



WMS/LSS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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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 May 11, 2021 meeting will be held via Zoom. Copy and paste the link below.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85976278296?pwd=ZExGaGRybXpaYjNbzRGN05RRXNjZz09>

Meeting ID: 859 7627 8296 Pass Code: 458513; or join with goggle meet at: meet.google.com/ksq-gyuc-yfz

COASTAL PREHISTORIC DIET IN SOUTH FLORIDA TOPIC OF MAY 11 MEETING

Archaeologist April Watson will present, "Hey Mom, what's for dinner? Prehistoric food resources in coastal South Florida," at our May 14 meeting.

How do archaeologists investigate the ways people have eaten through time? The study of residual leftovers from archaeological sites gives us a powerful tool for understanding past human behavior. Leftovers such as bones, scales, and shells can help archaeologists explore the ways in which people express different social and/or cultural eating practices, what the environment was like thousands of years ago, how people might have maximized resources both on the land and the sea, celebrations such as feasting, and more! This presentation focuses on coastal sites in South Florida and the dietary choices these coastal dwellers made from the Atlantic Ocean, the first 'grocery store'. (See Prehistoric Diet, p.2).



May 11 speaker Dr. April Watson

FLORIDA ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY 73rd ANNUAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE APPROACHING FAST

Time to register for the FAS Annual Conference if you have yet to do so! This year's conference will be virtual, beginning Friday, May 21 – Sunday, May 23. Poster and paper presentations will be Saturday, May 22 from 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM.

This year's theme, "Unmasking the Past," is appropriate, and Theodore Morris's painting is the theme's poster. The event will include a Friday evening virtual social, poster and panel discussions, and presentations will begin Saturday morning from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. To register, go to FASweb.org. A program with a schedule of presenters and their abstracts will be posted on the site when available. Registration is \$40, \$20 for students. Saturday evening's key note speaker will be Dr. Ken Sassaman, with a program titled, "A History Runs Through It: Nine Millennia of Human Experience Along The St. Johns River of Northeast Florida "



FAS Annual Conference keynote speaker Dr. Ken Sassaman



From the pond burials of 9,000 years ago to the platform mounds at the eve of Spanish contact, the indigenous people of the St. Johns River valley inscribed their histories in water, shell, stone, bone, and earth. In the context of environmental change—most notably rising sea and flooded land—the archaeological traces of this ancient past reveal tremendous resilience to disruptions in everyday life. However, relationships between people and the river were inflected not only by the vagaries of nature, but also by an ever-accumulating material reality of cemeteries, mounds, and middens. The river, it would seem, carried far more than water from its headwaters to the sea. It also carried history and meaning for those whose ancestors intervened against environmental change to ensure that life on the river would carry on.

New College of Florida undergraduate student and WMSLSSAS member Michelle Calhoun is presenting a paper co-authored with Steve Koski on The Analysis of Shell Tools From Snake Island, her undergraduate thesis topic.

Also included will be the recipients of the FAS Awards, student paper competition prizes, and grant recipients.

So, register for the conference today! Hope you can attend and see what Florida archaeologists are up to and consider becoming a member to receive the journal, *The Florida Anthropologist*.

PREHISTORIC DIET (cont. from p. 1)

April Watson completed both her undergraduate degree and her master's degree in anthropology with a focus in archaeology. Watson finished her graduate education with a PhD in Geosciences from Florida Atlantic University. Her undergraduate research centered on south Florida prehistoric mound sites, particularly looking at the use of ceramics and shell tools. Her graduate studies focused on the coast of Cuba, where she created a predictive model of prehistoric archaeological sites. Watson's current research interests include prehistoric ceramics' usage, landscape utilization by past and present peoples of the Southeastern United States, environmental sustainability, GIS-based map inquires, and mathematical modeling of human/environmental spatial relationships.

Join us via Zoom at 7:00 PM. A link will be sent by email

prior to the meeting. Log on 10 minutes early to say hello! See the Zoom link on page 1.

This will be our last meeting of the season, and we will resume on September 14 with another series of great monthly topics of interest. We will evaluate resuming in-person meetings at that time.

LOST AFRICAN AMERICAN CEMETERIES TOPIC OF APRIL 13 MEETING

Judi and John Crescenzo

On April 13, 2010, Jeff Moates, Director of the West Central and Central Regional Centers of the Florida Public Archaeological Network, gave a Zoom presentation titled, "Amplified: African- American Cemeteries Re-Placed in Tampa Bay." Moates earned his MA in History/Historical Archaeology and his BA in Anthropology, and he has been employed as an archaeological consultant and museum curator. He is involved in the rediscovery of African-American cemeteries, including Zion Cemetery in Tampa, and North Greenwood and St. Matthews Baptist Cemeteries in Clearwater.

Zion Cemetery was physically erased and removed from historic records in the 1950s to allow for new development. The new place name, Robles Park Village, was taped over top of this cemetery on a Sanborn map. Ray Reed, Cemetery Historian, compiled his work in recovering Zion Cemetery over the years. Zion death certificates show that all were African-American burials. Reporters from the *Tampa Bay Times* agreed that this was an important story and worked to find the cemetery. The Tampa Bay History Center located the original plat for Zion in 1901. The cemetery is located along Florida Avenue, now part of urban Tampa.

In 1894, African-American developer Richard Doby paid \$140 to purchase the property. As the community took shape, more land was needed for development. By 1916, the cemetery was listed as "colored" on maps. A 1922 Sanborn map shows plat lines, but by 1931 Zion was not recognized as a cemetery. African-Americans didn't use it after 1921 because it was full, and they were instead buried at Memorial Park Cemetery. In 1926, ownership of Zion was in question. The property was bought by the Tampa Housing Authority, which built Robles Park Village Apartments for GI's. Children's caskets were unearthed from the cemetery during the construction of homes. Reporter Paul Guzzo walked the grounds, but found only a few headstones. This information was published in 2019 in the *Tampa Bay Times*.

Mrs. Eunive Massey lived in the area during the 1930s and remembers the site with workers and open grave holes. There were three owners: Tampa Housing, who built Robles apartments; Richard Gonzmart, who was partial owner of the Columbian Restaurant; and another person who owned the potters field area. Erasure of the neighborhood and rising property values were negative forces. In 1951, the land was acquired through eminent domain against the wishes of property owners. Robles Park Village is the oldest public housing that Tampa Bay owns and operates.

Tampa Bay Authority created an Archaeological Advisory Committee, which conducted a Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) survey because the community requested evidence of

gravesites. Ground-truthing and cemetery delineation revealed patterns of coffins and unearthed human remains. Residents didn't want to live on top of the cemetery, so 29 families were relocated at no cost to them.

There were two more cemeteries in Clearwater Heights: St. Matthew's Baptist and North Greenwood Cemeteries. The NAACP approached property owners, who allowed the access to the area. African-American Mac Dixon once owned land at St. Matthews in downtown Clearwater. The church was established in 1902, and 2.5 acres were purchased for a cemetery in 1909. The subdivision was known as Clearwater Heights or Mac Dixon's subdivision.

In 1954, streets were paved in the Dixon area. The costs were levied against property owners, causing them to fall into arrears and move away. The 1954, R. H. Padgett Subdivision shows that the Clearwater Cemetery was located south of Cleveland Street. In 1957, the church was sold to McMullen and Jones for \$15,000, who sold the property a few years later for \$110,000. In 1967, Montgomery Wards built on top of the cemetery, and the property was later used for public works and offices. In 1990, it became part of the Crum property.

GPR was conducted by Cardno with Crum family permission. It uncovered 70 burials and possible coffins four or five feet below the surface. Burial and funeral records show that there may have been over 400 graves here, but some may have been moved to the Parklawn Cemetery.

The North Greenwood Cemetery for African-Americans was established in 1941. By 1957, the city had built a community swimming pool next to the cemetery, and 356 burials were moved to Parklawn. Many markers were temporary and became dislocated. Pinellas High School, South, and Middle Schools were built on top of the cemetery boundary. A homeless empowerment group and school boards worked together, but about 55 graves still remain under the school building. Cardno has been conducting archaeological work here.

The Clearwater Heights Remembrance Committee made it known that a cemetery had disappeared, and they have asked Cardno to conduct more GPR surveys. Before closing the meeting, we viewed part of a You Tube video about the 2021 North Greenwood Cemetery Unearthing Project. To view the video, go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XkqPiJtPjqs>. Thank you Jeff for your presentation!

MARCH 9 MEETING ON SARASOTA COUNTY HISTORY

Judi and John Crecesenzo

On March 9, 2020, Dr. Frank Cassell gave a Zoom presentation on Sarasota County history as an introduction to the Sarasota Centennial 2021 Celebration. Dr. Cassell is Professor Emeritus and President Emeritus at the University of Pittsburgh in Greensburg, and he earned his MA and PhD at Northwestern University. He is the current Chair of the Historic Centennial Steering Committee, and his latest book provides history for the Sarasota County Centennial.

In 1910, Sarasota was a fishing destination for wealthy northerners and by 1912 had a population of 900, but that changed when Bertha Honoré Palmer, the "Social Queen of Chicago," visited the area. The World Columbian Exhibition in

1893 Chicago brought her notoriety as the President of the Board of Lady Managers. She elevated women by employing female artists, architects, and designers at the exhibition. Palmer, with her husband Potter Palmer, owned the Palmer House Hotel in Chicago and was responsible for developing much of the Sarasota area. She built roads, canals, railroads, and encouraged wealthy friends to build homes at Osprey Point.

Bertha Palmer's wealth and energy turned Florida land sales into a family business. The world exhibition had demonstrated modern machinery and how it could convert wastelands into places of beauty. Much of Florida was under water, but Palmer hired African Americans to dig canals and wells to make land arable. The Sarasota district exploded in the mid-teens, with thousands of people moving to Bee Ridge and Osprey Farms. As wealthy people moved to the area, the need for more services, schools, law enforcement, utilities, roads, and transportation became evident.

At that time, the Sarasota area was the southernmost part of Manatee County. Of five county commissioners, only one represented Sarasota and the others were from Bradentown (later Bradenton). As the need for roads grew, the two areas disagreed about where to build them.

Carl Fisher, owner of the Indianapolis 500 track, planned a road from NY to San Francisco. The Lincoln Highway (Route 30) was dedicated in 1913 and named "Dixie Highway," which was a web of roads from Michigan to Miami, with one branch becoming Tamiami Trail. This road network made middle class tourism possible. In the mid-teens, the first federal highway system was created. Florida finally had a state highway commissioner and county road engineer to create roads, connecting towns across the state and country.

However, new roads did not benefit Sarasota because it was not part of a county. After WWI, Sarasota residents became angry about the road situation. There were only two roads: Tamiami Trail from Tampa to Miami, and a planned cross-state highway that would head east from Bradentown, thus avoiding Sarasota and causing it to remain insignificant. Joseph Halton, MD ran a hospital in the area, was active in local politics, and was a member of the Chamber of Commerce. In June 1920, there was a meeting about the separation of Sarasota from Manasota County. By then, Bertha Palmer's sons, Honoré and Potter, Jr., were involved in politics, and they chose Dr. Halton to present a solution. News of injustices and negligence toward Sarasota spread, and petitions were signed.

The Palmer Empire was run by corporations, whose executives worked with the Chamber of Commerce to divide the county. Others involved included: Adrian Honoré, Bertha Palmer's older brother's lawyer; J. H. Lord, one of the largest landowners; and A.B. Edwards, known as "Mr. Sarasota." As the mayor, Edwards was best equipped to get a bill through legislation. Additionally, Rose Phillips Wilson, editor and publisher of the Sarasota Times newspaper, urged prosperity and growth. She cultivated a female audience, who voted that Sarasota should become a county. Attorney John Burket was commissioned by the Chamber of Commerce to draft legislation, and Augustus Wilson of Myakka, a former state senator, took the bill to Tallahassee.

However, the bill did not pass because Bradentown citizens drove to Tallahassee to protest. This action was repeated by Sarasota citizens, who complained about roads full of potholes. Sarasota's lobbying campaign was weak, and the bill was shelved. The Bradenton Committee of Ten laid out the case for Sarasota, and citizens pledged to fight until they won. At the next meeting, Manatee County agreed to the bill with a boundary change, leaving the northeast part of the county in Manatee. Sarasota agreed, Bradentown cooperated, and a bill was passed without dissent.

On June 15, 1921, Sarasota County was created. Rose Wilson, who had campaigned for the female vote, renamed her paper The Sarasota County Times. By July 1921, Sarasota County had officers in place. Tamiami Trail was extended and joined the end of Fruitville Road. In 1927, Sarasota City was made the county seat, and the courthouse opened that year. The area grew quickly until the 1929 stock market crash.

Sarasota's 2021 Centennial Celebration will focus on the entire history of Sarasota, including the history of Warm Mineral Springs and Little Salt Spring. Dr. Cassell's two books, *Creating Sarasota County* (2017) and *Bertha Honoré Palmer, Her Family, and the Rise of Sarasota* (2019) are available at Amazon.com and other bookstores, as well as at Sarasota County public libraries. Another excellent presentation!

RENEWED INTEREST IN SCIENCE DIVER TRAINING AND MULTI-DISCIPLINARY RESEARCH AT LITTLE SALT SPRING INITIATED

Dr. Fredrick Hanselmann (Fritz), and Dive Safety Officer Jason Nunn returned to LSS with their science divers for training, leading to a class on underwater archaeology to be held in December of 2021. The weekends of April 23 and 30 saw a flurry of activity on site with student divers science training. UM/Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science Dean, Ronni Avissar, flew UM Provost Jeffery Duerk out to examine the site with Hanselmann and Nunn. Koski met them with UM Executive Facilities Director, VP John Tallon, for a tour of the facilities. Discussed were short and long term needs to support the new research initiative at the site. This is great news and more information will be provided when available.

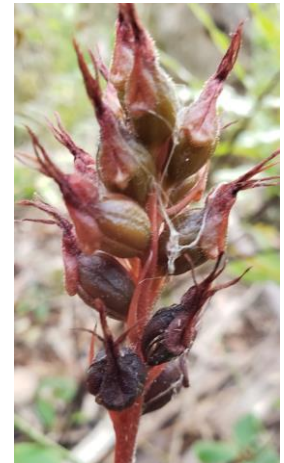


April 2021 Science Dive class at LSS (Photo M. L. Calhoun).

2021 A GOOD YEAR FOR SACOILA LANCEOLATA PALUDICOLA BLOOM AT LSS

Since a new recording initiative began with UM and Selby Gardens in 2019, there have been 127 individual blooms of *S.L*

paludicola at LSS. They bloomed in April and are in their capsulate seed dispersal stage. More on the specimens will be in the September/October 2021 WMS/LSSAS Newsletter.



Sacoila lanciolata paludicola in bloom and seed capsule, April 2021



RSMAS Dean Ronni Avissar, UM Executive Director of Facilities John Tallon, Director of Underwater Archaeology Fredrick Hanselmann, UM DSO Jason Nunn and Provost Jeffery Duerk visit LSS in February 2021 for a site inspection (Photo S. Koski).

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