



**WMS/LSS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER**

Vol. 29, No. 3, May/June, 2018

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, July and August) at 7:00 pm. General meetings are held at the North Port Community United Church of Christ, located at 3450 S. Biscayne Blvd. Dinner prior to the meeting will be held at the Olde World Restaurant, 14415 Tamiami Trail, North Port, at 5:00 PM. Meetings are free and open to the public.

\* \* \* \* \* **PLEASE NOTE: The May 8 meeting will be held at the Suncoast Technical College (one time only)** \* \* \* \* \*  
4445 Career Lane, North Port, FL 34289 (corner of Cranberry and Toledo Blade).

**MANASOTA KEY OFFSHORE SITE TOPIC OF  
MAY 8 MEETING (Note Special Location Above)**

About 7,200 years old and buried 21 feet deep below the Gulf of Mexico, 350 yards off Manasota Key, is an extremely well-preserved human burial site. Archaeologists are exploring what has been termed a “globally significant” discovery. *National Geographic* calls it an “unprecedented” find.

How was this site discovered? A diver picked up a barnacle-encrusted jaw from a shallow spot off the shore of Manasota Key. The specimen sat on a paper plate in his kitchen for a couple weeks before he realized it was probably a human bone. Weeks later the diver sent a picture to Florida’s Bureau of Archaeological Research, where it landed in front of Ryan Duggins, the Bureau’s Underwater Archaeology Supervisor. “As soon as we were there [at the site], it became clear that we were dealing with something new,” Duggins recalls. First, he spotted a broken arm bone on the seabed. [See *Manasota* page 2]



May 8 speaker John McCarthy

**HISTORY OF FLORIDA CATTLE RANCHING WAS  
TOPIC OF APRIL MEETING**

*By Judi and John Crescenzo*

On April 10, 2018, Theresa Schober, Manager of the Immokalee Pioneer Museum at Roberts Ranch, and Immokalee cowboy Clint Raulerson presented “Cattle Ranching and Pioneer Life in South Central Florida.”

Schober began with an overview of the history of Ponce de Leon’s initial contact and naming of “La Florida.” In 1513, De Leon landed in Calusa territory, where he was greeted by 80 war canoes, causing his retreat. When he returned in 1521 with priests, horses and cattle, one-third of his men were killed by the Calusa. De Leon was wounded and died later in Cuba, but some of his cattle remained in Florida.

In 1568, St. Augustine was founded by Pedro Menendez, who set up several forts. Their agricultural system never became established, and within three years the Spanish failed. Tribes were in power, but the Spanish later gained a foothold in missions at St. Augustine, Tallahassee, and Pensacola. Livestock and cattle played an important role in the success of those settlements. By the 1600s, there were 20,000 cattle in Florida, which grew into an industry because of missions in northern Florida.

In the 1930s, cattle were dipped in arsenic-laden vats every two weeks to prevent their deaths from tick diseases. Some of these vats still exist today throughout the state. It was not until the 1940s that fencing was used in Florida, so free-roaming cattle were branded by ranchers. In 1946, fence laws were formally enacted.

Roberts Ranch was settled after the Civil War by Robert and Sarah Roberts, who spent three days moving to the area by oxcart. The Robertses put their ranch in trust. It grew to 107,000 acres by 1952, which was a large ranch for Florida. In 1980 it was closed, and in the 1990s it was donated to Collier County. Today the ranch preserves thirteen acres and sixteen historical structures, and in 2003 it was put on the National Register of Historic Places.



Cowboy Clint Raulerson and Immokalee Pioneer Museum Manager Theresa Schober accept our world-famous tee-shirt (obviously with some delight).

Until WWII, ranchers had to drive the cattle to market. Once refrigeration, dehydration, and highways were established, cattle ranching went national. Cattle were moved to the Midwest where they could be corn fed, giving the beef a better taste. Today, Florida specializes in breeding cattle that are shipped elsewhere to feed before going to market, so it is known as a cow-calf state.

After Schober's talk on the history of the area, she introduced cowboy Clint Raulerson, whose grandparents married at the community of Corkscrew in 1930. Years ago, Raulerson helped his grandfather dip cattle to kill the deer tick. When he grew up, he wanted to earn his living on horseback by roping and cattle drives, and he has succeeded in this dream. By the mid 1970s, before the citrus industry and Disney took the land, there were 2.5 million cows in Florida. The herd in Florida now numbers 1,000,000. Today, five of the top ten ranches in the nation are in Florida, including the Mormon Deseret Ranch, which the largest in the United States.

Raulerson recited his poem, "The Hand," which is about a cracker cowboy. The poem is from his book, *A Cowboy Legacy, a Lifetime in the Saddle*. He stated that his trade hasn't changed much over time—he still rides his horse to the ranch and carries an 8-to-20-foot-long braided cow whip. He recalled that cow whips were once braided from deer hide tanned by Seminole women, but now they are made from nylon. Raulerson said he is doing the same jobs his grandfather did before Robertson Ranch.

The cow-calf industry in Florida raises baby cows to about 600 pounds at eight months old, then trucks them to the Midwest grain belt to eat grain that can't be dried in Florida. Raulerson

also sells cattle to buyers right off the ranch for shipment to the Midwest. Profit on baby cows is not as high as with full-grown cattle, but feed increases costs. Florida herds have been improved over the years. Today some people still keep herds as a hobby, but not to earn money. Schober handed out leaflets about the Immokalee Cattle Drive and Jamboree to be held on March 9, 2019.

Included in the festivities will be roping and whip cracking demonstrations, poetry by Raulerson, and a cattle drive down the main street of Immokalee to the Pioneer Museum.

We thank Theresa and Clint for coming to our meeting and sharing their knowledge of the cattle industry from its earliest days. Next March we plan to have a field trip to the Pioneer Museum for the Cattle Drive and Jamboree event. It really sounds fun. Hope you can join us!

### MANASOTA [Cont'd from page 1]

Then, when he noticed a cluster of carved wooden stakes and three separate skull fragments in a depression, Duggins realized he might be dealing with a Native American bog burial site—one that had been inundated by sea level rise, but was miraculously preserved.

John McCarthy, Executive Director of Historic Spanish Point a writer for *Sarasota Magazine*, will speak about this newly discovered burial ground that scientists are studying underwater off Manasota Key. His impressive career spans more than 30 years in Sarasota County Government; from County Historian, Environmental Specialist, Natural Area Parks Supervisor, General Manager Parks and Recreation, and Interim Executive Director of Libraries, Parks and Recreation, Natural Resources, Historical Resources, UF Extension Services, and Neighborhood Services.

This will prove to be an exceptional and informative meeting you don't want to miss.

### ZOOARCHAEOLOGY OF CANAVERAL NATIONAL SEASHORE INDIAN MOUNDS TOPIC OF MARCH MEETING

*By Judi and John Crescenzo*

On March 13th, Irv Quitmyer, Senior Biologist and Archaeologist at the Florida Museum of Natural History, presented "The Zooarchaeology of Castle Windy and Turtle Mound, Canaveral National Seashore, Florida." Zooarchaeology combines zoology and archaeology in an effort to understand human and natural history through animal remains. The National Science Foundation encourages citizen science because it is multidisciplinary, and most discoveries occur where the disciplines overlap.

Animal bones are sorted and kept in collections for comparison to broken bones found at archaeological sites. The goal is to become acquainted with shell middens as archives of culture and environment with variability across space and time, and to determine the animal resources used at Castle Windy and Turtle Mound. There can be up to 149 different species in shell middens in this area. Marine resources were used for a



Irv Quitmyer accepts our world famous tee-shirt from Board Member Kathy Gerace.

very long time, as most people have lived within 20 miles of the coast.

This pattern is found internationally. For example, Pinnacle Point in South Africa is dated 160,000 YBP (years before present), a time when sea level was low. Caves along the site were overused, which had an impact on local fauna. Neanderthal sites in the Iberian Peninsula are similar to those in Africa.

The Seminole Rest historic site within Canaveral National Seashore has a mound that is about three meters in depth and took about 124 years to accumulate. Shark teeth that had been lashed to handles were found here. St. Catherine's Island shell ring south of Savannah, GA, includes the McQueen shell ring circa 4200–3950 BP. Shell middens record enviro-cultural phenomena that can be tested. Each shell or bone fragment contains a record of human adaptations to a changing environment. Shell middens are a non-renewable resource.

The three pillars of subsistence are continuity, resilience (rebounding from negative events in the environment and how they survived), and flexibility. There are 13-foot tides in the area known as George Blight between Cape Lookout and St. Augustine. The animals in this area had to be flexible to survive. Fauna from 7,000 years ago comes from estuaries that are underwater at high tide. People who lived here were “feet wet,” meaning they lived on fauna such as fish and shellfish. They did not hunt for animals such as deer.

A 1937 photo of Turtle Mound (AD 1280–1640) shows that the mound was reduced in size through mining for shell to make roads. The mound was once 36 feet high and four football fields long at the widest part. It was built within a few hundred years. The mound at Castle Windy (AD 1150–1420) was 17 feet tall and 150–200 feet long. Shell was carbon dated at 270 years, which places the mound in the period just before the Spanish arrived. Fauna was screened to find vertebrate and invertebrate remains.

The Turtle Mound samples revealed 9,898 individuals and 92 separate species. At Castle Windy there were 12,264 individuals and 79 separate species. The three most abundant fauna found were sea catfish, mullet, and Atlantic croaker.

Shellfish included eastern oyster, razor clams, and coquina. The coquina at Turtle Mound and Castle Windy are larger than those found in Georgia. All are resilient species. Coquina were gathered using nets or baskets, so smaller ones filtered back into the ocean.

In conclusion, Turtle Mound and Castle Windy records show rich, stable estuary fishers. The assemblages including catfish, croaker, and mullet, validate the three pillars of subsistence.

Many thanks go to Irv for visiting us once again from the Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville. We thoroughly enjoyed hearing about his fascinating research.

## FLORIDA ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN ST. PETERSBURG MAY 11–13

The time has come! The Alliance for Weedon Island Archaeological Research and Education (AWIARE), and the University of South Florida St. Petersburg (USFSP) Anthropology Program, are the hosts for the 70th Annual Meeting. The meeting will take place on the beautiful harbor-side campus.

The conference hotel is the Hilton St. Petersburg Bay Front, with a special rate of \$139 per night. For reservations call (727) 894-5000. The Friday-night reception is at the Three Daughters Brewing Room (yippee!) at 222 22nd Street S., between 6:00–8:00 pm. The reception will feature food from a local favorite, The Tavern; a variety of games; and the Florida Archaeological Council's “Stewards of Heritage” awards ceremony.

The Saturday paper and poster presentations will take place at USFSP's University Student Center in Ballrooms 1–3, as will the Saturday night banquet and FAS awards. Keynote speaker at the banquet is Dr. Michael Francis, Hough Family Chair of Florida Studies and Professor of History at USFSP. His presentation will be “Not Even the Devil Could Read This: Rethinking Florida's Colonial History in the Digital Age.”

Two Sunday tours will be conducted, one to four city parks within bustling St. Petersburg to some well-known and interesting archaeological sites or a guided tour at the Weedon Island Cultural and Natural History Center to view the Weedon Island canoe exhibit (either choice \$20).

For more information and registrations go to [fasweb.org](http://fasweb.org).

## SARASOTA COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGIST STEVE KOSKI RECEIVES SECOND ANNUAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSERVANCY AWARD

The Historic Preservation Coalition of Sarasota County held its second annual luncheon and awards ceremony at the Venice Golf and Country Club April 7, 2018. More than 70 historic-preservation-minded individuals and friends attended the event, representing 17 various organizations in Sarasota County.

The six 2018 awards and recipients included the Archaeological Conservancy Award, Steve Koski, Sarasota County Archaeologist; Historical Collections Preservation Award, Debora Walk, Director of Legacy and Circus; Historical Research Award, Jeff Lahurd, author and historian; Historic Structure Preservation Award, architect Howard Davis; Lillian Burns



Individual Achievement Award, Betty Intagliata, Venice Area Historical Society; and Organizational Achievement Award, Sarasota Architectural Foundation, accepted by board member Dr. Christopher Wilson, faculty member at Ringling College of Art and Design.

Koski indicated it was quite an honor and a humbling experience, considering the accomplishments of the other recipients, especially following last year's recipient for the Archaeological Conservancy Award, archaeologist Dr. George Luer. It was really a spectacular event and 12 members of the WMS/LSSAS and FLSS attended. For more info and photos, go to <http://historicpreservationsarasota.org/>.



Steve Koski accepts the Archaeological Conservancy Award from Coalition Vice-Chair Dr. Frank Cassell.



2018 Coalition Awards Recipients (all looking the wrong way) are Jeff Lehard, Howard Davis, Steve Koski, Betty Intagliata, Debora Walk, and Christopher Wilson.

## FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD IN SARASOTA MAY 18-20

"Under the Big Top: History, Culture, and Architecture" is the theme for the 2018 Annual Meeting of the Florida Historical Society, which will be held at the Hyatt Regency, Sarasota. The Hyatt Regency is now accepting reservation at \$179 per night.

Details on registration and the schedule will be provided in the May/June WMS/LSSAS Newsletter and on line when available at <https://myfloridahistory.org/annualmeeting18>.

**EDITOR NOTE:** The March 8 meeting, to be held at Suncoast Technical College (just a reminder), will be the last meeting of the season. The next meeting will be held Tuesday, September 10, at our regular meeting place at the North Port United Community Church. The WMS/LSSAS Newsletter will be out the first week in September and will contain our fall/winter speaker series (with the help of Kathy Gerace, thank you) and we plan to have an update on proceedings on Warm Mineral Springs and historic buildings, Three Graces Fountain, Little Salt Spring, the Myakkahatchee Creek/Little Salt Spring Greenway Corridor, Spring Haven Blvd. extension and wildlife crossing, Friends of Little Salt Spring Giving Challenge success, and more.

Hope to see you all at the May 8 meeting; if not, wishing you a marvelous summer.

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