



**WMS/LSS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER**

**Vol. 31, No. 4, September/October 2020**

*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. The September 8 meeting will be Zoom meeting, see article on page 2 for details. There will be no pre-meeting dinner this month. The location of the October meeting will be announced.  
**Celebrating Our 30th Anniversary!**

**SHELL TOOL ANALYSIS FROM SNAKE ISLAND TOPIC OF SEPTEMBER 8 ZOOM MEETING**

New College of Florida undergraduate student and WMS/LSSAS member Michelle Calhoun will be the speaker at our September 8 meeting. Her topic, "A Preliminary Analysis of Columella Tools and Gastropod Hammers from Snake Island, Sarasota County, Florida (8So2336)." Michelle was scheduled to speak in April but the meeting was canceled due to the pandemic.

Snake Island is a small island situated near the Venice Inlet in Sarasota County, Florida, and is owned by the West Coast Inland Navigation District (WCIND). It was used as a spoil site for dredged material in two episodes, the first in 1907 during initial dredging to facilitate navigation between Sarasota and Venice, and in 1965 during the construction of the by-pass canal and Intracoastal Waterway improvements and realignment. It has an interesting history of land use as a recreation spot for boaters. (See Snake Island, page 2)



New College Student of Florida Michelle Calhoun

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS IN DOWNTOWN TAMPA TOPIC OF OCTOBER 13 MEETING**

Archaeologist Eric Prendergast will be the speaker at our October 13 with a presentation titled A Jar Full of Love Letters and Other Adventures In Tampa Archaeology.

Recent archaeological work in downtown Tampa focused on parts of former Fort Brooke, an important military installation from the Period of Indian Removal in early American Florida. The work uncovered the location of the fort's lost cemetery, buried under a tangle of city streets and utilities in the shadow of the hockey arena. Excavations unintentionally unearthed a glass swing-top jar stuffed full of love letters written in 1916. The letters were written to the captain of Clarence Bloomfield Moore's archaeological research vessel, the steamer *Gopher*.

This presentation will discuss the letters, their author, and their recipient, who was a long-time resident and amateur scientist of early Tampa, as well as some findings from other excavations at Fort Brooke.



Archaeologist Eric Prendergast

The research will also detail the story of the *Gopher* and her crew in Tampa, Tampa Bay's role as a summer-home for the boat and some crew members, and some new insights into the ultimate fate of the famous steam ship in our local area.

Eric is Senior Archaeologist and Principal Investigator with Cardno, Inc., based in the Riverview Florida Office (Tampa). With Cardno, he has recently directed large-scale excavations in downtown Tampa, and is currently the principal investigator for the Zion Cemetery Project in Tampa. While he is a prehistoric archaeologist by training, lately, his research is focused on erased cemeteries in the Tampa Bay area, many of them African-American places of burial that were erased from the landscape during the segregation era. Prior to moving to Tampa to go to USF for grad school, he lived in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where he worked at the Carnegie Museum of National History.

### **SNAKE ISLAND (cont from page 1)**

The island once had a small boat-building shop in the 1920's, owned by the Elisha Turner family, who lived on a house boat docked on the island.

In 1994, on a recreational kayak visit, a shell midden was identified actively eroding from the southwest shore of the island, exposing dietary marine and estuarine shell, faunal remains with a predominance of sea turtle bones, Pinellas plain and sand tempered plain ceramics, and a variety of shell tools, all in an exceptional state of preservation (Koski Florida Master Site File Form 1994). Koski conducted a salvage collection project intermittently from 1994 to 2012 and worked on two projects; one, during a Section 1135 Feasibility Study for the Sarasota Bay Restoration Study that included Snake Island for the Army Corp of Engineers (ACOE) as field director with New South Associates; and Archaeological Monitoring for the Snake Island Stabilization Project for the WCIND with LG2 Environmental Solutions (Koski et. al, 2001, 2016). That project buried and protected the exposed portion of the site.

Diagnostic ceramic artifacts indicated a Safety Harbor period occupation, around CE 1,200 – 1,400 (AD), but initial occupation was likely several hundred years earlier in the late Manasota/Weeden Island periods. While the majority of shell tools eroding from the midden were type C and D gastropod hammers centered along the southwest shore, columella hammers were most plentiful and more widely distributed along the entire north and west shores where the erosion was most severe, suggesting a different origin. Archaeologist George Luer indicated that columella hammers were more indicative of the Archaic period, and type C and D hammers more indicative of the Safety Harbor period sites, something testing and radiocarbon dating substantiated.

It was found that the midden lay beneath the spoil and layer of mangrove mud. This occurrence has the potential to lend insight into the effects of sea level rise on archaeological sites and conditions that facilitate site preservation.

Michelle became interested in the shell tool collection during an internship and Independent Study Project (ISP) for her New College professor Dr. Uzi Baram. The intern position and Independent Study Projects were done at Sarasota County

Historical Resources (SCHR), where the Snake Island specimens from the salvage collecting are curated, working with Sarasota County, archaeologist Steve Koski through 2019 and continued into 2020. Her first project was to update the NAGPRA inventory in the SCHR collections for submittal to the Florida Division of Historical Resources and the National Park Service. During the fall 2019 semester, she decided that the collection would be appropriate for her Method and Theory in Archaeology class at NCF.

She spent months working on the collection and collaborating on hypotheses with Koski regarding use, hafting methods, breakage patterns, and overall variability; recording, updating the field specimen log, taking measurements, photographing, and illustrating a sample of the more than 200 shell artifacts. Quite an impressive undertaking.

Her paper will present the state of her analysis which will be a precursor to a paper for presentation at the 2021 Florida Anthropological Society Annual conference to be held in Orlando, and a co-authored publication in the *Florida Anthropologist*.



Type D gastropod Hammer (Illustration by M. Calhoun)

### **SEPTEMBER 8 WMS/LSSAS MEETING GOES ZOOM!**

By Kathy Gerace

Well, we have come a long way since March when we held our last meeting. Hope everyone is doing well. We are going to try something new for us for September 8, our first Zoom meeting. I think most folks with a computer have used Zoom in the last few months in this current situation. It is likely you have used Zoom, as that is how most are meeting in this time of semi-isolation and we hope to meet in-person again soon.

You must have Zoom downloaded on your computer, notebook, I-pad, phone, then open the app and it will prompt you to "join the meeting" and add the meeting number and password. Here is the information our Society members and guests will need to join.

**ID - 862 4234 7289**

**Passcode - 9LixDD**

As president, I will be the of the meeting, accept invitations, open the meeting with brief announcements, introduce the speaker, and turn the screen over to her where she will direct it to her PowerPoint presentation.

You will also be able to turn off your microphone and video, which is recommended, to not distract the presenter with household background noise. There is also an icon that says "chat" where you can add questions for the speaker that she can address after the presentation. This is our first Zoom meeting attempt, so please be patient and hope you can make it!

### **WMS/LSSAS BY-LAW CHANGES**

Attached are the WMS/LSSAS By-Laws with changes that will be voted on by 2020 active members at the beginning of the September 8 Zoom meeting.

For the last couple board meetings, the WMS/LSSAS Board has considered modest changes to the by-Law to more accurately reflect the intent of the organization and changing times. At the August 29 board meeting, those changes were brought to the board by our president Kathy Gerace, who has been working on them with Linda Massey. To be accepted, they must be provided to the general membership and voted on with a yes/no in the chat section at the general Zoom meeting on September 8. Please review if you have a chance. Once approved, they will be posted to our web site at WMSLSS.org. Thank you!

### **FAS AND FAC 2020 AWARDS**

As you all know from the May/June WMS/LSSAS Newsletter, the 2020 Florida Anthropological Society Annual Conference that was to be held in Naples, hosted by the SW Florida Archaeological Society, was cancelled due to the pandemic. However, the Florida Archaeological Council (FAC) and Florida Anthropological Society (FAS) Awards were submitted and recipients selected. The FAS and FAC board members decided that they would have a video presentation of the awards, which is now posted on the FAS and FAC websites. Please go to [www.FASweb.org](http://www.FASweb.org) to see FAS President Emily Jane Murray and FAC President Ramie Gougeon announce the awards and the recipients. The list is below, but details of the awards are discussed in the awards video. This year's recipients are:

**FAC John W. Griffin Student Grant** (\$1,500 between recipients) is awarded to archaeology graduate students (M.A. or Ph.D.) who are currently enrolled in a Florida university. The grant money assists students conducting archaeological research in Florida. Grant funds can be used to cover the costs associated with archaeological fieldwork, special analyses (e.g., radiocarbon dates, faunal or botanical analyses, soils analysis, etc.), and, in some cases, travel expenses associated with presenting a paper based on the student's research at a professional meeting.

The 2020 recipients are *Christopher Hunt*, doctoral student

at the University of Florida to assist his research on City of St. Joseph (1836 – 1842); and, *Asbury Ferrell*, M.A. student at FSU, for assistance in her research on use-wear and functional analysis of sharks' teeth from the Shields Mound, Jacksonville, Florida.

**FAC Stewards of Heritage Awards** is presented to individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to archaeological preservation, further research, educate or otherwise promote public awareness of Florida archaeology. Awards are presented every other year. There were four recipients of the 2020 FAC Stewards of Heritage Awards

Recipient, *Friends of Fish Island* of St. Augustine, for recognition of this group's extraordinary efforts to permanently preserve Fish Island's natural and cultural resources.

Recipient, *Chris Nolen*, in recognition of the many hours she has volunteered to document and record historic cemeteries throughout the state of Florida after attending an FPNAN Cemetery Resource Training Program.

Recipients, *Lynn Kelley and Ann Broadwell*, Florida Department of Transportation, District 4. In recognition of their work to preserve North Woodlawn Cemetery in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and their work with the local community in the care of its cultural resources.

**FAS Dorothy Moore Student Grant**, \$500 offered to a student to assist with archeological research.

Recipient *John Blackburn*, graduate student at University of South Florida to assist in his research on check-stamped pottery in Woodland period context.

### **FAS Certificate of Achievement**

The Southwest Florida Archaeological Society nominated two members for their outstanding work in support of archaeological research and historic preservation efforts.

Recipients, *Betsy Perdichizz* and *Susan Herrington* for their years of involvement in historic preservation in the organization.

**FAS Arthur R. Lee Chapter Award** in recognition of archaeological site preservation and research.

Recipients, *Gold Coast Broward County Anthropological Society*.

**FAS Lazarus Award** is designed to recognize members of FAS who exemplify the spirit and accomplishments through their contributions to archaeology, preservation, and/or education as well as to FAS and the wider community.

Recipient, *Charlie Strader*, SWFAS treasurer (17 years and counting) for his multiple contributions to Southwest Florida archaeology and preservation efforts.

Check out the Awards video and hear the details. Also click on publication where you can see all the previous *Florida Anthropologist* journals starting from five years ago to the beginning of the organization in the 1940s. Good stuff.

The 2021 Annual Conference of the Florida Anthropological Society will be held in Sanford, Florida, in May, hosted by the Central Florida Anthropological Society. The 2022 Annual FAS conference will be hosted by the SWFAS in Naples.



**THE RESTORED HISTORIC THREE GRACES FOUNTAIN  
MAINTAINED BY SARASOTA COUNTY FLEET  
MAINTENANCE AND FACILITIES MAINTENANCE**

On August 8, 2020, Sarasota County Fleet Management Division personnel Terry Frank and Ryon Drozdowski spent their Saturday doing bi-annual maintenance on the historic Three Graces Fountain. Mathew Cummings with SC Facilities Maintenance has been instrumental in keeping the fountain in clean and working condition. The recent maintenance included draining and cleaning the basin, washing the Three Graces sculpture and supporting frame, and applying two coats of a weather-protective wax. It really looks great!



Fleet Management personnel Terry Frank and Ryon Drozdowski work on the Three Graces Fountain August 8, 2020

As many of you know, the Three Graces Fountain was rehabilitated by Sarasota County in 2019 and is flowing again after decades of neglect. It started off as a local community effort to restore it in place, but no one really knew who owned it.

Once the Sarasota County Board of County Commissioners recognized its historic value and significance, they stepped up and voted to rehabilitated it; completely refurbishing the basin, adding new landscaping, irrigation, and a new water pump to restore the flow, cleaning and waxing all surfaces, and adding colored lights to illuminate it at night. The City of North Port hooked it up to city water at no expense to the county. The number of people and resources involved are impressive.

Tremendous thanks goes to the Sarasota County Board of County Commissioners for their support and funding in the restoration of the Three Graces. Thanks also go to the supporting staff from Sarasota County Libraries and Historical Resources for coordinating the rehabilitation efforts, SC Fleet Management for schedule cleaning and maintenance, SC Facilities personnel for ongoing maintenance, and all those individuals, contractors and SC departments involved in the efforts! The community thanks you!

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