

# Central Gulf Coast *Archaeological Society*



## *Newsletter*

| April 2019 |

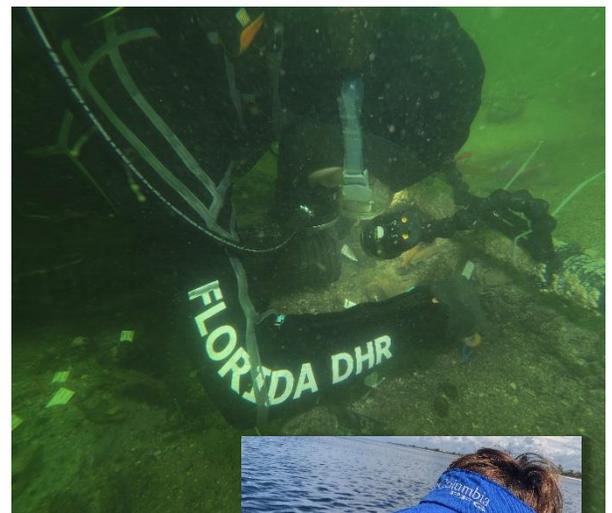
41 YEARS OF PROMOTING FLORIDA'S RICH HERITAGE  
CGCAS IS A CHAPTER OF THE FLORIDA ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY

*Thursday, April 18th, 7pm*

## **MANASOTA KEY OFFSHORE: A PREHISTORIC CEMETERY IN THE GULF OF MEXICO**

Ryan M. Duggins, PhD  
Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research

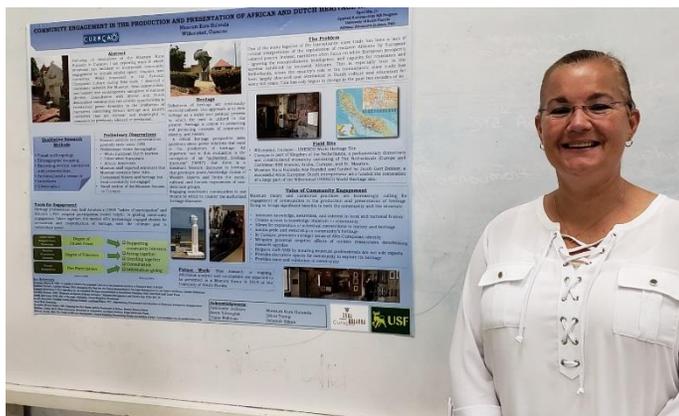
An unexpected discovery by a fossil hunter diving a quarter-mile off Manasota Key near Venice, Florida, has led to a groundbreaking archaeological project that could change everything scientists thought they knew about offshore archaeology. Investigations by the Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research at the Manasota Key Offshore site (8SO7030) revealed evidence of a prehistoric Native American burial site in what appears to have been a freshwater peat-bottomed pond thousands of years ago. Ongoing archaeological investigation revealed multiple discrete areas containing peat, worked wooden stakes that were used in burial practice, and the remains of multiple individuals. Radiocarbon dating of two stakes dated them to more than 7,200 years old. When this site was in use, the waters of the Gulf of Mexico were about 30 feet below their current level. This talk presents results from remote sensing investigations and underwater archaeological documentation while addressing long term management plans for this delicate and unique site.



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](https://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>

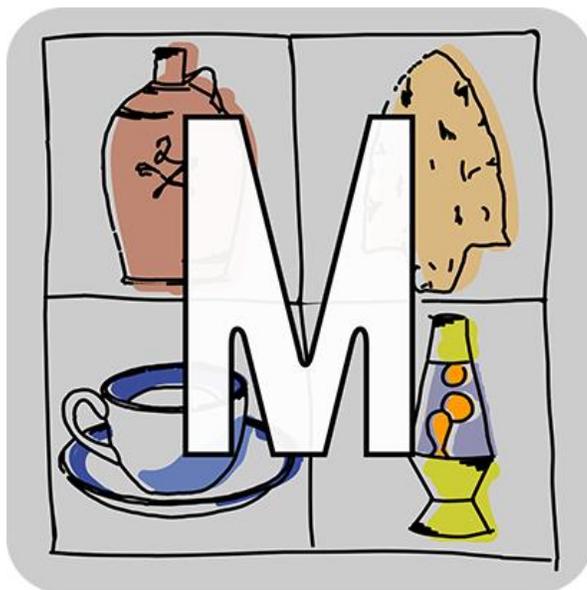
# CGCAS Student Member Spotlight – April Min

By: Jaime Rogers



April Min, an MA student at the University of South Florida, is this month's student spotlight. April explores ways in which museums can facilitate and incorporate community engagement as a way of rethinking exhibit space, displays, and narratives. April works with the Kura Hulanda Museum in the Dutch Caribbean island nation of Curaçao. The museum primarily collects and displays artifacts related to the transatlantic slave trade and African cultures and provides an opportunity to investigate inherent power dynamics between African and Dutch descendant communities. April is researching ways to consult with local and global communities to produce narratives both relevant and meaningful to communities that have previously been ignored. This museum, in particular, attracted April because she is a first generation American, born to Dutch immigrant parents. Her interest in her ancestry sparked investigations into the history of Dutch colonialism and how it is depicted in museums within the Dutch Caribbean. Although a cultural anthropologist by trade, April's research has obvious applications in archaeology. She views heritage studies as intertwined between archaeology and cultural anthropology, particularly when museum interpretations are achieved through the analysis of material culture. Her research is relevant to this year's focus of Florida Archaeology month – shared collections, shared stories. Every artifact has a story to share! Many museums and organizations are now implementing digital and 3D technologies to curate artifacts, structures, and sites. This type of technology connects heritage and archaeology even more. "It's a fun time to be involved in heritage and archaeology, for sure."

# New Archaeology Podcast for you to check out – The Materialists



Becky O'Sullivan and Nigel Rudolph of the Florida Public Archaeology Network have started a new podcast all about archaeology and the things that people have made in the past – as well as today. Podcasts will come out monthly and cover wide-ranging topics within the realm of material culture studies and archaeology. Pretty much everything is on the table, including the table! See below for a description of what they will be talking about, as well as links to listen to the podcast for free on your computer, tablet, or cellphone.

Do people use objects or do objects use people? Archaeologists use material culture like the objects people leave behind to learn more about past ways of life. Discover the stories behind these everyday objects, whether modern or thousands of years old, and start seeing material culture through the eyes of an archaeologist.

Podbean:

<https://thematerialists.podbean.com/>

Spotify link:

<https://open.spotify.com/show/6ogculQRUdQH7VAoRBjId2>

Apple Podcast link:

<https://podcasts.apple.com/.../.../the-materialists/id1455095301>

Google Play Music:

<https://play.google.com/music/listen#/ps/I55do37yrpgoqj7rzm7uyidulga>

## Congrats to Sophia Sciandra for winning the 2019 Mac Perry Student Paper Competition!



CGCAS would like to congratulate our 2019 Mac Perry Student Paper Prize Winner Sophia Sciandra, BA, of University of South Florida Department of Anthropology! She gave CGCAS members and guests a fantastic talk last week all about her Honors Thesis work on faunal remains from the Gamble Plantation in Bradenton. Congratulations Sophia!

## Fieldwork Opportunity for CGCAS Members coming up in Palm Harbor

**Check back in the next newsletter for more information and date.**

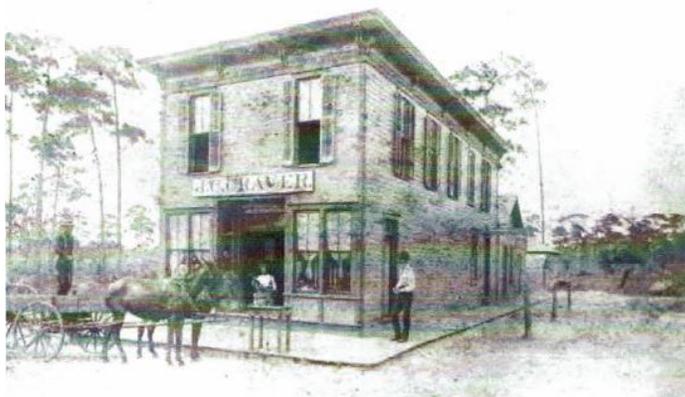
CGCAS was contacted by longtime member Phyllis Kolianos and Pinellas County Historic Preservation Planner Tom Scofield about a possible fieldwork opportunity in the City of Palm Harbor Historic District. A historic structure in the downtown area is being renovated to create new apartments and a restaurant, but the property owner is willing to allow an archaeological survey of the surrounding land before construction begins. The building in question was once used as a store, but has also been used as a Masonic Temple over the years. Pending final approval by the landowner, CGCAS would be

allowed to conduct an archaeological survey of the property sometime in late May or early June. CGCAS members will be invited to participate in the dig, and we will welcome the public to come by to see what we uncover. The property owner is also interested to display any artifacts or historical findings in the finished restaurant for his patrons to enjoy and learn from.

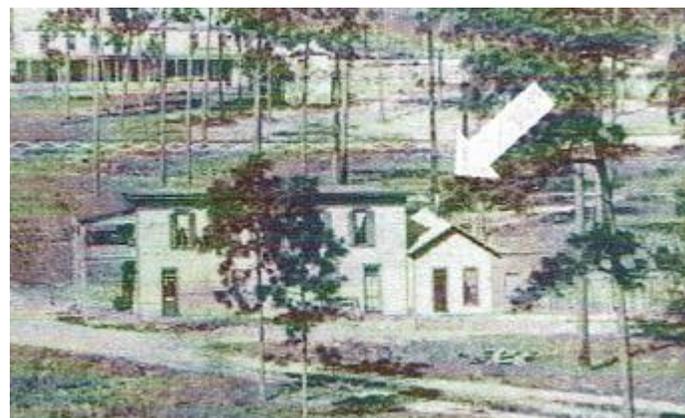
We will be sending out more information to CGCAS members as we finalize the details, but stay tuned!



*J.C. Craver's general mercantile store, today.*



*J.C. Craver's general mercantile store, circa 1890.*



*View of Florida Ave and the J.C. Craver store from the tower of the San Marino Hotel, circa 1895.*

# Windover Pond: Among the Greatest Archaeological Discoveries in North America

## TRAIL OF FLORIDA'S INDIAN HERITAGE

The site was discovered in 1982 when work began on building a road across the pond in a new housing development. A man named Steve Vanderjagt, was operating the backhoe, and stopped his work when he encountered what was first thought to be large rocks. He knew the area wasn't known for having boulders and rocks. They turned out to be human bones. Work was halted while authorities were called to determine the age and circumstances of the remains. Archaeological staff from Florida State University visited the site and recovered bones of several individuals from the construction spoil banks. Normally, bone deteriorates in about 500 to 600 years due to the high acid level of Florida's soil and water. Because of the state of preservation of the Windover bones, it was first thought they were only a few hundred years old.

The subdivision developers paid for radiocarbon dating on the two bones taken from the site. The first piece showed an age of 7,330 years, plus or minus 100 years, and the second showed an age of 7,210 years, plus or minus 100 years. [Subsequent radiocarbon dating over the three seasons of excavation indicated ages ranging from 6,990 years to 8,120 years, plus or minus 70 years.] The developers changed their project's plans in order to leave the pond intact and donated \$60,000 worth of pumping equipment to drain the pond for excavation.

In 1984, with the aid of a grant from the State of Florida, excavation began. A lot of plumbing engineering was implemented in order to drain the pond to allow the excavation, but also to keep the peat layers wet enough to preserve the remains and artifacts. The buried bones were 6 feet or deeper beneath the surface of the peat at the bottom of the pond, under 3 to 10 feet of water. A network of 160 wells were dug around the pond to lower the water table enough to permit excavation of the peat. Workers used shovels and hand tools to remove the peat until the level of the burials was reached. Only half of the pond was excavated, with the remainder left undisturbed for future investigation. From the first day of excavation new skeletal materials were uncovered. It soon became obvious that this was one of the most intact cemeteries of 6,000 B.C. that had ever been discovered.



*Archaeologists from FSU begin excavations at the Windover Pond site in Titusville in 1985.*

For over 8,000 years, the Windover burials lay undisturbed in an oxygen-free crypt made of peat, as generations of subsequent Native Americans, and eventually Europeans, and other modern Americans, lived out their lives all around them. The remains rested about halfway down in a 20 foot deep deposit of peat. They included bones of males and females of all ages from infants to about 60 years, a total of 168 individuals. Many were also staked down with wooden poles thrust through the fabric that enshrouded them. This may have been done to keep the bodies from floating to the surface, or to protect them from scavengers. Indeed, of more than 10,000 human elements recovered from the site, just six showed signs of having been gnawed by rodents or other creatures. Some stakes were notably larger than others; experts say those bigger stakes may have marked off burial zones.

Children constituted about half the remains. Skeletons showed the effects of diseases and healed wounds. Many bones of children showed interrupted growth, perhaps due to malnutrition. Adults of both sexes exhibited a high incidence of osteoarthritis. Some skeletons showed wounds that were likely the cause of death. The pelvis of one male had a bone spear point embedded in it. Others had severe skull fractures. Judging by the skeletons, the women were about 5 feet 2 inches tall and the men averaged 5 feet 6 inches, although some were as tall as 6 feet. They were robust and heavily muscled and lived a long time for that period - 65 to 70 years in some cases.

The Windover burials are evidence of a people that loved and cared for each of its members, both in life and in death. The dead were often wrapped in shrouds; a child was buried cradling her toys; a man was buried with many bone tools and a stone projectile point. These burial rituals are evidence of strong beliefs. Healed wounds and one embedded arrow tip indicate some level of violence, but there is also a great deal of evidence that these people loved and cared for their family members. The skeleton of one woman showed that several years before her death she had suffered multiple bone fractures. Tribe members would have had to care for her while she healed, as well as taken up her part of the group's work.

Children and teenagers were buried with more grave goods than were adults, indicating the high value placed on children. Skeletons included one of a male aged about age 15, who had spina bifida. All of his bones were found to have been fragile. One of his feet was missing and the stump of his lower leg had healed. As his spinal condition almost certainly meant the boy was paralyzed below the waist, this find was important for assessing the society's commitment to ensure his survival. When 3-year-old died, her parents placed her favorite toys in her arms, wrapped her in fabric woven from fibers of native plants, and buried her body in the soft, muck bottom of the small pond. Some 7,000 - 8,000 years later when a young archaeologist uncovered her tiny remains, the toys, a wooden pestle-shaped object and the carapace of a small turtle, were still cradled in her arms.



ABOVE: Artist's recreation of a burial at the Windover Pond Site.

RIGHT: Artist's recreation of one of the people buried at the Windover Site (this bust is on display at the Brevard Museum).



ABOVE: Incised bird bone found at the Windover Site.



RIGHT: Other artifacts made from bone, teeth, or stone, found with the Windover burials.

One of the most significant elements of the Windover site was the discovery of the oldest complexly woven cloth made of plant fiber in the Americas. Pieces of 7,000 to 8,000 year old fabric were found with human burials at the Windover Archaeological Site in Florida. Many bodies at the site had been wrapped in textiles before burial. Eighty-seven pieces of fabric were found associated with 37 burials. Researchers have identified seven different weaves in the fabric.

Many artifacts made from wood, bone or antler deposited with the bodies were also preserved. Several were scribed in geometric patterns. A small bone from a bird was intricately patterned with fine, precise lines which were probably made with a shark's tooth as a tool. The hollow bone may have been used as a whistle. Items such as atlatls and projectile points, were found at Windover. The occupants of Windover hunted animals, fished, and gathered plants. They used bottle gourds for storage, which comprise the earliest evidence for vegetable container storage discovered in North America. The archaeologists also discovered a wide range of wooden artifacts like a double-ended pestle, a mortar, and a snare. Assorted bone tools were also present. Several manatee rib "hammers" were uncovered, some with parts of their wooden handles still intact. A dog tooth, held in place with pine pitch as a form of glue, was imbedded in the end of one hammer. The tooth provided a harder surface than the manatee rib.

In 2013 the Windover site was bought by the Archaeological Conservancy for \$90,000—effectively saving it from being destroyed to make way for a new housing development. You can learn more about this amazing place at the Brevard Museum in Cocoa, FL.

# Mark Your Calendar! CGCAS Fieldtrip to the Bishop Museum in Bradenton



*The Bishop Museum showcases thousands of years of Florida history from ancient fossils, to Native American pottery, to objects from Bradenton's more recent history.*

## CGCAS members are invited to join us on a fun fieldtrip just to our south!

About the Bishop Museum of Science and Nature: Founded in 1946 by community leaders, the South Florida Museum opened in 1947 on Bradenton's Memorial Pier with the Montague Tallant collection of Florida's First Peoples pre- and immediate post-contact archaeological material as well as collections relating to the scientific and cultural history of southwest Florida and Manatee County.

**WHEN:** Saturday June 22, meet at 10am

**WHERE:** The Bishop Museum of Science and Nature  
(Formerly the South Florida Museum)  
201 10th St. W, Bradenton, FL 34205

Meet in front of the Museum. Free street parking on 10th St. West in front of the Museum for up to 3 hours. There are also several parking lots convenient to the Museum. Entrance fee is \$19 for adults, \$17 for those 65 and over, and \$14 for college students with ID. After we check out the museum, join us for lunch at 12:30 p.m. at O'Bricks Irish Pub, 427 12<sup>th</sup> St W, Bradenton. O'Bricks is walkable from the Museum, or park at the Pub. For those who want to stop by a cool archaeological site with us on the way back home, after lunch we'll continue our tour to Madira Bickel Mound State Archaeological Site (955 Bayshore Dr., Terra Ceia). Entrance is free and parking is available on site.

For more info on the amazing collections at the Bishop Museum of Science/South Florida Museum go to: <http://www.southfloridamuseum.org/>

## UPCOMING EVENTS!



### Florida Anthropological Society Meeting

WHEN:

May 10-12

Presentations are Saturday, May 11, 2019

The Annual FAS Conference brings together the public, avocational, and archaeologists for a celebration of archaeology from across the state of Florida. Researchers will present on their latest findings in a laid back setting.

Registration is \$60 for FAS Members, \$75 for non-members, and \$30 for students

WHERE:

### Plantation on Crystal River

9301 West Fort Island Trail  
Crystal River, FL  
34428

Go to [www.fasweb.org](http://www.fasweb.org) for more info

# CGCAS Ballot

Proposed Slate of Officers  
2019-2020

Officers plus 6 Directors  
(Article 2, Section 1)

\_\_\_\_\_ **President:** Kassie Kemp  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Vice-President:** Jaime Rogers  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Treasurer:** Heather Draskovich  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Secretary:** Linda Allred  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Membership:** Kassie Kemp

## **Directors: (6)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Becky O'Sullivan  
\_\_\_\_\_ Tom Connors  
\_\_\_\_\_ Marcie Connors  
\_\_\_\_\_ Bob Austin  
\_\_\_\_\_ Michael Mann  
\_\_\_\_\_ Alan Bailey

**\*\*\*Affirm Only\*\*\* Ballots are for CGCAS members only. Please affirm selections and return ballots to the entrance table.**

**CGCAS Officers/Directors**

President Dave Burns  
Vice Pres. Becky O'Sullivan  
Secretary Linda Allred  
Treasurer Heather Draskovich  
Directors Marcie Connors  
Tom Connors  
Cheryl Shaughnessy  
Kassie Kemp  
Chris Hardy  
Jaime Rogers  
Michael Mann

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Membership Kassie Kemp

**Web Master Dawn Hayes**

**Newsletter Becky O'Sullivan** E-mail: [rosulliv@usf.edu](mailto:rosulliv@usf.edu)

**Editorial Assistants** Bob Austin, Dave Burns



## 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](mailto: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/](http://www.facebook.com/CGCASflorida/)

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Archaeological Society

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