

WMS/LSS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 31, No. 1, January/February 2020

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, located at 3450 S. Biscayne Blvd. Dinner prior to January 14 meeting will be at Old World Restaurant, 14415 Tamiami Tr., North Port. Dinner prior to the February 11 meeting will be at the Rice House, 14287 Tamiami Tr., North Port, at 5:00 pm.

Meetings are free and open to the public.

Happy New Year 2020! Our 30th Anniversary!

RETHINKING CALUSA TOPIC OF OUR JANUARY 14 **MEETING**

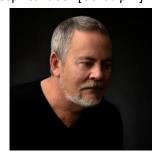
Text provided by the speaker

Join us Tuesday, January 14, 2020, for a presentation on the Calusa by Charlotte Harbor Anthropological Society President Ted Ehmann.

Upon retiring to Charlotte County in 2016, historian and author Ted Ehmann was curious why — after over twenty-five years of researching and visiting the Indian mounds of the Hopewell and Mississippi cultures of North America — there was not one mention of the Calusa and the mound-building cultures in Charlotte Harbor and the entire south Florida Region.

What Ehmann's research uncovered will surprise you. To wit: the Calusa and their neighbors have received very little in the way of archaeological investigations.

After the initial findings in 1896 in the Charlotte Harbor and Marco Island area, what little research there was, and the resulting narrative, has been tainted by inadequate theoretical models and philosophical bias. [Cont'd p. 2]



January Speaker Ted Ehmann

EVERGLADES ARCHAEOLOGY TOPIC OF FEBRUARY 11 MEETING

Florida Gulf Coat University Assistant Professor William Locascio will be the speaker at our February 11 meeting. His topic will cover recent excavations by his FGCU students in the Everglades Agricultural Area. He has shown that the Everglades was inhabited for thousands of years in the Archaic Period and was not a sterile, uninhabited area as many have postulated. His work there is changing how we view the prehistoric populations and their subsistence base. He views his research as a way to teach the next generation of archeologists and advance archaeological knowledge of this region, which reveals remains of life among the people that settled the region over three thousand years ago.

The archaeology of the Everglades has been the topic of past meetings, so we know how exciting the regional prehistory of the Everglades is and look forward to hearing about Bill's research.



December 11 speaker William Locascio



Bill Locascio FGCU students in the Everglades Agricultural Area.

William Locascio received his Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh in 2010 and was an assistant professor at Flagler College from 2011–2014. He is currently an assistant professor at Florida Gulf Coast University. His Ph.D. dissertation focused on pre-Columbian societies of Panama and addressed how and why societies became hierarchical after millennia of successful organization as egalitarian and semi-egalitarian groups. Over the last twenty years, he has been very fortunate to do archaeology in many regions of the Americas, from Alaska to Ecuador. "I came to Florida several years ago and have fallen in love with the archaeology and the archaeology community."

CALUSA (Cont'd from p. 1)

Ehmann argues that the evidence reveals that the moundbuilding epoch in south Florida and the hunter-gathering societies responsible constitute a unique cultural epoch spanning twenty-five centuries, and are of global importance.

Ehmann applies new modes and connects the archaeological record to an earlier epoch in Louisiana, the latter epochs of the Hopewell and Mississippi mound builders, and the research by archaeologists outside of Florida. His book, *People of the Great Circle, Prehistoric Mound Builders in South*, was written for the lay reader in understandable language. Ehmann is founder and president of the Charlotte Harbor Anthropological Society. This is the first of several "Forgotten Florida" histories. See: www.tedehmannhistories.net

Ted has been in education most of his life. He has a Master of Teaching degree and a B.A. degree, with a minor in Social Science and Anthropology, from the College of New Jersey and studied for two years at the Philadelphia College of Art.



People of the Great Circle, Prehistoric Mound Builders in South Florida, 2019, Pineapple Press, Hardcover, 192 pages \$29.95.

SPRINGS OF FLORIDA AND THE FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH TOPIC OF DECEMBER MEETING

By Judi and John Crescenza

On December 10, 2019, Rick Kilby, President of Kilby Creative Graphics in Orlando, presented "The Fountain of Youth: Ponce de Leon and Florida's Magical Waters." There are over 1,000 documented springs in Florida, where the myth of the Fountain of Youth as a healing spring began. As of 2013, Silver Springs was the most visited spring, and St. Augustine contained the most historical archaeological information.

Various locations in Florida claim to be the site of Ponce de Leon's landing. Some records suggest he landed near Ponte Vedra or Melbourne, and Punta Gorda claims De Leon was fatally wounded by an arrow there. The Fountain of Youth in St. Augustine was the first spring used to promote land sales. A pier in St. Petersburg once boasted a well with sulphur water and was also promoted as the Fountain of Youth. Streets all over Florida were named for Ponce de Leon, and a myth was created that he sought the Fountain of Youth because he was in love with a younger woman.

The Fountain of Youth myth is rooted in Ancient Greece, the Nile of Egypt, beliefs of Alexander the Great, and the myth of restorative waters of various cultures. In early America, Washington Irving wrote of the Fountain of Youth as mineral waters that gave eternal health. The State of Florida Department of Agriculture promoted the Fountain of Youth to encourage people to come to Florida to start life anew, and Edison claimed that Florida added years to his life. After World War II, St. Petersburg became known as "God's Waiting Room," and recently The Villages claimed to be the site of the Fountain of Youth.

Various springs in Florida have promoted the myth of eternal youth. For example, Harriet Beecher Stowe thought that Silver Springs was the Fountain of Youth. In 1880, DeLeon Springs was promoted to cure invalids. In 1920, Espiritu Santo Springs near Tampa also claimed to be the Fountain of Youth. Warm Mineral Springs (WMS) once had plans to construct a wellness sanitarium. The Cyclorama at WMS was built to celebrate Florida's 400th anniversary, and it was decorated with 360 degrees of paintings depicting an interpretation of Florida's history and Ponce de Leon's search for the Fountain of Youth. The spring was developed as a therapeutic spa in the late 1950s, centered on the Fountain of Youth legend and marketed to eastern Europeans because of their historically thriving spa culture. Few, however, realize that Little Salt Spring is the real Fountain of Youth.

The bathing tradition in Florida extends back to Ancient Greeks and Romans involving gods in the waters. Bathing was seen as pagan and died out in the Dark Ages, but was brought back by a spa in Belgium during the Renaissance. In the 1700s, Jefferson Boathouse in Warm Spring, VA, was created. The Suwannee Sulphur Springs in northern FL were considered curative, and White Springs south of the Suwannee attracted wealthy Northerners. Steamboats brought people from



December speaker Rick Kilby received our world-famous tee-shirt from board member Linda Elligott.

Charleston and Savannah to Jacksonville, and the St. John's River was the main transportation route until the railroad took over. Safety Harbor's Green Springs was promoted as the perpetual fountain of youth. In 1875, F. Trench Townsend from England, who wrote about wildlife in Florida, traveled by railroad to Cedar Key, then to Warm Mineral Springs. He stayed in a primitive tent and sampled WMS water, but he disliked its salty, sulphur taste. But by 1922, locals were using the water for healing, and it was marketed as "Great Salt Spring Water."

Today underwater cameras have captured the world beneath the springs. In 1900, Silver Springs with its sandy bottom was Florida's #1 destination. However, as development and population grew, nitrogen in the springs doubled and the pristine spring bottoms are now covered with algae. Over-pumping of our groundwater for agriculture and what seems like endless population growth has dramatically reduced flow in many Florida springs, some of which have dried up, and the health of many more compromised. The Springs Eternal Project has documented springs in Florida, along with the surrounding industry and agriculture that threaten them. The project's catalog has been distributed across the state to document the decline in the springs, and photos comparing 1995 to 2012 show rapid degradation. Water should be preserved and eternal.



Warm Mineral Springs August 2018

Kilby provided his email and facebook sites (RickKilby.com or facebook.com/floridasfountainofyouth) for follow-up on the Springs Eternal Project. He also offered his fascinating book, Finding the Fountain of Youth—Ponce de Leon and Florida's Magical Waters, for sale. The book, which includes old photos, comics, and ads, depicts a history of numerous clean, clear

springs and how development has damaged and threatened their existence. A copy is available for checkout from the WMS/LSSAS library at our monthly meetings.

Yet again, another truly fascinating tale about Florida's unique natural and cultural resources relating to our local history was shared with our members and guests.

TATTOOING TOPIC OF NOVEMBER MEETING

Judi and John Crescenzo

At our November 12, 2019, speaker, Dr. Anna Dixon, presented "Making Your Mark: Tattooing Plants and Identity." Dr. Dixon earned her M.A. at the University of TN and Ph.D. at the University of Hawaii. She was a Professor of Anthropology at Eckerd College and Archaeological Laboratory Director for Pan-American Consultants in Tampa. As a medical anthropologist and ethnobotanist, she has worked in Micronesia, Polynesia, and North America. She currently teaches Anthropology at University of South Florida, St. Petersburg.

Ethnobotany and anthropology explore how people use plants. Hawaii has the most plant diversity, and some are used in making inks and dyes. Tattoos preserve cultural content by recording practices and roles in society. Pigments are colored particles too large to be broken down by the immune system. They can be organic or inorganic minerals, such as cinnabar and ochre. Dyes can are compounds that cause reactions under the skin that are permanent or semi-permanent, such as henna and turmeric.

In the tattooing process, pigment or dye is placed under the skin using charcoal, soot, or plant products. The carrier, such as oil, fat, or coconut water, liquefies the ink. Tools used to pierce or incise the skin include bone, shell, and wood. Emollients are used to heal and keep the tattoo from drying out. The process takes a long time and is painful.

Reasons to tattoo include rituals or rites of passage. Tattoos can be therapeutic and meant to heal, like acupuncture, or they can be intended to protect against harm. Therapeutic tattoos are not deep, but reduce inflammation and increase blood flow to an area.

After Captain Cook visited Hawaii, sailors created a tattoo craze in Europe. In the 1800s, it became a fad for Victorian women to get tattoos in areas where they would not be seen. Mummies provide direct evidence of tattoos, and tattooing tools offer indirect evidence. The Tyrolean "Ice Man" mummy has tattoos on areas of his back that suggest they were meant to relieve arthritis. An ancient Peruvian female mummy has tattoos on her neck, back, hands, and wrists. Microscopic pieces of plant tissue found on the Peruvian mummy suggest that these tattoos were also intended to relieve pain.

Experiments have been conducted on tattoos to determine the tools used. Tools were tested on pig hide to see what their functions were. Dye-residue analysis shows that fatty oils were being used in prehistory, although some of the fat may be from the person who was tattooed. Pigments were used to decorate the body and sometimes may have been a form of permanent makeup. Tattoos in Hawaii appeared terrifying but were meant to honor or show loyalty to a chief. New Zealanders carved into the

face and rubbed pigment into the grooves. Sometimes a half or whole body was tattooed.

A mourning ritual might involve tattooing, chopping off hair, or knocking out teeth. If a person visited an active volcano, which was a strenuous trip, they would bind plants that grew only in that area to their skin, which created a pattern in their flesh. Prisoners of war were also tattooed to humiliate, and slaves were sometimes tattooed inside their eyelids.

A few of the plants used in Hawaii include Kukui, niu, mokihana, popolo, and Ku Mai. These plants are caustic and cause a reaction when put on the skin and exposed to the sun. Religion and trade in Hawaii were given up after the arrival of Captain Cook. Along with returning to traditional language in the 1970s, Hawaiians began using traditional materials and instruments for tattooing. Tattooing today has become part of the Hawaiian cultural revival.

At a time when tattoos have become a popular stylistic expression in today's society, the topic was of particular interest in learning about other cultures and time periods where tattooing played a role, and we thank Dr. Dixon for sharing her research.

FAS ANNOUNCES 2020 ANNUAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN NAPLES

The Southwest Florida Archaeological Society will host the 2020 FAS Conference in Naples! Another opportunity for our members to attend an FAS Conference that is relatively close. The Friday-night reception will be at the Marco Island Museum and attendees will have an opportunity to see the Key Marco Cat, featured on the 2019 Florida Archaeology Month poster. Plans are still underway and details will be announced in the March/April WMS/LSSAS Newsletters. It would be great to have a strong chapter attendance! Go to www.fasweb/org for more information on the May 2020 Annual Conference and more FAS information

UPCOMING WMS/LSSAS EVENTS AND FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, February 1, 2020. The day kicks off with a presentation by Steve Koski at the Else Quirk Library, 100 Dearborn St., Englewood at 10:30, followed by a visit to the Englewood Museum at the Historic Lampp House, 604 W. Perry St., Englewood, hosted by WMS/LSSAS Board member Betty Nugent. The visit will include a picnic lunch at the museum, followed by a visit to the Englewood Historic Church, recently relocated from Green Street by the Lemon Bay Historical Society after a herculean fundraising effort raised more than \$150,000.

The move was completed in October 2018 and is now open to the public at scheduled times. Its new location is on the corner S. Indiana Ave. (SR 776) and 2nd St. (SR 776). This should be a full but exciting day of events! A sign-up sheet will be at our upcoming meetings. For those of you who might want to contribute a dish, please coordinate with Betty, who will be at our January meeting.

Saturday and Sunday, February 15 and 16, 2020: The 10th Annual Silver Springs State Park Knap-In, a stone-tool making, prehistoric and cracker arts festival will be held at the Silver Springs Museum and Environmental and Educational



Center. Featured events include: stone-tool making; traditional archery range; bow-and-arrow making; tomahawk and atlatl throwing; pottery making; Indian-artifact reproduction, display, and sale; bone and shell carvers; archaeology talks by local experts; basketry and cordage making; tram tours of the state park; and food and craft vendors. There will be a \$6 admission fee. The museum will also be open free of charge. For more info, go to SilverRiverMuseum.com or call (352)236-5401.

March 14, 2020: Theresa Schober, Manager of Immokalee Pioneer Museum at Robert's Ranch, is organizing another "Cattle Drive and Jamboree." What fun! The Jamboree kicks off with a cracker-style cattle drive down Main Street to the museum, where there will be music by headliner Ben Allen Band and others, cowboy poetry, dancing horses, traditional foods (like fry bread), Seminole traditional crafts, alligator wrestling, and more. The Immokalee Museum at Roberts Ranch is located at 1215 Roberts Ave. West, Immokalee, Fla. Events run from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Several of our members attended last year and had a great time! A sign-up sheet will be available at our upcoming meetings for those who might want to car pool. Go to Colliermuseums.com for more info or call (239)252-2611.

Saturday, March 21, 2020: Join us on a bus trip to the Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville for a tour of their many exhibits by museum staff. Dr. Charles Cobb, our October speaker who discussed re-purposing of Spanish expedition objects, indicated he would meet us if available. It has been some years since we had a field trip to the Museum and we thank Betty Nugent for making the arrangements. The cost will be \$45 per participant and we hope to have 50 attendees. My understanding is that there is no entry fee to the museum, but there is a \$12 charge for the butterfly exhibit.

Options for lunch are the Harn Art Museum Café (adjacent building) open from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., and there is a picnic area outside the museum for those who want to brown bag it. Details on the time of departure and location will be announced. There will be a sign-up sheet at the next three meetings. Prepaid reservations are required for those who sign up by the February meeting and we will accept paid reservations from those who sign

up at the March meeting. Limit is 50 participants and we will be partnering with two other organizations, so please make your reservation early. Let's try and get a full bus. Visit www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu

Tuesday, March 3, 2020: The Historic and Preservation Coalition of Sarasota County is hosting a field trip to Warm Mineral Springs at 4:00 p.m. and all members are invited! Details are being worked out, but a walk around the spring with an archaeological overview by Steve Koski, who worked as an underwater archaeologist at WMS for Sonny Cockrell from 1986 to 1990, is being planned, as well a tour of the historic Cyclorama, that has been closed for many years.

CHARLOTTE HARBOR ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY ANNOUNCES UPCOMING MEETINGS

The CHAS has some exciting presentations coming up in January and February you might want to attend.

January 10, 2020: Ted Ehmann will present "Three Great Florida Women."

January 23, 2020: "Eugenie Clark," a video interview of her adventures at Warm Mineral Springs and Little Salt Spring, produced by The Shark Brothers (Sean and Brooks Paxton) and Curt Bowen in 2013. Steve Koski will give the introduction and add a story or two himself.

Interested in even more field trip adventures? The CHAS has plenty. Go to the link below and see for yourself.

The CHAS meets at 6:30 p.m. at the Wintergarden Presbyterian Church, 18305 Wintergarden Ave., Port Charlotte FL. For more information, call 732-740-5055. For more info, go to: www.charlotteharboras.org/events.

2020 MANASOTA BEACH CLUB LUNCHEON LECTURE SERIES: HISTORY OF MANASOTA KEY AND GULF COAST

If you have never been to the Manasota Beach Club, you will be in for a huge treat by going to one or all of the luncheon-speaker series presentations. If you have been, you know exactly what I mean. The natural setting in a mature coastal hammock on a sparsely populated section of Manasota Key overlooking the Gulf of Mexico, dining on a gourmet lunch prepared by a chef, and listening to fascinating topics at a reasonable cost. It's a great experience everyone should enjoy.

The history of the club in itself is fascinating. Owned and continuously operated for more than 60 years as a vacation resort by three generations of the Buffum family, and the history of the property goes back much further. Their goal? To protect the natural setting of the property and Manasota Key.

Manasota Beach Club is located at 7660 Manasota Key Rd. The luncheon presentations are on Mondays from noon until 1:30 p.m. The cost is \$25 plus taxes/gratuity and reservations are required due to limited seating. For additional information and reservations, contact the MBC at 941-474-2614 or www. manasotabeachclub.com.

January 6: Dr. Bill Dunson, Naturalist, "Island Ecology: Natural History of Manasota Key—Walk and Talk of Manasota Beach Club."

January 13: Jordan McBride, Director, West Coast Inland Waterway District, "Looking Back: History of the Intercoastal Waterway."

January 20: John McCarthy, Director, Spanish Pointe, "Manasota Key History — Paleo to Present."

January 27: Patricia Caswell, Hermitage Founder/Program Director, "History of the Hermitage."

February 3: Aubrey Atwater and Elwood Donnelly, nationally known folk artists and NPR writers, "Snapshots of American Culture and History Through the Lens of Folk Music and Dance."

February 10: Harry Klinkhamer, Resource Manager, City of Venice, "History of Early Woodmere."

February 17: Kaylie Stokes, Assist. Director of Student Success Programs, New College, "An Oral History of Gasparilla Island's Black Community."

February 24: Garrett Murto, Curator and Education Program Director, Historic Spanish Pointe, "19th and early 20th Century Maritime History from Little Sarasota Bay to Lemon Bay."

March 2: Jennifer Rominecki, Executor Director, Selby Gardens, "History of Selby Gardens."

April 6: "Painting History: Plein Air Painters at the Beach Club" (details TBA).

April 13: "Local Residents, Local Reflections: History of Manasota Key," Buffum Family, plus.



WMS/LSSAS members Buffy and Sidney Buffum: more than 60 years dedicated to environmental and historic preservation on Manasota Kev.

FRIENDS OF LITTLE SALT SPRING TO MEET JANUARY 29, 2020

The general membership meeting of the FLSS will be held Wednesday, January 29, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. The meetings are held at the Jockey Club Community Center, 3050 Pan American Blvd. A PowerPoint presentation will be given by FLSS member and membership secretary Nancy Morrison titled "The Native Orchids of Little Salt Spring."

Given the protection afforded to the area around Little Salt Spring, much of ecosystem immediately surrounding the spring has remained intact, a natural continuum from the late Pleistocene into the Holocene. The only recent intervention that has taken place has been aimed at eliminating invasive plant and animal species. As a result, the microenvironment surrounding the spring is still home to six native terrestrial orchids and possibly more. The presentation will highlight the orchids present around the spring and will also celebrate those who have devoted their lives to preserving and protecting them to insure their survival.

Other business on the agenda will include the FLSS Climate Change Position Paper, and a vote on the By-Laws changes. For those of you interested in LSS and orchids, this will be an interesting and educational meeting. To review the climate change paper and by-laws changes visit https://www.friendsof littlesaltspring.com/.

2020 COMMEMORATES OUR 30TH ANNIVERSARY!

By Steve Koski

The Warm Mineral Spring Archaeological Society was incorporated as a Florida not-for-profit organization November 5, 1990. Which makes 2020 our 30 Anniversary! Hard to believe. Founded by Sonny Cockrell, Director of the Warm Mineral Springs Research Project, it was originally called the Warm Mineral Springs Archaeological Society. After research funding ended for the WMS Research Project and Sonny went back to Tallahassee, I became the second president and a year or so later moved to add Little Salt Springs to the name because of my involvement with the University of Miami's research under Dr. John Gifford at that spring.

Sonny started the Society with volunteers who worked at the Manasota Key site from December of 1988 through May of 1989. At our last party when the fieldwork was complete, the volunteers wanted to stay in touch and continue meeting. Sonny also saw it as a way to keep the dedicated volunteers together by providing opportunities at WMS and at the Manasota Key site lab at the historic Green Street Church.

We had a meeting, formed a board of directors and officers, and the Society was born. The first meeting was at Glenallen Elementary School, and more than 250 people showed up for our Charter Meeting. A year or so later we moved to the newly opened North Port Library. There were more than 150 volunteers that came and went during the five-month field work at the Manasota Key site, with more than 50 regulars. Definitely a once-in-a-lifetime experience. I'll be writing up a brief history of the WMS/LSSAS in an upcoming newsletter. Stay tuned!

FRIENDS OF SARASOTA COUNTY HISTORY CENTER TO HOST PROGRAM ON WWII JANUARY 16, 2020

The FOSCHC will host their first program of 2020 with a presentation by Dr. Gary Mormino, Professor Emeritus of History & Co-Founder of Florida Studies Dept. at USF, St. Petersburg on WWII. The presentation will be held at the Historic Chidsey Building, 707 N. Tamiami Trail , Sarasota at 7:00 PM with light refreshments at 6:50 PM, The presentation is free for members, \$5 for non-members.

WMS/LSSAS NEWSLETTER UPDATE

Former Editor's note

A special thanks to WMS/LSSAS member Thalia St. Lewis for stepping up and volunteering to assist with the newsletter, with a possibility of taking it over once she learns the ropes and realizes what an important job it is and how much fun it is. Why do you think I have been doing it for almost 30 years? I plan to assist by providing content and consultation until the transition is complete. After 29 years, it's time for me to step back and focus on other professional writings. While the format may stay the same for a time, the new editor can experiment with other formats and designs.

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