



WMS/LSS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER  
A 501(c)3 corporation & Chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society

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November/December 2008

**LOCATION FOR NEXT MEETING - NELLO JULIANO ROOM, NORTH PORT LIBRARY**  
The Warm Mineral Springs/Little Salt Spring Archaeological Society meets the 2nd Thursday of each month (except June, July, and Aug.) at the North Port Public Library in the Nello Juliano Room at 6:30 pm. Starting January 2009, meetings will be held the 3rd Thursday of the month. Meetings are free and open to the public.

#### WMS/LSSAS MEMBER MARY WILLIAMS TO SPEAK ON MACHU PICCHU NOVEMBER 13

On November 13, the Warm Mineral Springs/Little Salt Spring Archaeological Society will present Society member Mary Williams, whose program will be on her visit in April 2008 to Machu Picchu in the Andes Mountains. Machu Picchu, a magical mountain in Peru, is revealing its secrets to hundreds of explorers, hikers, and tourists who ascend to it each year. The Andes were home to the Incas, who built their capital at 11,600 feet.

Often referred to as "the Lost City of the Incas," Machu Picchu is probably the most familiar symbol of the Inca Empire. It is also one of the New Seven Wonders of the World. [Cont'd page 2]



November Speaker Mary Williams.

#### ARCHAEOLOGIST DAVID BUTLER DECEMBER 11 SPEAKER

Archaeologist David Butler will present an "Overview of Current Research at the Blueberry Site (8HG678)" at the December 11 meeting of the WMS/LSSAS. The Blueberry Site is located in Highlands County, Florida. It is a fascinating inland site located on a 101-acre parcel and is protected by current owners, who are prominent members of the Kissimmee Valley Archaeological and Historical Conservancy.

Dave has been the Principal Investigator at Blueberry Site (8HG678) since 2005. He conducted a Phase I survey of the property in 2005 to determine the size, type, period of occupation, and significance of the cultural resource. Crew members have included



December Speaker David Butler.

anthropology students from the University of Central Florida and Valencia Community College and volunteers from the KVAHC.

Research has continued over the years to include the excavation of several units and trenches that have revealed information about the daily lives of the occupants who once lived there. Much of the findings suggest that the site was occupied from A.D. 200 to A.D. 1700 based on Belle Glade pottery they recovered. The site could be one of the largest Belle Glade village sites ever discovered. There is also evidence that the site was occupied at an earlier period, or is a multi-component site in archaeological terms (*KVAHC Newsletter*, March 2006). Dave will share the discoveries and results from this fascinating treasure trove at the December 11 meeting.

Dave received his M.A. in Public Archaeology from USF in 2001 and his Ph.D. in Anthropology and Archaeology from USF in 2007. He has 12 years of professional archaeological experience in Florida and is currently a part-time professor of Archaeology at Rollins College in Winter Park, FL, and owner/president of Earthmovers Archaeological Consultants, LLC.

The meeting will be followed by a field trip to the Blueberry Site Saturday, December 21, 2008. We will meet at the North Port Library parking lot at 8:00 am. A sign-up sheet will be available at both the November and December meetings. This is another meeting and field trip you won't want to miss.

### "MACHU PICCHU" CONT'D

Machu Picchu was constructed around 1460, at the height of the Inca Empire, and abandoned less than 100 years later. Pictures and objects from this area will be also shown. Mrs. Williams has been an active and enthusiastic member of the Archaeological Society for 15 years and has visited many historic and archaeological sites. This promises to be another very interesting presentation about one of the world's natural, historic, and cultural treasures. See you there!



Archaeologist Cindy Thomas accepts our world famous T-shirt from Society board member Ann Hansen.

### USF GRADUATE STUDENT CINDY THOMAS SPOKE AT SEPTEMBER 11 MEETING

USF archaeology graduate student Cindy Thomas spoke at our September 11 meeting on the archaeology of the Picayune Stand State Forest in Collier County, Florida (see May/June, September/October newsletter). Cindy served as a field archaeologist during the 2005 field season and as crew chief during the 2006 season. The first season included a grueling Phase I archaeological shovel-testing survey conducted in the middle of summer that was designed to identify unrecorded archaeological sites and relocate and evaluate several previously recorded sites within the State Forest.

Seventeen previously recorded sites were tested to evaluate their size, site type, and period of occupation, and a number of new sites were identified. The following year, work involved additional Phase I archaeological testing at several of the newly recorded sites and Phase II testing, involving the excavation of 1x1m test units at selected sites to evaluate their significance for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. This was Ms. Thomas's first presentation of this type and she did a fantastic job. Thanks for coming to speak to us on your busy graduate schedule, Cindy! Learn more about the Picayune Stand State Forest at: [http://www.fl-dof.com/state\\_forests/picayune\\_strand.html](http://www.fl-dof.com/state_forests/picayune_strand.html).

### ARCHEOLOGIST ALISON ELGART SPOKE OCTOBER 9

Archaeologist Alison Elgart spoke at our October meeting on burial practices in southeast Florida (see May/June, September/October 2008 newsletter). Many of her findings were based on her work at the Hiatus Site (DA3283) and other sites on Pine Island in Dade County, an elevated ridge in the Everglades favorable for occupation. Alison was able to examine demographic patterns based on burial practices



Board member Judi Crescenzo presents Alison Elgart with our world famous WMS/LSSAS T-shirt.

of the individuals who once occupied the site. More than 25 sites were distributed along the Pine Island ridge, dating from the late Archaic to Glades I periods.

She found that the society that once lived there was egalitarian, with, evidently, little separation in social status, based on the remains found with the interred individuals and their distribution in the cemetery. Work was conducted by the Archaeological and Historical Conservancy to identify the location of significant cultural resources to be avoided during construction of a residential development.

It was a very interesting presentation and we appreciate Alison taking time from her busy schedule at Florida Gulf Coast University to come and speak to us.

### **LIBRARY REVIEW: *FLORIDA INDIANS AND THE INVASION FROM EUROPE*, BY JERALD T. MILANICH**

*by Elfieda Wuerz*

Using historical colonial documents and information from archaeological excavations, Milanich describes the native groups: where they came from, where they lived, and what happened to them. He uses maps and drawings to correlate modern towns to colonial events and 16th-century trails to modern highways. Contact and interaction with the Spanish and French explorers and colonists caused a massive cultural change for the native people. He describes their tragic disappearance.

Native Americans had lived in Florida for more than 12,000 years, yet two and a half centuries after European contact, most indigenous Florida Indians met their demise, and the Creek/Seminole established a population, arriving from Georgia and eastern Alabama in the mid-1700s.

I found *Florida Indians and the Invasion from Europe* to be an interesting historic portrayal of the late pre-Columbian Native Americans in Florida and the tragic changes that befell them after European colonization.

*Florida Indians and the Invasion from Europe* is available at the WMS/LSSAS Library located at LSS. The book and others will be available at the November general meeting for one-month member checkout. Want to write a review yourself? Check out a book at the meeting, read and review, or come to the lab at LSS and select a book for yourself for your enjoyment. We want to make the library more accessible to our members!

### **ANNUAL YARD SALE SCHEDULE MARCH**

We are beginning to think about our annual yard sale, so please start saving items. We are a little tight on storage space right now until January 18, BUT, a couple of members have volunteered to use their garage and lanai for storage. This is our only fundraiser and what helps keeps us solvent throughout the year, so please help. We

cannot survive on memberships alone and, instead of raising membership dues, we need to supplement our treasury with this fundraiser to help bring quality speakers, pay for the newsletter, and support our field trips and events.

For information on where to bring items, call Secretary Hilda Boron at 426-1719, President George Haag at 426-4268, or members of the Board. If you have an item too large to deliver, call Steve Koski at 423-0835 to schedule a pickup.

### **HISTORIC PRESERVATION COALITION OF SARASOTA COUNTY NEWS**

The WMS/LSSAS is a member of the Historic Preservation Coalition of Sarasota County, Florida. The HPCSC is a not-for-profit corporation founded to be a coordinating body of representatives from public and private organizations and commissions in Sarasota County committed to the preservation of the county's archaeological, architectural, social, and cultural heritage. Its goals are to develop and encourage county-wide stewardship for this heritage by:

1. Encouraging preservation programs undertaken by member organization.
2. Informing members of preservation activities.
3. Exchanging information regarding programs and issues.
4. Promoting public awareness of Sarasota County's historical resources.
5. Developing programs to inform the public of the importance and value of preserving our heritage.

Visit them at <http://www.historicpreservationsarasota.org/>. The website was designed by Laura Dean, Secretary of the Historic Preservation Coalition of Sarasota County and public relations manager at Historic Spanish Point.

The Coalition just signed a \$1,200 six-month contract with Blab TV, paid for by the Coalition. The contract is for twelve 30-minute programs, each to feature three or four representatives from the Coalition, who will discuss their group's goals, programs, events, etc. Each group will participate on one or two shows with five minutes of airtime. So, we'll be on TV!

We are also in good company. Other members of the Coalitions include Bispham-Wilson Arts and Historic District Association, Inc.; City of Venice Archives and Area Historical Collection; City of Venice Historic Preservation Board; Crowley Museum and Nature Center; Englewood Genealogical Society of Florida, Inc.; Friends of Sarasota County History Center; Historic Preservation Board; City of Sarasota Planning Dept.; Historic Spanish Point; Historical Society of Sarasota County; John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art; Lemon Bay Historical Society; Punta Gorda Planning Dept.; Sara DeSoto Chapter of the DAR; Sarasota Alliance for Historic Preservation; Sarasota County History Center; Sarasota County Historical Commission; Sarasota Opera Association, Inc.; Southwest Historical Organization of Resources and Education;

Suncoast Chapter National Railway Historical Society; Time Sifters Archaeology Society; Triangle Inn Association; and Venice Area Historical Society.

We will announce when the programs will run when more information is available.

### WMS/LSSAS WEBSITE

WMS/LSSAS has a new website! Society member Bill Gibson has set up a Society Website for us at: <http://www.geocities.com/wmslssas/>. Check it out! We will be working with him in the next couple months to add related information. It is a free site with a relatively small storage space, but it's a great start. Thanks for getting this started, Bill!

### TRAIL OF FLORIDA'S INDIAN HERITAGE ANNOUNCES SPEAKER SERIES

The fourth Archaeology Speaker Series produced by the Trail of Florida's Indian Heritage will be presented in 2009. This series' theme is "Bringing Florida Archaeology to Life." For this series, the Trail is proud to have each speaker event introduced by either Ryan Wheeler, Ph.D., State Archaeologist, or William Lees, Ph.D., Executive Director of the Florida Public Archaeology Network. We are very pleased to have six leading Florida archaeologists and one prominent heritage artist scheduled to make the presentations at six Trail sites. The following information is from their announcement brochure:

**January 10, 2009**, 1:00 to 2:30 pm CST at Indian Temple Mound Museum, City of Fort Walton Beach Heritage Park and Cultural Center, 139 Miracle Strip Pkwy. SE, Fort Walton Beach, 850-833-9595.

Speaker: Kenneth E. Sassaman, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Anthropology, University of Florida. "Archaeological Insights on the Ancient Shell Works of the St. Johns River, Northeast Florida." Florida boasts one of the largest and most diverse landscapes of shell works in the world. Recent archaeological work shows that these shell works are also among the oldest worldwide. Many of the shell mounds and ridges that lined the St. Johns River, for example, were constructed as early as 6000 years ago. Some 2000 years later, these oldest monuments were modified and enhanced to accommodate a new people on the landscape, bearers of the first pottery. And many centuries later, after being abandoned, some of these same monuments were revisited to inter the dead. The dynamic history of shell works is recounted in this illustrated review of the latest archaeological projects along the St. Johns River. Introducer: Ryan J. Wheeler, Ph.D., State Archaeologist and Chief, Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research.

**February 21, 2008**, 1:00 to 2:30 pm, Charlotte County Historical Center, 22959 Bayshore Rd., Charlotte Harbor. 941-629-7278.

Speaker: John A. Gifford, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Marine Affairs and Policy Director, Little Salt Spring Archaeological Site, Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, University of Miami. "Little Salt Spring - A Unique Prehistoric Underwater Site." Little Salt Spring is a 74-meter diameter pond in the city of North Port (Sarasota County), Florida. The spring lies within a 112-acre tract of land that, in 1982, was donated to the University of Miami by the General Development Corporation as an archaeological and ecological preserve. Geologically, LSS is a drowned sinkhole some 70m deep that contains some of the oldest and most unique artifacts discovered to date in Florida. Wooden artifacts 9,000 to 10,000 years old, as well as exceptionally well preserved plant and animal remains, are submerged in anoxic spring water that has preserved a remarkable range of organic materials that have decomposed almost completely in land archaeological sites. In 1975, the skeleton of an extinct species of giant land tortoise was excavated from a ledge about 90 feet below the spring's surface; within the tortoise was recovered a sharpened and fire-hardened wooden stake that had been made by Paleoindians and used to kill the animal. Introducer: Ryan J. Wheeler, Ph.D., State Archaeologist and Chief, Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research.

**March 10, 2009**, 6:00 to 8:00 pm, South Florida Museum, 201 10th St. West, Bradenton, 941-746-4131.

Speaker: Mary Glowacki, Ph.D., Archaeology Supervisor, Public Lands Archaeology Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research. "The Anhaica Apalache and the De Soto Expedition: What Are the Facts?" The site of Anhaica Apalache, located in what is now the City of Tallahassee, served as the principal village of the Apalache when Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto arrived there in 1539. Of the many places that de Soto's expedition visited during its reconnaissance of the southeastern United States, Anhaica was inhabited for five months, a period longer than any other of the expedition's campaign. Consequently, archaeological data and historical records should provide us with ample information about this major Apalache settlement, and yet, our knowledge of it is extremely limited. Why is this the case, and what can we really say about one of the largest and most densely populated Native American communities of Florida at the time of European contact? This talk summarizes what we actually know about the Anhaica Apalache and what future research efforts may reveal. Introducer: William B. Lees, Ph.D., Executive Director, Florida Public Archaeology Network.

**March 21, 2009**, 1:30 to 2:30 pm, Collier County Historical Museum, 3301 E. Tamiami Trail, Naples, 239-774-8476.

Speaker: Nancy Marie White, Ph.D., Professor of Anthropology, Department of Anthropology University of South Florida. "Adventures in Northwest Florida Jungle Archaeology." The University of South Florida's long-term archaeological research in northwest Florida concentrates on the Apalachicola-lower Chattahoochee River Valley and the St. Joseph Bay region, and encompasses 12,000 years of human

cultures, from Paleo-Indian to early 20th century-people. Sites investigated include many of C. B. Moore's mound investigations, the locations of which had been lost to professional archaeology, as well as prehistoric and historic settlements and a Civil War fort. The Apalachicola delta region is one of the last wild places in Florida, with bountiful natural resources and dense prehistoric and historic human habitation that occurred long before the Florida of today. Whether it is survey or test excavation in the remote swamp or along stream banks and coast, fieldwork in this region always includes high adventure, a rich archaeological record, and lots of public archaeology. Introducer: William B. Lees, Ph.D., Executive Director, Florida Public Archaeology Network.

**March 26, 2009**, Museum of Florida Art and Culture, South Florida Community College 600 W. College Dr., Avon Park, 863-784-7240.

Speaker: Christopher M. Still, Florida Heritage Artist. Christopher M. Still is a native Floridian who paints in traditional oil methods. His compositions contain multiple levels of symbolism and historic references. As a young man, he received a full scholarship through a national competition to the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts and continued his studies with an apprenticeship in traditional techniques in Florence, Italy. Still's paintings can be found in museums and private collections, including the Governor's Mansion of Florida, the Smithsonian Institution, and the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art. Of special note are ten murals commissioned by the Florida House of Representatives in which the artist depicts Florida's historic and natural beauty. These ten grand history paintings are now the basis of a book, DVD, and lesson plans used to bring our state's history to life in Florida public schools. The artist will be discussing this unique four year project and his research into the many symbols incorporated from our state's amazing past. For more information about the artist and his work, please visit [www.christopherstill.com](http://www.christopherstill.com). Introducer: William B. Lees, Ph.D., Executive Director, Florida Public Archaeology Network.

**April 18, 2009**, 2:00 to 4:30 pm, Historical Museum of Southern Florida, 101 West Flagler St., Miami, 305-375-1615.

Speaker: James J. Miller, Ph.D., former State Archaeologist, Heritage Planner. "Latest Research in the Bahamas." The Bahamas is our closest Caribbean neighbor, an island nation stretching more than 500 miles between South Florida and the Turks and Caicos. After the American Revolutionary War, British Loyalists, unwelcome in the former thirteen colonies, relocated first to the remaining southern colonies like East Florida, then eventually to the Bahamas. From this common beginning, Florida and the Bahamas have been closely joined culturally, economically, and socially for more than two centuries. We will explore some of these connections through archaeology and history at sites where 18th-century structures and landscapes remain amazingly intact and learn how Bahamian people today are

researching, protecting, and interpreting their rich heritage. Introducer: Ryan J. Wheeler, Ph.D., State Archaeologist and Chief, Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research.

**April 18, 2009**, 2:00 to 4:30, Historical Museum of Southern Florida, 101 West Flagler St., Miami, 305-375-1615.

Speaker: Robert S. Carr, M.A., Executive Director, Archaeological and Historical Conservancy, Inc. "The Bahamas Legacy: New Discoveries in the Northern Bahamas." The Lucayans were the first people in the New World encountered by Columbus. Recent archaeological discoveries have revealed that the Lucayans were well established in the northern Bahamas. The Lucayans were a Taino people who had their origins in northern South America. Over a period of several thousand years, these people canoed from island to island throughout the West Indies, Puerto Rico, Hispaniola, and Cuba, eventually reaching the Bahamas by A.D. 600. This discussion presents new discoveries of sites in the Bahamas that reveal the successful expansion, adaptation, and cultural traits of the Lucayans. The question of whether the Lucayans reached Florida also is explored. New discoveries about the Eleutherian Adventurers, the First English Settlers of the Bahamas, is also presented. Shipwrecked in 1648, these Puritans sought shelter in a large cave, and their artifacts and evidence of their survival were uncovered recently by archaeologists. Introducer: Ryan J. Wheeler, Ph.D., State Archaeologist and Chief, Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research.

## COMING EVENTS

**November 13, 2008**, 6:30 pm, WMS/LSSAS general meeting, North Port Public Library. Mary Williams on Machu Picchu, Peru.

**November 13, 2008**, 2:00 pm, Venice Public Library, 300 S. Nokomis Ave. Florida Humanities Council presents "Pilgrim in the Land of the Alligator: Modern Floridians in the Age of Dinosaurs," by columnist and author Jeff Klinenberg.

**November 15, 2008**, is your last chance to see "Dive into the Past," an exhibit on Little Salt Spring at the Charlotte County History Center, 22959 Bayshore Road, Charlotte Harbor, Fla. If you haven't yet, check it out!

**November 15, 2008**, 10:00 am to noon, off Price Blvd. near Glenallen Elementary School. "Eco Kids" field day at Little Salt Spring, sponsored by People for Trees. A tour of the spring and nature trails, with crafts and fun things to do.

**November 21, 2008**, Trail of Florida's Indian Heritage Annual Meeting, Museum of Florida Art and Culture, South Florida Community College, Avon Park; [www.trailoffloridiansindianheritage.org](http://www.trailoffloridiansindianheritage.org).

**December 11, 2008**, 6:30 pm, North Port Public Library, WMS/LSSAS general meeting. Archaeologist David Butler presents on the Blueberry Site, Highlands County.

**December 21, 2008**, WMS/LSSAS field trip Blueberry Site Highlands County; meet at NP Public Library 8:00 am.

**January 10, 2009**, 6:30 pm, North Port Library, WMS/LSSAS,

presentation by Dr. John Gifford on "Current Research on the 27 m ledge at Little Salt Spring."

**January 24, 2008**, WMS/LSSAS field trip to Randell Research Center, Pineland, Lee County. More information will be in the January/February newsletter; sign up sheet at December and January meetings.

**January 31, 2008**, North Port Environmental Festival event at Garden of the Five Senses Park, 4025 Pan American Blvd., North Port. WMS/LSSAS is to have an archaeology table with displays, posters, and demonstrations for children; volunteers needed.

**February 21, 2009**, 1:00 pm, Charlotte Count History Center, Dr. John Gifford, "Little Salt Spring: A Unique Prehistoric Underwater Site." See above article.

**February 21, 2009** Randell Research Center, Pineland, Lee County. Calusa Heritage Day; [www.flmnh.ufl.edu/RRC/](http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/RRC/).

More information and updates included in the January/February 2009 newsletter! I know I must have missed something.

## LOCAL SOCIETY MEETINGS

**Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society** meets at the Weedon Island Cultural and Natural History Center, 1800 Weedon Dr. NE, St. Petersburg. For monthly meetings and activities information, contact David Burns at 813-968-7910. Visit the CGCAS website at [www.cgcas.org](http://www.cgcas.org).

**Manasota Fossil Club** meets the 2nd Thursday of the month at 6:45 p.m. at the Fruitville Library east of I-75 off Fruitville Rd. at exit 210. Take a right at the first light east of I-75 on Coburn Rd. For more information contact Carol Copas at: 941-485-4155.

**Southwest Florida Fossil Club** meets the 2nd Saturday of the month at Edison Community College on Airport Rd. in Punta Gorda, Room #107, at 7:00 p.m. Contact Steve Wilson at 941- 993-1649, [www.geocities.com/swflfossilclub](http://www.geocities.com/swflfossilclub).

**Southwest Florida Archaeological Society** meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month at the Bonita Springs Community Hall, 27381 Old U.S. 41, Bonita Springs, 7:30 p.m. For program information, contact Dottie Thompson at 941-597-2269, [www.explorationsinc.com/swfl-archaeology/index.html](http://www.explorationsinc.com/swfl-archaeology/index.html).

**Time Sifters Archaeological Society** meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month at the Jack J. Geldbart Auditorium, Selby Public Library, 1331 First Street, Sarasota. For more information, call TS newsletter editor John Jaffer at 941-955-5800.

**Warm Mineral Springs/Little Salt Springs Archaeological Society** meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at the North Port Public Library in the Nello Juliano Room at 6:30 p.m. For more information, contact WMS/LSSAS Secretary Hilda Boron at 426-1719.



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Warm Mineral Springs/Little Salt Spring Archaeological Society • P. O. Box 7797, North Port, FL 34287