHISTORIC SETTLEMENT IN THE FLORIDA
EVERGLADES TOPIC OF OUR MARCH 12 MEETING**

Notable Florida Archaeologist Bob Carr will be the speaker at our March meeting, with a program titled "New Discoveries of the Everglades Landscape: Lost Creeks and Prehistoric Sites." Archaeological testing of agricultural fields in the eastern Everglades has resulted in the discovery of creeks and prehistoric sites buried beneath the muck. This creek system had been previously unknown and was undetected during earlier assessments. Aerial photographs taken during and after sugarcane cultivation revealed the ancient creek system and resulted in the discovery of a 2000–3000-year-old prehistoric midden (8PB17113) and cemetery (8PB17114). Such discoveries have implications to our understanding of settlement in the Everglades and predictive modeling for locating other sites along these creek systems.

Archaeologist Robert S. Carr is the Executive Director of the Archaeological and Historical Conservancy, Inc. In his 35 years of experience in South Florida, he was Miami-Dade *[Cont'd p. 2]*



Archaeologist Bob Carr

**ARCHAIC AND MANASOTA PERIOD POPULATIONS
TOPIC OF OUR APRIL 9 MEETING**

We welcome back bioarchaeologist and forensic archaeologist Maranda Kles to our April 9 meeting for a program titled "Florida's Archaic and Manasota Period Populations: Distant Cousins or Unrelated Neighbors?"

With the discovery of the submerged burial site off Manasota Key, there has been a surge of interest in the relationships of pre-contact Native American populations in Southwest Florida. Previous research has examined the biological relationships of several submerged Archaic burial sites in Florida, including Warm Mineral Springs and Little Salt Spring, which show shared mortuary practices and shared biological relationships. Other research has examined the relationships of the later populations that were buried on upland Manasota Key and nearby sites. This talk will review previous findings and examine the relationship of the Archaic populations to the later land-based Manasota Key population, as well as offer a discussion about the possible relationship of the offshore Manasota population.



Bioarchaeologist Maranda Kles

MARCH MEETING *(Cont'd from p. 1)*

County archaeologist and director of the Historic Preservation Division, and has worked for the National Park Service and the State of Florida. Carr was co-discoverer of the Miami Circle, led investigations at Preacher's Cave in the Bahamas, and recently directed an extensive archaeological assessment at the Jupiter Lighthouse. He is the author of *Digging Miami*, a chronicle of the archaeology of greater Miami. He has a Master of Science Degree in Anthropology from Florida State University.

Join us for this Florida Archaeology Month Presentation (see article on page 4).

CALUSA AND SPANISH ENCOUNTERS TOPIC OF FEBRUARY MEETING

By Judi and John Crescenzo

On February 12, 2019, archaeologist, anthropologist, author, and film producer Theresa Schober presented "The Making of Escampaba: The Kingdom of Carlos." Schober earned her M.A. degree in anthropology from the University of Illinois and is the current Manager of the Immokalee Pioneer Museum in Collier County. She has quite a history in Florida archaeology that includes work at Pineland, the Mound House on Ft. Myers Beach, Dog Island, and Mound Key, to name but a few sites she has been involved in. After outlining the history of the Calusa and their main village on Mound Key in Lee County prior to and after Spanish arrivals, she shared some of her experiences in making the documentary and ended the evening by showing a few clips from the film.

About 14,500 years ago, in an era of mastadons and saber-toothed cats, Florida was like an African savannah and was as wide as the continental shelf due to low sea level. Around 5,000 years ago, the shoreline stabilized and Calusa appeared on estuaries from Charlotte Harbor to North Naples. Inland tribes paid allegiance to the Calusa in the form of food, feathers, furs and, later, metals and gems from shipwrecks.

Estuaries provided abundant resources, allowing the Calusa to develop a hierarchy. Their chief lived at Mound Key and had a military, warriors, and priests. Although hierarchies usually begin where there is agriculture and the Calusa were not farmers, they had abundant natural resources from the estuaries, which allowed sufficient time and wealth to fulfill hierarchal roles. Mounds contain lots of shellfish, but the Calusa also fished and may have been aquaculturalists.

"Stababa" or "Calos" is the Calusa name for Mound Key. In the mid-1800s, the Spanish changed Calos to the Spanish-sounding "Carlos." "Escampada" is the Spanish name for the Calusa area. When they arrived, the Spanish noted that the Calusa were being paid tributes, which reminded them of a Spanish monarchy.

Mound Key has two mounds, 27 and 31 feet high, with enclosures that may have been used to raise fish. They were built with shell, which was not randomly tossed aside, but required a lot of engineering. The key was originally an oyster bar where the Calusa deliberately placed an additional 400,000 basket loads of shell to create the island.

In 1895, a farmer on Marco, dredged a pond to get more



Theresa Schober accepting our world-famous t-shirt from WMS/LSSAS President Steve Koski.

farmland and made a fascinating discovery. Smithsonian archaeologist Frank Hamilton Cushing found wooden and painted objects, which include the Calusa Cat, which has a panther upper body human lower body. The artifacts were buried in peat, creating anaerobic conditions that preserved the wood. A small number of objects survived after exposure to air and are evidence of an elaborate Calusa culture. Ships from Peru and Mexico on the way to Havana were shipwrecked in the Keys, making available the gold and silver found in Calusa art.

In 1513, Ponce de Leon landed on the east coast of Florida, but he did not go to St. Augustine. He sailed to the west coast and on May 24, 1513, killed some Calusa before he was chased away. De Leon returned eight years later with cattle (the first in Florida), and the Calusa shot him with an arrow. He died from this wound six months later in Cuba.

In 1565, when St. Augustine was settled by Pedro Menendez de Aviles, he was aware that the Calusa Empire was an important place to see. Menendez invited the Calusa chief onto his ship and stated that he would drown the chief or occupy his island, so Carlos accepted a treaty. When Menendez entered the Calusa kingdom, he traveled between two major mounds with tall buildings on them, which must have been very impressive. Menendez brought the first Jesuit Priest, Father Juan Rogel, to Mound Key. Chief Carlos was killed by order of Menendez, and Menendez was given a sister of Carlos as his bride. This made Menendez part of the family at a time when family relationships were highly valued.

Hernando de Escalante Fontaneda was a Spanish shipwreck survivor who had spent 17 years living at the Calusa capital before Menendez arrived. Both he and Menendez wrote accounts of events. Spanish accounts seem authentic because they are all the same, but this is because all information came from one or two people. The Spanish moved and occupied only the northern part of the state, where they grew corn and cattle. The Calusa either fled to St. Augustine or the Keys, and some were sent to Cuba by the Spanish. Many also died of European diseases.

Schober's documentary was filmed in St. Augustine to make use of historic structures there. The character of Fontaneda was based on a Dean Quigley painting. Schober's 2013 book, *Art Calusa*, which was written for the state's 500-year celebration, has three paintings about the landing of Ponce de Leon. Jackson

Walker's rendition was selected to hang in the Florida legislature and to travel to Washington, DC, to represent Florida, but the painting does not show native people already occupying the land.

Schober's film sets a tone of Authorized Heritage Discourse (AHD) in deciding what is important about Spanish and Native American heritage. Portrayals are based on a Western view-point. For example, artists have depicted the Calusa wearing skirts made from long grasses, even though Spanish records state that natives "wore grasses that grow in trees," which refers to Spanish Moss. It is also not known if the Calusa wore woven clothing, although fabrics have been found in Florida dating to 8,500 years ago. Paintings also depict native male and female roles based on norms for the 1950s and 1960s.

Among clips from Schober's documentary was a depiction of the arrival of Ponce de Leon in Florida. The film will be aired on PBS after final editing. DVDs will also be made available and shown to members of Warm Mineral Springs/Little Salt Spring Archaeological Society at that time.

READING BONES – JANUARY MEETING A TALE OF FORENSIC INVESTIGATIONS

By Judi and John Crescenzo

On January 8, 2019, Forensic Anthropologist Dr. Heather Walsh-Haney presented "The Science and Art of Reading Bones." She is an Associate Professor at Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) and studied with Forensic Anthropologist Dr. William Maples at the University of Florida, where she earned her MA and PhD in anthropology. Walsh-Haney created the Buckingham Environmental Forensics Facility at FGCU and also teaches at the University of Tennessee National Forensic Academy. She is currently a consulting forensic anthropologist for law-enforcement agencies in Florida and has been volunteering on the Manasota Key Offshore Site with several of her students for the past three years.

Florida has a Medical Examiner System with board-certified forensic pathologists. Satellite images and ground-penetrating radar are used to study a site as part of the analysis of a crime scene. Walsh-Haney looks for unusual plants, grave walls, footprints, sunken areas, and cigarette butts for other clues. Soil color is compared to Munsell soil cards to identify stains, position of the body, and whether it has been disturbed. Probes determine soil density.

The lab she set up at FGCU sets the scientific standards. The minimum number of individuals (MNI) represented by skeletons is determined at an archaeology site. Law enforcement and the medical examiner are called when human bones are found and, if found to be more than 100 years old, the state archaeologist gets involved. If a body is recent and is too decomposed to do an autopsy, forms must be signed to keep track of material in maceration tanks. Once the soft tissue is removed, the bones are analyzed. Non-human remains, such as bird, turtle, or small mammal bones, are also important in determining whether injuries occurred during life or after death.



Dr. Heather Walsh Haney gave an exceptional presentation to a very interested group at our January meeting.

In an effort to hide the identity of a victim, fingertips and teeth are sometimes removed by a murderer. After the 1996 Value Jet Air crash in the Everglades, skeletons were studied to find human growth plates that had not yet fused, indicating that the victim was under 18 years old. After 9/11, the Staten Island landfill became a federal-government disaster mortuary when remains were transported there. Federal agents and firefighters searched for human remains, which were given to forensic scientists who sifted out human bones and soft tissue.

The TV show *Bones* shows red tissue on a normal rib cage and skull, but in reality, the rib cage falls and the head does not stay aligned after the remains are transported several times for study. Natural mummification can occur in Florida when people die in a house and are not detected for six months or more. A body can become skeletonized in 3–4 days, but some tissue may remain. Insects deposit eggs in soft openings of the eyes, nose, and mouth, which hastens tissue removal in these areas while other areas of the body remain intact.

Signs of pathology and trauma can allow analysis of when an injury occurred and whether there is evidence of healing. In the 1897 case of the Chicago Sausage King, even though his wife was made into sausages or destroyed by acid, enough remains still existed to prove his guilt. Pig and human bones were tested with acid to determine pH readings for comparison. Munsell soil cards also showed color changes.

In domestic-violence cases, females may not show signs of strangulation except through small fractures created by violence. Facial reconstruction can be accomplished through drawings or 3D models, which should be done in black and white because nothing in the bones indicates skin colors.

This summary is a mere fragment of Dr. Haney-Walsh's fascinating story, an interesting change from our regular topics. .

NEW ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY FOUNDED IN CHARLOTTE COUNTY

The Charlotte Harbor Anthropological Society has formed in our neighboring Port Charlotte. Ted Ehmann, WMS/LSSAS member and October 2018 speaker, is president and a founding member. They have been meeting once a month for the past few months and have had some exceptional speakers. Many of their members are our members and vice versa. They meet the third Thursday of the month at the Wintergarden Presbyterian Church,

located at 18305 Wintergarden Ave., Port Charlotte, FL, at 6:30 PM. John and Mary Lou Missal, award-winning historians and authors of *The Seminole Wars, America's Longest Indian Conflict*, will speak at their March 21 meeting.

There still may be a few seats for their "Calusa Treasures" field to Mound Key Saturday, March 23rd. For further information phone them at 732-740-5055. Visit their new website at: <https://charlotteharboras.org>.

WMS/LSSAS ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD IN MARCH



A brief WMS/LSSAS Annual Meeting and elections will be held at the beginning of our March 12 general meeting at 7:00 PM. The slate of officers and board members will be read and voted into office. Officers: President (reelect one-year term), Steve Koski; Vice President (newly elect, two-year term), Kathy Gerace; Treasurer (reelect, one-year term), Kate Cattran; Secretary (newly elect two-year term), Sandra Heacock; Directors (three-year terms) Rita Bass, Ted Ehmann.

Special thanks go to Vice President Judith Ribarick for stepping in for 2018, long-time board member and past librarian Lorraine Hawkins, and to all currently serving whose terms are still active and those who accepted to continue at a one-year reelection. We couldn't function without your service.

MARCH IS FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH!

The theme for this year's Florida Archaeology Month (FAM) is Shared Collections — Shared Stories.

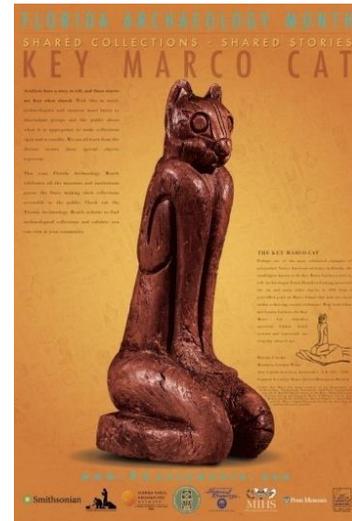
A major highlight during the month-long celebration is always the new FAM poster, developed every year to illustrate a unique theme within Florida Archaeology. For the 2019 poster and theme, the FAM team drew from the vast network of archaeological collections on display throughout the state.

Perhaps one of the most celebrated examples of pre-contact Native American artistry in Florida, the small figure known as the Key Marco Cat has a story to tell. Archaeologist Frank Hamilton Cushing uncovered the cat and many other objects in 1896 from a peat-filled pond on Marco Island that had once been within a thriving coastal settlement. With both feline and human features, the Key Marco Cat embodies ancestral Calusa belief systems and transcends our everyday ideas of art.

On January 26, 2019, the Marco Island Historical Museum opened a new exhibit featuring the return of the Key Marco Cat. The exhibit explores the lifeways of the people who made the objects, the subject of Cushing's findings. To see the Cat in real life (*IRL), head down to Marco Island for a visit to the historical museum and learn all about the Calusa, their ancestors, and Cushing's excavations. Visit <https://colliermuseums.com/>. For more information on FAM 2019, go to fasweb.org

"Cushing's 1896 Key Marco excavation produced some of the greatest discoveries in the history of North American archaeology. Because the artifacts were buried in an oxygen-free layer of muck,

these rare wooden objects — between 500 and 1,500 years old — were astonishingly well preserved. Many of them began disintegrating upon exposure to the air. Those that survived, along with lifelike watercolors and field photographs of the pieces captured by expedition artist Wells M. Sawyer, provide extraordinary insight into the daily lives of the Calusa Indians and their ancestors. The Calusa dominated Florida's Southwest Coast and controlled South Florida by the time the Spanish arrived in the 16th Century."



The Florida Archaeology Month poster featuring the Key Marco Cat. Pick one up at our March meeting!

ANNOUNCING THE 2019 ANNUAL FAS MEETING AT CRYSTAL RIVER!



The Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society and the Florida Public Archaeology Network, West Central Region, are co-hosting the 71st Annual FAS Meeting and Conference. The meeting will take place in the Manatee Capital of the World, Crystal River. The Plantation on Crystal River will serve as the conference hotel and the location for organizational meetings and conference proceedings from May 10 to 12, 2019. Please go to www.fasweb.com for registration and conference information.

The Friday, May 10, Reception will be held at the Crystal River Archaeological State Park between 6:00–8:00 PM. Transportation to and from the venue will be provided.

Saturday meetings, papers, posters, and events will be held at the conference hotel.

Saturday evening will start off with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres overlooking gorgeous views of the Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge before the FAS Awards and Banquet at the Conference Center in the Magnolia Room.

Following the banquet, the FAS Awards Ceremony and Keynote Presentation will commence. The banquet cost is \$40 per person. Join us! Dinner and Awards are always great, and often lively. Ms. Ginessa Mahar, PhD Candidate of the University of Florida, is the Keynote speaker: "With a Little Help from Our Friends: Investigating Florida's Ancient Fisheries."

You can chose from two Sunday morning tours, but will need to sign up early because of limited seating on the two boats. One is a tour of two of Crystal River's pre-contact mound sites with USF archaeologist, Dr. Thomas J. Pluckhahn, to the Crystal River and Roberts Island mounds. Meet at 9:00 am. Duration of the tour is approximately 2 hours. Cost is \$20 per person. Limit: 22 seats.

The second: you will motor past the famous Crystal River Archaeological State Park, Roberts Island, and Wash Island, a few of the more interesting archaeological sites along the way, with Gary Ellis of the Gulf Archaeological Research Institute, aboard the Plantation Adventure Center's large-capacity pontoon boat. This scenic boat tour will depart from Plantation on Crystal River at 9:30 am en route for Shell Island at the river's mouth. Duration of tour will be approximately 2 to 2.5 hours. Cost is \$25 per person. Limit: 38 seats.

NINTH ANNUAL SILVER SPRINGS KNAP-IN AND STONE TOOL MAKING AND PREHISTORIC ARTS FESTIVAL ANOTHER MEMORABLE EVENT

Steve Koski

I don't know what it is about the Ocala National Forrest, Silver Springs, the Silver Springs Museum, and the Silver Springs Knap-In and Arts Festival. Oh yah, it's the beauty of old Florida, its fascinating history, and the great and talented folks that come to the festival.

I was at an FAS board meeting in Gainesville as a Chapter Rep. for the WMS/LSSAS and to pick up the 2019 FAM posters and for the third year they held the board meeting on the same weekend as the Knap-In. I got off relatively easy this year, only bought some copper jewelry and copper nugget from Michigan the jewelry was made from, a Southwest Native American silver belt buckle with torques inlay, a reproduction of an Archaic perid banner stone, and about \$30 worth beautiful rock to break. Look around and observe everything all day and go back at closing time and you can get some deals, it the item is still there. Generally when it comes to rock, chances are good you'll be able to get some select pieces for knapping.

Several of our members attended. Roger Hostetler had a knapping station again with renowned knaper Claude Van Order, who Roger learned from by watching him for hours then breaking a ton of rock to perfect his technique (see the January/ February newsletter). Bill Goetz and family were there for the weekend, as well as a few other familiar faces. It was just fun.



Roger Hostetler makes a palm hat and displays his artifact reproductions and artistry at the Knap-In.

MEMBERS RECOGNIZED AT THE JANUARY 2019 MEETING

While all our members and guests who attend our meetings are special, many are outstanding. At the January 9, 2019, meeting, several of our outstanding members were given Certificates of Appreciation by president Steve Koski. Pictured below, they are John and Judi Crescenzo, long-time past board members and volunteers who write the speaker summaries for our meetings (thank you very much!); the late Hilda Boron, for her 23 years of service as Secretary to the Society (will never be able to thank her enough); Roger Hostetler, for his generous service at our events and donations to our raffles (thank you very much!); and Gary Rowe, for his generous donation of numerous sharks teeth for our raffles he found while diving off the shores of Venice (thank you very much!). I don't know what photo-bomber Steve Koski is doing in the photo; he didn't get a certificate.



Members receive Certificated of Appreciation from president Steve Koski

TAKING THE MINUTES, ONE LAST TIME

by Steve Koski

It is with a heavy heart that I must inform our membership and friends who knew WMS/LSSAS Secretary Hilda Boron, that she is no longer with us, at least in physical form. She was at our February 9 board meeting taking minutes, as she has for more than 23 years as secretary. Come to think of it, I don't recall her ever missing a board meeting, or a regular meeting, in all that time, but at 95 she had a better memory than I do.



A round of applause for Hilda's 90th birthday at a presentation she attended at the Historic Chidsey Library.



Members celebrate Hilda's 95th birthday at Venice Dairy Queen October 16, 2018 (seated, third from right, back row).

At the board meeting, she indicated that her eyes had become blurry from new medication she was taking. Sandy took over her minutes-taking, and shortly after, Hilda said she wasn't feeling well and needed to go home. We escorted her to her car, realized she shouldn't be driving, so Kate took her to the walk-in clinic, which sent her to the Emergency Room, which sent her to Sarasota Memorial Hospital. She was escorted by Kate. She was in good spirits and kidding around. At the hospital, there was a complication with her heart and she passed, quite suddenly. Right up until the last day and the last hours of her life, she was taking the minutes.

I'm so glad she didn't suffer and she maintained her composure, dignity, purpose, and sense of humor until her final moments. That is a testimony to her amazing spirit. In retrospect, she was my mentor.

She and her sister Anne, who still lives in North Port, were charter members of WMSAS and were at the first meeting held at Glenallen Elementary School in 1990. Anne was on the board for many years. They did a lot together, lived one street away, and had dinner every night together. Anne would cut through a neighbor's yard and walk to Hilda's for dinner every night.

Hilda first appears in the WMSAS Newsletter as Secretary in December 1995. With her being a charter member since the Society forming in 1990, she was 66 when she and Anne joined. To think she was 95 and still driving, picking up the newsletter in Venice every two months, stamping and labeling envelopes, folding and mailing, taking the minutes at every board meeting, attending all meetings and events, site tours, field trips! She attended 99.9 percent of all board meetings as Secretary for at least 23 years, attended 99.9 percent of all meetings since the founding of the organization in 1990, and participated in all of our yard sales, selling plants she grew through the year. She always seemed to be having a good time and was always pleasant.

I don't ever recall her grumpy (well, maybe a couple times) or fussy to anyone, even when dealing with me — another testimony to her amazing spirit. I bet I have over 100 photos of our field trips, yard sales, and events with her in them. She was truly a wonderful person who provided a lot of stability in the Society, and some sanity for me. I know she was a stabilizing inspiration for the board over the years as well. She saw as many board members, members and guests, and attended as many meetings and events as I have. I know all of you thought of her as a good friend and she appreciated everyone. I feel truly blessed to have known her, and the fond memories of her and her involvement in the Society will go on for many years. I wish I could say, "Thank you, Hilda, for taking the minutes," one more time. I will truly miss you.

2018 OFFICERS

(2019 Board will be listed in May/June NL)

- PRESIDENT Steve Koski, skoski1044@aol.com
- VICE PRESIDENT Judith Ribarick
- SECRETARY Hilda Boron, (941)426-1719
- TREASURER Kate Cattran, Roleencattran@aol.com
- MEMBERSHIP Linda Massey, lmassey628@msn.com

2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Rita Bass • Lorraine Hawkins • Kathy Gerace • Rik Jimison
- Betty Nugent • Joan San Lwin • Carol Myers (Honorary)
- George Haag (Honorary)

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 Librarian: Kathy Gerace

Warm Mineral Springs / Little Salt Spring Archaeological Society

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