

WMS/LSS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 32, No. 2, March/April 2021

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. The March 09, and April 13, 2021 meetings will be held via Zoom meeting, see article on page 2 for details. There will be no pre-meeting dinner this month.

SARASOTA COUNTY HISTORY TOPIC OF MARCH 9 MEETING BY DR. FRANK CASSELL

As part of our Sarasota County 2021 Centennial Celebration, we welcome historian Dr. Frank Cassell, author of Creating Sarasota County (2017), and Suncoast Empire, Bertha Honore Palmer, Her Family, and the Rise of Sarasota (2019), will be the speaker at our March 9 Zoom meeting at 7:00 PM. He will recount the dramatic history and tales of the men and women who led the county independence movement by the citizens of the Sarasota district, leading to the independence from Manatee in 1921 and the creation of Sarasota County. And it's quite a story.

Frank Cassell, Ph.D. is Professor Emeritus and President Emeritus at the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg. He earned the B.A. degree at Wabash College in Crawfordsville, Indiana, and his M.A. and Ph. D. degrees at Northwestern University. (See Sarasota County History page. 2)



Dr. Frank Cassell

AMPLIFIED: AFRICAN AMERICAN CEMETERIES IN TAMPA BAY TOPIC OF APRIL 13 MEETING

Jeff Moates, Director of the West Central and Central Regional Centers of the Florida Public Archaeology Network, will be the speaker at out April 13 Zoom meeting. His topic, "Amplified: African American Cemeteries in Tampa Bay." In 2020 groups in the Tampa Bay area began a quest to replace, buildover, and destroyed African American cemeteries. These places had been wiped from sight but remained ever-fixed in the consciousness of the communities they had served. Archaeology is one among many tools being utilized to reframe these sacred places and their stories.

The theme of last year's 2020 Florida Archaeology Month was; Sacred Places, African American Cemeteries in Florida." "African American cemeteries, whether in the past or today, are at risk due to segregation-era policies. Lawmakers at the State and Federal levels are increasingly aware of this issue and are



Jeff Moates, Director

promoting legislation to aid in the preservation efforts." "Ultimately, it is incumbent on government officials and researcher alike to work with the descendents and local communities to ensure their stories of the sacred

places are brought forth in a way that preserves the n in place for generation to come (FAM 2020 poster text).

Jeff earned a MA in History/Historical Archaeology and a BA in Anthropology from the University of West Florida. He worked for Archaeological Consultants, Inc., the Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research in the Underwater Archaeology Division, and as museum curator at the Florida Maritime Museum in Cortez. Jeff enjoys tinkering with things, watching baseball, eating smoked mullet, and drinking hot coffee.

Please join us April 13 for this interesting program, I will be a good one!.

SARASOTA COUNTY HISTORY (continued from page 1)

He taught and served as an administrator at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and Roosevelt University in Chicago before taking the presidency at Pitt-Greensburg.

Dr. Frank Cassell is chair of the Historic Centennial Steering Committee, received the silver award for nonfiction by the Florida Book Awards for *Suncoast Empire* and this latest 2019 book, *Creating Sarasota County* was written to provide historic support for the Sarasota County Centennial celebration. So, we are very fortunate to have him speak during the kickoff month of the 100 year anniversary of Sarasota County!

I know, we say this every time, but this is a presentation you don't want to miss!

SARASOTA COUNTY CENTENNIAL 2021

There are several ways to lean about Sarasota County's history during the Centennial Celebration. Go to www.sarasotacountycentennial.com/ for events, stories, issues of the Centennial Journal and much more. And the countdown begins for the County's "100 Years, 100 Days" programming that begins March 23, 2021, visit www.sarasotacounty100.com The last time I checked the site is a countdown clock leading to March 23, 2021 and events will be posted as the days approach the kickoff!

TO ATTEND OUR MARCH AND APRIL ZOOM MEETINGS...

Greetings we wish everyone well and hope you can make to our March and April Meetings. While not the same as meeting in person, we have had seven outstanding meetings sense September 2020, and more folks have joined us each month.

You must have Zoom downloaded on your computer, notebook, I-pad, phone, if you don't you will need to download. Goggle "download Zoom program" and download. IF you have the invitation link just copy to your address bar and it should take you to the meeting with 'join meeting now. Or you can open the Zoom application and type in the meeting ID and Password. It's actually quite easy. Give it a try! Just copy the links below to the address bar in your web browser a few minutes before the meeting.

March 09, Zoom Meeting 7pm – 9pm Eastern time,

Join Zoom Meeting:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81291693501?pwd=MzNGVjF2M3B6UU5yM2dBTHorVEVkdz09

Meeting ID: 812 9169 3501, Passcode: 632287

April 13, 2020 Zoom Meeting 7pm – 9pm Eastern time,

Join Zoom Meeting at:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81285197570?pwd=MHRvZ2pMR 1IPclcxcXNiV0tRZ0RSdz09

Meeting ID: 812 8519 7570, Passcode: 805653

Our president Kathy Gerace will open and host the meetings, accept invitations, have a few brief announcements, introduce the speaker, and turn the screen over to our speaker where they will direct their PowerPoint presentation.

We can join with video and speakers for five minutes prior to the meeting and then you will be asked to please turn off both video and microphone. After the meeting there will be a question and answer period. You can add you questions by clicking the "chat" icon and typing. The speaker can then address your questions after the meeting.

WMS/LSSAS ANNUAL MEETING MARCH 9

The Annual Meeting of the WMS/LSSAS will be held March 9 prior to our speaker presentation. The brief meeting will include the reading of the 2021 slate of officers and directors, who will be voted in via chat.

Two new officers are on the slate, Lisa Shavers has accepted the nomination for secretary and Marion Pierce has accepted the nomination for treasurer. Great news!

Lisa Shavers arrived in Rotunda, Florida after spending fifty years in Utah as a social worker. She always wanted to live near water & the beaches and what better place than the Fla. west coast. She studied anthropology as an undergraduate in college and lived near many archaeological sites and became involved in digs as a volunteer. She loves our mission and programs. Her first trip to the AH-TAH-THI-KI Museum was on a field trip with us a few years ago and she decided to join the organization.

Marion Pierce lives in North Port and lives in the same mobile home park as Linda Massey. She joined our organization eight years ago and helped with our annual February yard sales. She enjoys coming to our meetings and field trips and Linda Massey asked if she would like to be our new treasurer and she accepted the nomination. We look forward to working with both Lisa and Marion and welcome them to the board!

Betty Nugent and Linda Massey accepted another term as board member and membership secretary, of which we are most grateful and all other officers and board members as serving active terms.

Officers still serving their two-year terms are President: Kathy Gerace; Vice president: Steve Koski;

Directors still serving their three-year terms are Rita Bass,• Linda Elligott, Bill Goetz, Joan San Lwin, and Thalia St Lewis.

We wish to thank all who all who served. A special thanks to Kate Cattran who served as treasurer for 19 years and to Sandra Heacock who filled the position of secretary after the passing of Hilda Boron.

WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

When I was elected President of our Society last March, I had no idea "what a year it would be!" No face-to-face meetings, and having to learn Zoom in order to hold both Board and General meetings. But with the help of our wonderful Board of Directors, we have survived and I want to thank all of them for their support and dedicated work over the year. I especially want to thank our two retiring Board Members, Kate Cattran, who has been our excellent Treasurer for 20 years, and Sandra Heacock who graciously stepped up to be our Secretary with the passing of Hilda Boron in February 2019 after taking the minutes at our board meeting one last time.

I now look forward to working with our new Board for the 2021-2022 year, and our new Secretary and Treasurer. We are all focused on trying to bring to everyone great speakers, events and field trips for the coming year, no matter what happens beyond our control.

FEBRUARY 9 PRESENTATION BY SEAN NORMAN ON LANDSCAPE TAPHONOMY

by Judi and John Crescenzo

Sean Norman, Acting Executive Director of the Gulf Archaeology Research Institute (GARI) in Crystal River, FL, presented "Taphonomy of Cultural Landscapes of the Central Gulf Coast" via Zoom on February 9, 2021. He earned a MA in Applied Anthropology and a graduate certificate in Geographic Information Systems from the University of South FL. Norman focuses on Woodland Period shell middens in the Withlacoochee and Crystal River areas. Studies from prehistory to the present show changes and destruction due to changing environmental conditions.

Research through GARI has revealed prehistoric clusters of midden islands. There are few Paleoindian sites in the region, as many have been submerged by rising sea level. Archaic sites are mostly submerged or destroyed and Woodland sites are actively being affected by storm surge and raising sea level. Recent aerial photos of the Withlacoochee River site, evaluated as excellent in 1944, show that it has been destroyed by karstification (exposure of carbonate outcrops), soil, and plant loss. Action Reports and Drowning Prehistory reveal erosion, storm surge, and looter pits that were mapped to track stressors. Current Rapid Midden Assessment (RMA) studies are being conducted.

Norman's project began in 2018 with the Withlacoochee Embayment, where 27 sites were mapped. At Crystal River, RMA mapped 20 sites, and a new system of scoring was developed. Components included site level mapping, monitoring soil and limestone, and vegetation description. Sites were classified as immediate, delayed, associative, and destroyed. Results showed 50% of Withlacoochee sites as destroyed, and two lost all cultural material. Crystal River has even more damage.

Landscape taphonomy (processes in which landscapes change), along with historical photos, maps, and surveys revealed changes over 100 years, such as bedrock variations and karstification, along with hammock and midden loss through mechanical processes and root bioturbation (creation of

channels that increase water infiltration into soil). Storm surges from 2016-2017 moved soil and destroyed mounds. Vegetation and upper organic sediments were lost, leaving quartz sand for plant colonization. Canopy damage occurred at Crystal River in 2006-2007, when a section of hammock was torn out. By 2016-2017, the gap had enlarged.

Landscape fragmentation has affected upland tree sites and caused succession into wetlands. Sawgrass flats have replaced hammocks, with soil loss and dying palms. The area will eventually become a salt marsh. A hammock island is the next step in wetland succession. Hammock bisection causes soil loss and stressed vegetation. The formation of seep springs increases hammock bisection and susceptibility to storms.

Maps show that tidal creek expansion occurred from 1942-2016, with salt marsh fragmenting the area from the Withlacoochee to Bennett's Creek. Photos show cypress swamp loss and salt marsh expansion. Mangrove expansion on Crystal River is visible in 2004 and 2017 photos. Mangroves hold soil, preserve a site, and prevent looting. Recent photos show mangroves and oysters beds.

Archaeologist Dr. Ripley P. Bullen excavated Burtine Island in Citrus County in 1960 and radiocarbon dated four sites. Oysters were dominant, along with shell tools, ceramics, and one burial. But Bullen's dating proved problematic, so Norman performed tests between John's and Trout Creek, an endangered area near the Gulf. Probes in Unit 5 revealed utilitarian ceramics, bone pins, shell tools, and lithics. Radiocarbon tests were run on catfish otoliths (fish ear bones) and crown conchs. The dates were chronological, so nothing was compromised. Unit 6 had similar stratigraphy with 95% oyster shell; the bottom was marsh clam and oyster, not seen in other units. Ceramics, chert flakes, a hammer stone, bone pin fragments, and shell tools were uncovered. A deer humerus and otoliths from the bottom, which is less disturbed and more accurate, dated closer to Bullen's dates. No sign of specialization was found. The presence of utilitarian wares, processed oyster, fish, and deer, indicate an early Woodland Site with transitional components.

A coring survey revealed soil loss and salt marsh formation. Thirteen cores were collected, leading to four radiocarbon dates. A piece of charcoal was probably from an upland site and dated 4800-4900 years ago, while organic sediments dated 4150-4300 years ago. Peat dated 2000-2001 years ago, when a marsh began to form. Norman's cautious interpretation is that a series of storms removed mineral soils over a large area 4200-4800 years ago. Salt marsh formation began about 2000 years ago.

Current RMA projects include the South Barge Canal near Crystal River, where 59 sites are being evaluated from the Withlacoochee and Crystal Bay areas, which will fill the gap between other areas of study. Future projects involve site and landscape specific projects, additional coastal sections, inland adaptations, impacts of large-scale engineering, and collaboration with others around the world.

This was a truly fascinating presentation and we appreciate Sean sharing the research he is doing with the Gulf Archaeology Research Institute.

JANUARY PRESENTATION BY DR. TENNANT A TRAGIC TALE OF THE ROSEWOOD MASSACRE

by Judi and John Crescenzo

Dr. Edward Gonzalez-Tennant presented "Unearthing Rosewood: An Archaeology of Violence and Hope" via Zoom on January 12, 2021. He is an anthropology lecturer at UCF and earned his Ph.D.in anthropology from the University of Florida. His presentation created awareness of the 1923 tragedy of Rosewood and described how recent archaeology and geospatial methods prove its importance and the need to address racial reconciliation today.

Rosewood, located nine miles from Cedar Key in Levy County, was settled in the 1850s and 60s and developed after the railroad arrived in 1861, but the boom ended in the 1890s because timber was in short supply. By the 1900s, trees had returned to maturity, and in the 1920s there was a land boom that gave nearby Sumner an economic lead. Many businesses from Rosewood moved to Sumner, which became a company town, while Rosewood remained a town of independent residents and businesses. In 1926, land speculation ensued, followed by the crash of 1929.

The tragic Rosewood events of January 1, 1923 began when a black man was falsely blamed for attacking a white woman. Citizens were deputized. They tortured and hung Sam Cotter, the Rosewood blacksmith. On January 4, White residents attacked the Carrier home in a gun battle leaving two Black residents dead and two Whites injured. Numerous Blacks fled the area. On the 5th, the train evacuated black women and children. On January 6, 100-150 Whites burned Rosewood, and Mingo Williams was murdered by the KKK. On February 15 the case was brought to court but was dismissed by the Grand Jury due to insufficient evidence.

Racial violence has always been part of American history. There are various forms of violence: Interpersonal, marked by increased brutality; Structural, where Whites have power in society; and Intersectional-Symbolic, which increases when media and science spread the idea that Blacks are inferior. Examples of Intersectional-Symbolic racism public include lynching, Hollywood movies, and the eugenics movement.

The KKK were outlawed as terrorists in 1871, but in the early 1900s, thousands of Whites watched lynching of Blacks, including ritualistic body dismemberments. The National Guard were brought in to stop race riots from 1919-23 but instead joined in. Rosewood was an anomaly because it was a rural Southern town, not a large city. Hollywood depicted Blacks as irredeemable and eugenics laws were used to sterilize until the 1970s.

Archaeology and digital technology provide new methods of investigation into black history. Documentary archaeology and plat maps show black and white homes. Census reports and historic deeds were used to reconstruct Rosewood. Census reports show that Whites bought Black owned property, the last of which was sold in the 1950s. GIS provides a predictive model showing excavations that began in 2010 at the Masonic Hall.

Artifacts uncovered include medicine bottles from the 1800s-1900 and bullets from 1923. The railroad trestle bridge is now gone, but a 1944 map shows its site near remains of a turpentine industry. Rosewood studies reveal a Black cemetery, Native American artifacts, and a hunting cabin. Ground penetrating radar (GPR) shows at least thirty burials that were not previously known. Drones and unmanned vehicles were used to reconstruct and document findings.

For a wealth of additional information on Rosewood, visit the Rosewood Heritage and VR Project website at www.virtualrosewood.com for a history, videos, interactive projects and see the town reconstructed virtually through the use of LiDAR where players move through Rosewood learning about its inhabitants, events, and evidence used to prove the facts. It is called "Rosewood: An Interactive History."

PBS will air Gonzalez-Tennant's documentary as part of public outreach. For more information, order Dr. Tennant's book or check your local library for *The Rosewood Massacre: An Archaeology and History of Intersectional Violence*, published by University Press.

Such a tragic tale, but important to understand that history to gain an awareness of the origins of the racial injustices that continue to have a residual effect in our society today. We appreciate Dr. Tennant research in bringing this history to light.

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGY PANEL DISCUSSION TO BE HELD WEDNESDAY MARCH 24

Sarasota County Libraries and Historical Resources will present a Zoom panel discussion on "Southwest Florida Archaeology" on March 24, 2021 at 6:30 PM. Also included will be discussion on 100 years of Sarasota County archaeology as part of their centennial celebration, but will focus on the various specialties of the panelists.

The event will be moderated by the Director of Libraries and Historical Resources, Renee Di Pilato, PhD. The four panelists come from various backgrounds in Florida archaeology and include: Maranda Kles, PhD, RPA, Vice President, Archaeological Consultants, Inc.; Steve Koski, Sarasota County Archaeologist, Libraries and Historical Resources; Bill Locascio, PhD, RPA, Assistant Professor, Florida Gulf Coast University; and Jeff Moates, M.A., RPA, Florida Public Archaeology Network. Each panelist has a specific specialty in private cultural resource management, government compliance and review, public outreach and education, and academic research and education. All are involved in the study of the past through historic preservation, research, and education.

The event was scheduled for March 2020 at the Shannon Staub Library in North Port, but was canceled due to the pandemic, and a discussion was made to move forward via a virtual Zoom event this month.

To hear what archaeologists do in some of the specific specialties of their field, join them at the SW Florida Archaeology Panel Discussion. To register, go to: https://scgovlibrary.librarymarket.com/events.



Dr. Bill Locascio profiles an excavation wall at Historic Spanish Point (Courtesy Amy Dwyer, Selby Gardens/Historic Spanish Point)

FAS 2021 ANNUAL CONFERENCE GOES VIRTUAL

Due to the uncertainties of the pandemic and the restrictions some institutions and universities have regarding supporting live conference attendance, the FAS board voted to go virtual. In consideration of an in-person meeting, and survey of members who would attend, the potential for a financial loss in the thousands of dollars led to a decision to go virtual. No one could have imagined six months ago the lingering effects that this situation would continue well into 2021. However, there appears to be some light at the end of the tunnel and we look forward to meeting in person in 2022. On a positive note, more folks will be able to attend from the comfort of their home!



Call For Papers & Posters: The submission of abstracts for paper and poster presentations at the 73rd annual meeting and virtual conference deadline is March 31, 2021. For questions about abstracts or presentation guidelines, please contact FAS 1st VP, Rebecca O'Sullivan, at rosulliv14@gmail.com.

FAS encourages submissions on a broad range of topics pertaining to Florida anthropology, archaeology, history, and other related disciplines. Presentations will occur on Saturday, May 22, 2021. An abstract of no more than 100 words is required from each paper or poster presenter. Individuals may submit only one paper or poster as first author for consideration.

All presenters must be FAS members and should register and pay the appropriate registration fee at the time they submit their abstract. A 20-minute time limit for each paper presentation will be strictly enforced. Poster presenters must submit a PDF copy of their poster by May 1, 2021, so conference attendees can view it virtually prior to the conference. Poster presenters will have the opportunity to give an informal explanation of their poster in the Virtual Poster Room during the conference. We hope this format will spur questions and conversations!

Student Prize Competition: Undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in degree granting programs can participate in the FAS Student Paper Prize Competition. The student must submit a paper of original research that contributes to understanding Florida's cultural history. Contestants must register for the conference and submit a copy of their paper by May 1, 2021. The written paper cannot exceed 2,500 words and must be typed double-spaced. Students are required to make an oral presentation, drawn directly from their written paper, at the virtual conference on Saturday, May 22, 2021. Previous first place winners of the Student Paper Prize are not eligible. Judging criteria for student papers and oral presentations include quality of writing, overall presentation, quality of arguments and supporting data, and overall contribution to understanding Florida's cultural past and/or present. Prizes will be announced during the Saturday evening keynote event. Email guestions and student paper submissions to Maranda Kles at mkles09@gmail.com.

The WMS/LSSAS Student First Presenter Grant: Undergraduate and graduate students enrolled at a university can apply for a \$100 grant to help support their efforts. There will be a minimum of two awarded. Just email a request for consideration with your abstract, registration receipt, and student ID for proof of enrollment to the WMS/LSSAS membership secretary Linda Massey at lmassey628@msn.com. Awards will be selected by the WMS/LSSAS president, vice president, and membership secretary based on research considerations. Please apply by April 2, 2021.

FAS conference registration rates are \$40 Individual, \$20 Student, non-member rates are \$70 individual, \$35 student (both include one year of membership). For more information on the annual conference keynote speaker, and register, go to: fasweb.org.

MARCH 2021 IS FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH!

Each March, Florida celebrates Florida Archaeology Month (FAM). In typical years, FAS chapters, archaeologists, heritage professionals, museums, historical societies, and interested members of the public come together for presentations, workshops, tours, and public archaeology events centered around a unique theme.

A new poster is unveiled to promote the selected theme. In keeping with the times, and the limited public meetings the 2021 FAM poster has gone digital.

This year, the theme of FAM is *Community-Based Archaeology*. Perhaps better thought of as a philosophy, in



2021 Florida Archaeology Month Poster

community-based approaches, community members collaborate or take the lead in guiding research that is important and relevant to them, interpreting sites based on their knowledge of local history and community insights. In particular, community-based archaeology includes descendant groups whose history has traditionally been studied and told by scholars without their input or often, their permission. Learn more about Florida Archaeology Month 2021 at www.flarchmonth.org. Florida Archaeology Month is a collaboration between the Florida Anthropological Society, Florida Archaeological Council, Florida Public Archaeology Network, and the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources.

MARCH 20 FIELD TRIP TO PAULSEN POINT AT INDIAN MOUND PARK SCHEDULED

Join local archaeologist Steve Koski, Saturday March 20, 10:00 AM, at Paulsen Point at Indian Mound Park, on the shores of Lemon Bay. The park is located at 210 Winson Ave., Englewood. This is scheduled as a WMS/LSSAS field trip event that coincides with the Sarasota County Centennial Celebration and Florida Archaeology Month. Paulsen Point was acquired by Sarasota County in 1965 and serves as a County Park, managed by Parks, Recreation, and Natural Resources. The park includes a picnic pavilion with restrooms, individually covered picnic tables on the bay, a popular boat launch with ample trailer parking, and features a 3,000 year old Indian mound, The Paulsen Point Site (8So23).

The site is rich in history and the mound was part of a complex of associated sites along the bay and the location of major county archaeological excavations in 1965 and 1966. In February 2021, Koski recorded a Zoom Presentation on the Paulsen Point Site at Indian Mound Park for "Lemon Bay Fest, and can be viewed at bit.ly/LBF2021.

Come to the field trip and learn about our local prehistory! There is no charge and all are welcome. Social distancing is required and masks are highly recommended for the safety of every participant. Bring a picnic lunch and enjoy the views Lemon Bay has to offer!

THIRTY YEARS OF MEMORIES

Due to the pandemic, the 30th Anniversary celebrations of the WMS/LSS Archaeological Society were put on hold. However, thanks to board member Betty Nugent, we now have a limited edition (30 only) of key chains celebrating our wonderful society, featuring our logo! To help support the Society and commemorate our 30 years (now going on 31).



You can obtain one by mail by sending a request and a suggested donation of \$30, 30 years (but we will accept less) to WMS/LSS Archaeological Society, P.O. Box 7797, North Port, FL 34290

2021 WMS/LSSAS OFFICERS

PRESIDENT........ Kathy Gerace, dtgerace@gmail.com VICE PRESIDENT...Steve Koski, skoski1044@aol.com SECRETARY...Lisa Shavers, Lshavers2000@gmail.com TREASURER...Marion Pierce, Mmpierce821@yahoo.com

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Media Correspondent: Linda Massey, mmssey628@msn.com, Membership: Linda Massey, lmassey628@msn.com, Librarian: Kathy Gerace, dtgerace@gmail.com

Warm Mineral Springs / Little Salt Spring Archaeological Society,

P. O. Box 7797, North Port, Florida 34290, Wmslss.org

