



SINCE 1977

Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society

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

Newsletter

| NOVEMBER 2019 |

Thursday November 21st at 7pm

THE FIRST FLORIDIANS AND THE FIRST FLOODS: *How environmental changes have constrained Florida archaeology and how underwater archaeology promises to help*

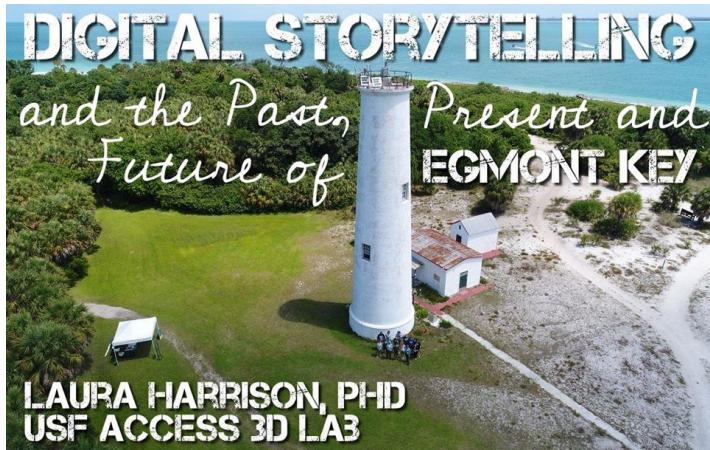
**Jessi Halligan, PhD, Florida
State University**



The earliest known archaeological site in Florida, Page-Ladson, dates to approximately 14,550 years ago, but it is located on what was the edge of a small pond in the middle of a semi-featureless savannah dozens of miles from the coast or any known rivers. Despite almost a century of searching, archaeologists do not know when the first Floridians arrived and who the first coastal peoples in Florida were, largely due to major geological changes that occurred from approximately 21,000-6,000 years ago, which has greatly impacted Florida's landscape. The sites we know about from the Paleoindian period can provide important hints about the first Floridians and the world they lived in, but more than half of Florida's Ice Age landmass was drowned by sea level rise that occurred during the end of the Ice Age, meaning that most of the answers about the first Floridians are likely underwater. Luckily, half a century of underwater archaeology in Florida has provided some important answers.

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>

Mark Your Calendar for our Upcoming Speaker!



Thursday, December 19th, 7pm
Digital Storytelling and the Past, Present and Future of Egmont Key
Laura Harrison, PhD
Director, Access 3D Lab, University of South Florida

Egmont Key is a diminutive island located at the confluence of the Gulf of Mexico and Tampa Bay. Because of its strategic location, the island played a significant role in Florida's history. It was a haven for runaway slaves and Union soldiers during the Civil War, a Seminole prison during the Indian Removal Period, an outpost for rum runners during Prohibition, and a defensive location during multiple 19th and 20th century conflicts. Today, these histories (and others) are largely invisible to the public, due to limited tourism and outreach infrastructure on the island. Coastal erosion also threatens to destroy and submerge several historic buildings.

This presentation details an ongoing interdisciplinary project aimed at making Egmont Key's invisible stories visible to the public, and digitally preserving endangered heritage with 3D laser scanning. A team from the University of South Florida in collaboration with the Seminole Tribal Historic Preservation Office and the Egmont Key Alliance used archival research, community outreach, and virtualization technologies to create immersive 3D visualizations of heritage sites that tell the many stories of Egmont Key's past, present and future.

Dr. Laura K. Harrison is a Research Assistant Professor at the University of South Florida, and the Director of Access 3D Lab - a research lab that incubates and supports transformative research in the digital realm. She is an advocate of interdisciplinary approaches in archaeology, as well as open access and digitization in the sciences and humanities.

CGCAS Christmas Party! Mark your Calendar



Mark Your Calendar! CGCAS Holiday Party, Saturday December 7. This event is open to all CGCAS members so we hope to see you there. The monthly CGCAS Board meeting starts at 11am and Party starts at Noon. Bring a dish to share and a wrapped present for the White Elephant Gift Exchange. It's always fun to see what gifts folks bring... could be anything from a bottle of wine to an old piece of junk from your garage!

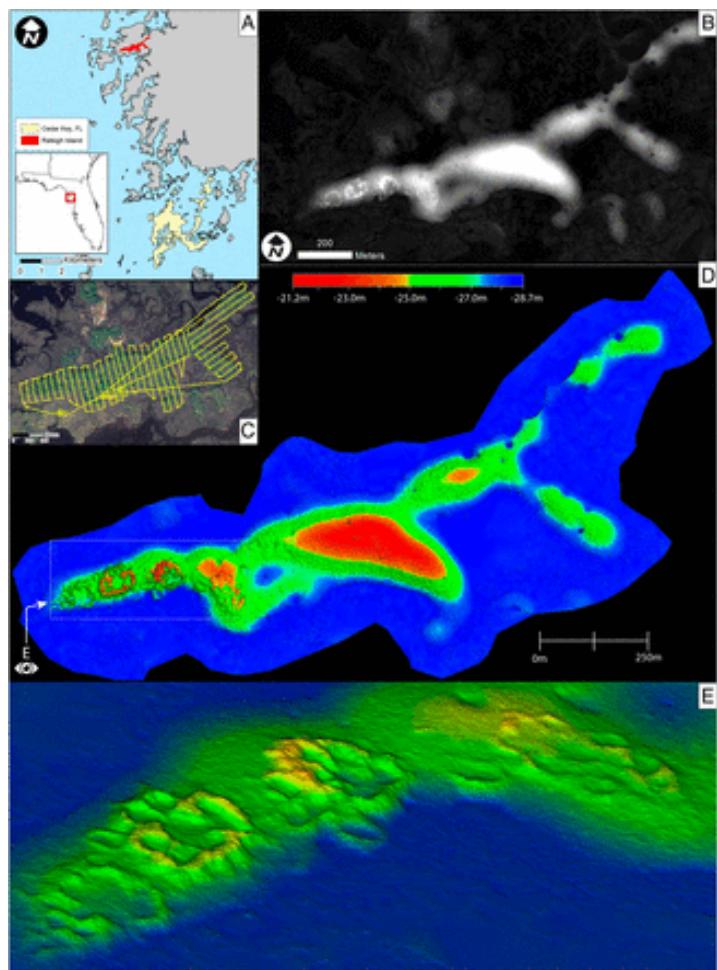
WHERE: AWIARE Research Station
1500 Weedon Drive NE, St Pete

WHEN: Saturday, December 7th
Meeting at 11am
Party at Noon

CGCAS Dues are Due

January is CGCAS Membership renewal time, so if you want to get a headstart don't forget to pay your dues at our December meeting, or online at our website. Your dues help pay for our wonderful monthly lecture series and student paper competition prize. Your continued support is what makes this organization exist, so thank you for continuing as a member of CGCAS!

Drone Mounted Lasers Reveal Ancient Settlement off Florida Coast



The Guardian

Drone-mounted lasers have revealed details of the architecture of an ancient island settlement off Florida's Gulf coast, researchers said in a new paper published on Monday. University of Florida archaeologists, doctoral candidate Terry E Barbour and Professor Ken Sassaman, used aerial drones with light detection and ranging (Lidar) sensors – to create detailed 3D maps of the surface of Raleigh Island. Although archaeological objects were first spotted on the island in about 1990, and subsequent exploration of the area in 2010 revealed the presence of a settlement dating from 900 to 1200 CE, Lidar scanning revealed previously unknown architectural details.

When researchers initially tried land-based surveys to assess the settlements, they hit roadblocks because of

the dense foliage. But the drone-mounted Lidar scanner used by researchers swept 16 lasers over an area, “enabling penetration through gaps” in the thick forest. “This technology is unbelievable,” Sassaman told the *Guardian*. This settlement comprises 37 residential areas “enclosed by ridges of oyster shell” that are up to 12ft (4m) tall, Barbour and Sassaman said. Test excavations – digging down 3ft to assess the depth of archaeological deposits – of 10 such areas were conducted.

The researchers said there was “abundant evidence” that beads made from large marine mollusks were produced in these settlements. Stone tools to make the beads were also found there, Sassaman said. While shell beads were not used as money, they were a form of “ritual wealth” among inland chiefdoms and social and political interactions in these chiefdoms were linked to the possession of these shells, he said. “The discovery of possible bead production may provide information on past societies in eastern North America – and how beads were integral to social capital,” he said. In areas that were far from the coast, such as the lower midwest, sizable sea mollusks were even imported. Chiefs of the era requested that craftspeople turn them into beads and other valuable objects, the paper said.



Red line points to a cache of Lightning Whelk shells found in a test excavation on Raleigh Island.



beads in various stages of production

16,000-Year-Old Stone Artifacts Unearthed in Idaho

[Article at this link!](#)

Archaeologists have uncovered almost two hundred stone artifacts, including projectile points and flake tools, and bone fragments from large mammals at the Cooper's Ferry site in western Idaho, the United States. The discovery suggests that humans lived in the area 16,000 years ago, more than a thousand years earlier than scientists previously thought. They therefore arrived in the Americas before an inland ice-free corridor had opened. The projectile points from the site closely resemble those found in Japan, supporting the hypothesis of a Pacific coastal route. The Cooper's Ferry site is located within a terrace at the confluence of Rock Creek and the lower Salmon River of western Idaho. The Nez Perce Tribe refers to this place as an ancient village site named Nipéhe.

"This site is located along the Salmon River, which is a tributary of the larger Columbia River basin," said Oregon State University's Professor Loren Davis. "Early peoples moving south along the Pacific coast would have encountered the Columbia River as the first place below the glaciers where they could easily walk and paddle in to North America. Essentially, the Columbia River corridor was the first off-ramp of a Pacific coast migration route. The timing and position of the Cooper's Ferry site is consistent with and most easily explained as the result of an early Pacific coastal migration."

The team unearthed 189 stone artifacts, including 27 stone tools (projectile points, biface fragments, blades, and flake tools). They found charcoal, a fire-cracked rock, and 86 bone fragments likely from medium- to large-bodied animals. They also found evidence of a fire hearth, a food processing station and other pits created as part of domestic activities at the site. Many artifacts from the Cooper's Ferry site are associated with dates in the range of 15,000 to 16,000 years old. "Prior to getting these radiocarbon ages, the oldest things we'd found dated mostly in the 13,000-year range, and the earliest evidence of people in the Americas had been dated to just before 14,000 years old in a handful of other sites," Professor Davis said.



Stone tools (projectile points, bifaces and a blade) from the Cooper's Ferry site. Dots show areas with use wear. Image credit: Davis et al, doi: 10.1126/science.aax9830.

"When I first saw that the lower archaeological layer contained radiocarbon ages older than 14,000 years, I was stunned but skeptical and needed to see those numbers repeated over and over just to be sure they're right. So we ran more radiocarbon dates, and the lower layer consistently dated between 14,000-16,000 years old." The dates from the oldest artifacts challenge the long-held 'Clovis First' theory of early migration to the Americas, which suggested that people crossed from Siberia into North America and traveled down through an opening in the ice sheet near the present-day Dakotas. "The ice-free corridor is hypothesized to have opened as early as 14,800 years ago, well after the date of the oldest artifacts found at Cooper's Ferry," Professor Davis said. "Now we have good evidence that people were in Idaho before that corridor opened. This evidence leads us to conclude that early peoples moved south of continental ice sheets along the Pacific coast."

The researchers also found tooth fragments from an extinct form of horse known to have lived in North America at the end of the last glacial period. "These tooth fragments, along with the radiocarbon dating, show that Cooper's Ferry is the oldest radiocarbon-dated site in North America that includes artifacts associated with the bones of extinct animals," Professor Davis said. "The oldest artifacts uncovered at Cooper's Ferry also are very similar in form to older artifacts found in northeastern Asia, and particularly, Japan," he added. The [findings](#) appear online this week in the journal *Science*.



UPCOMING EVENTS!

Florida's Female Pioneers

Wednesday, Nov 20, 7pm

Seminole City Park

7464 Ridge Rd

Seminole, FL 33772

Local History Walk Tampa: Central Avenue Black History Tour

WHEN: Saturday, November 23

10:00 am - Noon

WHERE: Robert Saunders Public Library

1505 N Nebraska Ave

Tampa, FL 33602

Led by noted local historian Fred Hearn, you'll tour "the Harlem of the South," Tampa's Central Avenue district. Learn about life in Tampa's African-American community, from the 1890s through the late 1960s. This outdoor trek begins at the new Robert Saunders Public Library and explores the social, political, musical and religious traditions of Tampa's Black life in Tampa.

History Center walking tours take place outdoors. Guests will walk approximately one mile. Pre-registration is required.

Tours meet at the Robert Saunders Public Library, 1505 N Nebraska Ave, Tampa, FL 33602.

Buy tickets at this link:

<https://www.tampabayhistorycenter.org/2019/09/05/central-avenue-black-history-tour-november-2019/>

Dr. Esther Hill Hawks, a female doctor during the Civil War, visited Florida during the war and ran the first racially integrated free school in Florida during Reconstruction. She wrote lyrical descriptions of the St. Johns River and documented the aftermath of the Civil War in Florida. Harriet Beecher Stowe is credited with kick-starting Florida's tourism industry with her 1873 book, "Palmetto Leaves." Florida First Lady May Mann Jennings, married to Florida Governor William Sherman Jennings, was a suffragist and conservationist who was known as the "Mother of Florida Forestry" and helped establish Royal Palm State Park, which later became the nucleus of Everglades National Park. This talk focuses on these Florida pioneers and other, lesser known female firsts.

Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society Board

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Have something for the next newsletter? Please email me!



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:
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Central Gulf Coast
Archaeological Society

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