

Time Sifters

March 2015



A Chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society

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NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, March 18, 2014, 6:00 PM

Selby Library, Downtown Sarasota

Jeff Moates, M.A., RPA and Sherry Svekis, B.A., CIG **A Celebration of Florida Archaeology Month**



Every March, statewide programs and events celebrating Florida Archaeology Month are designed to encourage Floridians and visitors to learn more about the archaeology and history of the state, and to preserve these important parts of Florida's rich cultural heritage. This year's theme is Innovators of the Archaic. In an era of rising sea levels, changing environments, and increasing populations, Florida's Archaic People tested out and adapted to new technologies and new ways of life. It is only through the science of archaeology that we can learn about these people and how they shaped 7,000 years of prehistoric culture in Florida.

Time Sifters' March program will celebrate Florida archaeology with an overview of some of the amazing archaeological sites that you can visit to learn about this rich past. Sherry will have artifacts and replica tools to demonstrate key technologies. Jeff will tell us about the important organizations behind those acronyms, FAS and FPAN, and why the conference Time Sifters is hosting in May is so important to Florida archaeology.

Jeff is the Director of the West Central Regional Center of the Florida Public Archaeology Network (FPAN) and President of the Florida Anthropological Society. He earned a M.A. in History/Historical Archaeology and a B.A. in Anthropology from the University of West Florida. Jeff's work experiences prior to FPAN include employment as a field tech and crew chief with Archaeological Consultants, Inc (Sarasota, FL), an underwater archaeologist for the FL Bureau of Archaeological Research, and museum curator at the Florida Maritime Museum at Cortez.

Sherry is the President of Time Sifters Archaeology Society, Vice President of the Trail of Florida's Indian Heritage, and is a representative to the Board of the Florida Anthropological Society.



Notes from a Time Sifter

We all love ancient mythical stories as well as the heroes who accomplished marvelous feats. Which of those heroes were real? Archaeologists and historians search evidence and occasionally find them. A fascinating article in the Jan/Feb 2015 Biblical Archaeology Review discusses biblical heroes that have been confirmed as real by archaeology (www.biblicalarchaeology.com/50). Using mostly inscriptions, the method of confirmation is done when at least three unmistakable inscriptions match the original. David, King of Judah (1010-970 B.C.E.) who captured Jerusalem has been confirmed ([biblical archaeology.org](http://biblicalarchaeology.org)) but there is no extra biblical evidence

for David's son, King Solomon, known for his wisdom, or even biblical figures Abraham, the father of the Hebrews, or Moses, who led the Israelites out of Egypt. Some other biblical characters who are confirmed to have really existed are King Ahab of Israel (873-852 B.C.E.) husband of Jezebel, King Sargon II (721-705 B.C.E.), of Assyria who captured the ten "lost" tribes of Israel, King Hezekiah of Judah (726-696 B.C.E.) who defended Jerusalem from the Assyrians, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon who captured the intellectuals of Judah in 536 B.C.E., and Cyrus the Great of Persia (559-530 B.C.E.), who sent the captured Jews back to Judah. These, of course, are all heroes from the Bible.

Archaeologists and scholars have long searched for evidence for "mythical" heroes who are not mentioned in the Bible. Some searches have been successful, for example, the famous Chinese philosopher, Confucius (Kong Qui, 551-579) really taught traditional Chinese values during his lifetime. Greek philosopher Socrates (430-399 B.C.E.) whose teaching became the source of Western thought, and his student, Plato (428-348 B.C.E.), who

continued his teacher's programs, were both were real, but there is no evidence that Homer, the supposed author of the Iliad and the Odyssey (ca. 8th century B.C.E.), ever really existed, nor is there any evidence that any of the heroes of those stories (Agamemnon, Helen, Achilles, etc.) really existed. However, archaeologists have uncovered enough evidence to convince historians that there really was a Trojan War about 1180 B.C.E. (Archaeology Magazine May/June, 2004). But there is no evidence for the existence of the 5th century B.C.E. Greek mathematics genius, Pythagoras, or the Spartan lawgiver, Lycurgus, who is said to have set up the extreme society there in the 8th century B.C.E.; and there is no evidence for King Arthur of the Round Table, or of Robin Hood, who took from the rich and gave to the poor. But Genghis Khan was real, we just cannot find his grave, and Marco Polo was real and is buried in the Church of San Lorenzo in Venice, Italy.

American hero Johnny Appleseed (John Chapman, 1774-1845 C.E.) was real. He really planted apple orchards in Ohio and Indiana that are still standing. He is believed to be buried at Johnny Appleseed Park near Fort Wayne. (egen.fortwayne.com/ns/projects/appleseed/).



Also real was Uncle Sam (Sam Wilson, 1766-1854), a friendly American meatpacker who sent meat to the troops during the war of 1812. He stamped the boxes "U.S." Soldiers, already familiar with Sam's nickname, Uncle Sam, associated U.S. with "Uncle Sam".



67TH ANNUAL FLORIDA ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING

“THE MANY FACES OF FLORIDA, PAST AND PRESENT”

MAY 28 – MAY 31, 2015

HYATT REGENCY, SARASOTA

HOSTED BY TIME SIFTERS ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY

Time Sifters Archaeology Society is excited to be hosting the 67th Annual Meeting of the Florida Anthropological Society.

Friday, May 29th, 3pm: FAS Education Committee -panel discussion and workshop focusing on media and press relations which concern anthropological events and topics, including a how-to on developing a press kit. Communications specialist, Emily Jane Murray, will be on hand to answer questions and direct the workshop. FREE to conference attendees.

Friday, May 29th, 6pm: Reception for attendees and guests at the Charles Ringling Mansion on New College’s Bayfront Campus. Watch the sunset over the bay and enjoy drinks, hors d’oeuvres and entertainment. FREE to conference attendees.

Saturday, May 30th: Three concurrent sessions of presentations covering a broad range of topics pertaining to Florida anthropology and archaeology, and history. Many vendors will be set up in the Exhibit Hall

Saturday, May 30th, 6:30pm: Banquet at the Sarasota Hyatt with Keynote Speaker Dr. Jerald Milanich. \$50.00

Sunday, May 31st, 9am: Morning cruise on Sarasota Bay with a fascinating narration by John McCarthy on the area’s prehistory and history. \$25.00

Sunday, May 31st, 11:30am: Archaeology-focused guided tours of Historic Spanish Point, Manatee Mineral Spring, and Gamble Plantation. FREE to conference attendees.

Register Now!

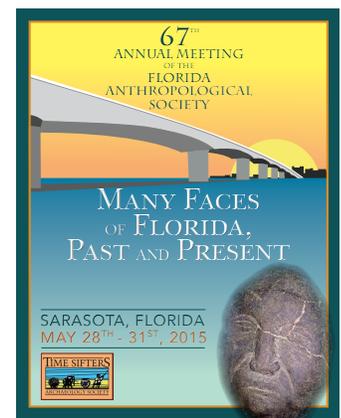
The link is available on the FAS website, www.fasweb.org under the Annual Meeting tab. \$50 Early Registration until April 1.

Volunteers Needed!

Time Sifters needs you to help us prepare for the conference and to represent our club as we welcome archaeologists from all over the state of Florida. Sign up at the next meeting or email ssvekis@gmail.com

Become a sponsor or advertiser of FAS 2015!

There are many benefits to supporting Time Sifters and this conference. Contact Smitty Smith at hmsbeagle22@gmail.com for more information.





2015 MEETING CALENDAR

March 18, 6pm: Jeff Moates and Sherry Svekis: A Celebration of Florida Archaeology Month

April 15, 6pm: Student grant winners

May 20, 6pm: Dr. Gabrielle Vail

May 28-31: Florida Anthropological Society Conference, hosted by Time Sifters
Meetings are at Selby Library: downtown Sarasota, Central Ave and 2nd Street

Other Events of Interest

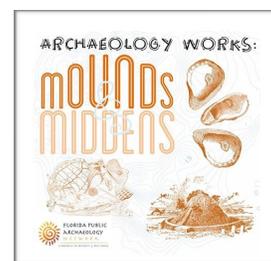
March 31st at noon at New College, room Ace 201: Jason Lundock, Appleton Museum, Ocala: "Copper Alloy Vessels in Roman Britain: Deposition and Use"

Note: Lunch will be served at the lecture, so if you are going please email an RSVP to: baram@ncf.edu



Saturday, March 14th from 10-Noon at Historic Spanish Point: Archaeology Works: Mound & Middens

Learn the difference between a mound and a midden in this fun and hands-on workshop, then get a personal tour of the amazing mounds and middens at Historic Spanish Point with help from Sarasota County Archaeologist, Ryan Murphy.



For more information about Time Sifters, email ssvekis@gmail.com

Membership

Individual:	\$20
Family:	\$30
Sustaining:	\$50
Student:	\$10

Pay online at:
TimeSifters.org

Or mail checks to:
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We're on the Web!

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Your renewal date is above; please remit if due.
Please contact us if you think there is an error.