

Central Gulf Coast *Archaeological Society*



Newsletter

| February 2019 |

41 YEARS OF PROMOTING FLORIDA'S RICH HERITAGE
CGCAS IS A CHAPTER OF THE FLORIDA ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Upcoming Lecture:

Thursday, February 21st, 7pm

History Washing Away: The Archaeological Past and Future of Egmont Key

Ben Bilgri, M.A.

*Seminole Tribe of Florida's Tribal Historic
Preservation Office*

Egmont Key spent most of its existence as an unremarkable, uninhabited sand island at the mouth of Tampa Bay, visited by the indigenous inhabitants of Florida only occasionally as a temporary fishing stop. But over the course of the last 170 years, this small landmass experienced an intensity of occupation that belied its sleepy early history. Various utilized as a lighthouse station, a concentration camp for Seminole prisoners of war, a fortified military installation, and a wildlife refuge, Egmont Key represents an archaeological site with the potential to illuminate several different eras of American history. A fortuitous wildfire in 2016 allowed Tribal archaeologists to perform a preliminary survey of the island, and artifacts likely dating to the time of the Seminole internment were recovered. However, Egmont Key has lost more than half of its land area over the last century, and environmental threats to the island itself represent significant challenges for the future.



The monthly CGCAS Archaeology Lecture series is sponsored by the Alliance for Weedon Island Archaeological Research and Education (AWIARE) and held at the Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center in St Petersburg. All talks are free and open to the public. Registration is not required, but to RSVP please go to our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/CGCASFlorida or to the Weedon Island Eventbrite page: <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/weedon-island-preserve-cultural-and-natural-history-center-1250121017>

Pictures from our CGCAS Fieldtrip to Historic Spanish Point

Thanks so much to everyone who made it out to Historic Spanish Point in Osprey with us for our recent field trip! Thanks as well to Garrett Murto for the amazing tour, it was a wonderful day for all of us.



Garrett gives us the guided tour of thousands of years of history at Spanish Point.

Walking inside a midden – what a wonderful exhibit!



That's one good looking group! Information on our next field trip will be in an upcoming newsletter. Please join us!

It's That Time Again: Dues are Due!

Thank you for all that you do to make this group possible (and thank you for your continued support!) We have already had a large percentage of our membership renew for 2019, so if you haven't had a chance to renew yet you are not too late. Your dollars go toward bringing top archaeological researchers from throughout Florida and the Southeast to speak in our area. CGCAS wouldn't be possible without your continued support.

Dues can be paid in a variety of convenient ways: they can be paid directly to Heather or Kassie at our monthly meetings, they can be mailed to Heather at P.O. Box 1563 Pinellas Park, FL 33780, or they can be paid online at our website through Paypal at www.cgcas.org. Again, your dues are what make our monthly speaker series possible, thank you for your continued support of CGCAS!

CGCAS Board Nominations

Interested in getting more involved with the Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society? We are currently looking for nominations for the CGCAS Board! If you would like more information about a position, or would like to be included in our next election, please email Becky O'Sullivan at rosulliv@usf.edu. We will present the names for our next election at our March meeting, then elections will occur at our April meeting.

FAS 71st Annual Meeting Crystal River 2019

Florida Public Archaeology Network's Central Region and the Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society are honored to host the events this year. The conference meetings, presentations, and banquet will be held at the charming Plantation on Crystal River.

Location: Plantation on Crystal River, 9301 West Fort Island Trail, Crystal River, Florida

Date: May 10-12, 2019

Conference Hotel

Located in the heart of the Manatee Capital of the World, Plantation on Crystal River will serve as the Conference hotel and location for all organizational meetings, conference proceedings, awards ceremony and banquet. Plantation on Crystal River overlooks the beautiful spring waters of Kings Bay and is located at 9301 West Fort Island Trail in Crystal River, Florida. A room block has been secured for the event with a nightly rate of \$129 for a standard room (the room rate includes resort fee). The rate is available to April 9, 2019. The conference rate will be available to attendees three days before and after the FAS meetings. To make a reservation please call Plantation on Crystal River at (800) 632-6262. Refer to the booking name Florida Anthropological Society.

Registration

Registration for the Annual Meeting is now open. Please visit the FAS website to register. For general registration, cost is \$50 for members and \$65 for non-members. The student rate is \$20 (students are required to upload a picture of current student ID). These prices are effective until March 15, 2019, the deadline to pre-register. Registration after this date will be accepted at an increased rate (\$60/ \$75 and \$30 respectively). For all your walkup needs, on-site registration will be available in the main lobby at Plantation on Crystal River Thursday, May 9th from 4:30-6:00pm. Beginning Friday, May 10th, on-site registration will be located in front of the Magnolia room of the Plantation Conference Center. You can register there on Friday between 1:00-5:00pm, and on Saturday, May 11th between 7:30am-12:00pm – if you haven't registered by then, you're just crashin' the party.

Parking

Plantation on Crystal River has sufficient on-site parking but stay tuned to the FAS Facebook page for more information if a need for overflow parking is expected.

Welcome Reception

Friday, May 10th Between 6:00-8:00pm conference attendees will be treated to a Welcome Reception at the Crystal River Archaeological State Park hosted by Park Staff and the Friends of Crystal River Preserve. The reception will feature food and refreshments, and beautiful sunset views of the Crystal River. Transportation to and from the venue will be provided.

Presentations & Posters

Saturday, May 11th Morning and afternoon paper and poster presentations will take place in the Conference Center at Plantation on Crystal River from 8:00am to 4:00pm. For lunch, a list of local restaurants will be provided in your program. Plantation on Crystal River operates two dining establishments at the resort. Both dining options, the 19th Hole and West 82° Bar and Grille, will both be open.

FAS Awards Banquet

On Saturday evening attendees can enjoy a refreshing cocktail with hors d'oeuvres overlooking gorgeous views of the Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge before the FAS Awards and Banquet commences back at the Conference Center in the Magnolia Room. A delicious buffet will start at 6:45pm with healthy servings of batter fried local fish and roasted rosemary chicken. Three types of salads, lots of veggies, and desserts of baked apple cobbler and coconut layer cake will also be served. The FAS Awards Ceremony and Keynote Presentation will take place following dinner. The banquet cost is \$40 per person. Join us! Dinner and Awards are always great, and often lively.

Conference Tours

Sunday Morning, May 12 The 2019 Conference tours will take place on scenic Crystal River. Attendees may decide between two guided tours of the river's archaeological and ecological heritage. See the website below for tour descriptions.

Follow this link to register, or for more information!

<https://fasweb.org/annual-conference/>



An Incredible Piece of History Comes Home

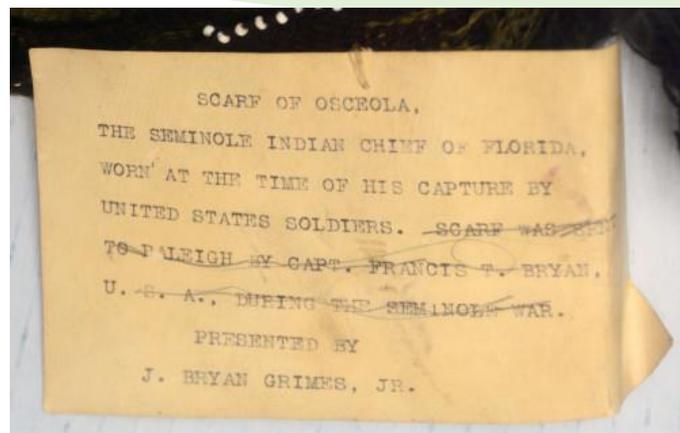
BY: [TARA BACKHOUSE, AH-TAH-THI-KI MUSEUM](#)

One seemingly ordinary day in mid-September, I sat down to check my email as I do every morning, expecting not to find anything out of the ordinary. Imagine my surprise when I got a wonderful email from a couple who were in possession of a 19th century beaded sash with an amazing story. It was in an old brown envelope that read: "J. Bryan Grimes, Secretary of State, Raleigh, N.C.". Handwritten upon the envelope was "Osceola's Sash." The end of the email expressed kind and gracious sentiments: *We would like to return this precious artifact to its rightful owner, the Seminole Tribe of Florida. We feel it should be displayed for all to admire. May it help bring the reality of Osceola's life and accomplishments as a war hero and First Nations chief into the forefront of public awareness.*



Not Everything is as it Appears

As the Collections Manager for the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, part of my job is to acquire historic objects for the museum collection. I've been involved in this process for over 10 years, so I've seen quite a few offers presented to the Tribe. Some have been great pieces of Seminole history that we're proud to accept, and many have come at little or no cost to the Tribe. But there have also been many disappointments: Art and artifacts that aren't what they were advertised to be; priceless pieces that come with too high of a price; and people who aren't what they claim to be! When someone offers to donate something valuable to the Museum, they often change their tune during the process, and we end up not being able to seal the deal. Not only that, but a historical claim like the one on the tag is very hard to prove. Osceola is a great Seminole War hero, and many people claim they have something that belonged to him. Only a fraction of these things turn out to be real possibilities. So, I had all that in the back of my



The attached tag sent with the sash.

mind when I started to converse with Joseph and Laralyn Riverwind, as well as Melba Checote-Eads, who sent me the email. Imagine how thrilled I was to learn that the Riverwinds are kind and honest people, who would never mislead the Seminole Tribe or anyone else. They had been themselves surprised to be given the sash by an acquaintance who had purchased the belt during an estate sale. They were entrusted to do the right thing, and to make sure the belt got the appreciation and care that it deserved.

Research Underway

While waiting for the donation to arrive, the staff at the Museum set about researching the information on the tag, and the style and colors of the belt, in order to tie it to Osceola's history. We found out that Francis T. Bryan was a soldier under Zachary Taylor, and that J. Bryan Grimes Jr. was the Secretary of State of North Carolina for the first couple decades of the 20th century. So, it was a good first step to verify the history of those men. We also researched the objects that are known to have belonged to Osceola, when he was captured under a white flag of truce near St. Augustine, FL in October 1837, and then when he was imprisoned by the U.S. Army later that year in South Carolina at Fort Moultrie. While in prison, Osceola sat for three artists. They painted and drew several portraits, and that's why we have a realistic idea of what he looked like and what he wore at that time. In this 1838 George Catlin painting of the warrior, the tassels of a dark green or blue belt are visible around his waist. The belt in this painting bears a striking resemblance to the belt that was gifted.

History Comes Home (Cont. from Pg. 4)



George Catlin's 1838 Portrait of Osceola, painted just before Osceola's death. The belt he is wearing looks very similar to the donated belt.

Osceola owned a range of clothing and accessories when he was imprisoned. Sadly, he passed away in 1838, shortly after he met with the artists. However, other scholars have done a lot to research his possessions that were documented at that time. As the most knowledgeable researcher says on this subject, "the subject of the belts, sashes, pouches, and garters which may have belonged to Osceola is a very confusing one." (Wickman 1991:176) In "Osceola's Legacy," Pat Wickman reports that five belts of Osceola were mentioned in written works or appear in his portraits. Wickman was only able to find the history of three of those belts, and of those three, only one is currently verified to exist. (As it happens, that particular beaded and finger woven belt is already part of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki's collection).

The Belt Arrives at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

We were finally able to see the belt in person when the donors brought it to Big Cypress and unveiled it in front of Council and Board representatives,



An excited and overwhelmed audience views the sash for the first time together.

community members, and Museum and Tribal Historic Preservation Office staff. We were all stunned and left speechless by what we saw.

The belt is olive and dark brown in color, and is tightly woven in a diamond pattern. Its tassels are covered with extremely small white seed beads. The belt is undeniably old, and is very fragile. There was no doubt that the belt carries with it much history and power. Our leaders, advisors, and visitors all spoke about the deep emotions that came with this donation. Humility, gratefulness, poignancy and happiness were shared by all. We noted with amazement that next week will be the 180th anniversary of Osceola's capture. What a fitting time to welcome his belt home!

At the viewing, we displayed a copy of Catlin's painting. We shared our thoughts and research. Historical research is not an exact science. We'll continue to research this belt and its story, and hopefully we'll find more evidence to connect it with Osceola. We're happy to say at this time that the belt appears to date to the early 1800's. It looks likely that Osceola owned a belt of this style and color. We at the Museum vow to take steps to preserve this priceless object and to make it accessible to our community.

Celebrate Florida Archaeology Month at Weedon Island March 2nd!



**Join us for an
archaeology-themed
day of activities and
events to celebrate
Florida Archaeology
Month!**

Start in the Weedon Room at 10:00 AM with archaeologists from the Florida Public Archaeology Network (FPAN) and the University of South Florida (USF) and hear two short presentations on exciting new archaeological research going on now at Weedon Island. Our **featured speakers** - Kendal Jackson, PhD student at USF in Tampa and Heather Draskovich, MA student at USF in Tampa, will discuss their work exploring new lines of archaeological research in the Preserve.

After the presentations, from 10:30 – Noon, get your hands dirty at our **open archaeology lab** going on in the classroom area and help sort and wash real artifacts the native peoples of Weedon Island left behind. You can also walk over to the AWIARE research station and get a **behind the scenes** look at their lab and research facility within the preserve.

From 10:30 to 2:00 PM in the Weedon Room, please come by and check out a new **Pop-Up exhibit** highlighting some of the most recent archaeological finds from Weedon Island. Check out the artifacts up close, and learn more about what the most recent research is revealing about life on Weedon Island long ago.

Site Hike – Hike with archaeologists from AWIARE to part of the Weedon Island archaeology site to see an excavation and learn all about the site and the people that lived there long ago. Please be prepared for a one hour hike over uneven terrain. Closed-toed shoes, hat, bug spray, and water are highly recommended. Fee for the guided hike is \$20.00 per participant and registration is required.

ARCHAEOLOGY ACADEMY 2019

Schedule at a glance:

10:00 AM - 10:30 AM
Introduction and
Presentations

10:30 AM – Noon
Open Archaeology Lab
and AWIARE Lab
tours

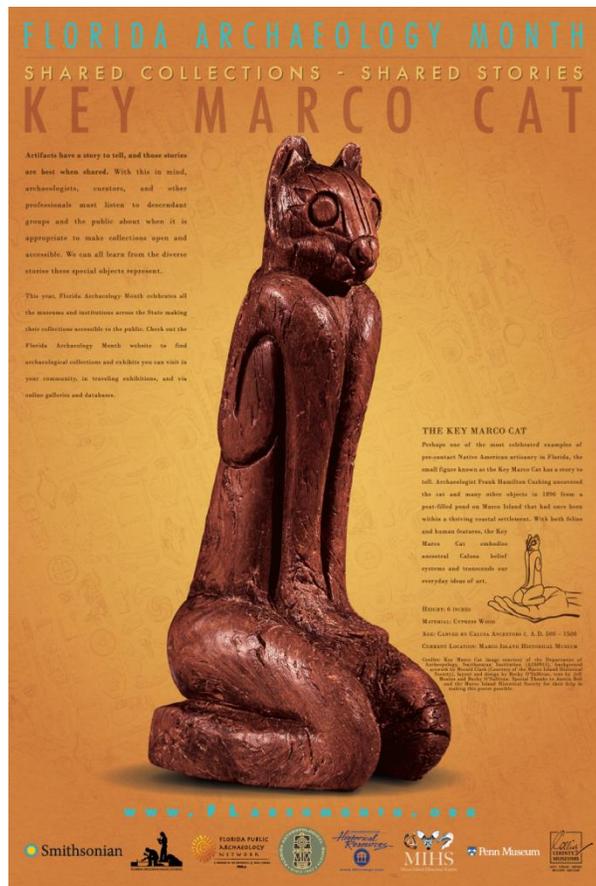
10:30 AM – 2:00 PM
Pop Up Exhibit

Noon – 2:00 PM
Site Hike and Tour
(Registration Required)

This event is **FREE**
except for the site tour.

**To RSVP for the
activities at the
Weedon Island
Center, or register
for the
Archaeology Hike,
go to [this link!](#)**

Florida Archaeology Month is Almost Here!



Every year in March, Florida celebrates Florida Archaeology Month (FAM). FAS chapters, archaeologists, heritage professionals, museums, historical societies, and interested members of the public come together to promote and celebrate Florida's archaeological sites and knowledge about the past through events, workshops, lectures, and public archaeology days. A major highlight during the month-long celebration is always the new FAM poster, developed every year to illustrate a unique theme within Florida Archaeology.

For the 2019 poster and theme, the FAM team drew from the vast network of archaeological collections on display throughout the state. Perhaps one of the most celebrated examples of pre-contact Native American artistry in Florida, the small figure known as the Key Marco Cat has a story to tell. Archaeologist Frank Hamilton Cushing uncovered the cat and many other objects in 1896 from a peat-filled pond on Marco Island that had once been within a thriving coastal settlement. With both feline and human features, the Key Marco Cat embodies ancestral Calusa belief systems and transcends our everyday ideas of art.

Archaeology Lab at the Safety Harbor Museum



Ever wonder what archaeologists do with all that stuff they dig up at archaeological sites once the fieldwork is finished? Join archaeologists from the University of South Florida and the Florida Public Archaeology Network at this Volunteer Lab and you can find out for yourself! Learn how artifacts and other archaeological material get processed in the laboratory so that researchers can use them to discover new information about past people. You will get the chance to sort through, identify, and wash real artifacts recently uncovered in Safety Harbor at Philippe Park as part of an ongoing research project led by USF archaeologists.

All ages are welcome to participate or observe; children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult. No experience necessary.

WHEN: Saturdays from 10am – Noon
 February 23rd
 March 9th
 April 27th

WHERE: Safety Harbor Museum and Cultural Center
 329 Bayshore Blvd South,
 Safety Harbor, FL

For more information, go to:
<https://www.facebook.com/events/341697136434462/>

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The Society

The Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society (CGCAS) is an association of amateur and professional archaeologists and concerned citizens dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of Florida's great cultural heritage. CGCAS is a chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society (FAS) and is a state chartered non-profit organization. All contributions are tax deductible.

Membership

Membership is open to anyone with a sincere interest in the cultural past of Florida and who is dedicated to the understanding and preservation of that heritage. Amateurs, professionals and concerned citizens are welcomed as members. Membership is yearly and all dues are payable in January. Contact Kassie Kemp at kkemp@mail.usf.edu for more information.

Dues

Individual	\$25.00
Student	\$12.00
Family	\$30.00

Contact Us

You can find us online at the links below:

Website:

<https://www.cgcas.org/>

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/CGCASflorida/

Central Gulf Coast
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