



# OCTOBER - 2025

PRESERVE ♦ EDUCATE ♦ RESEARCH ♦ INSPIRE

Dear Member:

Our presenter this month is **Dr. Sam Turner of Search, Inc.** who is going to tell us about the King Street shipwreck found under King Street in downtown St. Augustine!

On page two is the first of two stories from our Student Grant winners, **Aiden Eylward** of University of South Florida.

Please join us on **November 8 – 9 at Desoto National Memorial** in Bradenton for “*Castortowne Historic Pirate Event*”. We are looking for volunteers to help with our exhibit. We will be there all day. Lots of exhibits, food and entertainment.

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

## Historical Trivia

What is the name of World Heritage site #27 ?



Answer on page 4.

*October 15th - at 5:45 PM at the Selby Library in downtown Sarasota*



## “Oh The Things You’ll Find While Monitoring! Discovery of the King Street Vessel St. Augustine”

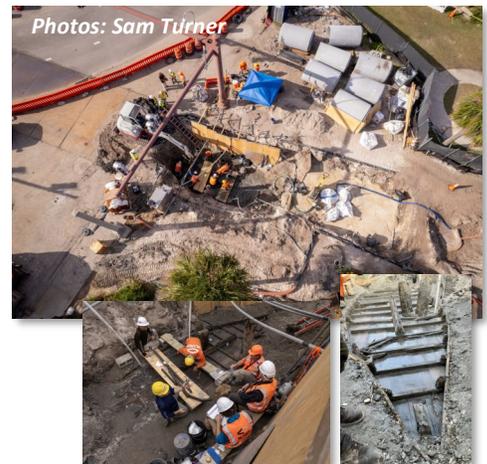
**Dr. Sam Turner,**  
*Principal Investigator*  
**SEARCH Florida - Jacksonville Office**

The King Street Vessel was discovered during archaeological monitoring for the installation of an expanded storm water drainage system for downtown St. Augustine. Work was halted and a team of SEARCH archaeologists quickly assembled to conduct an emergency Phase III study, disassembly, and removal of the vessel in order to resume construction. This was done over the course of eight days.

The craft had been abandoned and later impacted by the construction of the King Street Pier in 1886. Excavation of the vessel revealed the intact bottom of a small, flat-bottomed and hard-chined vernacular watercraft some 22 1/2 feet long whose bilge was sealed off by ceiling planking carefully laid around a center-

board trunk. This sealed context was carefully excavated and screened for small finds associated with the working life of the vessel. Study of this material suggests a local craft operated in the 1870s and 1880s by local watermen in the fishing and local carrying trade and whose construction yielded a vessel of 4.94 tons falling just short of the 5-ton threshold requiring permitting and associated fees. The intact nature of the craft has permitted a hypothetical reconstruction, and work included the creation of construction drawings for such a replica craft.

Sam Turner has over 30 years of experience in the fields of both nautical and terrestrial archaeology. He has worked on archaeological field projects in



the Middle East, Europe, Latin America, the Caribbean, and the United States. He specializes in the Spanish Contact Period in the Americas and has called St. Augustine his home since 2006 where he has focused on the study of the careers of both Juan Ponce de Leon and Pedro Menendez de Aviles as well as the maritime history and archaeology of St. Augustine.

# Cornelia Futor Memorial Student Research Grant Field School in Roman Domus in Rabat, Malta.

By Aiden Eylward, Grant Winner, M.A. Student, University of South Florida.



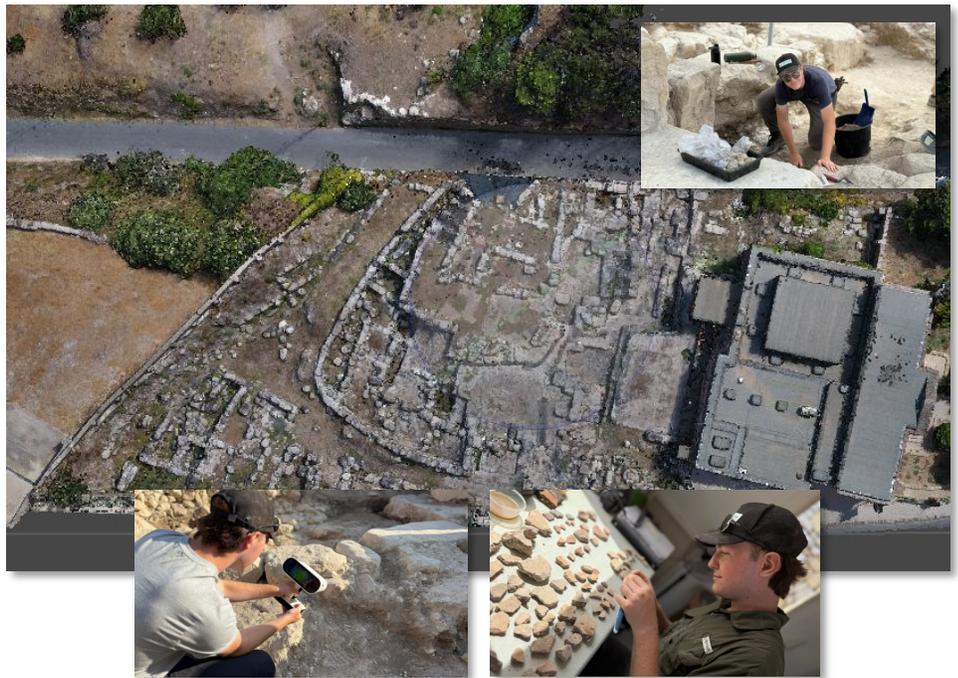
This summer, I traveled to Malta to join the **Melite Civitas Romana Project (MCRP)**, a collaborative excavation of the Roman Domus in

Rabat, Malta. This field season focused on reinterpreting the pre-Roman occupation of the area surrounding the ancient city of Melite, modern day Rabat.

What makes this project unique is how it offers something for every student making it an especially meaningful experience for me as I prepare for graduate school in forensic anthropology. For three weeks, I had the chance to move beyond the classroom and apply my training directly in the field, gaining skills in excavation, stratigraphic interpretation, and the careful documentation of artifacts utilizing both traditional and 3D methods.

The excavation itself was demanding. Days began early in the trench, where every action from recording soil changes to excavating fragile materials, required patience and precision. Coming from a background in forensic anthropology and bioarchaeology, I found that the care needed for excavation closely mirrored the requirements of forensic casework. Each artifact and feature we uncovered was a piece of a larger story, and I came to appreciate how archaeological practice depends on both technical skill and my interpretive ability.

Equally memorable was the collaboration. Our team included students and scholars from across the globe, each bringing unique expertise. Working together in this international environment



Photos: Aiden Eylward, University of South Florida.

showed how much stronger our work becomes when multiple perspectives are brought to the table. Some of my favorite memories come from the balance of excavation during the day and exploration on the weekends such as walking through St. Paul's Catacombs, visiting archaeological museums, and experiencing Malta's history firsthand. These experiences informed my understanding of the Domus and made the excavation feel like part of a much larger piece of heritage.

The Roman Domus is a site that welcomes many disciplines, and I felt fortunate to bring my own experience in digital documentation to the project. Working with this team, I found advanced documentation strategies are essential to preserving these contexts. This reinforced for me how digital technologies can support both archaeological and forensic goals of enhancing analysis and accessibility long after the excavation ends.

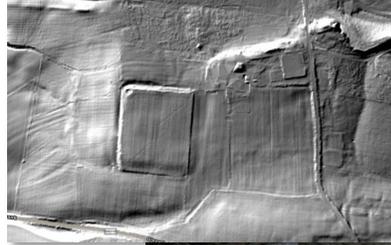
Looking forward, I know this experience will play an essential role in my growth as a researcher. The technical training I received in excavation and documentation, combined with the cultural aspects and professional connections I gained, will continue to guide me as I pursue graduate studies in forensic anthropology at the USF. I aspire to integrate field methods, digital technologies, and multiple perspectives in my future work to bridge the spaces between the lab, the field, and the community.

I am extremely grateful to the Time Sifters Cornelia Futor Memorial Student Research Grant for making this opportunity possible. The support allowed me not only to refine my professional skills but also to engage in community collaboration abroad. My time in Malta reaffirmed my commitment to anthropology as a discipline that connects science, heritage, and people, and I am excited to carry those lessons forward.

In the News

# Big Foot at Hadrian's Wall

By Smitty, Time Sifters Board Member. Sources: Live Science, Archaeology News, and CNN.



Photos: Vindolanda Trust, Pinterest, Alphacooders.

Archaeologists excavating a Roman-era fort along **Hadrian's Wall**, known as **Magna or Carvoran** in northern England have unearthed eight **XXL leather shoes**. **The enormous ancient shoes measured 12.8 inches long, which is the equivalent of a U.S. men's size 14 shoe today.** For context, the average men's shoe size is around 10.5, while basketball player LeBron James wears a size 15 and Michael Jordan wears a 13.5.

Of the 32 shoes unearthed in the northern defensive ditches of Magna, 25 percent are more than 11.8 inches long, including a record-breaking 12.8-inch sole — the biggest yet recorded in the Vindolanda Trust's vast collection of Roman shoes. By contrast, the average ancient shoe found at a neighboring Roman fort was closer to size 8.

The soles of the shoes from both sites are made from thick layers of cowhide leather held together with iron hobnails. There is a theory that the leather soles survived with the help of the ancient tanning technique that used crushed up vegetative matter to create a water- and heat-resistant coating. While only a couple of the shoes discovered at Magna have some of the upper portions still intact, the Vindolanda Fort shoe styles include closed military boots and open work boots, as well as sneaker-like

shoes reaching just below the ankle and sandals with leather fasteners.

The boots were recovered from oxygen-poor, waterlogged conditions at the base of Magna's deep "ankle-breaker" trenches — defense ditches designed to trip and injure enemies. These anaerobic conditions are ideal for the preservation of organic materials like leather, and thus the find was made possible almost 2,000 years later.

The fort at Magna was built around 122 CE to demarcate the northern extent of the Roman Empire. It housed a diverse military population consisting of Hamian archers from what is now Syria, Dalmatian Mountain

soldiers from Croatia and Serbia, Batavians from the Netherlands, and legionaries from **the Second Augusta** and Twentieth Valeria Victrix legions. The variety of shoe sizes may indicate physical differences among these regiments or perhaps different provisioning or cultural practices. Magna is situated about seven miles west of Vindolanda, the large Roman auxiliary fort that's famous for holding an extensive collection of well-preserved artifacts, including over 5,000 ancient shoes.

**The Magna excavation** is part of a five-year research project led by the Vindolanda Charitable Trust with funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund.



# November 8th & 9th, 10:00am - 4:00 pm Rain or Shine!

Join us for a fun filled weekend of family friendly piracy as we uncover a local pirate legend and his thriving community of miscreants!

**Castortowne** will feature pirate themed attractions such as a living history encampment, black powder and sword demonstrations, pirate stories, songs, and more! Children can test their luck against a pirate in various activities and games, or get a free book from our Bookaneer Tent!

Admission to this event is free to the public with parking on site. Snacks and drinks recommended while there may be some select food truck vendors available on site. No alcohol is permitted on National Park property.



DeSoto National Memorial Park  
8300 DeSoto Memorial Highway  
Bradenton, Florida

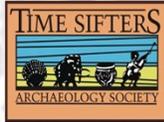
**CASTORTOWNE PIRATE INVASION**

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

- 10:00 AM - Open Cannon (weather)
- 11:30 AM - Combat Arms Maritime Lecture (free cost)
- 12:00 PM - Castor's Gold Treasure Hunt (free cost)
- 1:00 PM - Black Powder Demonstration (weather)
- 2:00 PM - Pirate Tales Storytelling (weather)
- 3:00 PM - Fight a Pirate - Ages 8-10yrs (free cost)
- 4:00 PM - Closing Cannon (weather)

Brought to you by DeSoto





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## Speakers for 2025/2026

All are at 5:45 PM live at the Selby Library, 1331 First St., Sarasota.

**September 17**

***“Two Shipwrecks off of Dominica:  
18th and 20th Century Vessels”***

***Marie Meranda***

**November 19**

***“Blood & Spectacle:  
Violence and Entertainment in the  
Roman arena”***

***Dr. Denise Cali***

**October 15**

***“Oh The Things You’ll Find While Monitoring!  
Discovery of the King Street Vessel St. Augustine”***

***Dr. Sam Turner***

**January 21, 2025**

***“Year in Review: What’s been Discovered  
& What’s being Talked About”***

***Dr. David Miano***

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*Historical Trivia: #27 - Mesa Verde National Park.*