Gloria M. Sajgo, AICP, Principal Planner
Lee County Planning Division
P.O. Box 398 Fort Myers FL 33902
1500 Monroe St. Fort Myers FL 33901

Gloria,

The Archaeological and Historical Conservancy whole-heartedly supports the public acquisition, preservation and conservation of the Lehigh Spring as a natural and archaeological treasure second to none in Southwest Florida. The spring should be in public hands in part because its potential yield to science of archaeological and environmental information buried in the feature is of incalculable scientific worth.

We urge that the appropriate agencies respond to this unparalleled opportunity to purchase Lehigh Spring. Contacting experts such as Steve Koski and other knowledgeable scholars can demonstrate the important discoveries that have emerged from Little Salt and Warm Mineral Springs just one county over. We endorse and lend our support to the effort to save Lehigh Spring. Please keep us informed of future events concerning this worthwhile project.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

[Signature]
May 15, 2012

Lynda Thompson
Conservation Lands Program Coordinator
Division of County Lands
1500 Monroe Street, 4th Floor
Fort Myers, FL 33902

RE: LEHIGH SPRING Conservation 20/20 Nomination

Dear Ms. Thompson:

The Florida Public Archaeology Network offers its support for the acquisition of Lehigh Spring by Lee County’s Conservation 20/20 Program. Through the millennia, some facts have never changed such as the critical importance of clean, unpolluted freshwater for human life. This unique landscape feature provides crucial potable water to a major area of Lehigh Acres and also has the potential to reveal extraordinary information about Southwest Florida’s past.

Lehigh Spring may contain significant archaeological resources like those found at Little Salt Spring and Warm Mineral Springs in southern Sarasota County. These important archaeological resources contain materials dating back to the earliest occupation of Florida about 10,000 years ago. What is particularly notable from an archaeological perspective is not only are these sites very old, but that they also contain organic materials that have been preserved in the wet environment. In fact, organic materials are normally the first to be lost at archaeological sites.

Additionally, Lehigh Spring has the potential to contain eco-archaeological resources. Eco-archaeological resources, such as ancient pollen from plants that once covered the Southwest Florida region, may be found in sediments and are critical to helping understand how the environment changed through time and affected the earliest Floridians.

There is every reason to believe that Lehigh Spring contains important eco-archaeological resources. If it is purchased through the Conservation 20/20 Program, we, as a community, will have an opportunity to explore and protect this unique feature. Therefore, the Florida Public Archaeology Network fully supports the acquisition of Lehigh Spring by Lee County’s Conservation 20/20 Program to protect a vital freshwater source for Lehigh Acres and a rare window to the past.

Respectfully,

Annette L. Snapp, Ph.D.
Conservation 20/20

Dear Linda Thompson:

Re: Nomination 471-2, Leigh Spring

I am in full support of the purchase of Leeland Lake by Lee County.

I can hardly imagine a more "environmentally" sensitive piece of property in Lee County, especially since it connects to an aquifer. Plus, its value to science research and knowledge may be immeasurable. As former President of the Southwest Florida Archaeological Society and someone involved with our areas history for years, I can attest to how unique the feature is.

Please do not let "management or maintenance concerns" override guaranteeing the protection of this incredible natural feature. I predict it will be a great resource for Lehigh Acres and Lee County in the years to come. It would be a good investment for the public.

Charlie Strader
Southwest Florida Archaeological Society, Inc.
27655 Kent Rd
Bonita Springs, FL 34135
1-800-446-9660
1-239-992-9660
www.ExplorationsInc.com/swfl-archaeology
Areas having a high potential for containing archaeological sites were downgraded to a lower level of sensitivity if they were considered to be highly disturbed such that no significant archaeological deposits would be preserved (Austin 1987:42).

In the case of Lehigh Spring, it should be noted that important environmental features used in developing the site-predictive model included, "...the presence of potable fresh water for humans and animals, particularly rivers, streams, springs, sloughs, and hardwood swamps..." (Austin 1987:40). Lehigh Spring would have served as a potable fresh water source perhaps for thousands of years.

In summation, archaeological materials have been discovered at Lehigh Spring, although this has not yet been recorded with the FMSF. Additionally, a nearby prehistoric site (8LL00746 – the Sentinel Site) has been recorded with the FMSF.

And while the Lee County Archaeological Sensitivity Map indicates that the area is within a Sensitivity level 4 zone, this designation appears to be largely dictated by the level of development that has been experienced by Lehigh Acres as a whole.

Thank you for this opportunity to share information about the rich cultural heritage of this region with you. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 239-590-1330 or asnapp@fgcu.edu.

Respectfully,

Annette L. Snapp, Ph.D.
Director, FPAN Southwest Regional Office

Reference:
Austin, Robert J. (Piper Archaeological Research, Inc.)
1987 "An Archaeological Site Inventory and Zone Management Plan for Lee County, Florida." Performed for the Lee County Department of Community Development, Division of Planning, Fort Myers, FL.
May 21, 2012

Lynda Thompson
Conservation Lands Program Coordinator
Division of County Lands
1500 Monroe Street, 4th Floor
Fort Myers, FL 33902

RE: LEHIGH SPRING Conservation 20/20 Nomination Archaeological Overview

Florida Master Site File (FMSF)
The Florida Public Archaeology Network (FPAN) staff consulted with Florida Master Site File (FMSF) which is an inventory of known and recorded archaeological, historical, and other cultural resources in the state. These comments are limited to whether or not cultural resources are known to exist and are recorded on the FMSF on the above-listed Conservation 20/20 nomination property.

While there are no known sites recorded on the FMSF located on the Lehigh Spring property, part-time local resident, Dr. Robin Brown has indicated that he discovered prehistoric materials from Lehigh Spring in the 1960s (see attachment). Therefore, although no site has yet been recorded with the FMSF, there is reported evidence of prehistoric use of this water body.

Secondarily, site 8LL00746, the Sentinela Site, is located less than one mile from the Lehigh Spring property. This site was recorded in 1987 and is a prehistoric aboriginal midden.

Lee County Archaeological Sensitivity Map
FPAN staff also consulted the Lee County Archaeological Sensitivity Map that was developed in conjunction with “An Archaeological Site Inventory and Zone Management Plan for Lee County, Florida” by Robert Austin with Piper Archaeological Research, Inc. in 1987. This site-predictive model was developed from data gathered about known sites, the prehistory of the area, and existing site-predictive models for the area. From this site-predictive model, the Lee County Archaeological Sensitivity Map was created.

The Lehigh Spring Nomination site is within the Archaeological Sensitivity Level 4. This sensitivity level was applied to areas that do not contain known archaeological sites and are considered to have a low probability of containing significant archaeological resources (Austin 1987:45). Most of Lehigh Acres has been assigned this level as a reflection of development as Austin notes:
Nomination 501. The Heritage Lakes site (8LL02062) was a prehistoric lithic scatter and campsite excavated October 2004. The excavators note that lithic flakes were all heat treated.

Lee County Archaeological Sensitivity Map
FPAN staff also consulted the Lee County Archaeological Sensitivity Map that was developed in conjunction with “An Archaeological Site Inventory and Zone Management Plan for Lee County, Florida” by Robert Austin with Piper Archaeological Research, Inc. in 1987. This site-predictive model was developed from data gathered about known sites, the prehistory of the area, and existing site-predictive models for the area. From this site-predictive model, the Lee County Archaeological Sensitivity Map was created.

Nomination 501, the Pigott property, is within Archaeological Sensitivity Level 2. This sensitivity level is applied to those areas which contain known archaeological sites that “have not been assessed for significance and/or conform to the site predictive model in such a way that there is a high likelihood that unrecorded sites of potential significance are present” (Austin 1987:45). Austin (1987:45) goes on to recommend cultural resource assessment surveys by qualified professional archaeologists to determine the presence and subsequent significance of any archaeological sites if impact is imminent.

In conclusion, evidence of cultural activity ranging from that of prehistoric to 20th century peoples lies very close to the Pigott property, even though no archaeological sites have been recorded within the FMSF. This property’s designation as Archaeological Sensitivity Level 2 would suggest that there is an increased likelihood of finding unrecorded archaeological remains.

Thank you for this opportunity to share information about the rich cultural heritage of this region with you. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 239-590-1476.

Sincerely,

Melissa A. Timo
Outreach Coordinator, FPAN Southwest Regional Office

Reference:
Austin, Robert J. (Piper Archaeological Research, Inc.)
1987 “An Archaeological Site Inventory and Zone Management Plan for Lee County, Florida.”
Performed for the Lee County Department of Community Development, Division of Planning,
Fort Myers, FL.
May 22, 2012

Lynda Thompson
Conservation Lands Program Coordinator
Division of County Lands
1500 Monroe Street, 4th Floor
Fort Myers, FL 33902

Florida Master Site File (FMSF)
The Florida Public Archaeology Network (FPAN) staff consulted with Florida Master Site File (FMSF) which is an inventory of known and recorded archaeological, historical, and other cultural resources in the state. These comments are limited to whether or not cultural resources are known to exist and are recorded on the FMSF on the above-listed Conservation 20/20 property.

Conservation 20/20 Nomination Number 501, the Pigott property, contains no previously known recorded sites, resource groups, or significant standing structures as listed on the FMSF. However, within Section 14 Township 44 South Range 25 East and the surrounding sections are a number of identified resources.

North of Nomination 501 within Section 14, less than a mile away is the Buckington Military Railway resource group. On the earliest Florida Bureau of Land Management survey maps, this railway was also the location of a telegraph line.

South of the land contained in Nomination 501, the Florida Master Site File lists one historical district. This resource group is known as Teter Migrant Worker Camp and contains 11 contributing resources. All of these said resources are listed as 1950 Frame Vernacular structures. According to the FMSF a second resource group, State Route 82, borders the Teter Camp to the south.

A circa-1920 standing frame vernacular structure, the Buckingham Road Farmstead Complex, lies about two miles east-southeast of Nomination 501. The first of two identified archaeological resources in the vicinity is located in the same location as the Buckingham Road Farmstead Complex. The site, identified at Buckingham Roac or 8L01441, unspecific prehistoric lithic scatter excavated July 1990.

The final, most pertinent archaeological resource is located 0.17 miles west of
May 29, 2012

Re: The fate of Lehigh Lake

To: The members of the Criteria and Ranking Subcommittee Meeting:

In 1968 Sandy Young (then an engineer with Gee & Jensen) and I briefly explored Lehigh Lake (then called Still Hammock Lake) with scuba gear. On a ledge about 30 or 40 feet down we found a bowl carved of wood. Inspecting it out of water, it was a circular bowl about 10 inches in diameter and about 1 inch thick. I recall no grooving or other decoration. We knew nothing about the preservation of wet site artifacts and when we returned home some 3 or 4 hours later, the bowl had slumped to a shapeless fibrous mass.

Lehigh Lake is a cenote and was likely a fresh water source for Paleo and Early Archaic people as were Little Salt Spring and Warm Mineral Springs in Sarasota County. Both the Sarasota sites were surrounded by early Archaic burials which yielded skulls containing intact brains. Savante Paabo (who sequenced the genome of the Neanderthal) has found significant information about early Native Americans in the DNA of these incredibly preserved brains. I would join my plea to the plea of all those interested in the protection and future archaeological exploration of this window into Florida 8,000 to 12,000 years ago. In 1967 Deltona dredged and destroyed the world famous Cushing site on Marco Island—there were few laws protecting such sites then.

Please do not permit this site to become a business center or shopping plaza.

I can definitely confirm that early human occupation did take place there.

Lee County should purchase the cenote and some of the surrounding land. An archaeological survey will verify its importance to the human prehistory of Florida and, indeed, to all of North America.

Sincerely,

Robin C. Brown
Author, Florida's First People
May 29, 2012

Ms. Lynda Thompson  
Conservation 20/20 Program Coordinator  
P.O. Box 398 Fort Myers, FL 33902

Dear Ms. Thompson:

I write to express my support for the Conservation 20/20 purchase of the Leeland Spring property in Lehigh Acres. As an environmental archaeologist, I engage in research related to climate, sea-level, and ecological changes through time and what those changes meant for human populations. My work has focused on the Lee County region since 1985. I see Leeland Spring as having great potential for revealing a human-environmental past relevant to present-day times.

Two summers ago, I forwarded the information packet regarding Leeland Spring to a colleague here at UF, Dr. Mark Brenner who is a Professor of Geology and the Director of UF’s Land Use and Environmental Change Institute. My question to him was whether or not the bottom of Leeland Spring might contain sediments representing the entire Holocene epoch – sediments that might reveal a record of climate change over that period of time. He indicated that it looked like a good candidate and suggested that I contact a paleobotanist at the Illinois State Museum who works in Florida. I did and this began a series of e-mails continuing over several days in between a number of researchers, all who expressed interest in Lee County’s remarkable sinkhole lake and some of whom are working with Dr. John Gifford (University of Miami) at Little Salt Springs in Charlotte County. In addition to Dr. Brenner, they include:

**Dr. Eric Grimm of the Illinois State Museum:** Curator of Botany; Coordinator of Global American Pollen Database; President of American Quaternary Association; Dr. Grimm’s specialty is in paleobotany and he focuses on lake sediments.

**Dr. Lee Kump of the Pennsylvania State University (PSU):** Professor of Geosciences; Ph.D. is from the University of South Florida; Dr. Kump’s work includes geochemistry as it relates to climate change.

**Dr. Lee Newsom, also of PSU:** Associate Professor of Anthropology; paleoethnobotanist; McArthur Fellow; Dr. Newsom is a UF Ph.D. and continues to be involved with the research at Lee County’s Pineland Site Complex on Pine Island.

**Dr. Tim White, also of PSU:** Senior Research Associate with Earth and Environmental Systems Institute; his work includes paleoclimatology, hydrogeology, sea-level change.

**Dr. Russ Graham, also of PSU:** Director of Earth and Mineral Sciences Museum and Associate Professor of Department of Geosciences, vertebrate paleontologist.

I believe that all of these individuals agree that the Leeland Spring parcel warrants serious consideration for conservation through its purchase by Lee County’s 20/20 Conservation program.

Sincerely,

Karen J. Walker
Greetings again to all who are interested in the fate of Lehigh Lake,

In 1968 Sandy Young (then an engineer with Gee & Jensen) and I briefly explored Lehigh Lake (then called Still Hammock Lake) with scuba gear. On a ledge about 30 or 40 feet down we found a bowl carved of wood. Inspecting it out of water, it was a circular bowl about in diameter and about 1 inch thick. I recall no grooving or other decoration. We knew nothing about the preservation of wet site artifacts and when we returned home some 3 or 4 hours later, the bowl had slumped to a shapeless fibrous mass.

Lehigh Lake is a cenote and was likely a fresh water source for Paleo and Early Archaic people as were Little Salt Spring and Warm Mineral Springs in Sarasota County. And both these sites were surrounded by early Archaic burials which yielded skulls containing in tact brains. Savante Paabo (who sequenced the genome of the Neanderthal) has found significant information about early Native Americans in the DNA of these incredibly preserved brains. I would join my plea to the plea of all those interested in the protection and future archaeological exploration of this window into Florida 8,000 to 12,000 years ago. In 1967 Deltona dredged and destroyed the world famous Cushing site on Marco Island--there were few laws protecting such sites then. The are now. Please do not permit this site to become a business center or shopping plaza.

I can definitely confirm that early human occupation did take place there.

Lee County should purchase the cenote and some of the landing land. An archaeological survey will verify it's importance to the human prehistory of Florida and, indeed, to all of North America.

Robin C. Brown
author, Florida's First People
Lehigh's Conservation 20/20 land purchase step closer

Though the battle for Leeland Lake, also known as the Lehigh Spring, is far from over, supporters smell victory.

A criteria and ranking subcommittee with Conservation 20/20 voted unanimously last week to approve what they at first called a "small and isolated" 20-acre parcel located off Leeland Heights Boulevard. What makes the property stand out is the 209-foot lake surrounded by ancient oaks. Experts say the bottom of that body of water could contain archaeological secrets dating back thousands of years.

It's drawn curious eyes to its shores for a long time. In 1957, a brochure urging visitors to come to Lehigh Acres pointed out Still Hammock Lake (as it was known in the '50s) as a prime fishing and activity area with a pavilion nearby for games and grilling outdoors. And it was discovered recently that a man dove in the lake in the '60s and found a bowl in its depths that quickly decomposed as soon as it was removed from the water.

"This can become a heritage tourism focus, which plays a big role in the economy of our state," said Annette Snapp, director of the Southwest Region at the Florida Public Archaeology Network.

This is the second time the land has come before this group after two years, but the first time the entire committee voted in favor of seeing it progress in the process. Thursday, June 14, the land will be looked at by the Conservation 20/20 Land Acquisition and Stewardship Advisory Committee, which previously turned down the purchase. If it passes their inspection, the land will then be recommended to the Board of County Commissioners as part of a short list of acquisitions.

"I don't think we've had a property as unique as this," said committee member Christie Knight.

The community rallied behind their cause. A group of Lehigh residents sporting white shirts with the words "Lehigh Spring" drove the half hour to that first meeting in downtown Fort Myers. One by one over 40 minutes, archaeologists, scientists, architects, politicians and longtime locals spoke about why they care about the...
Lehigh Spring. To most of them, it's the same reason they care about the community of Lehigh Acres: They see the potential.

Commissioner Ray Judah called the Lehigh Spring a "looking glass into the past" that could give insight into how people, specifically the Calusa Indians, lived thousands of years ago.

Ken O'Leary, a Naples man who owns the land, said he remains "cautiously optimistic." This time around he lowered his asking price to around $2.95 million from more than $3 million.

"Hopefully with the support of the community the full committee will see the benefit," O'Leary said.

He's not expecting his asking price, but since the land has never made it far enough in the acquisition process to be appraised he hopes they'll get to find out how much it's deemed to be worth.

O'Leary was present at a Saturday morning land development code workshop, which is another manifestation of residents' strides to preserve the unique land with the lake. The spring lies in the middle of their neighborhood activity center, a node that will mix commercial and residential uses as part of a redevelopment plan for the area. The Lehigh Spring is key in this effort, which foresees the possibility of a museum or research opportunities as well as other events connected to the spring.
June 12, 2012

FROM:
Ms. Sasha Wohlpert,
Dr. James H. MacDonald, Jr.,
Ms. Sarah Davis,
Dr. Michael Savarese,
Dr. Annette Snapp.
& Dr. Ronald J. Echols

Florida Gulf Coast University
10501 FGCU Blvd South
Fort Myers, FL 33965

TO:
Conservation 20/20 Program Coordinator
Lee County Division of County Lands
P.O. Box 398, Fort Myers, FL 33902

SUBJECT:
Historic Leeland Lake

Dear Conservation Lands Acquisition and Stewardship Advisory Committee:

This letter is being written in support of the acquisition of the Leeland Lake property using Lee County Conservation 20/20 funds. As the only known sinkhole in Lee County, Leeland Lake is a site of environmental, historical, and geological significance with potential to provide a unique window into the geologic history of this region.

Florida's karst terrain results in distinctive topographic features and hydrologic conditions that, in southwest Florida, are often difficult to observe. This is because the geologic conditions for the formation of sinkholes are not favorable in Lee County. The Leeland Lake sinkhole, therefore, provides unique and rare educational and research opportunities to investigate karst features in Lee County. In addition, sinkholes of this nature often act as a trap for wildlife, and pollen that may accumulate with sediment deposited over the lifetime of the sinkhole. The anoxic bottom conditions and rapid sediment accumulation result in ideal preservation conditions, offering the possibility that prehistoric fossil remains and pollen record of past climate could exist within the bottom sediments. Pollen records of climate during the last ice age are known from north and central Florida, but none so far from southern Florida. It is a possibility that Leeland Lake contains this important climate record.
The purchase of this property would also align with the Conservation 20/20 goal of protecting and preserving water quality and supply. Leeland Lake provides a direct conduit for surface water run-off into the local groundwater aquifer systems (surficial aquifer and intermediate sandstone aquifer). The purchase of this property would allow for the maintenance of a buffer zone around the lake to reduce the potential for groundwater contamination. In addition, it would offer the possibility for renewed water quality monitoring efforts and research efforts that could help us better understand the hydrogeological dynamics of Lee County. This is important because there is a paucity of data reflecting how the alteration of surface hydrology, in concert with the increased withdrawal of ground water, over the last several decades have impacted the ability of surface contaminants to enter local aquifer systems.

Florida Gulf Coast University has embraced an environmental mission, supporting this mission each student is required to take the course University Colloquium: A Sustainable Future. This course gives students an opportunity to discover their own ecological perspective and make connections with the local Southwest Florida environment. The Leeland Lake site provides a great opportunity for field experiences for students to understand the environmental history of the area and the important ecological and geologic features so they can begin to make connections within in their own lives as they develop a sense of place. It would also serve as a great field site for further research for upper level undergraduates and graduate students wanting experience in ecological restoration, geology, wildlife biology and archeology.

Finally, Leeland Lake would serve as an historical monument to the lifestyles once lived in southwest Florida. Opportunities for resource-based recreation to Lee County residents, such as fishing, bird-watching, and hiking, could be revived on this property.

To summarize, Leeland Lake: 1) is a unique and rare geologic feature of Lee County being its only identified sinkhole; 2) could be utilized for education and research by schools and universities located within Lee County and beyond; 3) would align with the Conservation 20/20 goal of protecting and preserving Lee County’s water quality and supply; and 4) would increase recreation and informal educational opportunities within Lee County. We feel that these arguments provide excellent support for the acquisition of the Leeland Lake property using Lee County Conservation 20/20 funds.

On behalf of the above named,

Sincerely,

[Signature]

(239) 590-7150 • FAX: (239) 590-7200
10501 FGCU Boulevard South • Fort Myers, Florida 33965-6565
An Affirmative Action Equal Opportunity Employer • A member of the State University System of Florida
To: Lynda Thompson and CLASAC Staff  
Conservation 20/20 Land Acquisition and Stewardship Advisory Committee  
From Steven H. Koski, UM/RSMAS Research Associate  
RE: Support of 20/20 Acquisition of Leeland Lake

Dear Ms. Thompson, CLASAC staff, and friends:

As a University of Miami Research Associate, Resident Archaeological, and Site Manager of the 112-acre Little Salt Spring Archaeological and Ecological Preserve in Sarasota County, I express my strong support for the acquisition of Leeland Lake.

Leeland Lake is the only known geological feature of its kind in Lee County, a ceiling collapsed sinkhole more than 200-feet deep and thousands of years old; a “one of a kind” County natural resource with tremendous scientific value and potential and a property that could provide educational and passive recreational opportunities to the public. It is a resource that should be protected for future generations to study and learn from and the public to enjoy.

As outlined in the many letters of support and documents that you have reviewed, the numerous levels of significance of Leeland Lake involves the remaining surrounding upland ecology and the sinkhole’s geology, hydrology, paleo-ecology (study of past environments), paleontology, and archaeology—a veritable time capsule spanning thousands of years. Public ownership is in the best interest of the public and this may be the only “window of opportunity” for acquiring the significant resource.

Warm Mineral Springs was recently purchased in a collaborative effort by Sarasota County and the City of North Port for 5.5 million and continues to operate in its traditional historic use as a health spa. They have allowed the current managements to continue to operate and collect 100% of the revenue for 18 months to help offset the original 7.5 million dollar asking price. Little Salt Spring was donated to the University of Miami in 1982 and is operated as a research station and archaeological preserve. The University is on a capital campaign to raise funds for a research and education center on site to facilitate continued unprecedented archaeological research and provide educational opportunities on site for students and the public.

The destiny of this resource should be determined by conservation minded land managers, scientists, and the public, not commercial enterprise with interests only in economic development and potential exploitation that could adversely effect the integrity of its significance forever. Too much has been lost. Here lies a window of opportunity to not only protect an extraordinarily unique and significant natural resource, but likely a highly significant cultural resource as well for the benefit of science, education and public—a lot of legacy for such a “small and isolated” property.
Please take this and other documentation into consideration and retain the Leeland Lake property for purchase consideration in the Conservation Lands 20/20 Program. Failure to act on this opportunity would be a great loss to Lee County and the people of Florida.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincere regards,

Steven H. Koski
Research Associate/Site Manager
Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science
University of Miami
Little Salt Spring Research Facility
6863 W. Price Blvd.
North Port FL 34291
skoski@rsmas.miami.edu
941.416.1535
Dear Ms. Thompson and all concerned,

Please accept this email as a letter of STRONG support for acquisition of the Lehigh Spring. I believe the 20/20 Committee understands that there is real opportunity here for not only the potential of a historic tourism site in Lee County thru Lehigh Acres, but also the REAL and CURRENT issue regarding protecting what is likely a main ingredient for potable water in Lehigh Acres.

I will not be able to attend the meeting tonight as I am a Commissioner with the ECWCD and we have a budget meeting tonight. But I wanted to express my sincere and long-standing support for the Lehigh Spring acquisition.

Sincerely,

David Deetscreek

---

From: Davis, Sarah [mailto:sdavis@fgcu.edu]
Sent: Thursday, June 14, 2012 1:02 PM
To: Steven Koski; ithompson@leegov.com; akarim@leegov.com; colson@leegov.com; cconrad@leegov.com; cbrooks@leegov.com; janderson@leegov.com; jlowery@leegov.com; greenh@leegov.com; lgreeno@leegov.com; ljewell@leegov.com; jwalter@leegov.com; mfillmer@leegov.com; mhammond@leegov.com; bgayle@leegov.com; rrpenning@leegov.com; roger@leegov.com; sfurnari@leegov.com; cainlb@leegov.com
Cc: GSajigo@leegov.com; jamesink@inkwers.net; MBDetacher@comcast.net; raweszel@scf.org; toniferrell@mac.com; Kevinw@bsswarchitects.com; RubyDaniels@embarqmail.com; tmschober@earthlink.net; bilmarq@flmnh.ufl.edu; kwalker@flmnh.ufl.edu; kjw@leegov.com; DrRCB@aol.com; archlgcl@bellsouth.net; MNoble@leegov.com; KEbaugh@leegov.com; Dave Deetscreek; landex1@aol.com
Subject: RE: Leeland Lake support letter for CLASAC

Dear Ms Thompson and all concerned,
I also want to send out our letter of support for acquisition of the Leeland Lake site from some faculty in the Department of Marine and Ecological Sciences at Florida Gulf Coast University. I am not able to attend the meeting, but want to express our support for this important site.

Thank you.

Sarah W. Davis, M.S.
University Colloquium Coordinator & Instructor
Campus Naturalist
sdavis@fgcu.edu
Department of Marine and Ecological Sciences

Undergraduate Studies
Florida Gulf Coast University
Academic Building 5 Room 214 H
10501 FGCU Blvd, South
Fort Myers, FL 33965
(239) 590-7679
Fax: (239) 590-7378

Florida has a very broad public records law. As a result, any written communication created or received by Florida Gulf Coast University employees is subject to disclosure to the public and the media, upon request, unless otherwise exempt. Under Florida law, e-mail addresses are public records. If you do not want your email address released in response to a public records request, do not send electronic mail to this entity. Instead, contact this office by phone or in writing.

From: Steven Koski [mailto:skoski@rsmas.miami.edu]
Sent: Thursday, June 14, 2012 11:39 AM
To: Lthompson@leegov.com; datim@leegov.com; colson@leegov.com; cconrad@leegov.com; cbrooks@leegov.com; janderson@leegov.com; jlowery@leegov.com; greenh@leegov.com; lgreeno@leegov.com; ljewell@leegov.com; jwaller@leegov.com; millerem@leegov.com; mhammond@leegov.com; bgayle@leegov.com; rrepenning@leegov.com; roger@leegov.com; sfurnari@leegov.com; cainth@leegov.com
Cc: Gsajgo@leegov.com; jamesink@inkwers.net; MBetscher@comcast.net; rawessel@sccf.org; toniferrell@nac.com; Kevinw@bsswarchitects.com; RubyDaniels@embarqmail.com; trnschober@earthlink.net; bilmarq@flmnh.ufl.edu; kwalker@flmnh.ufl.edu; Snapp, Dr. Annette; Muller, Joanne; LWerst@leegov.com; DrRCB@aol.com; archlgc@bellsouth.net; MNoble@leegov.com; KEbaugh@leegov.com; DaveD@isdstaxes.com; landex1@aol.com; Davis, Sarah
Subject: Leeland Lake support letter for CLASAC

Dear Ms. Thompson, CLASAC Saff, and friends,

Please see the attached letter of support for the acquisition of Leeland Lake. My best to and all who attend the meeting today. I am unable to attend today as we are in a dive session at Little Salt Spring with UM and Penn State collecting algae samples for their geomicrobial research.

Regards,

Steve
Leeland Lake gets closer to purchase

June 13, 2012
By MEL TOADVINE (mtoadvine@breezenewspapers.com), Lehigh Acres Citizen

Considered to be one of Lehigh Acres' most important natural assets, the Leeland Lake off of Joel Blvd., next to the Lehigh Resort Club, jumped over its first hurdle to be conserved for posterity last week when the Conservation Lanes Acquisition and Stewardship Advisory Committee, otherwise known as CLASAC, gave its unanimous approval to recommend to the Lee County's Conservation 20/20 Program to purchase the 20-acre piece of property containing the lake.

Several people from Lehigh from different organizations filed the meeting room at the Community Development Public Works Center at 1500 Monroe St. in Fort Myers on June 5, many wearing Leeland Lake T-shirts. Almost all were wearing Lehigh Spring (the formal name for the deep lake/sink hole) T-shirts. The meeting was at 3 p.m. and members of the CLASAC gave Lehigh residents the top of the agenda for consideration of Nomination 471-2 as it is titled for consideration to the 20/20 conservation group.

First to speak was Ruth Ann Anglickis, one of the many participants who call themselves One Voice Lehigh.

"I remember the gem that Lehigh Lake was back in 1943, a half century ago when we in the community enjoyed recreation in and around the lake," Anglickis said. Back in the those years, the natural sink hole was referred to as Still Lake and it has had several names over the years.

Rumors about the body of water were that it was a bottomless lake and Anglickis said that the depth in the 40 was estimated to be 208 feet deep. It's located in a 20-acres tract known in Lehigh as Oak Hammock Park.

"The artifacts in Leeland Lake may date back to 100,000 to 14,000 BC, back when the area was covered by the ocean," Anglickis said.

"Lehigh is a community today of more than 85,000 people and there is a combined effort asking the county to save this lake for its historical value and potential tourist attraction," she said.

She told the group that several years ago, a boy in Lehigh with scuba gear dove down into the lake and came up with an old wooden bowl, probably dating back to the Calusa Indians, but when it was out of the water for several hours, it caved in, crumbling to just a mass," she said.
"Lehigh is often called 'way out here' but we are a growing community and we have a gem in our town and archaeologists have told us that it is of significant value," she said.

"There may be dinosaur artifacts down there and weed need to preserve it," she said.

She called it a great asset not only for Lehigh, but for Lee County and noted the area of Lehigh is as large as the area of Tampa.

"We are asking you to help us preserve it," she said.

Edd Weiner, who operates the Lehigh Acres Economic Board, was next to speak to the group and noted that the University of Florida has found artifacts on their own.

"The Leland Lake is an economic engine and will put the county and Lehigh forward. In the future; there could be a museum there or the public to come and see and understand the importance of the lake," Weiner said.

"With the acquisition of the lake by the county, we can see it as a boom to Lehigh Acres, hopefully that we can get funding for its purchase," Weiner said.

Jere Carrick, a member of the Chamber and owner of a golf course club, called Leland Lake "a diamond in the rough."

Damon Shelor, a member of several organizations that are now part of One Voice Lehigh, explained the water networks of Lehigh, noting that before it was developed, it was wetlands. Then, he said, the East county Water Control District, was formed by the state to control stormwater with canals and other means. He said the ECWCD supports the purchase by the 20/20 Commission.

He noted the work in Lehigh that it has taken to come up with a community plan.

"That lake is a significant green area we want to retain it. It is a small parcel with a great impact for the future."

David Deetscreek, a member of the ECWCD, said he had been in Lehigh for 45 years.

"Many didn't know what we had here but now all of Lehigh Acres knows and talks about it on the streets. It is a big thing in Lehigh and the community wants to see it saved for future archaeological study and recreation," he said.

Dr. Annette Snapp, director of the Florida Public Archaeology and the Dept. of Marine & Ecological Sciences in Fort Myers, told the group that studying Leeland Lake as an archaeologist is a rare opportunity,

"It has great archaeological potential. It is a fresh water sink hole and it helps to preserve materials from way back thousands of years.

"Not only is it an archaeologist gem but in Lee County it can draw people not only to the beaches but to Lehigh.

Others spoke in favor of recommending the purchase to the 20/20 Commission. One of them was Lee County Commissioners Ray Judah, who said he supported the people who want to preserve the lake.

"It can also be a place where we have future employment," he said.
"The people of Lehigh have worked diligently with their Lehigh Plan to make Lehigh a place for employment," he said.

"It can become a place where scientists can do research. It is a looking glass into our past," he said.

Tonda Soisson, another member of Lehigh One Voice, said by saving this lake it supports the betterment of Lehigh.

"We will work to help find the grants to purchase it. If you have not been to Lehigh to see this, I invited you to visit," she said.

The 90-minute session ended with few questions from the recommendation group. Chairman Cullum Hasty called for a vote and the group unanimously approved the Lehigh requests.

Later, Ruth Ann Anglickis, reminded the group that came to support the recommendation to should show up in numbers on June 14 at the same place for a meeting at 5 p.m. by the 20/20 conservation group, which makes the final decision.

"Wear your Lehigh Spring shirts. Get others to come; we have more Lehigh Spring shirts for them to wear. We need to show a great presence from Lehigh," she said.

The 20-acre site is owned by Ken O'Leary of Bonita. He was at the meeting but did not speak. In earlier reports he has asked for $2,950,000 or $147,500 per acre. If the 20/20 conservation group agrees to add it to a group of property that the county should purchase, there is no doubt that negotiations with the owner would take place.

Gloria M. Saigo, AICP, Principal Planner
Lee County Planning Division
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street: 1500 Monroe St. Fort Myers FL 33901 (2nd floor)
ph: 239 533 8311 fax 239 485 8319
e-mail saigogm@leegov.com

think green & please print this email only if necessary.
please note: florida has a very broad public records law. most written communications to or from county employees and officials regarding county business are public records available to the public and media upon request. your email communication may be subject to public disclosure. under florida law, email addresses are public records. if you do not want your email address released in response to a public records request, do not send electronic mail to this entity. instead, contact this office by phone or in writing.
Thompson, Lynda

From: Thompson, Lynda
Sent: Thursday, June 14, 2012 11:00 AM
To: 'Ken O'Leary'
Subject: RE: Lehigh Springs #471-2

Ken,

It is done. This amendment shows that you are negotiable on your asking price, but does not earn an initial review report for being a bargain sale. The reason is that the asking price must be low enough to demonstrate that it is reasonable below staff's expected market value range.

Regards,

**Lynda Thompson**
Conservation 20/20 Program Coordinator
Division of County Lands  Phone 533-8833
Website: [www.conservation2020.org](http://www.conservation2020.org)

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From: Ken O'Leary [mailto:ken@kenoleary.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 12, 2012 2:15 PM
To: Thompson, Lynda
Subject: Lehigh Springs #471-2

Lynda...please amend my Willing Seller Application (Nomination # 471-2), **Questionnaire and Supplemental Information**, 1. Bargain Sale from No to Yes. I will be able to answer the second part upon receipt of an offer from Lee County.

Thanks

**Kenneth O'Leary**
P.O. Box 2244
Bonita Springs, FL 34133
Office 239-992-6001
Fax  239-992-3294
ken@kenoleary.com
Sinkhole awaits secondary review

A more than 208-foot, 10,000-year-old lake in Lehigh Acres was compared to Babe Ruth, Elvis and, after 45 minutes of public comment, claimed the title as more popular than baseball.

"Babe Ruth was a fat kind of balding old man, before we knew what he could be," said Tonda Soisson-Lawson of Lehigh Acres. "Graceland gets five million visitors a year...and he (Elvis) has been dead a long time."

It was déjà vous all over again Thursday night as more than 20 people did their very best to persuade the full Conservation 20/20 committee to recommend the purchase of a 20-acre property off Joel Boulevard to the Board of County Commissioners. Conservation 20/20’s role is to acquire, preserve and restore lands of environmental significance.

For a second time in two years, the debate focused solely around Lehigh Spring, also known as Leeand Lake, a sinkhole on the property that experts described as a window into the distant past. Its depths could reveal information about climate change as well as archaeological treasures.

Apparently, their rhetoric had merit but was not convincing enough.

The committee did not turn the land down as it did the original application two years ago but it also did not push it forward.

Acquisition is now waiting on secondary review until certain questions board members expressed concern with are answered. The vote to hold it was almost unanimous with one individual, George Wheaton, dissenting. He felt the land is not an appropriate use of the finances.

"I’ve just listened to a whole lot of passionate people and agree with every one you said," Wheaton said. "I’d hate to see it turned into a commercial development, but I’m of the personal opinion that we’re not the program to fund it. Just because we have money doesn’t mean we should fund every land that comes along."

The archaeological value and uniqueness of the property also made other board members like Wheaton uncertain at first because they felt it didn’t fall under 20/20 guidelines for a passive property.
In layman's terms, the board explained it doesn't build research facilities. Residents raved about the possibility of a museum nearby similar to those at Little Salt Spring in North Port. A stream of scientists from the University of Miami, University of Florida, Florida Gulf Coast University and even the University of Pennsylvania threw their names in a list of parties interested in pursuing research on the property.

"It's not as good as I would hope but not as bad as it was the last time," said Ken O'Leary, the property owner, of the board's latest decision. "They're going to go at their own speed."

An acre of the property also has an easement with golf holes that the board felt should be cut out of the purchase. O'Leary said he'd be fine with that.

"I don't want the headlines to read, 'Conservation 20/20 purchasing golf courses,'" said board member Kim Fikoski.

Moods changed when Kathie Ebaugh, a senior planner with Lee County, clarified that there would be no buildings built on the property but rather on an adjacent lot.

The land with the lake would remain untouched, fitting Conservation 20/20’s criteria. She also noted that Lehigh Spring plays a key role in the community redevelopment process that has been ongoing in Lehigh for almost two years. The site would serve as a unifying cultural point in the land development code’s neighborhood node and act as a cultural center and unifying force for changes residents hope to see soon in their community.

The full committee will have staff and board members revisit the property as well as look into issues of water quality, cost, potential financial partners and what the final land purchase would look like.

"Maybe this property is so special it's worth a trip into the wilderness to make it happen," said board member Bill Spikowski. "Adjusting criteria instead of walking away."

"This is an opportunity on my doorstep that will benefit Lehigh Acres and this county," said Mohamed Yasin of Lehigh Acres. "It's a no-brainer."
Lee County staff met with the Lehigh community Saturday morning at Veteran’s Park. On the agenda were the activity centers, and Leeland Lake. A few notes.

A very lively meeting, some 50 people attended. Commissioner Frank Mann, Ray Judah and State Rep. Matt Caldwell were special guests and participants.

We started at 9:30 – Shellie Johnson and I updated the Lehigh community on the latest drafts of the downtown & neighborhood center (the one on Homestead and the one on Joel).

Those two plans are going through staff review and are getting ready for the approval process (advisory committees, LPA, and 2 BCC meetings). I explained the approval process.

The crowd (many new faces) asked a lot of questions, some skeptical of our plans, and annoyed at the Dollar Stores in Lehigh. Matt Noble did a fine job defending our work so far. Very tough questions, which some of our regular participants addressed with help from Commissioner Mann and Rep. Caldwell.

The next part was a more in-depth discussion on Leeland Sink (Matt and Gloria Saigo). The lake is part of the Neighborhood Activity Center (and is preserved). The property has CPD zoning and the owner has been attempting (without success) having the property purchased under the Conservation 20/20 program. Another attempt could be pending, according to the property owner.

Three local archeologists went into some depth (208 feet) of what a potential natural resource this could be. First up was Dr. Annette Snapp of FGCU. The archeologists described Leeland Lake as pretty darned special, the only one of its kind in Lee County. The nearest ones like it are in North Port (Warm Mineral Springs and Little Salt Springs). It is a window into our drinking water supply, and may have preserved bones, tools, and other artifacts 10,000 years old or more. It may also have insight on climate change in the past and present.

Dr. Karen Walker from U of F spoke – comparing Leeland Sink to the 2 North Port sinkholes – Warm Mineral Springs a tourist destination and Little Salt Springs more purely a preserve and research facility. Most impressive was Dr. Steve Koski of U of M who has a home and his research on Little Salt Springs. He showed an impressive array of his findings from dirt samples, arrowheads, animal and human bones, tools, and other artifacts pre-dating Moses. Very interesting stuff. He encouraged the preservation of Leeland Lake saying there is a strong possibility of finding even better scientific data and artifacts.

Many in the crowd wanted to take action to save Leeland Sink. Commissioner Judah encouraged them to support the 20/20 program and to support this application when it goes through the process – possibly this year. Below are some articles about the sink and Saturday’s meeting. We broke up shortly after noon.

We meet with Lehigh again Saturday May 12 – back in the library.

Tony Palermo, Senior Planner, AICP
Lee County Community Development
Meetings postponed on Lehigh Spring deal

Two meetings to once again discuss the acquisition of the Lehigh Spring by the Conservation 20/20 program have been postponed until September at property owner Ken O'Leary's behest.

In an email, O'Leary asked for more time to resolve some of the issues brought up at the June meeting before the Conservation Lands Acquisition and Stewardship Advisory.

The 20-acre property has been called an archaeological gem by experts in the field due to its lake that is estimated to be 208 feet deep.

What it contains is what many scientists want to know because of its similarities to other sinkholes in the state that have revealed century-old artifacts in their depths. It's also a valuable resource to local potable water in the area.

"We're in the review portion," said Matt Noble, principal planner with the county. "It goes back to both committees again. Then, they'll make a final recommendation."

At the end of June, members of Conservation's full committee came out to walk the land and take a look at the property. Lynda Thompson, conservation 20/20 program coordinator, later sent O'Leary an email requesting a map of the parcel.

"A statement that the sale of the property will be contingent upon the easement being vacated prior to closing or a revision of the boundary of the nomination to exclude the entire easement along with revised acreage information," Thompson wrote.

As part of the deal, staff and the board suggested to delineate an easement that is part of the Lehigh Resort Club Golf Course next to the lake and old Oak Hammock. An easement is something that gives someone else a right to do something else on a property.

O'Leary asked for extra time to finalize negotiations with the beneficiary of the easement, which is the board of directors for Lehigh Resort Club Condominium Association. O'Leary said he felt a recent meeting was positive.

By September's meeting, Conservation's
full committee could recommend whether the nomination should be pursued. The Board of County Commissioners makes the final decision on the land and if they approve it, the property will finally be appraised to negotiate and make an offer on the land.

Residents are backing the Lehigh Spring’s progress because they see it as a crucial part of the community redevelopment process. It’s at the center of Lehigh’s neighborhood activity center and would be an epicenter for community growth.

If you go
WHAT: Criteria & Ranking Sub-Committee
WHEN: Sept. 4 at 3 p.m.
WHAT: Conservation Lands Acquisition and Stewardship Advisory Committee
WHEN: Sept. 13 at 5:30 p.m.
WHERE: Community Development Public Works Center, 1500 Monroe St., First Floor Meeting Room
INFO: For more information, call Lynda Thompson at 533-8833 or email her at thompson@leegov.com.

1 SHOCKING Tip To Kill Belly Fat
Celebrity Doctor Reveals 1 Simple Trick To Lose 27lbs This Summer
Read More...

Lose Weight For Summer!
Amazing Exotic Fruit Helps You Lose Weight!
ConsumerHealthWatch.org

New Policy in Florida
Drivers with no DUI's can get auto insurance for only $9/Mk.
www.insurance-compare-save.com
Dear Ms Thompson, I hope it is not too late to add my comments regarding how important I think the purchase of these 20 acres will be to Lehigh Acres and Lee County. As you know, this geological feature is not a common sinkhole. To see local headlines stating it as such brings to mind photos of holes in streets with the rear end of a car sticking out of it. I purchased a condo in Fairways I where I have resided full time since 2008. I thought Lehigh Spring was nothing more than a drainage pond for the golf course and resort. Three days ago I find out it’s a little 10,000+ year old irreplaceable treasure! If promoted properly, this area could also be a little gold mine for local businesses. People who come to ecological/geological sites spend money to have meals in the area, shop a bit, buy gas. They would take the time to drive over from the beaches to see it. And the hammock is beautiful. A few paths to get to the spring will not break the bank. And think of the interest generated if we have just a few artifacts found and put on display. Does anyone really think Lehigh needs another half rented strip mall? I would like to become a part of the group who supports the efforts to save this special little piece of ancient Florida.
Please buy it !!!!!!!!

Sincerely, Sandy Kawa
343 Joel Blvd, Lehigh Acres 33936
239 368-5360

A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in. — Greek proverb.
July 17, 2012

Lynda Thompson, AICP
Conservation 20/20 Program Coordinator
Lee County Division of County Lands
P.O. Box 398
Fort Myers, FL 33902

RE: Conservation 20/20 Nomination 471-2 – Lehigh Spring

Dear Ms. Thompson:

Lehigh Spring is an unusual geological feature in Lee County. Its remarkable resemblance to Little Salt Spring and Warm Mineral Springs which have outstanding early archaeological deposits going back thousands of years suggests a potentially equally outstanding archaeological site in Lehigh Spring.

The Florida Public Archaeology Network is very interested in the possible acquisition of Lehigh Spring by the County’s Conservation 20/20 Program. Removing this parcel from the threat of development is important for the protection of archaeological resources that are believed to be present (per Dr. Robin Brown’s discovery of a wooden bowl on an underwater ledge of the sinkhole in the 1960s) as well as the eco-archaeological resources which are also likely present in the sediments of this feature.

The goals of the Florida Public Archaeology Network (FPAN) include assisting local governments in their efforts to preserve and protect regional archaeological resources by assisting with preservation plans and advising local governments on the best management practices for archaeological sites. We are definitely interested in providing as much support as we can toward the preservation of archaeological resources at this site as well as the interpretation to the public of any archaeological materials recovered from Lehigh Spring during future professional archaeological work.

I look forward to attending future Conservation 20/20 meetings concerning this nomination and hope that the committees involved give it their every consideration. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 239-590-1330 or asnapp@fgcu.edu.

Respectfully,

Annette L. Snapp, Ph.D.
WHAT IS PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY?
Public archaeology is a part of a larger heritage management movement dedicated to increasing public awareness and expanding educational opportunities about archaeology. The foremost goal of public archaeology is to inform the interested public about archaeology and to preserve the fragile and irreplaceable remains of our past. Archaeological sites in Florida are being destroyed at an ever-increasing rate by both human actions and natural processes. Increased citizen awareness helps to protect important archaeological sites through public stewardship and voluntary preservation opportunities.

WHY IS ARCHAEOLOGY IMPORTANT?
Archaeology is the only "time machine" we have. Through the scientific study of archaeological remains, we can learn about people who came before us. Archaeology tells us about those who left no written records and serves as a complement to historical documents that may be incomplete or inaccurate. Archaeological resources are non-renewable. Once a site is damaged or destroyed any information the site held is gone forever, and an inreplaceable opportunity to learn about our heritage is lost.

WHAT IS FPAN?
The Florida Public Archaeology Network (FPAN) is a new direction for protection and preservation of cultural resources and for involving the public in the study of our past. Regional centers around Florida serve as clearinghouses for information, as places for learning, training and study, and as headquarters for public participation in archaeology and historic preservation.

WHAT CAN FPAN DO FOR YOU?
FPAN offers the following services for the public and those working for the public trust. Please contact your Regional Office—the public archaeologist is there to help:

- Citizens and Visitors: identify training opportunities in archaeological methods, explore area archaeological sites, participate in research projects, visit museums and heritage attractions, attend lectures and presentations, learn about their heritage.
- Schools and Educational Centers: develop lesson plans and demonstrations, give talks and tours, host exhibits, technology exhibits and demonstrations, judge science fairs and competitions, hold educational workshops and seminars for teachers.
- Local Governments: develop effective ordinances for cultural and historical resource protection, identify archaeological resources in their jurisdiction, get assistance with archaeological emergencies, attract visitors with heritage tourism attractions, maintain their community's identity through preservation efforts.
- Civic: Organizations, Societies and Clubs become involved in area heritage celebrations, schedule speakers for meetings and events, engage in group volunteer activities, contribute to preservation efforts in their community.
WORKING to stem the rapid deterioration of the state's buried and submerged past and to expand public interest in archaeology.

HISTORY
The Florida Public Archaeology Network (FPAN) is a statewide program administered by the University of West Florida in cooperation with the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources. FPAN was created during the 2004 legislative session as part of the Florida Historical Resources Act.

Inspired by successful public archaeology programs in Arkansas and Louisiana, FPAN is uniquely structured to communicate the importance of and facts about Florida archaeology to the resident and visiting public and to those who hold the public's trust.

OPERATION
The network is composed of the coordinating center in Pensacola and regional centers around the state. Each regional center is staffed by a Director/Public Archaeologist, Outreach Coordinator, and additional staff who are committed to assisting Florida's citizens and visitors to discover, understand, and protect archaeological resources.

Each center offers specific programs to promote the region's archaeology and history, to encourage heritage tourism, and to advance public appreciation of archaeological resources around the state.

MISSION AND GOALS
Conduct Public Outreach—
- Promoting heritage tourism; developing volunteer opportunities; forming partnerships with schools, educational centers, and other resource management and preservation agencies; disseminating archaeological information to the public.

Provide Assistance to Local Governments—
- Supporting local governments in their efforts to preserve and protect regional archaeological resources; assisting with local archaeological ordinances and preservation plans; providing professional archaeological assistance with local archaeological emergencies; advising local governments on the best management practices for archaeological sites.

Support the Florida Division of Historical Resources—
- Promoting division programs; providing professional assistance with regional training opportunities; referring local inquiries to the appropriate division office; distributing literature; assisting with and promoting the identification and nomination of local archaeological sites to the National Register of Historic Places.

FPAN is dedicated to finding new ways of bringing the past and present together in an educational and interesting way. You can become involved. Help us educate others about the importance of preserving the past through archaeology. Attend tours, attractions and training workshops, and volunteer on archaeology projects.

FPAN is committed to preserving Florida’s fragile and endangered archaeological sites on land and underwater. Regional centers do not perform contract or compliance-related projects, but are happy to assist local governments, community organizations, and private developers in the identification and protection of cultural resources and in navigating the compliance process.

REGIONS OF THE FLORIDA PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY NETWORK:

CONTACT THE FPAN REGIONAL OFFICE NEAREST YOU FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO GET INVOLVED!

FLORIDA PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY NETWORK
WWW.FPAN.ORG/FOCO
Good Morning Gentleman,

Attached to this e-mail is a PDF of a compilation of images from Leeland Lake in Lehigh Acres. I’m sure both of you are aware that this is an ancient sinkhole. Recently one of my clients that is adjacent to this sink came across an old hand-drawn sounding survey that was performed on this lake in 1956. I sent this up to Tampa to my GIS and CAD specialist and the attached file is what they came up with based on the elevations that were depicted on the 53-year-old sounding survey. The max depth that is depicted in these images is 114 feet to the deepest point.

I’m having a copy of the PDF printed sent to me this week.

Myself and one of my colleagues that works for FDEP are interested in these ancient sinks that seem to be out of place here in SW Florida. We are heading down to Deep Lake, Florida the middle of October to sound and image this ancient sink.

Now with a sink that deep in Lehigh that brings a lot of questions to the table.

I would like to discuss this with you and get your take on this anomaly.

I’m in the process of obtaining equipment that will allow me to sound this sink with the latest technology and compare the images. If this sink is still that deep then it crosses multiple production zones known in this area. We are also going to overlay this with all of the known well databases available including everything we have in-house here. I’ve already started looking at the LCNR wells that are in the sections surrounding this site. There are many domestic residential wells all around this area.

A few quick ideas and questions that I have concerning this sinkhole:

Approximately 400 feet across and 114 feet deep
Terminal lake, nothing flows out to a creek or canal
Receives a lot of surface water inflow from parking lots, buildings and the adjacent golf course
How does this affect local and regional GW flow?
Which direction is local GW flow?
What are the concerns of the potable wells that tap into the production zones that this crosses?
Are there larger FWS well fields close enough to this location that it would be of concern?
Is there a possibility that this sinkhole could increase in size?
Is the geology around this sink stable?
Flow Zones?

So I hope I’ve peaked your interest. I have all ready completed some research and I have not found

4/23/2010
anything specific that mentions anything relevant about this particular sinkhole. I have looked at many research papers that have been completed in regards to sinkhole research of the near-shore type but nothing has been completed in regards to the terrestrial sinkholes such as this one and Deep Lake. My contacts at FGUs in Tallahassee have assisted in looking thru their library of known papers and didn't come up with anything for Leeland Lake or for Deep Lake in the Everglades.

Talk to you soon and thanks for your time.

Anthony Morris
ENTRIX
Staff Hydrogeologist
1388 Colonial Boulevard, Fort Myers, FL 33907
DIRECT: 239.489.7016 • MAIN: 239.574.1919 • CELL: 239.464.3342 • FAX: 239.674.6109
EMAIL: amorris@entrix.com • WEBSITE: www.entrix.com

ENTRIX, Inc., is a professional environmental and natural resource management consulting company specializing in water resources management, environmental and natural resource facility management (ENRFM), natural resources management and NEPA/CEQA compliance and permitting.

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4/23/2010
Board of County Commissioners
Lee County Government
2115 Second Street
P. O. Myers, Florida

29 September 2010

RE: Leeland Lake

Dear Commissioner Hall and Board of County Commissioners:

I, and the Board of Directors of the Warm Mineral Springs/Little Salt Spring Archaeological Society respectfully requests the Board of County Commissioners retain Leeland Lake for potential purchase through the Conservation Lands 20/20 Program. We were disappointed to hear that despite widespread scientific and community support concerning environmental and cultural significance, the Conservation Lands Acquisition and Stewardship Advisory Committee (CLASAC) voted to remove the property from further consideration at the July 8 public meeting due to its small size and isolation from other preserves. While this assessment may be appropriate for some properties under CLASAC consideration, in this case, we believe the level of significance of this property far outweighs the determination for its removal.

During a review of the Summary Report Historic Leeland Lake, Lee County Florida (Davidson Engineering, Inc.) and a small sample of the well written and articulate support letters from the scientific community and general public, numerous levels of significance of the property were outlined. As an underwater archaeologist and site manager working at similar sites, Little Salt Spring in Sarasota County, I can attest to the potential significance of Leeland Lake.

Leeland Lake is the only known geological feature of its kind in Lee County, a ceiling collapsed sinkhole more than 200 feet deep and thousands of years old; a “one of a kind” County natural resource with tremendous scientific potential and a property that could provide educational and passive recreational opportunities to the public. It is a resource that should be protected for future generations to study and the public to enjoy and learn from.

As outlined in the letters and documents that you have reviewed, the numerous levels of significance of Leeland Lake involves the remaining surrounding upland ecology and the sinkhole’s geology, hydrology, paleo-ecology (study of past environments), paleontology, and archeology—a veritable time capsule spanning
hundreds of years.

With the exception of the 19 acre Leeland Lake parcel, the surrounding landscape has been severely compromised by commercial and residential development, which means only a fraction of the original natural ecosystem remains within the lake's parcel. The geology of the sinkhole took hundreds of thousands of years to form, the cavity to demise, and the ceiling to collapse. The sediments that have accumulated in the 100-foot sloping basin and 112 to 208-foot bottom represent environmental conditions dating to its formation—a laboratory of paleo-environmental history. While the age of the opening is unknown, a recent evaluation by CHD of Advance Diver magazine Curt Blaine, who explored the sink in April 2010, based on bottom configuration, suggested it may be one of the "oldest sinkholes known." Based on studies at other sinkholes in Florida, such as Warm Mineral Springs and Little Salt Spring in Sarasota County, Leeland Lake has tremendous potential for paleontological and archaeological deposits dating to the late Pleistocene/early-to-mid Holocene. When Florida's first inhabitants arrived, 12,000 to 14,000 years ago, Florida was an arid landscape, void of many of the ponds, lakes and rivers present today. With water table more than 100-feet below its present level, sites such as Leeland Lake served as oases, known landmarks for the procurement of water and local plants and animals that were depended on such sites for their survival.

The destiny of this resource should be determined by conservation-minded land managers, scientists, and the public, not commercial enterprise with interests only in economic development and potential exploitation that could adversely effect the integrity of its significance forever. Too much has been lost. Here lies a window of opportunity to not only protect an extraordinarily unique and significant natural resource, but likely a highly significant cultural resource as well for the benefit of science, education and public—a lot of legacy for such a "small and isolated" property.

Please take this and other documentation into consideration and retain the Leeland Lake property for purchase consideration in the Conservation Lands 2020 Program. Failure to act on this opportunity would be a great loss to Lee County and the people of Florida.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely regards,

Steven H. Kotski, Archaeologist/Had Member
Warm Mineral Springs/Little Salt Spring Archaeological Society
P.O. Box 7797
North Port, FL 34291

Research Associate/Site Manager
Romeroid School of Marine and Atmospheric Science
University of Miami
Little Salt Spring Archaeological and Ecological Preserve
6833 W. Price Blvd, North Port, Florida 34291
September 27, 2010

Lee County Board of County Commissioners
P.O. Box 398
Fort Myers, FL 33902-0398

RE: Retention of Leeland Lake Parcel to Conservation 20/20 Program

Dear Lee County Commissioners:

The Southwest Florida Archaeological Society urges you to retain the Leeland Lake parcel in Lee County’s Conservation 20/20 Program. This rare and unique location contains the only known natural sinkhole in Lee County and greatly resembles two highly significant nearby archaeological sites.

While no formal archaeological investigation at Leeland Lake has yet occurred, the similarities it possesses to Little Salt Spring and Warm Mineral Springs suggest a high probability that it too contains significant early prehistoric archaeological deposits. Therefore, not only is the geological formation of a natural sinkhole rare in Lee County, but this landscape feature may also contain evidence of the earliest Americans which is also rare. As a result, this site may be of national significance.

Interest in preserving this landscape feature has been presented by several preeminent scholars, including Dr. John Gifford with the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science at the University of Miami who has been studying Little Salt Spring, a nearby sinkhole site in Charlotte County and Dr. William Marquardt of the University of Florida’s Florida Museum of Natural History who has been working at the Pineland Site on
Pine Island through the Randell Research Center. Both of these researchers have urged protection of the Leeland Lake Parcel, believing that it will provide details to support their work and understanding of the archaeology of Florida. We ask that you weigh their opinions carefully.

In addition to the potential archaeological component of the site, this sinkhole feature is also likely to reveal information about past environments. This scientific data is valuable in understanding the ways in which this area has evolved through time as well as the types of landscapes that early Floridians faced as they utilized the area. This information would be valuable to several disciplines as scientists seek to understand past climates, environments, shorelines, etc.

And finally, as a sinkhole, this water feature is directly linked to the aquifer. Therefore, local water quality is also at risk. By protecting this feature, the county can also protect the drinking water in the area.

While there are concerns regarding the isolated and small nature of this parcel, we believe that the potential significance of the site (archaeological, geological, environmental history, and water quality) is such that solutions can be developed without compromising the Conservation 20/20 Program or county resources. Because this feature is so unique, many organizations are interested in the educational and research potential of this site while others are concerned about the water quality that might be negatively impacted by development of the site.

Therefore, the Southwest Florida Archaeological Society encourages the Lee County Board of County Commissioners to retain the Leeland Lake Property to the Conservation 20/20 Program for consideration and potential purchase. We ask that you act now to help protect this rare and unique feature.

Respectfully,

[Signature]

Annette L. Snapp, Ph.D., RPA
President, Southwest Florida Archaeological Society
Leeland Lake support letter

From: Toni Ferrell [toniferrell@mac.com]
Sent: Wednesday, September 22, 2010 6:50 PM
To: Dist1, Manning; Dist2, Bigelow; Dist3, Judah; Dist4, Hall; Dist5, Mann
Cc: Thompson, Lynda
Subject: Leeland Lake support letter

Attachments: Ferrell_BoCC letter re Leeland Lake.pdf; ATT00001..txt; Lee Weist and Tony Pellicer.pdf; ATT00002..txt

Greetings,

Please see my letter in support of the purchase of Leeland Lake through Conservation 20/20. I write this letter as a private citizen, and not representing any private or public agency or group.

This email contains 2 attachments, including my letter and a referenced Memorandum produced by Lee County Division of Natural Resources.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Toni Ferrell, LEED AP
PO Box 607
Ft Myers FL 33902

toniferrell@mac.com
22 September 2010

Board of County Commissioners
Lee County Government
2115 Second Street
Fort Myers FL 33901

Re: Retention of Leeland Lake for purchase through Conservation 20/20

Dear Commissioner Hall and the Board of County Commissioners:

The unique archaeological aspects of Leeland Lake have been well-documented by various agencies and scientists; I am confident that information has been presented to you specifically focusing on the value of this historic site for our cultural heritage.

Yet there are other important aspects of Leeland Lake that make it worthy of conservation. A recent presentation about water quality issues in Lehigh Acres included a series of slides that left a room full of citizens gasping with disgust. Sadly, we often take for granted our sources for clean water. The attached Memorandum from Lee County Natural Resources Division provides scientific background on the sink hole as it relates to the potable aquifer system for much of Lehigh Acres and the Density Reduction Groundwater Resource area. In addition to being a distinctly unique natural feature within South Florida -- of interest to scientists and archaeologists -- Leeland Lake should be recognized for it’s importance to all Lee County citizens as an open window to our drinking water supply. There are much broader implications in the retention -- or deletion -- of Leeland Lake as a candidate for purchase through Conservation 20/20.

While I serve as a member of the Lee County Historic Preservation Board, I write this letter strictly as a concerned citizen and resident of unincorporated Lee County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Toni Ferrell
PO Box 607, Fcrt Myers FL 33902
via email: toniferrell@mac.com

attachment: Memorandum 6/30/2010 - Nomination 471 - Leeland Lake sink hole, 5 pgs

cc: Lee County Board of County Commissioners
Lynda Thompson, Conservation 20/20 Coordinator
3 September 2010

Board of County Commissioners
Lee County Government
2115 Second Street
Fort Myers, FL 33901

Re: Retention of Leeland Lake for purchase through the Conservation Lands 20/20 Program

Dear Commissioner Hall and the Board of County Commissioners:

The Lee County Historic Preservation Board respectfully requests the Board of County Commissioners retain Leeland Lake for secondary review and potential purchase in the Conservation Lands Program. Leeland Lake is an approximately 19-acre site with a sinkhole located on Joel Boulevard in Lehigh Acres.

Assessment by archaeological and ecological experts suggests this sinkhole has tremendous potential for understanding the cultural and environmental history of Lee County. Despite this significance, on July 8th the Conservation Lands Acquisition and Stewardship Advisory Committee (CLASAC) voted to remove Leeland Lake from further consideration due to its isolation from other preserves and small size.

Leeland Lake is the only geological feature of its kind on the landscape of Lee County. It fits the Conservation 20/20 objectives of preserving rare and unique upland habitat, protecting water quality, and providing natural resource-based recreation and education. Leeland Lake is also a potentially significant archaeological resource and offers the rare opportunity for evaluating south Florida’s environment through deep time. As such, the scientific value of this property is unprecedented.

According to Dr. John Gifford, Marine Archaeologist with the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science at University of Miami, this sinkhole has the potential to contain undisturbed deposits dating back to the last Ice Age and may contain archaeological deposits down to 100 feet below the surface. Over the past 12,000 to 14,000 years of human presence in Florida, the environment and landscape has changed dramatically. When people first moved to this peninsula, Lake Okeechobee had not yet formed and Lee County was located in the interior with the coastline 80 to 100 miles west of its present location. Water holes such as Leeland Lake would have been key resources
for animals and people. For this reason, significant archaeological sites such as Little Salt Spring and Warm Mineral Springs in southern Sarasota County have yielded evidence of early human occupation of Florida dating to its earliest occupation.

The research potential of Leeland Lake crosses disciplinary lines, as evidenced by the variety of researchers and agencies that supported the nomination of this property before the CLASAC. Letters of support were presented to the CLASAC from representatives from Florida Gulf Coast University, Florida Museum of Natural History, Florida Public Archaeology Network, Pennsylvania State Museum, Seminole Tribe of Florida, Southeastern Archaeological Research, Southwest Florida Archaeological Society, and University of Miami and numerous other agencies spoke on behalf of acquisition at the CLASAC hearings. While the Historic Preservation Board does not have the expertise to speak to the ecological and water quality issues represented by this parcel, we are quite impressed by the uniqueness of this property in these regards as well.

While concern for the isolation of Leeland Lake from other Conservation 20/20 acquisitions adds challenges, the breadth of interest in this parcel presents opportunities for collaborative analysis and inter-agency partnerships to assist Lee County in developing appropriate management strategies for such an exceptional property. It cannot be overstated that conservation land located within and accessible to an urban community continually serves to reinforce a stewardship ethic and presents visible reminders of the importance of preservation and land conservation.

The Lee County Historic Preservation Board strongly recommends the Board of County Commissioners retain this property for selection consideration in the Conservation Lands 20/20 Program. Based on comments at the CLASAC hearings, the landowner has a primary interest in selling this property. Continuing to work towards public ownership is critical.

Theresa Schober,
Vice Chair, Historic Preservation Board

Copy: Lee County Historic Preservation Board
September 1, 2010

Board of County Commissioners
Lee County Government
2115 Second Street
Fort Myers, FL 33901

Re: Retention of Leeland Lake for purchase through the Conservation Lands Program

Dear Commissioner Tammy Hall, Chair and the Board of County Commissioners:

I am writing on behalf of the Florida Anthropological Society to support the purchase of the 19-acre Leeland Lake property by the County’s Conservation Lands Program. Leeland Lake is a funnel-shaped sinkhole that is over 200 feet deep and is the only known sinkhole lake in Lee County. The sinkhole is of archaeological interest because it is similar to two other famous sinkholes - Little Salt Spring and Warm Mineral Spring in Sarasota County - both of which contain archaeological and paleontological remains, including human skeletal material. Radiocarbon dates for a wooden stake and a tortoise shell at Little Salt Spring are 12,030 and 13,450 years old, respectively, and similarly ancient dates have been obtained from Warm Mineral Spring. A recent reconnaissance investigation of Leeland Lake found that although a substantial amount of sediment is present at the base of the sinkhole and along its sides, one bone fragment was recovered verifying the potential for preserved faunal and/or human remains in the lake.

Because these sinkhole lakes tend to be anaerobic (oxygen depleted) at lower depths, normally perishable items such as wood, bone, and plant material are often preserved making these sinkhole lakes excellent sources of archaeological, paleontological, and environmental data. Research at Little Salt Spring has provided important information on prehistoric climate, environment, and human occupation during the late Pleistocene and early Holocene eras. Leeland Lake appears to have similar potential. We strongly encourage its purchase by Lee County so that it can be preserved for future enjoyment by the residents of the county and as a source of potential scientific research.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Austin, Ph.D.
President
July 6th, 2010

Lynda Thompson and CLASAC
Division of County Lands
1610 Monroe Street, 4th Floor
Fort Myers, FL 33902

RE: Lee County Conservation 2020, Leeland Lake Nomination #471

Dear Ms. Thompson and CLASAC Members:

The Conservancy of Southwest Florida, representing our over 6,000 members, would like to offer the following letter of support for the acquisition of the Leeland Lake parcel, nomination #471, located in Lehigh Acres, Florida. Major aspects of the Conservancy's mission are environmental education, research, and preservation of Southwest Florida's unique habitats. The Leeland Lake parcel provides an excellent opportunity to fulfill these goals, while supporting the objectives and intentions of the Conservation 2020 Program.

Environmental education plays a vital role in protecting the natural environments of Southwest Florida. Until citizens are able to experience hands-on outdoor activities and learn about human interactions with our environment, there cannot be a true understanding of the importance of preservation of our unique surroundings. This sentiment is echoed in 2020's goals and objectives to "provide resource-based education," and what better way to meet that goal with the only known sinkhole in Lee County and possibly the oldest sinkhole in Florida? With open spaces, the impressive sinkhole, as well as paths of mature cypress trees, the Leeland Lake parcel provides a unique destination for both recreation and environmental education. The Conservancy regularly conducts nature excursions for our members and citizens of Lee County, including paleontological and archaeological outings, and this site would be an excellent example of such a rare and unique habitat that very few Southwest Floridians can enjoy. Nature walks, interpretational signs, and other educational outings are only a few possibilities to expand Floridians' knowledge of this distinctive environment.

Conservancy scientists are also very excited about the potential biological communities this unique geological feature supports. Because of the rarity of this type of ecosystem in Southwest Florida and the exclusive properties it has, the research possibilities of this site are vast. With the site in Lee County ownership, the Conservancy, along with numerous local, state, federal, and possibly worldwide organizations, will have the opportunity to learn more about the paleontological, archaeological, biological, and ecological components of this system. There is a large area of "unknowns" regarding unique fossil formations and Lee County now has the opportunity to become a part of the investigation.

Moreover, this site provides an opportunity to protect and preserve water quality of the area. Except where contaminated water is injected directly onto an aquifer, essentially all groundwater pollutants enter the aquifer through recharge water from the land surface. Sinkholes are a special case as they can provide a direct connection to the aquifer and allow contaminants in surface runoff to move straight to the groundwater. Therefore, protection of the sinkhole would be necessary to preserve the water quality of the aquifer.

Lastly, it is important to recognize the potential partnerships and grants available with this site. It is possible that the county could secure funds from the Florida Communities Trust (FCT) fund based on multiple project requirements of the FCT. F.S. 380.580 directs FCT to "cooperate with local governments...in ensuring the reservation of lands for parks, recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, historical preservation, or scientific study." Leeland Lake is likely one of the most historically significant areas within Lee County and would also meet requirements for scientific study and the preservation of fish and wildlife habitat.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this nomination for the 2020 Program and to provide our support for its acquisition. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions at (239) 464-1234 or via email at las@conservancy.org.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Jessie Staples
Natural Resources Specialist
July 5, 2010

Ms. Lynda Thompson
Conservation 20/20 Program Coordinator
P.O. Box 398 Fort Myers, FL 33902

Dear Ms. Thompson:

I write to express my support for the Conservation 20/20 purchase of the Leeland Lake property in Lehigh Acres. As an environmental archaeologist, I engage in research related to climate, sea-level, and ecological changes through time and what those changes meant for human populations. My work has focused on the Lee County region since 1985. I see Leeland Lake as having great potential for revealing a human-environmental past relevant to present-day times.

After reviewing the packet of information concerning Leeland Lake, I forwarded it to a colleague here at UF, Dr. Mark Brenner who is a Professor of Geology and the Director of UF’s Land Use and Environmental Change Institute. My question to him was whether or not the sinkhole lake might contain sediments representing the entire Holocene epoch — sediments that might reveal a record of climate change over that period of time. He indicated that it looked like a good candidate and suggested that I contact a paleobotanist at the Illinois State Museum who has begun to work in Florida. I did and this began a series of e-mails continuing over several days in May between a number of researchers, all who expressed interest in Lee County’s remarkable sinkhole lake and some of whom are working with Dr. John Gifford (University of Miami) at Little Salt Springs in Charlotte County. In addition to Dr. Brenner, they include:

Dr. Eric Grimm of the Illinois State Museum: Curator of Botany; Coordinator of Global American Pollen Database; President of American Quaternary Association; Dr. Grimm’s specialty is in paleobotany and he focuses on lake sediments.

Dr. Lee Kump of the Pennsylvania State University (PSU): Professor of Geosciences; Ph.D. is from the University of South Florida; Dr. Kump’s work includes geochemistry as it relates to climate change.

Dr. Lee Newsom, also of PSU: Associate Professor of Anthropology; paleoethnobotanist; McArthur Fellow; Dr. Newsom is a UF Ph.D. and continues to be involved with the research at Lee County’s Pineland Site Complex on Pine Island.

Dr. Tim White, also of PSU: Senior Research Associate with Earth and Environmental Systems Institute; his work includes paleoclimatology, hydrogeology, sea-level change.

Dr. Russ Graham, also of PSU: Director of Earth and Mineral Sciences Museum and Associate Professor of Department of Geosciences; vertebrate paleontologist.

I believe that all of these individuals agree that the Leeland Lake parcel warrants serious consideration for conservation through its purchase by Lee County’s 20/20 Conservation program.

Sincerely,

Karen J. Walker
Conservation 20/20 Galt Preserve Zoning Map

Thompson, Lynda

From: Bickford, Karen
Sent: Friday, July 02, 2010 9:56 AM
To: Thompson, Lynda
Cc: Olson, Cathy; Werst, Lee; Pellicer, Tony
Subject: RE: Water Quality Data for Leeland sinkhole

Unless we take samples at the site and do water quality analysis it's hard to give an assessment. As well, if there's nothing that would be an instant red flag like a FUDS or brownfield reclamation issue, uncapped wells, etc then there's no reason to suspect major water quality contamination issues outside of stormwater runoff nutrient pollution that we would see at any site we would entertain purchasing in Lee County. The only obvious issues I see that could impact water quality are the parcel's proximity to urban landscape and a golf course. One could pre-suppose that there would be at least a nutrient pollution liability given potential runoff entering the site from the surrounding landscape. Barring any unknown alterations to the sink or surrounding parcel, there would be no water quality liability caused by the sink itself. The report provided by Davidson Engineering really only addresses the archaeological and natural history benefits of the parcel. From the WQ perspective it would be a lot safer than previous acquisitions, although Lee Co would be on the hook for protecting it (or have the opportunity to protect it) because it is a direct connection to our drinking water aquifer. Protecting water resources is of increasing importance with the increasing population and encroachment stresses and is more feasible when the "protected" areas are in government ownership. Any thoughts?

Regards,

Karen Bickford
Lee County Natural Resources
FLD Coordinator
1600 Monument Street, 3rd Floor
Fort Myers, FL 33901
Ph: 239-683-8706
Fax: 239-485-8609
kbickford@leegov.com

Think Green & please print this e-mail only if necessary.

From: Thompson, Lynda
Sent: Friday, July 02, 2010 9:25 AM
To: Bickford, Karen
Cc: Olson, Cathy; Werst, Lee; Pellicer, Tony

7/6/2010
Subject: RE: Water Quality Data for Leeland sinkhole

Thanks. Cathy Olson is concerned about inheriting a polluted sinkhole that will turn into a nightmare of liability like the oil well did on the WTSP. Can anybody respond to her concern?

Lynda Thompson
Conservation 20/20 Program Coordinator
Division of County Lands  Phone 533-8833
Website: www.conservation2020.org

From: Bickford, Karen
Sent: Friday, July 02, 2010 9:15 AM
To: Thompson, Lynda
Cc: Werst, Lee; Pellicer, Tony
Subject: RE: Water Quality Data for Leeland sinkhole

Hi Lynda,

I did verify that there is no water quality data collected by Lee County at the Leeland sink and to my knowledge FDEP has done no monitoring work in this area either. The only other possible source of water quality data that could have been collected in the area would be by the owner as Lee indicated in his last e-mail or maybe through the Water Management District if there are any ERP permits on that site. Given the unique status of this parcel I doubt that there has been any monitoring required on this site.

Regards,

Karen Bickford
Lee County Natural Resources
FPD Coordinator
1500 Munson Street, 3rd Floor
Fort Myers, FL 33901
Ph: 239-533-8726
Fax: 239-488-8409

7/6/2010
Hi Karen,

Can you tell me how to find the most recent water quality data that is available for the Leeland sinkhole? Or better still, a range of data. I have data from a 1975 USGS report of a water quality comparison 1943 between 1974. At that time, water quality was still "good". It's cool to have pre-canal data.

Thanks.

Lynda Thompson

Conservation 2020 Program Coordinator
Lea County Division of County Lands
P.O. Box 398, Fort Myers, FL 33902
Phone: (239) 533-8833 thompson@leegov.com
Website: www.conservation2020.org

Think Green & please print this e-mail only if necessary.
SUBJECT: Nomination 471 - Leeland Lake Sink Hole

Some necessary background to understand how sinkholes are formed.

Sinkholes are a common feature of Florida's landscape. They are only one of many kinds of karst landforms, which include caves, disappearing streams, springs, and underground drainage systems, all of which occur in Florida. Karst is a generic term which refers to the characteristic terrain produced by the erosion process associated with the chemical weathering and dissolution of limestone or dolomite, the two most common carbonate rocks in Florida. Dissolution of carbonate rocks begins when they are exposed to acidic water. Most rainwater is slightly acidic and usually becomes more acidic as it moves through decaying plant debris.

Limestone in Florida is porous, allowing the acidic water to percolate through the strata, dissolving and carrying it away in solution. Over eons of time, this persistent erosion process has created extensive underground voids and drainage systems in much of the carbonate rocks throughout the state. Collapse of overlying sediments into the underground cavities produces sinkholes. Water is nature's universal solvent. More minerals and compounds dissolve in water than any other solvent. Rain contains less minerals than groundwater. It has little buffering capacity due to its low mineral composition. The effect of the solubility of soft rock into rainwater is subtle. As water contacts the soft limestone, small amounts of the limestone dissolves into the water making the groundwater more mineralized.

Sinkholes can occur in the beds of streams, sometimes taking all of the stream's flow, creating a disappearing stream. Over time, as water flows over any given rock structure, it carries away small, even minute amounts of dissolved rock with it. Over hundreds of years the cumulative effect is small openings are formed in the soft rock. The effect carried out over millions of years is the formation of connected openings to form small tunnels or channels. These channels allow more water to move across the exposed rock face which results in a more rapid dissolution of the rock and larger tunnels into what we see today as caves. Dry caves are parts of karst drainage systems that are above the water table.
Reasons to protect this regionally unique geological feature:

The nomination of this parcel of property is not only good for the scientific value it has to offer not only to the Lehigh Acres residents but the rest of Lee County and visitors. The Leeland Lake is a window to a potable aquifer system utilized by a majority of Lehigh Acres and the all users within the DRGR. This Sink was created as Florida rose from the ocean and is not a result of drought and extreme conditions that are usually man and nature induced, similar to what we hear about in the Orlando area. As the southern section of Florida was rising out of the ocean there were record levee change in the oceans, that combined with persistent erosion from rainfall created a karst condition.

This unique occurrence is not as common in South Florida, with that in mind it may have not been afforded the protection previously that it deserves. This open window to our drinking water supply is open to pollutants also. I would ask you to think about a parking lot or a golf course and the pesticides, fertilizers and herbicides that are associated with them, then add a stormwater event. Would you want to drink water that came from potable wells that surround the sink? If 20/20 dollars purchased this parcel you would be doing your part to help protect this rare natural occurrence and the future water supply for our residents of Lehigh Acres and the Density Reduction Groundwater Resource (DRGR) area.

I support the nomination of this parcel of property for the following scientific, aesthetic and public purposes:

1. This is a distinctive occurrence in South Florida
2. This is a unique feature in Lee County
3. It has no previously been afforded the protection it deserves
4. It is an open window directly connecting surface pollutants to the drinking water supply
June 30th, 2010

Lynda Thompson
Conservation 20/20 Program

Re: Leeland Lake Sinkhole, Lee County Florida

To whom it may concern,

The Tribal Historic Preservation Office of the Seminole Tribe of Florida would like to add its support to the proposal for the Conservation 20/20 acquisition of the Leeland Lake Sinkhole in Lee County Florida. Sink holes are extremely rare in southern Florida. Those that have been investigated (e.g., Little Salt Springs and Warm Mineral Springs) underscore an extremely high research value in terms of the opportunity to understand the environment and cultural history of south Florida during the late Quaternary period. The opportunity to acquire a property with such a high concomitant research potential is unusual and we are pleased to lend our support to its preservation.

If you have any questions about this or other projects please feel free to contact me at 863-902-1113 or 863-228-5793; or email me at paulbackhouse@sentribe.com

With consideration,

P.N. Backhouse, Ph.D., RPA
Deputy Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Seminole Tribe of Florida
Lynda Thompson
Conservation 20/20 Program Coordinator
Lee County Division of Lands
P.O. Box 398
Fort Myers, Florida 33902

Dear Ms. Thompson,

As the Director of the Southwest Regional Center of the Florida Public Archaeology Network, I would urge that you consider having the Conservation 20/20 program continue to pursue acquisition of the Leeland Lake property in Lehigh Acres.

As you may know, similar sinkhole/spring sites such as Wakulla Springs, Warm Mineral Springs and Little Salt Spring have contributed enormously to our understanding of Florida's prehistory. These sites have produced prehistoric remains from the early Paleoindian period, frequently with exceptional organic preservation. While Leeland Lake has not yet had a systematic, professional archaeological assessment, its potential to contribute enormously to our understanding of Florida's past is very high.

The Florida Public Archaeology Network is available and willing to assist you with generating public and professional interest in the Leeland Lake property, and coordinating as needed with the State Division of Historical Resources.

I appreciate your consideration of this issue and am happy to discuss it further with you at any time.

Yours most sincerely,

Steve Archer
Director, Southwest Regional Center
Florida Public Archaeology Network
Town of Fort Myers Beach, Mound House
2523 Estero Boulevard
Fort Myers Beach FL 33931
(239) 765-0202 ext. 152
May 26, 2010

Ms. Lynda Thompson  
Conservation 20/20 Program Coordinator  
Lee County Division of County Lands  
P.O. Box 398  
Fort Myers, FL 33902

RE: Leeland Lake

Dear Ms. Thompson,

I am writing to urge Lee County acquisition of the Leeland Lake parcel, which contains the only known natural sinkhole in Lee County. Detailed information on the rich native vegetation and threats to that vegetative community by air-potato vine has been provided in a summary report. In this letter, I confine my comments to the site’s extraordinary potential as both a paleoecological and eco-archaeological resource.

Paleoecology is the study of environments as they have changed through time. Paleoecologists use a variety of techniques, including studying pollen and small fossils obtained from cores drawn from sediments that have accumulated over long periods of time. Since the deeper sediments are older and the shallower ones are younger, and since organic materials in the sediments can be radiocarbon-dated, by identifying these minute, often microscopic plant and animal remains, scientists can describe changes in an area’s past environments and tell when they occurred. This is because different plants and animals have subtle differences in tolerance for various temperatures and other environmental conditions. As conditions change, some plants and animals thrive, while other die out. Therefore, a sinkhole such as Leeland Lake has a high probability of yielding important information on how Lee County’s environment has fluctuated in the past. Not only would this be of academic interest to scientists around the world who are working together to understand global climatic changes, but locally it would help us understand the implications of climate changes that are occurring at a rapid rate in present-day Florida.

In addition to its potential as a paleoecological resource, I believe that Leeland Lake has very high potential as an eco-archaeological resource. In addition to being an interesting natural feature, Leeland Lake is quite likely also an archaeological site, and potentially a very ancient one. It is known to be over 200 feet deep. This sinkhole feature was studied in a preliminary way in 1975 and visited again in April of this year. So far as I know, it has not been examined by an archaeologist specializing in underwater investigations. I would recommend a preliminary reconnaissance by a qualified person, such as Steve Koski or John Gifford, who have worked in similar environments in southwest Florida.

The probability is high that a sinkhole such as Leeland Lake is an archaeological site. As the earth warmed after the end of the most recent Ice Age, ocean levels gradually rose due to melting glacial ice. When the first people
moved into the Florida peninsula about 14,000 years ago, Florida was still much cooler and drier, and the Gulf coast was some 100 miles west of present-day Lee County. During this dry period in Florida's past, neither the Everglades nor Lake Okeechobee yet existed. With the water table in present-day Southwest Florida significantly lower, water was scarce for both animals and people, so natural sinkholes were often visited by both. People camped near the sinkholes and sometimes hunted the animals that drew near them to obtain water.

We can be certain of this scenario because of two important archaeological sites in southern Sarasota County: Warm Mineral Springs and Little Salt Spring. These sites have yielded archaeological remains dating back to the very earliest period of human occupation of Florida. In 1973, divers uncovered 10,000-year-old human remains at a depth of 155 feet within Warm Mineral Springs. Little Salt Spring has produced the second-oldest dated artifact ever found in the southeastern United States: a sharpened wooden stake about 12,000 years old. The sinkhole itself is thought to have formed more than 15,000 years ago. By 14,000 years ago, the water level in the Little Salt Spring sinkhole was about 90 feet below its present level.

If Leeland Lake does contain ancient fossil and archaeological remains — as seems quite likely — it would have significant eco-archaeological value. In other words, its potential significance goes beyond historical information to include environmental data that can help us understand Lee County's dynamic environmental history and enhance Lee County citizens' understanding of that past. As the Conservation 20/20 committee agreed in 2006, a parcel containing an archaeological site has high eco-archaeological value (1) if it has yielded, or is likely to yield, scientific information on Lee County's environment; (2) if it contains special, unusual, or unique vegetative communities specific to archaeological sites; (3) if it contains high potential to educate the public about Lee County's environment; (4) if it has potential to contribute to land and wildlife conservation goals.

Without further scientific investigation, we cannot be certain that Leeland Lake has paleoecological and eco-archaeological resources comparable to the two internationally known sites in Sarasota County. But without preservation of this property, which contains a resource unique in Lee County, the opportunity to find out will be lost to Lee County citizens forever. I urge the Committee to give this purchase every possible consideration.

Sincerely,

William H. Marquardt, Ph.D.
Curator in Archaeology
Director, Randell Research Center
From: Thompson, Lynda  
Sent: Monday, May 24, 2010 8:41 AM  
To: skoski@rsmas.miami.edu  
Cc: jgifford@rsmas.miami.edu; kwalke@flmnh.ufl.edu; bilmarq@flmnh.ufl.edu; Salgo, Gloria; bilmarq@flmnh.ufl.edu; Werst, Lee; rgraham@ems.psu.edu; tswil13@psu.edu; jmacalad@geosc.psu.edu; lKump@psu.edu; grimm@museum.state.il.us  
Subject: RE: [Fwd: Re: [Fwd: Leeland Lakes Florida sinkhole]]

Steve,

Thank you for your time and commitment.

Lynda Thompson  
Conservation 20/20 Program Coordinator  
Division of County Lands  Phone 533-8833  
Website: www.conservation2020.org

-----Original Message-----
From: skoski@rsmas.miami.edu [mailto:skoski@rsmas.miami.edu]  
Sent: Thursday, May 20, 2010 6:30 PM  
To: Thompson, Lynda  
Cc: jgifford@rsmas.miami.edu; kwalke@flmnh.ufl.edu; bilmarq@flmnh.ufl.edu; Salgo, Gloria; bilmarq@flmnh.ufl.edu; Werst, Lee; rgraham@ems.psu.edu; tswil13@psu.edu; jmacalad@geosc.psu.edu; lKump@psu.edu; grimm@museum.state.il.us  
Subject: Re: [Fwd: Re: [Fwd: Leeland Lakes Florida sinkhole]]

Lynda,

I would be happy to come down in the near future and take a look at the site for a surface reconnaissance and assess a possible initial submerged cultural resource evaluation. We can also discuss attending the Conservation Lands Acquisition and Stewardship Advisory Committee (CLASAC) meeting. Appears to be of interest on many fronts.

Regards,

Steve

Steven H. Koski  
University of Miami  
Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science  
Little Salt Spring Research Facility  
6863 W. Price Blvd.  
North Port, FL 34291  
(941)416-1535  
skoski@rsmas.miami.edu

In a message dated 5/20/2010 2:03:15 PM Eastern Daylight Time, lthompson@leegov.com writes:

Gentlemen,

Bill Marquardt kindly referred your names to me for potential help in assessing the historical and paleoenvironmental potential of a sinkhole in Lee County. A 20 acre parcel of land with the sinkhole was offered for sale to the Conservation 20/20 program in April. I need help to educate the citizen advisory committee that will decide its fate as to its full potential benefits. We are unaccustomed to this type of environmental resource.

Would either or both of you be willing to testify at the upcoming Conservation Lands Acquisition and Stewardship Advisory Committee (CLASAC) meetings? CLASAC is the citizen advisory committee that will be deciding about whether or not to keep this...
RE Fwd Re Fwd Leeland Lakes Florida sinkhole
site in the program. It is a crucial meeting. Your expertise would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

Lynda Thompson
Conservation 20/20 Program Coordinator
Division of County Lands Phone 533-8833
Website: www.conservation2020.org

From: William Marquardt [mailto:bilmarq@flmnh.ufl.edu]
Sent: Thursday, May 20, 2010 12:58 PM
To: Thompson, Lynda; Sajgo, Gloria
Cc: Karen J. Walke
Subject: [Fwd: Leeland Lakes Sinkhole]

This response is from Steve Koski, a Sarasota county archaeologist who does archaeological work at Little Salt Spring and Warm Mineral Springs, in collaboration with Dr. John Gifford of the University of Miami. These men would be in an ideal position to testify to the historical as well as paleoenvironmental potential of this property.

Bill

------- Original Message -------

Subject: Leeland Lakes Sinkhole

Date: Thu, 20 May 2010 12:29:17 -0400 (EDT)

From: skoski@rsmas.miami.edu

To: bilmarq@flmnh.ufl.edu

CC: jgifford@rsmas.miami.edu

Bill,

I reviewed information, forwarded to John Gifford and discussed with him. Very interesting.

No, we have not heard of this feature and it is not listed in Springs of Florida. John thinks it may be because it does not appear to be a flowing spring, although it...
RE Fwd Re Fwd Leeland Lakes Florida sinkhole

obviously has some flow.

Based on the natural and potential cultural resources, in my opinion, the County should pursue the acquisition of the 18-acre parcel as diligently as possible. Good point was made on protecting the aquifer as well. Potential cultural significance could be argued based on discoveries from warm Mineral Springs and Little Salt Spring, just two counties north. WMS is the sinkhole discussed in the 1990 report by McDonald.

Natural significance stands alone as a geological/hydrological feature and only open sink in Lee County. There is also the paleoenvironmental potential. Based on its morphology, this did not open yesterday.

We would also be willing to collaborate on an initial submerged investigation for cultural resources potential. We have the expertise, crew, and available resources. I would also be willing to come down and take a look at the site. A terrestrial CRAS should also be conducted in the evaluation; however, negative data from land does not necessarily mean there are no submerged cultural resources. In general, other than the potato vines, the immediate area of lake appears to have suffered minimal impacts, although I do not know its land-use history. I'll look through the information again more carefully.

Keep me informed Bill, we would be willing to discuss helping in any way we can around our schedule at LSS.

Regards,

Steve

Steven H. Koski
University of Miami
Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science Little Salt Spring Research Facility
6863 W. Price Blvd.
North Port, FL 34291
(941)416-1535
skoski@rsmas.miami.edu

-----Original Message-----
From: William Marguaridt mailto:bi1marg@flmnh.ufl.edu
To: SKoski1044 mailto:SKoski1044@aol.com
Sent: Thu, May 20, 2010 7:14 am
Subject: [fwd: Leeland Lakes sinkhole]

Steve,

Do you know about this site? I am embarrassed to say that I did not, but it looks extraordinary. There is a possibility that it could be bought by Lee County conservation funds, but they need expert opinions supporting the purchase (see below). Check out the link. Feel free to pass this along to others.

Bill

-------- Original Message -------- Subject: Leeland Lakes sinkhole Date: Wed, 19 May 2010 15:16:42 -0400
From: Thompson, Lynda mailto:LTHOMPSON@leegov.com
To: Marguaridt, Ph.D., William mailto:bi1marg@flmnh.ufl.edu, Sajgo, Gloria mailto:SAJG0GCM@leegov.com, Pineland Archeological Site <>
CC: Werst, Lee mailto:LWerst@leegov.com

Dear Dr. Marquardt and Gloria,
I have received a very unique nomination of the only known sinkhole in Lee County, which may be of interest to you. I am currently collecting information for my report and recommendation. I need outside expertise on archaeology and history to help me to determine the environmental significance of this property. Can you help?

You can read about this nomination on our website at:


Following is a summary of facts collected so far:

The sinkhole is presently about 400 feet in diameter and 184 feet deep, down from 600 feet in diameter and 208 feet in depth from 1943 due to a tower water table. After conducting an underwater survey of the sinkhole in April 2010, Curt Bowen, CEO of Advanced Diver Magazine, concluded that it may be one of the oldest open to surface sinks known.

Acquisition of this sinkhole would provide access to fossils of plants, invertebrates and mammals; historical artifacts and archaeological findings. The C20/20 Program enabling legislation recognizes the importance of archaeological resources to the understanding of historical ecology.

A 1994 Florida Geologic Survey report (Open File Report 60) on a similar sinkhole in Sarasota County found that "the anaerobic nature of the spring water is largely responsible for the excellent preservation of paleoenvironmental and archeological remains in the sink. Well preserved human bones and artifacts and Pleistocene vertebrate bones have been recovered from the 13 meter ledge in the sink. Faunal remains from the spring include species of Pleistocene birds, fox, sabercat, llama, proboscideans (mastodons and mammoths), wolf, deer, giant ground sloth and numerous rodents, as well as reptiles, amphibians, and mollusks. Leaves and pollen from a number of tree and plant species have also been found in the spring (McDonald, 1990)."

The cone of the sinkhole may offer a potentially undisturbed stratigraphic record that can teach us about the climate of Florida and its geology over the past 15,000 years or more.

The sinkhole is significant to water resources as the hole may be still open to the Sandstone aquifer, which is the primarily source of potable water for all of Lee County. Ownership would allow Lee County to stop the pollution from the golf course by the construction of berms.

The sinkhole would be of public use interest to divers after the water quality is improved.

The sinkhole could be an important draw for tourism in Lee County. There are heritage oak trees on the property that would provide a scenic place for picnics and other associated public uses.

The Conservation Lands Acquisition and Stewardship Advisory Committee is scheduled to decide whether or not to eliminate this nomination from the program on July 8, 2010. A more informal subcommittee meeting begins at 4:30pm to be followed by the full committee meeting 5:30pm. The meetings will be held in the first floor conference room of the DCD/DPW building at 1500 Monroe Street, Fort Myers, Florida. Your attendance and public comment at these meetings are welcome.

I am seeking acquisition and management partnerships; including contributory funds, grants and/or in kind services. Management assistance is needed to offset staff time to prepare the management plan, site maintenance, interpretative signage, educational programs and other public uses.

Please feel free to forward this email to other interested parties. Thank you for your time.

Lynda Thompson

Conservation 20/20 Program Coordinator
RE: Fwd Re: Fwd Leeland Lakes Florida sinkhole

Lee County Division of County Lands
P.O. Box 398, Fort Myers, FL 33902
Phone: (239) 533-8333 lthompson@leegov.com
Website: http://www.conservation2020.org/

P Think Green & please print this e-mail only if necessary.

--
William H. Marquardt, Ph.D.
Curator in Archaeology
Florida Museum of Natural History
Museum Road at Newell Drive
PO Box 117800
Gainesville FL 32611-7800 USA
Phone 352-273-1917
http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/sflarch/

In a message dated 5/20/2010 4:25:55 PM Eastern Daylight Time, kwalker@flmnh.ufl.edu writes:

--
Karen J. Walker, Ph.D.
Florida Museum of Natural History
P.O. Box 117800
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611-7800
352-273-1923
352-392-3698 (Fax)
www.flmnh.ufl.edu/sflarch

-----Original Message-----
Date: Thu, 20 May 2010 16:23:08 -0400
From: Karen Walker <kwalker@flmnh.ufl.edu>
To: Russ Graham <rgraham@emps.psu.edu>
CC: "Eric C. Grimm" <grimm@museum.state.il.us>, lthompson@leegov.com,
    Lee Newsom <lan12@psu.edu>,
    William Marquardt <bilmq@flmnh.ufl.edu>,
    Gloria Saggio <sajjogm@leegov.com>,
    Lee Kump <lkump@psu.edu>, TIMOTHY S WHITE <tswil@psu.edu>,
    jgf@rsmas.miami.edu, jmacalad@geosc.psu.edu
Subject: Re: [Fwd: Leeland Lakes Florida sinkhole]

Russ,
That would be so exciting if you all could study the Leeland Lake sinkhole. Your interest and enthusiasm alone will be very helpful to the folks advocating for its preservation via a county purchase of the parcel. Thank you.
Karen

Russ Graham wrote:
> Hi karen,
> > Eric Grimm forwarded your email to me. Several of us at PSU also
> > received an email from John Gifford at U Miami on the same sinkhole.
> > We are working with John on Little Salt Spring. PSU has a science
> > diving program as does U Miami. I have copied this email to the two
> page 5
RE Fwd Re Fwd Leeland Lakes Florida sinkhole

> primary faculty members, Tim white and Lee Kump, of the science
> diving program at PSU. Tim and Lee took a vibracore from Little Salt
> Spring a year or so ago. It might be possible to do the same thing
> for the Lehigh Acres sinkhole. It would then take some one like Eric
> to analyze the pollen and Lee Newsom the plant macros. We have the
> potential for doing Geochem at PSU - Tim and Lee K do!!! I am a
> vertebrate paleontologist. We also have a faculty memeber - Jenn
> Macalady - who has been working with microbes from LSS.

> Tim and Lee K, what do you think??

> Russ

> Russell W. Graham, PhD
> Director
> Earth and Mineral Sciences Museum
> Associate Professor of Geosciences
> 207 Deike Bldg
> The Pennsylvania State University
> University Park, PA 16802
> Phone: 814-865-6336
> Fax: 814-863-7708
> Email: rgraham@ems.psu.edu

> At 03:07 PM 5/20/2010, Karen Walker wrote:
>> Thanks so much, Eric!
>> Karen
>
>> Eric C. Grimm wrote:
>>> Hello Karen and Linda,
>>> Leeland Lake is certainly very interesting and definitely has
>>> potential for paleoenvironmental studies. Because of it's depth,
>>> coring the sediments would require different equipment than what I
>>> normally use, which is good to about 100 ft. It would be interesting
>>> if divers could test the sediment by pushing a long metal rod (maybe
>>> 12 ft long) into the sediment. It should go in very easily. I've
>>> forwarded your email to Russ Graham and Lee Newsom, who also have
>>> done work in Florida.
>
>>> Cheers, Eric

>>>

>>> At 11:17 AM 5/20/2010, Karen Walker wrote:
>>>> Hello Eric,
>>>> Mark Brenner suggested that you might be interested in this
>>>> sinkhole located in Lehigh Acres, Lee County, FL. (I am an
>>>> environmental archaeologist here at the FLMNH but my study area is
>>>> southwest Florida.)
>>>> Lee County's conservation folks are looking for expert opinions so
>>>> the County can justify buying the property with conservation funds.
>>>> They basically want to know if it could it have potential for
>>>> sediment coring - for climate info? If you think that is the case,
>>>> would you be willing to contact Linda Thompson with a statement (or
>>>> maybe just via me)?
>>>>
>>>> Karen

Page 6
RE Fwd Re Fwd Leeland Lakes Florida sinkhole

---

Karen J. Walker, Ph.D.
Florida Museum of Natural History
P.O. Box 117800
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611-7800
352-273-1923
352-392-3698 (Fax)
www.flmnh.ufl.edu/sflarch <http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/sflarch>

---

---

X-Account-Key: account2
X-Mozilla-Keys:
Received: from ANTHRO-1 (ANTHRO-1 [10.243.11.238]) by
flmnh-1950-4.flmnh.ufl.edu (GMS 15.02.3689/NT0398.00.4be41ee3) with
ESMTP id
uxdcnfaa for kwalker@flmnh.ufl.edu; Wed, 19 May 2010 15:30:18 -0400
Message-ID: <4BF43C89.2020703@flmnh.ufl.edu>
Date: Wed, 19 May 2010 15:31:21 -0400
From: William Marquardt <b1marq@flmnh.ufl.edu>
User-Agent: Thunderbird 2.0.0.24 (Windows/20100228)
MIME-Version: 1.0
To: "Karen J. Walker" <kwalker@flmnh.ufl.edu>
Subject: [Fwd: Leeland Lakes sinkhole]
Content-Type: multipart/mixed;
boundary="-------------0601020200040300010109"
X-Originating-IP: [10.243.11.238]
X-AntiSpam: Checked for restricted content by Gordano's AntiSpam Software
WOW -- possibility for coring?? We should support this acquisition
for Lynda.

Bill
Re Fwd Leeland Lakes in Florida sinkhole
From: Lee Kump [lkump@psu.edu]
Sent: Monday, May 24, 2010 9:35 AM
To: Karen Walker
Cc: Thompson, Lynda; Eric C. Grimm; Lee Newsom; William Marquardt; 
Sajgo, Gloria; TIMOTHY S WHITE; jgifford@rsmas.miami.edu; 
jmacalad@geosc.psu.edu; Russ Graham; Werst, Lee
Subject: Re: [Fwd: Leeland Lakes Florida sinkhole]

Dear all,

We at PSU don't have the ability ourselves to core the sinkhole at that depth but have colleagues who do (for example, at the USGS in St. Pete.). The site could hold tremendous value as a geologic and archeologic archive.

Lee Kump

On May 20, 2010, at 5:23 PM, Karen Walker wrote:

> Lynda,
> I know that Bill Marquardt already committed to being at the July 8th 
> meeting and I can probably attend as well and will do my best to 
> convey the interest and enthusiasm of the various scientists about the 
> potential scientific value of the Leeland Lake sinkhole.
> Karen
> 
> Thompson, Lynda wrote:
> > Karen,
> >
> >> I love our email exchange. It's great for my own understanding, for 
> >> the file, and for making up a distribution list.
> >> However, in my experience, emails don't carry nearly the weight with 
> >> boards that letters do. Formal letters are impressive and get a lot 
> >> more attention - especially these days when letters are becoming a 
> >> rarity.
> >> But, many committee members barely read, if at all, the package of 
> >> information provided to them, largely because I summarize it to them 
> >> at the meeting. That is why it is so important for people to come in 
> >> person to the meetings. It really impresses the committee members, 
> >> who 
> >> are volunteers, that others would take their own time to come.
> >> Face to 
> >> face discussion conveys the sincerity, enthusiasm, knowledge, 
> >> credibility and vision of the speaker.
> >>
> >> Lynda Thompson
> >> Conservation 20/20 Program Coordinator
> >> Division of County Lands Phone 533-8833
> >> Website: www.conservation2020.org
> >>
> >> -----Original Message-----
> >> From: Karen Walker [mailto:kwalker@flmnh.ufl.edu] Sent: Thursday, May 
> >> 20, 2010 4:33 PM
> >> To: Thompson, Lynda
> >> Subject: Leeland
> >>
> >> Lynda,
> >> Hope all this e-mail is helpful? Or will you need something a little 
> >> more formal (letters?).
> >> Karen
> >>
> >> --
Re Fwd Leeland Lakes in Florida sinkhole

> Karen J. Walker, Ph.D.
> Florida Museum of Natural History
> P.O. Box 117800
> University of Florida
> Gainesville, FL 32611-7800
> 352-273-1923
> 352-392-3698 (Fax)
> www.flnmh.ufl.edu/sflarch

Lee R. Kump
Dept. of Geosciences
Penn State
535 Deike Bldg.
University Park, PA 16802 USA

lkump@psu.edu
+1 814 863-1274
+1 814 863-7823 fax
From: William Marquardt [bilmarq@flmnh.ufl.edu]
Sent: Thursday, May 20, 2010 12:58 PM
To: Thompson, Lynda; Suijo, Gloria
Cc: Karen J. Walker
Subject: [Fwd: Leeland Lakes Sinkhole]

This response is from Steve Koski, a Sarasota county archaeologist who does archaeological work at Little Salt Spring and Warm Mineral Springs, in collaboration with Dr. John Gifford of the University of Miami. These men would be in an ideal position to testify to the historical as well as paleoenvironmental potential of this property.

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Subject: Leeland Lakes Sinkhole
Date: Thu, 20 May 2010 12:29:17 -0400 (EDT)
From: skoski@casax.miami.edu
To: bilmarq@flmnh.ufl.edu
CC: jgifford@casax.miami.edu

Bill,

I reviewed information forwarded to John Gifford and discussed with him. Very interesting.

No, we have not heard of this feature and it is not listed in Springs of Florida. John thinks it may be because it does not appear to be a flowing spring, although it obviously has some flow.

Based on the natural and potential cultural resources, in my opinion, the County should pursue the acquisition of the 18-acre parcel as diligently as possible. Good points were made on protecting the aquifer as well. Potential cultural significance could be argued based on discoveries from Warm Mineral Springs and Little Salt Spring, just two counties north. WMS is the sinkhole discussed in the 1990 report by McDonald.

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Keep me informed Bill, we would be willing to discuss helping in any way we can around our schedule at LBS.

Regards,

Steve

Steven H. Koski
University of Miami
Hosenatiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science
Little Salt Spring Research Facility
6863 W. Price Blvd.
North Fort, FL 34291
(941) 416-1535
skoski@casax.miami.edu

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From: William Marquardt [bilmarq@flmnh.ufl.edu]
To: Skoski044@casax.miami.edu
Sent: Thu, May 20, 2010 7:14 am
Re Fwd Leeland Lakes Florida sinkhole

From: Karen Walker [kwalker@flmnh.ufl.edu]
Sent: Thursday, May 20, 2010 4:23 PM
To: Russ Graham
Cc: Eric C. Grimm; Thompson, Lynda; Lee Newsom; William Marquardt; Saigo, Gloria; Lee Kump; TIMOTHY S WHITE; jgifford@rsmas.miami.edu; jmacalad@geosc.psu.edu
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> > Russell W. Graham, PhD
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> > University Park, PA 16802
> >
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Page 1
Re Fwd Leeland Lakes Florida sinkhole

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>>> Karen
>>> 
>>> --
>>> Karen J. Walker, Ph.D.
>>> Florida Museum of Natural History
>>> P.O. Box 117830
>>> University of Florida
>>> Gainesville, FL 32611-7800
>>> 352-273-1923
>>> 352-392-3698 (Fax)
>>> www.flmnh.ufl.edu/sflarch <http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/sflarch>
>>> 

>>> 
>>> X-Account-Key: account2
>>> X-Mozilla-Keys:
>>> Received: from ANTHRO-1 (ANTHRO-1 [10.243.11.238]) by
>>> flmnh-1950-4.flmnh.ufl.edu (GMS 15.02.3689/NT0398.00.4be41ee3) with
>>> ESMTTP id uxdcnfaa for kwalker@flmnh.ufl.edu; Wed, 19 May 2010
>>> 15:30:18 -0400
>>> Message-ID: <4BF43C89.2020703@flmnh.ufl.edu>
>>> Date: Wed, 19 May 2010 15:31:21 -0400
>>> From: William Marquardt <bilmq@flmnh.ufl.edu>
>>> User-Agent: Thunderbird 2.0.0.24 (Windows/20100228)
>>> MIME-Version: 1.0
>>> To: "Karen J. Walker" <kwalker@flmnh.ufl.edu>
>>> Subject: [Fwd: Leeland Lakes sinkhole]
>>> Content-Type: multipart/mixed;
>>> boundary="-------------06010202000040300010109"
>>> X-Originating-IP: [10.243.11.238]
>>> X-AntiSpam: Checked for restricted content by Gordano's AntiSpam
>>> Software
>>> 
>>> WOW -- possibility for coring?? We should support this acquisition
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Subject: Leeland Lakes sinkhole
Date: Wed, 19 May 2010 15:36:42 -0400
From: Thompson, Lynda <LTHOMPSON@leegov.com>
<mailto:LTHOMPSON@leegov.com>
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You can read about this nomination on our website at:


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* There are heritage oak trees on the property that would provide a scenic place for picnics and other associated public uses.

*The Conservation Lands Acquisition and Stewardship Advisory
Committee is scheduled to decide whether or not to eliminate this nomination from the program on July 8, 2010. A more informal subcommittee meeting begins at 4:30pm to be followed by the full committee meeting at 5:30pm. The meetings will be held in the first floor conference room of the DCD/DPW building at 1500 Monroe Street, Fort Myers, Florida. Your attendance and public comment at these meetings are welcome.

I am seeking acquisition and management partnerships; including contributory funds, grants and/or in kind services. Management assistance is needed to offset staff time to prepare the management plan, site maintenance, interpretative signage, educational programs and other public uses.

Please feel free to forward this email to other interested parties. Thank you for your time.

/Lynda Thompson
/Conservation 20/20 Program Coordinator

Lee County Division of County Lands

P.O. Box 398, Fort Myers, FL 33902

Phone: (239) 533-8833 lthompson@leegov.com
<mailto:lthompson@leegov.com>

P ***Think Green & please print this e-mail only if necessary. *

--

William H. Marquardt, Ph.D.
Curator in Archaeology
Florida Museum of Natural History
Museum Road at Newell Drive
PO Box 11780C
Gainesville, FL 32611-7800 USA
Phone 352-273-1917

http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/sflarch/

Dr. Eric C. Grimm
Curator and Chair of Botany
Illinois State Museum
Research and Collections Center
1011 East Ash Street
Springfield, IL 62703 USA
Office: 217-785-4846
Database: 217-524-0493
Fax: 217-785-2857
E-mail: grimm@museum.state.il.us
ISM: http://www.museum.state.il.us
<http://www.museum.state.il.us/>AMQUA: http://www.amqua.org
<http://www.amqua.org/>Lat-Long: 39.46.48 N, 89.38.34 W

--
Re Fwd Leeland Lakes Florida sinkhole

Karen J. Walker, Ph.D.
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P.O. Box 117800
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611-7800
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P.O. Box 117800
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611-7800
352-273-1923
352-392-3698 (Fax)
www.flmnh.ufl.edu/sflarch
Re: [Fwd: [Fwd: Leeland Lakes sinkhole]]

From: Brenner, Mark [brenner@ufl.edu]
Sent: Thursday, May 20, 2010 12:52 PM
To: Walker, Karen J
Subject: Re: [Fwd: [Fwd: Leeland Lakes sinkhole]]

Here is Eric's info:

"Eric C. Grimm" <grimr@museum.state.il.us>

On 5/20/10 12:05 PM, "Karen Walker" <kwalker@flmnh.ufl.edu> wrote:

Thanks, Mark. No, I hadn't heard about Bill Watts. Thanks for the tip about Eric Grimm.

Karen

Brenner, Mark wrote:
> Hi Karen – that does appear to be a fairly exciting prospect for
> long-term paleoclimate and paleoecology info. I had not heard of it. I
> am not sure if you are aware that Bill Watts passed away about a month
> ago. I suspect that Eric Grimm (Illinois State Museum) would be very
> interested to know about this site. He is carrying on with the pollen
> work in Florida. Let me know if you need further info. Mark
>
>
> On 5/20/10 9:34 AM, "Karen Walker" <kwalker@flmnh.ufl.edu> wrote:
> > Hi, Mark,
> > Do you know about this sinkhole?
> > Could it have potential for sediment coring - for climate info?
> > Our Lee County friends are looking for expert opinions so the
> > County can
> > justify buying the property with conservation funds.
> > Karen
> >
> > --
> > Karen J. Walker, Ph.D.
> > Florida Museum of Natural History
> > P.O. Box 117600
> > University of Florida
> > Gainesville, FL 32611-7800
> > 352-273-1473
> > 352-392-3698 (Fax)
> > www.flmnh.ufl.edu/sflarch
> >
> >
> >
> > Dr. Mark Brenner
> > Professor, Geological Sciences
> > Director, Land Use and Environmental Change Institute
> > University of Florida
> > Gainesville, FL 32611-2120
Re: [Fwd: [Fwd: Leeland Lakes sinkhole]]

> Tel: 352-392-7226
> FAX: 352-392-9294
>

--
Karen J. Walker, Ph.D.
Florida Museum of Natural History
P.O. Box 117800
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611-7800
352-273-1923
352-392-3698 (Fax)
www.flnmh.ufl.edu/sflarch

Dr. Mark Brenner
Professor, Geological Sciences
Director, Land Use and Environmental Change Institute
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611-2120
Tel: 352-392-7226
FAX: 352-392-9294
Re: Leeland Lakes Florida sinkhole

From: Karen Walker [kwalker@flmnh.ufl.edu]
Sent: Thursday, May 20, 2010 3:07 PM
To: Eric C. Grimm
Cc: Thompson, Lynda; Russ Graham; Lee Newsom; William Marquardt; Sajgo, Gloria
Subject: Re: [Fwd: Leeland Lakes Florida sinkhole]

Thanks so much, Eric!
Karen

Eric C. Grimm wrote:
> Hello Karen and Linda,
> 
> Leeland Lake is certainly very interesting and definitely has
> potential for paleoenvironmental studies. Because of its depth,
> coring the sediments would require different equipment than what I
> normally use, which is good to about 100 ft. It would be interesting
> if divers could test the sediment by pushing a long metal rod (maybe
> 12 ft long) into the sediment. It should go in very easily. I've
> forwarded your email to Russ Graham and Lee Newsom, who also have done
> work in Florida.
> 
> Cheers, Eric

> At 11:17 AM 5/20/2010, Karen Walker wrote:
>> Hello Eric,
>> 
>> Mark Brenner suggested that you might be interested in this sinkhole
>> located in Lehigh Acres, Lee County, FL. (I am an environmental
>> archaeologist here at the FLMNH but my study area is southwest
>> Florida.)
>> 
>> Lee County's conservation folks are looking for expert opinions so
>> the county can justify buying the property with conservation funds.
>> They basically want to know if it could it have potential for
>> sediment coring - for climate info? If you think that is the case,
>> would you be willing to contact Linda Thompson with a statement (or
>> maybe just via me)?
>>
>> Karen
>>
>> --
>> Karen J. Walker, Ph.D.
>> Florida Museum of Natural History
>> P.O. Box 117800
>> University of Florida
>> Gainesville, FL 32611-7800
>> 352-273-1923
>> 352-392-3698 (Fax)
>> www.flmnh.ufl.edu/sflarch <http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/sflarch>
>
>
>

X-Account-Key: account2
X-Mozilla-Keys:
Received: from ANTHRO-1 (ANTHRO-1 [10.243.11.238]) by
flmnh-1950-4.flmnh.ufl.edu (GMS 15.0.2.3689/NT0398.00.4be41ee3) with
ESMTP id uxdcnfau for kwalker@flmnh.ufl.edu; Wed, 19 May 2010
13:30:20 -0400
Message-ID: <4843c89.2020703@flmnh.ufl.edu>
Date: wed, 19 May 2010 15:31:21 -0400

Page 1
Re: Leeland Lakes Florida sinkhole

From: William Marquardt <bilmarg@flmnh.ufl.edu>
User-Agent: Thunderbird 2.0.0.24 (windows/20100228)
MIME-Version: 1.0
To: "Karen J. Walker" <kwalker@flmnh.ufl.edu>
Subject: [Fwd: Leeland Lakes sinkhole]
Content-Type: multipart/mixed;
boundary="----------060102002000040300010109"
X-Originating-ID: [10.243.11.238]
X-AntiSpam: Checked for restricted content by Gordano's AntiSpam
Software

WOW -- possibility for coring?? We should support this acquisition
for Lynda.

Bill

-------- Original Message --------
Subject: Leeland Lakes sinkhole
Date: Wed, 19 May 2010 15:36:42 -0400
From: Thompson, Lynda <LTHOMPSON@leegov.com>
<br> <mailto:LTHOMPSON@leegov.com>
To: Marquardt, Ph.D., William <bilmarg@flmnh.ufl.edu>
<br> <mailto:bilmarg@flmnh.ufl.edu>, Salgo, Gloria <SAJGOGM@leegov.com>
<br> <mailto:SAJGOGM@leegov.com>, Pineland Archeological Site<br> CC: Werst, Lee <LWerst@leegov.com> <mailto:LWerst@leegov.com>

Dear Dr. Marquardt and Gloria,

I have received a very unique nomination of the only known sinkhole
in Lee County, which may be of interest to you. I am currently
collecting information for my report and recommendation. I need
outside expertise on archeology and history to help me to determine
the environmental significance of this property. Can you help?

You can read about this nomination on our website at:

LeelandLakeSummaryReport42010.pdf

Following is a summary of facts collected so far:

- The sinkhole is presently about 400 feet in diameter and 184
  feet deep, down from 600 feet in diameter and 208 feet in depth
  from 1943 due to a lower water table.
- After conducting an underwater survey of the sinkhole in April
  2010, Curt Bowen, CEO of Advanced Diver Magazine, concluded
  that it may be one of the oldest open to surface sinks known.
- Acquisition of this sinkhole would provide access to fossils of
  plants, invertebrates and mammals; historical artifacts and
  archaeological findings. The C20/20 Program enabling
  legislation recognizes the importance of archeological
  resources to the understanding of historical ecology.
- A 1994 Florida Geologic Survey report (Open File Report 60) on
  a similar sinkhole in Sarasota County found that "the anaerobic
  nature of the spring water is largely responsible for the
  excellent preservation of paleoenvironmental and archeological
  remains in the sink. Well preserved human bones and artifacts
  and Pleistocene vertebrate bones have been recovered from the
  19 meter ledge in the sink. Faunal remains from the spring
  include species of Pleistocene birds, fox, sabercat, llama,
  proboscideaans (mastodons and mammoths), wolf, deer, giant
  Page 2
Releeland Lakes Florida sinkhole

>> ground sloth and numerous rodents, as well as reptiles,
>> amphibians, and mollusks. Leaves and pollen from a number of
>> tree and plant species have also been found in the spring
>> (McDonald, 1990)."
>> * The cone of the sinkhole may offer a potentially undisturbed
>> stratigraphic record that can teach us about the climate of
>> Florida and its geology over the past 15,000 years or more.
>> * The sinkhole is significant to water resources as the hole may
>> be still open to the Sandstone aquifer, which is the primarily
>> source of potable water for all of Lee County. Ownership
>> would allow Lee County to stop the pollution from the golf
>> course by the construction of berms. 
>> * The sinkhole would be of public use interest to divers after
>> the water quality is improved.
>> * The sinkhole could be an important draw for tourism in Lee County.
>> * There are heritage oak trees on the property that would provide
>> a scenic place for picnics and other associated public uses.

>> The Conservation Lands Acquisition and Stewardship Advisory
>> Committee is scheduled to decide whether or not to eliminate this
>> nomination from the program on July 8, 2010. A more informal
>> subcommittee meeting begins at 4:30pm to be followed by the full
>> committee meeting 5:30pm. The meetings will be held in the first
>> floor conference room of the DCD/DPW building at 1500 Monroe Street,
>> Fort Myers, Florida. Your attendance and public comment at these
>> meetings are welcome.

>> I am seeking acquisition and management partnerships; including
>> contributory funds, grants and/or in kind services. Management
>> assistance is needed to offset staff time to prepare the management
>> plan, site maintenance, interpretative signage, educational programs
>> and other public uses.

>> Please feel free to forward this email to other interested parties.
>> Thank you for your time.

/Lynda Thompson

/ Conservation 2020 Program Coordinator
/Lee County Division of County Lands
/P.O. Box 398, Fort Myers, FL 33902
/Phone: (239) 533-8833 lthompson@leegov.com
/<mailto:lthompson@leegov.com>

P ***Think Green & please print this e-mail only if necessary. *
ReLeeland Lakes Florida sinkhole

>> Gainesville FL 32611-7800 USA
>> Phone 352-273-1917
>>
>> http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/sflarch/
>>
>>
> Dr. Eric C. Grimm
> Curator and Chair of Botany
> Illinois State Museum
> Research and Collections Center
> 1011 East Ash Street
> Springfield, IL 62703 USA
> Office: 217-785-4846
> Database: 217-524-0493
> Fax: 217-785-2857
> E-mail: grimm@museum.state.il.us
> ISM: http://www.museum.state.il.us
> <http://www.museum.state.il.us/>AMQUA: http://www.amqua.org
> <http://www.amqua.org/>Lat-Long: 39.46.48 N, 89.38.34 W
>

---
Karen J. Walker, Ph.D.
Florida Museum of Natural History
P.O. Box 117800
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611-7800
352-273-1923
352-392-3698 (Fax)
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Page 4
From: William Marquardt [bilmun@flmnh.ufl.edu]
Sent: Thursday, May 20, 2010 10:11 AM
To: Thompson, Lynda
Cc: Saigo, Gloria; Karen J, Walker; West, Lee
Subject: Re: Leeland Lakes sinkhole

Lynda,

This site is extraordinary, and potentially of great importance, both historical and scientific. It is being encroached on by development, and it is vital that it be preserved. I would be glad to write a letter of support, but if you think my personal appearance at the July 8 meeting would be of help, I will come.

Bill

William V. Marquardt, Ph.D.
Curator in Archaeology
Florida Museum of Natural History
Museum Road at Newell Drive
PO Box 117600
Gainesville Fl. 32611-7600 USA
Phone 352-273-1317

Thompson, Lynda wrote, On 5/19/2010 3:16 PM:

<!-[if mso 9]-><![endif]>

Dear Dr. Marquardt and Gloria,

I have received a very unique nomination of the only known sinkhole in Lee County, which may be of interest to you. I am currently collecting information for my report and recommendation. I need outside expertise on archeology and history to help me in determining the environmental significance of this property. Can you help?

You can read about this nomination on our website at:


Following is a summary of facts collected so far:

- The sinkhole is presently about 400 feet in diameter and 184 feet deep, down from 600 feet in diameter and 208 feet in depth from 1943 due to a lower water table.
- After conducting an underwater survey of the sinkhole in April 2010, Curt Bowen, CEO of Advanced Diver Magazine, concluded that it may be one of the oldest open to surface sink known.
- Acquisition of this sinkhole would provide access to fossils of plants, invertebrates and mammals; historical artifacts and archeological findings. The CD/20 Program enabling legislation recognizes the importance of archeological resources to the understanding of historical ecology.
- A 1994 Florida Geologic Survey report (Open File Report 60) on a similar sinkhole in Sarasota County found that "the anaerobic nature of the spring water is largely responsible for the excellent preservation of paleoenvironmental and archeological remains in the sink. Well preserved human bones and artifacts and Pleistocene vertebrate bones have been recovered from the 13 meter ledge in the sink. Faunal remains from the spring include species of Pleistocene birds, fox, sabercat, llama, proboscideans (mastodons and mammoths), wolf, deer, giant ground sloth and numerous rodents, as well as reptiles, amphibians, and mollusks. Leaves and pollen from a number of tree and plant species have also been found in the spring (McDonald, 1990)."
- The cone of the sinkhole may offer a potentially undisturbed stratigraphic record that can teach us about the climate of Florida and its geology over the past 15,000 years or more.
- The sinkhole is significant to water resources as the hole may be still open to the Sandstone aquifer, which is the primarily source of potable water for all of Lehigh Acres. Ownership would allow Lee County to stop the pollution from the golf course by the construction of bermns.
- The sinkhole would be of public use interest to divers after the water quality is improved.
- The sinkhole could be an important draw for tourism in Lee County.
- There are heritage oak trees on the property that would provide a scenic place for picnics and other associated public uses.

The Conservation Lands Acquisition and Stewardship Advisory Committee is scheduled to decide whether or not to eliminate this nomination from the program on July 8, 2010. A more informal subcommittee meeting begins at 4:30 pm to be followed by the full committee meeting 5:30 pm. The meetings will be held in the first floor conference room of the DCD/DPW building at 1500 Monroe Street, Fort Myers, Florida. Your attendance and public comment at these meetings are welcome.
I am seeking acquisition and management partnerships; including contributory funds, grants and/or in kind services. Management assistance is needed to offset staff time to prepare the management plan, site maintenance, interpretative signage, educational programs and other public uses.

Please feel free to forward this email to other interested parties. Thank you for your time.

Lynda Thompson
Conservation 2020 Program Coordinator
Lee County Division of County Lands
P.O. Box 220, Fort Myers, FL 33902
Phone: (239) 213-6803 http://www.countyfloridaweb.org
Website: www.countyfloridaweb.org

If you think this email is please please send it only if of interest.
Subject: [Fwd: Leeland Lakes sinkhole]

Steve,

Do you know about this site? I am embarrassed to say that I did not, but it looks extraordinary. There is a possibility that it could be bought by Lee County conservation funds, but they need expert opinions supporting the purchase (see below). Check out the link. Feel free to pass this along to others.

Bill

-------- Original Message --------

Subject: Leeland Lakes sinkhole

Date: Wed, 19 May 2010 15:16:42 -0400

From: Thompson, Lynda <trpa@leegov.com>

To: Marquardt, Ph.D., William <wmarquardt@ufl.edu>, Sejgo, Gloria <gloria@leegov.com>, Fineland Archeological Site <>

CC: West, Lee <llwest@leegov.com>

Dear Dr. Marquardt and Gloria,

I have received a very unique nomination of the only known sinkhole in Lee County, which may be of interest to you. I am currently collecting information for my report and recommendation. I need outside expertise on archaeology and history to help me to determine the environmental significance of this property. Can you help?

You can read about this nomination on our website at:


Following is a summary of facts collected so far:

The sinkhole is presently about 400 feet in diameter and 184 feet deep, down from 600 feet in diameter and 200 feet in depth from 1943 due to a lower water table. After conducting an underwater survey of the sinkhole in April 2010, Curt Bowen, CEO of Advanced Diver Magazine, concluded that it may be one of the oldest open to surface sinks known.

Acquisition of this sinkhole would provide access to fossils of plants, invertebrates and mammals; historical artifacts and archaeological findings. The C20/20 Program enabling legislation recognizes the importance of archeological resources to the understanding of historical ecology.

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The cone of the sinkhole may offer a potentially undisturbed stratigraphic record that can teach us about the climate of Florida and its geology over the past 15,000 years or more.

The sinkhole is significant to water resources as the hole may be still open to the Sandstone aquifer, which is the primary source of potable water for all of Lehigh Acres. Ownership would allow Lee County to stop the pollution from the golf course by the construction of berms.

The sinkhole would be of public use interest to divers after the water quality is improved. The sinkhole could be an important draw for tourism in Lee County. There are heritage oak trees on the property that would provide a scenic place for picnics and other associated public uses.

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file://S:/HISTORIC/leeland lakes/Fwd Leeland Lakes Sinkhole.htm

3/8/2012
will be held in the first floor conference room of the DCD/DFW building at 1500 Monroe Street, Port Myers, Florida. Your attendance and public comment at these meetings are welcome.

I am seeking acquisition and management partnerships; including contributory funds, grants and/or in-kind services. Management assistance Florida-Museum of Natural History to offset staff time to prepare the management plan, site maintenance, interpretative signage, educational programs and other public uses.

Please feel free to forward this email to other interested parties. Thank you for your time.

Lynda Thompson

Conservation 20/20 Program Coordinator
Lee County Division of County Lands
P.O. Box 398, Fort Myers, FL 33902
Phone: (239) 533-8033  lthompson@lcgov.com
Website: www.conervation2020.org

Think Green & please print this e-mail only if necessary.

William H. Marquardt, Ph.D.
Curator in Archaeology
Florida Museum of Natural History
Museum Road at Newell Drive
PO Box 117800
Gainesville FL 32611-7800 USA
Phone 352-273-1917
http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/sfl/arch/
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Please feel free to forward this email to other interested parties. Thank you for your time.