



WMS/LSS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 21, No. 5 November/December 2010

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

The Warm Mineral Springs/Little Salt Spring Archaeological Society meets the second Wednesday of the month at the North Port Public Library in the Nello Juliano Room at 6:30 P.M. The meetings are free and open to the public. See article on page 2 for details on new meeting location and days beginning January 2011

**DR. JONO MILLER TO PRESENT
ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY OF NORTH PORT AT
NOVEMBER 10 MEETING**

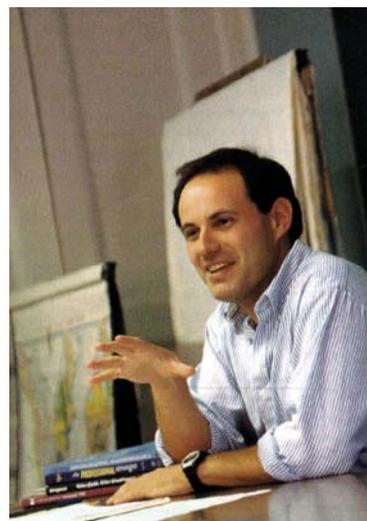
Dr. Jono Miller's PowerPoint presentation will explore the environmental history of the original Township and a half that became early North Port. It will include a map that attempts to depict the original habitats of the area, the story of how open rangeland between the Myakka and the Peace River was brought into a single ownership and a look at the Mackle brothers and how their GDC decisions continue to affect North Port today. *(See November 10, page 2)*



November 10 speaker Dr. Jono Miller

**LOOKING FOR ANGOLA, EARLY 19TH CENTURY
SETTLEMENT ON MANATEE RIVER TOPIC OF
DECEMBER 8 MEETING BY DR. UZI BARAM**

New College Professor Dr. Uzi Baram will present "Collaboration and Transnational Research in Looking for Angola: New Approaches and Evidence in the Archaeological Search for an Early 19th Century Maroon Community on the Manatee River, Florida" at our December 8, 2010, meeting.



December 8 Speaker Dr. Uzi Baram

November 10 *(cont from page 1)*

Jono Miller has been studying the environmental and development history of North Port since 1982. He's an environmental educator, consultant and activist who was the former Director of the Environmental Studies Program at New College, and is currently an Assistant to New College's Vice President. He ran an unsuccessful campaign for the County Commission in 2008 and is currently one of about thirty people seeking to complete Commissioner Shannon Staub's term.

Angola *(cont. from page 1)*

In 1990, historian Canter Brown, Jr. published archival insights into a previously unknown maroon (individuals who escaped from slavery) community known as Angola. A decade later, Vickie Oldham, a documentary filmmaker, began an overview of Sarasota's history, including the saga of escaped slaves. As a community activist, she organized a group of scholars in an archaeological search to find material evidence for this history. Since the location of Angola is unclear in the documentary record, from the beginning of the archaeological project it was obvious that the search for material evidence would be challenging and would require tremendous public support from homeowners.

As a public archaeology program, "Looking for Angola" has reached out to local and descendant communities. In this presentation, Dr. Baram explains the collaborative approaches taken by the research team and relates the transnational research that took the research to the descendant communities in the Bahamas. Dr. Baram is an Associate Professor of Anthropology and Director of the New College Public Archaeology Lab at New College of Florida in Sarasota.

In 2008, New College of Florida committed to building a public archaeology facility in the center of its Bay Front campus. Professor Baram organized the design of the building and the programming, and named the facility the New College Public Archaeology Lab (NCPAL). During academic year 2009–2010, NCPAL co-sponsored with Time Sifters, the local chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society, a lecture series supported by the Florida Humanities Council, "Traces of Our Past: Florida's History through Archaeology," to bring the leading scholars of Florida's archaeology to New College. This academic year, the lecture series focuses on Dialogues with Florida's Past, which offers the public the opportunity to hear of the policy implications of archaeological knowledge. NCPAL is committed to such outreach and to continuing research into the past of Sarasota-Manatee.

Currently, the central research projects for NCPAL are

exploratory excavations for Looking for Angola and a survey of a historic cemetery in Sarasota. NCPAL is also working with SCOPE (Sarasota County Openly Plans for Excellence) on a community-based participatory-heritage mapping project, and more projects are being developed. The facility is focused on preserving regional heritage, exploring the material legacies of race in Sarasota/Manatee, and exploring ways that heritage can be part of community building. The facility's grand opening took place on October 22, 2010; everyone is invited to visit the lab during New College's 50th anniversary celebration on February 11, 2011.

We hope to make a field trip to the NCPAL lab in 2011, perhaps combining the visit with a trip to the nearby Ringling Museum.

WMS/LSSAS NEW MEETING DAY AND LOCATION TO BEGIN IN JANUARY 2011

Please make note. Beginning in January, the new meeting location of the WMS/LSSAS will be at the North Port United Community Church of Christ at 3450 Biscayne Blvd. The meetings will also be held on the second Tuesday of the month. Less than one mile north of the NP Library, the NPUC will provide a larger room to accommodate the growing number of attendees at our meetings. The day of the week also needed to be changed because the facility was booked on the second Wednesday of the month.

While we have certainly enjoyed meeting at the NP library and greatly appreciate the hospitality of all the friendly and helpful staff over the last several years, the front room could no longer accommodate our growing needs. We hope that this will not inconvenience anyone and look forward to attending meetings at the new location. Join us at the NPCCC for our January 11 meeting—read on.

DR. JOHN GIFFORD TO GIVE UPDATE ON RESEARCH AT LITTLE SALT SPRING JANUARY 11

Dr. John Gifford will start off our 2011 speaker series with a research update on Little Salt Spring. Another two weeks were spent on the 27 m ledge in August of 2010, when three suspected wood artifacts were recovered associated with another extinct tortoise. Several more radiocarbon dates were also returned to help address questions concerning periods of deposition, and also posed new questions to be addressed (see September/October 2010 Newsletter for info). Additional information will be provided in the January/February 2011 Newsletter, so please stay tuned!

GREAT PRESENTATIONS SEPTEMBER 8 AND OCTOBER 13

If you were fortunate enough to make it to our September 8 and October 13 meetings, you know what I mean when I say they were splendid—exciting and educational. In September, avocational archaeologist Rance Williams offered a presentation on his travels in the Middle East and participation on excavations at Kursie-Gengesa on the northern point of the Sea of Galilee, Israel, with a discussion on “Israel, Then and Now,” along with many photos of biblical Jerusalem.



September speaker Rance Williams accepts our world famous WMS/LSSAS tee-shirt from Vice President Judith Ribarick

At our October meeting, Dr. Cliff Smith, archaeologist and Senior Planner for the City of Sarasota, spoke on his fascinating prior position and underwater archaeological and historical research in Bermuda, where he was Deputy Director of the Bermuda Maritime Museum. During his appointment, he was Chief of Operations and charged with the restoration of the 19th-century museum buildings, the fort's six-and-a-half-acre grounds, and its battlements. As the Museum's Director of Archaeology and Conservation, he was responsible for a number of projects both on land and underwater, completing Phase I surveys through Phase III excavations on sites dating from the 17th to the 19th centuries. These projects were used as training opportunities for the hundreds of students, interns, and volunteers who went through the various programs offered.

In addition to historic restoration and archaeological projects, he often acted as a consultant to the British Government, Bermuda Government, and the West End Development Corporation to address their historic, archaeological, and conservation issues.



October speaker Dr. Cliff Smith accepts our world famous WMS/LSSAS tee-shirt from board member Steve Koski

FIELD TRIP TO EMERSON POINT SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 27

Come to our first field trip this fall season and learn about the Indians who lived at the mouth of the Manatee River at Emerson Point on Snead Island. Archaeologist Bill Burger will lead a field trip Saturday, November 27. Snead Island is rich in history, containing traces of human occupation going back more than one thousand years, as evidenced by the Portevant Mound and surrounding middens. The mound is the largest Indian mound on Tampa Bay (see Sept/Oct 2010 Newsletter for more info).

We will meet at the North Port Library at 8:15 a.m. for an 8:30 departure and 9:30 (or so) arrival time. From I-75, take Ellenton exit west and proceed west to Snead Island. For additional information, contact the Manatee County Conservation Lands Dept. at 941-776-2295.

FIELD TRIP TO BAYSHORE VILLAGE SITE SCHEDULE JANUARY 22

Our second field trip of the season will be another exciting adventure January 22, 2011, when we visit Mac and Faye Perry at the Bayshore Village site in St. Petersburg and borders Boca Ciega Bay near John's Pass, which just happens to be at their home, as their neighborhood lies on a large seven-foot tall Manasota period Indian midden. This will be a fun trip for all who attend. The Perry's have graciously offered a tour of their property, where they have built a small “village” and we will see an open excavation area dug by professional archaeologists assisted by members of the Gulf Coast Archaeological Society, another chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society, like us.

Mac and Faye have quite a day planned for us. They have offered to provide a tour of their property, with presentation on the Indians of Tampa Bay, including two short videos of the excavations, followed by lunch in their backyard by the water. We will then travel one mile to the Narvaez site, a large Togobaga mound believed to be the landing site the ill fated Narvaez expedition of 1527. The site is partially on the Anderson property; the Andersons have a house on the mound and a tour of the property on the bay will be given by Mac or Eric Anderson. This will surely prove to be yet another fascinating and memorable expedition. More info will be in the January/February Newsletter.

WMS/LSSAS LIBRARY NEWS

By Lorraine Hawkins



Hi! Let me introduce myself. I am your Librarian, Lorraine Hawkins, also known as (what one of my favorite uncles called me) "Bowgator." Yes, I am a Florida Cracker. Having introduced myself, let me tell y'all about a beautiful, small, but filled-with-information Library. I am going to be bringing a small group of books to our meetings so that you may check them out and return them at the next meeting. All you have to do is be a member of our group and print your name on the card inside the pocket, and you have the book until our next meeting. Make sure I get the card in the pocket and put in the due date. This brings to mind: what if you are unable to return your book by next meeting? All you need to do is to call me or email me to let me know, and I will try to find an alternative route for your Library book. You will find in the pocket inside your Library book my card with phone and email, which I am including now. Phone: 941-276-2144, and email address: landlhawk@aol.com. Now,

do not forget the second "L" in the email address. Also, on the subject line, please put LIBRARY BOOK. Hopefully, by next issue I will have a list of all books available ready for publication so that you will be able to request a book at a meeting, and I can have it there for you by the next meeting.

MORE LSS NEWS

LSS EVENT AT SARASOTA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF SARASOTA NOVEMBER 1

Monday, November 1, the Community Foundation of Sarasota County joined with University of Miami/Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science to host an event on Little Salt Spring at their CFSC facility in Sarasota. The event included a wine and hors d'oeuvres reception; exhibit of select artifacts, photographs, and posters on Little Salt Spring; and a presentation by Dr. John Gifford. Due to the rather late scheduling of the event after our September newsletter, invitations could only be sent to all our members with email. More than 100 persons attended the RSVP event, which was a huge success. For those who could not make it, come to the Tuesday, January 8, presentation by Dr. Gifford, to be held at our new meeting location at the North Port United Community Church at on Biscayne Blvd.

The event was held in conjunction with a fundraising campaign for a research building at LSS. In 2009, the University received a \$100,000 grant from the Selby Foundation and \$250,000 from the Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice to help raise \$1 million dollars for the first of two research/education-center buildings to be built on the property. The building would contain a research/conservation lab, offices, dive locker, exhibit space, and classroom for visiting students and scientists, as well as facilitating programs for local students and the public.

The University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science received a \$10,000 grant from the Jacarlene

Foundation to conserve all wood and many bone artifacts from Little Salt Spring. It is a monumental accomplishment for Little Salt Spring and the UM/RSMAS Advancement Office to enable the wood and bone artifacts to be conserved going back to 1992. The Foundation's involvement was the result of a presentation by Dr. John Gifford at the Florida Aquarium in Tampa (who partner in the research at LSS by providing trained staff and volunteer divers to assist) and a grant application from the UM/RSMAS Advancement office. Due to their advanced

techniques in wood conservation, the Conservation Research Laboratory at Texas A&M University was selected to treat the wood and bone specimens through a silicone polymer process, which will take one year to complete. After completion, the specimens will be ready for exhibit! Now all we need to do is get that research-education center built.



c. 9,200 RCBP wood stake from the basin of LSS

The Weekend of October 15, UM/RSMAS Dive Safety Officer Rick Gomez came to LSS with Dr. Gifford to expose his undergraduate Marine Science class to the spring environment to help prepare them for their respective professions. The class trains the students in advance dive techniques they will need to access areas of their research; whether it be geology, biology, hydrology, or archaeology, many scientists need access to underwater environments. For two days, the divers perform skills at stations, such as diving with double tanks, underwater navigation, tank filling, safety diving, and even underwater archaeology. Those interested can register for Dr. Gifford's graduate Underwater Archaeology Techniques class and return for a two-week field session in January to assist Gifford and Koski with excavations in the basin of the spring. An incredible and memorable educational experience, where students get to work with archaeologists on 5,000 to 11,000 thousand year old deposits, known to have prehistoric artifacts representing the activities of Florida's earliest inhabitants.



October 2010 UM/RSMAS Marine Science class visits LSS

SPEAKER SERIES AT NEW COLLEGE

"Dialogues with Florida's Past" is the theme of a three-lecture series addressing Florida's archaeological heritage in the context of contemporary issues. It is sponsored by Time Sifters Archaeological Society and New College Public Archaeology Laboratory (directed by our December 8 speaker, Dr. Uzi Baram). The series is funded in part by the Florida Humanities Council. The Series includes:

November 10 (same day as our meeting): Kenneth E. Sassaman, Professor of Archaeology, University of Florida and Frank Alcock, Associate Professor of Political Science and Director of Environmental Studies at New College, will present "Archaeology and Climate Change."

March 16: Craig Pittman, author and *St. Petersburg Times* reporter, and William Marquardt, Curator of the Florida Museum of Natural History, Gainesville, will present "Lessons from the Environment."

May 18: John McCarthy, General Manager of Sarasota County Parks and Recreation, and Barbara Little, University of Maryland, will present "Archaeology and the Preservation of History."

The presentations are being held at the Mildred Sainer Pavillion in the Caples Fine Arts Complex, 5313 Bay Shore Road, Sarasota, just south of the Ringling Museum of Art. Due to limited seating, reservations are highly recommended.

SAD LOSS FROM PASSING OF WMS/LSSAS PAST TREASURER

We were saddened to hear that one of our founding WMS/LSSAS members and past treasurer, Earl Lewis passed away at 89 on Monday, November 1, at the Harbour Health Center in Port Charlotte.

Earl was a Charter member of the WMSLSS Archaeological Society and attended our first meeting in 1991 with his wife Flossie. He was also an avid fossil collector and long-time active member of the South West Florida Fossil Club, of which he was also the treasurer for a number of years. Earl was known for his friendly and helpful demeanor, and he and Flossie attended all of our meetings and field trips until they were unable to get around so well.

One of Earl's many talents was wood working. He was responsible for the construction of our 4x8-foot

conference table, library book shelf with locking wood-framed plexyglass doors, and our raffle wheel. He was also a sailor and outdoors man and quite the builder. If you needed something constructed, Earl was the one to ask. He built his first house, by himself, shortly after he and Flossie were married. They moved to Port Charlotte 29 years ago, shortly after he retired, and lived on a saltwater canal where he kept his sailboat. Until not too many years ago, when not in his garage/workshop making someone something or out hunting fossils with Flossie, he could be found sailing around Charlotte Harbor.

The Lewises were a pleasure to know. Earl lost Flossie last year after more than 65 years of marriage and he never got over her loss, as they were pretty much inseparable. He certainly will be missed by those who knew him. A graveside service was held Thursday, November 4, and was followed by a very nice, intimate memorial service at the First Presbyterian Church in Port Charlotte. Many spoke of their fond memories of Earl, as well as Flossie, and his dedication to his late wife, family, interesting pursuits, and their church. Preferred memorials should be made to the First Presbyterian Church of Port Charlotte and a Tribute Wall is provided by Paul Schelm Funeral Home at www.schelmfh.com.

THE TRAIL OF FLORIDA'S INDIAN HERITAGE WEBSITE

The Trail of Florida's Indian Heritage has a new website! Visit: www.TrailofFloridasIndianHeritage.org. Check out the sites along the west coast of Florida that you can visit. It is really well done and supplies a tremendous amount of information. The WMS/LSSAS supports the Trail as a paid member.

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