



CENTRAL GULF COAST ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

SINCE 1977

October 2023

Upcoming Speaker October 12th @ 7 pm

[**REGISTER HERE!**](#)

Weedon Island Cultural Center

Climate Change and Cultural Sites in Florida

Join us on October 12th
at 7 pm for our return
to Weedon Island!

Some of us will be
meeting for dinner at
Miller's Ale House (7901
MLK St. N.) at 5 pm
before the talk.

RSVPs for dinner are
encouraged. Please
email Marcie by 10/9 if
you would like to join
(tjconnors@verizon.net)

How do we protect cemeteries, historic buildings, and archaeological sites that are threatened by climate change in Florida? How is it decided which sites get attention and which do not? Join the Alliance for Weedon Island Archaeological Research and Education in collaboration with the Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society for a special presentation of how archaeologists are currently answering these questions, what significant threats are observed in Florida, and how the public can help!

Rachael Kangas is the Director for the West Central and Central Regions of the Florida Public Archaeology Network, and she conducts public archaeology and outreach in the regions. She earned her M.A. from the University of Central Florida (UCF) in 2015 and is certified as a member of the Register of Professional Archaeologists (RPA). She has participated in fieldwork in the Americas and conducted lab work and teaching during her time at UCF. She is also an American Academy for Underwater Sciences (AAUS) diver, allowing her to assist with underwater research around the state.

Next Month's Lecture

NOVEMBER 9th @ 7 PM
New World Brewery

FOUR YEARS AND TWO SHIPWRECKS IN LASOYE BAY, DOMINICA

Marie Meranda
Doctoral Candidate (Anthropology)
University of South Florida

Register [HERE!](#)



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.

SAVE THE DATES!

Join us **November 11th** for our fieldtrip to Crystal River Archaeological State Park, featuring a guided tour with Dr. Tom Pluckhahn (USF/AWIARE). More details will be provided soon. For more information about the park, check out the Florida State Parks [website](#).



Join us **December 10th 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.

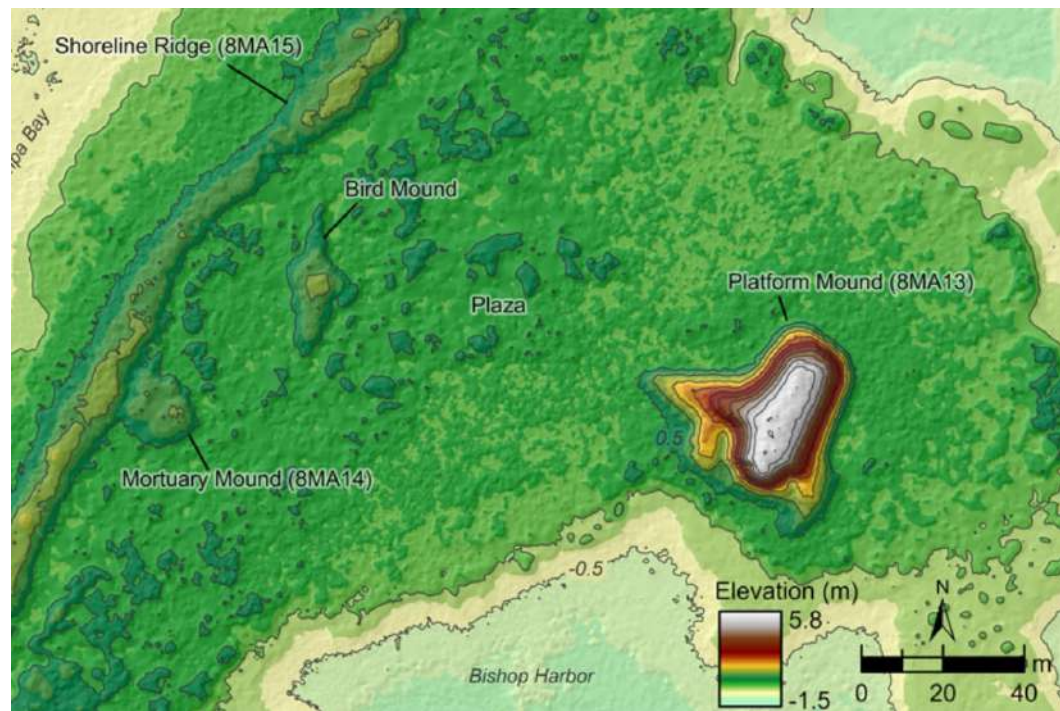


Did you miss our September lecture with Keith Ashley? The recording is now uploaded on our [YouTube!](#)

NEW RESEARCH AT THE HARBOR KEY SITE

*Text copied from the AWIARE Newsletter

In an [open-access article](#) just published in the journal *American Antiquity*, AWIARE board members Kendal Jackson and Tom Pluckhahn, along with Jaime Rogers (CGCAS) and geologist Ping Wang (USF Geosciences), report findings from recent



sediment coring and excavations at the partially inundated Harbor Key mound complex in Terra Ceia Preserve State Park on the southeastern shore of Tampa Bay. The research was funded by the AWIARE-Levett Foundation Student Research Grant, as well as grants from the National Science Foundation and the PaleoWest Foundation.

Among the most interesting results are the revision of the site's chronology. While Harbor Key was previously considered a classic Safety Harbor culture (ca. AD 1000-1500) temple-mound-village complex, stratigraphic and radiocarbon evidence reveal that the mound complex was constructed centuries earlier, ca. AD 200-600, during the Middle-Woodland period. This revision resolves long-standing questions about the lack of diagnostic Safety Harbor artifacts at the site and bolsters the growing recognition of early, pre-Mississippian platform building in the southeastern US. By investigating buried, sub-tidal deposits beneath the standing mound center, the team found that the mounds were built atop an earlier platform of shell and sand. Detailed analyses of this buried shell platform determined that it was built from ancient storm deposits that ancestral peoples recontoured into a raised foundation for the ceremonial complex. Additionally, by collecting and analyzing sediment cores seaward and landward of the Harbor Key site the team found that—for the last c. 2000 years—the Harbor Key mound complex has functioned as an artificial barrier protecting the Bishop Harbor subbasin from the energetic conditions of the open bay. Seaward core records reveal dramatic and continuous reworking of estuarine habitats by storm waves, while landward cores in Bishop Harbor contained evidence for the establishment and proliferation of oyster reefs and other productive, low-energy habitats. The work is the first in the region to suggest that ancestral Native American mound-building modified flow and wave dynamics in estuarine environments.

With the results of their study now published, the team is continuing work in Terra Ceia. Co-author Jaime Rogers is currently leading excavations at the adjacent shell mound sites of Hell's Half Acre in search of ancient Native mariculture traditions; while Jackson and Wang are currently seeking funding to empirically study the hydrodynamic effects of Native shell mound sites within Gulf Coast estuaries.

The team dedicates their work at Harbor Key to the memory of the late archaeologist Bill Burger in recognition of his life-long dedication to the study and preservation of Tampa Bay's natural and historical resources.

NEW PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY COMES TO MARIE SELBY GARDENS

BY LOU CLAUDIO, CGCAS MEMBER

For me, it all started years ago with a visit to Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota and wondering why the address was on “Mound Street.” Usually, there’s some connection in naming streets, right? A lead via Google to a paper by Dr. George Luer in the March-June 2005 edition of [*The Florida Anthropologist*](#) explained it all. Seems right across the street from the gardens had been the Sarasota Bay Mound (8SO44)—a pre-contact site of the Safety Harbor period (ca. A.D. 1000-1500). In 1968, Ripley Bullen conducted excavations at the mound and uncovered human burials and ceramics. In 1975, the Embassy House—a 17-story condominium was built atop the mound site...the unfortunate fate of many of Florida’s many archaeological sites. But don’t get me started.

Further research by this curious avocational archaeologist revealed that the whole area of downtown Sarasota had an abundance of archaeological sites—including at Selby Gardens, itself. So, in 2010, I wrote my first letter to Selby Gardens suggesting that, with such a wealth of prehistoric history in the area, they might consider including that as part of the visitors’ experience at the gardens.



An aerial view of Selby Gardens (Downtown Sarasota campus). Note the condominium building in the upper left.

Fast forward to 2020 when [Selby Gardens added the 30-acre Historic Spanish Point in nearby Osprey as a second campus](#). The area encompasses the [archaeologically rich Palmer Site \(8SO2\)](#) and was the destination for a CGCAS field trip just last April. Visitors will recall the dramatic glass-enclosed cutaway into a midden created in 1991, and other signs of its archaeological past like artifact displays and several historic structures.



Some of the many archaeological components of the site, including the Guptill House (c. 1901) (left), curated artifacts associated with the site’s 5,000-year history (center), and the historic chapel (c. 1895) (right). Photographs are from the Marie Selby Garden’s Instagram.

“With the adoption of the Historic Spanish Point campus, we knew that we had to enhance our team to help protect and share the amazing archaeological record there going back 5,000 years,” said Jennifer O. Rominiecki, president and CEO of Selby Gardens. With that in mind, Selby recently welcomed Dr. Uzi Baram as the new Director of Public Archaeology where his focus is the interpretation and representations of the archaeological and cultural histories at Selby Gardens’ two campuses. Dr. Baram taught for 25 years at New College of Florida, where he was a professor of anthropology and created and directed New College’s Public Archaeology Laboratory. “Uzi brings a wealth of knowledge and a practice of engagement that is essential to understanding and preserving our regional history,” said John McCarthy, Selby Gardens’ vice president for regional history.



Dr. Uzi Baram, the new director of public archaeology at Selby Gardens

Dr. Baram recently told me, “One of my public tasks is to represent the ancient landscapes through the known mounds across the region, to link the Archaic shell ring and Manasota shell ridge at Historic Spanish Point and the destroyed mounds of downtown Sarasota so the public can appreciate the continuities from Indian Mound Park in Englewood through Spanish Point and up to Downtown and then the mounds of De Soto National Memorial and Emerson Point Park. With so many destroyed and only recorded, I am looking for suggestions that honors the extent of the terraforming while holding to empirical evidence.” Perhaps being too generous towards my contacts with Selby Gardens in 2010, Dr. Baram added, “Your interest was the spark years ago.” Avocational archaeologists can, indeed, make contributions, then...don’t be shy.

Editor’s comment: I want to thank Lou for his contribution and remind members that all are welcome to contribute to newsletters. Lou’s piece does a nice job summarizing an example of public archaeology and the important history at Selby/Spanish Point. However, the last sentence is perhaps the most pertinent—anyone can make a difference in preserving, interpreting, and contributing to the past. Our members range from experts to those who have never held a trowel, but we can all enact the change we want to see. -Jaime

MEET OUR 2023-2024 BOARD

President – Jaime Rogers

Jaime joined CGCAS in 2014 and has been on the board since 2017, serving as president since 2020. He is a doctoral candidate at USF studying oyster mariculture and ways to apply archaeological data to modern oyster restoration efforts. In his free time, he enjoys playing disc golf and kayaking.

Vice President – Rachael Kangas

Rachael joined the CGCAS board in 2022. Rachael is the Director for the West Central and Central Regions of the Florida Public Archaeology Network (FPAN). She earned her M.A. from the University of Central Florida (UCF) in 2015 and is certified as a member of the Register of Professional Archaeologists (RPA). She has participated in fieldwork in the Americas and conducted lab work and teaching during her time at UCF. She is also an American Academy for Underwater Sciences (AAUS) diver, allowing her to assist with underwater research around the state.

Treasurer – Kassie Kemp

Kassie works for the FPAN's Northeast Region out of St. Augustine as the HMS Database Manager. Kassie got her M.A. degree from the University of South Florida in 2015 and is interested in precontact archaeology, public archaeology, database management, and GIS. Though she currently lives in her home state of Texas, Kassie has been involved with CGCAS since 2015.

Secretary – Lauren Levy

Lauren joined the CGCAS board in 2022 and is starting her first term as secretary. While Lauren is not currently professionally involved in archaeology, she holds an undergraduate degree in archaeology focusing on bioarchaeology and has been involved with CGCAS for nearly five years and this will be her second year serving on the board.

Director – Marcie Connors

Marcie's involvement in archaeology started in 1990 in Alexandria, VA. After moving to the Tampa area in 2000, she joined CGCAS to continue her hobby, meeting and making many friends with the same interests in archaeology. As a CGCAS Board Member over the years, Marcie has served as Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Chair, and event planner.

Director – Bob Austin

Robert Austin has been an active member of CGCAS since 1978. He is a co-founder and board member of the Alliance for Weedon Island Archaeological Research and Education, Inc. (AWIARE). When not doing archaeology, he collects vinyl records and roots for the Tampa Bay Rays.

Director – Kelsey Kreiser

Kelsey joined our board in 2021. Kelsey is an archaeologist in the cultural resource management industry. She earned her MA degree from USF in 2018. She has field experience throughout the country and has participated in several notable projects, including significant local sites like Fort Brooke and Zion Cemetery.

New Director – Michelle Birnbaum

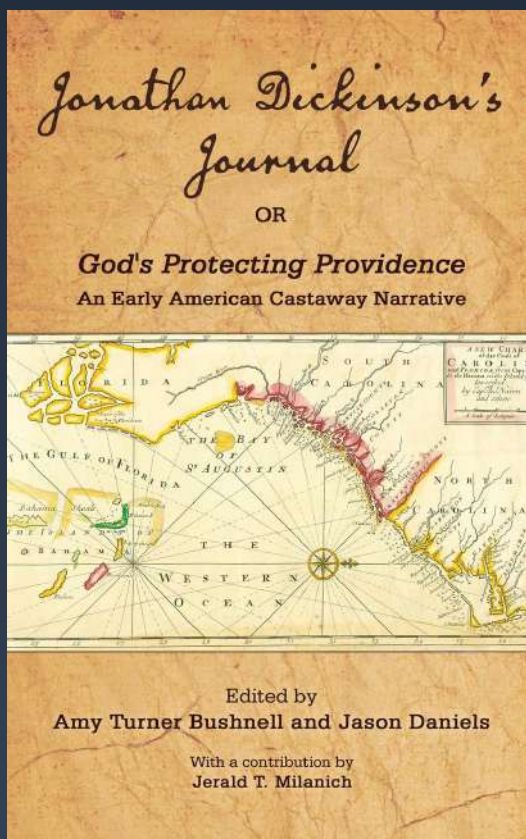
Michelle joined CGCAS in 2019 after moving to the area from Key West. Before moving to Florida Michelle worked in Cultural Resource Management in the Midwest for 10 years and received her PhD from the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee. Prehistoric pottery technology is her area of interest especially the humble cook pot. Working with materials from Weedon Island and other local archaeological sites is an exciting opportunity to learn about local archaeology and talk shop. Currently, Michelle is overseeing a project to rebag and stabilize the large, important collection from the Anderson Mound on Boca Ciega Bay that was excavated by Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society in the mid-1990s.

New Director – Dennis Bowles

Dennis joined CGCAS in 2020 after retiring and moving back to Florida. His involvement with archaeological societies isn't new, he wrote the articles of corporation for the Northeast Florida Anthropological Society based out of Jacksonville and served as their president. He participated in excavations at the Goodman Mound in Jacksonville and helped compose the subsequent article published in [*The Florida Anthropologist*](#). Dennis earned graduate and undergraduate degrees in anthropology from the University of New Orleans. For over 17 years, Dennis volunteered at the animal hospital of the Audubon Zoological Gardens. Here, he also participated in a research study teaching sign language to an orangutan with Dr. Ann Ryal of the Audubon Center for the Reproduction of Endangered Species. His business career was with Global Pipeline Logistics, serving as an advisor of supply chain logistics in Washington DC. Dennis retired in 2020 and moved back to Florida, where he continues his interests in archaeology.

New Director – Tom McCulloch

Tom recently joined CGCAS after retiring and moving to Bradenton. He is an archaeologist, serving the past 35 years with the Federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation in Washington DC. Tom earned a PhD in anthropology from the University of Pennsylvania. He has participated in archaeological projects throughout the world, including the United States, Mexico, and England.



OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

[Charting the Land of Flowers: 500 Years of Florida Maps](#)

October 18th 6 pm
USF St. Petersburg Library

[Youth Workshops for International Archaeology Day](#)

October 21st 9:30 am
Weedon Island Preserve



[Native America: In Translation](#)

August 25 – December 1
USF Contemporary Art Museum

[What Lies Beneath](#)

September 15 – January 30
USF Social Science Building (111)



Jerry Milanich (professor/curator emeritus UF) asked us to share this new book with CGCAS members:

[Jonathan Dickinson's Journal or God's Protecting Providence: An Early American Castaway Narrative](#)

First published in 1699, "Jonathan Dickinson's Journal" is a firsthand account of the 1696 wreck of the ship *Reformation*, the castaway's journey up the east coast of Florida, and their encounters with the Indigenous people living there. This narrative has become a valuable resource for historians, archaeologists, ethnographers, and literary scholars. Edited with a fresh perspective, this book also includes previously unpublished, recently discovered material from 1696, that predates the familiar version of this important work.

ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE NEWS

[How One of the Smallest Tribal Nations in the U.S. is Redefining Sustainable Living](#)



[A Portrait of Tenochtitlan: A 3D Reconstruction of the Capital of the Aztec Empire](#)

[Chemical Analysis of Viking Combs Hints at Long-Distance Trade](#)

[Oldest Wood Structure Discovered on Border of Zambia and Tanzania](#)

[Indigenous Trackers Can Identify Animal Species from Ancient Rock Art Prints](#)

[Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks in Ohio Newest UNESCO World Heritage Site](#)

[South African Hominin Fossils Were Sent Into Space and \[Some\] Scientists are Enraged](#)



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
— SINCE 1977 —

President	Jaime Rogers
Vice President	Rachael Kangas
Treasurer	Kassie Kemp
Secretary	Lauren Levy
Directors	Bob Austin
	Marcie Connors
	Kelsey Kreiser
	Michelle Birnbaum
	Dennis Bowles
	Tom McCulloch
Membership	Kassie Kemp
Newsletter	Jaime Rogers



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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