



**WMS/LSS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER**

**Vol. 25, No. 5, November/December 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 through 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.

**EUGENIE CLARK VIDEO INTERVIEW  
RESCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 11**

Due to a 32-hour weather-related travel delay, the October program featuring the Eugenie Clark video interview on the early years of diving Warm Mineral Springs and Little Salt Spring has been rescheduled for November 11. We apologize to all those who came to the October 14 meeting to find it had been canceled at the last minute. I heard the meeting turned out to be a mini-social, with several of our library books being checked out and a few membership renewals. That was nice to hear.

*From the Oct/Nov WMS/LSSAS Newsletter:*

A special video showing of the 2013 interview with Dr. Eugenie Clark, "The Shark Lady," on her early dives at Warm Mineral Springs and Little Salt Spring with the late Col. Bill Royal in the late 1950s will be presented at the November 11 meeting. (See WMS page 2).



Dr. Eugenie Clark — "The Shark Lady"

**STONE-TOOL-MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY  
TOPIC OF DECEMBER 9 MEETING**

Have you ever wondered how stone tools were made and how they were used? What's the best stone to use, where did they find it, what kind of tools were made? Come to the Dec. 9 meeting and learn from lithic technologist Roger Hostetler, who will present a program on stone-tool manufacture techniques and demonstrate how stone tools are made and used.

When Europeans began exploring the Americas, the Native Americans had few tools made from metal, and the concept of smelting, molding, and heat-pounding metals had not been developed in the New World as it had in other parts of the world.

Roger crafts reproductions of stone-tool types that were used at various periods of time in the southeastern United States



December speaker Hostetler holding his second prize coral Clovis

such as Clovis, Suwannee, Simpson, Bolen, Dalton, Archaic stemmed, and many others. He also crafts bone-handled knives as well as wooden bows, elaborate pine-needle baskets, and other items made by early Native Americans. He had a table at the 2014 FAS meeting in Punta Gorda that was very popular.

In 2012, Roger placed second in the knapping competition at the Silver River Knap-In and Arts Festival. The setting is at the Silver River Museum in the Ocala National Forest on the Silver River, which feeds into the Ocklawaha River. See a following article for the dates of some of the 2015 Knap-Ins.

What got Roger interested one might ask? His first memory of stone tools was at the age of six, when Roger's dad brought him a spear point that he had found at work. This started the fascination with aboriginal people and especially stone tools. Living in the farmland of Northeastern Ohio, an occasional point or stone tool was found while walking in the fields. There was always the question: How could they make something sharp and pointy out of rock? Years later, while at a Pow Wow, Roger observed a demonstrator using a stick with a nail stuck in the end, making small points out of flint flakes. After watching this for a few hours and asking hundreds of questions, the world of lithic technology was wide open.

For the next ten years, Roger attended various Knap-Ins in Florida and Ohio, getting to watch and learn from some of the best, including Claude Van Order, Roy Miller, and Randy Beach. Hundreds of pounds of rock were bought and reduced to rubble, producing an occasional point here and there. After getting to know how to "read the stone," the results became better, and being able to produce various point types was the challenge. Producing a point type from the same material that was originally used and knapping out a replica of that type is the ongoing learning process that keeps him going. Presently, Roger continues to chip stone at home in his spare time and does demonstrations at various events.

This will be an atypical meeting, but I am sure it will be of interest to our members and guests. Come join the fun!

## **WMS** [Cont'd from p. 1]

The exceptional interview was produced by Curt Bowen of *Advanced Diver Magazine*, assisted by the "Shark Brothers," Sean and Brooks Paxton of Think Out Loud Productions.

The video was shown at the April 23, 2014, Friends of Little Salt Spring membership meeting and again at the FAS Annual Meeting and Conference in Punta Gorda, with more than 100 persons in attendance. It was a big hit.

Dr. Clark was one of the first scientists to dive with the late Col. Bill Royal, beginning in 1958.

They found human remains on the 45-foot ledge and co-authored the first professional paper on the WMS discoveries, published in *American Antiquity* in 1960, entitled "Natural Preservation of Human Brain, Warm Mineral Springs, Florida." Dr. Clark is a marine zoologist whose esteemed career spans more than 60 years. She was the founder of Cape Haze Marine Laboratory and built Mote Marine Laboratory in Sarasota County in 1955; she is Director Emeritus and still maintains a staff office there.

If you missed seeing the video at the April FLSS meeting or the May FAS meeting, you have another opportunity at the November 11 WMS/LSSAS meeting. The 30-minute video is really a must-see production.

## **SEPTEMBER 9 PROGRAM ON FAS 2014**

At the September meeting, archaeologist Steve Koski gave an overview and photo summary of events relating to the FAS Annual Meeting, hosted by the WMS/LSSAS, held May 9–11, 2014, at the Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center in Punta Gorda, overlooking the beautiful and scenic Peace River. It was three days of nonstop activity that included a Friday-night welcoming reception and Stewards of Heritage Awards at the Wyvern Hotel Rooftop. Recipients of the Stewards of Heritage Awards were The Southwest Florida Water Management District, National Guard Family Foundation, and West Coast Inland Navigation District for their historic preservation efforts.

Saturday was filled with all day presentations on Florida archaeology and anthropology, followed by a banquet and FAS awards. Dr. John Gifford was the keynote speaker at the banquet and he gave a presentation on his 20 years of research at Little Salt Spring, which was very well received.

Following Dr. Gifford's presentation, FAS President Jeff Moates presented the FAS awards. George Luer was the recipient of the prestigious Ripley P. Bullen Award for his outstanding work in Southwest Florida; Nick McAuliffe was the recipient of the Lazarus Award for assisting archaeologists and promoting education; and Theresa Schober was the recipient of the FAS President's Award for her prolific promotion of Florida archaeology to the public. Student Paper Competition winners were Katherine Cox (Florida International University), Arielle Bernhardt (New College of Florida), and Cady Gonzalez (New College of Florida). Juliana Dearth of New College of Florida was the recipient of the Chuck and Jane Wilde Student Research Grant, and David Markus was the recipient of the Dot Moore Student Grant.



September speaker Steve Koski received yet another World famous WMS/LSSAS t-shirt from Secretary Hilda Boron

Chris Newman and Toni Wallace, with the St Augustine Archaeological Association received Certificates of Acknowledgement for their contributions to the understanding and preservation of Florida's Archaeological Heritage. And last but not least, WMS/LSSAS Society Officers received Certificates of Appreciation for their years of dedicated service to the organization; Dr. George Haag, Secretary Hilda Boron, and Membership Secretary Linda Massey.

On Sunday, we met at Fisherman's Wharf on the Caloosahatchee and one of their vessels took us on a tour of upper Charlotte Harbor, narrated by archaeologists Theresa Schober and George Luer. The boat trip was followed by a field trip to Warm Mineral Springs and Little Salt Spring led by Dr. Gifford and Steve Koski. At LSS, Dean Quigley finished his painting of LSS on the Tortoise and the Ledge, a representation of an archaeological interpretation (see "Quigley Painting Finished at LSS..." in Oct/Nov NL).

Attending the September meeting was the President of FAS, Jeff Moates, and his son. Jeff presented the WMS/LSSAS Planning Committee a Certificate of Appreciation to the Society recognizing us "For efforts in organizing and coordinating the Florida Anthropological Society Annual Meeting and Conference in Punta Gorda." Thanks for the recognition, Jeff!



Members of the FAS 2014 Planning Committee and Volunteers display the Certificate of Appreciation from FAS President Jeff Moates.

## PIONEERING UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGIST SONNY COCKRELL CONDUCTED RESEARCH AT WARM MINERAL SPRINGS

By Steve Koski

A legendary figure and pioneer in Florida underwater archaeology, Wilburn "Sonny" Cockrell, passed away this past October. He was 73. Sonny was locally known for his work at Warm Mineral Springs and was the State of Florida's second Underwater Archaeologist, following Carl Clausen, who conducted a brief research project in 1971 and then focused on LSS in beginning in 1972 and from 1975 to 1980. Sonny was also the founder of the WMS Archaeological Society in 1990, now known as the WMS/LSSAS. He served on the Board as an Honorary Member until his death and once told me he was grateful for that recognition.

Sonny came to WMS in 1972 in his capacity as State Underwater Archaeologist at the request of then Sarasota County Historian Dottie Davis to investigate finds by the late Col. Bill Royal in Warm Mineral Springs. Royal and Eugenie Clark had already published on human remains from WMS in *American Antiquity* in 1960 in an article titled "Natural



Warm Mineral Springs Archaeological Society founder Sonny Cockrell  
c. 1973

Preservation of Human Brain, Warm Mineral Springs, Florida."

Sonny was interested in early sites and his position with the State gave him an opportunity to investigate. After reviewing those finds and diving with Royal on several occasions, he found another burial that, after investigation, proved to be more than 10,000 radiocarbon years old. He reported his finding with associate Larry Murphy in a seminal publication in *Archaeology of Eastern North America* titled "Pleistocene Man in Florida." He continued to work intermittently as time permitted during his appointment with the State, which ended in 1979. Over the next several years, he worked to raise funding for his return to WMS and received his first State appropriation in 1985 and continued to get funding until 1990.

I met Sonny in 1985 during a remote-sensing survey off Venice Beach looking for drowned terrestrial sites as a graduate assistant for Dr. Rey Ruppé from Arizona State University. Sonny was also a former graduate student of Rey's at ASU, and Sonny brought Rey out in 1975 to help excavate the 10,000-year-old burial at WMS. During the 1985 Venice research, Sonny and his associate Skip Wood came out on the boat for a dive with us and Sonny offered me a job as his assistant that first day. I accepted the position and came out after classes and exams in February of 1986 and worked with Sonny until 1989, two years before the project was discontinued. It was an amazing experience — right out of graduate school getting a research faculty position at Manatee Community College the first year, then the project transferring to FSU the second for the remainder of the project. It was quite an experience to get dropped out of the desert and into WMS; so much to observe

and learn from Sonny and Skip with all their experience. Those years gave me an appreciation for our local treasures and all those who have been involved. Sonny was a brilliant archaeologist, articulate lecturer, and ardent preservationist and educator. There is something captivating and mysterious about both springs, WMS and LSS. Certainly it is part of incredible span of time involved and the significance of the springs, but there is something else, something captivating that keep us involved. Those who have been involved understand.

For more details on Sonny's career and contributions, visit <http://www.maritimearchaeology.com/sonnycockrell>.

## 2015 FAS ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD IN SARASOTA

Time Sifters Archaeological Society of Sarasota will host the 2015 Florida Anthropological Society Annual Meeting to be held in Sarasota. We are fortunate to have this event and conference once again in our area after hosting it ourselves in Punta Gorda in 2014.

They are excited to announce that Dr. Jerald Milanich will be the Keynote speaker at the Saturday-evening banquet. In 1969, Milanich (still in his doctoral program) led the excavation of the Yellow Bluffs Mound in Sarasota, so it is fitting that he return here to talk about his 50 years in Florida archaeology.

New College and the New College Public Archaeology Lab have graciously agreed to host the Friday-evening welcoming reception. Those attending will enjoy drinks and hors d'oeuvres on the exquisite Sarasota bayfront. Reservations are already coming in at the conference hotel (which is also the conference venue). There is a negotiated rate of \$129/night at the beautiful Hyatt Regency, which is half off their standard rate and a really great deal for this AAA Four Diamond Hotel and 2013 TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence Winner.

Visit <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/TSAS> to book your room. The TSAS conference committee is working out the details of the call for papers, registration, and field trips, so stay tuned for more news in the next newsletter.

## FRIENDS OF LSS TO MEET NOVEMBER 18

From FLSS e-blast

The Friends of Little Salt Spring will hold their fall General Meeting Tuesday, November 18, at 7:00 PM at the Jockey Club Clubhouse at 3050 Pan American Blvd. (corner of Pan American and Appomattox Drive).

Their special guest will be John McCarthy, former County Historian and former Director of Sarasota County Parks and Recreation. Since the late 1970s, John has been active in studying local history and in sharing his research with numerous groups. In the early 1980s, John became familiar with the archeological work going on at Warm Mineral Springs and has maintained a three-decade interest in North Port's archaeological treasures.

In 2012, John retired from 32 years of service to Sarasota County government and has continued to be involved with local history. He has recently been lecturing on the role of heritage in defining community and how that also influences the local

economy. John's knowledge of Sarasota County's history ranges from Newtown to North Port. In 2011, John shared the stage with Barbara Little in the New College Public Archaeology program's Dialogues with Florida's Past series and more recently served as moderator for the 2013 panel discussion regarding Warm Mineral and Little Salt Springs hosted by the Ancient Waters Foundation. In his presentation for the Friends, John will share his experience learning about Warm Mineral Springs and Little Salt Spring and offer up his perspective on their influence and role in defining North Port and Sarasota County.

## FEBRUARY 2015 IS THE MONTH FOR KNAP-INS

If you have never been to a Knap-In and want to check one out, three are planned in Central Florida in February. What is a Knap-In? you might ask. It is a public festival with a gathering of like-minded primitive-craft specialists who manufacture amazing replicas of stone, bone, basketry, and other items used by Native Americans. Some are legendary, like Claude Van Order, one of the best stone-tool technologists and potters in the Southeast. Claude has visited us two occasions over the years for lithic and pottery workshops. We hope to plan a trip to one of these Knap-Ins in February.

February 13–15, 2014

Withlacoochee Primitive Arts Festival

Dade City, Florida

Contact Sam Scarborough at [sscarborough@pascocountyfl.net](mailto:sscarborough@pascocountyfl.net)  
352.567.0264

February 20–22, 2015 (Friday student-only day)

Silver River Knap-In and Primitive Arts Festival

Ocala, Florida

Contact Scott Mitchell at [Scott.mitchell@marion.12k.fl.us](mailto:Scott.mitchell@marion.12k.fl.us)  
352.236.5501

February 27 – March 1, 2015

Ochlocknee River Primitive and Stone Age Arts Festival

Sopchoppy, Florida

Contact Jason Vickery at [Jason.vickery@dep.fl.us](mailto:Jason.vickery@dep.fl.us)



The revolutionary atlatl (spear thrower) used by Paleoindian and Archaic peoples of the New World and beyond.

## LSS NEWS

WAG TV, a British television company, made a visit to LSS on September 5, 2014, to see the spring and interview Steve Koski on the significance of the site for a Discovery Channel Documentary. The UM/RSMAS Dean and Dr. Kenny Broad

were also on site and the film crew traveled to St. Petersburg to the home of Dr. John Gifford, UM Associate Professor Emeritus and Director of Research, to interview him as well. The program, *Mysteries from Outer Space*, is scheduled to air sometime in March or April 2015. The 8-12 minute segment on LSS will be one of several in a 60-minute program, with several other sites investigated. It begins with a satellite view of a site followed by a site visit, hence, "Mysteries from Outer Space" — get it? Have you ever seen LSS from Google Earth? It's quite impressive, "a natural oasis surrounded by the burgeoning city of North Port." One look and you will be convinced of its significance and need for protection and preservation to prevent further fragmentation of the last remaining undisturbed elements of a relic ecosystem that has survived from the Pleistocene. Stay tuned.

### **PENN STATE UNIVERSITY AT LSS FOR ONGOING RESEARCH**

Dr. Jen Macalady and Dr. Trinity Hamilton returned to Little Salt Spring on November 1 with other researchers from Penn State, Italy, and Germany to conduct additional studies at the spring. They are measuring multi-parameters of the water chemistry and a rare cyanobacteria only known in a few parts of the world. The species of interest is endemic to the spring and has been part of the LSS ecosystem for thousands of years. Seasonally, biofilm forms a purple bloom in the basin of the spring in the fall that carpets much of the basin and lower wall to about 60 feet.

The objective of this field session is to analyze water chemistry and seasonal phototrophic-cyanobacteria mats in the upper basin of LSS. Samples for water chemistry are being collected daily and examined with an array of sophisticated instruments. Numerous experiments are being conducted by the six researchers, each prominent in their specialty. 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 (chemical reaction resulting in the loss or gain of an electron) 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.

More detailed information will be in the January/February Newsletter.

### **ARTCALUSA HOSTED BY THE CAPTIVA CIVIC ASSOCIATION**

ArtCalusa, Reflections on Representation is now at the Captiva Civic Association, located at 11550 Chapin Lane through December 11. The venue includes numerous works by artists Lucas Century, Merald Clark, Charles Dauray, Christopher Kreider, David Meo, Theodor Morris, Dean Quigley, Hermann Trappman, and Jackson Walker. The opening reception was held October 18, followed by a presentation on October 25 by Steve Koski, "When Mammoths Roamed." On November 7, 5:00 PM, Theresa Schober will present

"Archaeological Heritage of Sanibel and Captiva," followed by John Worth on November 22, 5:00 PM, with "New Insights into Spanish Calusa Relations. The closing reception will be held December 11. It's a beautiful time to visit Captiva and see the exhibit and one of the presentations.

### **FAS 2014 ANNUAL MEETING SELECTED PHOTOS**

So many photos and not enough space. Here are a few highlights from the meeting. I'll try and get the awards photos in the January/February 2015 Newsletter for those who could not make to the September meeting. Once again, thanks to all Planning Committee Members and volunteers who help make FAS 2014 such a success and we look forward to FAS 2015 in Sarasota!



WMS/LSSAS FAS 2014 Planning Committee Members waiting for the crowd to arrive Friday morning: Kate Cattran, Lorraine Hawkins, Linda Massey, Judi Crescenzo, John Crescenzo, Helen Gardner, Hilda Boron, and Betty Nugent.



A scene from the Saturday night banquet, Keynote Speaker Dr. John Gifford speaks with LSS supporters and FAS 2014 sponsors from Florida Aquarium, senior staff Casey Coy (front right) and Mike Terrell (back right). The Florida Aquarium has been collaborators on the research at LSS since 2005, providing science divers and funding to assist in the research.



The Friday night May 9 reception held at the Wyvern Hotel roof top. Great panoramic views of the Peace River and historic downtown Punta Gorda



A few distinguished folks on the May 11 LSS field trip



Warm Mineral Springs field trip held Sunday May 11

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