



**WMS/LSS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER**

**Vol. 32, No. 4, September/October 2021**

*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 14 and October 12, 2021 meetings will be held via Zoom. Copy and paste the following links. **September 14 Zoom link** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85789021715?pwd=OWJOUHZDV1BKdIQ1b1ZPMzZzakhBQT09> (map) Meeting ID: 857 8902 1715, Pass code: 799530; **October 12 Zoom link** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89377659440?pwd=dVV3NU95S01TVUdrZiBNTiRFQ1RNQT09> (map), Meeting ID: 893 7765 9440, Pass code: 658534

**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT, Kathy Gerace**

I'm pleased to welcome you to our 2021/2022 speaker series season. We hope you had a pleasant summer, and looking forward to many wonderful presentations at our monthly meetings, as well as some exciting field trips as soon as current circumstances allow. Based on the uncertainties of the pandemic, we will be holding our September 14 and October 12 meetings via Zoom. Please see the links above to join us. Our Board Members will decide in October about holding future in-person meetings in November and December, or having to wait until January 2022. You will certainly be notified accordingly, and I hope you will continue to enjoy our Zoom presentations, and we thank you for your continued support!

**CALUSA AND SPANISH HISTORIES AT MOUND KEY - TOPIC OF SEPTEMBER 14 MEETING**

We welcome Dr. Victor Thompson, University of Georgia, to our September 14 Zoom meeting. His topic is of local and familiar interest, the Calusa of Mound Key, Charlotte Harbor, and the bays and estuaries of southwest Florida.

In 1566, Pedro de Menéndez de Aviles arrived at the capital of the Calusa kingdom. During that same year Menéndez issued the order to construct Fort San Antón de Carlos, which was occupied until 1569. We now can confirm what archaeologists and historians suspected, that the location of the (see Calusa, Page 2).



September 14 speaker, Victor Thompson 2021

**SPOOKY ARCHAEOLOGY: MYTH AND SCIENCE OF THE PAST - TOPIC OF OCTOBER 12 MEETING**

We welcome Dr. Jeb Card, Miami University, Ohio. Archaeologists are depicted as searching for lost cities and mystical artifacts in news reports, television, video games, and in movies like Indiana Jones or The Mummy. This fantastical image has little to do with day-to-day science, yet it is deeply connected to why people are fascinated by the ancient past. Exploring the development of archaeology helps us understand what archaeology is and why it matters. The trail of clues leading us into spooky territory includes famous archaeologists,



October 12 speaker, Jeb Card

self-proclaimed explorers, haunted museums, mysterious hieroglyphic inscriptions, of a lost continent that never existed, the origin of ideas about ancient extraterrestrials, and even a Scotland Yard investigation into magic, murder, and witchcraft. These ideas don't come from Hollywood; they come from how humans have tried to understand the past from the earliest ancient Egyptian delvers into ruins to the modern profession of archaeology. If archaeologists want to explain why the past is important to our present, they need to understand why archaeology continues to mystify, and why there is an ongoing fascination with exotic artifacts and eerie practices.

Dr. Jeb Card is an Assistant Teaching Professor for the Department of Anthropology, Miami University. He holds his degrees from Tulane University (Ph.D. and M.A.) and the University of Pittsburgh. His areas of specialization include Mesoamerican archaeology and archaeology of the colonial Americas, particularly European colonization and its impact on indigenous Americans and their societies, as seen from early sixteenth-century Ciudad Vieja, El Salvador. Dr. Card is also interested in current public and media perceptions of archaeology as being a science of fantastical claims of ancient aliens or lost continents. This is the subject of his most recent publication, *Spooky Archaeology: Myth and the Science of the Past* (University of New Mexico Press, 2018).

### **CALUSA** (from Page 1)

Fort, and the capital of the Calusa, was the site of Mound Key, (8LL2), located in Estero Bay in southwestern Florida. In this talk, Dr. Thompson will present the detailed work their team conducted to find evidence of structures and fortifications associated with the sixteenth century Spanish fort and mission of San Antón de Carlos. In addition, he will discuss the insights that their excavations revealed regarding the broader histories of the Calusa people at Mound Key.

"Broadly, my research utilizes historical and political ecology frameworks and focuses on the Georgia coast and the central and southwestern Gulf Coast of Florida. This research seeks to understand the long-term dynamics among Native American peoples and their environments in the context of ritual, monumentality, and political complexity, and how these trajectories experienced ruptures and continuities at the moment of European contact and colonialism. Such research provides important insight into changing patterns of human mobility and resource exploitation, as they relate to sea level change and differences in the biophysical environment, as well as how groups who have long-term relationships with specific ecosystems experience dramatic new social landscapes."

### **COASTAL PREHISTORIC FOODS TOPIC OF MAY 2021**

By Judi and John Crescenzo

On May 11, 2021, Dr. April Watson presented "Hey Mom, What's for Dinner? Prehistoric Food Resources in Coastal South Florida." Watson earned her undergraduate and Master's degrees in anthropology, followed by a PhD in Geosciences from Florida Atlantic University. She is currently a professor at Lynn University in Boca Raton, Palm Beach County, and has been studying Indian mounds and middens in that area.

Midden sites reveal that fish and shellfish were the main foods. Studies of these sites show how people made a living, what foods they preferred, how foods were prepared, and what material was left behind. In documents from 1573, the Spanish wrote that middens were full of "scum" and "garbage."

Feasting was part of midden/mound formation, but not an everyday event and meant sharing special foods, which are identifiable by quality, quantity, or preparation. Mounds had multiple purposes, but the line is blurred between them.

Sometimes it's hard to tell if there was a feasting event, as perhaps people didn't eat where they found the food. It took a lot of shellfish to get sufficient calories. Single species were chosen for a major feasting event. Species would die if there were a freeze or storm, so people tried to eat available food before such events.

Mound content has changed dependent on the environment or preferred food choices. There were also major soil changes, and larger animals were found in the middle to the bottom of mounds. A large animal indicates a special event, opportunity, or environmental change.

Studies seek to find food residue, such as fat and proteins which had been absorbed into cooking vessels. Occasionally, such residues can be found adhering to pottery fragments.

Collecting food was done at low tide by hand, so women, children, and elders participated. A stick was used to dig, and sand was sifted through the fingers. Food was also found on mangrove roots or reefs. People used nets or spears to fish and also hunted on land. Groups of people shifted seasonally, while others stayed in one place.

One site, the South Inlet Park site near the mouth of Boca Raton Inlet in Palm Beach, includes three mounds owned by Palm Beach County. No human remains were found, as this was a food-processing site. Organic residue included ferns, fats, and bones. Small fish bones and scales were discovered by sifting through fine screens, revealing a portion of their diet came from small fish. Alligator teeth and scutes were also discovered. Remains of primitive fish, such as long-nose gar, from the Everglades and estuaries were uncovered, along with catfish. Additionally, bones from bowfins were found, which are related to gar and catfish, and thrived in the same environment, but also lived in brackish water and estuaries.

Pottery at the site included Glades plain (sand-tempered plain), Belle Glade, and St. John's plain and check-stamped.

Mangrove or flat-tree oysters were found in mangrove roots and sandy areas, because they like high salinity. They don't preserve well because they are easily crushed. Giant false donax (giant coquina) can be found in sandy shallows of brackish water. When mature, they stop moving and are easy to capture. Today they are endangered, and live mostly on the coast of Brazil. Oysters can tolerate a wide range of salinity. Parasitic worms can live in their shells and not kill the oysters, which were probably collected after death for building material.

Blood and zebra arks [types of mollusks] like open water. The blood ark has red blood, which gives it an advantage by allowing for survival where oxygen is low and predators cannot survive. Tools were made from conchs, and were probably used to dig out burnt wood during canoe making. Horse, queen, and

fighting conchs were all found at the site. Conchs can be found either in tidal pools or much deeper. Lightning whelk shells were used for the Black Drink. Queen conchs have been overfished today, but were used for food and tools. The Florida fighting conch, a subspecies of those found in the West Indies, likes warm ocean water and seagrass in shallow water.

Turtles and alligators were an additional food source. People also used bone from deer, manatee, or other large mammals, and a work-in-process analysis is being conducted on those remains.

We thank April for her May presentation on food remains from Indian shell middens!

## **HISTORIC AFRICAN AMERICAN CEMETERIES TOPIC OF APRIL 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 currently involved in the rediscovery of African-American cemeteries, including Zion Cemetery in Tampa, along with North Greenwood and St. Matthews Baptist Cemetery 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 GIs. 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 potter's 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 the property owners. Robles Park Village is the oldest public housing which 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 humans. Residents didn't want to live on top of the cemetery, so 29 families were relocated at no cost to them. Burials were of different ages, and no graves were found outside of the Zion Cemetery.

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 YouTube video about the 2021 North Greenwood Cemetery Unearthing Project. To view the video, go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XkgPiJtPjgs>

Thanks to Jeff and FPAN for sharing this fascinating, yet tragic, story with us.

## **SARASOTA COUNTY CENTENNIAL EVENT HELD AT WARM MINERAL SPRINGS JULY 15, 2021**

Sarasota County and the City of North Port held a joint Centennial Celebration event at Warm Mineral Springs in July, and the public was invited.

The event was a closing to the “100 Years, 100 Days” of events by held by Sarasota County, and many City and County dignitaries were at hand; including Sarasota County Manager Jonathan Lewis, Interim City Manager Jason Yarborough, Sarasota County Commissioner Ron Cutsinger, NP City Mayor Jill Luke, NP Commissioner Alice White, Libraries and Historical Resources Rene DiPilato, Historical Resources Manager Rob Bendus, Curator Lindsay Ogles, and many others.



LHR Director Renee DiPilato, SC Commissioner Ron Cutsinger, NP Mayor Jill Luke, NP Commissioner Alice White, SC Manager Jonathan Lewis, Interim NP City Manager Jason Yarborough, and many others attended the WMS Centennial Celebration

County Manager Jonathan Lewis, and Libraries and Historical Resources Director Renee DiPilato. presented the city with a photo of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) historic marker which the County is donating when it is finished. It is the official National Park Service marker for buildings listed on the NRHP. The City had the buildings listed in 2019 in recognition of their historic significance, designed by architect Jack West in 1959. WMS was listed on the NRHP in 1976 for its archaeological significance.

The WMS/LSS Archaeological Society and The Friends of Little Salt Spring shared a table with information on the organizations, and Jeff Moates (our April speaker) set up an information table for the Florida Public Archaeology Network. Sarasota County Libraries and Historical Resources and North Port Parks and Recreation also had information on display.



Director of Libraries and Historical Resources Renee DiPilato, assisted by SC Commissioner Cutsinger NP Mayor Jill Luke, unveil an enlarged photo of the NRHP bronze marker to be installed on one of the buildings at WMS when it arrives from the manufacturer.

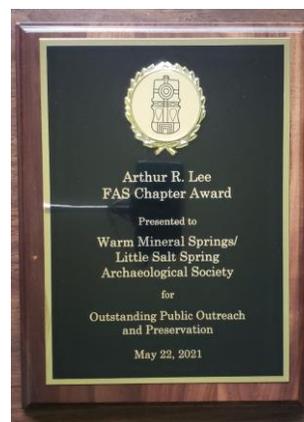


WMS/LSSAS member Sandy Heacock at the WMS Centennial Event

A good time was had by all and several of the attendees swam in the therapeutic geothermal, mineral rich waters after the event – and looked even younger after swimming in the Fountain of Youth!

### WMS/LSSAS RECEIVES FAS CHAPTER AWARD AT THE MAY 2021 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

We were excited to learn that the WMSS/LSSAS received the FAS Chapter Award at the annual FAS conference, held virtually due to Covid on May 22. Each year one of the 15 state-wide FAS Chapters is selected for the award. Visit [www.fasweb.org](http://www.fasweb.org) for more information on the annual conference.



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