

# REMINDER

**Marilyn Garlick**

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**From:** Linda Yates  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 12, 2017 10:00 AM  
**To:** Peter Lear  
**Subject:** FW: PowerPoint, Discussion Points, and Presenter Background  
**Attachments:** About the presenter.docx; Preserving North Port's History.pptx; Preserving NPs History.docx

Pete, here is the info from Mr. Chris Sterner for his presentation at the upcoming meeting/workshop regarding the historic advisory board. I let him know that you would be in touch with him as to the scheduling. His number is [941-258-8213](tel:941-258-8213).

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**From:** Chris & Karen Sterner [mailto:history19@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 10, 2017 6:57 PM  
**To:** Linda Yates <lyates@cityofnorthport.com>  
**Subject:** PowerPoint, Discussion Points, and Presenter Background

Linda,

As I stated on the phone, I had most of what you requested already developed. Consequently, I am attaching everything for your review and distribution to whomever you wish or are required to submit to.  
Should you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to contact me either by e-mail or phone.

Respectfully,

Chris Sterner

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

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## About the Presenter

Chris S. Sterner spent four years in the U.S. Navy (1962-66) and worked in the nuclear industry for over 35 years. His interest in history began at an early age while in Scouting, but blossomed during the United States' Bicentennial celebrations (1975-1981). During that time he participated as captain of a regiment in most of the major battle re-enactments, from the battles of Trenton and Princeton in 1976-77, to the victory celebration at Yorktown in 1981. Along with his wife Karen, he also took part in numerous 18<sup>th</sup> century living history demonstrations.

Chris began his formal training as an historian in 1980, earning an Associate in Arts degree from St. Petersburg Junior College in 1985. In 1989 he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree, with concentration in Political Science and History, from Eckerd College in St. Petersburg. His Master of Arts degree in History was awarded by the University of South Florida in 1996. All of these degrees were gained while continuing to work in nuclear engineering. During the pursuit of his Masters degree, he was awarded a scholarship by the Pinellas County Historical Society in 1992. During his studies, he was nominated for membership in the Rho Nu chapter of the Phi Alpha Theta, Historical Honor Society.

Upon his retirement in 2004, Chris and his wife, Karen, moved to North Port, Florida. While "retired" Chris was able to further pursue his love of history and was hired as an Adjunct Professor of History by Edison College (now Florida Southwestern State College). He lectured in both "History of World Civilizations" and "American History" on the Ft. Myers Campus for three years and on the Punta Gorda Campus for two years. He retired from teaching in 2009.

Between May 2008 and May 2011, Chris served on the Sarasota County Historical Commission, where in 2010 he was elected vice-chair. During the same period he also served on the Sarasota County Historic Preservation Board.

Researching North Port's history began almost immediately upon moving to the city and continues to this day. Chris and Karen continued to do living history, most recently at the Crowley Museum and Nature Center near Myakka City in Sarasota County, dressing as and performing the duties of 1840s Florida pioneers.

## Preserving North Port's History

- Why preserve it?
- How to preserve it?
- What do we preserve?

### Why should we preserve North Port's history?

To help future generations understand their past and how it contributed to the present

Protecting our archaeological and historical resources can contribute to the economic health of the city

Understanding the history of a community instills pride in the citizens of that community

If you don't know where you've been, you will never know where you are going



## How do we preserve the archaeological and History resources of North Port?

- Will a citizen-organized Historical Society work?
- What can such an organization do for these resources?
- Are there advantages to a government advisory board?
- What are they, if any?
- Are there other possibilities?

## What's to Preserve in North Port?

- Very old sites (archaeological and early historical)?
- Places where early peoples lived?
- Locations of historical businesses and industries?
- Places or structures over 50 years old?
- Ideas?

## Archaeological sites within the city

Warm Mineral Springs



Little salt Springs



## Little Salt Springs

Also Visited by Paleo-Indians between 10,000 and 12,000 Years ago

Probably known to the Native Americans, but only discovered by white men in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century

General development Corporation (GDC) transferred ownership to the University of Miami in 1982

Within close proximity to Little salt Springs is a 6000 year old Indian village



## Warm Mineral springs

### Warm Mineral Springs Illustration



Visited by Paleo-Indians between 10,000 and 12,000 Years ago

Friar Juan Ortiz was the first European to see

Ponce de Leon may have visited

After the 16<sup>th</sup> century, for the most part, only native Americans visited

Rediscovered in the 1920s

## People of the North Port Area

Paleo/Archaic Indian cultures



Timucuan Confederacy  
Mogoso and Ocita Tribes



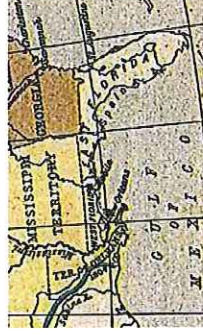
## People visiting the north port area The Europeans



- 1509 – Friar Juan Ortiz visits Warm Mineral Spring
- 1539 – Juan Anasco explores the area of North Port
- 1560s – Juan Menendez d'Aviles explored up both the Myakka and Peace Rivers and the territory in between (the North Port area)

## People of the north Port Area The Americans Arrive

United States acquires Florida from Spain – Adams-Onís Treaty in 1819  
American settlers began arriving in the 1830s and 1840s

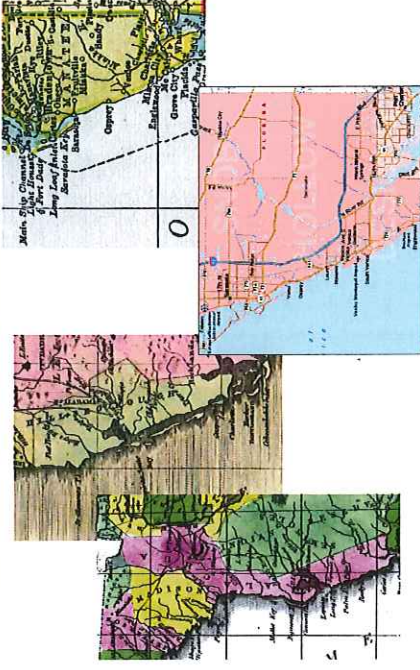


## Next arrivals to the North Port Area The Seminoles



Arrived in early 18<sup>th</sup> Century  
Evidence of Seminole occupation along the Myakkahatchee Creek

## The North Port Area's evolving landscape



## Statehood and Civil War

Florida Achieved statehood in 1845

In the 1860s and throughout most of the Civil War Much of the land in and around North Port was government owned and open range for cattle raising

One of the only Civil War events to take place in the North Port area occurred on 24 December 1863 when Captain Enoch Daniels, USN, led 15 rangers to occupy and conquer the country between Charlotte Harbor and Tampa Bay. They began at the mouth of the Myakka River and headed inland, quite possibly through the North Port area.

## Land grab and settlement in the North Port area

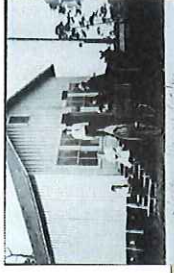
During the mid to late 1800s there were several possible owners of land in the North Port area:

Ziba King, Joel Knight, James Whidden, Francis C.M. Boggess,  
Joseph Durance, Francis A. Hendry

In the late 1800s and early 1900s, much of the land in Northern Charlotte County and the North Port area was acquired by the Florida Land and Improvement Company.

## Early land barons in Northern Charlotte County and North Port Area

John M. Murdock



A.C. Frizzell



## A.C. Frizzell's North Port Lands

Frizzell's timber land



Big Slough, better known as the  
Myakkahatchee Creek



## A.C. Frizzell's North Port Lands

Little Salt Spring



Myakkahatchee Creek  
From another angle



## Tamiami Trail (US 41) Through North Port

Construction of the trail began in Miami in 1916

282 miles from Tampa to Miami

Completed on April 25, 1928

Main commercial artery through North Port



## Warm Mineral Springs in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

Florida land boom of the 1920s

1920s – Warm Mineral Springs was purchased by Mrs. Lilly G. Brown

Mrs. Brown sold her holdings to two real estate developers in 1946

Warm Mineral Springs was again sold in 1955

The city of North Port and Sarasota county purchase the Springs in 2011



## What are some of the historic or potentially historic sites in North Port?

Already Noted:

Warm Mineral Springs

Little Salt Springs

Original 5,628 +/- sq Mile area of city at incorporation in 1959

Native American villages/campsites along the Myakkahatchee

Creek

Little known or unknown sites...

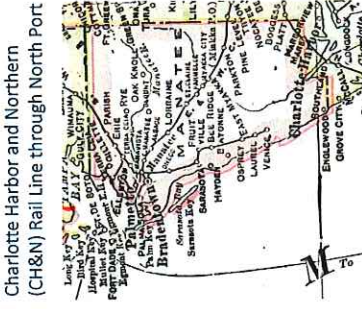
## Little Known or Neglected Historic sites

Turpentine Dock along the Myakkahatchee Creek



## Little Known or Neglected Historic sites

Charlotte Harbor and Northern (CH&N) Rail Line through North Port

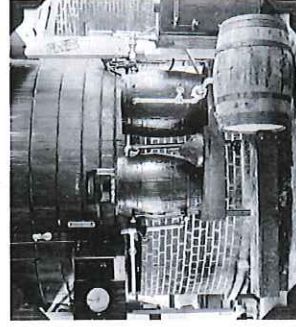


CH&N Rail bed along both Yorkshire and raintree Streets in North Port



## Little Known or Neglected Historic sites

Turpentine Still foundation in close proximity to the Dock



At left – 1920s Turpentine Still  
Below – Foundation of Still



## Saving the architecture of the 1950s

Example of an advertisement by GDC for inexpensive homes similar to those built in North Port



These are historical structures

A Number of these types of homes exist in North Port

Why would we save and preserve any of these?

## Preserving North Port's History

Should North Port's Archaeological and historic (A&H) resources be preserved? Is it important? Why?

Who should be responsible for this preservation? Non-government citizens group? Government backed advisory board? Why?

What should the roll of the group be in preserving North Port's A&H resources?

Which sites, structures, or areas should be preserved? How?

What should the mission statement of the group state?

Thank you for you interest  
and participation

Chris Sterner

## **#1 - Preserving North Port's History and Environment**

### **#2 - Why preserve them? Who will benefit? Once they're gone, they are gone.**

To help future generations understand their past and how it contributed to the present

Protecting our archaeological and historical resources can contribute to the economic health of the city

Understanding the history of a community instills pride in the citizens of that community

If you don't know where you've been, you will never know where you are going

### **#3 - How do we preserve the archaeological, historical and environmental resources of North Port?**

Will a citizen-organized Historical Society work?

What can such an organization do for these resources?

Are there advantages to a government advisory board?

What are they, if any?

Are there other possibilities?

### **#4 - What's to Preserve in North Port?**

Very old sites (archaeological and early historical)

Places where early peoples lived?

Locations of historical businesses and industries?

Places or structures over 50 years old? Original city area cover 5.6 +/- miles and could be considered an historical area.

Ideas?

### **#5 - Archaeological Sites**

Both WMS (1977) and LSS (1979) are on the National Register of Historic Places

### **#6 - Warm Mineral Springs – Who visited?**

Visited by Paleo-Indians between 10,000 and 12,000 Years ago

Friar Juan Ortiz was the first European to see

Ponce de Leon may have visited

After the 16<sup>th</sup> century, for the most part, only native Americans visited

Rediscovered in the 1920s

### **#7 - Little Salt Springs**

Also Visited by Paleo-Indians between 10,000 and 12,000 Years ago

Probably known to the Native Americans, but only discovered by white men in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century

General development Corporation (GDC) transferred ownership to the University of Miami in 1982

Within close proximity to Little salt Springs is a 6000 year old Indian village

### **#8 - People of the North Port Area**

Paleo/Archaic Indian cultures made camps near both Warm Mineral and Little Salt Springs and also along the Myakkahatchee Creek. The Timucuan Confederacy tribes inhabited from the northern part of Florida to a line bordering present-day Charlotte Harbor and the Peace River. They were mound builders, sun worshipers, and agriculturalists.

### **#9 - People visiting the North Port Area - The Europeans**

Anasco was sent by Hernando de Soto to scout for a good landing spot and to make contact with the inhabitants of the Indian village of Ocita or Ucita. The village was near present-day Charlotte Harbor or on the Peace River and very near or in the North Port area. This was also the village that was de Soto's camp just prior to the start of his ill-fated 4 year journey through the S.E. and southern U.S.

### **#10 - Next arrivals to the North Port Area - The Seminoles**

The Seminoles were originally members of the Creek Nation which inhabited the Carolinas and Georgia. There is little other evidence of significant Seminole habitation in the area.

### **#11 - People of the north Port Area - The Americans Arrive**

The United States got East and West Florida in addition the lands in the western U.S. The settlers began coming concurrent with the advent of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Seminole War (1835-42) or just after that conflict.

### **#12 - The North Port Area's evolving landscape**

From 1823 until the establishment of Sarasota in 1921 the North Port area resided in 3 different counties. Alachua – 1823-1834; Hillsborough – 1834-1856; Manatee – 1856-1921

### **#13 - Statehood and Civil War**

Florida Achieved statehood in 1845

In the 1860s and throughout most of the Civil War Much of the land in and around North Port was government owned and open range for cattle raising. The primary customer for beef during the C.W. was the Confederacy, even though most of the cattlemen were opposed to slavery.

One of the only Civil War events to take place in the North Port area occurred on 24 December 1863 when Captain Enoch Daniels, USN, led 15 rangers to occupy and conquer the country between Charlotte Harbor and Tampa Bay. They began at the mouth of the Myakka River and headed inland, quite possibly through the North Port area.

## **#14 - Land grab and settlement in the North Port area**

During the mid to late 1800s there were several possible owners of land in the North Port area:

Ziba King, Joel Knight, James Whidden, Francis C.M. Boggess, Joseph Durance, Francis A. Hendry

In the late 1800s and early 1900s, much of the land in Northern Charlotte County and the North Port area was acquired by the Florida Land and Improvement Company. In order to accurately determine land ownership after the C.W. research must be done in the property records of Manatee and Sarasota Counties. Florida Land and Improvement was a consortium of British and Dutch investors.

## **#15 - Early land barons in Northern Charlotte County and North Port Area**

John Murdock moved to the area of the same name in 1912 where he had 80 acres, some of which may have been in North Port. A.C. Frizzell moved to Murdock around 1918 and began to build a mammoth ranching empire. He accumulated some 80,000 acres.

### **A.C. Frizzell's North Port Lands**

**#16 -** This is looking across much of what is now North Port

**#17 -** These pictures and the two previous pictures were taken in the 1920s as promotions for real estate sales. In 1954 Frizzell sold 80,000 acres of his land to the investment firm of Yellowknife Bear Mines Ltd. Of Canada. The partnership of Yellowknife and the Mackle Bros. had already been formed in 1950. After merging with Chemical Research Corp. of Delaware, a subsidiary was formed called General Development Corporation...developer of North Port.

## **#18 - Warm Mineral Springs in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century**

Land in the northern reaches of today's North Port were bought and sold by land speculators during the land boom. Mrs. Brown's 450 acre purchase occurred either just prior to or during the 1920s Florida land boom. The developers tried to develop home sites in the area, but their capital was limited and they were unable to attract buyers. The sale in 1955 resulted in the Springs being converted into commercial venture as a spa and tourist destination. The purchase of the Springs by N.P and the county may mitigate any further degradation of the archaeological and historical aspects of this site.

## **#19 - Tamiami Trail (US 41) Through North Port**

The trail is bordered on both sides through North Port by several historic sites. This picture is of the intersection of Tamiami Trail and Rt. 776 in Murdock. The land on the left hand side of the picture is part of North Port.

## **#20 - What are some of the historic or potentially historic sites in North Port?**

Already Noted:

Warm Mineral Springs

Little Salt Springs

Original 5.628 +/- sq Mile area of city at incorporation in 1959

Native American villages/campsites along the Myakkahatchee Creek

Little known or unknown sites...

### **Little Known or Neglected Historic sites**

**#21** - When these pictures were taken in April 2009 there was much trash in and around the creek. I believe the site has been cleaned up, but should be monitored to ensure it isn't used as a trash dump in the future.

**#22** - Picture on the right (taken in April 2009) – notice brick work around concrete base.

**#23** - The rail line, constructed from Boca Grande to Arcadia cut through North Port in the very southeast corner of the city. A few of the old maps indicate another stop between Mars and Platt. This stop, Evaland, may well have been in today's North Port.

### **#24 - Saving the architecture of the 1950s**

Example of an advertisement by General Development Corporation (GDC) for inexpensive homes similar to those built in North Port

Are these historical structures? Yes, they are over 50 years old.

A Number of these types of homes exist in North Port

Why would we save and preserve any of these?

### **#25 - Preserving North Port's History**

Should North Port's Archaeological and historic (A&H) resources be preserved? Is it important? Why?

Who should be responsible for this preservation? Non-government citizens group?

Government backed advisory board? Why?

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### **#26 - Thank you**