

Time Sifters

March 2013



A Chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society

PO Box 5283, Sarasota FL 34277

Editor: Sherry Svekis • ssvekis@gmail.com • (941) 359-0683

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, March 13, 2013, 6:00 PM
Selby Library, Downtown Sarasota

Meet the Cornelia D. Futor Student Grant Award Winners

Matt Andersen is a third year student of Anthropology and Religion at New College of Florida. His primary areas of study include Pre-Columbian Native American cultures and Judaic Studies. He is interested in the ways that spiritual and religious ideas become part of people's mundane lives.



Snead Island: A Potential Middle-Ground for the Calusa and Tocobaga

The Emerson Point Mound site on Snead Island, at the head of the Manatee River, may have, in its time, been one of the most beautiful and impressive sites on the Floridian peninsula. I will seek to demonstrate that the architecture of Snead Island's mounds exhibits influence from both Tocobaga and Calusa, yet represents neither group exclusively. The Snead Island site may well represent a site of political and sacred neutrality.

Jodi Johnson is a 4th year anthropology student at New College of Florida where she transferred after completing her Associates degree at State College of Florida. First and foremost she is a wife and mother to a teenage son but at the age of 35 reentered the academic world and returned to school to pursue her lifelong love of anthropology and archaeology. Jodi is concentrating her efforts in the fields of heritage and cultural resource management and is currently writing her thesis on Warm Mineral Springs.



The Multiplicity of Warm Mineral Springs: The intersection of archaeology and imagined heritage.

Warm Mineral Springs is uniquely complex in that it is the location of a highly significant paleo and archaic archaeological site while also playing perhaps a more well known role as Ponce de Leon's Fountain of Youth. Through the lens of Warm Mineral Springs I will explore the intersection of archaeology and imagined heritage and argue that the two themes can indeed coexist.

Notes from a Time Sifter

Animals have been a major part of human existence since before we began to walk on two legs. We love animals, we make them work for us, and we eat them. Early humans must have watched animals with curiosity and awe. We see evidence of this in Paleolithic rock art and cave paintings like at Lascaux where animals are beautifully drawn deep inside the caves. Paleolithic humans buried wild cattle on top of human burials. About 10,000 years ago, humans learned to domesticate animals. This was not just taming wild animals but actually manipulating the genetic make-up of animals by selective breeding that emphasized traits most usable to humans, a truly momentous effort as DNA studies show that today's domestic cattle are all descended from a herd of only about 80 animals (Archaeology, July/Aug. 2012). Ancient humans also revered special traits of some animals. Bulls were often seen as symbols of power and many societies even gave them religious significance. We find evidence of bull worship in the Minoan culture at Crete, and also in ancient Egypt where bulls with specific markings were considered sacred. When these bulls died they were mummified and buried in enormous tombs where they continued to be worshipped. Archaeologists have found many mummified animals in Egypt such as cats, birds and even fish. For Egyptians, the cat was a deity that was to help women give birth. The Romans chose the wolf as the symbol of the founding of Rome, and the Roman military honored the eagle as their standard. The Greeks immortalized the lowly snake on the caduceus as a symbol of healing.

Other animals were put to work. Donkeys and oxen pulled wagons and plows, and the horse actually changed the nature of warfare when attached to a war chariot (World Archaeology, #54). The value of horses is seen in Kazakhstan about 500 b.c.e. where a dozen horses in full dress regalia were buried with two Scythian nobles, indicating the importance of both the nobles and the horses (AIA Online News, Oct. 15, 1999). In China, terracotta figures of life-sized horses with all their trappings are found among the soldiers in the third century b.c.e. tomb of the Qin emperor. But of all of the animals associated with humans, dogs show up most often. Dogs probably domesticated themselves by “hanging around” campfires, and evidence indicates they have been a human favorite for a very long time. Five thousand years ago, the Sumerian goddess of healing had a dog at her feet. Important during life, dogs often got a human-like burial at death. A dog burial from seven thousand years ago in Siberia revealed that it had been fed human food (Discovery News, Feb. 28, 2011), and in southwestern United States dogs were buried with jewelry indicating their importance (National Geographic News, April 23, 2008). Alexander the Great erected a stone monument to his dog when she died, and Lord Byron wrote poetry about dogs. Dogs are now used as therapy for troubled humans suggesting that even though most of us no longer see animals as deities or depend on animals like the horse to use in war, or oxen to pull our plows, our reliance on animals will continue.



GULA (public domain)

On the Time Sifters website:
 “Lost Continent” Found off Africa

OUR WEBMASTER, JIM MECKLER, POSTS THE MOST INTERESTING ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

SCIENTISTS believe they've discovered the remains of a lost continent on the floor of the Indian Ocean off Africa. The research team from Norway, South Africa, Germany and the UK identified the ancient “microcontinent” after analysing beach sands from the island of Mauritius. They believe Mauritius was split from the larger island of Madagascar, 900 kilometres to the west, by volcanic eruptions between 61 and 84 million years ago. The beach sands were deposited by subsequent eruptions within the last nine million years. They believe the microcontinent, which they have christened “Mauritia”, may also lie beneath Réunion Island and the Seychelles. For more of the story go to www.timesifters.org

Archaeology Fest!

Saturday, March 16th 10am - 1pm

Archaeology Fest is a celebration and exploration of regional archaeology and history, and a major Time Sifters outreach initiative, so tell your friends and please come and support us!

Schedule of Events

10 am Welcoming Remarks by Uzi Baram, NCPAL Director

- Visit the tables and meet the staff and volunteers for our region's Historic, Archaeological, and Ecological Organizations
- Practice Native Technologies: atlatl, spears, fire starters, tools, and bola stones
- Race in the Rancho Gutter Regatta and the Sarasota Bay Rancho Video Game
- Watch Looking for Angola video in the Hal C. Ball Anthropology Seminar Room
- Hands-on Artifact Displays in the New College Public Archaeology Lab

11 am Featured Presentation: Sakim, Carrier of Traditions for the Apalachicola

12 noon

- Children's Scavenger Hunt
- Lecture by Time Sifters' Robert Bopp on Archaeological Sites of Polynesia

1 pm Closing Remarks by Sherry Svekis, Time Sifters President

The New College student-run Four Winds Café will be open through Archaeology Fest to purchase coffee, smoothies, sandwiches, and more

Time Sifters is offering free lemonade and hot dogs, while they last




ARCHAEOLOGY FEST 2013

Voices from Native Florida

Celebrating the Natural Heritage and History of West Central Florida



Images courtesy of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

SAT • MAR 16 • 10AM-1PM

This free, community event open to families, celebrates Florida Archaeology Month. Join us for a fun-filled day of active learning, tours, lectures, films; free hotdogs and lemonade. Co-presented by Time Sifters Archaeology Society and the New College Public Archaeology Lab, located at 410 College Drive, on the New College Bayfront Campus.

FEATURED SPEAKER



OUTDOORS • 11AM
C. Randall Daniels (Sakim)
Carrier of Traditions for the Apalachicola

Free; reservations encouraged but not required, reserve online at <https://donate.ncf.edu/voices> or call 941-487-4888

For a schedule of activities and directions, go to www.TimeSifters.org



Funding for this program was provided through a grant from the Florida Humanities Council with funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of the Florida Humanities Council or the National Endowment for the Humanities.

**UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST!****Calusa Heritage Day, Saturday March 9th**

"First Contact" is the theme for this year's event, which takes place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Calusa Heritage Trail, 13810 Waterfront Drive, Pineland, located on scenic, historic Pine Island. Speakers include Dr. Jerald T. Milanich, Dr. Bill Marquardt, and Mr. Steve Koski. Go to <http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/rrc/> for more information.

Archaeology Fest! Saturday, March 16th

Time Sifters' celebration of archaeology is growing each year. Join us on the New College campus at the Public Archaeology Lab for lectures, tours, displays by local archaeology and history organizations, and a special presentation by Sakim, Carrier of Traditions for the Apalachicola.

Membership

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

Pay online at:

TimeSifters.org

Or mail checks to:

Time Sifters, Inc.
PO Box 5283
Sarasota, FL. 34277

We're on the Web!

www.TimeSifters.org

SPRING 2013 MEETING CALENDAR

January 23, 6pm: Nathan Lawres, M.A.: Waging War the Seminole Way: An Ethnohistoric Perspective on the Evolution of Seminole Combat Behaviors

February 20, 6pm: Robert Bopp, Time Sifters Board member, The Sacred Valley of the Incas

March 13, 6pm: Short programs by winners of the Cornelia D. Futor Student Grant Competition

March 16, 10am - 1pm: Archaeology Fest! featuring Sakim, Carrier of Traditions for the Apalachicola. *

April 17, 6pm: Evelyn Mangie, Archaeology in Israel

May 15, 6pm: Maranda Almy Kles, M.A., M.S.: Bioarchaeology in Sarasota and Beyond

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

** New College Public Archaeology Lab*

Your renewal date is above; please remit if due.