

# Central Gulf Coast *Archaeological Society*



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

## *Newsletter*

| DECEMBER 2019 |

*Thursday December 19th at 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.

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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>

## More About our Speaker!



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.

The Access 3D Lab collaborates with other researchers and community groups both locally and internationally, bringing digital technologies to diverse projects. In Pinellas County, the city of Clearwater's Community Redevelopment Agency is partnering with the Access 3D Lab to enliven portions of its downtown spaces using advanced 3D digital technologies to bring murals and their stories to life with virtual reality and augmented reality. The public can embark on a self-guided journey inside the Comunidad mural, located at 28 North Garden Ave., Clearwater, using a virtual reality headset or their own smartphone. In Tampa, Access 3D lab researchers and students are currently working on a Terrestrial LiDAR documentation project of the Ybor City National Landmark District. Besides providing important information on the historic Ybor City neighborhood, this project gives students a chance to learn how to use new technologies.

For more information on USF's Access 3D Lab:  
<https://www.facebook.com/Access3DLab>

## Mark your Calendar for our January Speaker:



Thursday, January 16th, 7pm

**Remembering Tocobaga: Recent Archaeology at the Safety Harbor Site in Philippe Park**

*Thomas Pluckhahn, PhD*

*University of South Florida*

The Safety Harbor archaeology site (8PI2) in Philippe Park is widely assumed to represent the ruins of the Native town of Tocobaga, where the Spanish briefly established a mission and fort in the 1560s. However, the site has only been minimally investigated, and much of the work is under-reported. This talk describes the goals and preliminary results of recent archaeological investigations by the University of South Florida.

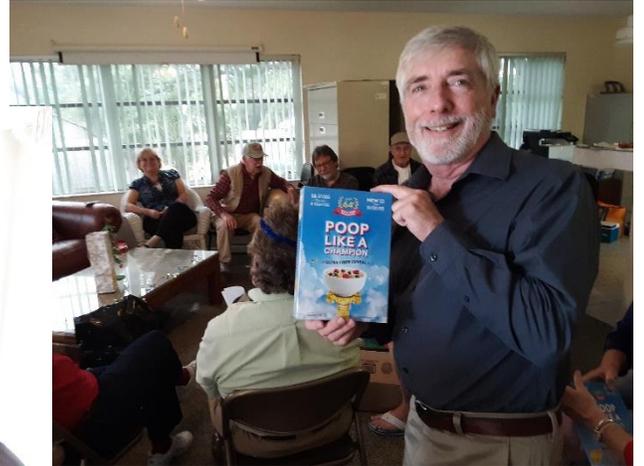
Dr. Thomas Pluckhahn is a Professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of South Florida. His research focuses on the understanding of small-scale social formations, particularly on the Native American societies of the Woodland period (ca. 1000 BC to AD 1050) in the American Southeast and those of the Swift Creek and Weeden Island cultures of the Gulf Coast.

## CGCAS Dues are Due

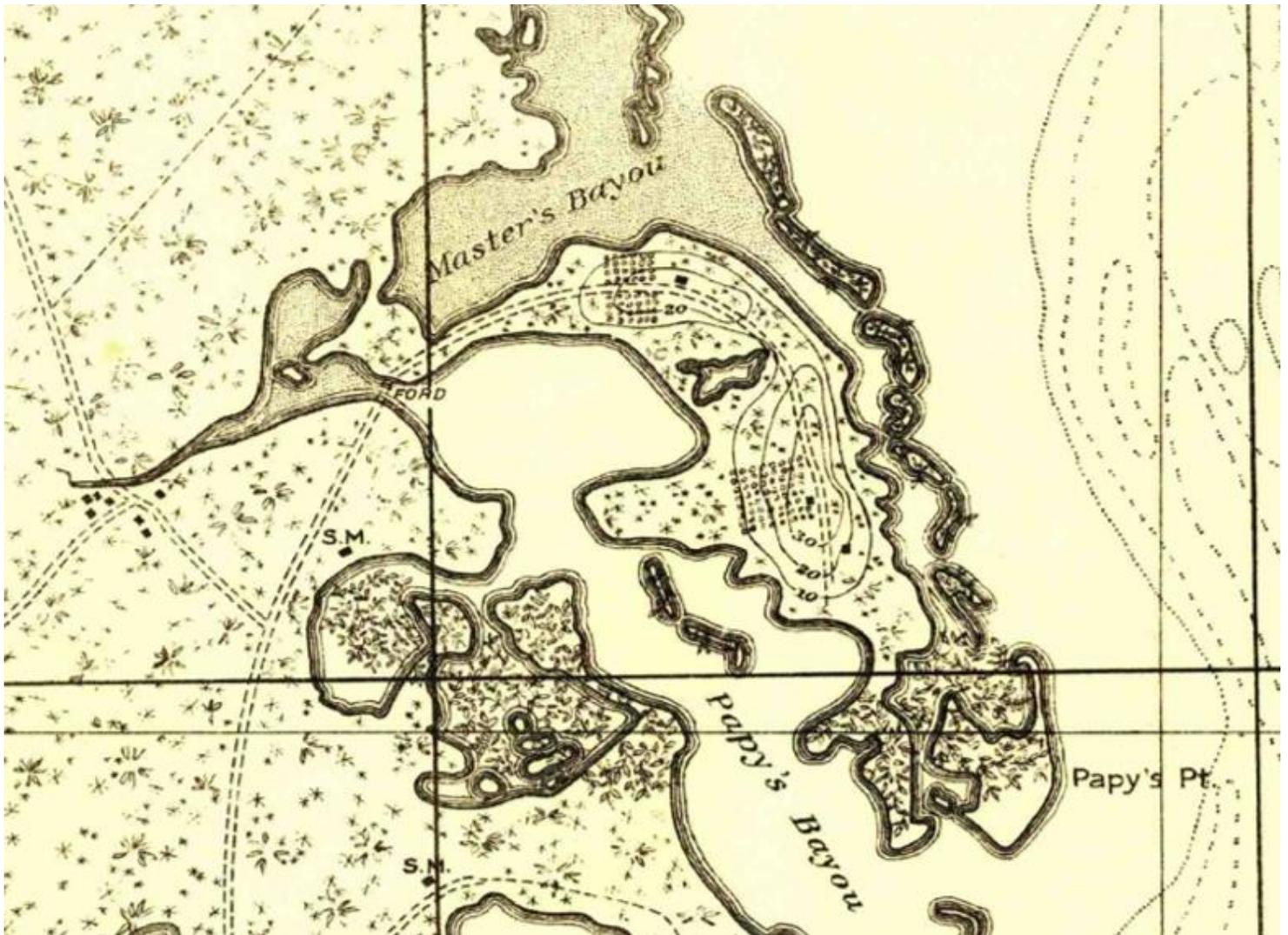
January is CGCAS Membership renewal time, so if you want to get a headstart don't forget to pay your dues at our December meeting, or online at our website. Your dues help pay for our wonderful monthly lecture series and student paper competition prize. Your continued support is what makes this organization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

# CGCAS Holiday Party Pics!

Thanks to everyone who came out! It was another fun afternoon and White Elephant Gift Exchange with a bunch of great folks. Hope you all have a wonderful holiday and see you in 2020!



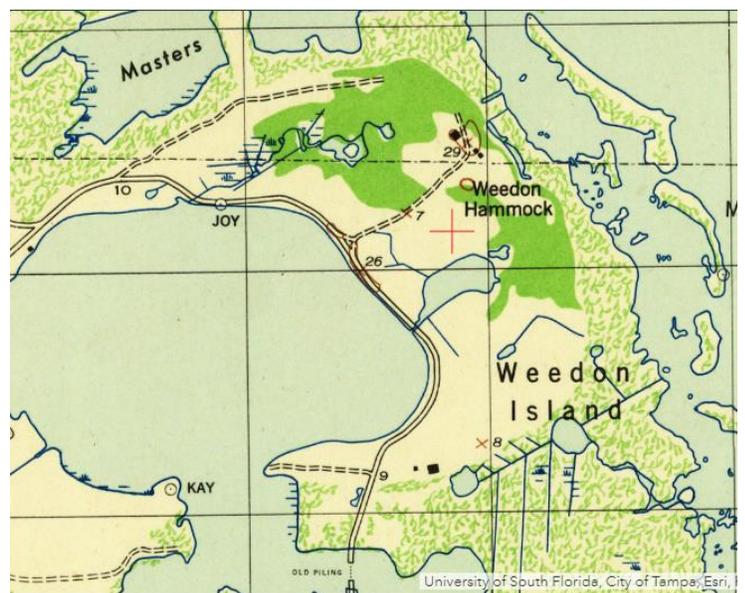
## Blast From the Past – Weedon Island in Topographic Maps



Maps can help us get where we need to go, but they can also be a wealth of information about the history of the places we care about. In our digital age it is becoming much easier to access historical maps that were once only paper copies archived in a dusty cabinet somewhere.

These maps show a zoomed-in view of Weedon Island in 1921 (above) and 1943 (right). In the map above dirt roads are marked with dashed lines. Small black squares and rectangles mark structures and houses, while grids of dots denote citrus groves.

USGS has a wonderful Historical Topographic Map Explorer webpage that you can check out to learn more about the recent history of your neighborhood. Visit the link at right, then select a spot on the map to peruse a timeline of topographic maps that go back almost 100 years!



USGS Historical Topographic Map Explorer:

<https://livingatlas.arcgis.com/topoexplorer/index.html>

# 'We're still here:' Seminole Tribe shares dark history of Egmont Key

By: Emerald Morrow, WTSP News

Egmont Key is one of the most bright and beautiful places to visit in the Tampa Bay area. The experience of the ferry ride, spending the day in a tropical paradise -- it feels exotic, mysterious even. But, the island has a dark and ugly past for the Seminole Tribe of Florida. "This is an area where they tried to hold my ancestors and they tried to remove us from Florida," said Quenton Cypress of the Seminole Tribe of Florida. And although they succeeded with only a few, the majority of us, we're still here."

"The Seminole story, unfortunately, here happens after you have the Americans come through. The Seminole Wars began in the early 1800s. And it's a period of constant struggle and warfare for the tribe," said Dave Scheidecker, research coordinator for the Seminole's Tribal Historic Preservation Office of Central Florida. They were fighting to keep land that had always been theirs. "Most people learn about the Trail of Tears, but a lot of them don't know that the Seminoles were taken from Florida by boat, and Egmont Key was a really, significant stopping point for that," said Lacey Cofer, chief data analyst for the Tribal Historic Preservation Office. It's a period of American history that's often overlooked but a story the Tribe wants more widely-known.

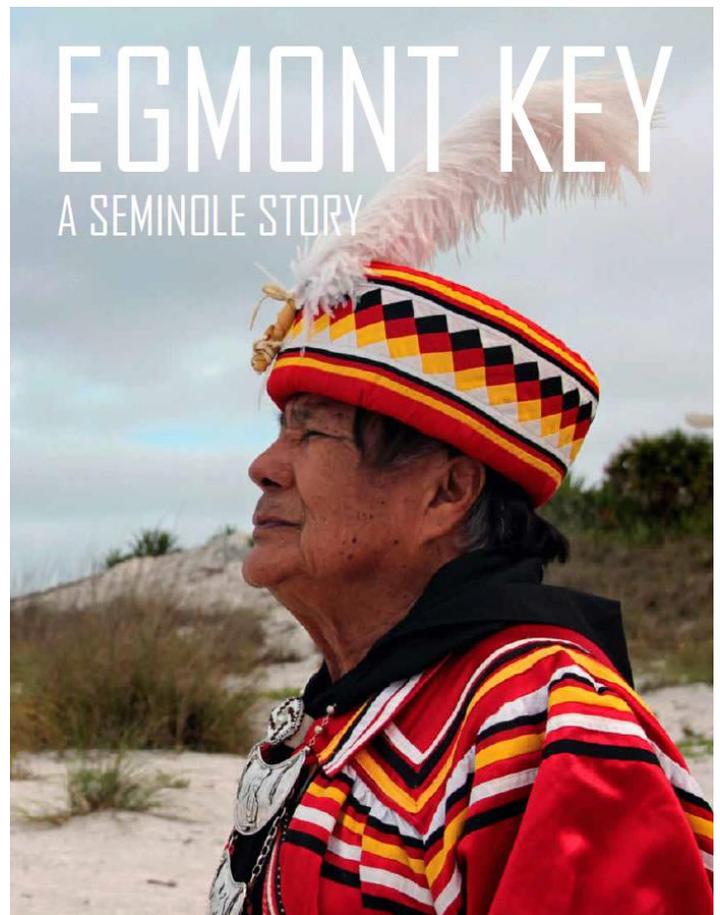
"They were kept in prison and they were kept under watch by men with guns," said Scheidecker. "1857 is when the first prisoners were brought out here...And over the next year, hundreds of Seminoles were brought out here, held against their will in the stockade and a camp before finally being taken out to Indian country in Oklahoma. There are tribal members who referred to this as a concentration camp. And it checks every box for the definition of a concentration camp. It fully qualified as one," said Scheidecker. "We try to pretend that kind of thing never happened here. This is the kind of history that people don't often want to look at. For the tribe, that's why it needs to be told. This happened here, this can happen here. This did happen here. And when people talk about now that this kind of thing could never happen in America would never happen here. It has."

Cypress said this is exactly why it's a story that needs to be shared and discussed more often.

"The US still isn't telling that story. They're trying to hide and push it away and push underneath the rug," he said. "We're here to try and voice and tell that story and share it and make sure that the general population and everybody else knows our story and knows why we are the unconquerable Seminole Tribe of Florida. And just know that there's that fight that we had in us and we still have it to this very day."

Check out this link for a video on the Seminole experience at Egmont Key:

<http://www.wtsp.com/video/news/history/egmont-key-has-a-dark-and-ugly-past/67-bf03486d-4c2e-46a9-b7c4-c07f249c4d38?jwsourc=cl>



Download a free copy of "Egmont Key A Seminole Story" at the link below to read Seminole stories and perspectives on Egmont Key: <https://bit.ly/2PVqXoF>

# 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](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:

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