



**WMS/LSS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER**

Vol. 25, No. 2 March/April 2014

*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.

**MARCH 11 MEETING ON FLORIDA PALEOINDIANS,  
THE VERO SITE, AND CURRENT EXCAVATIONS IN  
PROGRESS**

Dr. Andy Hemmings will be the speaker at the March 11 meeting of the WMS/LSSAS in a program titled "Current Paleoindian Research at Vero Beach, the Gulf of Mexico, and Interesting Points Around Florida." This will be a special Florida Archaeology Month presentation which follows the 2014 FAM theme, "Tracing Florida's First People: Paleoindians."

Ongoing research in numerous parts of the state is profoundly influencing our understanding of the complete Pleistocene landscape and the biotic communities that the earliest inhabitants of Florida would have encountered.

Cont. see VERO page 2.



Archaeologist Dr. Andy Hemmings

**ARCHAEOLOGIST AND NATURALIST TO SPEAK AT  
APRIL 8 MEETING**

Archaeologist, naturalist, and certified permaculture designer Jay Hardman will be the speaker at the April 8 meeting of the WMS/LSSAS. His topic: "Learning from the Past to Influence the Future: Applying Archaeology to Solve Modern Dilemmas."

Mr. Hardman will present a program on the prehistory of anthropogenic soil, Terra Preta, production using biochar (agricultural charcoal) in pre-Columbian America. The ancient practice, adapted through the use of more modern technology and broad-scale practices, presents enormous potential for real-world solutions.



Archaeologist and Naturalist Jay Hardman

Through petrochemical-free horticultural practices, with and attendant to the sequestration of the carbon residue in soils for millennia, multiple modern issues can be addressed.

He has seen what decline and collapse of civilization look like in the archaeology record. There are corollaries to what we see today. After seeing prehistoric communities thrive, he sees himself as a prophet of hope rather than one of doom. He feels there is an important message to be shared to ease the transition to a new and prosperous paradigm.

Our immediate, small-scale, local applications today will serve as crucibles (pun intended) for industrial-farming applicability into the new paradigm of the future. An introduction to Permaculture (permanent culture/agriculture) and examples of user-friendly, low-tech options for the backyard farmer/inventor will be offered. Group discussion will follow and is encouraged.

Mr. Hardman, a lifelong Floridian, grew up in St. Petersburg and received a degree in Secondary Sciences Education with Botany and Zoology concentration at St. Petersburg College. Matriculating to the University of South Florida, he studied toward a degree in Zoology. Seeking Social Sciences credit for graduation, he discovered Anthropology and his passion for study of the most intriguing creature in the animal kingdom.

He received his B.A. in Anthropology in the Archaeology track. As an undergrad, he was chosen to lead the summer field school, an extensive survey of what is now New Tampa. He entered grad school in the Applied Anthropology Internship Project and worked on several Paleo-Indian (mammoth-hunter) sites along the I-75 Corridor and Bypass Canal reservoir.

Recruited by the largest Cultural Resource Management firm in his region, he has been a field surveyor, excavator, crew chief, and field director for many CRM firms. He has conducted excavations throughout the southeast US and island protectorates of the Caribbean, specializing in Florida's unique landscape and varied heritage. Since 2004, he has dedicated his time to education, raising consciousness, and fostering sustainability. This should be another great meeting you won't want to miss.

**VERO** cont. from page 1

Early archaeological materials from across the state are discussed in relation to what we are learning about the human adaptive response to this changing environment.

The Vero site arose to notoriety soon after the discovery of fossil bones along a canal being dug by the Indian River Farms Company in 1913. Some of the bones were brought to the attention of Florida State Geologist Dr. Elias Sellards, who determined they were the bones of

extinct Pleistocene animals. In 1915, the first human bones were discovered among the fossil remains, which prompted an examination by Sellards, who found additional human remains and stone tools associated with the extinct Pleistocene fossil remains. This led to controversy because no human remains or artifacts had been found in association with extinct fossils in North America at that early date. Over time, the exact location was lost and the association of the material was questioned and refuted by many of the early anthropologists of that time. That controversy, to some extent, exists to this day.

This controversy of association between extinct Pleistocene animals, artifacts, and human remains led to the formation of the Old Vero Ice Age Sites Committee (OVIASC), a 501(c)3 corporation dedicated to uncovering the mystery of the Vero Site, which led to the involvement of Andy Hemmings from Mercyhurst University in Erie, Pennsylvania, and other researchers at various institutions.

Working at Florida sites like the Sloth Hole, Acilla and Wacissa Rivers, and submerged environments in Florida, Mexico, and elsewhere, Dr. Hemmings is one of Florida's most knowledgeable and experienced experts on early human presence in the Americas. He is currently a professor of archaeology and anthropology at Mercyhurst University in Erie, Pennsylvania, but lives much of the year outside Gainesville. Andy is currently lead archaeologist at the Vero Beach Site and is presently conducting field investigations at the site until May 8, 2014.

He received his bachelor's degree at the University of Arizona and both graduate degrees from the University of Florida. After a post-doctoral research position at the University of Texas, he has now taken a faculty position with Mercyhurst University.

Come to the special 2014 FAM program at the March 11 meeting to see how archaeologists are helping to unravel the mysteries of time and address issues concerning Florida's earliest known people.

For additional information on the Vero Site, visit: [www.oviasc.org/](http://www.oviasc.org/).

## **MOUND KEY TOPIC OF FEBRUARY 11 MEETING BY ARCHAEOLOGIST THERESA SCHOBER**

By Judi and John Crescenzo

On February 11, 2014, Theresa Schober presented "Mound Key: Where the New and Old Worlds Collided." Schober is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Florida and has researched the Estero Bay area and Calusa Indians. She is the former Director of the historic Mound House property, located on the Estero Mound on Ft. Myers Beach and also former Director of Historic Resources for the Town of Ft. Myers Beach. She was directly responsible for writing and obtaining more than \$4 million in grants for

the town to restore the Mound House property and conduct excavations for an on-site exhibit. Ms. Schober partners with the Florida Humanities Council and the Lee Trust for Historic Preservation to provide events such as ArtCalusa (see November/December 2013 WMS/LSSAS Newsletter). She is currently raising funds and making a documentary about Mound Key.

Mound Key is located in Estero Bay near the mouth of the Estero River. It was intentionally built with 400,000 cubic feet of shells and it is the highest point of land in Lee County at an elevation of more than 30 feet. Mound Key was the capital town of the Calusa Indians when Spanish explorer Ponce de León made his visit to SW Florida in 1513. Calusa influence covered the southern third of the state and the paramount Chief Carlos ruled over 50 villages in the Charlotte Harbor area and controlled a trade route west along the Caloosahatchee River to Lake Okeechobee to the east coast and north into the interior US.

No one knows where Ponce de León landed on the east coast on April 2, 2013. Historic accounts 100 years later do not fit the geography. Ponce sailed down the east coast, discovering and naming the Gulf Stream. The Calusa salvaged wealth from shipwrecked Spaniards who used the Gulf Stream to push ships northward. Ponce traded and had skirmishes with the Calusa, killing some. A fleet of 80 war canoes with from 800–1,600 men attacked Ponce near Ft. Myers Beach; Mantanzas Pass may be the site of this massacre. Reports say that Ponce fled when outnumbered by 800–1,600 Calusa. If 1,600 Calusa really attacked Ponce, they must have been recruited from the entire Calusa territory—or perhaps this number was exaggerated to save face in Spain. Schober trusts archaeology to provide the most accurate picture.

In 1522, Ponce returned to the southwest Florida coast, perhaps near Mound Key, with 200 men, horses, and cattle. His settlement was attacked and one third of his men were killed. Ponce was shot with an arrow and died of his wounds six months later in Cuba.

The Calusa village had chiefs, families, artisans, and fighting men. In 1565, Pedro Menéndez de Avilés started the first permanent settlement at St. Augustine, followed by additional missions. A mission he founded at Mound Key lasted from 1567 to 1569. Menéndez was greeted at the mound by canoes and a grand feast, and, in a desire for alliance, Chief Carlos gave one of his sisters to Menéndez as a bride. Living on Mound Key when Menéndez arrived was 30-year-old Hernando de Escalante Fontaneda, who had been shipwrecked and lived 17 years with the Calusa. He served as an important interpreter.

They celebrated the first feast between Europeans and Native Americans. Fontaneda's records describe 2,000 people at the mound and 20,000 in the Charlotte



Archaeologist Theresa Schober receives our world famous Tee-shirt from WMS/LSAS President Steve Koski

Harbor area. Menéndez left with Carlos's sister, who went to Cuba. Menéndez took Fontaneda back to Spain, where he wrote his memoir.

Chief Carlos was not interested in a Spanish ministry on Mound Key or efforts to make peace with the Tocobaga, so Carlos was killed and the Spanish made his cousin Don Felipe ruler. If Don Felipe gave up his gods, his people would not follow him, and when he refused to convert, the Spanish killed him and departed. Chief Carlos, who once ruled over 50 other villages, had inherited his status. The rise of Don Felipe was not hereditary, so he was not supported.

The Calusa had a complex chiefdom and social stratification associated with the productivity of the estuary. The archaeology of Mound Key includes canals with two frontal mounds. There was a flat-topped mound for living space and a conical mound for ceremonies. Three burial mounds were made of sand. Watercourses may have been used as fish ponds for aquaculture.

Theresa also discussed aspects of the Mound House on Ft. Myers Beach. The village there was occupied prior to the development of Mound Key. It was once much larger than the three acres of today, as much of the bay-fronting mound was mined for road bed. The historic house built on top of the mound had a pool added much later than the original construction. She received grants to remove the pool to restore the original historic property and conducted archaeological excavations for an underground interpretive exhibit where the pool once lay. Today people can walk into the mound and see the periods of mound building and living surfaces.

Feasting layers were made mostly of shell after special feast days. Building layers show the relocation of shell from non-habitation areas. These layers include

barnacles, proving that shells were returned to the water after eating and before use in building. Dark strips indicate living surfaces and contain pottery, bone and shell tools, and ashes from fires.

Approximately 1,700 years ago, a series of low mounds were built and later connected. About 1,800 years ago, a building layer was created from older material, so shell was put on the mound at different times. The dark living surfaces were dated, and it was found that the layers all overlapped about AD 900, indicating the mound was built in a short period of time. Mound building was important about 1,000 years ago, perhaps because of feasts when power changed hands.

Lightning whelks were used to make masks, gorgets [pendants], and beads. Only two shell beads were found at the Mound House, but there were hundreds at Okeechobee. Cahokia Mound in Missouri contains a burial lying on 20,000 shell beads made from lightning whelks. Since Southwest Florida has the most lightning whelks, the Calusa must have traded long distance.

During the 1500–1600s, the British gave arms to the Natives to attack Spanish missions. By 1704, the missions were falling apart and Native populations moved away. From 1711–1760, the Spanish transported Indians to Cuba, where they died from epidemics. Archaeologist John Worth of the University of West Florida stated that a Calusa woman was listed with two daughters in a Havana parish. If relationships with Cuba normalize, perhaps further studies can be completed.

We thank Theresa for her exceptionally informative presentation.

### **CRYSTAL RIVER SITE IN CITRUS COUNTY TOPIC OF JANUARY PRESENTATION BY ARCHAEOLOGIST KASSIE KEMP**

By Judi and John Crescenzo

Kassie Kemp, M.A. archaeology student at the University of South Florida and Outreach Assistant for the Florida Public Archaeology Network, presented "Prehistoric Pottery and the Crystal River Site" on January 14, 2014.

As part of her Master's research project, Kemp examined 16,748 pottery sherds from the Crystal River site in West Central Florida. During the Woodland Period from 1000 BC – 1000 AD, the Crystal River site was a ceremonial center with a mound complex. Because it was part of the Hopewell Trade network reaching as far away as Ohio, non-local artifacts of stone, shell, bone, pottery, copper, and mica have been uncovered.

Features of the site include Mounds C–F, the main burial complex including a flat platform on top and an embankment encircling it. Archaeologists Clarence B. Moore and Ripley Bullen excavated there, and although



Archaeologist Kassie Kemp receives our world famous tee-shirt from past president and board member George Haag.

Bullen nearly destroyed the site; it has been reconstructed based on original notes. Another burial Mound G was also excavated, but it looks more like a midden or trash pile. There are two large platform mounds, with the highest Mound A at 30 feet tall. Mound H is elongated and has a ramp; it faces a flat area, which may have been a ritual plaza. Mound K is a platform mound with a slight ramp. All of the Crystal River mounds are made from shell—mainly oysters. Small Mound J has no ramp and has had no excavations. Mound B is a trash pit shaped like a comma. It was deposited at three different times and was the main focus of Kemp's study, providing good stratigraphic control.

A chronology of various ceramic forms connects sites by type of design and motif used. The Hopewell Interaction Sphere includes pottery that was probably made locally, plus items of copper from distant sites. From 1903–1917, Moore made detailed reports with drawings and photographs of Crystal River. Bullen also excavated and mentioned a stela in the area. Between 1951–1960, all of the mounds except J and A were excavated. Although notes were recorded, reports were not written.

Under a National Science Foundation grant, Kemp studied Bullen's units dug into middens to determine dates. Crystal River pottery includes earthenware, coiled, pit-fired, and pottery using a variety of other techniques. Earthenware is low fired and when broken the particles inside are made visible. There are more than 40 types of pottery at Crystal River. St. John's Plain pottery has surface decorations that are drawn or stamped into the clay.

Three clay tempers were used to strengthen clay and prevent breakage, including sponge spicules, limestone, and sand. Sponge spicules are from the ocean, which raises the question of whether they were part of the clay or

added to it. Decorations were added for beauty, religious, or ceremonial reasons. There were various types, including incised, punctate, and stamped. Pottery was also impressed with rope or fabric, and pinch marks sometimes remain. Common types of pottery are Plain Sand Tempered, Pasco Plain (with limestone temper), St. John's Plain (with sponge spicules), and Weeden Island Plain (with a folded rim). Kemp's research was conducted in Gainesville, where she sorted, counted and weighed each of the pottery sherds. The sherds were categorized according to type/attribute, chronology for site features, and distribution of pottery by temper, and surface treatment. Studies showed that 47% were sand tempered, 25% were limestone tempered, and 23% were sponge-spicule tempered. Seventy-one percent of these sherds were from Mound C. A study of pottery in Midden B revealed that 12% were sand tempered, 7% were sponge-spicule tempered, and 77% were limestone tempered.

A chronology chart shows changes in pottery over time, but limestone and Sand Tempered Plain pottery were found in Early, Middle, and Late periods. A site-feature chronology revealed the periods in which each mound was used. A temper distribution study showed that Mound B contained 77% limestone, while Mound C had 56% sand. Pottery in Mounds E and F contained 38% sand, 37% sponge spicules, and 20% limestone. Because sponge spicules make an object lighter, they were used in making larger pots. A surface-treatment comparison showed that in Midden B, 94% of the pottery was plain, but in Midden C, 69% was plain. Kemp's pottery study helped to develop a chronology and better understanding of the Crystal River site. Future research could include determination of vessel usage through form shapes, gross paste analysis, and chemical analysis of elements and their origins.

Great presentation Kassie, thank you!

### MARCH IS FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH!

"Tracing Florida's First People: Paleoindians" is the theme for this year's Florida Archaeology Month." Florida Archaeological Month (FAM) is an annual statewide event sponsored by the Florida Anthropological Society (FAS); the Florida Archaeological Council (FAC); the Department of State, Division of Historical Resources; and the Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Recreation and Parks.

The purpose of the event is to provide opportunities for Florida residents and visitors to learn about the extensive archaeological resources in Florida and their precarious existence. FAM highlights some of the important archaeological research projects being conducted by the



State of Florida, universities, and private for-profit and non-profit organizations statewide, and strives to teach about the importance of stewardship of both historic and pre-historic archaeological resources.

Interestingly, North Port, in Sarasota County, just happens to have two of the most significant and notable sites with Paleoindian components in the Western Hemisphere—Warm Mineral Springs and Little Salt Spring. In recognition of their significance, both WMS and LSS were selected to be featured on the 2014 FAM poster with night-light photographs by Curt Bowen. Fifteen-thousand copies have been printed to be distributed throughout the state through local FAS chapters (like the WMS/LSSAS).

A set of posters will be available to those who attend the March 11 meeting and subsequent meetings while supplies last. Copies are also available at the North Port Library in the Children's Section. When you go to see the exhibit, ask the Children's Librarian in the back room for a set. For additional information on FAM and events held throughout the state, go to

<http://www.flpublicarchaeology.org/FAM/index.php>.

Read on...





**EXHIBIT SET UP AT NORTH PORT LIBRARY FOR FAM THROUGH MARCH**

In commemoration of FAM, the WMS/LSSAS set up a small exhibit at the North Port Library in the double-sided case near the front desk. The exhibit features the two posters, reproduction of a saber-cat skull, lithic artifact reproductions by WMS/LSSAS board member Roger Hostetler, and other items representing the tools and life ways of early Native Americans. The bones of a saber cat, as well as giant ground sloth and other extinct Pleistocene mammals, were found at WMS on the 13 m ledge in the 1970s; and extinct sloth and giant tortoise bones have been recovered at LSS in the 1970s as well as during the most recent excavations on the 27 m ledge in 2008–2011.

Thanks go to members Rita Buchanan, Keith Buchanan, Tina Docter, Roger Hostetler, Steve Koski, Linda Massey, and Carol Myers for assistance in setting up the exhibit. Visit the NP Library in March and check it out!

**FAM 2014 PROCLAMATIONS MADE BY CITY OF NORTH PORT AND SARASOTA COUNTY!**

At the February 24, 2014 City of North Port Commission meeting, Mayor Blucher read and presented a proclamation commemorating March as Florida Archaeology Month. The Commission was then presented framed copies of the two FAM posters and each member given a rolled copy featuring Warm Mineral Springs and Little Salt Spring by a representative from the WMS/LSSAS, Friends of LSS, and Ancient Waters Foundation.

At the March 3, 2014, Sarasota County Commission meeting, Commissioner Christine Robinson read and presented a proclamation commemorating FAM 2014, and the Commission was presented framed copies with rolled copies for each Commissioner by representatives from the above-mentioned groups. Present at that meeting was Ryan Murphy from Sarasota County Historical Resources. Appropriately, North Port's proclamation focuses on the local Warm Mineral Springs and Little Salt Spring, featured on the FAM posters, and Sarasota County's proclamation recognizes the entire county's archaeological resources.

Tremendous thanks go to both Commissions for recognizing FAM 2014!

***City of North Port Proclamation  
"FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH"  
MARCH, 2014***

***WHEREAS***, in commemoration of our state's diverse and rich cultural resources, March is designated as Florida Archaeology Month by the Florida Anthropological Society and Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources; and

***WHEREAS*** the theme for FAM 2014 is Paleoindian Tracing Florida's First People; and

***WHEREAS*** North Port has two of the most notable Paleoindian archaeological sites in the Western Hemisphere, Warm Mineral Springs and Little Salt Springs,

***NOW, THEREFORE***, We, the City Commission of the City of North Port, Florida, do hereby proclaim the month of March as

**"FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH."**

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF, WE have hereunto set our hands and Seal of the City of North Port, Florida, to be affixed this 24th day of February, 2014.*

**CITY OF NORTH PORT, FLORIDA**



*City Manager Jonathan Lewis and Commissioners Tom Jones, Cheryl Cook, Linda Yates, Rhonda DeFranco, and Mayor Blucher display the 2014 FAM posters after the presentation of the FAM Proclamation*

**SARASOTA COUNTY GOVERNMENT PROCLAMATION**

*WHEREAS Sarasota County has a diverse and rich array of archaeological resources, and is expanding opportunities to experience the prehistory and history of the County; and*

*WHEREAS the enjoyment and appreciation of our collective past strengthens a sense of place, fosters community involvement, and promotes sensitivity to cultural diversity; and*

*WHEREAS March 2014 has been designated as Florida Archaeology Month by the Florida Anthropological Society,*

**NOW, THEREFORE, WE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA,**  
*do hereby proclaim March 2014 as*

**ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH**  
**PRESENTED** this 4th day of March 2014.



Caption for left photo: Left to right: Ryan Murphy, Lawry Reid Commissioner Robinson, Bill Goetz, Steve Koski, Gary Sanderson, Ron Kunda, George Haag, Ruth Buchanan, Keith Buchanan accept 2014 FAM Proclamation from Commissioner Robinson and all display AFM posters given to the commission.

**WMS/LSSAS FIELD TRIPS FOR FAM AND BEYOND**

**March 3, 2014:** Several members went to Mound Key in Estero Bay on a field trip led by our February speaker, Theresa Schober. An article on the event will be included in the May/June WMS/LSSAS Newsletter.

For those who missed out on the sold-out March 3 event, others will be conducted April 7, April 14, and May 5, 2014. The boat leaves the West Bay Dock (off Williams Rd., Estero) at 9:30 and returns at 1:00 PM. Some days a second boat goes out at 1:30 – 5:00 PM. The cost is \$45 per person, with snacks and water provided. For reservations and information, contact Theresa Schober at (239) 851-9040 or [tmschober@earthlink.net](mailto:tmschober@earthlink.net).

**March 15, 2014:** WMS/LSSAS members, guests, and Friends are invited to go to the Randell Research Center for their annual Calusa Heritage Day. Archaeologists, artists, artifact replicators, food, boat tour, children's area, site tours, speakers' tent, atlatl throwing, Calusa-food tastings, native plants, and more will be featured. A \$5 donation per person is requested, free to RRC members. The Randell Research Center and Calusa Heritage Trail is located at 13810 Waterfront Drive, Pineland. For more information, go to [www.flmnh.ufl.edu/rrc/](http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/rrc/) or call 239-283-2062 or 283-2157. The site is spectacular and the annual event is educational and always fun.

**April 5, 2014:** On loan from the Museo di Leonardo Da Vinci in Italy, the Da Vinci Machines Exhibition has arrived at Bradenton Municipal Auditorium, located at 1005 1st Ave. W., Bradenton, Fla. It's right across from the South Florida Museum. The best part is that the ticket price of \$23.95 (\$20.95 for 62 and older) includes the South Florida Museum!

The exhibits are the original pieces built from Da Vinci's designs by third-generation Florentine artisans; the exhibition is one of only three touring the world. It contains more than 60 inventions by the inventor and artist. Exhibition models are presented in four major themes: military machines, flying machines, nautical and hydraulic, and principles of mechanics. That's two museums in one day, with lunch in between or after. And we get to see Snooty the Manatee as well!

**May 31, 2014:** Members are invited to join us for a field trip to the Mound House on Ft. Myers Beach, another fascinating Indian mound in Lee County. More information will be in the March/April and May/June Newsletters.

A sign-up sheet for all field trips will be available at the March meeting.

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

Registrations and abstracts for paper presentations are beginning to roll in for the 2014 Annual Florida Anthropological Society Meeting to be held in Punta Gorda, May 9–11, 2014 (FPAN board meeting held on May 8).

The meeting will be held at the Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center that overlooks the scenic Peace River. The Four Points Sheraton, located on the Peace River, is just one block east of the Conference Center and will serve as the Conference Hotel. We were able to secure the reasonable room rate of \$89.00, with the rate guaranteed dependent on availability until April 25. For reservations, call (941) 637-6770 and indicate that you are booking for the Florida Anthropological Society or WMS/LSS Archaeological Society. Other local hotel options within walking distance include the Wyvern Hotel at (941) 639-7700, where we have a 20-room block for \$99/night on Friday and Saturday, and the Punta Gorda Waterfront Hotels and Suites at (941) 639-1165. Conference rates at the Punta Gorda Waterfront are \$65/night (city-view rooms), \$85/night (water view), and \$109 for suites. Mention the Florida Anthropological Society when making reservations.

Paper presentation, the main event of the conference, will be conducted in three concurring sessions Saturday from 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM, followed by the banquet at 6:30. The venue selected for the banquet Saturday night is Laishley's Crab House, which is another block east of the hotel, and, you guessed it, is 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 all within walking distance.

There will be plenty of volunteer opportunities for members in planning and during the three days of the conference, with the Friday FAS, FAC, and FPAN board meetings and Education Panel Discussion; Friday reception; Saturday conference when papers will be read in three sessions; the Friday evening banquet; and Sunday events. The next FAS 2014 Committee Meeting will be held on Friday, March 7, at 7:00 PM at Kate Cattran's house. Interested in joining us? Please call Kate at 426.9345. For more information on the conference, registration form, tours and events, call-for-papers form (deadline March 15), student-paper awards, etc., go to [fasweb.org](http://fasweb.org). and click "Annual Meeting."

## **POTATO HUNT HELD AT LITTLE SALT SLOUGH PRESERVE IN FEBRUARY**

On February 15, 2014, nineteen members representing FLSS, WMS/LSSAS, Ancient Waters Foundation, Allamanda Garden Club, Master Gardener's, and People

for Trees came out to help eradicate potato-vine tubers from the Sarasota County-owned Little Salt Slough Preserve located across the street from Little Salt Spring. The +/- five-acre property was acquired by Sarasota County with assistance from North Port in 2005 because of its environmentally sensitive lands and archaeological significance. The Friends of LSS recently adopted the parcel through the Keep Sarasota Beautiful Program. More than 500 pounds of potato-vine tubers were recovered that day and we plan to work at the parcel three to four times per year until all potato vines and exotic vegetation, such as Brazilian pepper, are eradicated and regrowth is controlled.

We thank all those members in attendance and Sarasota County Staff, Kenya Leonard and Kim Heuberger for taking time on their day off to help coordinate, bring the supplies, and remove the bags of potatoes.



Volunteer potato crew

## **DR. JOHN GIFFORD TO SPEAK AT USF TAMPA LIBRARY MARCH 25, 2014**

Dr. John Gifford, Professor Emeritus, University of Miami and Director of Research at Little Salt Spring, is scheduled to speak on the "Archaeology of Little Salt Spring" March 25, 1:00–3:00 PM at the USF Tampa Library in the Grace Allen Room (4th floor) at 4202 E. Fowler Ave., LIB122. Dr. Gifford retired from UM in May of 2013 and moved to St. Petersburg; he is currently teaching a class at the USF College of Marine Science in St. Petersburg.

## **JANUARY 18 ANCIENT WATERS FORUM IMPORTANT EVENT**

By Bill Goetz

The Ancient Waters Community Forum was a huge success, with over 150 people in attendance. A panel of ten experts in various fields submitted an array of facts and professional opinions about Warm Mineral Springs and Little Salt Spring. The Ancient Waters Foundation hosted the event and it was sponsored by the City of North Port,



Sarasota County, Florida Public Archaeology Network, Friends of Little Salt Spring, and Warm Mineral Springs/Little Salt Spring Archaeological Society. Moderator John McCarthy directed the discussion and fielded the public comments and questions to the panel in a well-guided and concise manner.



The panel included Dr. Uzi Baram, Professor and Director of the New College Public Archaeology Lab; Michele Cotty-Loger, Archaeologist and Ancient Waters Foundation Board Member; Dr. John Gifford, Geoarchaeologist Professor Emeritus with the University of Miami and previous Director of Science at Little Salt Spring from 1982–2012; Cliff Harrison, Sarasota County Senior Hydrogeologist; Joe King, local architect and expert on the Mid-century Modern Sarasota School of Architecture and Curator of the current exhibit at the Chidsey Library Building; Steve Koski, Archaeologist and Site Manager of Little Salt Spring and Ancient Waters Foundation Board Member; Dr. George Luer, an Archaeologist who is renowned and respected throughout the State and has published on Little Salt Slough and Nona Spring Sites; John Ryan, Environmental Supervisor, Sarasota County Environmental Utility – Sarasota; Cliff Harrison Sarasota County Hydrologist; and Walter W. Stein, Paleontologist, Curation Specialist, Author, and Ancient Waters Foundation Board Member.

The Ancient Waters Foundation will host similar public educational events in the future.

### **ANNUAL YARD SALE ANOTHER TREMENDOUS SUCCESS!**

On Saturday, February 22, 2014, the WMS/LSSAS had our annual yard sale at the Warm Mineral Springs Motel on US 41. It is quite an event and effort and our biggest fundraiser of the year. This year, through the outstanding efforts of our volunteers, \$1,462 was raised for our treasury.

The proceeds help produce the newsletter, pay speaker

expenses, provide educational materials at events, support other historic preservation-minded organizations through membership, and promote the activities of the Society. Many thanks to all those who donated items and who volunteered to help prepare and conduct the event!



WMS/LSSAS Vice-President Jodi Johnson speaks to a big spender on the WMS/LSSAS and FAM posters at the yard sale.

### **SARASOTA COUNTY WATER ATLAS ORAL HISTORIES ON LINE!**

A series of oral histories by New College of Florida students can be viewed and listened to on the Sarasota County Water Atlas website at [www.sarasota.wateratlas.usf.edu/history/oralhistory/](http://www.sarasota.wateratlas.usf.edu/history/oralhistory/). Many local and notable individuals are interviewed by students and then presented at a New College venue. WMS/LSSAS Board Member Betty Nugent, Englewood resident and founder of the Southwest Historical Organization of Resources and Education (SHORE), was interviewed, as was WMS/LSSAS President Steve Koski and many more. Check them out; they are really interesting and informative.

### **HISTORIC PRESERVATION COALITION OF SARASOTA COUNTY SOCIAL HELD JANUARY 18**

It was a beautiful, sunny, cool day for the Fourth Annual HPCSC Social, held at the beautiful Manasota Beach Club January 18, 2014, at noon. The MBC is located at 7660 Manasota Beach Road in Englewood right on the Gulf of Mexico and Lemon Bay. The social featured a gourmet luncheon and vintage fashion show sponsored by the Southwest Historical Organization of Resources and Education (SHORE). SHORE founder Betty Nugent organized the event and the Manasota Beach Club was the co-sponsor. The location right on the Gulf was a perfect setting. Several stunning local women modeled the clothing, most of which came from Betty's own collection. Several members of the WMS/LSSAS and Friends of LSS were present, including Kate Cattran, Linda Ferrier, Maria

Kunda, Bill and Jennifer Goetz, Jodi Johnson and Steve Koski. It was very enjoyable, the venue, splendid, and the food, superb. Great work, Betty and the Manasota Beach Club!

### REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE FLORIDA AQUARIUM VISITED LITTLE SALT SPRING FEBRUARY 24

On February 24, 2014, Florida Aquarium CEO Thom Stork and Director of Dive Operations Casey Coy, frequent visitors to Little Salt Spring, brought Chairman of the Board Craig Watson and Vice President of Biological Operations Margo McKight for a site visit. Site Manager and Archaeologist Steve Koski gave them an orientation and brief history, showed them the spring, and discussed the recent research initiatives and potential future involvements in research and education as a possible partner with Sarasota County when the property is conveyed. They appreciate the uniqueness and significance of the property as an archeological and ecological preserve that should be protected in its entirety.

As many know, the Florida Aquarium has been instrumental in its support of Dr. Gifford's research initiatives since 2005 in the spring's 12 m basin and 27 m ledge. University of Miami's Dive Safety Officer Rick Gomez has been coordinating dive operations involved in the research and dive training with assistance from Florida Aquarium's Dive Safety Office for a collaborative partnership in research and science-diver training. Like the University of Miami's Dive Office, the Aquarium's Dive Office has a diversified research and training programs that accesses a number of environments and projects, not just Florida springs.

The Aquarium representatives were on site as a show of support for continued research, and potential support with public outreach, training, and education programs. While they understand and appreciate the site's potential, they agree that preservation of the entire parcel is crucial to protecting the spring and surrounding ecosystem. The property represents the last remaining fragment of what was once a much larger interconnected and integrated ecosystem, a relatively undisturbed continuum from the Pleistocene that ended 10,000 years ago to today.



Florida Aquarium Representatives at LSS Casey Coy, Margo McKight, Craig Watson, and Thom Stork

### FRIENDS OF LSS

The quarterly meeting of the FLSS will be held April 23, 2014, at the Imagine School. A program is being prepared. To see what the FLSS are up to these days and more info on meeting, visit their website at [www.friendsoflittlesalt.spring.com/](http://www.friendsoflittlesalt.spring.com/) or the LSS Facebook page at: [www.facebook.com/FriendsOfLittleSaltSpring](http://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfLittleSaltSpring).

### 2014 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT...Steve Koski (skoski@rsmas.miami.edu)  
VICE PRESIDENT.....Jodi Johnson (jodi.johnson@ncf.edu)  
SECRETARY.....Hilda Boron (941.426.1719)  
MEMBERSHIP.....Linda Massey (lmassey628@msn.com)  
TREASURER.....Kate Cattran (Roleencattran@aol.com)

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WARM MINERAL SPRINGS/LITTLE SALT SPRING ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
P.O. 7797 North Port, Florida 34290



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