



WMS/LSS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

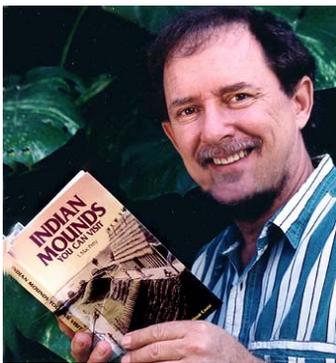
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A 501(c)3 Corporation and Chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society

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.

**"THE FIRST 12,000 YEARS IN FLORIDA" TOPIC OF
MARCH 10 MEETING BY AUTHOR MAC PERRY**

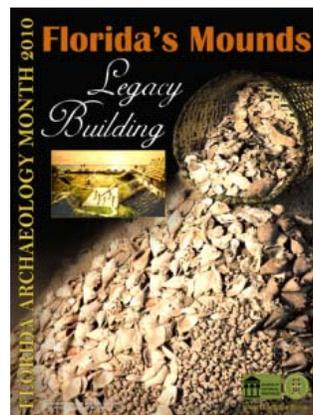
Author, historian, and avocational archaeologist Mac Perry will be the speaker at the March 10 meeting of the WMS/LSS Archaeological Society. His topic, "The First 12,000 Years in Florida," will discuss human life ways in Florida 12,000, 9000, 5000, 2000, 1000, and 500, years ago, with an emphasis on the various types of Indian mounds that appeared and the reasons for their emergence. Who were the first Floridians? What did they eat? How did they live? What happened to them? Where were the beaches? *Cont. 12,000 Years page 2.*



Author Mac Perry

FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH IS HERE!

March is Florida Archaeology Month. This year's FAM theme is "Florida's Mounds, Legacy Building." Florida's diverse history and prehistory stretch back over 12,000 years. By the middle to late Archaic periods in Florida, mounds began to be developed along the St. Johns River and coastal areas like Historic Spanish Point in Osprey due to the rich productivity of these estuarine and riverine environments. They culminated in chiefdom societies like the Calusa in late prehistoric times, with monuments such as the Mound Key complex of Estero Bay in Lee County.



"Florida Indian Mounds are Monuments. Mounds are physical manifestations of social, political, and religious systems—arenas for communal activities, including places where, through their priests and tribal leaders, people could reaffirm their ties to one another and the world around them, as well as to the spiritual world. Indian mounds and earthworks are indeed monuments of the past, deserving our respect and preservation" (excerpt from the 2010 FAM poster).

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.

Sunday, March 7: members went to the South Florida Museum to see the exhibit on the Florida Seminole, the last day the exhibit was to be there. Members were notified via email.

Wednesday, March 10: Author Mac Perry will speak at our monthly meeting on "The First 12,000 Years in Florida," with an emphasis on various types of Indian mounds that appeared and the reasons for their emergence.

Saturday, March 13: a field trip is scheduled to the Randell Research Center at Pineland in Lee County to attend their Calusa Heritage Day, an annual celebration at the premier Calusa Indian Mounds site.

Saturday, March 20: WMS/LSSAS will set up an archaeology tent at North Port's annual Nature Festival at Garden of the Five Senses on Panamerican Blvd., North Port.

Saturday, March 27: the WMS/LSSAS will set up an archaeology tent at Archaeology Fest, an event sponsored by TimeSifters of Sarasota. The event will be held at Pioneer Park, the location of the Historical Society of Sarasota and Historic Crocker Church on 12th St., one block east of US 41, just north of Fruitville Road.

The WMS/LSSAS set up a small archaeological exhibit based on the theme of FAM in the center cases at the North Port Library, featuring a stratigraphic profile on an archaeological shell midden with the poster, photographs artifacts, and artifact reproductions.

2010 FAM posters and bookmarks will be distributed at the March meeting.

A listing of events throughout the state is posted on the FAM website, www.flarchmonth.com. Check it out and join the fun!

12,000YEARS from Page 1

These questions and many more will be answered by Mac Perry at this month's meeting of the Archaeological Society. Mr. Perry packs a lot of information into a very enjoyable presentation and he uses mac-made "artifacts" from each of the major eras to help bring the past to life.

Mac is the author of several books, including *Indian Mounds You can Visit* (appropriate for Florida Archaeology Month), that discusses 165 Aboriginal sites along the Gulf Coast accessible to the public, and a historic-adventure series of novels, *Black Conquistador* and *Children of the Sun*, on the New World exploits of Cabeza de Vaca, second in command on the failed Narváez expedition of 1527 and one of four survivors, including the first black man in America, Estavanico. The stories are based on de Vaca's own accounts, *La Relación*, published in Spain in 1542. Mac is nearly finished with his latest book, *Life and Lunch in a Ninth Century Indian Village: Florida's Pre-historic Manasota Culture and the 200 Plant Foods They Ate*.

Mr. Perry's visit is one of the local events planned to celebrate Florida Archaeology Month.

April 14 MEETING WILL BE SURE TO BE OF INTEREST

Mark your calendar for our April 14 meeting at 6:30. Due to a cancellation, we cannot announce our April speaker at this time, but you will not be disappointed. We will announce the presenter and topic via email and newspaper when determined.

"SHELL MONUMENTS OF MEMORY IN THE ST. JOHNS RIVER VALLEY" HELD JANUARY 13

By Judi and John Crescenzo

On January 13, 2010, University of Florida Archaeologist Ken Sassaman spoke on "Shell Monuments of Memory in the St. Johns River Valley of Northeast Florida." Ken explained that when Europeans first arrived in Florida, there were hundreds of mounds that were thought to be natural formations until the 1850s. Jeffries Wyman of Harvard and C. B. Moore from Philadelphia were among the first to dig into the mounds to prove that they were human constructions. Nonetheless, in the 1920s, some of privately owned mounds were used for road fill and fertilizer. Until 20 years ago, mounds were believed to be mere garbage dumps because they contained remains of foods such as fish, turtles, acorns, etc. It has recently been discovered, however, that mounds were built rather quickly and did not always contain garbage; they are most likely examples of primitive architecture.



UF Archaeologist Kenn Sassaman accepts our world famous tee-shirt from president George Haag

Ken hypothesized that mound builders may have been conscious of “memory,” which he defined as human awareness of the past. This led to the creation of self-identities, tradition, and planned communities. He added that mounds were built during periods of rapid change, such as a channel moving due to storms or the immigration of foreign people who brought different ideas to an area.

The early St. Johns region can be divided into two chronological periods: Mount Taylor (6200–4200 BP) and Orange (4000 BP). Newnan points and marine shell from the Mount Taylor period have been discovered. The presence of marine shell is significant because it is not local and had to be traded or carried from the shore. Artifacts include a shell adz, hammer, and picks. Also found were Queen conchs from South Florida, banner stones from the Tomoka State Park area, and greenstone/soapstone items from Alabama and Georgia. The first earth mounds were also built and used for burials at this time. During the Orange period, pottery was plain and fiber tempered or incised and fiber tempered.

Two mounds have suffered less destruction than others. One is the Hontoon Dead Creek Mound, which is 150x50 meters and crescent shaped. It is a 6000-year-old midden with a basal layer (original sand), clean shell on top, then alternating light and dark (unburned and burned) shell. Mounds were typically built in 1–5 generations, capped with clean shell, and started again, creating a layered pattern. Another is the Live Oak Mound, which is a 120x60-meter crescent from approximately 6,250 years ago. Some looting has occurred, but the looters’ holes are now being used by archaeology students to access the mound.

Harris Creek Mound was also mined in the 1960s

and '70s, but 84 burials have been salvaged. Harris Creek is the first mound burial site, and it existed at the time when pond burials ended. It is a habitation site constructed of shell, sand, and gumbo (swamp muck).

Ken also noted that before mounds were built, people were buried in ponds, as can be seen in the Windover site, where 168 individual graves from 8100–7900 years ago have been uncovered. Little Salt Spring is also a Middle Archaic mortuary pond site. Water symbolized rejuvenation and spiritual powers to early people, and most early creation myths depict the world and life emerging from water. So what would people have felt if the land was suddenly submerged by water? This major change occurred about 6,000 years ago when there was suddenly less dry land and more water. At about the same time, pond burials ended. Ken presented a fascinating hypothesis that mounds could metaphorically be inverted ponds.

Significant numbers of freshwater apple snail shells were layered in mounds of the St. Johns area, and samples of snail growth rings are being tested to determine whether their life cycles are similar and if they came from the same water body. When snails from various strata are tested, this will also prove whether they were gathered in cycles or at random and whether they were from a distant or local source. The results of these studies will test the hypothesis that mounds were ritualistic structures.

Another significant mound in the St. Johns region is Salt Springs, which had been privately developed with a bulkhead, beach, and hotel. When the U.S. Forest Service renovated, the shell mound alongside the bulkhead was made available for research. This mound had been underwater, and a trench revealed three layers: sand with ripples at the bottom, shell, and more shell. Presumably, this is part of a habitation mound created at the shore's edge, and because it was underwater it is in excellent condition. Radiocarbon dates show an accumulation of materials over a short period of time. Artifacts uncovered include drilled shark teeth, stone tools, a section of alligator, and large lightning-whelk direct-cooking vessels from the pre-pottery period. Also discovered were seeds from squash, hickory, sedge, saw grass, gourd, maypop, pokeweed, blackberry, wax myrtle, and grape.

Silver Glen Spring on the southwest corner of Lake George, which has the greatest density of shell mounds, was mined in 1923 and then sold to a private hunting club from Kentucky. Part of this mound contains evidence of homes and a village that resembles a Mid-Eastern tell with stacked layers of habitation refuge. Silver Glen Spring also includes remnants of a 6,000-year-old amphitheater. About

5,400 years ago, the spring and land were stable, which was essential to the establishment of this village.

It is also significant that three pottery types appeared concurrently around 4000 BP, when mounds became much larger and more formal. On the south ridge, all pottery was plain, while pottery on the north ridge was orange incised; pottery in the habitation area was technologically the same as plain pottery, but it was highly decorated. The fact that three different pottery styles developed at the same time suggests that outsiders moved into the region, possibly from the coast. Pits also provide evidence of clambakes and large gatherings, indicating a melding of societies and marriage alliances into one large community. However, this new world order was short lived, possibly because people moved inland due to sea-level changes.

Ken closed his presentation with the hypothesis first proposed by James Ford working in the Mississippi Valley that primitive people may have migrated from South America and the Caribbean to Florida. This theory is supported by the fact that sponge spicules were added to clay along the Amazon, a practice also followed by early people in the St. Johns River area.

ARCHAEOLOGIST BILL BURGER OUR FEBRUARY 10 SPEAKER

By Judi and John Crescenzo

In his February 10, 2010, presentation, "The People in Between: Tampa Bay Natives from Contact to Extinction," Archaeologist Bill Burger provided excerpts from primary documents to describe native people who inhabited the region upon the arrival of Europeans until the demise of native populations by 1793. Among the earliest explorers was Amerigo Vespucci, who, in 1498, sailed the entire coast of Florida. Ponce de Leon followed in 1512–1513, and after naming "La Florida," he was fatally wounded by natives during his explorations.

Europeans documented what they found in 16th-century Florida, providing an image of native tribes. However, this information may be incorrect because it lacks specific details on natives and dialectical subdivisions. The natives were also named in various ways, and accounts were written to fulfill Spanish expectations. Reports included sightings of chiefs and villages, but it is difficult to say whether the names given were from one group or part of another group.

The arrival of Europeans brought new diseases that caused the death of natives and destruction of their culture. Because the very young and very old were most susceptible to disease, both the storytellers and next generation were sent on a downward spiral. Inter-group



Archaeologist Bill Burger accepts our world famous tee-shirt from Vice President Judith Ribarik

raids between native peoples also added to their demise.

The writings of Cabeza de Vaca in 1528 describe flourishing communities with many large structures, which suggests communal living with 30–50 people per home; however, archaeology has not uncovered evidence of these large structures. Although measurements are mentioned, there was no uniform league measurement until 1801, so accurate locations and sizes are impossible to determine.

Records indicate that no one leader tightly controlled Tampa Bay; it was made up of "squabbling fiefdoms" with some extracting tribute. Tribes of Tampa Bay were loose and unstable, and they had short-lived alliances. The natives were unable to fight DeSoto's organized army, so they sent DeSoto north to seek gold in order to get rid of him.

DeSoto did not find much produce in the area, but a member of the Narvaez expedition reported that there was an abundance of maize inland. Corn was a measurable source of power because it could support a large population. Coastal dwellers obtained protein from the estuaries, but they also needed a starch source that was provided by maize. Furthermore, nearly all human cultures found have altered consciousness in some way. Those who grew the maize could have produced beer used at feasts, putting them in a position of control. It is also possible that over-harvesting of food sources led to shortages, stress, and warfare among native populations.

In 1549, three ships headed to Spain from Mexico were shipwrecked, leaving Fontenada a captive of the Calusa for 17 years. Fontenada's 1575 accounts include the first mention of the Tocobaga of Tampa Bay. It was also reported that Carlos, the chief of the Calusa, controlled 50 towns that spoke 24 different languages. The Tocobaga

who met with Carlos and Menendez brought along 1,500 people, including 29 chiefs. These accounts describe the impressive size of the tribes, but they do not give specific names of locations.

By 1564, Carlos had exerted his influence as far north as the Orlando area. Per Fontenada, natives on the Suwannee River were subject to the Tocobaga. By 1608, Menendez's efforts to colonize the west coast of Florida had failed, and thereafter the Spanish concentrated on the St. Augustine area. In less than 40 years, the Tocobaga took control of much of the west coast, with the Calusa to the south. An alliance was formed between the Tocobaga and Pogo of the Tampa Bay area, but by 1634 the Pogo were subject to the Calusa.

Records of the plague, smallpox, and measles show regular outbreaks between 1612 and 1672, which further fragmented native societies. In 1695, Spanish visitors found some Tocobaga in the Tampa Bay area, and natives living in that area were called "Tampas." Between 1670 to 1715, England traded natives as slaves and raided Spanish territory.

Depletion of native populations is more evident in 18th-century records. In 1708, a British Indian Agent reported that Indians had fled south to find firm land but were enslaved. In 1718, when the governor sent Spanish Captain Jose Primo de Ribera to St. Marks to build a fort, there were two small settlements nearby with 2,000 inhabitants. By 1723, the Tocobaga were destroyed by invading Creek Indians, and when the Spanish mapped the Tampa Bay area in 1783, they found no original natives.

Mr. Burger's presentation ended with the hopeful note that in the near future, if restraints on travel and research are opened with Cuba, records from the 1570s to 1900s will be digitized for study. This will answer many questions and greatly add to what is known about Florida's history.

UM COMPLETES FIELD SEASON JANUARY 16, 2010

Dr. John Gifford and his Underwater Techniques class from the University of Miami wrapped up the two-week field season January 16. Nine students participated, continuing the excavation of Operation 9, a 2 x 2 m square located 30 feet below the surface of Little Salt Spring. Interestingly, on 10 of the 12 days, temperatures dropped below 30° F, reaching as low as 24°F on January 11. We made a point not to go in the water until the temperatures rose to above 32°F, which some days wasn't until 10 a.m.



January 2010 Students and staff at LSS. Check out those happy faces!

Frozen wetsuits were the norm for those who forgot to take them in at night. But the water was 74°F and, once you were in, you didn't want to get out. The water was also incredibly clear during their visit, up to 12 m of visibility; now it is only 5.5 m, based on the daily secchi-disk readings. A considerable amount of work was accomplished and two wood artifacts and one bone artifact were recovered from the sandy floor of Operation 14. The students labeled, illustrated, photographed, videoed, removed, processed, and entered information into the data base. One artifact was a thin wood handle with parallel-incised lines engraved near the top; another was a wood stake lying flat on the sandy bottom under the peat. Very exciting for them.

UM Dive Safety Office Rick Gomez and Florida Aquarium Dive Safety Officer Casey Coy were on site as well, to conduct a mixed-gas technical-diving class for four students who will assist during the July 2010 27m-ledge research. As a bonus to the field season, we got a visit from UM/RSMAS Dean Avissar and Assistant Dean of Advancement, Rose Mann. Dean Avissar had never been



Dr. John Gifford, Dean Roni Avissar, Assistant Dean of Advancement Rose Mann, Development Director Karen Wilkening, and Research Associate Steve Koski at LSS

to the site before, so it was especially exciting for us to show him around. Development Director Karen Wilkening was also on site, as she took Dr. Gifford Class and spent the two weeks diving with us. Another very successful field season and it is always a pleasure to host UM dignitaries!



RSMAS Marine Affairs student Eric Bryant picks up his frozen wet suit for a morning dive after leaving it outside after a 24°F evening.

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YARD SALE!

Another successful yard sale was held by the Society on February 13. More than \$1,200 was raised for our treasury, which helps supplement our annual budget and helps pay for our newsletters, speakers' honorariums, speakers' dinners, mailings, memberships, etc. At least ten members participated at the event that took place next to the Warm Mineral Spring Motel, where our speakers and visiting scientists stay when they are in town—a very nice local motel for your guests when they are in town.

We really had some nice items this year and Hilda, Ann and Kate sent a considerable amount of time pricing and boxing items getting ready for them to be loaded the day of the sale. It was cloudy and cold, but luckily the rain held off.

What a day! We rented a truck Friday afternoon, picked up items from folks' garages, delivered them at 7:00 a.m., unloaded, set up tables on loan from the North Port Mullen Center (thanks to Kathy Forsyth), sold until 1:00 p.m., repacked and loaded leftovers, and brought it all to the Humane Society Thrift store on US 41 in North Port, so they, hopefully, could benefit from our items.

We thank all those who donated items and helped throughout the entire process.



A chilly day for volunteers at the yard sale

2010 FAS ANNUAL MEETING MAY 7-9.

From Jan/Feb NL 2009

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.

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 from 9 to 3 p.m. Registration for the meeting is \$50; banquet, \$50; workshop, free; Calusa Heritage Trail \$15; Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Misum field trip, \$20. Box Lunch and bus transportation included with registration. 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. 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. For registration and information visit the FAS website at <http://www.fasweb.org/> and click on "annual meeting."

FIELD TRIP TO RANDELL RESEARCH CENTER SCHEDULED MARCH 13

Information from www.flmnh.ufl.edu/rrc/events

The Randell Research Center's fifth annual Calusa Heritage Day is scheduled for Saturday, March 13, 2010. The event focuses on regional archaeology, history, and ecology. Art, music, and replicative technologies, as avenues to learning/education about Pineland's heritage, are included. Activities for children and adults alike will be provided, and food and beverages will be available. Admission is \$5 per person; children under 12 are admitted free. All proceeds benefit the education and research programs of the Calusa Heritage Trail, Randell Research Center.

The day-long event (10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) will take place at the Pineland archaeological site complex (13810 Waterfront Drive, Pineland) and will be centered around the Pavilion/Classroom and Calusa Heritage Trail. Visitors can expect a variety of activity, exhibit, and information stations located in these areas in a festival format, as well as site tours.

Here are some of the people you can expect to see at Calusa Heritage Day. The featured speaker this year is GEORGE BURGESS, internationally recognized ichthyologist and coordinator of the International Shark Attack File. His lecture at 2:00 p.m. is entitled "Smalltooth Sawfish: America's First Federally Endangered Marine Fish." Archaeological exhibits by the Florida Museum of Natural History: Dr. Karen Walker, Donna Ruhl, Melissa Ayvaz, Ryan Van Dyke, Andrea Palmiotto, Gypsy Price, Austin Bell, and Ann Cordell. AND...the archaeological

excavations on Mound 5 will be open for everyone to see.

Hands-on Activities/Special Guests: Robin Brown, Dick Workman, Rick Tully, John Beriault, David Meo, Merald Clark, Hermann Trappman, Kelgin Knives, Terry Powell/Tools From The Earth, Tin Fins, and Felix M. Rodriguez.

Authors include: Gerald and Loretta Hausman, Roothie Gabay, Mary Kaye Stevens, and Marsha Perlman.

Vendors include: Native Plant Sale, Ancient Hands Pottery, Tooth Fairy Shark Teeth, and GAEA Guides.

Food by Mel Meo and Co.

Information booths: Calusa Land Trust, Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge, Lee County Parks and Recreation, Great Calusa Blueway, Charlotte Harbor Preserve, Sawfish Research/U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Pineland Post Office/Ruby Gill House, Museum of the Islands, and Florida Public Archaeology Network.

AND...Calusa Tastings—free samples of foods eaten by the Calusa Indians, hosted by Karen Walker.

Assisting will be the Randell Research Center volunteers and the Florida Gulf Coast University Anthropology Club.

Members and their guests will meet at the North Port Library at 8:15 a.m. for an 8:30 departure.

For more information on the Randell Research Center, visit their website at: www.flmnh.ufl.edu/rrc.

"TRACES OF OUR PAST" SPEAKER SERIES AT NEW COLLEGE CONTINUES!

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

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. These will be exciting programs to conclude the series!

HISTORIC SPANISH POINT

Would you like to visit Sarasota County's best-preserved shell mounds during Florida Archaeology Month and see the location of early homesteaders and the social elite? Visit Sarasota County's premier preserve at Historic Spanish Point, located off US 41, south of the Oaks in Osprey. The Gulf Coast Heritage Association maintains the beautiful 30-acre natural-and-cultural-resources preserve, listed on the *National Register of Historic Places*.

Four major prehistoric site components are present at the site: the Hill Cottage Midden, dating between 2150 and 1400 BC; the Shell Ridge, south of the Hill Cottage Midden and extending into Little Sarasota Bay, dating between 300 BC and AD 150; the Chapel Midden, located south of the shell Ridge, dating from AD 150 to AD 1000; and the last component, to which a burial mound was associated, is dated to AD 850.

The site also has a rich history. It was first settled in 1867 by John Webb and family, who acquired 144 acres in what was then known as Manatee County. They hunted, trapped, gardened, entertained visiting Northern friends, established a citrus grove and packing house, and lived at the site until 1911.

Bertha Honore Palmer was the next resident. She arrived in 1910 and established a summer estate at the site. Her original home still stands on Shell Ridge.

As 2010 marks the 100th year of the arrival of Bertha Palmer, Sarasota County and Historic Spanish Point have planned a Centennial Celebration: "Year of Bertha Palmer." Special events include a daily "Strictly Palmer" tour at 1:00 p.m. Visitors will encounter costumed interpreters on the tour of her historic grounds and gardens. On Thursdays and Sundays, following the Strictly Palmer tour, up to 18 guests who reserve tea cards will have tea with Mrs.

Palmer on the White Cottage porch.

On Mrs. Palmer's birthday, May 22, HSP has is planning a celebration of her life at the site and programs will be held at Sarasota County libraries to recognize her accomplishments. Saturday, April 10, at 6:30, HSP will host "a "once in a decade" gala called *An Affair to Remember*, catered by Michael's on East. For more information on Historic Spanish Point's programs and events, visit their website at www.historicspanishpoint.org

We will be raffling two tickets to Historic Spanish Point at our March 10 meeting. Another great reason to come to the meeting!

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