

WELCOME TO THE 78TH ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE
FLORIDA ANTHROPOLOGICAL
SOCIETY



MAY 8-10, 2026

CHARLOTTE HARBOR EVENT AND
CONFERENCE CENTER

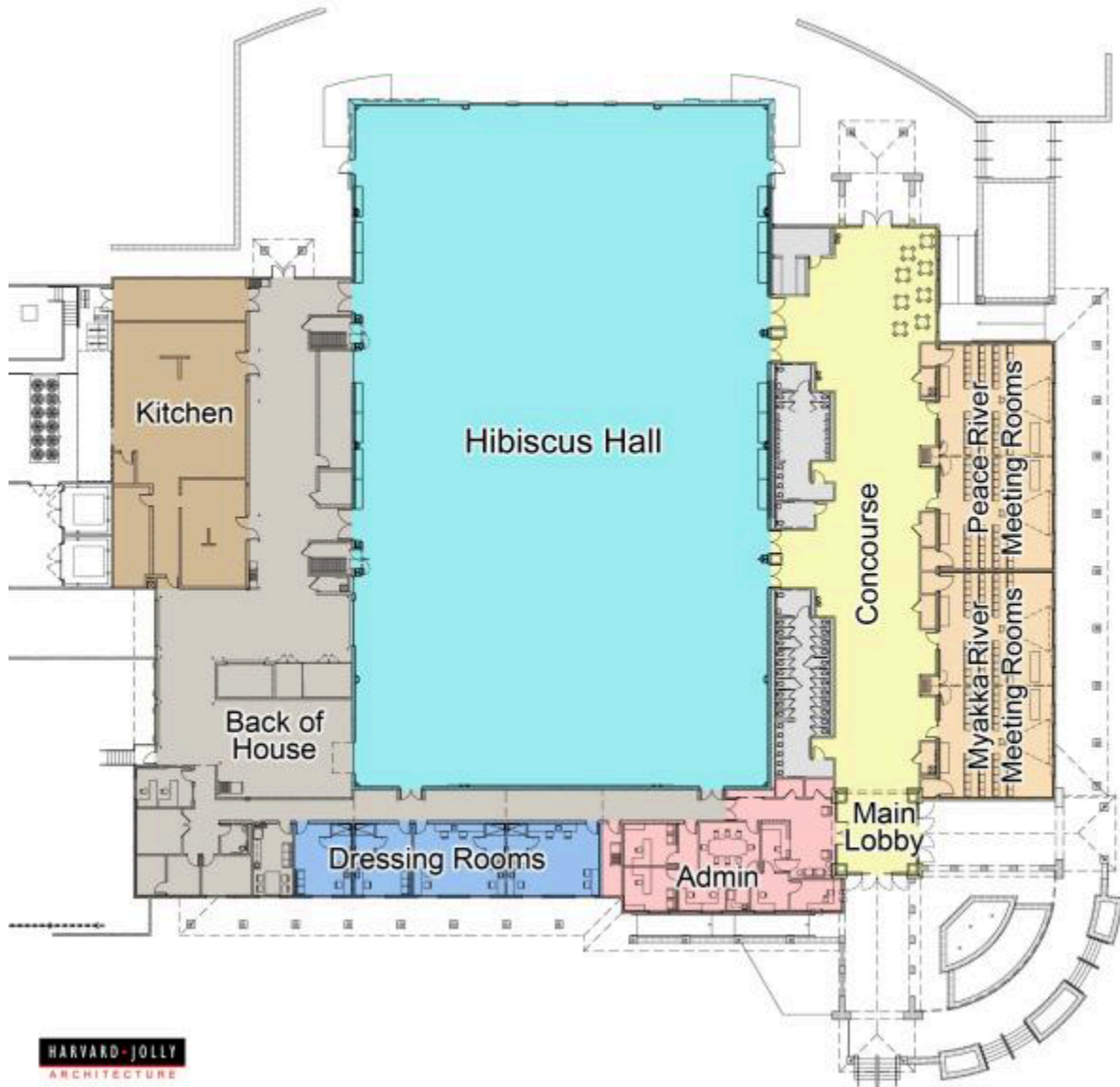
PUNTA GORDA

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER FOR
AN UNDERSTANDING OF AND AN
APPRECIATION FOR THE PAST

CHARLOTTE HARBOR EVENT AND CONFERENCE CENTER

76 Taylor St., Punta Gorda, FL

Entrance on lower right into lobby and concourse, with Myakka River Rooms A and B, and Peace River Rooms A and B on the right. Free parking in front of the conference center. Vendor loading at the north entrance. Take the second left off US 41 N to reach the hotel and parking lots



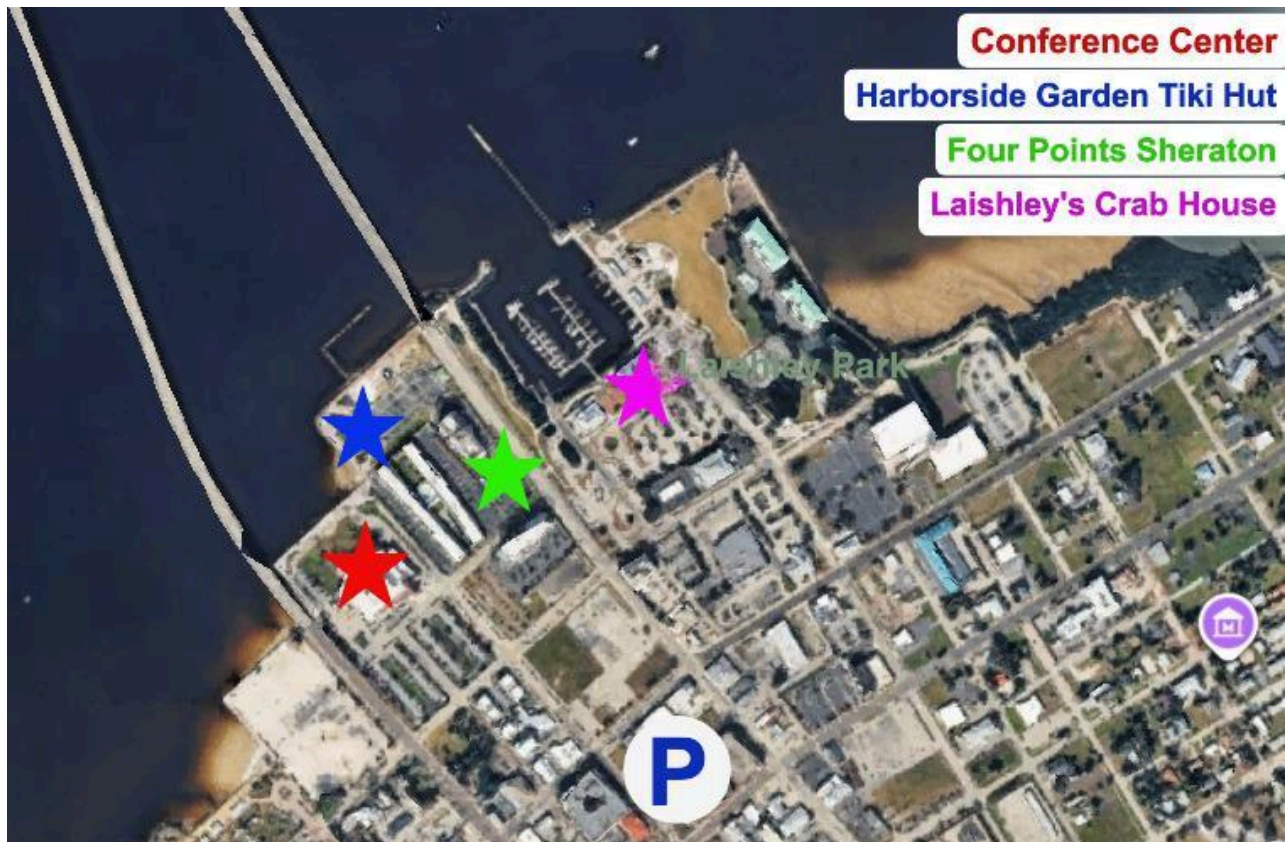
AREA MAP OF EVENT LOCATIONS

Four Points Sheraton Hotel
Conference Hotel

Harborside Garden Tiki Hut at Four Points Sheraton
Welcome Reception and FAC Stewards of Heritage Awards

Charlotte Harbor Event And Conference Center

Laishley's Crab House
FAS Banquet and Awards



A heartfelt thank you to all FAS 2026 conference sponsors
and contributors!

CONFERENCE SPONSORS



Florida Archaeological Council



Archaeological Consultants, Inc.



University Press of Florida



CONTRIBUTORS

\$100-\$250 Level

Rita and Hugh Bass
John and Linda Furey
Elizabeth Horvath
Steven H. Koski
Jeffrey M. Mitchem
Margaret Schwier

Up to \$99

Robert Cochrane
Gloria Fike
Bob Gross
David Kasriel
Bonita Lee
Karen Malesky
Christine Newman
Joanne Talley
Nancy White

A special thanks is given to the Florida Historical Society, University of Florida Press, Marty Haythorn, and Roger Hostetler for their generous contributions for the winner of the student paper prize.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Steven H. Koski, Chair, WMS/LSSAS Board Member, FAS Chapter Rep
Michelle L. Calhoun, Vice Chair, WMS/LSSAS President
Betty Dailey-Nugent, WMS/LSSAS Board Member, Englewood Museum
Kathy Gerace, WMS/LSSAS Vice President
Karen Malesky, WMS/LSSAS Board Member
Linda Massey, WMS/LSSAS Board Member
Brad Biglow, FAS Director
Dorothy Block, FAS Director, PBCAS Founder
Christian Davenport, FAS President
April Holmes, FAS Director, UWF Archaeology Institute
Bonita Lee, FAS Treasurer
George M. Luer, FAS Director, *TFA* journal editor
Rudolph Pascucci, FAS Recording Secretary
Eric Prendergast, FAS First Vice-President
Theresa Schober, SWFAS Chapter Rep

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AND APPRECIATION



604 W. Perry Street, Englewood, r FL
Using the Power of History to Transform Lives
www.Englewoodmuseum.org



WELCOME TO FAS 2026 PUNTA GORDA

The Warm Mineral Springs/Little Salt Spring Archaeological Society is excited to welcome you to the 78th Annual Meeting and Conference of the Florida Anthropological Society. We look forward to hosting you at the Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center in historic downtown Punta Gorda, on the beautiful and scenic Peace River. Enjoy your visit to this community which is deeply rooted in Florida's past and is "Where Land Meets the River and Bay."

PROGRAM TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHARLOTTE HARBOR CONFERENCE CENTER FLOOR PLAN	2
AREA MAP WITH EVENT LOCATIONS	3
CONFERENCE SPONSORS AND CONTRIBUTORS	4-5
PROGRAM SCHEDULE	7
FAS 2026 VENDORS/EXHIBITORS	8
FAS 2026 BANQUET, AWARD PRESENTATION, AND KEYNOTE SPEAKER	9
FAS 2026 AWARDS	10
PODIUM SESSION 1 – MYAKKA RIVER ROOM A	11
PODIUM SESSION 2 – MYAKKA RIVER ROOM B	12
PODIUM SESSION 3 – PEACE RIVER ROOM A	13
POSTER PRESENTATIONS – PEACE RIVER ROOM B	14
PRESENTATION ABSTRACTS	15-23
FAS OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS	23-24
FAS CHAPTERS AND REPRESENTATIVES	24
WMS/LSSAS HOST CHAPTER OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS	24-25
FAC OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS	25
SUNDAY TOUR	25-26
LOCAL ON-YOUR-OWN ADVENTURES	26

The STATEMENT OF ETHICAL RESPONSIBILITIES follows principles fundamental to the objectives of the Florida Anthropological Society. They establish guidelines by which FAS Members and Chapters should direct their activities. All members must read and agree to abide by the FAS code of ethics when joining FAS. The full statement can be found at:

<https://fasweb.org/membership/>

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Friday, May 8

Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center

Registration: 10:00am-4:30pm

Board Meetings in Myakka River Rooms A and B

1:00pm-2:00pm FAC board meeting, Myakka River Room B

2:00pm-3:00pm FAC membership meeting, Myakka River Room B

2:00pm-4:00pm FAS board meeting, Myakka River Room A

FAS Reception and FAC Stewards of Heritage Awards

6:00pm-8:00pm Harborside Garden Tiki Hut, Four Points Sheraton, Peace River waterfront. Hosted by the Florida Archaeological Council and Florida Anthropological Society

Registration continues at the Reception

Saturday, May 9

Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center

Continental Breakfast: 8:00am-10:30am

Vendors and Information Tables available in concourse: 8:00am-4:00pm

Registration: 8:00am-12:00pm

8:30am-8:40am Welcome to FAS 2026

8:40am-3:20pm Podium Presentations

8:00am-8:30am Poster set-up

8:30am-11:40am; 2:00pm-4:00pm Poster Presentations in Peace River Room B

11:40am-2:00pm Lunch (on-your-own, multiple downtown locations; closest is TT's Tiki Bar, on the Peace River, Four Points Sheraton, to the north, a one-minute walk in back of conference center) [See Business Directory for local restaurants and shops]

12:00pm-1:30pm Chapter Representative Luncheon (Reserved for Chapter Reps and Chapter Presidents) in Peace River Room B

3:30pm-4:30pm General FAS Membership Meeting in Myakka River Room A

4:30pm-5:00pm New Board Meeting in Myakka River Room A

Laishley's Crab House

FAS Banquet, Awards Ceremony, Keynote Speaker : 6:00pm-8:30pm

Keynote Speaker: Archaeologist, Robert S. Carr (Archaeological and Historical Conservancy, Inc.)

Sunday, May 10

Historic Spanish Point, Osprey (ticketed event closed, at capacity)

Self-guided mural tour (see the insert in the program for map of all mural locations or visit

<https://puntagordamurals.org>)

FAS 2026 VENDORS/EXHIBITORS

Conference Center Concourse

Saturday, May 9

8:00am - 4:00pm



Ancient Hands – Ceramic Artisan – Marty Haythorn

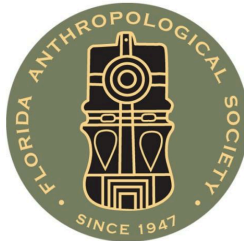
Marty is a contemporary artist, sculptor, ethnographic artist, and educator, with over 45 years of experience reproducing traditional Native American and Southeastern Pre-Columbian ceramic artifacts. His heritage, both Native American and European, shapes his artistic vision and fuels a deep commitment to cultural preservation through art.

Ancient Technology Artisan – Roger Hostetler

A member of the WMS/LSSAS, Roger is a talented artist, working in multiple media including lithic and bone tools, basketry, leather work, and fiber weaving. He learned his art by observing his mentor Claude van Order.



Welcome to our book and informational vendors



Thank you Marty Haythorn, Roger Hostetler, and the Florida Historical Society for your donations to the student paper prize!

FAS 2026 BANQUET, AWARDS PRESENTATION, AND KEYNOTE SPEAKER

78th Annual FAS Meeting Keynote Address



Robert S. Carr has led the Archaeological and Historical Conservancy as Executive Director since 1999. Bob is a graduate of Florida State University with a Master

of Science degree. He has worked as an archaeologist with the State of Florida's Division of Historic Sites, the National Park Service (Southeastern Center), and was Miami-Dade County's first County Archaeologist. Bob subsequently served as Director of the Miami-Dade Historic Preservation Division. He is a past editor of *The Florida Anthropologist* and a former president of the Florida Archaeological Council.



Digging in Circles

Twenty-five years of archaeological excavations in Miami in response to intensive new downtown development has resulted in the discovery of thirteen circular foundations and cultural remains of the Tequesta within their ancient town spanning three thousand years. These discoveries have allowed for the documentation of a complex chiefdomship far more sophisticated than Spanish descriptions revealed during European contact. The circles and an extensive number of exotic materials including galena, copper, and basalt artifacts speak to a period of trade and possible Hopewellian influences dating from 300 to 700 CE. These discoveries have reconfigured our understanding of prehistoric South Florida, illuminating its connections to other parts of Florida and regions across North America. They also underscore the vital role that local city and county ordinances play in documenting and preserving significant archaeological sites.

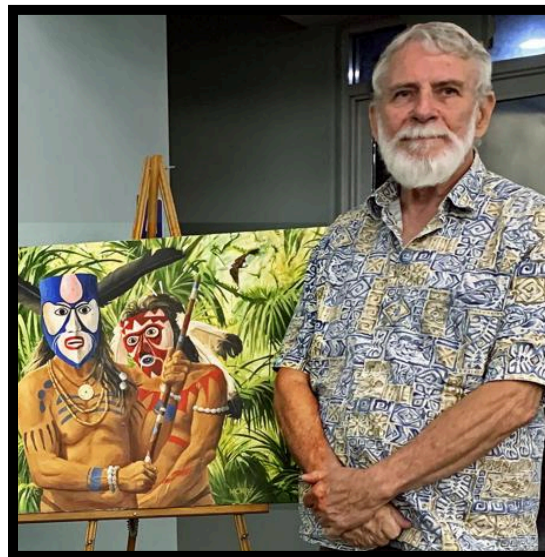
Bob Carr's areas of specialization are the archaeology of Southern Florida and the Bahamas. In Florida, important projects include the earthworks of Lake Okeechobee, Ortona Canal, the Miami Circle, Cutler Fossil Site, and Everglades Tree Islands, as well as the historic sites of Ferguson Mill Site, Fort Dallas, and Fort Van Swearingen. His Bahamian projects include the discovery of the Loyalist settlement of Carleton on Abaco, nineteenth-century white Bahamian homesteads in Miami, and African-Bahamian homesteads in Coconut Grove and Crane Hammock in the Florida Keys.

FAS 2026 AWARDS

FAS Lifetime Achievement Award
Dr. George M. Luer



William C. Lazarus Memorial Award
Theodore Morris, artist



The winners of the FAS Dorothy Moore Student Grant, Student Paper Prize, and WMS/LSSAS Travel Grant to be announced at the banquet.

PODIUM SESSION 1 – Myakka River Room A

TIME	PRESENTER	PRESENTATION TITLE
8:30-8:40		<i>Welcome and Introduction</i>
8:40-9:00	Jeffrey M. Mitchem	The Beerman Site and My Beginnings in Archaeology
9:00-9:20	Kendal Jackson, et al.	Ancient Harmful Algal Blooms Impacted Ancestral Native American Shellfisheries on the Florida Gulf Coast, ca. 650CE
9:20-9:40	Hope Bridgeman, William Wilson	Shell Deposit Formations at Devil's Point in Escambia Bay, Escambia County, Florida
9:40-10:00	Neill Wallis	Large Structures and Continuous Occupations at the Spring Warrior Complex (ca. 400-1000 CE)
10:00-10:20	BREAK	
10:20-10:40	Chance Courtney-Durrett	Investigating Colorinda Culture at Borgman Shell Mound
10:40-11:00	Victoria Hayes	Shellworks, Solstices, and Seasonal Gatherings at the Cedar Point North Site
11:00-11:20	Hui Xiao	Ceramic Traditions at the Pierce Mounds Complex, Northwest Florida, A.D. 900–1500
11:20-11:40	Magdalynne Alley, Ann Cordell	Tempering Time: Grog as an Index of Chosen Histories in Northeastern Florida
11:40-2:00	BREAK	LUNCH BREAK
2:00-2:20	Gina Crespo	Revisiting Hialeah Midden Sites: Ceramic Analysis of Glades Period Pottery in South Florida
2:20-2:40	Matthew Newton	Port Paradise: An Offshore Spring in the Eastern Gulf
2:40-3:00	Keith Ashley	Taking Stock of St. Johns II in Northeastern Florida
3:00-3:20	Tom Pluckhahn	"Thanks for All the Fish": Rethinking Human-Dolphin Relations in Indigenous Florida
3:30-4:00	Old FAS Board Meeting	Nominations read, final votes tallied for new board; student awards announced.
4:00-4:45	New FAS Board Meeting	New FAS board members open meetings, Student Prize.

PODIUM SESSION 2 – Myakka River Room B

TIME	PRESENTER	PRESENTATION TITLE
8:30-8:40		<i>Welcome and Introduction</i>
8:40-9:00	Melanie Damour	Impacts of Hurricane Michael (2018) on Submerged Historic Sites and Shipwrecks
9:00-9:20	Lukas Desjardins	The Delta Surface Vulnerability Assessment: Modelling Hurricane Impacts at Shell Mound (8LV42)
9:20-9:40	Elizabeth Perez et al.	Assessing Sea Level Rise and Site Use in Ancestral Key Largo Sites
9:40-10:00	Peter Ferdinando	“One Would Certainly Not Dare to Take the Risk of Crossing the Seine in Paris”: Florida Native American Canoe Voyages to Havana, Cuba at the turn to the Eighteenth Century
10:00-10:20	BREAK	
10:20-10:40	Asa Randall	Paving Northeast Florida with Sacred Shell Mounds
10:40-11:00	Amy Kowal	Beyond the Glass Case
11:00-11:20	Natalie De La Torre Salas	Connected Communities: Expanding Public Land Access Through Inclusive Partnerships in South Florida
11:20-11:40	Michelle Calhoun	A Review of Two "New" Sites in Indian Beach, City of Sarasota, Florida
11:40-2:00	BREAK	LUNCH BREAK
2:00-2:20	John Worth	Outfitting the Luna Expedition to Florida: An Overview of Newly Identified Mexico City Treasury Accounts
2:20-2:40	Jirye Kang	Cultural Materials from Mission San Luis de Talimali (8LE4), Block 3 Excavation
2:40-3:00	Carsten Comberg	Living Beyond the Mission Core: Exploring the Community Layout of Guadalquini
End Session		New and Old FAS board meetings in Myakka River Room A. All members are encouraged to attend for a quorum for final vote of new Officers and Directors

PODIUM SESSION 3 – Peace River Room A

TIME	PRESENTER	PRESENTATION TITLE
8:30-8:40		<i>Welcome and Introduction</i>
8:40-9:00	Tom Myers	The 1935 FBI v. Barker Gang Shootout in Ocklawaha- New Info Via Non-Traditional Means
9:00-9:20	Anna R. Dixon, Chelsea Wigington	Pulp in the Citrus State: True Detectives Take on Florida
9:20-9:40	Paige Roberts, et al.	Intrasketal Variation Across the Adult Life Course: Implications of Population Affinity Estimation in Forensic Anthropology
9:40-10:00	Erin Broemel	The Force of Form: AI and the Simulation of Legal Authority in Practice
10:00-10:20	BREAK	
10:20-10:40	Kevin Gidusko and Kathryn O'Donnell Miyar	Unanticipated Human Burial Discoveries in Florida: Trends, Market Drivers, and Operational Frameworks
10:40-11:00	Theresa Schober	Skeletons in the Closet? NAGPRA Compliance Considerations for FAS Chapters
11:00-11:20	Virginia McCue	Unveiling Cassadaga
11:20-11:40	April Watson	Bones, Shells, and Sustainability: Archaeology as a Tool for Teaching Undergraduate Biology
11:40-2:00	BREAK	LUNCH BREAK END OF SESSION 3

POSTER PRESENTATIONS – Peace River Room B

8:15 -11:40am and 2:00-3:20pm. Chapter Rep Lunch 12:00 - 1:30pm

PRESENTER	POSTER TITLE
Jessica Owen	Hale Mound: An Examination of Field Methods and Research Potential of Disturbed Archaeological Deposits
Lisa Reinke	A Re-Analysis of the 1973–1978 Ceramic Assemblage from the Boynton Mounds “Midden” (8PB100): Depositional Patterns, Compositional Zonation, and Cultural Sequence
Paula Rubiano	Mineral Perception
Isabella Santilli	XRF Analysis of Puebla Blue on White Majolica from 18th-Century West Florida Presidios
Rebecca Schwandt	Springing into Action: Gaining Community Buy-In of the Preservation of One of Florida's Oldest Roadside Attractions, Weeki Wachee Springs
Thomas Biles	A Re-evaluation of Powell’s Town
Ana Lee	The Long Shadow of History: A Review of Historical Trauma and Healing in Indigenous Communities

PRESENTATION ABSTRACTS

* Poster presentation

Tempering Time: Grog as an Index of Chosen Histories in Northeastern Florida

Magdalyne Alley and Ann Cordell

In recent years, studies of grog-tempered Indigenous ceramic wares have expanded beyond technofunctional concerns, exploring multi-scalar questions of exchange, history, and personhood. Instead of viewing grog as a simple tempering agent, analysts are increasingly investigating attributes of the original vessel from which grog was derived. Our research aims to build on this literature using a petrographic approach, examining trends among San Pedro (1450-1600 CE) grog-tempered wares in northeastern Florida and Southeastern Georgia. Through this research, we attempt to identify pottery types chosen for San Pedro grog production, evaluating how grog tempering choices fostered cultural continuity and identity construction.

Taking Stock of St. Johns II in Northeastern Florida

Keith Ashley

Over the past three decades, the University of North Florida has made a concerted effort to deepen our understanding of the St. Johns II phase in far northeastern Florida. By focusing excavations on St. Johns II sites, we have refined the phase's temporal breadth, examined foodway patterns, explored inter- and intraregional social interactions, and proposed migrations into and out of the area. Our updated perspective differs from earlier characterizations of the St. Johns II phase across the broader St. Johns region. This paper takes stock of what we have learned so far and outlines future plans.

Re-evaluation of Powell's Town *

Thomas Biles

Between 1983 and 1986, surveys were conducted in Inverness County, leading to the discovery of what at the time was considered Powell's Town, Osceola's wartime camp. Osceola was a renowned Seminole war leader known for his relentless resistance and charisma and would become the most famous Seminole in history. Many artifacts were collected from the site. In 2018, artifacts and documentation from the site were donated to the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Tribal Historic Preservation Office, leading to a re-analysis. Does the site identified as Wild Hog Scrub really represent Powell's Town as previously claimed?

Shell Deposit Formations at Devil's Point in Escambia Bay, Escambia County, Florida

Hope Bridgeman and William Wilson

Evidence of human exploitation of estuarine resources in the greater Pensacola area is well represented in the archaeological record. However, there are gaps in this record due to the lack of investigation into inundated shell deposits in the Pensacola Bay system. This project examines a submerged shell deposit with geoarchaeological methodology to determine its timeline of accessibility. The data presented here were collected using side-scan sonar, a subbottom profiler, non-intrusive documentation, and core sample analysis. This paper outlines the methods used to collect the necessary data to locate the deposit and determine its origin of formation.

The Force of Form: AI and the Simulation of Legal Authority in Practice

Erin Broemel

In law, authority depends as much on form as on substance. Citation, structure, and style produce legitimacy. Generative AI reproduces these forms with increasing precision, functioning as simulations

that preserve recognizable features while shifting out authenticity is established in practice. Drawing on Bourdieu, Baudrillard, and Debord, this paper examines AI-generated legal texts as part of a broader legal spectacle in which the form of form persists alongside changing forms of social grounding. Based on mixed methods analysis of outputs, platforms, and practitioner responses, I argue that formal coherence alone increasingly sustains legitimacy, reshaping expertise and blurring distinctions between authentic and constructed legal knowledge.

A Review of Two “New” Sites in Indian Beach, City of Sarasota, Florida

Michelle Calhoun

During archival research for Archaeological Consultants, Inc. (ACI), two sites were discovered. The first is the original site which was denoted as “So-4” by Gordon Willey in 1949 (8SO18994, Willey’s “So-4”) and which was subsequently confused with Yellow Bluffs Mound (8SO4) by later researchers. The other site most likely relates to “lost” Fort Armistead (8SO18995, Elzuardi’s Pond). This presentation will discuss how these sites were discovered, as well as present the data gleaned from the artifacts recovered at Elzuardi’s Pond.

Living Beyond the Mission Core: Exploring the Community Layout of Guadalquini

Carsten Comberg

The Mocama community of Guadalquini (1684-1696) was a Spanish mission located at the southern end of Black Hammock Island, near the mouth of the St. Johns River, Florida. The University of North Florida (UNF) excavated the mission core between 2006 and 2015. At the same time, shovel testing was conducted across the island’s southern end, and an adjacent site was also excavated. These findings suggest that the households associated with the mission were spread over a broad area. This paper combines these archaeological results with documentary evidence to gain a more complete understanding of the layout of the Guadalquini community.

Investigating Colorinda Culture at Borgman Shell Mound

Chance Courtney-Durrett

The Colorinda culture (800-900 CE) of extreme northeastern Florida is characterized by small populations, distinctive plainware tempered with crushed St. Johns (spiculate tempered) sherds, and connections to the Georgia coast to the north and St. Johns region to the south. In this paper I will present the preliminary results of recent archaeological testing by University of North Florida, which indicates Borgman to be a Colorinda occupation with a differing pottery assemblage compared to other Colorinda sites. Furthermore, radiocarbon dating extends the production of Colorinda pottery well into the tenth century at Borgman necessitating a revised temporal understanding of Colorinda culture.

Revisiting Hialeah Midden Sites: Ceramic Analysis of Glades Period Pottery in South Florida

Gina Crespo

Despite the numerous archaeological excavations performed in Miami-Dade County, archaeological research on Glades Period pottery in the area remains sparse. In 1953, three midden sites (8DA75, 8DA76, and 8DA77) were excavated via test pits. These excavations yielded several publications by Dan D. Laxson regarding the material culture unearthed and the estimated chronology derived from both stratigraphy and ceramic seriation. However, in 1982, the sites were declared destroyed by construction. In an effort to better understand the remaining artifacts found within a midden context almost 73 years ago, ceramic analysis was performed on a sample of pottery sherds from each site.

Impacts of Hurricane Michael (2018) on Submerged Historic Sites and Shipwrecks

Melanie Damour

The Panhandle Submerged Archaeological Resources Assessment (PSARA) project assessed impacts to archaeological sites from Hurricane Michael (2018). This presentation focuses on the submerged historic sites and shipwrecks. Eight previously investigated or reported sites dating from the mid-19th through mid-20th centuries were selected based on their distance from the hurricane's path and hypothesized degree of impact. Data collection included remote sensing surveys; diver investigations; archival research; and assessment of hurricane history, aerial imagery, and historic shoreline changes. Comparative analysis of impacts among all sites informed recommendations for cultural resource management practices after future hurricanes and enhancing the State's heritage tourism sector.

Connected Communities: Expanding Public Land Access Through Inclusive Partnerships in South Florida

Natalie De La Torre Salas

Public lands hold significant cultural and natural resources, yet barriers to access and engagement persist. Across South Florida, the Florida Public Archaeology Network (FPAN) partners with public land managers to deliver public outreach, archaeology training, and field-based programming. This paper highlights case studies from Southeast and Southwest Florida, demonstrating how collaborative efforts support the missions of federal, state, and county public lands while expanding access and engagement. It also invites broader discussion on how archaeologists across sectors can build meaningful partnerships and develop programs that reach more diverse audiences.

The Delta Surface Vulnerability Assessment: Modelling Hurricane Impacts at Shell Mound (8LV42)

Lukas Desjardins

This paper presents the Delta Surface Vulnerability Assessment (DSVA), a technique for quantifying hurricane impacts on coastal archaeological sites using multi-year LiDAR data. Applied to Shell Mound (8LV42) following Hurricane Helene in 2024, the DSVA found that curvature, slope, and elevation significantly predict erosion patterns. Terrain based models are then used as an empirical baseline for the development of site vulnerability models. For Florida's northern Gulf Coast, the DSVA provides a framework for archaeological triage planning and coastal land management. These results highlight the contributions of indigenous shell terraforming to coastal resiliency in the present.

Pulp in the Citrus State: True Detectives Take on Florida

Anna R. Dixon and Chelsea Wigington

Since Europeans first arrived, Florida has been a place where newcomers projected their own vision on the landscape: from Ponce de Leon's quest for the Fountain of Youth, to Hollywood classics like *Key Largo*, to author Carl Hiassen's humorous take on the vagaries of modern Florida. We examine the portrayal of Florida's seamier side as depicted in true crime magazines dating from the 1920s through the 1980s. Although the "fanthropology" of true crime has been covered extensively, as anthropologists and criminal investigators, we compare the sensationalist portrayal of "true" Florida crimes with the real people, cases, and places.

"One Would Certainly Not Dare to Take the Risk of Crossing the Seine in Paris": Florida Native American Canoe Voyages to Havana, Cuba at the Turn to the Eighteenth Century

Peter Ferdinando

Following his 1720s shipwreck, French Jesuit Pierre-François-Xavier de Charlevoix learned the Florida Keys indigenous people "made a journey [to Havana] every year" and they went "in small, very flat dugout canoes." Not a fan of these canoes, he observed "one would certainly not dare to take the risk of

crossing the Seine in Paris.” Despite such misgiving, French, Italian, and Spanish sources agree Floridians undertook Florida-Cuba canoe voyages in the late 1600s and early 1700s for trade and other dealings with the Spaniards. Florida’s indigenous people dynamically exploited and likely expanded their maritime economy some two centuries after European contact.

Unanticipated Human Burial Discoveries in Florida: Trends, Market Drivers, and Operational Frameworks

Kevin Gidusko and Kathryn O'Donnell Miyar

Florida Statute § 872.05 governs unanticipated human burial discoveries during ground-disturbing projects, yet practitioner familiarity with incident management remains inconsistent. This presentation analyzes documented discovery trends across Florida, demonstrating a measurable increase correlated with accelerating infrastructure investment, residential expansion, and utility development in archaeologically sensitive landscapes. Contributing market dynamics are examined within broader regional growth patterns. Drawing on case experience, the authors present an operational framework addressing pre-project sensitivity assessment, immediate response protocols, agency and descendant community coordination, and project continuity strategies. Recommendations are oriented toward field practitioners, project managers, and compliance professionals navigating Florida's evolving regulatory environment.

Shellworks, Solstices, and Seasonal Gatherings at the Cedar Point North Site

Victoria Hayes

Located on a barrier island in Jacksonville, the Cedar Point North (CPN) Site features a sprawling array of shell mounds, ridges, and arcs dating to the local St. Johns II phase (940-1300 CE). Over the past three years, the University of North Florida, in collaboration with the National Park Service, has sampled shell-bearing and non-shell contexts at the site. In light of the recent discovery that several of these complex shellworks were intentionally built to reference specific astronomical events, this paper draws on the data thus far to explore CPN's significance at both site and regional scales.

Ancient Harmful Algal Blooms Impacted Ancestral Native American Shellfisheries on the Florida Gulf Coast, ca. 650 CE

Kendal Jackson, Jaime A. Rogers, Thomas J. Pluckhahn, Gregg R. Brooks, Rebekka A. Larson, Heather Kennedy, Elizabeth Southard, John W. Arthur, and Ping Wang

Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) or “red tides” cause ecological degradation and fish kills in many modern estuaries, including Tampa Bay on Florida’s Central Gulf Coast. Some harmful algae, such as the saxitoxin producing *Pyrodinium bahamense*, also cause illness and death among humans that consume contaminated mollusks and fish. Although *Pyrodinium* blooms, and estuarine HABs in general, are best known as industrial-period phenomena, new archaeological and palynological data from Tampa Bay indicate that severe *Pyrodinium* blooms impacted Indigenous fisheries at the onset of the Late-Woodland period (ca. 650 CE), driving the reorganization of subsistence traditions, settlement patterning, political relations, and perhaps metaphysical systems.

Cultural Materials from Mission San Luis de Talimali (8LE4), Block 3 Excavation

Jirye Kang

In 2018, the Florida State University Apalachee-Spanish Mission Archaeology Project, directed by Dr. Tanya Peres, investigated Mission San Luis de Talimali (8LE4). The project identified structural features near a smudge pit and a Spanish House, originally documented by Jerry Lee in 1994 and 1998. These features offered an opportunity to examine patterns in structural types and associated artifacts to better understand site use, site occupants, and activities. This study revisits the site through analysis of

cultural materials and settlement patterns, focusing on excavation units with structural indicators to refine interpretations of spatial organization and occupation at Mission San Luis.

Beyond the Glass Case

Amy Kowal

Behind the doors of most anthropology departments sit boxes filled with vast collections of cultural objects and archival materials, the tangible products of years of fieldwork and research that typically remain inaccessible in departmental storage and rarely reach the public eye. FSU Anthropology is changing this. Through the Museum Anthropology course, students design exhibits drawn from these collections for the campus community. These exhibits are then published on a dedicated freely accessible website. This paper describes the course model and exhibit outcomes offering a practical, replicable model for academic departments seeking to transform their research collections into living, public scholarship.

The Long Shadow of History: A Review of Historical Trauma and Healing in Indigenous Communities *

Ana Lee

Historical Trauma (HT) originates from colonization, forced assimilation and cultural genocide resulting in health disparities in Indigenous populations. The lasting effects of HT have been characterized as a "soul wound," deeply affecting individuals over multiple generations. A remarkable strength and resilience are shown by these communities through cultural revitalization, community-based healing and a remembrance of identity. This research explores the origins, transmission, impact, and resilience related to HT in American and Alaskan Indian communities. Application of this approach can be used to assess as experienced by Seminole and Miccosukee Indians throughout Florida.

Unveiling Cassadaga

Virginia McCue

I will be discussing Cassadaga, Florida, renowned for its high concentration of psychics and mediums since the early 20th century. This presentation delves into the history and mystique surrounding Cassadaga, exploring the intersection of rumors, truth, and the psychic community. Through an examination of historical records, oral histories, participating observation, and in-depth interviews, my study aims to document the rise of Cassadaga as a spiritualist community in the south, investigate the rumors and misconceptions surrounding the town's practices, and to show how this community overcomes the challenges that many face in the ebb and flow of the economic, political, and spiritual interests that change through the course of time.

The Beerman Site and My Beginnings in Archaeology

Jeff Mitchem

Growing up in Lakeland (Polk County), I hiked and camped around phosphate mining areas. From fossil bones, I learned to identify extinct animals. One day (late 1960s), I found a projectile point on the surface. The local library had general archaeology books, but nothing about that area. There was no internet, and I didn't know about the Florida State Museum, much less any Florida archaeologists! Then an article in the local paper described finds elsewhere by Ripley Bullen at the Florida State Museum. I wrote him, and he wrote me back and enclosed Florida archaeology reprints. The rest is history.

The 1935 FBI v. Barker Gang Shootout in Ocklawaha- New Info Via Non-Traditional Means

Tom Myers

The 1935 FBI vs Barker Gang shootout at a remote rental home on Lake Weir in Marion County, came at the end of a concerted national war on violent crime. The Barker home remained almost entirely *in situ*

until 2016, when it was moved via barge to a nearby island. Prior to its removal, a non-traditional collection effort was undertaken to capture context. Tom Myers, retired FBI agent and crime historian, will explain the event, and the collection/forensic efforts – both in 1935 and 2016, and will present historical and forensic context, parlance and meaning. Other atypically-collected artifacts will be presented, and their relevance to the understood historical narrative will be explained.

Port Paradise: An Offshore Spring in the Eastern Gulf

Matthew Newton

The springs that dot Florida's landscape have held great significance for millennia. Can the same be said for blue holes located offshore on the continental shelf? While few have been researched extensively, studies conducted in Apalachee Bay have proven that those found in shallow water depths hold the potential to yield evidence of an ancient human presence. What considerations are crucial to archaeological research at offshore springs, and what evidence, if any, might remain? We confront these questions by presenting preliminary findings from Port Paradise Spring and outline a research strategy for studying these relict landscapes on the modern seafloor.

Hale Mound: An Examination of Field Methods and Research Potential of Disturbed Archaeological Deposits *

Jessica Owen, Megan Worthan, and Kevin Gidusko

In September 2025, Ardurra was contracted to recover human remains exposed due to an inadvertent discovery at a historic property on Cedar Key. These human remains were determined to be historic burials within a portion of Hale Mound (LV00279), a disturbed precontact site spanning 7000 years of history. This poster will discuss the logistical practices of recovering human remains in a heavily disturbed, multi-component context. Additionally, we propose potential research avenues of recovered precontact and historic materials from the site. These include considerations of historic burial practices within a constrained context and the viability of comparative analysis between disturbed and non-disturbed sites within a research area.

Assessing Sea Level Rise and Site Use in Ancestral Key Largo Sites

Elizabeth Perez, Traci Ardren, M. Jesse Schneider, Ricky Durga, and Scarlett R. Kiene

Cultural resources in the Florida Keys are experiencing accelerated threats of disturbance and sea level rise, creating an urgent need for greater understanding and current climatic challenges to their preservation. New excavation of Ancestral Key Largo sites has afforded the opportunity for further evaluation of sea level rise and erosion of coastal archaeology sites. Preliminary study has offered insights into its use as a shellfish processing site, and possible connections to the nearby Key Largo #1 site. Historic aerial photography demonstrates notable changes in the coastline and vegetation. Further assessment of large marine mollusks found at the site has been done through quadrant mapping and ground truthing in ArcGIS.

"Thanks for All the Fish": Rethinking Human-Dolphin Relations in Indigenous Florida

Thomas Pluckhahn

Archaeologists have long assumed that dolphins were regularly hunted by the Native people of Florida, owing to the occasional recovery of dolphin bones and the assumption that the animals would have made a valuable food source. Recent authors, noting the restricted occurrence and limited quantity of dolphin remains in specific archaeological contexts, have suggested instead that the animals may have been captured only occasionally or were scavenged as strandings. However, there have been no attempts to systematically review the occurrence of dolphin in archaeological and ethnohistoric contexts. I review the archaeological literature for the representation of dolphins in faunal

assemblages, for the use of dolphin bones as tools and ornaments, and for dolphin symbolism. I also review the ethnohistorical record for accounts of dolphin hunting by Native peoples. My review suggests that dolphins were hunted infrequently, if at all, by the Native peoples of Florida. I suggest dolphins were recognized as persons and valued for their cooperation in fishing, as has been recognized for contemporary Indigenous societies and dolphins in similar environments around the world.

Paving Northeast Florida with Sacred Shell Mounds

Asa Randall

In northeast Florida, Indigenous communities terraformed the landscapes of the St. Johns River and Atlantic coast with shell mounds. These places had complex positions within Florida's Indigenous communities, ranging from settlements to sacred platforms and mortuaries. In the modern era, settler colonists targeted these same places as resources for a new terraforming project: the construction of roads to facilitate connection and commerce through Florida and beyond. In this paper, I examine the archaeology of shell site destruction, and consider the legal, social, and historical contexts that enabled modern communities to pave a new future with sacred places.

A Re-analysis of the 1973–1978 Ceramic Assemblage from the Boynton Mounds “Midden” (8PB100): Depositional Patterns, Compositional Zonation, and Cultural Sequence *

Lisa Reinke

This poster presents a re-analysis of 6,580 ceramic sherds recovered from the Boynton Mounds (8PB100) “midden,” Palm Beach County, Florida, during the 1973-1978 Palm Beach County Archaeological Society excavations. Working exclusively from recovered field notes, the analysis defines three compositional zones separated by stratigraphic breaks at 60 cm and 90 cm. A clear sequence of cultural arrival is documented, progressing from Sand-tempered Plain through St. Johns Plain, Belle Glade Plain, St. Johns Check Stamped, and Glades Red, reflecting increasing ceramic diversity over time. Bimodal density profiles and a sterile interval in three key units confirm multi-phase mound construction, while European ceramics restricted to the upper 61 cm establish continued occupation into the early nineteenth century.

Intraskelatal Variation Across the Adult Life Course: Implications of Population Affinity Estimation in Forensic Anthropology

Paige Roberts, Abigail Paul, Micki Besse, Savanna Agilar, and Heather Walsh-Haney

Forensic anthropologists use programs including Hefner, Osteomics, and FORDISC to estimate population affinity from cranial size and shape, but software programs rely on small reference samples and assume static cranial morphology despite known age-related remodeling (1, 2, 3). Using data from 21 adult donors with documented age and self-reported ancestry, we scored nonmetric traits and analyzed craniometrics, assessing observer error, Mahalanobis distance, and Brier scores. Although results were not statistically significant ($p > 0.05$), findings showed a visual trend of increasing accuracy with donor age. This may reflect older age composition of reference samples, causing older individuals to align more with program outputs.

Mineral Perception *

Paula Rubiano

As citizens of a modern society, we like to perceive ourselves as environmentally conscious in alignment with the tendencies imposed by modern society; however, how much of this ecological morale is tangible in a world that continues to perpetuate the exploitation of natural resources? This research study seeks to understand if the people who claim to be environmentally aware put into

practice their beliefs by making morally aligned decisions. Altogether, the bigger question turns to whether Southwest Floridians are aware of their mineral consumption in the products they utilize daily-staying aligned with their moral judgement.

XRF Analysis of Puebla Blue on White Majolica from 18th-Century West Florida Presidios *

Isabella Santilli

Puebla Blue on White majolica is one of the most common imported tablewares found at First Spanish Period sites in West Florida. This project applies X-ray fluorescence (XRF) to characterize the chemistry of 34 sherds, resulting in a total of 136 scans using the instrument. The majolica used in this study is the result of archaeological excavations at three Pensacola presidios: Santa María de Galve, Presidio Isla de Santa Rosa, and Presidio San Miguel de Panzacola. Using an Evident/Olympus Vanta M-Series analyzer with a three-beam GeoChem routine, elemental concentrations were visualized with statistical work in Microsoft Excel and JMP® 19. The results reflected by the data analysis showed a clear compositional separation between ceramic bodies and both glazes. The patterns as well closely matched with established Puebla clay and glaze technology documented in prior instrumental studies, showing that Pensacola's Puebla Blue on White fits broader New Spanish production frameworks. More broadly, this project provides a method to build a baseline chemical "type collection" for Puebla Blue on White in the Florida Gulf Coast.

Skeletons in the Closet? NAGPRA Compliance Considerations for FAS Chapters

Theresa Schober

The Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) was passed into law on November 16, 1990 to create a process for federally recognized Tribes to seek return of ancestral remains and objects of cultural patrimony from institutions receiving federal funds including collection-based museums, universities, and federal agencies. However, smaller museums, local agencies, and other organizations, including FAS chapters and their designated repositories may also hold responsibilities for NAGPRA compliance. This paper considers scenarios where FAS chapters, typically incorporated as private non-profits may have obligations under NAGPRA and its revised regulations (January 2024) for collections in their custody or control.

Springing into Action: Gaining Community Buy-In of the Preservation of One of Florida's Oldest Roadside Attractions, Weeki Wachee Springs *

Rebecca Schwandt

Despite being one of Florida's oldest and most popular roadside attractions still in operation, more and more of Weeki Wachee Spring's history is evaporating with each passing year. An unprocessed archive, a lack of resources and awareness, and institutional mistrust from stakeholders have stalled the preservation process in the past. Through a decade of persistence and Public History, I turned the tide and generated a renewed interest in preserving the park's history. I will discuss how I garnered community, government, and citizen support organization buy-in and what I have accomplished due to this support.

Large Structures and Continuous Occupations at the Spring Warrior Complex (ca. 400-1000 CE)

Neill Wallis

The Spring Warrior Complex (8TA154) is a Woodland period civic-ceremonial center near Perry, Florida. While the site shares broad similarities with related mound and village complexes on the Gulf coast, recent fieldwork reveals important distinctions. A series of posthole features near the platform mound and plaza are associated with possibly one of the largest Middle Woodland buildings ever documented. Unlike the pattern of settlement wane and revival at other civic-ceremonial centers in the 500s and 600s

CE, Spring Warrior shows continuous growth over this period. These details shed new light on regional histories of ceremonial gathering and village aggregation.

Bones, Shells, and Sustainability: Archaeology as a Tool for Teaching Undergraduate Biology

April Watson

Integrating interdisciplinary approaches into undergraduate education enhances engagement and deepens understanding. This presentation examines using archaeological materials—such as faunal remains and shells—to teach biology students ecological principles, data analysis, and research skills. By working with datasets on species composition, size, and subsistence patterns, students engage in hands-on, real-world inquiry. The approach incorporates UN Sustainable Development Goal 11, encouraging students to connect cultural resources to community challenges. Through discussion and applied projects, students build scientific and critical thinking skills. This method has also led to research opportunities and publications, demonstrating that combining archaeology and biology strengthens STEM learning and promotes interdisciplinary perspectives.

Outfitting the Luna Expedition to Florida: An Overview of Newly Identified Mexico City Treasury Accounts

John Worth

The 1559-1561 expedition of Tristán de Luna y Arellano to Pensacola Bay is among the most well-documented Spanish colonizing expeditions to Florida, based in large part on a detailed 1596 Dominican narrative and the 1928 *Luna Papers* volumes. However, despite the 1990s identification of financial accounts from the Deputy Treasurer in Veracruz, this only amounted to 36% of the total of just over 376,000 pesos recorded as having been spent in total for the expedition. In 2024 the remaining accounts from the Mexico City Treasurer were finally identified in Spain, providing substantial new detail about the outfitting of the expedition.

Ceramic Traditions at the Pierce Mounds Complex, Northwest Florida, A.D. 900–1500

Hui Xiao

This paper investigates cultural transitions from the Late Woodland to Fort Walton periods (ca. A.D. 900–1500) at the Pierce site, a major mound complex in the Apalachicola River Valley, northwest Florida. Results from ceramic compositional analysis using portable X-ray fluorescence and radiocarbon dating suggest that a strong Late Woodland ceramic tradition persisted into the Early Fort Walton period (A.D. 1000–1300) at Pierce. After A.D. 1300, diagnostic Fort Walton ceramics predominated, and Pierce's diverse clay sources indicate increased regional interaction. Overall, Pierce represents a local adaptation to Mississippian culture in the Apalachicola Valley.

FAS OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Officers

President: Christian Davenport

1st Vice President: Eric Prendergast

2nd Vice President: vacant

Recording Secretary: Rudolph Pascucci

Membership Secretary: Dorothy Block

Treasurer: Bonita Lee

Directors

Brad Biglow, April Holmes, Dorothy Block

Journal Editor: George M. Luer
Newsletter Editor: Laura Dean

FAS CHAPTERS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Archaeological Society of Southern Florida
vacant

Bay Anthropological Society
Chapter Rep Jason Wenzel

Broward County Archaeological Society
Chapter Rep Scarleth Herra

Central Florida Anthropological Society
vacant

Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society
Chapter Rep Eric Prendergast

Indian River Anthropological Society
Chapter Rep Bob Gross

Palm Beach County Anthropological Society
Chapter Rep Robert Cochrane

Panhandle Archaeological Society at Tallahassee
Chapter Rep Jeffrey M. Mitchem

Pensacola Archaeological Society
Chapter Rep Will Wilson

Southeast Florida Archaeological Society
Chapter Rep Sarah Steele

Southwest Florida Archaeological Society
Chapter Rep Theresa Schober

St. Augustine Archaeological Association
Chapter Rep David Kasriel

Time Sifters Archaeology Society
Chapter Rep Smitty Smith

Warm Mineral Springs/Little Salt Spring Archaeological Society
Chapter Rep Steven H. Koski

WMS/LSSAS HOST CHAPTER OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Officers

President: Michelle L. Calhoun
Vice President: Kathy Gerace
Recording Secretary: Steven H. Koski
Treasurer: Timothy Costin
Membership Secretary: Michelle L. Calhoun

Directors

Dennis Backens, Karen Malesky, Linda Massey,
Betty Dailey-Nugent, Joan San Lwin
Librarian: Kathy Gerace
Newsletter Editors: Michelle L. Calhoun and Steven H. Koski
Media Correspondent: Linda Massey

www.wmslss.org

FAC OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Officers

President: Tim Parsons
Vice President: April Watson
Secretary: Elizabeth Horvath
Treasurer: Kerri Klein

Directors

Julie Byrd
Maranda Kles
Ramie Gougeon
Myles Bland
Tom Pluckhahn
Sara Ayers-Rigsby
Traci Ardren
Richard Estabrook

A special thanks to the WMS/LSSAS for hosting FAS 2026 in historic Punta Gorda. Thanks to the Conference Committee, sponsors, donors, and contributors. A tremendous thank you to Laura Dean, webmaster extraordinaire, for keeping on top of the registration, website, and spreadsheets.

SUNDAY TOUR

Scheduled Sunday field trip and local on-your-own adventures around historic Punta Gorda are encouraged on Friday, Saturday lunch break, and Sunday morning

[HISTORIC SPANISH POINT](#)

Located at 401 N. Tamiami Trail, Osprey, Florida 34229. [At capacity; no longer available]

A field trip is planned to Historic Spanish Point, south campus of Marie Selby Botanical Gardens. Visit a historic landscape museum spanning more than 5,000 years. The site features Indigenous shell middens, an Archaic shell ring mound with a central seep spring, the "Window to the Past" exhibit, a late 19th century restored homestead, reconstructed Chapel, citrus packing house, homestead cemetery, and the early 20th century summer estate of Chicago socialite and entrepreneur Bertha Potter Palmer, all listed on the National Register of Historic Places. With spectacular views of Sarasota Bay, coastal hammocks, nature trails, and gardens, there is something for everyone! Enjoy lunch at the on-site café or go to one of the several local restaurants or go to one of the several local restaurants. This trip will

feature a personal site tour by Marie Selby Botanical Gardens historian, John McCarthy, assisted by archaeologist Steve Koski. Those who have registered and paid will be meeting on-site at 10:15am.

LOCAL ON-YOUR-OWN ADVENTURES

Available for on-your-own visits include Friday morning and afternoon if not attending board meetings, Saturday during the lunch break, and Sunday morning if not going to Historic Spanish Point. Check for times of operation.

[Blanchard House Museum](#) will be open from 10:00am-4:00pm on Friday and Saturday. It is located at 406 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. As one of the few remaining examples of Florida vernacular Craftsman bungalow residential architecture from the 1920s, the Blanchard House stands as a testament to the rich cultural heritage of Punta Gorda. It reflects an early period when African American pioneers built a community that enabled them to overcome segregation and prejudice. The Blanchard House serves as a beacon for preserving and celebrating African American history and culture in the region.

[Punta Gorda Military Heritage Museum](#) is open on Friday and Saturday, 10:00am-4:00pm. Admission is \$18/per person, \$14/veterans, \$10/age 5-14, free under 5. They have knowledgeable docents, engaging displays of military artifacts and historical events, flight simulators, VR headset experiences of such things as parachuting from a plane and flying in the space shuttle, as well as a laser-targeting pistol range.

[Punta Gorda Murals](#), where history, art, and community join together. A total of 31 one murals grace the buildings of Historic Downtown Punta Gorda. Eight are within the water-front area between the conference center, Four Points Sheraton, and Laishley's Crab House, and another eight within a two by eight block area of downtown Punta Gorda, with another 15 scattered about town. The murals present a pleasant way to meander about town on a Sunday morning after a casual breakfast at one of the many charming restaurants to learn about the rich history of Punta Gorda. Each location has a link to scan for information about the artist and the mural.

The [Punta Gorda Farmer's Market](#), a weekly event held downtown on Saturdays from 8:00am-12:00pm, has been awarded 'Best Small Market in Florida' and '15th Best Small Market in US.' This market features an eclectic mix of arts, crafts, food vendors, produce, and more.

The [Artisan Village at Punta Gorda Historic Park](#) occurs each Sunday from 9:00am-1:00pm, located at 501 Shreve Street, at the Punta Gorda History Park. The market features woodturners, fiber artists, potters, and glass fusers. The historic structures, repurposed for artisan workshops, will be open for viewing, with live music, and a European-style market with artisan crafts and produce. This downtown event may affect traffic and create detours.

[Up River Adventures](#) in Arcadia has tours of their nature center, including by airboat, by swamp buggy, and/or by horseback. Airboats have group tours available (\$54/adult & \$38/child; offering \$5 off per person for groups over 14). A registration sheet will be available throughout Friday and Saturday if a group would like to organize to attend. The address is 4192 S.W. Adventure Way, Arcadia, FL 34266.



Florida's First Choice in Cultural Resource Management



Archaeological Surveys and Mitigative Excavations

Historic Property Surveys and Evaluations

Section 106 Case Study Reports

National Register Nominations

4(f) Documentation

Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) Studies

Cemetery Research



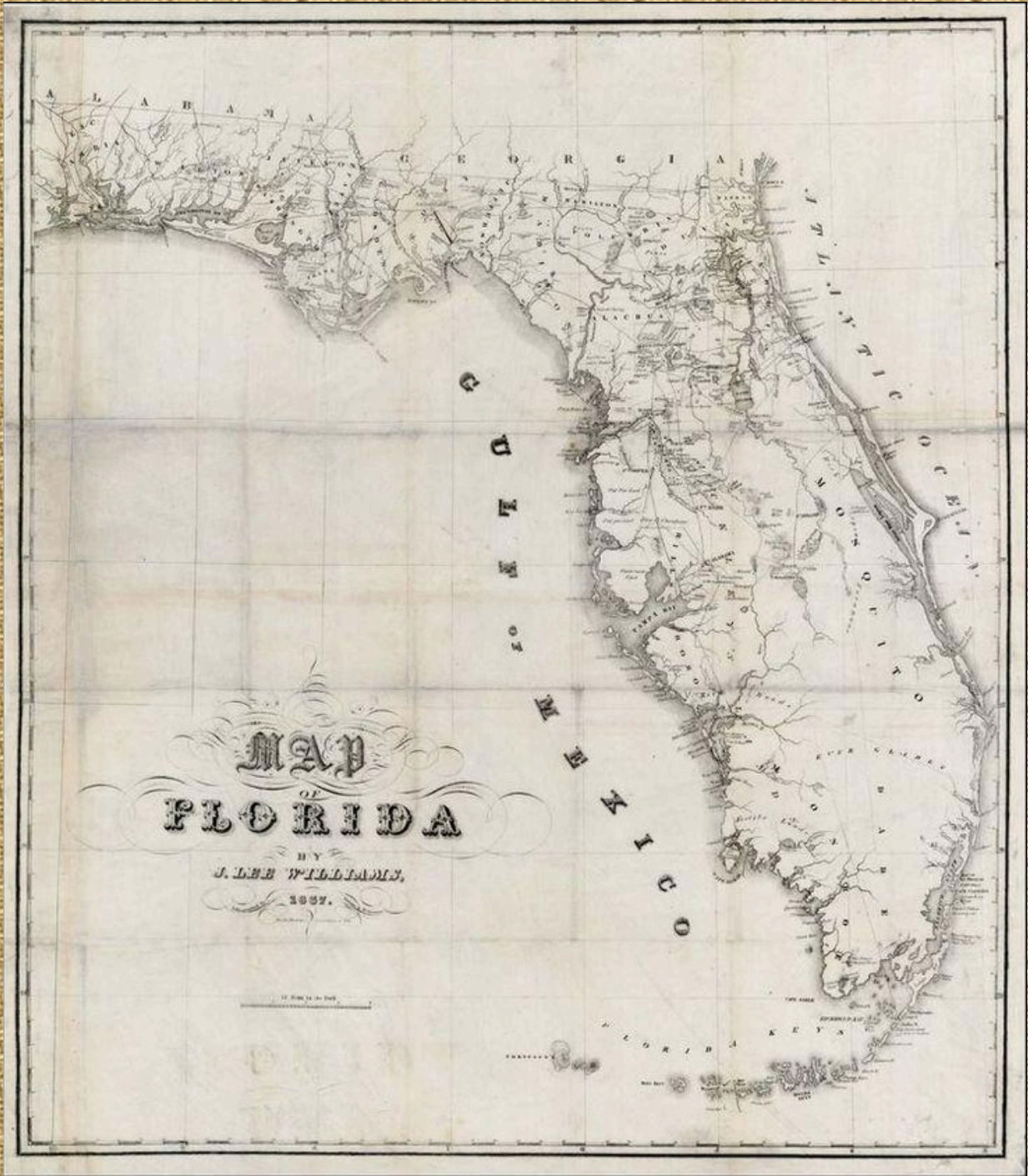
Archaeological Consultants, Inc.

8110 Blaikie Court, Suite A, Sarasota, Florida 34240, (941) 379-6206

Tallahassee Area Office: (850) 926-9285

St. Augustine Area Office: (904) 829-9100





Map from John Lee Williams' *The Territory of Florida* (1837)