



### *WMS/LSS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER*

Vol. 20, No. 3, May/June 2009

A 501(c)3 Corporation and Chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society

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The Warm Mineral Springs Archaeological Society meets the third Thursday of each month (except June, July, and August) at the North Port Public Library in the Children's Program Room at 6:30 P.M. The meetings are free and open to the public.

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#### **CRYSTAL RIVER SITE AND HOPEWELL INTERACTION SPHERE TOPIC OF MAY 21 MEETING**

Archaeologist Rich Estabrook will be the speaker at our May 21 meeting on "Hopewell Interaction: the Crystal River Site and Gateways to Interregional Contact and Trade." The Hopewell Interaction Sphere was a phenomenon that engulfed the entire Eastern and Central Woodlands areas. Best expressed by exotic and carefully crafted works of stone, metal, shell, and minerals often found in Woodland (500 BC to AD 200) burial contexts, it has been the subject of much speculation. Some have characterized it as interregional trade, some as a shared religious cult, others as a series of mortuary practices involving elaborate burial mounds and rituals. It may well be all three and more. This talk will discuss the Hopewellian artifacts recovered from the famous Crystal River site in coastal Citrus County and discuss how large coastal sites may have acted as "gateways" for the movement of these goods and ideas from the heartland of North America throughout sites deep in Florida's interior.

Mr. Estabrook has been involved with the archaeology and heritage management of the central Florida region since 1981. He received his Bachelor's degree in Anthropology and History from the State University of New York at Stony Brook (now Stony Brook University).



Archaeologist Rich Estabrook at Crystal River

His Masters degree was awarded by the University of South Florida (USF) based on his excavations at the nearby Ranch House site, a multi-component site located within what is now Tampa Palms. Since 1986, Rich has worked for several private Cultural Resource Management firms. He is enrolled in USF Anthropology Department's Ph.D. program and will continue his research on the Crystal River site, a National Landmark mound complex located in coastal Citrus County.

Rich's research interests include the study of prehistoric stone-tool technology, including use-wear, waste flake, and manufacture failure analysis; experimental archaeology; site formation processes; Heritage

Management, including historic buildings, structures, historic landscapes, and Traditional Cultural Properties (TCPs); and now, foremost, Public Archaeology. Rich brings his 20-plus years of experience with the west central Florida region's unique archaeology and history to the Florida Public Archaeology Network as Director of the Central Region, based at Crystal River Preserve State Park. Rich and associates at the FPAN center assist educators, government officials, local archaeology groups, and the interested public to interpret and preserve central Florida's irreplaceable archaeology legacy.

Another great meeting you won't want to miss! We would like to plan a field trip to visit Rich at the Crystal River site in the fall of 2009.

### **HISTORIC KING'S CASTLE, BERMUDA, TOPIC OF APRIL 16 MEETING**

We welcomed the return of Irv Quitmyer, Zooarchaeologist and Chief Scientist with the Florida Museum of Natural History, April 16 to present findings on his most recent research with a topic entitled "The Zooarchaeology of King's Castle, Bermuda."

Provisioning King's Castle, Bermuda, during the middle 17th and late 18th century presented a unique set of challenges and consequences. Relative to continental land masses, islands are small biological reservoirs that are not easily replenished when exposed to human exploitation. Birds and marine resources were extensively exploited, while a suite of domesticated animals supported part of the food quest. Over time, reef predators (e.g., groupers and snappers) were numerically diminished, while greater numbers of fishes from lower in the food chain were consumed. The King's Castle zooarchaeological record is one of biotic change and compares well with events that took place in similar environments in the prehistory of the Caribbean. The data show that human caused environmental impact can occur at all levels of cultural complexity.

Irv is a Senior Biological Scientist at the Florida Museum of Natural History, Gainesville where he has practiced Zooarchaeology (the study of animal remains at archaeological sites) for over 30 years. His research interests include the human ecology of maritime people of the Southeastern US, Caribbean, and Central America. He has authored over 100 articles that have been published in scientific journals, technical series, books, and other popular sources.

This is not Irv's first visit to speak to our group. His last, well-received visit was at our April 2005 meeting when

he presented "A Maritime Adaptation to Central Florida During the Middle Holocene Period" (See May/June 2005 Newsletter, if you can find it). That topic concerned his zooarchaeology research at the Lake Monroe midden on the St. Johns River in Volusia County. Prior to that, he spoke at our October 2003 meeting on "The Zooarchaeology of the Miami Circle" (See September/October 2003 Newsletter, like you still have that one). I think Irv's first visit was in March 1993, when he spoke on "Calendars of the Coast: Growth Rings in the Southern Quahog Shell and Its Use in Determining the Seasonality of Archaeological Sites in Southwest Florida" (See March/April 1999 Newsletter, it'll be a miracle if you can find that one!).

Thank you, Irv, for sharing details of your latest research in Bermuda. We always enjoy your visits!



President George Haag presents Irv Quitmyer with our world famous tee-shirt

### **FIFTEEN SHIPWRECKS IN THE FLORIDA KEYS**

By Phil Trembley

On Thursday evening, March 19, at 6:30 PM at the North Port Library, the Society welcomed its speaker, Rae Harper, who filled in Jeff Moats, who could not attend. Rae was assisted by April Buffington, who operated the computer. Rae is Outreach Coordinator at the West Central Regional Center of the Florida Public Archaeology Network at the University of South Florida. She holds a BA in anthropology from USF and is presently completing her Master's in archaeology, specializing in Southwest Florida. While the meeting started a half hour late due to technical difficulties with the media equipment, the presentation went splendidly once underway. Ms. Harper presented a program on research that Jeff Moates participated on with the Bureau of Archaeological Research when he worked for the State, but was unable to present himself (thanks Rae). From 2004 to 2006 a team of archaeologists from the Florida Department of State,

Bureau of Archaeological Research, was engaged in the investigation and documentation of 15 shipwrecks in the Florida Keys. Thirteen of the shipwrecks were Spanish galleons; one was termed a Mystery Wreck and the one was named the Brick Wreck because it contained thousands of bricks.

The thirteen Spanish wrecks constituted what was named the Galleon Trail Project. These vessels all were driven on reefs during a storm the second day out from Havana in the year 1733. The ships composed a convoy to act as protection against pirates. Each year two separate convoys from two different ports (Vera Cruz and Cartagena) in the Americas departed for Havana before sailing to Spain. The convoy attempted to turn back to Havana, but the decision to do so was too late and only one vessel made it back to port. The Spanish, using native divers, were able to salvage much of the cargo and were able to refloat half the wrecks and bring them back to Havana.



Treasurer Kate Catttan (center) presents March Speaker Rae Harper (right) and associate April Buffington our world famous tee shirt

The Mystery Wreck is located eight feet below the surface and artifacts recovered were not of the treasure kind. The olive-jar necks indicated that the wreck took place in the late 17th century or early 18th century.

The Brick Wreck is more recent, as it went down during the mid-19th century. It was salvaged in 1960 and most of the brick was removed and sold. It is located about 12 feet below the surface. Artifacts include a blue ceramic sherd that would have been manufactured between 1810 and 1835. A pressed glass plate in perfect condition was determined to have been produced in 1840.

The wrecks were located using service boats that towed divers. Some of the wrecks were in 20 to 30 feet of water and some were in grassy areas. All work and observations were recorded by hand. Ms. Harper's talk was accompanied by slides of the underwater work, sketched plans of the vessels drawn by the underwater

archeologists, and artifacts that were found during the work.

Florida Archaeology Month posters and bookmarks were available, as were the new Trail of Florida's Indian Heritage brochures and Florida Native American Heritage Trail booklets.

Another record, standing-room only crowd and the presentation was very well received. Thank you, Rae and April, for making our night!

### **MARCH 7 ANNUAL YARD SALE RAKES IN \$1,100 (get it—yard, rake)**

Society Treasurer Kat Cattran announced at our board meeting that we raised a total of \$1,100 at our annual yard sale held next to the Warm Mineral Springs Motel. That is about what we make every year, no matter what we have or how much we have left over. I think we had more items than ever before, some of which we took to Goodwill. Glad we kept the U-Haul until the end. Goodwill could only take about a third of the leftover stuff, but luckily, President George Haag contacted the VFW, who sent a platoon of Marines over to pick the remainder up. God bless America!

Thanks go to ALL who donated items (including Historic Spanish Point) and helped deliver, store, price, box, load the 24-foot U-Haul Friday, deliver, set up, unpack, sell, pack leftovers, drive to Goodwill with leftovers, unload leftovers, drive to LSS, unload items Goodwill did not take, wait until next day (that was easy), watch the items drive away with VFW members for their yard sale. Whew, I'm getting tired just writing about it. It was actually kind of fun.

The Yard sale Committee met after the event to discuss ways to make it go a little smoother next year.

### **LSS INTERN AND WMSLSSAS MEMBER RECOGNIZED**

Jessica Askew, NP High School fall intern at LSS and WMSLSSAS honorary 2008/2009 member, was recognized with a small check from Society President George Haag at our April meeting (see March April NL for details on internship). Jessica spent all day volunteering at our March yard sale and she was a big help. She was also a tremendous help during her internship at LSS, where she served as assistant curator for the fall session and volunteered the next session several days as well. During her internship, she helped process all the July 2008, 27 m ledge project specimens and went through all the specimens from Operation 9, a 2x2 m unit in the basin of the spring—a big project. Jessica is off to Lycoming College in Williamsport, PA in September to study Middle Eastern archaeology and we wish her success.



LSS intern Jessica Askew receives appreciation card from President George Haag at April meeting

### WMS/LSSAS PARTICIPATED IN NORTH PORT'S TREE FESTIVAL

On April 25, several members set up our tent and archaeology table at the North Port Tree festival sponsored by People for Trees. We had information on the Society, archaeology, Little Salt Spring, as well as crafts for the kids, including cordage and bracelet making and atlatl demonstrations. Good turnout for the fun event we were well received. We thank Hilda Boron, John and Judi Crescenzo, Kate Cattran, George Haag, Sandra Heacock, and Steve Koski for participating.



Sandra and Judi teach cordage and bracelet making at NPS' Tree Festival.

### FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH EVENTS A SUCCESS!

We had a great month of events to celebrate Florida Archaeology Month. This year's theme: Spanish Claim Florida, <http://www.flarchmonth.com/>.

**March 12**, more than 20 members and guests came to the North Port Public Library for a special showing of the video, *Cabeza de Vaca*, which was an account of the failed Narváez expedition of 1528 and the saga of the four surviving conquistadors. As an added treat, author Paul Scheider, author of *Brutal Journey*, a non-fiction account of

the expedition attended. Not only did he attend, but he brought and donated two paperback copies of his book, one for our library and one to raffle at the next meeting. Steve met Paul at a book signing at the NP Library on March 7 and brought him by the spring for a tour. When he told Paul about the video presentation, he volunteered to attend. The meeting was followed by conversation with Paul on his book and comparisons between the video and the historic accounts. For an interesting story you can check out *Brutal Journey* from the NP Library or the WMS/LSSAS library. Thank you, Paul, for attending our event, engaging in discussion afterwards, and donating the two books to the Society. You made a great contribution to the evening!

**March 19** was our general meeting at the North Port Library where Rae Harper, assisted by April Buffington, presented "Fifteen Shipwrecks of the Florida Keys." See article this issue.

**March 21**, several members went on a field trip to De Soto National Memorial on the Manatee River in Bradenton. What a fantastic trip!

**Throughout the month of March** the WMS/LSSAS displayed a small exhibit at the North Port Library in the two multi-shelf cases in the central room. Members Judith Ribarick and Steve Koski set up the exhibit, which portrayed Florida Indians' first encounters with Spanish explorers: the Ponce de Leon expedition of 1513, Narváez expedition of 1528, Hernando de Soto expedition of 1538, and Pedro de Aviles Menéndez, who attempted to set up a mission at Mound Key in Estero Bay, Lee County. In essence, all expeditions were an abysmal failure. None found the gold they sought and the Indians, who used gorilla warfare tactics against the conquistadors, almost constantly harassed them.

### ANNUAL FAS MEETING IN PENSACOLA MAY 8-10

(Adapted from the FAS newsletter)

GREAT FAS meeting in Pensacola. The Pensacola Archaeological Society (PAS), in cooperation with the University of West Florida, hosted the 61st annual Florida Anthropological Society Meeting May 8-10, 2009. Celebration of Pensacola's settlement 450 years ago by Don Tristan de Luna y Arellano will be occurring throughout the year and the FAS Annual Meeting was a part of the festivities. The meeting was held at the Crowne Plaza Pensacola Grand located downtown near the Historic District. Steve Koski attended and reports an interesting array of papers and fun. Seeing colleagues year after year gives one a chance to catch up on what goes on around the state and is an inspiring experience.

Friday evening, a welcoming reception was held at

the T. T. Wentworth, Jr., Florida State Museum in the Historic District, where the first-floor exhibits showcase the colonial history and archaeology of the Pensacola area. Included is a wonderful display of artifacts from the Emanuel Point I shipwreck, part of the Luna expedition in 1559.

On Saturday, papers and posters were presented morning and afternoon in the Crowne Plaza meeting rooms. Twenty-minute presentations in three sessions covered all topics of Florida archaeology and anthropology, terrestrial and underwater, as well as related disciplines.

The Saturday night banquet was held at the Museum of Commerce on Zaragossa Street in the Historic District, with a delicious fish fry catered by Chet's Seafood. Dr. Judith A. Bense, formerly the Executive Director of the UWF Division of Anthropology and Archaeology, and presently President of the University of West Florida, was the keynote speaker and informed us of her fascinating research in Veracruz, Mexico, and its relationship to early settlements in Pensacola. Absolutely outstanding!

On Sunday, the Florida Archaeology Council and the Florida Public Archaeology Network hosted a Workshop on Designing Local Archaeological Ordinances, and a walking tour of Pensacola's Colonial Archaeological Trail in downtown Pensacola led by UWF archaeologists was held.

Next year, the FAS Annual Meeting will be held in Fort Myers, so it will give our members a convenient opportunity to experience what FAS Annual Meetings are all about.

### **VOLUNTEERS ASSIST WITH EXOTIC VEGETATION REMOVAL AT LSS**

When Steve Koski is not underwater with UM students and Dr. Gifford, giving a group tour or presentation, in the lab or office, he can be found in the woods cutting Brazilian pepper. It's good therapy. New LSS volunteers Richard Coy and Gary Foland have been assisting Steve with exotic vegetation removal one day a week these past two months at Little Salt Spring. Richard is a retired Forester from Pennsylvania and Gary, a retired Sarasota County Code Enforcer. Other new volunteers include Christopher Zan and his son Chris, and their neighbor and friend Kenny Mathews. One Sunday, dive instructor Jerry Middleton and his Venice High School senior son Shawn and two friends came by for a couple hours as well to help for a total of over 48 hours!

The latest mission is to clear Brazilian pepper from along the driveway to help restore the landscape and open the view-shed into the beautiful fields and hammocks along

the historic entrance referred to as the "gateway to past." The entrance is a beautiful meandering single-lane dirt drive that traverses a portion of the slough and hammock and overlooks fields vegetated with scattered oaks, cabbage palm, and wax myrtle. The driveway is kept mowed, but not manicured, and the lawn is mostly native grasses and wildflowers (one person's field of weeds is another's meadow of wildflowers). In the winter it is brown, because brown is beautiful and it would be wasteful to water and detrimental to the spring shed to fertilize.

The driveway was nothing but a tunnel of pepper five years ago, with no view into the woods or fields. In 2004, an environmental firm, Earth Balance, cleared and removed the pepper for a mitigation project along the driveway and around the spring, which was a tremendous help, but many remain. It's a slow process, necessitating the mantra, "one pepper at a time." There are also numerous peppers north of the spring in the hydric hammock and slough and along the creek to the south, as well as throughout the 112-acre property. Koski is also looking into potential sources of funding for a big project, but in the meantime, the small crew is plugging and plucking along, one pepper at a time.

### **LITTLE SALT SPRING NEWS**

April 17 through 19, Dr. Gifford and RSMAS Dive Safety Officer Rick Gomez were on site with Rick's Marine Science class. During the class, the students learn the techniques of science diving and get the opportunity to visit several underwater locations they might be exposed to in their research careers, and LSS is one of those locations. They learn techniques involved with diving with double tanks, underwater navigation, and scuba-tank filling, and get a general lesson on underwater-archaeology techniques.



University of Miami's Marine Science Class at LSS in April

**May 11-16**, staff and volunteer divers from the Florida Aquarium were on site for a mapping project in the basin. At 12m below the surface of the spring, there is a 30m-diameter opening that drops to the bottom. While generally circular, it contains irregularities of shear drop-off and flowstone protrusions, with a stalactite-lined rim and overhang. Some of the flowstone and stalactites hang eight to ten feet over the drop-off—a spectacular sight. The project consisted of mapping the drop off by taking dozens of measurements after establishing eight aluminum rods at 45 degrees around the spring and connecting with string and measuring from the string to the wall. The project is a start of a continuing project to map the entire basin of the spring. Great folks, thank you Florida Aquarium!

### LSS HOSTS SCHEDULED EDUCATIONAL SITE VISITS

It has been quite busy in the education/public outreach department at LSS since our last newsletter. While LSS is not open to the public due to limited public facilities and staffing, Site Manager and Research Associate Steve Koski and the University of Miami allow limited visits on occasion when possible. To make the site more accessible for educational visits and upgrade the research facility, the University has initiated a \$1 million fundraising campaign for a Phase I project. The initiative would include site improvements and the first, which would house the research and conservation lab and classroom to facilitate research and education programs for local students and the public on a limited basis. It is important to balance public access with sustainability of a healthy ecosystem to protect the fragile natural and cultural resources.

**March 14**, several folks flew up from Naples in a private helicopter donated by a supporter of the university for the day to see LSS. News of the site reached Naples from one of Dr. Gifford's presentations on LSS and the fundraising event held at the Naples Sailing and Yacht Club on January 17. Dr. Gifford



Naples group visited LSS in March. Left to right Steve Koski, Carola Koenig, Naples Botanical Garden biologist David Web and herbarium curator George Wilder, Naples resident Mary Watkins, and University of Miami Assistant Dean of Advancement Doug Ray(photo by pilot Mike Franz).

was on site with Dive Safety Officer Rick Gomez and his Marine Science class and he was able to conduct a tour of the site and show a ten-minute video on LSS by National Geographic producer David Porfiri. Assistant Dean of Advancement Doug Ray and his wife Melissa were also on site for the big event.

**March 25 and 26**, two groups from Sarasota County, Classroom on wheels, an adult-education program, came by for a site visit with instructor Brenda Lee Hickman. The visit included a Power Point presentation and site tour by Steve Koski. Twenty-nine folks came by on March 25, followed by 39 the following day. The mostly retired folks really seemed to enjoy themselves and Steve received many thank you letters following their visit.



Nice group of folks from Sarasota County Classroom on Wheels say goodbye after their visit to LSS. What a happy group!

**March 30 and April 23**, WMS/LSSAS member Anita Kubasiewicz brought a few folks from her neighborhood and church group for a visit to LSS. Steve gave them a brief tour of LSS and lab. They had a nice time!

**April 4**, Florida Master Naturalist instructor Debbie Dixon brought 12 of her Wetlands Module class for a field trip. Steve Koski took all three 40-hour classes the previous year to help with interpretive educational presentations at the LSS Ecological and Archaeological Preserve. They are great classes on Uplands Habitats, Freshwater Wetlands, and Coastal Systems. The classes are sponsored by the University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. For more information go to <http://www.masternaturalist.ifas.ufl.edu/>.

After a brief Power Point presentation, the class was given a tour of the spring and creek, and walked the north trail, cut by Koski and maintained by volunteers. Koski designed trails for interpretive nature walks throughout the property for a final project when he took the Uplands Habitat Module with Debbie, and he has prepared two of the trails since. The trails were also designed for property-

access and land-management purposes. Koski sees eventual trails throughout the 112-acres and into the flood plain of the creek and along a portion of it, with a bridge crossing the creek to the southeast 40 acres of pristine wetlands and uplands habitat. Much work needs to be done in preparation, as the creek is clogged with Brazilian pepper. He foresees the trails being utilized for guided interpretive nature walks of the property for individuals to gain an understanding of the beauty and significance of our natural and cultural resources that are being lost at an alarming rate throughout Florida.



Instructor, Debbie Dixon (center) and her FMN Wetlands class at LSS

**April 5**, the Suncoast Region Antique Automobile Club of America visited the site. Arnold Burns, President of the Sarasota Historical Society and Member of the SRAACA, organized the 18-member party and they arrived in their antique cars. Quite the site. They parked at the end of the driveway and walked down the "gateway to the past" to the site. A short presentation and tour followed. All had a pleasant morning before going off the Olde World Restaurant for lunch.



Arnold Burns (center), President of the SRAAC and SHS scheduled a visit to LSS with their members.

**April 24**, Dr. Ann Sullivan brought her Interdisciplinary Studies graduate students from the Department of Integrated Studies in Teaching, Technology and Inquiry, National-Louis University, Tampa. Her students are K-12 teachers from Sarasota and Charlotte County by for a scheduled visit. Steve Koski presented a short power point presentation followed by a tour the spring and research facility. In the near future, LSS and UM hope to host education programs for students from surrounding schools at the facility.



Dr Ann Sullivan (center) and her graduate class at LSS

### PHENOLOGY OF LITTLE SALT SPRING

*"Phenology is the study of periodic plant and animal life-cycle events and how these are influenced by seasonal and interannual variations in climate. The word is derived from the Greek phainomai (φαινομαι - to appear, come into view) and indicates that phenology has been principally concerned with the dates of first occurrence of biological events in their annual cycle"* (Wikipedia).

Spring is here! On March 29, Little Salt Spring received 1.25 inches of rain. Hadn't rained since February 2, when we had 0.50 inches. We received another 1.0 inches of rain April 15 and a whopping 2.2 inches May 13 and another 2.0 inches May 16, so the tree frogs should be in full serenade any day now. Within six days of the March 31 rain, rain lilies (*Zephyranthes atamasca*) began to bloom in the north field and over the next week, more than 30 were observed.



*Ruellia carolinensis*



*(Zephyranthes atamasca)*

The resurrection ferns (*Polypodium polypodioides*) on the oaks opened shortly after for a few days and the Carolina petunias (*Ruellia carolinias*) started to bloom; the small native purple flowers are now widely scattered throughout the spring's hammock. April witnessed the spiraling bloom of the giant ladies' tresses (*Spiranthes praecox*), a common thin orchid found in roadsides, meadows, and prairies. The screech owl came for a visit to her box in February and hung for a few days and left. She should have returned in March to nest and have her babies, but for some reason she did not return this year. Mama gator didn't come home last weekend so I expect to see a few baby gators swimming about in a few weeks. She has a nest in the slough just north of the spring. She is only about six feet, but I have been saying that for five years. I'm in denial. She plays an important role in the ecosystem of the spring and she serves as a security guard, so we keep her around. This is her home and she is nice enough to let us visit occasionally. I could go on and on.

#### NEWS BRIEFS/INFO/EVENTS

We welcomed President George Haag back at our April meeting one month after quadruple bypass surgery. George is feeling fine and is on his way to Colorado for the summer driving out with his niece. Have nice summer George!

We would like to thank all those who have renewed their membership for 2009 and all our new members! For those who have yet to renew or join for the first time, please do so. We need your support!

#### SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER

I am sure I missed something and there is more to say, but I am out of space and time. May 21 concludes this season's speaker series and we will resume September 17 with a presentation on the Safety Harbor Museum by Director of Exhibits Ron Fekete. The presentation will be followed by a field trip to the Museum with lunch in historic Safety Harbor in Pinellas County on Old Tampa Bay. Visit the site at <http://www.safetyharbormuseum.org/staff.htm>.

Thank you for all your support and helping make the 2008/2009 season a great one. Have a great summer and, after the May 21 meeting, see you in September!

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