



**WMS/LSS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER**

**Vol. 33, No. 2 March/April 2022**

*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 at 7:00 PM (except June, July and August). The March 8 meeting will be held via Zoom, please see page 2 for the link. *Our April 12 meeting will be held live! It will be held at our pre-Covid meeting location at the North Port Community United Church, located at 3450 S. Biscayne Blvd. If we can conduct via Zoom as well, a link will be sent prior to the meeting.*

**SHARK TEETH FROM OHIO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND SURFACE FOUND COLLECTIONS – MORE THAN JUST HOPEWELL TOPIC OF MARCH 8 ZOOM MEETING**

Although rare, fossil shark teeth from outside of Ohio have been recovered from Ohio archaeological sites and as surface finds throughout much of the state. The source of these fossil shark teeth has been the subject of debate since first published by Squier and Davis in 1848. This debate has centered on the Hopewell culture and its acquisition of shark teeth as "exotic" mortuary items. Through a combination of age, species distribution, frequency of occurrence, and preservation characteristics, southwestern Florida is believed to be the source of most of the Ohio Hopewell teeth, including those from the well-known Scioto River valley Hopewell sites. Recent data indicate that fossil shark teeth were utilized in Ohio prior to and after the Hopewell time frame and from sites outside of the large Ohio Hopewell centers. For these sites, multiple sources of fossil shark teeth appear to have been utilized. (Cont. page 2).



March 8 speaker, George H. Colvin

**EMERGENCE OF THE CALUSA KINGDOM TOPIC FOR APRIL 12 MEETING**

When Spaniards first arrived, the Calusa, a fishing people, were the most powerful native society in Florida. We now have evidence from Mound Key of mound-building, monumental architecture, large-scale food processing, watercourt use and construction, and the sixteenth-century Spanish fort and mission of San Antón de Carlos. These new findings allow us to refine our understanding of Calusa history and describe how their complex society developed. During A.D. 500-1500, periods of overall prosperity were dampened by times of uncertainty when short-term climate changes diminished resources in the shallow estuaries and bays on which the Calusa depended. Involvement in long-distance trade, and competition with the Tocobaga, were factors in Calusa political developments. The Spanish invasion in the early 1500s stimulated further adjustments in Calusa political economy, leading them to become a tribute-based state.



William H. Marquardt,  
Curator Emeritus, Florida Museum of Natural History

Dr. Marquardt holds the Ph.D. degree from Washington University, St. Louis. He has done archaeological research in New Mexico, Kentucky, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, and Burgundy (France). He is co-founder of the Randell Research Center at Pineland and from 1985, until his retirement in 2018, was director of the Southwest Florida Project, focused on the ancient domain of the Calusa Indians (present-day Charlotte, Lee, and Collier counties). He is the author of books and articles about the archaeology and history of southwest Florida, including *Culture and Environment in the Domain of the Calusa*, *The Archaeology of Useppa Island*, and *The Archaeology of Pineland* (with co-author and co-editor Karen Walker). He is co-author (with Darcie MacMahon) of *The Calusa and Their Legacy*. He was the curator of the 6,000-square-foot *Hall of South Florida People and Environments* in the Florida Museum of Natural History's exhibit facility in Gainesville.

### **SHARK TEETH FROM OHIO SITES (cont. from page 1)**

George H. Colvin is a geologist and co-founder of the consulting firm, Cox-Colvin & Associates, Inc. He received a Bachelor of Science in geology from Ohio University and a Masters of Science in geology from Vanderbilt University. George has served as Trustee, Executive Secretary, Vice President, President, and Past President of the Archaeological Society of Ohio. He has researched shark teeth from Ohio archaeological sites for nearly 15 years. He is now an empty nester residing in Plain City, Ohio with his wife, Tsui-Ling, and dog, Boone. He is an active scuba diver and enjoys swimming, biking and running.

### **MARCH 8 AND APRIL 12 WMS/LSSAS ZOOM MEETING LINKS**

You should be able to join the March 8 meeting by copying and pasting the link below.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/4656194640?pwd=TFIFbURMVIFyRXViRDIVY0NzT1Q4dz09>

Meeting ID: 465 619 4640; Passcode: 403282

While the April 12 meeting is live (see page 1), we are considering a simultaneous Zoom meeting held from the meeting location. If so, the link will be provided prior to the April 12 meeting.

### **WMS/LSSAS ANNUAL MEETING AT MARCH 8 ZOOM**

A brief Annual Meeting of the WMS/LSSAS will be held March 8 prior to our speaker presentation. At the meeting the slate of officers will be read with a vote via chat. Up for election, President Kathy Gerace, one year re-elected nomination; Steve Koski, Vice-President, one year re-elected nominations; board member Rita Bass, re-elected nomination; new board member nominations Michelle Calhoun, Amy Dwyer.

### **UTILIZATION AND SOURCING OF WHELK ARTIFACTS IN NORTH AMERICA TOPIC OF JANUARY 11 ZOOM MEETING**

*By Judi and John Crescenzo*

On January 11, 2022, Michelle Calhoun, a graduate of New College of Florida, gave a Zoom presentation titled "Utilization and Sourcing of Whelk Artifacts in North America." Her focus

was on pre-contact trade routes and how the lightning whelk was used on the Atlantic Coast, east and west coasts of the Gulf of Mexico, and the Yucatan.

Calhoun based her extensive research on findings by earlier archaeologists and geneticists. The lightning whelk is a sinistral or left-coiling mollusk. Though it looks different, the sinistral prickly whelk of Mexico are the same species. As young whelks often do not cross the Gulf Stream, they are generally not found in the Caribbean. The sinistral coil was significant to early cultures because it represented movement from the left to create balance in the world. The outer whorl of the lightning whelk was used to make masks and gorgets (protective ornaments worn over the throat) found in North America, but the prickly whelk from Mexico was not used for those purposes, due to its whorl morphology.

Earlier research shows that the angle of spires on whelks can be used to determine from where they originated. Calhoun theorized that other differences in the whorl may also identify whelk sources. Texas whelks are smaller than Florida whelks and are wrapped more tightly with a narrow siphonal canal. They are found at greater depths and are uncommon. Florida whelks have a low spire with a wide open siphonal canal. Because they are in shallow water, they are easier to find and collect. Eighty-two percent of lightning whelks found in a recent abundance survey were from Southwest Florida.

Calhoun presented photos of whelk artifacts from various locations in the United States, indicating extensive trade. Examples included Poverty Point, a National Historical Landmark and Heritage Site in the Appalachian Mountains, which contains some marine shell. Grave Creek Mound in West Virginia has a shell hoe and assorted beads. Shark teeth and marine shell at inland locations, and copper, silver, and obsidian found at Gulf Coast locations, indicate trade. Shown were, in Texas, a triskele style (scalloped) gorget found at the Paul Mitchell Site, a plain gorget at the Jess Alford Site, and a fenestrated (having one or more openings) gorget from the TM Sanders Site. A Mayville, Kentucky museum holds shell tools from burials at Fort Ancient, a contemporary of Mississippian culture. In Portsmouth County, Ohio, a whelk mask was discovered. Shell gorgets and masks were also found at the Cahokia Mound in Missouri. The Etowah Mounds in Georgia and Spiro Mounds in Arkansas both include items made from lightning whelks and marine shell. Crib-theme gorgets have also been discovered in Tennessee, Oklahoma, Virginia, and North Carolina.

Mythology taught that the world has three levels. The upper level was orderly, the middle was human, and the underworld was a place of darkness. The upper and lower worlds were in conflict, and some of this imagery is shown on gorgets. Whelk artifacts have been found at Ocmulgee and Kolomoki Mounds in Georgia, Crable and Norris Farm sites in Illinois, and Indian Knoll site in Kentucky. Whelk masks were also discovered in Montana, and in North Dakota and South Dakota they were found with gorgets. Additionally, whelk masks were found in West Virginia, and gorgets were discovered in Tennessee.

Calhoun hypothesized that if the curvature of outer wall of a whelk is measured, its origin could possibly be determined. As

an example, she mentioned that whelks from Texas curve inward the most. Calhoun plans to test her theory by using a contour gauge to measure the curvature of various whelk museum artifacts, which may establish trade patterns across the entire country.

## **A PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD OF HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT SITES ON SAN SALVADOR ISLAND, BAHAMAS TOPIC OF THE FEBRUARY 8 MEETING**

*by Judi and John Cresenzo*

At our Zoom meeting on January 8, 2022, students from the University of The Bahamas (UB) presented “A Photographic record of Historically Significant Sites on San Salvador Island.”

In January 2022, six UB students worked to photograph building sites on the island. At our meeting, Savanna Dean, Architect with Antiquity Museums and Monuments Corp., along with UB students Natecia Taylor, Durnique Bostwick, and Didacus Uba, shared their photos and thoughts about the future of these sites. The area had been studied in the 1970s by Kathy Gerace (WMSLSSAS President), and recording the remaining buildings will help to make these structures part of future tourism. The project was funded by the Inter-American Development Bank for tourist industry.

The students photographed buildings on two major plantation sites. The first photos were taken at Fortune Hill, which was granted in 1789. It was later purchased by Burton Williams, who built the first plantation with over 300 slaves, but after two years cotton had depleted the soil. In 1821, Williams moved his slaves to Trinidad for agriculture and to raise animals. After British emancipation of the slaves in 1834, Williams moved back to San Salvador, where he died at age 83 and was buried on the island.

A map of Fortune Hill shows rock pits, a whipping post, manor house, foundation, library, industrial buildings, and a latrine. Still photos also show these same structures. The main house is two stories, including two rooms with a living area. The octagon-shaped library has a strong foundation and inside are indentations where shelves would have been placed. The latrine is also an octagon, but the floor is not stable because it was used as a dump. It is about 8-10 feet deep, and a ladder is needed to see the bottom. A video was taken of the industrial building and cotton gin. There are three rooms, including a middle room for storage or livestock, and there are window holes in the walls. An entrance leads to two rooms for storage with the cotton gin on the side.

Farquharson, the second plantation photographed, was begun in 1803 by Charles Farquarson of Scotland. He received a land grant for two acres, but his property grew to 1,500 acres over time. He kept a daily journal from 1831-1832, which describes life before emancipation. Farquharson died in 1835, but his descendants stayed until the late 1800s. Some buildings were made after slavery, but it is not known which buildings these are. A map of Farquharson's main house shows a kitchen, latrine, stables, barn, and a rocky trail. UB students made a video to record these structures.

The main house includes a kitchen, livestock storage, barn, bakery, and latrine in rocky terrain with crumbling walls. Inside

walls probably fell from natural causes, such storms and fallen trees. The kitchen has a triangular chimney, and the intact structure of piled up rocks with a wooden beam on top is visible from the back. Food was cooked here, and the oven was used to bake bread. The livestock storage area is tall and probably stored livestock and meat. The barn has three doors, and the dividing wall in the middle stands strong but has some disintegration at the top.

UB student Uba shared his 3-D models of the Fortune Hill structures, which were made from a series of 400 still photos. A 3-D Zephyr light was used to combine still photos into models. If the software program could not process a part because of shadows on a structure, it left holes in the model. The model of the barn shows the dividing wall between the stables for goats, horses, or cows. This division indicates that livestock were held there. The model of the bakery shows only part of the chimney. The oven is built in, which is unique and may have been used for baking bread, pastries, and foods that took longer to make. The bakery remains mostly intact and has not been destroyed by erosion. The model of the octagonal library shows that it is very level. This structure may have held books, papers, and important information. If a ship were coming in, it would be noticed from here, so this was probably the master's building.

The plan is to keep these historic structures alive. Recommendations were given to improve the structures while also boosting the economy on the island. The buildings must remain authentic. Step one is education, including why the history of the buildings is important today. Signs will give the history and description of each building, and tour guides will be available. This will raise awareness to help preserve and protect these sites while keeping history alive. Seating and food would be provided at benches with umbrellas in an open sunny area near the bakery, and parking would be moved closer to the structures for an easier walk. Step two is maintenance. Paths to the site must have guardrails and ramps, and vegetation must be removed from around the buildings. Barriers should be placed to prevent people from touching the surfaces. Security guards, cameras, fences, and gates should be added. Garbage bins and collectors would help keep the sites clean. Club Med is on the island, and those visitors may enjoy taking tours of these plantation structures. This project is important to Bahamians and San Salvador, so that sharing history will become an economic staple.

## **WMS/LSS FIELD TRIP TO THE BLANCHARD HOUSE FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

(adapted from: <http://www.blanchardhousemuseum.org/>)

On February 19, 2022, in observance of Black History Month, the WMS/LSSAS held a field trip to the Blanchard House, located at 406 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Punta Gorda, and Bailey Cemetery, also in Punta Gorda.

The Blanchard House Museum, established in 2004, was the vision of Bernice Andrews Russell. Mrs. Russell was a humanitarian, social activist, and historian for the African American community. She felt it was important to document the history and contributions of African Americans in Charlotte County.

The Bernice A. Russell Community development Corporation, created in her honor, is dedicated to continuing the work begun by Mrs. Russell. The house, originally located 3 blocks from its present location, was built in 1925, and was moved to its current location in 2002. It was built for the owner, local fisherman Joseph Blanchard and his wife Minnie. He was born in St. Augustine, and had been a steam boat pilot, and she was a mail order bride from Louisiana.

After touring the Blanchard House the group visited the Bailey Cemetery, in Punta Gorda. Lieutenant Carl A. Bailey Cemetery, is located at 27399 Holleyman Avenue, Punta Gorda, Fla. and is open from dawn to dusk. It was previously called "Cleveland Cemetery," and is a 5.5-acre parcel. It was renamed Lieutenant Carl Bailey Cemetery and commemorates a local resident who served in the United States Air Force. Lieutenant Bailey's parents, along with most of the Bailey family, are buried in this cemetery. The cemetery has historically served Charlotte County's African-American community and was originally managed by the Punta Gorda Colored Investment Company, which is a lapsed trust. Cemeteries which have been "abandoned" for one year revert to County ownership. In 1974, the Lieutenant Carl Bailey Cemetery plat was approved by the Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners, and in 1986, the Board, working with a Trustee Board, took temporary responsibility for maintenance of the cemetery.

A big thanks to Betty Dailey for setting up this field trip!

### FAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE TO BE HELD MAY 6-8, 2022 LIVE IN MIAMI!

On May 6-8, 2022, the Archaeological Society of Southern Florida, in partnership with the University of Miami, Florida Atlantic University, and the Florida Public Archaeology Network (FPAN), will host the 74<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Conference of the Florida Anthropological Society. The conference will be held at the University of Miami, Abess Center for Ecosystem Science and Policy. A few details: Venue, UM Abess Center (<https://abess.miami.edu/>), 1365 Memorial Dr #230, Coral Gables, FL 33146; Registration, Members \$50, Non-Members \$65, Student \$20, and rates will increase by \$10 after April 1; (Friday reception and FAC Stewards of Heritage Awards at the Unbranded Brewing Company), 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm, 1395 E 11th Ave, Hialeah; Saturday awards banquet and keynote speaker, Salt Waterfront Restaurant, 6:00 pm, cost: \$75 per person, address: 4600 Rickenbacker Causeway, Miami, FL 33149; Keynote Speaker: Dr. Justin Dunnivant, Assistant Professor in the Department of Anthropology at UCLA.

FAS has announced the call for papers and posters for the in-person conference. Abstracts should be of no more than 100 words, presenters must be FAS members, and registration and payment is required at the time of submission. A strict 20-minute time limit will be enforced. The deadline for submitting an abstract is March 16, 2022. Proposals require a title, abstract, expected panelist list, and any logistical or set-up needs, which will be sent to the committee for approval.

The Warm Mineral Springs/Little Salt Spring Archaeological Society will award two \$200 grants to full-time graduate or undergraduate students presenting a poster or paper for the first time the FAS conference. Applicants should provide their student ID, abstract, and proof of registration and send to Linda Massey at: [lmassage628@msn.com](mailto:lmassage628@msn.com).

All abstracts, and calls for panels and symposia should be emailed to [southernflorida.fas@gmail.com](mailto:southernflorida.fas@gmail.com). Prize competition submissions should be emailed to [mkles90@gmail.com](mailto:mkles90@gmail.com). Links for registration to be available soon. To register and for more details, go to at [www.fasweb.org](http://www.fasweb.org) click on annual conference.



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