



# CENTRAL GULF COAST ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

SINCE 1977

November 2023

Upcoming Speaker November 9<sup>th</sup> @ 7 pm

New World Brewery | [Register Here](#)



## FOUR YEARS AND TWO SHIPWRECKS IN LASOYE BAY, DOMINICA

Maritime archaeology work began in LaSoye Bay in 2019 as a dissertation project to complement research on a settlement discovered on LaSoye's shore during the aftermath of Hurricane Maria in 2016. Over years of archaeological research, we have determined that the bay is the site of an underwater and above-ground harbor that has been used for centuries. Onshore structures include a seawall, bollard (for docking ships), and an abandoned warehouse. Two sites within the bay have been identified as shipwrecks, hinting that seafaring the rough Atlantic waters of Dominica was not uncommon despite LaSoye's small size. Such features are reminiscent of past economies reliant principally on the sea for trade, transportation, and migration. Underwater debris such as anchors, ballast stones, bottles, pottery fragments, pipe stems, and metal support the argument that the bay was a site of both fishing and extra-local trade. Here, I will discuss the survey techniques that led to these discoveries and place these underwater features and artifacts in Dominican and larger Caribbean contexts.



Marie Meranda is a Doctoral Candidate in anthropology at the University of South Florida. She has a Master's degree in Maritime Archaeology from the University of Southampton and Bachelor's degrees in Humanities Fine Arts and Anthropology from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. As a Scuba Instructor and AAUS Scientific diver, she has worked on a variety of underwater and terrestrial projects in the Caribbean, Mediterranean, Black Sea and the Southeastern U.S.





# Crystal River Field Trip

Join us **November 11<sup>th</sup>** for our fieldtrip to Crystal River Archaeological State Park, featuring a guided tour with Dr. Tom Pluckhahn (USF/AWIARE). We will meet at the museum at 9:30 am for a brief check-in process, and the tour will start promptly at 10 am. We expect the tour to last about an hour and traverse approximately a mile or more. More details can be found clicking the Register Here link to the right. For more information about the park, check out the Florida State Parks [website](#). If you would like to attend, please register by November 7<sup>th</sup>.

[Register Here](#)



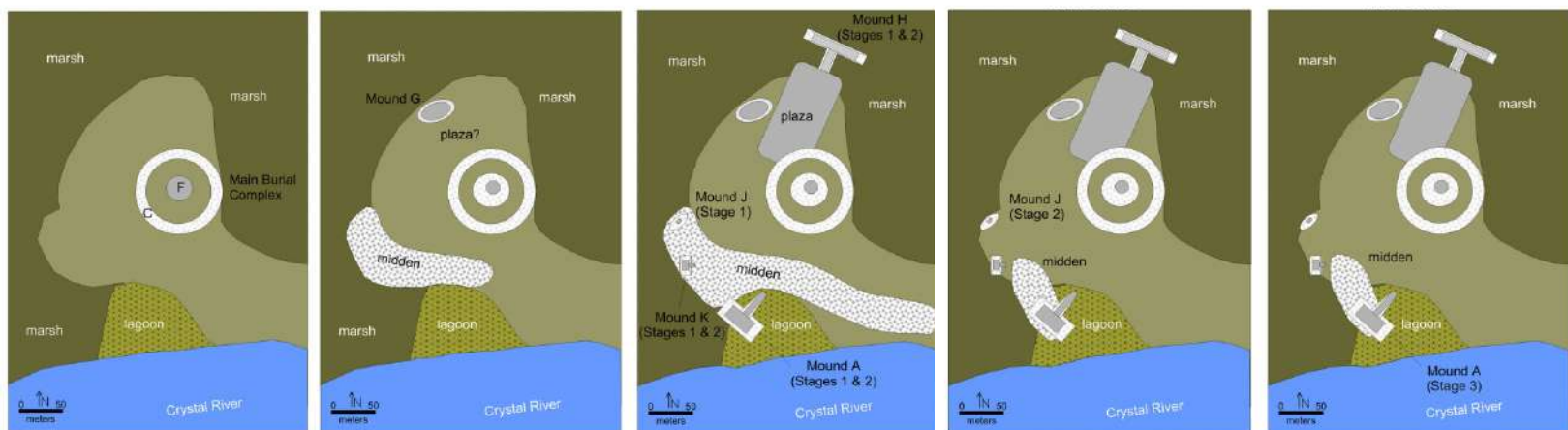
Phase 1

Phase 2

Phase 3

Phase 4

Phase 5



Phases of village construction from some of Dr. Pluckhahn's work at Crystal River.



## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Congratulations to our VP Rachael Kangas on co-authoring an article published in *Historical Archaeology*. Rachael and co-authors generate a framework for investigating site vulnerability to sea level rise and methods for prioritizing specific sites. They stress the need for further involvement of the community and archaeologists within preservation planning. Interested in learning more? Click [HERE](#) to access the article.

Tom Pluckhahn and Kendal Jackson also recently published an article in *Historical Archaeology*. Their paper discusses the archaeology of the Safety Harbor site and the material remains of the transition from the capital of the Tocobaga to a plantation and now to a county park. Interested in learning more? Click [HERE](#) to access the article.

## SAVE THE DATE!

Join us **December 10<sup>th</sup> at noon** for our annual holiday party. Like previous years, we will celebrate the season with a potluck and white elephant gift exchange at the AWIARE station on Weedon Island.

**Details of our December lecture will be emailed soon!**

Reminder: The recording of our September lecture with Keith Ashley is uploaded on our [YouTube!](#)



Artifacts related to the different periods of occupation at Safety Harbor (discussed in further detail in the Pluckhahn article to the left). Top are associated with the Tocobaga; Middle are associated with Philippe plantation; Bottom are modern park-related artifacts.

## Climate Change and Cultural Sites in Florida



Pine Island during a very high tide. Lee County

CGCAS October 12, 2023

Rachael Kangas MA, RPA  
Director, Central & West Central Regions  
Florida Public Archaeology Network



Thank you to everyone who joined us for our October lecture and return to Weedon Island. Rachael Kangas gave a fantastic talk about the challenges archaeological resources (and archaeologists) face in the wake of climate change and how the public can help. Unfortunately, we had technical issues with the recording, so we will not be able to post the lecture on our YouTube. However, if you are interested in getting involved in site monitoring, check out [FPAN's Heritage Monitoring Scouts](#) program.



**CENTRAL GULF COAST  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**



## **CHANGING IT UP!**

Over the years, we have had some cool logos that highlight the Central Gulf Coast—and now we will add another to the list!

### **Why we want to change the logo:**

Initially unveiled in 2018, the current logo features a line drawing of a pot excavated at Weedon Island by J. Walter Fewkes of the Smithsonian in 1924. Pots like these are unique to the Weeden Island culture and most often found in mortuary contexts. Indeed, this very pot was excavated from the burial mound at the site. Our initial goal was to highlight not only the beauty of this vessel and its archaeological significance, but our own connection to the island. Weedon was our primary lecture venue, where many of our events still take place, and where we continue to help with archaeological excavations of this important site. Members within archaeological organizations like the Florida Anthropological Society (FAS) and Southeastern Archaeology (SEAC) are currently at odds over new policies that prohibit photographs of ceramic vessels and other funerary objects in journals and presentations (for example, see the article on the next page). Images of funerary objects can generate negative feelings for descendent communities, and ideally, we want to strengthen the relationship between archaeologists and Tribal Nations. Our current logo is permissible under the guidelines of both SEAC and FAS. However, we feel it is a gray area given that our logo represents an actual mortuary vessel (i.e., not inspired by elements of Weeden culture). Therefore, the board has decided it is in our best interest to transition to a new logo that equally represents our region and motivations as an archaeological society.

### **What you can do to help:**

We have so much unique history in Tampa Bay and the greater Central Gulf Coast, so much so that it seems impossible to incorporate it all into one logo. Nevertheless, we want input from members on what kind of elements you want to see in the new logo. What kind of things scream Central Gulf Coast archaeology to you? Use this link to type some keywords in to help us get our creative juices flowing. We ask that you submit your ideas by November 9<sup>th</sup>. Feel free to let us know any ideas at the upcoming lecture.

[Submit your input here.](#)



# ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE NEWS



[Digging In Water Offers Lessons](#)



[Ancient Rock Carvings Revealed By Receding Amazon Waters Amid Drought](#)

## LOU'S LINKS

Member Lou Claudio shared some additional articles that members might find interesting:

[Archaeology Society Spars Over Publishing Photos of Indigenous Burial Offerings](#)

[Florida Museum Receives \\$99k NAGPRA Grant for Repatriation Efforts](#)



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
— SINCE 1977 —

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## The Society

We are a non-profit organization consisting of members from all walks of life, who are dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of Florida's great cultural heritage. Many of our members are professional archaeologists, but we also have avocational and hobbyist members who enjoy learning the history of the peoples who preceded us here in Florida.

## Membership

Membership is open to anyone with an interest in Florida's cultural past and who is dedicated to the understanding and preservation of that heritage. CGCAS conducts field trips to archaeological and historical sites, assists professional archaeologists in surveys and excavations, performs laboratory analysis, and prepares reports of its findings. A monthly newsletter keeps members up to date on the Society's activities.

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