

Time Sifters

October 2012



A Chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society

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NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, October 17, 2012, 6:00 PM

Selby Library, Downtown Sarasota

**Ryan Murphy, Curator and Archaeologist
for Historic Spanish Point**

The Hill Cottage Midden: A Monumental Achievement



The Hill Cottage Midden is a Late Archaic Shell Ring that is part of the Palmer Site in Sarasota County, Florida. Shell Rings dating to the Late Archaic period can be found along the coast of the Southeastern United States between South Carolina and Florida. These unique features provide archaeologists with some of the earliest examples of monument construction within the region suggesting an increasing cultural complexity during the Late Archaic. In a 2006 report by Dr. Michael Russo the National Park Service identified several shell ring sites as potential National Historic Landmarks because they "represent the first, earliest, oldest, largest, or most complex examples of architecture, settlement, exchange, technology, ethnic identity, cultural traditions and social organization of this period in this large region of the United States and thus constitute national levels of significance". The Hill Cottage Midden was identified within this study as containing valuable information regarding the development of pottery, changes in social formations, and connections to other regional cultural traditions. This lecture will discuss the Hill Cottage Midden within the larger context of shell ring sites focusing primarily on the emergence of social stratification, craft specialization, and early monument construction.

Ryan Murphy is a graduate of the University of Central Florida where he majored in Anthropology. Currently he is a candidate for a M.A. in Humanities with a concentration in History from California State University, Dominguez Hills. Ryan also holds certificates in Museum Studies, Non-Profit Management, Grant Proposal Writing, and Business Administration. Professional training also includes the National Preservation Institute's NAGPRA (Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act) and ARPA (Archaeological Resources Policy Act) seminar. Ryan has worked as a professional archaeologist conducting cultural resource assessment surveys throughout Florida for Archaeological Consultants Incorporated (2006-2010), as well as for the Seminole Tribe of Florida-Tribal Historic Preservation Office (2010-2011). Currently Ryan is the Curator and Archaeologist for Historic Spanish Point in Osprey, Florida his responsibilities include the management and care of a nearly 20,000 object collection, the preservation of several historic buildings, as well as the on-going conservation of the Palmer Site (8SO2).

Notes from a Time Sifter

A city, according to anthropologists, is a community with advanced social organization, monumental buildings, advanced technological innovations, record keeping, the ability to carry on long distance trade, and other attributes not found in villages. It is believed that the first fully developed cities were built in Mesopotamia (Iraq) by about 3000 b.c.e. Until recently, it was assumed that cities did not exist in the Western Hemisphere until much later. Archaeologists now know that by 2627 b.c.e., Caral, in northwestern South America, was already a thriving metropolis.

Caral was discovered in 1905 but not fully studied until 2001. Evidence shows that the people of Caral kept records, developed advanced irrigation, engaged in trade with coastal neighbors, used the quipu to keep records and created a sophisticated calendar. They were building pyramids in their city at the same time as the Egyptians were building the Great pyramids at Giza. Caral's pyramids were built of stones, sticks, rubble and mud and were temples that became the template for American pyramids that continued to be built in the cities of South and Central America for the following 4000 years. The size of the public buildings indicates powerful leaders but no weapons or evidence of war have yet been found at Caral. Archaeologists did find areas of residential housing, some obviously for an elite class and others for ordinary citizens. Most of Caral's citizens were farmers, growing beans, sweet potatoes, chili peppers and cotton on well-irrigated fields. They worshipped deities in the large plazas at the foot of the pyramids. This was a real city and is cause to rethink the development of cities in the Americas.



Update from Historic Spanish Point

Volunteers at Historic Spanish Point continue to make new and exciting discoveries as they sift through displaced archaeological material from the Chapel Midden (300B.C.E.-300C.E.), which is part of the larger Palmer Site (8So2). A wide variety of pottery, shell and bone tool forms, and faunal remains have been documented thus far. The ceramic assemblage suggests an extensive trade network as a wide variety of pottery has been documented. There have also been some excellent examples of bone tool forms discovered. Among my personal favorite is this bone bi-point, which was fashioned from deer bone that was split, heat treated, and shaped to have a distinctive point on the end. While fragmentary it appears to a bone bi-point and would likely have a similar point on the other end. This and the wide range of tools found within the material being catalogued for further preservation were essential to the survival of the native inhabitants throughout the region. Based on the context this object dates between 300B.C.E.-300C.E. and even today could be utilized as a highly effective tool.

What is on the Time Sifters website this week?

OUR WEBMASTER, JIM MECKLER, POSTS THE LATEST AND MOST INTERESTING ARCHAEOLOGICAL STORIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

A new search has begun at a Greek island where an ancient device known as the world's "oldest computer" was found over a century ago, an official said Thursday, adding that other discoveries were possible. Archaeologists this week returned to Antikythera, the Aegean Sea island where sponge divers in 1900-1901 found the so-called Antikythera Mechanism, a remarkable 2nd-century BCE device that tracked the cycles of the solar system.

For more of the story go to www.timesifters.org



Reflections of Manatee Presents: National Archaeology Day and Pioneer Picnic

Come Celebrate at Manatee Mineral Springs!

Saturday, October 20th, 11am - 3pm

Demonstrations and hands-on learning

Archaeological Research from Manatee Mineral Springs,

De Soto National Memorial, and Gamble Plantation

Artifacts, Native technology, Traditional games and skills for both adults and children including coins in the haystack, frying pan toss, and atlatl throwing - With Prizes!

Schedule

11-3 Activities for all ages

11:30 Featured Speaker Dr. Uzi Baram of the New College Public Archaeology Lab

12:00 Pioneer Picnic featuring smoked mullet and turkey, cornbread, fruit cobbler, and much more, home-cooked by Reflections of Manatee's volunteers. Donation requested.

1:00 Frying pan toss competition

1:30 Atlatl throwing competition

Kids Activities

Coins in the Hay - Find collectible coins from around the world and Chucky Cheese tokens!

Native Tools - Try your hand with a spear thrower, fire-starter, and drill.

Demonstrations

Grinding Cane

Making Molasses

Directions: Manatee Mineral Springs, 1312 2nd Ave. East, Bradenton, FL 34208
2 Blocks North of SR64 off 14th St. East

Participating organizations:

Reflections of Manatee, Time Sifters Archaeology Society

Florida Public Archaeology Network, New College Public Archaeology Lab



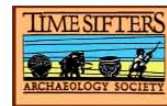
<http://NCF.edu/pal>



www.reflectionsofmanatee.org



www.flpublicarchaeology.org/wcrc



www.TimeSifters.org



Membership

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

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PO Box 5283
Sarasota, FL. 34277

We're on the Web!

www.TimeSifters.org

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES OF INTEREST

Artifact Analysis: New College Public Archaeology Lab

The New College Public Archaeology Lab welcomes Time Sifters members to wash, sort, and record information on its artifact collections. Call/email Sherry for more information.
ssvekis@gmail.com

Shell Midden Material Analysis: Historic Spanish Point

Historic Spanish Point welcomes volunteers to help process excavated midden material on Thursdays, 9am - 3pm. Contact Ryan Murphy ryan@historicspanishpoint.org

2012 MEETING CALENDAR

October 17, 6pm: Ryan Murphy: The Cottage Hill Midden: A Monumental Achievement **Selby**

November 14, 6pm: Brian Zepeda, Seminole Tribe of Florida: Voices from Native Florida **Sainer**

December 5, 6pm: Holiday pot-luck and party at the home of Sherry and Vald Svekis

New College is co-sponsor and will host a reception in conjunction with these lectures.

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

New College: Mildred Sainer Pavilion, 5313 Bay Shore Road

Go to www.TimeSifters.org
for more information!

Your renewal date is above; please remit if due.
Please contact us if you think there is an error.