



**WMS/LSS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER**

**Vol. 34, No. 5 November/December 2023**

*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 at 7:00 PM (except June, July, and August) at the North Port Community United Church of Christ, 3450 S. Biscayne Blvd., the building on the right (left side door). While November's speaker will be joining us via Zoom, the group is still meeting and projecting the presentation on the screen, and using external speakers. The December 12 speaker will be joining us in person and will be broadcast via Zoom as well. Join us for dinner at 5:00 PM at the Tarpon Point Grill & Marina on the Myakka River prior to the meeting. The Zoom link to both meetings is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89602229117?pwd=SUVRZWU4MjB6ZlJMa0NVN1BDQm1GQT09> (copy and paste)

Meeting ID: 896 0222 9117, Passcode: 118234; mobile connect with ID and passcode, 1 (305) 224-1968

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT THE 1559-1561 TRISTÁN DE LUNA SETTLEMENT IN PENSACOLA, FLORIDA. TOPIC OF NOVEMBER 14 MEETING BY JOHN WORTH**

Dr. Worth will provide an overview of archaeological work conducted by the University of West Florida on the site of the terrestrial settlement of the Tristán de Luna expedition of Pensacola Bay since its identification in 2015. The 32-acre site housed some 1,500 Spaniards, Aztec Indians, Africans, and other colonists originating from present-day Mexico, and represents the earliest multi-year European settlement in the continental United States, and is also the largest 16th-century European colonial site in the continental United States. The presentation will provide both historical background and archaeological finds, including a robust assemblage of mid-16th-century artifacts, as well as subsurface features such as postholes and trash pits which provide evidence for activity areas across the site.



November speaker, Dr. John Worth

**STICKS OF FIRE. TOPIC OF DECEMBER 12 MEETING BY THOMAS PLUCKHAHN**

It is a story repeated so often as to be widely accepted as fact: the city of Tampa—and by extension Tampa Bay—take their names from a word for “sticks of fire” in the language of the Calusa. But this is just one of several purported translations of the toponym—and none of these are supported by historical evidence. This talk examines the legends around the meaning of “Tampa” and our fascination with finding a translation for a word that is likely lost to history—along with the language that once spoke the name.

Thomas J. Pluckhahn is a Professor of Anthropology at the University of South Florida in Tampa. He is the author of several books and numerous articles on the archaeology and history of the Southeastern United States, particularly the Gulf Coast of Florida.



December speaker, Dr. Thomas Pluckhahn

## THE HISTORY OF THE FLORIDA MULLET. TOPIC OF SEPTEMBER 12 MEETING BY DR. JOSHUA GOODMAN

Dr. Joshua Goodman, Manager of Sarasota County Division of Historical Resources, presented "The History of Florida Mullet" at our September meeting.

The mullet has an interesting history in Florida. They are herbivorous, but they do eat some insects. They have gizzards to help grind hard foods, and they ingest stones to aid in the process. They are known for jumping out of the water, and there are many theories about why they do this. These include getting more oxygen, evading predators, impressive mating, and helping to break loose egg sacs so they can spawn.

Florida has two types of mullet: silver, which are skinny and bony; and black striped, which are fatter and can be filleted for use in restaurants. Both are tasty, but they have been considered a trash fish over the years. However, in every era of history, mullet have been mentioned as an important food source, with many accompanying bizarre and humorous stories.

The earliest use of mullet in Florida history was by Native Americans in several successive cultures. The Calusa in Southwest Florida constructed water courts or weirs and used seine nets to herd fish and keep them alive until they wanted to eat them. Mullet is one of the most prominent species used, as indicated by the number of bones found during archaeological excavations and testing of these weirs. Spanish colonists in Florida were followed by the Seminoles. By the mid-1800s, Florida was still very rural, and mullet was an important staple. Seine nets were used to catch mullet until the nets were banned in 1994. Mullet were usually smoked, and provided an excellent source of protein for the poor in Florida. Mullet fishing was also an early form of Florida tourism. People from NC, GA, TN, and other states drove ox carts to Florida and set up fish camps. The entire family would net, and then smoke or salt mullet, so people outside of Florida became accustomed to eating them too. People returned to their fish camps for such "family vacations" every year.

The 20<sup>th</sup> century brought changes between Florida and mullet. Transportation made it easier to move fish, and refrigeration preserved them. People in other parts of the county still saw mullet as trash fish, so commercial mullet fishing was not popular early in the century. Advertising ploys urged people to eat more mullet. To save grain after World War II, Florida seafood wholesalers and retailers in Jacksonville named mullet "Truman Turkey." Sarasota County also set up the Tellum Mullett Factory, a cannery near Fruitville in 1956, and they called their product "Gulf Chicken." The best marketing scheme was by Randolph Hodges in the 1960s, before the phrase "Fresh from Florida" was coined. Hodges grew up on Cedar Key where the economy was built on commercial fishing, and mullet was its backbone for many years. He developed strategies for Florida seafood products, including rebranding mullet as "Florida Lisa."

In the 1960s, the State Purchasing Commission bought food for prisons, hospitals, and schools. Quantity recipes were developed, and an effort was made to sell "lisa" instead of tuna for use in recipes. One example was "Lisa Luxury Loaf." However, that campaign was not successful, and the mullet market worsened with the net ban.



Dr. Joshua Goodman accepts our world famous tee shirt from board member Thalía St. Lewis

Today an annual mullet festival is held in the Florida Panhandle, and a mullet toss is held at Perdido Key on the border of Florida and Alabama. The goal is to try to toss mullet into a ring located in the opposing state.

Dr. Goodman earned his BA and MA in history from Florida State University and his Ph.D. from Tulane University in New Orleans. He was an Archives Historian at the State Archives in Tallahassee before moving to Sarasota. As a sixth generation Florida resident from Taylor County, he recently authored the book *Forest Capital: A History of Taylor County, Florida*. The Sarasota County History Center is currently located at the Osprey Public Library in the historic 1927 Osprey School, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, until the new History Center is completed in 2025, which is to be built adjacent to the Fruitville Public Library.

Historic preservation is important to Sarasota County, the goals and objectives of which are outlined in Chapter 3 of the County's Comprehensive Plan, and historic preservation is mandated through Chapter 66, County Code. The History Center is the archives for all documents and manuscripts, historic photographs, objects, records, and archaeological collections for Sarasota County, a collection which is extensive. The drafting and placement of Historic Markers are an important function of the Historical Commission outlined in Chapter 66.

For more information on SCHR go to:

[www.scgov.net/government/historical-resources](http://www.scgov.net/government/historical-resources).

## PEABODY INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND WHAT DOES IT HAVE TO DO WITH FLORIDA. TOPIC OF OCTOBER 10 MEETING BY DR. RYAN WHEELER

On October 10, 2023, we were delighted to welcome Dr. Ryan Wheeler, who made a virtual presentation titled, "What the Heck is the Robert S. Peabody Institute of Archaeology and What Does It Have To Do With Florida?"

Wheeler, is currently Director of the Robert S. Peabody Institute of Archaeology, which is part of the Phillips Academy, a private high school in Andover, Massachusetts. Prior to his relocation to Massachusetts, he spent many years in Florida in many roles. He graduated from Florida Atlantic University and got his Ph.D. from the University of Florida, and is widely published in *The Florida Anthropologist*, a publication for which

he previously served as Editor. He served several years as Bureau Chief and State Archaeologist for the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources.

The Phillips Academy was founded in 1778, with campuses in Andover, MA and Exeter, NH. Robert S. Peabody was a graduate of Phillips Academy in 1857, then went to Harvard and later practiced as a lawyer in Philadelphia. He became interested in Native American items and hired Warren G. Moorehead to collect them for him. After gathering 40,000 objects, which he kept in his house, he founded an institution to introduce students to archaeology, to conduct research, and to provide a meeting place for students. He did not plan for the institution to become a museum, but he became its first curator and later its director.

In 1866, Robert's nephew George founded both the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology at Harvard and the Peabody Museum of Natural History at Yale. Peabody personnel included numerous archaeologists. Moorehead was the first curator and later director. He was not fully trained as expected today, as archaeology was an evolving discipline. He created the chronology for archaeological periods. Another director, Alfred Kidder, was involved in the Pecos Pueblo excavation near Sante Fe in 1915-1929, and produced volumes on the archaeology of the Southwest, becoming known as the "Father of Modern American Archaeology." Doug Byers and Fred Johnson became director and curator from the 1930s to the 1960s. Byers offered a multi-disciplinary approach with other sciences, including soil, shells, and pollen. He demonstrated these techniques at various sites, while Johnson figured out how carbon dating could be used in archaeology. Richard "Scotty" MacNeish served as director from 1970-1983, working with Byers and Johnson from the mid- 1960s. He was interested in the origins of civilization and the use of corn and agriculture. The first Department of Archaeology (1901-1938) begun at the high school did not survive. The second Robert S. Peabody Foundation for Archaeology (1938-1945) did not give grants, though it was called a foundation. The Robert. S. Peabody Institute of Archaeology was established in 2017.

Florida connections to Peabody include Clarence B. Moore, who studied at the Harvard Peabody and donated objects from ninety Florida sites. He used destructive techniques, but he did publish the results. Gordon Willey's 1949 book, *Archaeology of the Florida Coast*, was based on Moore's collections at the Peabody. Other collections include stone tools at Rixford and Live Oak, artifacts from shell mounds along the St. Johns River, pottery sherds collected by Hardy Ropes, and artifacts collected from Maximo Point in St. Petersburg by Charles A. Greer (1910). Collections from the Fred Luce excavation in the 1920s at the Macey Mound near Orlando are also included. Ripley and Adelaide Bullen began careers at Peabody in MA from 1940-1948 and helped to establish the Massachusetts Archaeological Society. Ripley published articles, developed and recorded MA sites, and excavated the Lucy Foster African American site. In 1942, he attended the University of NM Chaco Canyon field school with Adelaide and their two sons. In 1948, he moved to FL and joined the park service's archaeology program, becoming the first curator of Social Sciences at the Florida State

Museum in Gainesville. Bullen presented some of the first radiocarbon dates in North America at 5,000 years old, but professionals criticized him because he never finished his degree. The Bullens went on to work in the Caribbean.

Peabody Institute today provides hands-on opportunities for students. The curriculum unites and supports the faculty. Peabody makes collections available to students with classroom teaching, and with an indigenous student group. Artists are invited to work with students. There are travel and exchange programs with students in New Mexico. Peabody represents 49 states and Puerto Rico, plus 32 countries and areas from the Arctic, to Peru, and to France.

After the 1970s and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), Peabody began taking part in repatriation. For example, in 2016 the Society for American Archaeology held a conference at Disney World near the Macey Mound. The site had been an orange grove, but the property was sold and an upscale development planned. However, archaeologists found human remains there, so the bones were returned to where they belonged.

We greatly appreciate hearing from Dr. Wheeler and all about the Peabody/Florida connections.

#### **FILED TRIP TO PAULSEN POINT AT INDIAN MOUND PARK AND ENGLEWOOD MUSEUM SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 2, 2023**

On December 2, 2023, at 10:00 AM, Archaeologist Steve Koski will lead a tour of the Paulsen Point Site (8So23) at Indian Mound Park on Lemon Bay, Englewood. During the visit, there will be a discussion on "Life on Lemon Bay, c. 1000 BCE (BC) to 1,500 CE (AD)." Indian Mound Park is located at 210 Winsor Ave. and is owned and maintained by Sarasota County as an archaeological preserve, recreational picnic grounds, and local boat launch, featuring a covered pavilion with restrooms, individual covered picnic tables, and is a popular fishing spot. A portion of the park has a Native American mound, which is part of the Paulsen Point site (8So23). The Paulsen Point Site once was part of a complex of shell mounds and middens, sand burial mounds, and a cemetery where people lived intermittently for more than 2,500 years.

Following the visit to Paulsen Point, we will travel a short distance to the Englewood Museum located at 604 Perry Street, off Old Englewood Road just north of Dearborn St. The museum is in the Historic Lamm House, a 1928 residence on the Sarasota County Register of Historic Places, owned and operated by WMS/LSSAS board member Betty Nugent. The museum is full of Englewood's rich history and Betty is a treasure trove of knowledge! It is my understanding that we will have lunch at the museum.

This will be a fun day for those interested the archaeology and history of Lemon Bay and Englewood. Please contact President Kathy Gerace by email (see below) to let us know you are attending.



## PLEASE JOIN OR RENEW YOUR WMS/LSSAS MEMBERSHIP FOR 2024!

The 2024 membership drive is on! Thank you for your membership and support! Membership runs from January through December and all memberships received after October will apply to the remainder of 2023 and 2024. A membership form will be included with the November/ December and January/February WMS/LSSAS NL, and we hope to get on-line membership capabilities on our website by the end of the year.

Membership helps fund the production of the WMS/LSSAS newsletter, renting our meeting location, speaker honorariums, hotel and dinner (if they can join us in-person), and support for like-minded organizations, such as the Randell Research Center on Pine Island and state-wide Trail of Florida's Indian Heritage. Help us continue to provide quality speakers that you can see both in-person (when they can travel), and via Zoom. Let's keep the momentum going! Please renew or join for 2024!

## SELBY BOTANICAL GARDENS ORCHID STUDY AT LITTLE SALT SPRING CONTINUES

Michelle Calhoun and Steven H. Koski

The presence of a rare variety of orchid at Little Salt Spring, *Sacoila lanceolata* var. *paludicola*, has drawn the attention of Selby Botanical Garden's orchid researcher Dr. Tatiana Arias, who has initiated a DNA study of the variety in comparison with other examples of *S. lanceolata* and other *S. lanceolata* var. *paludicola* from around the state. While the species *S. lanceolata* is relatively common in the state, often seen populating roadside ditches, the only known areas for *S. lanceolata* var. *paludicola* had been the Fakahatchee Strand in Collier County, with small populations Miami/Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach Counties.

Eight samples of the common *S. lanceolata* (leafless beaked orchid) and the rare *S. l.* var. *paludicola*, including some from LSS, were sent for genetic sequencing last April by Dr. Tatiana Arias. The initial research was supported by a \$3,500 grant from the Friends of Little Salt Spring. More study is needed, and additional funding, but she found some surprising results. She believes the results "point to lots of genetic variation and possibly several 'genetic entities' or species," though she advised caution with these preliminary results. In late winter, *S. l.* var. *paludicola* stalks begin to peek through the undergrowth.

For the last five years, documentation of blooms has been conducted with assistance from the Friends of LSS and the WMS/LSSAS, and Calhoun has taken the lead. Recent scouting shows a large propagation of leaves, hopefully indicating a large bloom this upcoming season. Following extensive flooding after Hurricane Ian in 2022, the largest-ever population of blooms in the last five years was recorded in the spring of 2023. Last season, almost 200 blooms were recorded and photographed.

On April 9 and 10, 2024, The Community Foundation of Sarasota County will host another 24 hr. "Giving Challenge" from noon to noon. The Friends of Little Salt Spring have participated in previous years of the "Giving Challenge" and have raised several thousand dollars for research projects and needs at



Images of *S. lanceolata* var. *paludicola* in the flowering stage and seed capsule stage at Little Salt Spring.

LSS, and plan to participate in 2024 to raise more for support of the orchid study and other needs at LSS.

## LSS CHICKEE THATCH FUNDRAISING CONTINUES!

In the March/April 2023 newsletter, we introduced a fundraising campaign for thatching the Seminole-style Chickee at Little Salt Spring. To date, we have raised close to \$1000 and hope to raise at least half of the \$3,200, the estimate given by Seminole Tiki Huts, and are investigating matching grants to complete the project. The WMS/LSSAS is a 501(c)3 not for profit corporation. If you would like to assist with this endeavor, please make a tax-deductible donation to the WMS/LSSAS to P.O. Box 7797 North Port, Florida 34290, and reference "LSS Tiki Hut Thatching." Steve indicated that a 16 oz. jar of LSS "Old Shed," pure, raw wild honey will be offered to those who donate \$100 or more. To those who have already donated, thank you so much for your kind support! We are most grateful and look forward to seeing this effort come to fruition!

## 2022/2023 WMS/LSSAS OFFICERS

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