



**WMS/LSS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER**

Vol. 21, No. 1 January/February 2010

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

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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.

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**HAPPY NEW YEAR!** Wishing everyone a healthy and prosperous 2010. Thank you for your support in helping to make 2009 such a successful year. You have been great!

**SHELL MONUMENTS OF MEMORY IN THE ST. JOHNS RIVER VALLEY OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA  
TOPIC OF JANUARY 13 MEETING**

University of Florida Archaeologist Kenneth Sassaman will be the speaker at our January 13 Annual Meeting to be held at the North Port Library at 6:30 PM. His topic will be the fascinating prehistoric cultural manifestations along the St. Johns River. With its



UF Archaeologist Ken Sassaman

headwaters originating in the St. Johns Marsh in Brevard and Indian River counties, the river flows more than 200 miles north, traversing more than 10 counties before emptying into the Atlantic Ocean in Jacksonville. The highly productive wetland system of marshes, lakes and creeks along its course, with their associated ecosystems, provided a variety resources to sustain populations of people as early as the pre-ceramic Archaic, more than 4,000 years ago.

The St. Johns River valley of northeast Florida was the location of hundreds of shell and earthen mounds, some measuring hundreds of meters long and up to 10 meters high. Scores of mounds were documented by Jeffries Wyman in the late 19th century and a bit later by antiquarian C. B. Moore. Many other mounds fell victim to shell mining in the early 20th century, long before the advent of scientific archaeology.

Since 2000, Ken Sassaman and graduate students at the University of Florida have been investigating shell mounds and associated sites in the middle St. Johns region. Their work is showing that shell mounds are much older than ever thought and that some of them were apparently constructed to commemorate places of abandonment in a rapidly changing environment. The most

recent work has focused on locations of everyday living and their relationship to ritual locations.

This will prove to be another informative and interesting presentation you won't want to miss!

## **FEBRUARY 10 MEETING WILL BE SURE TO BE OF INTEREST**

Mark your calendar for our February 10 meeting. Due to a cancellation, we cannot announce our February speaker at this time, but you will not be disappointed. We will announce the presenter and topic via email and newspaper when determined.

## **MEMBERSHIP DRIVE**

Thank you all for your support! Another great year has passed for the Society, and we hope you have enjoyed our meetings and events of 2009. We look forward to providing another year of interesting speakers and informative and fun events through 2010. Saying that, please consider renewing your membership or becoming a new member. Membership dues are critical to the operation of the Society by providing speaker honorariums and accommodations, producing our bimonthly newsletter, ordering our world famous T-shirts, and supporting memberships to worthy preservation-minded organizations such as Historic Spanish Point in Osprey, Randell Research Center at Pine Island in Lee County, Florida Humanities Council, and others.

Looking back, we hosted an impressive line-up of speakers, including University of Miami archaeologist Dr. John Gifford on Little Salt Spring January 15, archaeologist Jim Pepe on Prehistoric Settlements at Lake Okeechobee February 19, Rae Harper and April Buffington on Ship Wrecks of the Florida Keys March 19, Florida Museum of Natural History zooarchaeologist Irv Quitmyer on Historic Kings Castile in Bermuda April 16, FPAN archaeologist Rick Estabrook on Crystal River and Hopewell Interaction Sphere May 21, Ron Fekete and Jim Dwyer from Safety Harbor Museum September 17, FPAN physical anthropologist Dr. Rachel Wentz on Florida Mortuary Ponds October 14, authors and historians John and Mary Lou Missal on Seminole Wars November 18, and Archeologist Michael Wylde from Randell Research Center on Brown's Mound 5 at Pineland in Lee County. We also participated in several events and field trips during the year. Browse through the 2009 newsletters to reminisce; I'm sure you've saved them.

## **2010 ANNUAL MEETING AND SLATE OF OFFICERS**

The Annual Meeting of the WMS/LSSAS will be held prior to our general meeting January 13 at 6:30 PM. Secretary Hilda Boron will read the slate of officers and nominations will be accepted from the floor for a vote. Those up for re-election and election include: Officers: President, George Haag (re-elect); Vice President, Judith Ribarick; Secretary, Hilda Boron (re-elect); Treasurer, Kate Cattran (re-elect); Membership Secretary: Linda Masse (re-elect); Board of Directors: John Crescenzo, Judi Crescenzo, Robert Dunay, Ann Hanson, Steve Jesecko, Steve Koski, Carol Myers, Sid Scott, Bob Strayer (all re-elect); Wilburn Cockrell, honorary.

## **BROWN'S MOUND 5 AT RANDELL RESEARCH CENTER TOPIC OF DECEMBER 9 MEETING**

By Judi and John Crescenzo

At the December 9, 2009, meeting, Michael Wylde, Site Manager and Archaeologist at Randell Research Center in Pineland, spoke on "Current Investigations: Pineland's Brown's Mound 5." Michael's presentation included a map of Brown's Mound Complex, a history of the Pineland site, and items from recent excavations. Mound 5 was selected for excavation because of work proposed on the property owned by author Randy Wayne White, who lives in the house, built in 1925 on Mound 5 and gave permission for archaeologists to examine the mound. Upper layers revealed modern items such as an oil filter, tractor seat,



President George Haag presents Michael Wylde with our world famous tee-shirt

buttons, and dishes. The mound had been disturbed years ago when a gas line was installed. The discovery of 22 Pre-Columbian human teeth from one individual ended excavation of that area, as state laws required that the items be reburied and remain untouched. No further tests or dating can be performed at that specific location. A second area of the midden was then opened, uncovering intact Calusa items from 650-800 A.D. Faunal discoveries included remains from animals such as shark, deer, and sea turtles. Shell tools including whelk hammers and scrapers were uncovered, along with burnt wood and charcoal for dating. A check-stamped ceramic rim sherd was a rare find because most pottery from the area is plain and has no designs. The fact that Glade pottery (from the Okeechobee area) and St. Johns pottery (from northeast Florida) were found at Mound 5 indicates that the Calusa were involved in extensive trade.

The Calusa lived at Mound 5 year round, which enabled them to build large mounds and an extensive system of canals. By the 6th century, the Calusa were largely urban. The creation of canals was a major engineering feat. The Calusa dug a 30-foot wide, 8-foot deep, 2-mile long canal using only clam shells and baskets. They were not dependent on agriculture, but lived off the land and sea. Taxes were paid to the powerful Calusa by distant tribes. The Calusa had religion, family life, and plenty of spare time for games, song, dance, and ceremonies.

Fontaneda, a young Spaniard who was shipwrecked and given as a gift to the Calusa in 1569, has provided a good deal of information about the Calusa through his written memoirs. Fontaneda spent 17 years living with the Calusa and learned to speak four native languages during that time. At the height of their civilization, there were an estimated 30,000 Calusa. Introduced European diseases and environmental factors played a role in the demise of the Calusa. There are reports that the last 270 Calusa fled to Havana, Cuba, but shortly thereafter, 200 died from disease and the last 70 dispersed. Records show that in 1711, a Calusa woman and her daughter were servants to Spanish Cubans.

In closing, Michael provided pamphlets about Randell Research Center and invited everyone to attend the Fifth Annual Calusa Heritage Day at Randell on March 13, 2010. In celebration of Archaeology Month, the event will include demonstrations on how to make fish net, rope, baskets, and primitive pottery. The WMS/LSSAS plans a field trip to the site for the event. Robin Brown, author of various books on Florida archaeology, will be among the authors participating at the event. Michael also advised

that there are currently volunteer opportunities in field and lab work at the mound. If anyone is interested, contact Michael at 239-283-2157 or email him at [rrcmichael@comcast.net](mailto:rrcmichael@comcast.net).

For more information on the Randell Research Center, visit their website at [www.flmnh.ufl.edu/RRC/](http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/RRC/).

## SEMINOLE WARS TOPIC OF NOVEMBER 18 MEETING

Authors John and Mary Lou Missal spoke at our November 18 meeting on their new book, *The Seminole Wars, America's Longest Conflict*. "Florida's three Seminole Wars were the longest, costliest, and deadliest of America's Indian Wars." For more information see the November//December 2009 *WMS/LSSAS Newsletter* and go to (<http://www.missal.net/>) and order their book and read all about it. A fascinating history!



Secretary Hilda Boron presents authors John and Mary Lou Missal our world famous tee-shirt

## ECO KIDS VISIT LITTLE SALT SPRING

By Alice White

On November 14, the Eco-Kids Club made their third annual visit to Little Salt Spring. The Eco-Kids Club is a monthly environmental club for children sponsored by People for Trees, Inc.

Over 150 children and their parents were able to view the ancient waters where artifacts dating back 10,000 years have been recovered. Children created their own "faux fossils" and made bead-and-feather necklaces. In order to gain a better understanding of the area and those who inhabited it centuries ago, members of the WMS/LSSAS taught the ancient art of rope twisting, displayed fossils and tools, and demonstrated the use of an atlatl. Then Steve Koski took small groups down to the

spring, where they were able to ask questions about this exceptional Florida treasure.

It was rewarding for me to see both of these groups working together so the children of North Port could appreciate a natural wonder found in their very own backyard. The Eco-Kids Club is now in its 11th year of providing wonderful environmental programs, and the Archaeological Society is celebrating its 20th anniversary.

In different ways, both of these groups are providing a better quality of life for local residents, not just by telling them about our history and environment, but also by giving them a real "hands on" experience they will never forget.

Many thanks to the volunteers from both groups who all worked so well together and, last but not least, to Scotty's Potties of Venice.

## FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH COMING IN MARCH.

March is Florida Archaeology Month! The theme for FAM 2010 is Indian Mounds of Florida. Florida's diverse history and prehistory stretches back over 12,000 years. By the late Archaic periods in Florida, mounds began to be developed along the St. Johns River and coastal areas like at Historic Spanish Point in Osprey due to the rich productivity of these estuarine and riverine environments, culminating in chiefdom societies like the Calusa in late prehistoric times, with monuments such as the Mound Key complex of Estero Bay in Lee County.

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 2010. The WMS/LSSAS will have a special meeting on one or more of Florida's Indian Mounds, and we are planning one or more field trips and events during FAM. 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 website, [www.flarchmonth.com](http://www.flarchmonth.com), shortly.

## UM DIVERS AT LSS JANUARY 4 TO 16, 2010

Dr. John Gifford is on site at LSS January 4-16 with nine students from the University of Miami as part of his Underwater Archaeology Techniques class. They are continuing the excavation of Operation 9, a 2 x 2 m square located 30-feet below the surface of Little Salt Spring. And it has been chilly. With frost four of the five nights here and temperatures dropping to 26° F Wednesday and Thursday

evenings, it's hard to get excited about diving. But, the water is 74° and once you're in you don't want to get out. The water is also incredibly clear this time of year and you can actually see the divers working on the bottom. Dr. Gifford makes three back-to-back 50-minute dives in the morning with three teams of students, and Steve Koski follows with three more teams in the afternoon.

A number of wood and bone items have been exposed on the sandy floor of the basin below the peat, two of which are late Paleo/Early Archaic artifacts. They will be labeled, illustrated, photographed, videoed, removed, processed and entered in the data base by the archaeologists and students. Quite an exciting, but chilling, experience for them. More on the field season in the March/April newsletter.



Um/RSMAS Students Karl Platzer and Karen Wilkening prepare to decent to Operation 14 at LSS with Dr. John Gifford

## ANNUAL YARD SALE TO BE HELD FEBRUARY 13, 2010

**We need your help!** Our annual yard sale will be held February 13 at the Warm Mineral Springs Motel on US 41 in North Port. You can help support the Society by donating your good unused items for the sale. Our yard sale is our only fundraiser and helps supplement our operating budget. We could not survive without it. We raise about \$1,000 on average and the money goes to good use to help bring great speakers to our meetings and produce the newsletter. This time of year, our budget is lean and membership dues and yard-sale funds are needed to shore up our treasury to get us through the year.

So, **please** consider donating items for the sale and consider helping out February 13. It's actually fun! Call Hilda Boron at (941)426-1719 or Steve Koski at (941)423-0835 for a drop-off location; some items may be able to be picked up for those unable to drop them off.

## FAS ANNUAL 2010 MEETING TO BE HELD IN FT. MYERS

The 2010 Annual Meeting of the Florida Anthropological Society will be held at the Harborside Event Center in Fort Myers May 7-12. The event will be hosted by the Southwest Florida Archaeological Society.

Accommodations for FAS 2010 will be at the new Hotel Indigo, just a block from the Harborside Event Center and a short walk to the Caloosahatchee River. Presenters must complete and submit the form available from the below website by February 12, 2009, accompanied by a check for the applicable registration fee, payable to SWFAS.

The three-day meeting includes a Friday afternoon workshop by archaeologist Louis Tesar on high-resolution digital photography of artifacts. The workshop will be held at the historic Seven Seas building at Newton Park in Fort Myers Beach, the new home of the Southwest Regional Center of the Florida Public Archaeology Network. The Friday-evening reception will be at the Mound House on Fort Myers Beach, with an opportunity to view the newly completed walk-in shell-mound exhibit hosted by the Florida Archaeological Council, FAS, SWFAS, and Ft. Myers Beach. A day of paper presentations will be held at the Harborside on Saturday, followed by the evening banquet with featured guest speaker Dr. Jerald T. Milanich, Curator Emeritus in Archaeology at the Florida Museum of Natural History. Please sign up for the banquet when you register, which should be by April 7, 2010. Field trips to sites including the Randell Research Center at Pineland and the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Seminole Museum are planned for Sunday, May 9. Registration for the meeting is \$50; banquet, \$50; workshop, free; Calusa Heritage Trail \$15; Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Misum field trip, \$20. Accommodations for FAS 2010 will be at the new Hotel Indigo, just a block from the Harborside Event Center and a short walk to the Caloosahatchee River. The Hotel Indigo is a 67-room boutique hotel that opened in 2009, with a bar, restaurant, rooftop pool, and fitness center. It is located at 1520 Broadway, Fort Myers, FL 33901. Reservations should be made directly with the hotel at 877-270-1389 or [www.hotelindigo.com/fortmyersfl](http://www.hotelindigo.com/fortmyersfl). Special conference room rates for FAS attendees start at \$99 a night for Thursday and Friday and \$89 on Saturday, plus applicable taxes. Street parking is available at no cost or \$14 per night in the parking garage. Please mention the Florida Anthropological Society room block when calling for reservations. The conference room rates are good through April 7, 2010.

This will be a great annual meeting in our backyard and all members are encouraged to go. See what an archaeological meeting is all about. It is a statewide event

where professional and avocational archaeologists come together to share information and research, socialize, and make contacts.

Detailed information will be included in the March/April newsletter, and for registration and information visit the FAS website at <http://www.fasweb.org/> and click on "annual meeting."

## IN MEMORY OF VICE PRESIDENT PHIL TREMBLEY, HE WILL BE MISSED

It is with deep sorrow that I must inform our members that our Vice President, Phil Trembley, passed away November 14 after a progressive illness. If you ever attended a meeting or field trip where Phil was in attendance, you knew him. Phil attended our board meeting the Saturday before his death and informed the Board he would be resigning as Vice President due to an illness. Nineteen members attended a service for him at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd in Venice on December 3, 2009.



The late Phil Trembley, January 2009  
March 19, 1930 – November 14, 2009

Phil was a front-lines kind of guy, and would always offer a cheerful greeting or lend a helping hand. He greeted members and guests at all our meetings, sold our raffle tickets, and attended all our field trips and functions when not in his home state of New York. He was also a docent at Historic Spanish Point, providing educational programs for children, and a docent at Venice Little Theater and Ringling Museum of Art.

Phil led quite an interesting life. To name a few accomplishments: he was a naval officer who traveled the globe on the aircraft carrier Tarawa; a professional psychologist with a master's degree from Syracuse University; a special-education teacher at Bolton Central School; president of the Upstate School Psychologists Association; a publisher of education programs; Director of

Special Programs in Rockland County, NY; a lodge owner on Lake George with his wife of 53 years, Marion Trembley; and a historic preservation advocate.

A man of many interests and accomplishments, we are happy that Phil dedicated some of his time with us over the years. He was certainly a pleasure to know and his laugh will be fondly remembered always.

**“TRACES OF OUR PAST” SPEAKER SERIES AT NEW COLLEGE CONTINUES!**

The five-speaker lecture series sponsored by New College Public Archaeology Laboratory and Time Sifters Archaeological Society, with funding from the Florida Humanities Council, continues. The remaining speakers are as follows:

- January 20: Brent Weisman, Ph.D., University of South Florida, will present “Archaeology of the Unconquered People,” a story of Florida Seminole and Miccosukee.
- March 17: Barbara Purdy, Professor Emeritus, University of Florida, will present “Ancient Art of Florida’s Native People.”
- May 19: William Lees, Ph.D., Florida Public Archaeology Network, will present “Discovering Civil War Florida.”

The free presentations will be held at the Mildred Sainer Pavilion, New College of Florida, 5313 Bayshore Road, Sarasota. Reservations for the events are recommended, so make sure you call if you are interested. For more information and reservations, call New College Events Hotline at 941-487-4888 or go to [www.ncf.edu/mediaevents](http://www.ncf.edu/mediaevents).

This will be an exciting series of programs!

**NORTH PORT TO HOLD FIRST ANNUAL ARBOR DAY EVENT JANUARY 15**

On January 15, North Port will hold its first annual Arbor Day Celebration January 15 from 11:00 AM to 3:00

PM at North Port City Hall. There will be free oak tree seedlings given away, drawings for prizes, information booths, tree care classes, \$3.00 hot dog lunch to benefit United Way, and Greenest Citizen award ceremony. Vote for the “Greenest Citizen” at [www.cityofnorthport.com](http://www.cityofnorthport.com)

**EDITOR’S NOTE**

Again, I am sure I missed something important to say concerning the Society, state and local events, etc., but I am out of time. With the class here and a full dive schedule, it is hard to be in two places at once, although I try. Thanks for your support and see you at the January Meeting!

**OFFICERS**

- PRESIDENT.....George Haag ([geophaag@msn.com](mailto:geophaag@msn.com))
- VICE PRESIDENT... ..currently vacant
- SECRETARY.....Hilda Boron (941.426.1719)
- MEMBERSHIP.....Linda Massey ([Imassey628@msn.com](mailto:Imassey628@msn.com))
- TREASURER.....Kate Cattran ([EENCAT@aol.com](mailto:EENCAT@aol.com))

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For a color pdf copy of the newsletter, send a request to the editor at the above email address!

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