



Florida Anthropological Society

SPRING 2023 NEWSLETTER

LOOKING FORWARD

Our 75th Annual Meeting is coming up May 12-14 in St. Augustine!
Have you registered yet? **PRESENTER SUBMISSIONS CLOSE MARCH 24!**

Rates are \$50 (FAS member), \$65 (non-member),
\$20 (student). On April 1, these rates increase by \$10.
GET ALL THE DETAILS AND REGISTER AT [FASWEB.ORG](https://fasweb.org)

FAS 2023 is going green!

In our best efforts to reduce consumption and waste, the 2023 FAS Annual Meeting Planning Committee has made a few changes to the usual conference experience.

This year, we will not have conference bags. Instead, we encourage everyone to reuse their favorite bag from a previous conference. The committee will also host a competition for these bags (see below). The committee will also print a reduced number of programs (available at the registration table) and post the full schedule and a handy one-page schedule on the FAS website by May 1. Attendees are encouraged to download and view these digitally to help reduce paper waste. Finally, the committee encourages everyone to bring their own reusable water bottles to refill throughout the weekend. Water refill stations and fountains are available at all conference locations.



Conference Bag Competition

The 2023 FAS Planning Committee will hold a conference bag competition during the 2023 conference. Anyone is eligible to submit their bag for one of the categories by stopping by the registration table, taking a photo, and submitting their name to the list. Winners will be announced at the business meeting and you must be present to win. Prizes will include a variety of locally and sustainably made goods from St. Augustine. Prizes will be awarded for the following categories:

- Oldest bag from a FAS conference
- Oldest bag from another conference
- Bag from the conference held furthest away from St. Augustine geographically
- Most creative hand-made or modified bag
- Judges choice favorite bag (voted on by the Conference Planning Committee)
- Honorable mentions all around for any 2013 St. Augustine bag!



Don't think you have a winning bag for the categories? We will select an additional set of five random winners for participating in our efforts to be more environmentally conscious! You still must submit your name and bag at the registration to be eligible.

ANNUAL MEETING FIELD TRIPS AND TOURS



TROLLEY TOUR

Join City Archaeologists Dr. Andrea White and Katherine Sims on a guided tour through St. Augustine's buried past! Attendees will experience a 2-hour ride on the Red Train that will highlight a selection of past and present excavations conducted by the City of St. Augustine Archaeology Program. Since the inception of St. Augustine's local Archaeology Preservation Ordinance in 1986, over 1,000 projects have been conducted within the city limits. Sites dating from 2,000 BC to the early 20th century dot the urban landscape, and all contribute to the rich history of St. Augustine. The tour will include a cruise through the original 16th century colony, Native American mission communities, Timucuan villages, plantations, and much more.

Tickets are \$20 per person and space is limited to 48 people.

EXPLORE FISH ISLAND

Join archaeologist Marsha Chance for a guided hike through Fish Island Preserve. Fish Island was inhabited by Native Americans between 1,000 and 2,000 BC and between 500 BC and AD 1500, who left behind pottery and oyster shell debris. Jesse Fish, an export agent and procurer of needed goods, assisted in the transition of the colony from British back to Spanish rule in 1785. By the mid-1700s, he owned Anastasia Island and the adjacent small island that bears his name where he established a commercial orange plantation, shipping fruit from three thousand trees, noted for sweetness and thin skins, as far as London. He built his home, "El Vergel," of native coquina, as well as outbuildings, canals, wells, a boat basin, and a wharf on Fish Island. He imported enslaved Africans to work the groves, introducing most of the African slaves registered in Florida between 1752 and 1763. Archaeological remains of the plantation buildings and features are present. In the late 1800s visitors described mansion ruins, pathways, fields, furrows, and aged orange trees.

This historically significant island links Florida's orange history, plantation life, and trans-Atlantic slave trade in early St. Augustine, and is also a stellar example of the natural coastal environment along the Matanzas River. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, was purchased by the state in 2019, and is managed by the city.

The tour is free, but space is limited to 30 people.

ST. FRANCIS BARRACKS AND ST. AUGUSTINE NATIONAL CEMETERY

The headquarters of the Florida National Guard is located in the historic St. Francis Barracks, a compound originally constructed as a chapel with friary in the 18th century for use as the headquarters of Florida's Franciscan mission system. The historic St. Francis Barracks property was first converted for use as a military headquarters during Florida's British Period (1763-1783). Since 1907, the property served as the Headquarters of the Florida National Guard. The tour features the early history of the property as a Franciscan headquarters, its use as a military reservation through the 19th century, the history of Florida's militia, and the historic St. Augustine National Cemetery. Alison Simpson is the Command Historian for the Florida National Guard.

This tour is free, but space is limited to 30 people.

You must sign up for these tours when you register for the conference, but spaces may be available day of if not sold out.
EMAIL CONFERENCE@FASWEB.ORG WITH ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE TOURS.

ATTENTION MEMBERS

The Florida Anthropological Society Statement of Ethical Responsibilities has been updated to reflect additional considerations regarding communication with Native American and other descendent communities throughout the archaeological process. This update will be voted on at the Annual Business Meeting in St. Augustine on May 13, 2023. *The three updated pages are attached at the end of this newsletter.*

STATEMENT AGAINST THE COMMERCIALIZATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES AND PRACTICE

In November of 2022, the Board of Directors of the Florida Anthropological Society (FAS) became aware of the actions of a newly established economic entity whose practices we strongly believe poses an imminent threat to Florida's cultural resources.

The field activities of this Florida-based entity that we have observed through photographs posted on its own website and Facebook social media page show the excavation of Florida's antiquities for wholesale profit and personal gain and this is against all professional state, national, and international archaeological ethics, and standards, including the FAS, the Florida Archaeological Council, and the Society for American Archaeology.

We are concerned because this is not an educational activity conducted to gain an understanding of Florida's history and the people who once lived on these lands through time. Rather, we believe this represents a destructive operation and wholesale commercialization of Florida's history. While one of FAS's objectives is to effect harmony and cooperation between the amateur and professional anthropologist and archaeologist so that the work of all will permanently enrich our knowledge of human history, the entity's behavior provides limited documentation and recording of context, artifact association, analysis, reporting, etc.

In addition, the accrued undocumented artifact assemblage is scattered in personal collections stimulating the sale and trade for profit of Florida's antiquities. We also believe the activities of this entity, that we leave unnamed for our purposes here, could influence the emergence of other operations, that together, may further confound the general public's knowledge and beliefs of what constitutes ethical archaeological practice.

The Board appreciates any opportunities for discussion on this issue.

Statement approved by the FAS Board of Directors on February 4, 2023.



The Ais Catamaran Project of Martin County

A Potential Historical Education Project in Martin County

by Israel Mireles (SEFAS)

In Martin County myself and a few individuals are partnering up to hopefully reconstruct a truly amazing piece of history. Some may even consider this piece as forgotten history and that is the construction of a catamaran-like craft used by the Ais Native American group of Florida.

In Jonathan Dickinson's journal, he recorded the use of catamaran-like composite crafts by the Ais that were used to transport multiple people and large loads of goods. The Calusa even used these types of crafts and they are recorded in use by Pedro Menendez on the west coast of Florida. This type of composite watercraft is truly unique and myself and a few others believe reconstructing something like this can showcase to the public a piece of forgotten history that is almost entirely unique to our area in southern Florida.

We hope to create a replica of the catamaran craft in the same manner as the Ais here on the east coast of Florida would have done; do so with public lessons and involvement throughout the process. Our roadblock at the moment is securing committed historical professionals to dedicate time and effort to the project as well as securing the physical means such as venue and supplies to construct the craft. If anyone knows of any way to help out with this or would like to join our small team in planning with county and state officials, that would be great! We would greatly appreciate any help whatsoever that anyone in FAS can offer and anyone is welcome to help if they so can. As our team grows we hope to gather more backing and support for the project and actually construct this craft in the following months.

If anyone would like to reach out on the project matter please message or call 772-285-6845 or mirelesisrael47@gmail.com



Image of St. Lucie Inlet where Jonathan Dickinson's party crossed in 1696 and entered Ais territory.

Florida Archaeology Month 2023

www.flarchmonth.org

EXPLORE *Florida Archaeology*



Celebrating archaeology in, with, and for communities across Florida.

Every March, statewide programs and events celebrating Florida Archaeology Month (FAM) are designed to encourage Floridians and visitors to learn more about the archaeology and history of the state, and to preserve these important parts of Florida's rich cultural heritage.

FAM is coordinated by the Florida Public Archaeology Network. Additional sponsors include the Florida Department of State Division of Historical Resources, the Florida Anthropological Society, and the Florida Archaeological Council. Additional sponsors include state and local museums, historical commissions, libraries, and public and private school systems.

LEARN MORE ABOUT FAM AND FIND EVENTS NEAR YOU AT <https://florida-archaeology-month.squarespace.com/>



www.flheritage.com



**FLORIDA PUBLIC
ARCHAEOLOGY NETWORK**

A PROGRAM OF THE UNIVERSITY of WEST FLORIDA

The Florida Anthropological Society (FAS) is open to persons interested in anthropology, archaeology, preservation of cultural resources, and community education. FAS members receive the Society's journal, *The Florida Anthropologist*, and the FAS Newsletter. Join Now, or Renew your Membership at www.fasweb.org/membership.

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CHAPTERS AND REPRESENTATIVES

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 Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society
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(PLEASE INFORM NEWSLETTER@FASWEB.ORG OF ANY CHANGES TO THIS LIST)



FAS MEMBER DUES RATES

\$20 - Student, \$40 - Regular, \$50 - Family, \$50 - Institutional, \$100 - Sustaining

*Student membership is open to graduate, undergraduate and high school students. A photocopy of your student ID must accompany payment. Add \$25.00 for foreign addresses.

INFORMATION FOR CONTRIBUTORS

The FAS Newsletter is published quarterly. Brief articles, chapter news, and other items of interest are welcome for submissions. Contact the editor for more information or to submit an article, program news, or photo. Also send items for posting to our [FACEBOOK PAGE](https://www.facebook.com/fasweb.org).

EMAIL newsletter@fasweb.org



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STATEMENT OF ETHICAL RESPONSIBILITIES

PREAMBLE: The following principles are fundamental to the objectives of the Florida Anthropological Society. They establish guidelines by which FAS members and Chapters should direct their activities.

SECTION 1: The "preservation of archaeological and historical sites within the State of Florida," is an objective of the Florida Anthropological Society (Articles of Incorporation, Article II. Section 1.5). All members and Chapters:

- (a) should abide by all federal, state, local, or tribal laws and regulations that affect the archaeological record.
- (b) should report archaeological discoveries to the Florida Division of Historical Resources, Bureau of Archaeological Research (formerly Division of Archives, History, and Records Management, Bureau of Historic Sites and Properties) which acts as the central repository for information on cultural resources in Florida, the relevant regional or local authorities (i.e., planning departments, police or sheriff's department), and any involved property owners.
- (c) should report illicit or illegal activity concerning archaeological sites, as well as sites threatened with destruction, to the property owners and/or managers, appropriate public agencies, and law enforcement authorities.
- (d) should protect sites from unwarranted intrusion by using care in the distribution of site location data.

SECTION 2: Since archaeological and historical sites are finite and unique sources of information about past human behavior, every site which cannot be preserved deserves the best possible quality of excavation, analysis, and documentation/publication.

- (a) To conserve archaeological resources, excavation shall be carried out only on sites that:
 - (1) are in imminent danger of destruction,
 - (2) have been extensively altered, or
 - (3) contain important data that will help answer questions of a problem-oriented research design.
- (b) The practice of excavating or collecting solely or primarily for "teaching" purposes is contrary to the standards of the Florida Anthropological Society. Existing collections of archaeological material should be used for these purposes. For sites in category 2(a)(3), unless they fall into 2(a)(1) or (2), only a representative sample should be excavated and the remainder preserved until the excavated materials have been analyzed and reported, so that later excavation strategies can be adjusted to maximize data recovery.
- (c) Research undertaken by members should be of the highest possible quality, and in accordance with established archaeological standards of survey, excavation, laboratory analysis, record keeping, and other aspects of information gathering.

- (d) Records of data gathered during a survey or excavation should be properly maintained, and a copy of those records should be placed in an appropriate local repository and with the Florida Division of Historical Resources, Bureau of Archaeological Research, so that there will be a copy on file in the central statewide repository.
- (e) All members should disseminate descriptions of their research, methodology, and results.
- (f) All members should curate all artifactual material in such a manner that:
 - (1) its provenance data are recorded,
 - (2) fragile items are preserved (including a backup photo record), and
 - (3) it may be available for study by others with the member's concurrence.
- (g) In carrying out anthropological research, all FAS members should be sensitive to and respect the legitimate concerns of groups whose cultural histories are the subject of study.
 - (1) In planning archaeological excavation, members should make every reasonable effort to include representatives of the Native American community or ethnic group whose cultural history is being investigated.
 - i. Members should also continue this engagement through the interpretation and presentation of findings in publications, presentations, and displays.
 - (2) Members shall abide by the requests of the affected ethnic or Native American community concerning the research. All human skeletal remains and burial objects shall require the archaeologist to contact the appropriate descendant community before continuing work. Whenever requested, all human skeletal remains exhumed from mortuary contexts of recent date shall be re-interred following local, state, and federal laws and the requests of affected descendant or Native American community(s). Reburial should be done in collaboration with the affected descendant community, and in accordance with federal laws, state statutes, and local ordinances. No human skeletal remains, funerary objects, or artifacts of any type should be bought, sold, traded, or displayed in a culturally distasteful manner.
- (h) In carrying out anthropological research, particularly archaeological survey or excavation, participating FAS members should obtain appropriate authorization and/or permits from the involved private landowners, or public land management agencies.

SECTION 3: Commercial dealings in archaeological materials often lead to site destruction and the loss of contextual relationships and other important scientific data. The value the Florida Anthropological Society places on archaeological materials is scientific, not commercial.

- (a) The Florida Anthropological Society supports and complies with the terms of the UNESCO Convention on the means of prohibiting and preventing the illicit import, export, and transfer of ownership of cultural properties as adopted by the General Conference, November 14, 1970, Paris.
- (b) Members shall refrain from collecting, hoarding, exchanging, buying, or selling any illegally or illicitly obtained archaeological materials.

SECTION 4: Cooperation and communication among members and Chapters of the Florida Anthropological Society are to be encouraged.

- (a) Members should freely exchange information concerning sites, collections, research undertaken, and other archaeological information.
- (b) Members should always give appropriate credit for work done and information provided by others.
- (c) Members should assist in the preparation of regional artifact type collections to be maintained by the Chapters and in the state's master type collection.

SECTION 5: The Florida Anthropological Society exists within a larger community to which it has a responsibility.

- (a) The use of the name of the Florida Anthropological Society, its individual Chapters, and its members shall be used only in support of legal and ethical activities, and in ways authorized by the Executive Board.
- (b) Members should engage with the appropriate descendent communities throughout all activities, including excavation planning, excavation, handling of materials from excavations, interpretation, and presentation of findings.
- (c) In its presentations to the community, the scientific and educational aspects of archaeology and historic preservation shall be stressed rather than the sensational or monetary aspects. In addition, and more specifically, use of skeletal remains and/or funerary object (physical remains/items, images of remains/items, line draws of remains/items) in interpretive displays will be done with sensitivity and understanding of the feelings for human dignity held by all people and in consultation with and/or permission from the appropriate descendent communities.