

Time Sifters

October 2009



A Chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society

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NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, October 21, 2009, 6:00 PM

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

STEVE KOSKI, Underwater Archaeologist and Site Manager, Little Salt Spring

Recent Exploration on the 27 m ledge at Little Salt Spring

NOTE: Time Sifters' October 21 meeting will take place at the Selby Public Library in downtown Sarasota. Although many of our meetings this season will be at the Sainer Pavilion at New College, others (including October) will take place at the Selby Library. See meeting schedule, Calendar, p. 4.

On October 21, 2009, Steve Koski will give a presentation to Time Sifters entitled "Recent Exploration on the 27 m Ledge at Little Salt Spring."

In July of 2008 and 2009, two teams of archaeologists and science divers from the University of Miami and Florida Aquarium conducted a five-week National Geographic-funded project on the 27 m ledge at Little Salt Spring. The project was conducted to evaluate late Pleistocene deposits in two areas of the



ledge where the bones of extinct animals were found and where an associated 12,030 RCYBP

wood artifact was recovered wedged between the plastron and carapace of an extinct giant tortoise, *Geochelone crassiscutata*. The 1975 recovery was the subject of considerable excitement and controversy over its antiquity,

Steve Koski

context, and association. Current research questions involve the assessment of early Paleoindian visitation at Little Salt Spring, human utilization of the 27 m ledge, extinct Pleistocene fauna/artifact associations, and depositional and post-depositional processes involved in the current disposition of the remains. (continued on p. 2)
(October meeting – continued from p. 1)

Little Salt Spring is an 80 m wide by 60 to 73 meter deep sinkhole or cenote located in south Sarasota County on a 112-acre parcel of land donated to the University of Miami in 1982 by General Development Corporation. The site is known for its extinct Pleistocene faunal remains on the 27 m ledge and Paleoindian and Early to Middle Archaic archaeological deposits in the 40-foot basin in an exceptional state of preservation, representing activities from some of Florida's earliest inhabitants.

The site is operated as an archaeological research facility and ecological preserve. Long-term site management plans include upgrading the facility to include a research/conservation lab, student dormitory, and education center to house a permanent exhibit with classroom and meeting room for educational programs.

Steve Koski is a Research Associate with University of Miami and serves as an underwater archaeologist and site manager at Little Salt Spring. He works with the Director of Research Dr. John Gifford. Steve came to Florida in 1985 as a graduate assistant from Arizona State University on a remote sensing survey with Dr. Rey Ruppe looking for submerged archaeological sites in the near shore off Venice Beach. He worked as assistant underwater archaeologist for Florida State University at Warm Mineral Springs from 1986 to 1989. He has worked intermittently over the

years with Dr. Gifford at Little Salt Spring assisting with research since 1992 while working for Archaeological Consultants of Sarasota and New South Associates of Stone Mountain Georgia on cultural resource management projects. He has served as resident site manager at LSS since July 2004 and full time research associate since October 2008. Steve has a B.A in Anthropology and certificate in prehistoric archaeology from the University of Massachusetts, Boston, and completed his coursework and exams in an M.A. program in anthropology at Arizona State University.

Editor's note:

For those interested in reading about Little Salt Spring in preparation for Steve Koski's presentation, your Editor recommends the following websites. (Remember - to avoid typing these url's, see the electronic copy of this newsletter at the Time Sifters website and click on the links.)

www.TimeSifters.org

Aerial photo and map at Wikimapia:

<http://wikimapia.org/#lat=27.0750041&lon=-82.2330093&z=18&l=0&m=h>

Rosenstiel School, University of Miami:

<http://www.rsmas.miami.edu/groups/lss/>

YouTube video of archaeological investigation:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dhJWzwFJHDY>

Science Magazine (full article requires payment):

<http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/abstract/203/4381/609>

Floridacaves.com:

<http://www.floridacaves.com/saltsink.htm>

University of Miami:

http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2009-02/uom-lss021909.php

Miami Hurricane:

<http://www.themiamihurricane.com/2009/02/25/little-salt-spring-makes-big-news-nationwide/>

Warm Mineral Springs – Little Salt Spring Archaeological Society:

<http://www.geocities.com/wmslssas/index.html>

TIME SIFTERS' NEW WEBSITE

Time Sifters Board member Jim Meckler has prepared a new website for Time Sifters:

www.TimeSifters.org

The site contains announcements of our meetings, copies of the current and back issues of our newsletter, and other valuable information. If you misplace your current newsletter, you can easily locate information about upcoming meetings. You can also pay dues online.

“LOST CITIES OF THE AMAZON”

is the title of a fascinating article by Professor Michael Heckenberger, of the University of Florida, appearing in *Scientific American*, October, 2009. Dr. Heckenberger demonstrates that the Amazon rainforest was once heavily populated with an interconnected network of communities. An introduction to the article is found here:

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=lost-cities-of-the-amazon>

To see the full article, get the magazine at your library, bookstore, or the above site, or download a copy at the following site (payment required):

<http://full-rapidshare.com/e-books/magazine/852-scientific-american-october-2009.html>

The ancient communities described by Prof. Heckenberger are noteworthy not only for astronomical alignments, but also for their fractal design – i.e. the patterns of houses, settlements and clusters of settlements are similar when viewed at a number of different scales.

(continued at column 2)
(Lost Cities – continued from column 1)

For further information about the ancient settlements in the Amazon, see:

<http://news.mongabay.com/bioenergy/2008/08/anthropologists-discover-ancient-garden.html>

http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/3077413/ns/technology_and_science-science/

Note regarding fractals:

Fractals are mathematical objects, which were first extensively explored in the 1980's. They have proved to have wide-ranging applications in science and art.

The villages of Cameroon exhibit fractal design:

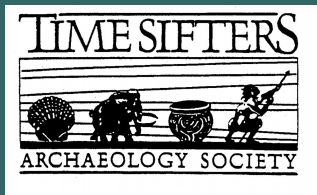
http://blog.ted.com/2007/11/ron_eglash.php

For more about fractal design, see:

http://www.iemar.tuwien.ac.at/fractal_architecture/subpages/222selfsimilar.html

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.



Membership

Individual: \$20
Family: \$30
Sustaining: \$50
Student: \$10

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DR. MILANICH TO ADDRESS TIME SIFTERS ON NOVEMBER 18

Dr. Jerry Milanich will be addressing Time Sifters on November 18, as part of this year's series of presentations entitled "Traces of Our Past: Florida's History Through Archaeology." The presentation will take place at Mildred Sainer Pavilion, New College. See next month's newsletter for further details.

Events of Interest

October 14th: "Beneath the Surface: Exploring Florida's Ancient Pond Cemeteries" is the topic of Dr. Rachel Wentz at the meeting of Warm Mineral Springs Little Salt Spring Archaeological Society. North Port Public Library, 6:30pm.

October 23rd: "Four Thousand Years of Andean Gold" by Dr. Mark Aldenderfer, AIA; University of Central Florida, Building 99, Room (PSY) 108, 7pm. 407-823-6725 for info.

Ancient Kingdoms of the Maya & Present Day Textile Traditions
Tour to Mexico with Gabrielle Vail: January 15-24, 2010
Email gvail@mayacodices.org for more information.

CALENDAR

October 21, 6pm: Steve Koski: Recent Exploration on the 27 m Ledge at Little Salt Spring **Selby Library**

November 18, 6pm: Dr. Jerry Milanich: Archaeology in the Archives **New College***

January 20, 6pm: Dr. Brent Weisman: Archaeology of the Unconquered People **New College***

February 17, 6pm: Student Grant Competition Awards and Winning Presentation **Selby Libr.**

March 17, 6pm: Barbara Purdy: Ancient Art of Florida's Native People **New College***

April 21, 6pm: **Selby Library**

May 19, 6pm: Dr. William Lees: Discovering Civil War Florida **New College***

*Sponsored by the Florida Humanities Council;

Selby Library: downtown Sarasota, Central Ave and 2nd Street

New College: Mildred Sainer Pavilion, 5313 Bay Shore Road

Go to **TimeSifters.org**
for more information!

Name
Address
City, State Zip

Renewal date

Please renew by above date.