



**WMS/LSS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER**

Vol. 24, No. 5 November/December 2013

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

The Warm Mineral Springs/Little Salt Spring Archaeological Society meets the second Tuesday of the month (except June-August) at 7:00 PM, at the North Port Community United Church of Christ located at 3450 Biscayne Blvd. Meetings are free and open to the public. Our next meeting after May 14 will be September 10, 2013

**PRESENTATION ON MANATEE MINERAL SPRINGS  
TO BE HEARD AT NOVEMBER 12 MEETING**

Sarasota Archaeologist Sherry Robinson Svekis will be the speaker at the November 12 meeting. Her topic, "The History Beneath our Feet — Archaeology and the Manatee River Communities."

Until the early 20th century, the Manatee River, a waterway that extends 50 miles inland from its mouth near the entrance to Tampa Bay, was an important resource in the development of this region. In the 1840s and '50s, the village of Manatee became a thriving community while Sarasota was still a scattering of individual homesteads. Cont. Manatee p. 2.



Archaeologist Sherry Svekis

**ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE NORTHWEST YUCATÁN  
WILL BE THE TOPIC OF THE DECEMBER 10  
MEETING**

Archaeologist Dr. Anthony Andrews, professor at New College of Florida, will be the speaker at the December 10 meeting. His topic, "Surveying Cycles of the Longue Durée in Northwest Yucatán: 3,000 Years of Towns & Ballcourts, Cities & Temples, Villages and Haciendas," will give an overview of a survey and subsequent salvage work in northwest Yucatán, which has been ongoing since 1999. The survey covers the area between Progreso-Merida-Celestun and the coast, an area of 2,000 square kilometers, and all the



Archaeologist Dr. Anthony Andrews

time periods, from the Middle Preclassic (ca. 800 B.C.) to A.D. 2000. To date, his team has recorded more than 500 prehispanic and historic sites, and several field operations are ongoing to salvage sites being affected by the construction of the urban aggregations of Ciudad Caucel and Ciudad Ucú, a new highway and road grid, and other developments west of Mérida.

Dr. Andrews is a professor in the Division of Social Sciences at New College of Florida. His research interests and areas include archaeology, ethnohistory, and historical archaeology of southern Mesoamerica, with special focus on the Lowland Maya of the Yucatán peninsula. Areas of study include coastal adaptations, ecology, subsistence and settlement patterns; prehispanic trade and economics; and Yucatecan history, early colonial religious architecture, and historical cartography. He teaches Introduction to Archaeology; Human Origins & Evolution; Method & Theory in Archaeology; Ecological Anthropology; Urban Anthropology; Primate Evolution & Behavior; Mesoamerican Archaeology; Andean Prehistory; Latin American Historical Archaeology; Old World Prehistory; Mesoamerican Ethnography; and Maya Archaeology, Ethnography, and Ethnohistory. His extensive field experience spans more than 43 years and includes mostly work in the Yucatán Peninsula of Mexico, but also Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador, Peru, and the S.E. United States.

#### **MANATEE** cont from p. 1

Major plantations grew on both sides of the river, and large sailing ships carried timber and molasses to markets on the Gulf and up the east coast.

Community histories and descendant family lore, personal diaries and letters, military reports, newspaper clippings, maps, and photographs tell many stories that have become familiar touchstones of community pride. Yet the Anglo-American settlement of the area is only the most visible element of our local history.

There were peoples living along the Manatee River long before American settlement, peoples whose histories have been obscured by the success of the people who took their place. For the Native Americans whose mounds lined the river's banks, the maroons (free Blacks) who found freedom here in the 1810s,

and the workers of the Cuban fishing ranchos who gathered their catch each winter from these shores, we must look to the tools of archaeology for evidence of their lives here. Ms. Svekis's talk will recount some of the archaeological investigations that have been performed along the river over the years and how fragments of pottery and pipes, stone points, shells, and shark teeth help reveal the story of people whose names are lost to time.

Ms. Svekis was always fascinated by history and archaeology, but she was not able to pursue the subjects formally until a mid-life career change. She applied and was accepted into New College of Florida and received a BA in Anthropology and History in 2005. Her thesis took a historical-archaeology approach to the tabby ruins at De Soto National Memorial and inspired her to work with local communities to raise the visibility of the multiple histories of our area. To further this goal, she has designed a number of educational events, lecture series, and new ways of teaching children about our local history. In addition to being President of Time Sifters Archaeology Society, she is Vice President of Reflections of Manatee and serves on the City of Sarasota Historic Preservation Board and the boards of the Florida Anthropological Society and Trail of Florida's Indian Heritage.

Come to the November 12 meeting and learn more about our local history!

#### **ARCHAEOLOGY AT YBOR CITY TOPIC OF OCTOBER MEETING**

By Judi and John Crescenzo

Rebecca O'Sullivan, Archaeologist and Outreach Coordinator for the Florida Public Archaeology Network, Central West Region, spoke on "Ybor City Beneath the Surface" on October 8, 2013. Her presentation was supplemented by a selection of interesting historical maps and images of Ybor City.

The purpose of conducting archaeology at Ybor was to raise awareness of the city's history, to inform the public of the potential for research there, and to learn more about the people and daily lives of families. In 2011, archaeological excavations were conducted at the Ybor City Museum State Park. Shovel testing was completed, interpretive posters were distributed, and demonstrations, conducted. In 2012, 1 x 1 meter units were opened at 1602-06 Fifteenth Avenue.

The first archaeological dig in Ybor was at Republica de Cuba Avenue in the 1970s. Layers of ash and sawdust from fires when the area was still swampy were uncovered. Brick features remained from earlier drainage efforts. Twenty years later, a master's thesis was written about the artifacts found in this location. The second and third digs were conducted in the 1980s at Preservation Park and the Tamborello site, revealing early Ybor artifacts. The inside of a Ferlita Bakery oven was also excavated.



Archaeologist Rebecca O'Sullivan receives our world famous t-shirt from VP Jodi Johnson

"Ybor City BC (before cigars)" was a swampy inland area north of Fort Brook in Tampa and at the mouth of the Hillsborough River. When Henry Plant brought the railroad to Tampa, he created a city with a port and water, close to Cuba for shipping and with lots of empty land for growth.

By 1885, Martinez-Ybor, a factory owner, bought land and set up a company town with homes for cigar workers. At that time, rooming houses lined unpaved roads. By 1900, the dirt roads remained but houses were added. Factory owners and workers all lived near the factories. The location of the museum today is shown on an 1889 map as the R. Monne Brothers Cigar Factory, which is the oldest remaining building.

From 1900 to 1930, the cigar industry grew when Cuban immigrants were joined by other ethnic groups and their families. Most people worked in the cigar factories, and casitas (small homes) were used by workers who paid for them from their salaries. Social clubs appeared, and Ybor became a thriving community.

The current museum area has changed a great deal since 1915. One cigar factory and bakery remain, although the original bakery burnt down and was rebuilt in the 1920s. From 1930 to 1960, cigar making became mechanized and cigars went out of fashion. By then, immigrants had opened their own businesses or found jobs elsewhere. A map of Ybor in 1931 shows the cigar factory, houses, a tenement, and the current yellow-brick bakery, Ferlitas.

The workers' homes are gone and the area is an open plaza. The casitas at the museum today were moved in from other areas and are from the 1920s and 1930s. Between 1960 and 2012, hundreds of historic buildings were torn down when I-4 was run through Ybor as part of an urban-renewal project. However, new development never came to Ybor.

Test pits in open spaces of the park from 2011 prove that, despite modern disturbances, archaeological finds remain. In 2012, a trench pit in the northwest corner of the parking lot revealed a layer of mortar and brick pieces. Below this was a thin dark layer where artifacts from early Ybor were found, such as medical bottles and a mother-of-pearl cufflink. Below that were sterile soil and prehistoric items, including lithic chips and pottery sherds. The dig in a field at 1602-06 Fifteenth Avenue also uncovered an intact trash pit with a plate, along with 1930s and 1940s bottles.

These digs inform the public about household life, ethnic heritage and labor in Ybor. People today can connect to the past through archaeology. Comparing items reveals differences between the lives of the rich and poor, including the kinds of food eaten. Although labor was controlled by factory owners, workers went on strike. Women were employed to strip the tobacco and roll cigars, and children worked in the factories, too. Great presentation. Thanks, Becky!

We are planning a field trip to Ybor City and will visit Ybor City Museum State Park and other historic locations and have lunch at the Columbia Restaurant in January. Date to be announced in the January/February WMS/LSSAS Newsletter.

## PATAGONIA TOPIC OF SEPTEMBER MEETING

Judi and John Crescenzo

At our September 10, 2013, meeting, member Herbiana Ludwig shared her journey to Patagonia aboard the National Geographic ship *Explorer* in 2012. Her presentation, "Patagonia — A State of Mind," was accompanied by photos of her adventure.

Patagonia is not a separate country but is the southernmost part of Argentina and Chile. It stretches from the Rio Colorado in Argentina south 1500 miles to Tierra del Fuego, an island shared by Argentina and Chile at the tip of South America. The *Explorer* traveled through the Straits of Magellan near the Andes Mountains before heading to Cape Horn, the southernmost town in the world.

Upon arrival in Buenos Aires, Argentinean guides conducted an all-day tour of the city. One of the sites visited was the grave of Eva Peron, the wife of the Argentinean despot. The tour included a visit to a palace where Eva, who gave millions of dollars to the poor, spoke to her people. In the late afternoon, the ship was boarded.

The *Explorer* is owned by a Swedish line that has teamed with National Geographic to promote conservation and ecotourism. It sails from Buenos Aires and follows the route taken by Magellan.

*Patagonia* is Spanish for "big feet," which was first written by Magellan's diarist in 1528 when he saw the natives wearing large furry shoes. Patagonia was described as a region of giants at least nine feet tall. *Tierra del Fuego* means "land of fire," and it was named for the natives who carried burning embers from camp to camp to begin new fires at various locations of travel.



September speaker Herbiana Ludwig is thanked by VP Jodi Johnson (and given a t-shirt at the following meeting)

When European explorers arrived, they saw smoke from thousands of fires. The conquistadors crossed the Rio de la Plata (River of Silver) seeking gold and silver, but they found little. Magellan and the conquistadors caused the downfall of the natives through war and disease.

The Rio de la Plata is over three miles wide, making it the widest river in the world. After the *Explorer* crossed the river, passengers arrived in Montevideo, Uruguay. The guides apologized for constant rain, which was the tail end of Hurricane Sandy. After two days in port, the ship still could not leave because of the rain and wind. It is a little-known fact that corned beef was invented in Uruguay, not Argentina. Catholicism is embraced in Uruguay, and the people continue to rejoice over Pope Francis, who is from Buenos Aires and cares about the unfortunate.

Eastern Argentina is an arid plain because westerly winds prevent rain from crossing the Andes Mountains. When Darwin traveled through Patagonia in the 1830s on the HMS *Beagle*, his captain became friends with him but couldn't accept Darwin's theories. A recent photo of Puerto del Deseo shows rock formations and total desolation—the same scene

Darwin viewed when he visited. The Rio Deseado flows from east to west. It sometimes runs backwards from the Andes to the Atlantic, becoming salty and leaving salt deposits on the land.

Chris Moss's book *Patagonia – Culture and History* explains that the steppe rises gradually upward and is not flat. It consists of rolling desert steppes, and is not a true desert. Dry grasses hold shell particles and the ground surface is covered with fossils. The largest meat-eating dinosaur—bigger than Tyrannosaurus Rex—was found in Argentina. The tour spent several hours visiting a fascinating world-famous paleontology museum in Patagonia.

Patagonia also has unique wildlife. Herds of guanacos, camel-like creatures, roam the steppes. Rheas, like small ostriches, also live in the countryside. The mother rhea lays eggs, but the father tends the eggs, then feeds and teaches the young. Patagonian hares are huge and walk on four legs like dogs instead of hopping. Chilean pink flamingoes are prolific and a beautiful sight.

The Argentineans are welcoming, loud and jovial, and they like newcomers. They barbeque beef, lamb and pork chops from the ranches for visitors. Guachos (cowboys) dress up in costumes to demonstrate their skills with horses and ropes; they are a proud and melancholy group, and some people say they are like Robin Hoods. Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid once had a ranch here.

The people of Uruguay, South Brazil and Argentina enjoy a bitter green tea, macho, that is served in hollowed-out vegetable gourds and sipped through straws. The drink is passed around, and the best way to make friends is to join in the ritual. Among Argentinean inventions are the ballpoint pen in 1943, finger printing in 1891, and disposable syringes in 1989.

Friendly, well-cared-for dogs roam freely in the towns. Teahouses serve better pastries and Welsh tea than on the ship. Princess Diana visited a Welsh teahouse here in 1995, and her cup and saucer are on display. In the 1800s the Welsh arrived and treated the natives well. Because of this, the natives helped the Welsh through the first winters. In return, the Welsh taught the natives to read and write by using Bibles. Today irrigation from the Andes allows people to grow vegetables and fruits in Chile.

Tour members had the opportunity to meet Jim

Lovell, an astronaut from Apollo 13 who is now 84 years old. He went on every hike and signed autographs for guests. He said it is different today—in the past, astronauts performed a mission but now are like a ship without a rudder.

The final stop was at Cape Horn, but due to rough seas no one could go ashore. Instead, the ship circled the island, which took several hours. Because of the rocks and shoals, a harbor pilot was needed. When Sir Francis Drake sailed to Cape Horn in 1577, he was considered a pirate. The Chilean weather station has a small lighthouse with open-air sculptures so the wind can blow through them.

Herbiana's interesting and educational presentation was followed by a professional video, "Patagonia: Torres del Paine," which is part of the series *Travels to the Edge* by Art Wolfe. The video captured the spectacular landscape and beauty of Patagonia's mountains, waterfalls and glaciers, as well as close-up photos of guanacos, Patagonian hares, foxes, native geese, condors and caracaras. Because the animals in Patagonia have never been hunted, they have no fear of humans.

Great adventure, Herbiana. Thank you for sharing! You are welcome to join us again after your next trip.

#### **ART CALUSA EVENT TREMENDOUS SUCCESS**

The opening of "Art Calusa, Reflections on Representation" was held November 1 and 2 at the beautiful City Pier Building on the Caloosahatchee River, downtown Ft. Myers. It was an overwhelming success! More than 120 people attended the Friday-evening reception and opening of the exhibit. There, attendees were able to view the spectacular works of art that hung in the upstairs gallery by the nine contributing artists; Lucus Century, Merald Clark, Charles Dauray, Christopher Kreider, David Meo, Theodore Morris, Dean Quigley, Hermann Trappman, and Jackson Walker. Welcoming remarks were made by organizers from the Lee Trust for Historic Preservation, the Mayor of Ft. Myers and archaeologist Theresa Schober, followed by renowned archaeologist Dr. Jerry Milanich, who gave a presentation on the 420-year-old mystery of Theodore de Bry's engravings in his presentation, "Tattooed Ladies: Do Theodore de Bry's Iconic 1591 Engravings of Florida Indians Reflect Reality or Something Else?"

The following morning at 10:30, a presentation was given by artist Jackson Walker, who could not attend the panel session, who spoke on one of his works, "They Called it La Florida." The panel session with the artists and invited scholars followed from 1:30 to 4:30. Participating artists included Merald Clark, David J. Meo, Theodore Morris, Dean Quigley, and Hermann Trappman; and visiting scholars Dr. Gretchen M. Bataille, Steven Koski, Dr. Jerry



Several of the Artists line Up with Theresa Schober: Theodore Morris, David Meo, Hermann Trappman, Merald Clark, Charles Dauray, Jackson Walker, and Dean Quigley.

Milanich, Dr. Ryan Wheeler, and Theresa Schober. I must say it was quite an honor to be part of the lineup.

Topics for discussion included how artists, historians and archaeologists work together in the process of interpretation and representation, how artists bridge the gap between the known and unknown, what is the role of accuracy and authenticity, how certain images achieve iconic status, and how imagery of the past is developed and its effect on promoting a deeper understanding of culture.

On Sunday, the artists, panelists and guests were invited to the Mound House on Ft. Myers Beach for a tour of the grounds and shell-mound exhibit. During her years as Director of the Mound House, Theresa Schober was directly responsible for bringing in more than \$4 million in grants for the Mound House property through the Town of Ft. Myers Beach. The money was granted for the restoration of the historic house, reconstruction of the historic garage, excavation of the shell-mound exhibit and interpretive displays, landscaping of the property and more; a phenomenal achievement.

Theresa also authored and edited *Art Calusa, Reflections on Representation*, a catalog of the art work, designed by Karen Nelson. It includes a preface by Pamela Miner, President, Lee Trust for Historic Preservation; introduction and acknowledgments and text with integrated artist commentary by Theresa Schober; and essays by Gretchen M. Bataille, Steven Koski, Jerald Milanich, and Ryan Wheeler. This beautiful 104-page catalog of the artists' work on exhibit through December 11 can be purchased for \$25 plus tax through the Lee Trust for Historic Preservation. It is highly recommend for those interested in visual representations of Florida Native Americans and their first European encounters. If you missed the opening, the exhibit will run through December 11. See the following article for an event to be



Key Note Speaker Dr. Jerry Milanich

held November 20 at the City Pier Building, where you can see the exhibit and hear about the art of Florida's Native Americans. The City Pier Building is located at 1300 Hendry Street, Ft. Myers.

The catalog and Art Calusa event were made possible in part by the College of Life Foundation, Florida Anthropological Society and True Tours, and grants from the Florida Humanities Council, Southwest Florida Community Foundation, and Tourist Development Council of Lee County.

For a copy of Art Calusa, Reflections on Representations, send a request to Lee Trust for Historic Preservation, P.O. Box 1035, Ft. Myers, FL 33902 or email at Making History Memorable@gmail.com.

### **UPCOMING PRESENTATION FOR ART CALUSA EXHIBIT NOVEMBER 20 AT THE CITY PIER BUILDING, FT MYERS** (see address above)

information provided by LTHP

On November 20, 2013, 7:30 pm, Dr. Barbara A. Purdy will "The Native Art of Florida: An Archaeological Bonanza." Early Floridians had no metal ores (thus no metallurgy), no suitable stone for sculptures, and no ceramic industry before about 2000 BC. Nevertheless, art objects fashioned from bone and wood have survived in Florida since the last Ice Age, more than 13,000 years ago, and predate those from other areas by thousands of years. The introduction of ceramic technology, the diffusion of ideas from north and south, and the arrival of Europeans in the early 16th century raise interesting questions about origins and dispersals of art styles. Dr. Purdy will briefly discuss each of these aspects of Florida's past from the standpoint of uniqueness and cultural implications.

Dr. Barbara A. Purdy is Professor Emerita at University of Florida and Curator Emerita at Florida Museum of Natural History, is the author of more than

seventy-five articles and book reviews, and over a dozen books including *The Art and Archaeology of Florida's Wetlands* (1991) and *Indian Art of Ancient Florida* (1996). Her areas of expertise include the application of physical-science techniques to archaeological problems, lithic technology, early humans in the Western hemisphere, the archaeology of wetlands, and the early European contact period in Florida. In 1982, her book *Florida's Prehistoric Stone Technology* was honored with the American Association of University Presses and the Southern Book awards. In 2005, Purdy was named the foremost wetlands archaeologist in the Western Hemisphere at the International Conference of Wetlands Archaeology, and received the Ripley P. Bullen Award from the Florida Anthropological Society in 2011 and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Southeastern Archaeological Conference in 2013.

### **MORE ON FAS 2014 ANNUAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE TO BE HOSTED BY WMS/LSSAS**

Adapted from Sept/Oct WMS/LSSAS Newsletter

Planning continues for the 2014 Annual Florida Anthropological Society Meeting to be held in Punta Gorda, May 9–11, 2014. As I mentioned in the Sept/Oct Newsletter, this is a big deal. In the 24 years since the founding of the Society by Sonny Cockrell (as WMSAS), then Principal Investigator at the FSU Warm Mineral Springs Archaeological Research Project, and 21 years as an FAS Chapter, we have never hosted a conference. So, no pressure there.

Punta Gorda is a quaint historic city rich in local and regional history, located just south of, and at the mouth of, the Peace River and Charlotte Harbor. It has a nice historic district that was revitalized after the devastating effects of Hurricane Charley in 2004.

The meeting will be held at the Charlotte County Conference and Event Center (<http://www.charlotteharbormeetings.com/>), which is located on the Peace River. The Four Points Sheraton, located right on the river and just one block away from the Conference Center, will serve as the Conference Hotel. We were able to secure the reasonable room rate of \$89.00 and will forward room-registration information once it is available. The venue selected for the Saturday evening banquet is Laisley's Crab House (<http://www.laisleycrabhouse.com/>), which is another block from the hotel and, you guessed it, also right on the river. So, it will be a river-walk kind of meeting. The historic downtown district is only a block away from the hotel and within walking distance. Friday-night reception and Florida Archaeological Council Stewards of Heritage Awards locations are still to be determined.

We are also planning a walking tour of historic downtown Punta Gorda and a boat tour of a portion of Charlotte Harbor narrated by an notable Florida archaeologist.

The Call for Papers will be included in the November FAS Newsletter and on the FAS website, and the Registration Form will be posted on the FAS website in December and included in the January FAS Newsletter.

We hope once again to cover a broad range of Florida archaeology, anthropology, and history topics, as well as current research, during Saturday's paper sessions that will be presented in three consecutive lecture rooms. We'd like to see the entire state represented: from Paleoindian (FAM 2014 theme) through the Archaic and post-Archaic regional cultures and into the historic period. We hope to have both a prehistoric and a nautical underwater session, as well as feature sites in both Charlotte and Sarasota Counties.

Interested in participating? We will need all able hands and minds. Various committees will be forming and sign-up sheets for those members interested in participating will be available at the November meeting. There will be a sponsorship committee, registration committee, volunteer committee, program committee, vendor committee, and more. Additional information to be announced soon!

### **THE FAS DOROTHY MOORE STUDENT GRANT NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR 2014**

From the CGCAS Newsletter

The Florida Anthropological Society (FAS) is making available \$500.00 to be awarded annually to archaeology students (B.A., M.A., or Ph.D.) who are currently enrolled in a Florida university. The grant money will assist students conducting archaeological research in Florida. Grant funds can be used to cover the costs associated with archaeological fieldwork, special analysis (e.g., radiocarbon dates, faunal or botanical analyses, soils analysis, etc.), and, in some cases, travel expenses associated with presenting a paper based on the student's research at a professional meeting.

Students interested in applying for the grant should submit a letter not to exceed two pages that describes the project for which the funds are being requested; what research question(s) or problem(s) are being addressed; how the funds will be applied to these problems; what, if any, additional funds will be used to accomplish the research; and how the research will contribute to Florida archaeology. The applicant should include a budget indicating the amount requested and describing how the money will be spent, along with a letter(s) of support from faculty.

For more information, or to submit your application for

the 2014 award, contact: Dr. Robert Austin, FAS Student Grant, P.O. Box 2818, Riverview, FL 33568 or via email to bob@searchinc.com. Deadline for applications is March 1, 2014.

### **KVAHC TO HOST ANNUAL CHUCK AND JANE WILDE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH AWARD FOR FAS 2014**

The annual Chuck and Jane Wilde Archaeological Research Award is sponsored by the Kissimmee Valley Archaeological and Historical Conservancy (KVAHC). This scholarship is dedicated to the memory of two exemplar avocational archaeologists who dedicated years of their lives promoting education that prioritized the significance of South Central Florida's cultural resources. This award is only offered to students and its use is limited to archaeological research costs. The award (\$500.00) might be applied toward processing fees, such as C14 processing, or toward participation in a pay-as-you-go fieldwork opportunity, or in research materials. Each student that submits a paper or poster at the 2014 FAS Annual Meeting (either may be co-authored by a professional) will have an entry. One entry will be drawn at random and the recipient will be announced at the FAS 2014 banquet.

### **IMPORTANT RESEARCH BY PENN STATE UNIVERSITY CONDUCTED AT LSS AND WMS IN October**

From October 16–30, researchers from Penn State University were on site at LSS conducting water and sediment sampling at LSS for numerous studies. Four days were also spent along the creek and in the spring at Warm Mineral Springs for ongoing research headed by Principal Investigator, Geomicrobiologist Dr. Jennifer Macalady. Dr. Trinity Hamilton was on site with graduate student Muammar Mansor for the sampling.



Dr Trinity Hamilton prepares to take a water samples from various depths at Little SALT Spring in October

Steve Koski provided access to the site for the University of Miami, research assistance, and underwater sampling with UM/RSMAS Dive Safety Officer Rick Gomez and students, who happened to be on site for scientific dive training. Sarasota County and the City of North Port provided the research team access to WMS.



PSU researchers Dr. Trinity Hamilton and graduate student Muammar Manson at LSS with Site Manager and Archeologist Steve Koski.

The objective of this field session was to analyze water chemistry and seasonal phototrophic-cyanobacteria mats in the upper basin of LSS. Samples for water chemistry were collected periodically throughout the 2-week expedition. Little Salt Spring is an excellent early-Earth analog with water chemistry similar to Proterozoic oceans. In addition, conspicuous phototrophic mats that bloom seasonally in the upper basin are ideal for examining the redox evolution of Earth's surface, an ongoing research project in Dr. Macalady's lab, funded by the NASA Astrobiology Institute and the National Science Foundation.

At WMS, the focus was the search for a giant bacterium by the name of *Achromatium oxaliferum*. *Achromatium* is a genus of bacteria that is morphologically distinguishable by their large size and intracellular calcite inclusions. They were observed at Warm Mineral Springs and in two other places in the United States by Lackey and Lackey (1961), but no follow-up research has been performed on them. The researchers believe that *Achromatium* is important in regulating the availability of biologically relevant nutrients in streams and estuaries. In addition, the purpose for their calcite inclusions remains elusive and is an intriguing research subject, as it is an unusual occurrence in the world of prokaryotes.

Both Dr. Hamilton and Mr. Mansor were present at the October 28 quarterly meeting of the Friends of LSS and gave a presentation on their ongoing research. Also present were representatives from the Florida Aquarium, who presented on the Aquarium's past research assistance

at LSS at excavation units in the 13 m basin and 27 m ledge, and their continued research interest and involvement at LSS. Florida Aquarium's involvement over the years has resulted in a great collaboration and has been a big boost to research efforts, as has Penn State's long-term collaboration with UM at LSS.

It is anticipated that further studies will be conducted by the researchers in the coming years.

## UM SCIENCE DIVERS VISIT LITTLE SALT SPRING FOR ADVANCED TRAINING

by Steve Koski

University of Miami Science Divers visited LSS the weekend of October 18 for advanced training in the springs environment as a prerequisite for the RSMAS 500 class taught by UM Dive Safety Officer Rick Gomez and assistant Robbie Christian. They also assisted UM Research Associate Steve Koski in collecting purple biofilm samples now in bloom on the bottom of the 40' basin and assisted with a video documentation of its distribution for studies being conducted by PSU.



UM science divers visit LSS the weekend of October 18

The Science Diver Certification is a requirement for those students at the UM/Rosenstiel School who will be conducting research in marine environments and the class takes them to several dive locations and depths as part of their training. They were also given a lesson on archaeological mapping techniques by Koski at the topside excavation-unit learning module and practiced underwater mapping of items placed on the covered 2 x 2 m excavation Unit Operation 14, located 28 feet below the surface on the northern slope of the basin. They all left with a better understating of the springs environment and the critical importance of controlled dive techniques that included a brief introduction on underwater archaeological mapping.





UM Science dives on site weekend of November 2

## LSS UPDATE

by Steve Koski

The University of Miami and Sarasota County are still in discussions and negotiations regarding the conveyance of the property under the Environmentally Sensitive Lands Program. Four recent articles appeared in the *North Port Sun* on October 24 "Sarasota County: We Won't pay for Little Salt Spring" by Scott Lockwood, Oct . 26 "Friends group continues to support Little Salt Spring" by Ann Klockenkemper, Oct. 29 "UM: Still working with county on Little Salt Spring" by Ann Klockenkemper, and Nov 1 "Group reiterates support of county in Spring acquisition" by Scott Lockwood. The Friends of LSS are hopeful and see the value of the property going far beyond the monetary. At their October 28 general meeting, support for LSS was the focus of discussions with a presentation on current research by Penn State University and Florida Aquarium on their past assistance and interest in supporting continued research.

Also on the agenda were discussions on the importance of our local groups supporting UM's direction for the site through the conveyance of the property through the Sarasota County Environmental Lands Program. At the October 28 meeting, the President of FLSS made a resolution that passed unanimously, stating that "The Friends of Little Salt Spring at its Quarterly Meeting 10-28-13 supports the acquisition of Little Salt Spring by Sarasota County. We believe the protection and policies of Little Salt Spring are best accomplished by local government, i.e., Sarasota County. Action needs to be taken now." The University has been a good steward of the property for 30 years and would like to see the stewardship of the property maintained as an archaeological and ecological preserve and managed on a local level. The Friends of Little Salt Spring and the Warm Mineral Springs/Little Salt Spring Archaeological Society have pledged their support and assistance to UM and Sarasota County.

## WMS/LSSAS YARD SALE COMING UP IN FEBRUARY!

Attention all clutter bugs. It's that time of the year again to start going through your good but unused clutter and donate it to a good cause—like the WMS/LSSAS Annual Yard Sale! The Saturday event to be announced. The sale will be held at the regular location at the historic Warm Mineral Springs Motel located at the corner of US 41 and Ortiz Blvd. So, please start saving the items you may not need any more, still love but no longer use, hate to part with but have no room to store, still need but are downsizing (you get the picture).

While membership certainly helps keep us going (thanks to all our supporting members), it is the annual yard sale that keeps us solvent and allows us to provide monthly meetings, bimonthly newsletters, and memberships to worthy historical organizations and locations like Historic Spanish Point, Randell Research Center, Friends of the North Port Library, Sarasota County Historic Preservation Coalition, Florida Humanities Council, and more (that's all I can think of off the top of my head). So please donate items to the yard sale. Please call Hilda Boron for drop-off locations or, if you have no means to deliver, pick up; items can also be brought to the November, December, and January meetings, but please call with a heads-up first if bringing to the meeting so arrangements can be made. Please call Hilda Boron at 941.426.1719. Thank you for your years of support!

## OUR FAS MEMBERS THANKED!

We would like to once again thank our WMS/LSSAS members who have joined the Florida Anthropological Society. We currently have 13 members. To maintain our membership as an FAS Chapter, WMSLSSAS must have a total of 10 members in FAS. The WMS/LSSAS joined for one membership, and eleven others joined. Thanks to Marion Almy, John Aspiolea, Hilda Boron, Charles and Bonnie Boynton, Kate Caltran, Judi and John Crescenzo, George Haag, Ann Hanson, Sandra Heacock, Michael Gibbons, Steve Koski, and Herbiana Ludwig. FAS members receive the quarterly issue of the FAS journal *Florida Anthropologist* and their quarterly newsletter with articles on archeological research throughout the state. For more information on FAS go to: <http://www.fasweb.org/>. Did you know you can peruse past FA Journals at: <http://ufdc.ufl.edu/flant/>? You can go back to Volume 1 in 1945 to March of 2011! This is really a fascinating Florida archaeological resource available to all, and supported by members like you and me, so please keep your membership active and consider joining if not already a member.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Friday, November 15**, at 5:30 at the Sarasota County Visitor Information Center and History Center Museum, the Friends of the Sarasota History Center are hosting an event called "An Evening with Bertha Honore Palmer." The program will consist of a 20-minute video entitled "Love Under Fire" about the lives of Bertha and Potter Palmer in Chicago. Following the video, a Bertha Palmer re-enactor will tell of Bertha's life, investments, and adventures in Sarasota County. Light refreshments will be served.

The Sarasota County Visitor Information Center and History Center Museum is located at 701 North Tamiami Trail, Sarasota. Please RSVP by Nov. 8th. Please call 941-861-6090, website: <http://foschc.org/>.

**Saturday, November 16**, from 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM, the Historical Society of Sarasota County will host the Pirates and Pioneer Festival. There will be games, the Thieves' Market, food, crafts, music, art, commemorative-brick dedication, historical oral stories being told, Whitaker

Cemetery tours, and historical trolley tours. Admission is free but they suggest donating one canned food item. Pioneer Park is located at 1260 12th Street, Sarasota.

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For a color pdf copy of the newsletter go to [www.wmslssas.org](http://www.wmslssas.org)

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