



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

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January/February 2009

NEXT MEETING: JANUARY 15, NELLO JULIANO ROOM, NORTH PORT LIBRARY

The WMS/LSSAS meets the 3rd Thursday of each month (except June, July, and August) at the North Port Public Library in the Nello Juliano Room at 6:30 pm. Meetings are free and open to the public.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Wishing everyone a healthy and prosperous 2009. Thank you for your support in helping to make 2008 such a successful year.

**DR. JOHN GIFFORD TO SPEAK JANUARY 15
ON RECENT 27 M LEDGE RESEARCH AT LSS**

Dr. John Gifford will be the speaker at the January 15 meeting of the WMS/LSSAS. His topic will be the recent National Geographic-funded research on the 27m ledge at Little Salt Spring, conducted in July 2008 (see September/October *WMS/LSSAS Newsletter* for details). This is the first time [Cont'd page 2]



Dr. Gifford prepares to dive to the 27m ledge July 2008.

**JAMES PEPE TO SPEAK ON EARLY
SETTLEMENT ALONG LAKE OKEECHOBEE AT
FEBRUARY 19 PRESENTATION**

Archaeologist James P. Pepe will be the speaker at the February 19 meeting of the WMS/LSSAS. His topic is titled "Lakeside Ranch: A Glimpse at Early Settlement along Lake Okeechobee."

For several years, Janus Research has been conducting archaeological research associated with the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Project (CERP). This presentation will focus on ongoing work at Lakeside Ranch, a CERP subcomponent located in Martin County along the eastern edge of Lake Okeechobee. Investigations



Archaeologist James Pepe at work in Martin County, Florida.

here have resulted in the documentation of at least seven pre-Columbian and several historic-period archaeological sites located on former lake shorelines and other topographic rises. Analysis conducted to date indicates use of this area at least as early as the ceramic Late Archaic period, perhaps as early as 4,000 years ago. These sites seem to have been largely abandoned about or before 1,000 years ago. Lakeside Ranch provides an interesting glimpse into the early history of Lake Okeechobee and aboriginal adaptation to central southern Florida.

Mr. Pepe is an archaeologist with Janus Research and teaches archaeological classes at Florida Gulf Coast University. He received his B.A. in English from the University of Florida and his M.A. in Anthropology from Florida Atlantic University. He has been conducting archaeological projects in southern Florida for over 15 years.

Come to the February meeting and learn about early settlements along Lake Okeechobee.

"DR. JOHN GIFFORD" Cont'd

a research effort has been conducted on the ledge since the mid-1970s, when Carl Clausen recovered late Pleistocene vertebrate remains and the controversial wood stake reportedly inserted between the plastron and carapace of an extinct tortoise (*Geochelone sp.*), dating to 12,030 radiocarbon years BP. Video clips from the 27m ledge will be part of the presentation. See what it is like to work on the dark side of the moon, 90-feet below the surface in a cavernous ledge.

Dr. Gifford will also be speaking at the Charlotte County History Center Saturday, February 21 (see article on page 4). You will want to see both presentations, as the January presentation will focus on the 27m ledge and the February Charlotte County presentation will focus on the history of research, including discoveries in the 13m basin and 27m ledge.

MACHU PICCHU NOVEMBER 13 PRESENTATION BY MARY WILLIAMS WELL ATTENDED AND RECEIVED

We were all delighted to hear WMS/LSSAS member Mary Williams offer her first Power Point presentation on her trip to Machu Picchu, Peru, at the November 13 meeting. She took fantastic photographs documenting her trip with her daughter in April 2008.

Mary showed photographs of the famous Nasca Lines located southwest of Machu Picchu that were carved into the ground in prehistoric times and could only be fully appreciated from the air. They depict a giant spider, condor, flamingo, monkey, whale, and other figures. She also walked part of the Inca Trail, which traversed the entire 2,500-mile length of the Inca Empire. She also spent time in the ancient Inca capital and Spanish colonial city of Cuzco and gave



Mary Williams received famous WMS/LSSAS T-shirt from Vice President Phil Trembley.

details of her adventures. Many of her photographs were stunning and illustrated the incredible biodiversity of the Peruvian countryside, as well as breathtaking views of Machu Picchu.

It was obvious that she conducted thorough background research of the county and culture to complement her photographs, as she eloquently described the trip with enthusiasm that made us want to take the next plane to Peru and walk the entire Inca Trail to Machu Picchu. Thank you, Mary, for a great presentation!

UNCOVERING A BELLE GLADE VILLAGE IN HIGHLANDS COUNTY

by Phil Trembley and Steve Koski

Archaeologist David Butler, Ph.D. and RPA (Registered Professional Archaeologist), spoke at the December 11 meeting, describing his research at a Belle Glade Village known as the Blueberry Site. The term Belle Glade describes a culture type that existed in the Okeechobee Basin culture region c. A.D. 200-1700. The Blueberry village site could be one of the largest Belle Glade village sites in Florida. It is located on the eastern edge of the Lake Wales Ridge on a relic southern shoreline of Lake Isokpoga in Lake Placid, Highlands County. Blueberry is thought to have been a year-round habitation site with an extensive trade network, based on an elaborate artifact assemblage that included exotic items with material not found in Florida. This 101-acre site is protected by the current owners, who have preserved the site and much of the surrounding landscape.

The site includes low sand mounds and sheet midden with intact features, including hearths, dozens of post-molds where structures once stood, and pit features with associated artifacts. Analysis of the hearth contents indicates the food supply included both aquatic and land animals. Interestingly, marine species were recovered as well, demonstrating contact with coastal groups or forays to the coast. Over



December speaker David Butler and site owner/preservationist Ann Reynolds, our gracious hosts for our field trip.



WMS/LSSAS field trip group shot at Blueberry site. Tour guide Dave Butler 5th from left.

100 intact post-hole molds have been uncovered, indicating habitation structures were present. Their size ranged from 18-26cm and they were intentionally placed in pairs for the creation of oval-shaped structures.

Pottery fragments that have been removed from the onset of excavation number about 10,000, and analysis of sherds suggests that the site was occupied from A.D. 600-1700. Belle Glade pottery was plain and sand tempered. It is distinguishable by its applied scratched surface finish or drag marks and shallow bowls that vary in size (13 shapes have so far been discerned). Samples of stone artifacts recovered from the site were analyzed by Bob Austin, who determined the likely quarry source of the lithic artifacts examined (Withlacoochee River 18%, Peace River 47%, Hillsborough River 16%).

Dr. Butler has been the principal investigator at the Blueberry site



Dave Butler interprets discoveries at the Blueberry site.

since 2005, when he conducted a Phase 1 survey to determine the size, type, period of occupation, and significance of the cultural resource. He also works two weekends a month on several 2x2m excavation units with volunteers.

The presentation was followed by a field trip to the Blueberry site December 20. What a fantastic day at a spectacular site! The site lies right on the eastern edge of the ridge represented by a steep contour overlooking a vast floodplain marsh of Lake Istopoga in a beautiful hammock with orange groves to the west. A small elevated peninsula at the southern end of the site contained a seep spring and provided a 180-degree view of the marsh.

Ann Reynolds, owner of the 90-acre property and site (with her husband Charles), was present and was a most gracious host, giving us a private tour of the site along with Dave. We are fortunate and honored that Ann and Dave spent so much time with us that day to show us around and tell us what they have found. After the tour, we all had lunch at a local Lake Placid restaurant and, following lunch, were invited to the lab at Ann's house to see where the artifacts are washed and analyzed.

Thanks to Ann and Dave for providing such a pleasant and informative afternoon!

ANNUAL YARD SALE MARCH 7

HELP! It's that time of year again. We need yard-sale items for our sale March 7 at the Warm Mineral Springs Motel on US 41. Bring your yard-sale items to the lab at LSS after January 17. Call Steve Koski at 941-423-0835 or Hilda Baron at 426-1719 to arrange a time and day to drop off items. If you have large items, call and we'll see if we can find a way to have items picked up. This is our only fundraiser and is essential to keeping us solvent throughout the year.



TRAIL OF FLORIDA'S INDIAN HERITAGE SPEAKER SERIES COMES TO CHARLOTTE COUNTY HISTORY CENTER FEBRUARY 21

In addition to speaking to us January 15, Dr. John Gifford will speak at the Charlotte County History Center February 21 for a Trail of Florida's Indian Heritage Speaker Series event. His topic will be a general historic overview of the research history at Little Salt Spring, entitled "Little Salt Spring: A Unique Underwater Site." The presentation will include the current research in the basin of the spring and on the 27m ledge.

For those who have the opportunity to attend Dr. Gifford's January presentation at the NP Library, you will get a more comprehensive overview of the site history and current research at the February presentation, so see them both if you can.

PLEASE call the CCHC to RSVP at 941-629-7278 so they get an idea of the number of attendees. If maximum seating is exceeded, two presentations are scheduled, from 1:00-2:30 and 3:00-4:30. If all can be accommodated in one presentation, they may cancel the 3:00 one. The CCHC is located at 22959 Bayshore Road, Charlotte Harbor, FL. Call the above number for more information and to make RSVP a reservation. Other speakers in the series will be:

March 10, 2009: Mary Glowacki, Ph.D., Public Lands Archaeology Supervisor, Bureau of Archaeological Research: "The Anhaica Apalache and the De Soto Expedition; 6:00-8:00 pm, South Florida Museum, 201 10th St. West, Bradenton, 941-746-4131.

March 21, 2009: Nancy Marie White, Ph.D., Professor of Anthropology, Department of Anthropology University of South Florida: "Adventures in Northwest Florida Jungle Archaeology"; 1:30-2:30 pm, Collier County Historical Museum, 3301 E. Tamiami Trail, Naples, 239-774-8476.

March 26, 2009: Christopher M. Still, Florida Heritage Artist; 1:00-2:30, Museum of Florida Art and Culture, South Florida Community College, 600 W. College Dr., Avon Park, 863-784-7240.

April 18, 2009: James J. Miller, Ph.D. (former State Archaeologist), Heritage Planner: "Latest Research in the Bahamas"; 2:00-4:30, Historical Museum of Southern Florida, 101 West Flagler St., Miami, 305-375-1615.

April 18, 2009: Robert S. Carr, M.A., Executive Director,



*Native American
image by
Theodore Morris.*

Archaeological and Historical Conservancy, Inc.: "The Bahamas Legacy: New Discoveries in the Northern Bahamas"; 2:00-4:30, Historical Museum of Southern Florida, 101 West Flagler St., Miami, 305-375-1615.

See the November/December *WMS/LSSAS Newsletter* for information on the topic of each speaker, and an information page will be available at the January and February meetings.

Speaker series sponsored in part by grants provided by the Florida Humanities Council; the Frank E. Duckwall Foundation, Inc.; and Visit Florida.

2009 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE IS ON!

Time to renew for 2009 and dig up new members (figuratively). We are lining up a great slate of interesting speakers and events, and looking forward to another great year. We couldn't do it without you, so please renew or join this month. Membership dues help print and mail the bimonthly newsletter and provide the speaker's dinner, honorarium, and motel if needed. Dues also help to provide our membership dues to worthy historic-preservation-minded organizations such as the Randell Research Center, Florida Humanities Council, Historic Spanish Point, Friends of the North Port Library, the Historic Preservation Coalition of Sarasota (see November/December newsletter), and others.

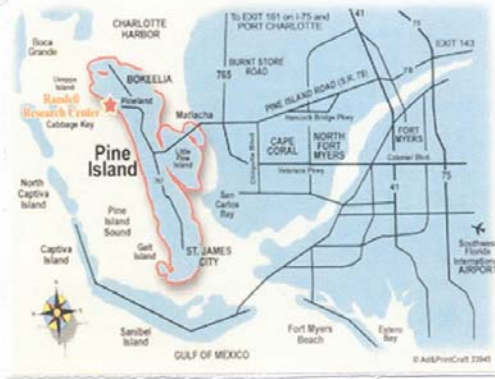
We survive on dues and our annual yard sale and could not carry on without them. If you enjoy the newsletter, meetings, and trips, please consider renewing or joining today. Help make 2009 our best year and thank you for your support!

RANDELL RESEARCH CENTER FIELD TRIP JANUARY 24

We are planning another field trip to the Randell Research Center on Pine Island Saturday, January 24. It has been several years since we have been on a trip to the RRC and many members are looking forward to another visit, as many great changes have occurred at the site. We will meet at the North Port Public Library at 8:15 am for an 8:30 departure.

The Randell Research Center (RRC) is a permanent facility dedicated to learning and teaching the archaeology, history, and ecology of Southwest Florida. Situated in the scenic community of Pineland on the western shore of historic Pine Island, the RRC encompasses more than 50 acres at the heart of the Pineland archaeological site, a massive shell-mound site extending across more than 200 acres from the mangrove coastline.

On the Calusa Heritage Trail, visitors can tour this internationally significant site and learn about the Calusa culture and its environment. In addition, volunteers and students are able to participate in the ongoing research programs of the RRC. The RRC is located at 13810



Map to the Randell Research Center. From North Port and Port Charlotte, go south on US 41 to Burnt Store Rd. From I-75, Exit 143 to Pine Island Rd. (State Rd. 87). West to County Rd. 767 and north to Pineland and Randell Research Center.

Waterfront Drive, Pineland, Florida. (Information provided from <http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/trc/>.) For additional information, call 239-283-2157 or visit their above website.

We will meet in the parking lot of the North Port Library at 8:15 am for an 8:30 departure. A sign-up sheet will be available at the January meeting.

ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD AT THE JANUARY 15 GENERAL MEETING

Our annual meeting for the 2009 election of officers and directors will be held at the beginning of our January 15 general meeting. Secretary Hilda Boron will read the slate of officers.

Nominees: President, George Haag, reelect; Vice President, Phil Trembley, reelect; Secretary, Hilda Boron, re-elect; Kate Cattran, Treasurer, re-elect; Linda Massey, Membership Secretary, re-elect; Board of directors: Judi Crescenzo, John Crescenzo, Robert Dunay, Ann Hansen, Steve Jasecko, Steve Koski, Carol Myers, Judith Ribarick, Sid Scott, Bob Strayer, Wilburn Cockrell (honorary).

We would like to thank outgoing board member Elfrieda Wuerz for her years of service on the board, and hope to see her at meetings and events in 2009. And thank all returning board members for their service in 2008.

MARCH IS FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH

March is Florida Archaeology Month. The theme for FAM 2009 is

Spanish Claim Florida. Florida's diverse history and prehistory stretches back over 12,000 years. Each year in March, statewide programs and events celebrating Florida Archaeology Month are designed to encourage Floridians and visitors to learn more about the archaeology and history of the state, and to preserve these important parts of Florida's rich cultural heritage. Plan to attend one of the many events throughout Florida during March 2009. The WMS/LSSAS is planning a field trip on March 21 to DeSoto National Memorial in Bradenton: <http://www.nps.gov/deso/index.htm>. More information on Florida Archaeology Month will be in the March/April newsletter. A listing of events throughout the state will be posted on the FAM web site www.flarchmonth.com.

COMING EVENTS

January 15, 2009: Presentation by Dr. John Gifford WMS/LSSAS; North Port Library; "Current Research on The 27m ledge at Little Salt Spring," North Port Public Library, 6:30 pm.

January 24, 2009: WMS/LSSAS field trip, Randell Research Center, Pineland, Lee County. There will be a sign-up sheet at the January meeting.

January 31, 2009: North Port Environmental Festival event at Garden of the Five Senses Park, 4025 Pan American Blvd., North Port. WMS/LSSAS to have an archaeology table with displays, posters, and demonstrations for children; volunteers needed.

February 7, 2008: Nature walk and pepper pull at Little Salt Spring, 10:00 am to noon.

February 21, 2009: Presentation by John Gifford, "Little Salt Spring: A Unique Prehistoric Underwater Site"; Charlotte County History Center, 1:00 pm and 3:00 pm, RSVP CCHC 941-629-7278; see above article.

February 21, 2009: Calusa Heritage Day; Randell Research Center, Pineland, Lee County; <http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/trc/>.

March 1, 2009: Florida Archaeology Month event at the Florida Aquarium in Tampa; <http://www.flaquarium.org/>.

March 21, 2009: Field trip to DeSoto National Monument; <http://www.nps.gov/deso/index.htm>. More information will be in the March/April newsletter;

More information and updates included in the March/April 2009 newsletter!

Visit our website-in-progress at
www.geocities.com/wmsslssas.

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.

Manasota Fossil Club meets the second 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 second 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.

Southwest Florida Archaeological Society meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month at the Bonita Springs Community Center, 7:30 p.m. For program information, contact Dottie Thompson at 941-597-2269.

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 second 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.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT	George Haag
VICE PRESIDENT	Phil Trembley
SECRETARY	Hilda Boron
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	Linda Massey
TREASURER	Kate Cattran

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