

October 2008

**Archaeology:
A Non-Renewable
Resource**



**Preservation by
Education and
Legislation**

A CHAPTER OF THE FLORIDA ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY

PO Box 5283, Sarasota FL 34277

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NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, October 15, 2008, 6:00 PM

Jack J. Geldbart Auditorium, Selby Public Library, 1331 First Street, Sarasota

Judge Fredric M. Hitt

Bring 'em Back Alive: Remembering and Honoring the First Floridians

Award-winning author Fredric M. Hitt will be our speaker October 15, 2008, at 6 P.M., at Selby Library, presenting a talk entitled "Bring 'em Back Alive: Remembering and honoring the first Floridians." Judge Hitt writes:

"When Europeans arrived on this continent in the 16th century, they encountered a civilization that had evolved for more than ten thousand years. It was the Timucua Indians of North Florida and South Georgia who greeted the French Huguenots and Spanish Conquistadores, and that meeting set the stage for a dramatic conflict of civilizations that marked the next two hundred and fifty years.

"Today, only historians and archaeologists seem to remember. Ask a student, or search the popular literature and you might conclude that the Seminole Indians were the first Floridians. They were late-comers to Florida, appearing here only when the Timucua were approaching cultural extinction."

Judge Hitt retired from the bench in 2000, and immediately began the research that has led to two award-winning Florida historical novels, and a third book which will complete a historical trilogy of the early Florida Indians.

Wekiva Winter, his first novel, spanned the period between first contact in 1513 and 1600, when a string of Spanish missions stretched from coastal Georgia to St. Augustine. Wekiva Winter earned for Judge Hitt the Florida Historical Society's Patrick D. Smith Award as best fiction, 2006.

Beyond the River of the Sun carries the story further, through the expansion of the Franciscan

missions westward along the notorious El Camino Real to the land of the Apalachee in present day Leon County, and concludes with the Timucuan Revolt of 1656. Like its predecessor, Beyond the River of the Sun received the Patrick D. Smith Award as best fiction, 2008.

Judge Hitt is nearing publication on the third and final novel of the series, tentatively entitled "Last of the Timucuans," which will span the years leading to the extinction of Timucuan society.

"I use the term 'extinction' advisedly," Judge Hitt says. "There can be no doubt that individuals survived, inter-marrying with French, Spanish and other Indian groups. But as a society, the Timucuans reached the end of a very long road."

Judge Hitt served as a trial judge in Seminole County for sixteen years. Upon his retirement, he was on call as a Senior Judge for an additional six years, working in the Circuit and County Courts across Florida.

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MEETING CALENDAR

November 19, 2008

Prof. Robert H. Tykot

Sardinia in the Mediterranean: Trade in Obsidian, Metals, and Ceramics from the Neolithic to the Iron Age

(Selby Library, 6:00 PM)

Time Sifters meets the third Wednesday of each month from September to May, except December

(October Meeting – cont. from page 1)

It was only when judging interfered with his passion for writing and speaking about 16th and 17th Century Florida that Judge Hitt finally stepped down from the bench for the final time. Judge Hitt is married to another award winner, wildlife artist Linda Silsby Hitt. They live on the river the Indians called River of the Sun, that stretches northward through Central Florida and exits into the Atlantic near Jacksonville. Today we call it the St. Johns.

Editor's Note: For anyone interested in reading about the Timucua in preparation for Judge Hitt's presentation, your Editor suggests the following websites:

http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/natsci/vertpaleo/auquilla10_1/missions.htm

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timucua>

<http://www.hartford-hwp.com/archives/41/267.html>

WOVEN THREADS TROUGH TIME: MAYA WOMEN, WEAVERS AND THEIR STORIES

An exhibit about Maya women weavers, curated by Dr. Gabrielle Vail at the Weedon Island Preserve in St. Petersburg, Florida, is scheduled to open in April 2009. For a preview, see:

<http://www.buetes.net/index.htm>

Dr. Vail writes:

“Please join us for a silent online auction beginning November 1st to support the Woven Threads exhibit. We are currently raising funds to bring the stories of six Maya women weavers, some living now and others in the distant past, to life in the Weedon Island exhibition and in a virtual exhibit (online) for those unable to visit Weedon Island in person. All proceeds from the auction will be donated to the non-profit group the Friends of Weedon Island to help defray exhibition costs.”

Please feel free to contact Dr. Vail with questions, comments, or suggestions at:

mayaweaving@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Renewal in Time Sifters Archaeology Society is due the month that you joined or previously renewed. The renewal month is noted on the mailing label of the newsletter. Please check now to see when you should renew.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

On September 17, 2008, Leslie Hammond, Ph.D. gave a presentation entitled “The 21st Century Exploration of a Sanctuary of Zeus.” She discussed the ash pit at Mt. Lykaion (an altar used for offerings), and structures including a hippodrome, stoa and bath. The site hosted athletic competitions in ancient times, which have recently been revived.

A specialist in pottery, Dr. Hammond described the artifacts found at the site, which date over a several thousand year period.

Dr. Hammond's presentation explained not only the archaeological results obtained, but also the experience and daily life of those working at the site. Luck plays an important role, with some weeks of digging yielding virtually no artifacts and other weeks yielding an incredible variety. Naturally the most productive periods tend to come at the very end of the season, making for a hectic finish! Dr. Hammond's enthusiasm and love of archaeology led to an exciting and informative presentation.

If anyone would like to contact Dr. Hammond, she may be reached at:

Dr. Leslie Hammond, President, Artistic Eye Fine Art Services, LLC; tel: 352-867-1863;
email: LHammond@artistic-eye-fas.com

PLEASE JOIN FAS!

Time Sifters is a local chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society. Please consider joining FAS! Membership includes a subscription to the Society's scholarly journal, *The Florida Anthropologist*. For further information, please see a board member.

Time Sifters Fall Field Trip

Saturday, October 25th

10am – 1pm

Join your friends from Time Sifters for a fun and interesting excursion to Cortez!

Learn a bit about the early settlers of Tidy Island, tour the Cortez Maritime Museum and Boatworks, and then have lunch on the dock at Cortez fishing village. Just a short jaunt up the road, Cortez is the first of this year's field trips that will get us out – into our own “back yard” – to see what unique historical and archaeological resources we have in this area. Sherry Svekis will lead this tour.

10am – meet at the Starbucks on the corner of Cortez Road and 75th Street West in Bradenton (we will caravan from here – all locations are 5 -10 minutes away)



Tour Tidy Island homestead and museum – optional short nature walk
Tour Cortez Maritime Museum
Walk or Drive to Cortez Boatworks
Lunch on the dock at Cortez Fishing Village, at the Star Fish Company, serving fresh Florida seafood.

Tour is open to Members and their guests. Suggested donation of \$5 per person, plus lunch.

Further information and sign-up sheet will be provided at the October meeting.

CALENDAR**Friday, November 21, 2008**

Trail of Florida's Indian Heritage

Annual Meeting, 2008

Museum of Florida Art and Culture, on the campus
of the South Florida Community College, Avon
Park

For further information, contact:

Martha "Marty" Ardren

President, Trail of Florida's Indian Heritage
305-562-6350**MEMBERSHIP**

Individual: \$20 Family: \$30

Sustaining: \$50 Student: \$10

Make checks payable to *Time Sifters, Inc.*, and
mail to Time Sifters, PO Box 5283, Sarasota
FL 34277, or pay at meetings.**TIME SIFTERS, INC.**

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month, from August through May.**Please renew your
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