



WMS/LSS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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

The Warm Mineral Springs/Little Salt Spring Archaeological Society meets the second Tuesday of the month (except June through August) at 7:00 PM, North Port Community United Church of Christ, located at 3450 S. Biscayne Blvd. Meetings are free and open to the public.

*****Due to election night and the church being a polling station (Please Vote), the meeting will be held in the building to the right of our meeting place. Please park in back.*****

SPANISH INDIANS TOPIC OF NOVEMBER 8 MEETING

Archaeologist Meg Stack will be the speaker at the November 8 meeting to discuss "An Archaeological and Archival Appraisal of 'Spanish Indians' on the West Coast of Florida in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries."

"Spanish Indian" is a generic term that has been used repeatedly in written documents over the past three centuries to describe a range of different social, ethnic, and economic groups in the southeastern United States. This paper specifically focuses on archaeological and archival research on Cuban fishing ranchos on the Gulf coast of Florida and provides suggestions for how historical archaeologists might contend with difficulties in determining and documenting identity at early historical sites in coastal Florida. The comparative research undertaken for this paper demonstrates a pressing need for additional data collection and research in the field. As it currently stands, however, the preliminary analysis conducted indicates an econo-



Archaeologist Meg Stack

mic basis for cultural interaction and intermarriage rather than an actual cultural synthesis, creolization, or ethnogenesis, which would imply shared cultural systems of belief and meaning.

Ms. Stack is currently a Project Archaeologist for Cardno in Tampa, FL, and has been working in Cultural Resource Management for them for over two years on a multitude of projects. As a Florida archaeologist, Meg has worked in specialized research on Spanish Cuban fishing ranchos, Seminole-Maroon interactions, and the connection between past and present landscapes as understood through the use of georeferencing in Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

Prior to joining Cardno, Meg worked as an Adjunct Professor at Ringling College of Art and Design and Eckerd College, and as Instructor of Record at the University of South Florida. She taught "Introduction to Archaeology," "Introduction to Anthropology," "Cultural Anthropology," "Visual Anthropology," and "Native American Cultures." In addition, her experience includes working as a research assistant at the University of South Florida and as an intern at Florida Public Archaeology Network, where she designed a traveling exhibit and produced a paper and subsequent presentation on her research on Spanish Cuban fishing ranchos. Her previous CRM experience was as a field tech for Archaeological Consultants, Inc., in Sarasota, Florida.

DECEMBER 13 SPEAKER TO BE ANNOUNCED

It's not always easy getting quality speakers for our monthly meetings and sometimes things don't always go as planned. Saying that, our December speaker will be announced a week prior to the meeting. It is sure to be another great presentation!

USF GRADUATE STUDENT SHAUN WEST DISCUSSED RESEARCH AT KOLOMOKI AT THE OCTOBER 12 MEETING

Judi and John Crescenzo

On October 12, 2016, archaeologist Shaun West presented "A Shifty Settlement: the Prehistory of Kolomoki." Mr. West earned his BA in anthropology at the University of Florida, where he is currently a graduate student completing his master's thesis on the Middle to Late Woodland Period site of Kolomoki, c. 350–950 CE (Common Era, think AD). West explained that his master's project is in collaboration with his advisor, USF professor Dr. Thomas Pluckhahn, and colleague, Martin Menz.

The Kolomoki site is located in the Chattahoochee River Valley in southwestern Georgia. The site is important because of several exotic features, such as earthen walls and three platform mounds (usually part of the later Mississippian Period). Mound A stands 56 feet high and contains various colored soils. In total, there are at least eleven earth works and the site was likely an important trade hub. During the Woodland Period, Kolomoki was the largest village north of Mexico, but between 900–950 CE, it was abandoned.

Much of the site has been used for agriculture over the more recent years, and plowing has destroyed much of the landscape on the lower slopes and some of the earthen enclosures. But many features can be seen in aerial photographs from 1999. The site probably once had many more mounds.

Many of the site's living features and artifacts have been mixed as well, because they are located only 30 cm below the surface in the plow zone. Today, a state park has preserved much of the site.

While earlier evidence is present, Kolomoki was founded around 350 CE. Most occupation occurred during the Middle and Late Woodland Periods (c. 350–950 CE). The majority of the pottery found was of the Swift Creek type and shows complex stamping. Coastal and interior sites indicate that there was long-distance trade. The Weeden Island Period at Kolomoki (200–1000 CE) is poorly understood and is represented by effigy vessels, as well as domestic and mortuary wares. A replicated wooden paddle shows the busy designs representative of Swift Creek. The designs match those found outside the site, indicating ceremony and trade. Weeden Island Avian effigy vessels were discovered at Kolomoki and other sites.

During the 19th and 20th centuries, amateur and professional archaeologists mapped Kolomoki, but the maps don't agree as to the number of mounds and where they were located. Valiant's 1937 map is more accurate than others. Some of the early archaeologists to work at Kolomoki include Charles Fairbanks and Robert Wauchope, who conducted excavations in the 1930s and '40s, followed by Florida Archaeologist William Sears in the late 1940s and early 1960s. Based on mortuary ceramics and the large platform mounds, Sears interpreted the site as being occupied during the Mississippian period, c. 1000–1500 CE, when tall agricultural-chieftdom mounds were present, paralleling the Natchez culture; however, later excavation of

Mound D revealed Weeden Island pottery and marine shell, iron, mica, etc., which suggest an earlier Hopewell interaction.



Board member Betty Nugent presents our world famous tee-shirt October speaker Shaun West.

The 1956 Sears version of Kolomoki is not acceptable today, refuted by the later work of USF professor and archaeologist Dr. Pluckhahn, who has worked at Kolomoki since the late 1990s. His systematic research placed the site in the preceding Woodland Period. Intense excavation shows that the village was much larger than archaeologist William Sears believed, growing to nearly a kilometer in diameter at its peak. Pit houses with roofs and smoke holes were also found at Kolomoki, although these are usually found only to the north.

Mapping is ongoing, and the use of LiDAR-created maps has revealed contour lines indicating past structures. Kolomoki has revealed societal differences, which were reanalyzed and compared with previous collections. Small excavation samples were subjected to gradiometry. Radiocarbon dating provided the age of maize kernels, and floatation determined what people ate at various times of the year. Research by West and his colleague Menz was combined with that of Dr. Pluckhahn. Bayesian statistics used prior information to estimate ages. Twenty-seven dates were used and four phases were produced. Date ranges were refined and made more accurate.

The size of Kolomoki shows that it was an important site located between two major settlement clusters. Phase II was a growth period. Phase III (700 CE) saw the culmination of growth and a period of change, where circular villages went out of use and Weeden Island artifacts appeared. Populations shifted south and more people came to Kolomoki, giving it a pan-regional identity.

A lithics study by Menz revealed no coastal plain chert. Northern and southern areas had the most milky quartz. There was no shortage in the north, but the south had fewer lithics, which may indicate a more seasonal occupation. The new chronology resultant from West and colleagues' studies indicates village expansion and societal differences, including a possible economy of inequality, a segmented social structure, and potential dual organization

Thanks go to Shaun West for bringing this interesting research to our October meeting!

ARCHAEOLOGIST MICHELE LOGER SPOKE ON NEW ADVANCES IN ARCHAEOLOGY AT SEPT. MEETING

Judi and John Crescenzo

At our September 13, 2016, Michele Cotty-Loger presented "New Advances in Digital Archaeology," featuring the most up-to-date mapping and remote-sensing technologies used by archaeologists today. Cotty-Loger earned an MS in geomatics from the University of Florida, and has worked extensively with George Luer on archaeological studies at Big Mound Key and numerous sites at Cape Haze shell middens. She is currently employed by Cardno, an environmental engineering firm in Tampa.



Vice President Linda Elligott presents September speaker Michele Cotty-Loger with our world famous tee-shirt.

During the 1940s, aerial pictures became available to the public, and the first personal computers came into being only thirty years ago. The latest modern technologies show a vast improvement in GPS accuracy and the resolution of images. Infrared and hyperspectral imagery, along with LiDAR and UAV, have transformed archaeology.

Data collectors now carry portable Trimble GPS receivers that communicate with satellites and base stations on earth. Smart phones and iPads are used as data collectors, allowing for direct input of all data and photos. Archaeologists have the ability to dictate into a notebook, check weather, and load PDFs of earlier reports about an area — all while on site. Google Earth includes a date scroll to locate older archaeological sites, which may otherwise be hidden. The ArcGIS program rescales and adjusts maps of an area. It can be used to predetermine the number and location of shovel tests needed and whether a site is significant.

In a case study of 12,195 acres in Cape Haze, Charlotte County, World Imagery showed sites in a slightly different color because of vegetation variations. These sites were mostly post-Archaic (700–1200 CE) and were mostly used seasonally. Sea-level rises were incremental, not sudden; if an area was partially flooded, people rebuilt. World Imagery revealed an aerial view of the Buttonwood Site, where treetops appear distinct from other vegetation. Thick vegetation appeared in red, while less dense vegetation was pink.

Cotty-Loger's studies recorded from the muck and upward, as sub-surface studies were not permitted. LiDAR generates 100 x 100 foot digital elevation models where elevation points

are averaged. At Cape Haze, the LiDAR Point Cloud plane or UAV shot thousands of points per square so that all elevations and the thickness of vegetation were revealed. LiDAR gave a line-of-sight image, showing vegetation and the surface without trees. These data were converted to Raster Data with one value per cell. After the collection of data in various digital ways, ENVI and OBIA (Object Based Image Analysis) analyses were performed to find locations of best probability to prospect. Seasons and weather were considered, and the computer did the math. OBIA can also show hot spots for specific artifacts, such as pottery and lithics.

This was a most revealing and informative presentation on the latest technologies archaeologists incorporate into their research to help them locate sites to gain an increased understanding of settlement systems in southwest Florida.

UPCOMING EVENTS

There is a lot to choose from regarding events this coming month, with three next Saturday.

Saturday, Nov. 12, and Sunday, Nov. 13: Phillippi Estate Park will hold their Centennial Celebration. It's been 100 years since Edson and Nettie Keith built the mansion and farmhouse. To commemorate the event, Sarasota County Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources, are holding two days of celebration. The events will start off at 10:00 AM, with the unveiling of four interpretive panels and a site map describing the history and archaeology of Phillippi Creek. The panels will be spread out over a small area along the meandering paths in back of the mansion along the creek, explaining the rich history the park has to offer, going back more than 2,000 years. This is a go-on-your-own field trip. You can also sign up at the November 8 meeting and find a riding partner. For more information and RSVP, call Park Manager Priscilla Brown at pbrown@scgov.net or 941.316.1309.

Saturday, November 12: The Friends of the Sarasota County History Center will host "An Afternoon with Bertha Palmer," with Betty Intagliata, who will re-enact Mrs. Palmer, Chicago socialite and business woman, whose presence made a huge impact on the area and who ultimately spent the final years of her life in Sarasota County. She settled at what is now called Historic Spanish Point, another premier historic and archaeological site in Sarasota County which is open to the public. The event will be held at 2:00 PM at the Chidsey Historical Exhibits & Education Center, 702 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota.

Saturday, November 12: The North Port Community Yard Sale will be held in front of the Mullen Center near City Hall. The WMS/LSSAS will have tables there for a combination fundraiser, with selected items for donation and a public-outreach event for the Society. For more info, call WMS/LSSAS Secretary Hilda Boron at 426-1719. Please bring items to the November 8 meeting to donate for the sale. Smaller items are best for this first sale.

November 17, 2016: Friends of the Sarasota County History Center will host a presentation by New York City Architect and writer Charles D. Warren titled "John Nolen, Progressive Era City Planner of Venice and Sarasota 1925–1926." The presentation will be held at the Sarasota Garden

Club Auditorium, 1131 Boulevard of the Arts, Sarasota (next to the Chidsey Historical Exhibits and Education Center).

Saturday, December 12, 2016: WMS/LSSAS field trip to the South Florida Museum for their *Dinosaur Discoveries* exhibit and much more. <http://www.southfloridamuseum.org/>

Saturday December 3, 2016: WMS/LSSAS board meeting Nello Juliano Room North Port Library, 10:00 AM.

HAPPY DOOR-PRIZE WINNERS



Board member Judith Ribarik, presents member Lilly Goetz with yet another door prize she won at the September meeting; the Dean Quigley print, *Tortoise and the Ledge*.



Member Helen Gardner displays a projectile point manufactured by Roger Hostetler (right) that she won as the door prize at the May 2016 meeting.

FLSS NEWS

The Friends of Little Salt Springs are holding their first meeting of the season on Tuesday, November 15, 2016 at 7:00 PM. All meetings are free and open to the public.

The location of the meeting is the Jockey Club Community Room, 3050 Pan American Blvd, North Port 34287. The speaker is Rebecca O'Sullivan, Coordinator II, West Central Regional Center of the Florida Public Archaeology Network. She will be speaking on the archeological evidence of late Paleo/Early archaic peoples at Little Salt Springs.

OCTOBER 15 FIELD TRIP AND PRESENTATION BY WMS/LSSAS BOARD MEMBER JUDIE BAUER A NICE EVENT

On October 15, 2016, the WMS/LSSAS took a field trip to the Chidsey Historical Exhibits and Education Center (the former Chidsey Library), located at 701 North Tamiami Trail. After a tour of the exhibits, those attending had an interesting and informative presentation by WMS/LSSAS Board Member Judie Bauer, who discussed her third great uncle, the Reverend John Rankin, a famous abolitionist, who organized and operated the Underground Railroad in Ripley, Ohio, from 1822 to 1865 (see the Sept./Oct. Newsletter). The presentation was so well received that the WMS/LSSAS Board asked her to come and give the presentation in February for Black History Month.

Following the presentation, we presented a cake for WMS/LSSAS Secretary Hilda Boron, turning 93, who cut it and gave a piece to all in attendance, then we took her to lunch at Yoder's Amish County Restaurant.

For more information on the Chidsey Exhibits and Education Center and the Friends of the Sarasota County History Center, go to: www.foschc.org.

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WARM MINERAL SPRINGS / LITTLE SALT SPRING ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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