



# FEBRUARY - 2025

PRESERVE ♦ EDUCATE ♦ RESEARCH ♦ INSPIRE

Dear Member:

Our presenter this month is Dr. Maranda Almy Kles who is going to tell us about *“Anthropology of Vampires and Zombies: From History to Speculation”*. This presentation was originally scheduled for October. She has agreed to fill in for Eric Prendergast who handle to cancel.

On page four is a Survey Form. We would love to have you fill it out and tell us how we are doing. Please either hand it in at the next lecture or mail it to the PO Box. Thank you.

Don't forget to join us on February 8 at Phillippi Park for the History in the Park. We will be there all day. Lots of exhibits, food and entertainment.

Darwin “Smitty” Smith, President  
hmsbeagle22@gmail.com

## Historical Trivia

Who is this famous paleoanthropologist?



Answer on page three.

*February 19th - at 5:45 PM at the Selby Library in downtown Sarasota*



## **“Anthropology of Vampires and Zombies: From History to Speculation”**

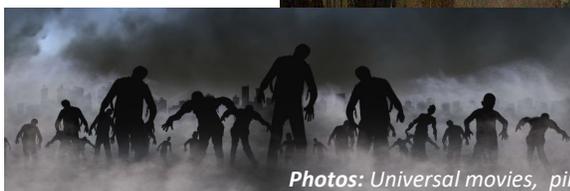
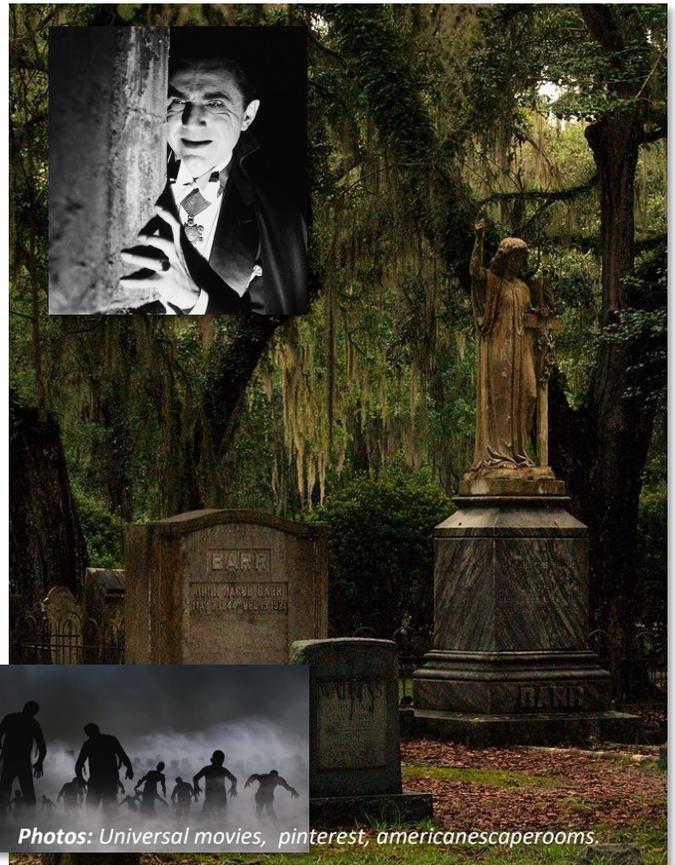
**Dr. Maranda Almy Kles,  
Bioarchaeologist,  
President of ACI**

From *Dracula* to *Night of the Living Dead*, vampires and zombies have always created blockbuster movies or books, but these wild horror tales draw from our very real human past. While we (or really I) can't prove if they are real or not, we can review some very real evidence of the belief in these creatures.

This talk will look at some of the archaeological evidence of attempts to prevent these creatures from rising as well as look at some of the cultural beliefs that created these creatures. Then for fun we will speculate about future archaeological evidence!

Maranda Almy Kles is a bioarchaeologist and forensic anthropologist. She previously

worked for the National Park Service and several archaeology firms, she also taught anthropology as a college professor. Today she is the President of Archaeological Consultants, a cultural resource management firm based here in Sarasota.



Photos: Universal movies, pinterest, americanescaperooms.

In the News

# 900 Relics Recovered from Two Ming Dynasty Ship Wrecks

By Smitty, Time Sifters Board Member. Sources: Smithsonian Magazine, Live Science, and Maritime Executive



Underwater archaeologists from the National Center for Archaeology, the Chinese Academy of Science have recovered more than 900 artifacts from two merchant vessels that sank in the South China Sea during the Ming dynasty. The ships are located roughly a mile below the surface, some 93 miles southeast of the island of Hainan. They are situated about 14 miles apart from one another.

During the past two years, researchers have hauled up 890 objects from the first vessel, including *copper coins, pottery and porcelain*. They recovered 38 items from the second ship, including *shells, deer antlers, porcelain, pottery and ebony logs* that likely originated from somewhere in the Indian Ocean. This is just a small fraction of the more than 10,000 items found at the site. Pottery items date the wreckage to the Ming Dynasty, roughly 1350-1650 AD. Archaeologists think the ships operated during different times



Photos: explorerarchive, ECNS.cn, National Cultural Heritage Administration

during the Ming dynasty.

Researchers have completed the arduous task of mapping the sites using an unmanned deep-sea submersible called *the "Shenhai Yongshi," or "Deep Sea Warrior."* With the help of other deep-sea-diving equipment to sift through the wreckage, they have collected artifacts and gathered sediment samples from the sea floor. They have also documented the wreck

sites with high-definition underwater cameras and a 3D laser scanner.

Imagery shows no signs of the ships' structures, but the stacks of cargo from both of the wrecks, are neatly laid out in rows. *"The hull, the wood or planks of the hull no longer exist. They were all eaten by termites,"* explained Song Jianzhong, project leader of the archaeological investigation.

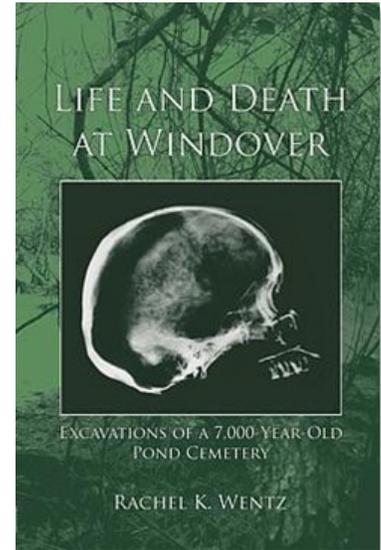
# A Time Sifters Book Review

## Life and Death at Windover

by Rachel K. Wentz. Paperback, first published May 21, 2012, reissued 2023. Source: GoodReads  
ISBN—13:9781886104556

In 1982, a backhoe operator working at what would become the new Windover Farms housing development in Titusville, Florida, uncovered a human skull. The bones of several other individuals soon emerged from the peat bog. It would be determined that the human remains uncovered at Windover were between 7,000 and 8,000 years old, making them 3,200 years older than King Tutankhamen and 2,000 years older than the Great Pyramids of Egypt. This was just the beginning of an archaeological adventure that continues today.

*"Windover is truly a unique site that continues to astonish. Dr. Wentz does a wonderful job of telling the two stories of Windover. One is the story of the people who lived in the area and are buried in the pond. The other story introduces you to the amazing people and circumstances which made the excavation possible. From its discovery by a backhoe operator and a concerned and interested landowner to the crew who worked on the project, Wentz effectively captures the stories of a fascinating archaeological discovery."*



An **Adult Archaeology Camp** at Weedon Island sponsored by AWIARE is being held on February 24 - 25 and March 3 -7.

Learn how to conduct archaeological field and lab work, performing excavation, screening, collecting artifacts and bones.

Cost is \$550.00 per week and includes daily Lunch and a field trip to a local archaeological site. For more information visit the AWIARE website at <https://awiare.org>. Space is limited so sign up early.

Board of  
Directors

### Officers:

Darwin "Smitty" Smith, President  
Sherry Svekis, Vice President  
Mary S. Maisel, Secretary  
Ken Woodworth, Treasurer  
Marion Almy Jack Brown  
Karen Jensen Evelyn Mangie



Lifetime: \$350  
Individual: \$25  
Family: \$35  
Student: \$10  
Supporting: \$50

Pay online at:  
[WWW.TimeSifters.org](http://WWW.TimeSifters.org)  
Or mail checks to:  
**Time Sifters, Inc.**  
PO Box 5283  
Sarasota, FL. 34277

Copyright © 2025 Time Sifters Archaeology Society, Inc., All rights reserved.

*#Historical Trivia: Mary Douglas (Nicol) Leakey*

# Time Sifters Survey 2025



The Time Sifters Board would like to hear from you about what we are doing and any suggestions on what you would like to see/ do in the future. We have some questions:

**Newsletter:**

Do you like the newsletter?

YES  NO

Do you find the articles interesting?

YES  NO

Do you have any ideas of stories you would like to see included?

---

---

---

What was your favorite story?

---

---

---

**Monthly Lectures:**

Do you like the lectures?

YES  NO

Do you like the format and variety of subjects?

YES  NO

Are there any subjects you would like to hear about?

---

---

---

What was your favorite?

---

---

---

**Would you like to be a member of the Board?**

YES  NO  Maybe (with more information)

**Ideas:**

---

---

---

**Name and phone number (Optional):**

---