

JANUARY - 2026

PRESERVE ♦ EDUCATE ♦ RESEARCH ♦ INSPIRE

Dear Member:

What a great Holiday Party. Fantastic Team effort to make it a success. Uzi's team won the Historical Trivia Contest with a score of 200, Maroon had 195, Sherry had 180, Porch had 140 and Alpha had 105. Lots of fun.

Our Spring season starts on January 21 with the "Year in Review: What's been Discovered & What's Being Talked About".

Also be sure to sign up for "Landscape Character Assessment". Contact Dr. Uzi Baram to sign up and help with this project.

Darwin "Smitty" Smith, President
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Historical Trivia

What country is the home of #1485, the Forth Bridge?



Answer on page 4.

January 21st - at 5:45 PM at the Selby Library in downtown Sarasota



"Archaeology: The Year in Review What's been Discovered & What's Being Talked About"

Dr. David Miano
Ancient Historian

This captivating lecture will highlight the most ground-breaking archaeological finds of 2025, taking you from one end of the earth to the other and from the high mountains to the depths of the oceans. Packed with stunning photos, compelling stories, and expert analysis, the session will reflect on how scientific innovations are reshaping our understanding of ancient societies and hands-on field work is uncovering objects we never knew existed. This will ignite your curiosity while we celebrate archaeology's role in connecting us with our shared human past.

David Miano is a historian of the ancient world. He studied Ancient History at the State



Photo TurkeyToday

University of New York at Buffalo (B.A. 1999) and the University of California, San Diego (M.A. 2003; Ph.D. 2006). He has taught courses at many colleges over the last 20 years. Miano's chief research interests are in the history of the Near East and Eastern Mediterranean in antiquity, ancient methods of time keeping, the chronology of the ancient world, the literary and intellectual history of ancient cultures, and comparative world history. He is the proprietor of the *World of Antiquity YouTube channel*, which has hundreds of thousands of fans from around the globe.

In The News

5,000-year-old stone tomb discovered in Spain

By Smitty. **Sources:** *Live Science, Smithsonian Magazine, and Popular Mechanics.*

A large, 5,000-year-old dolmen has been discovered in southern Spain. The newly discovered dolmen is 43 feet long, and its walls are made of 6.6-foot-high vertical stone slabs known as orthostats. The roof is made of horizontal large stone slabs and is covered by a tumulus (a human-made mound) of sand and small stones. Dolmens are prehistoric stone monuments found in European countries like Spain, France and the U.K.

A team of archaeologists from the University of Cádiz, led by Eduardo Vijande Vila, discovered the structure near Malaga in southern Spain. Dolmens were used as tombs and burial rituals. The team has excavated the site over four seasons and found that it's intact and incredibly well preserved. Unlike lots of burial sites this one has not been looted!

Once inside, the researchers located multiple container rooms (known as ossuaries), showing that the site was likely a collective burial ground. These rooms contained the bones of deceased individuals along with a range of grave goods from exotic raw materials of ivory and amber to seashells. In addition, arrowheads, large-format blades, and an "exceptional halberd" (a two-handed axe-like weapon) were found. These grave goods were left for the deceased to carry with them into the afterlife. These artifacts also provide a window into the trade habits of local communities, as objects like ivory and seashells are not native to inland Andalusia.

"These finds show that Late Prehistoric communities in the Iberian interior were far from isolated," says University of Cádiz prehistory scholar Juan Jesús Cantillo to *ArkeoNews*. "They participated in extensive trade routes that linked coastal and inland



Photos: University of Cádiz

areas, circulating goods, ideas and cultural values."

The excavation continues as well as the cataloging and preservation of the artifacts.

Florida History

Archaeologists verify Florida's Mound Key as location of elusive Fort San Antón de Carlos.

By Smitty. **Sources:** Florida Museum of Natural History & PHYS.Org.

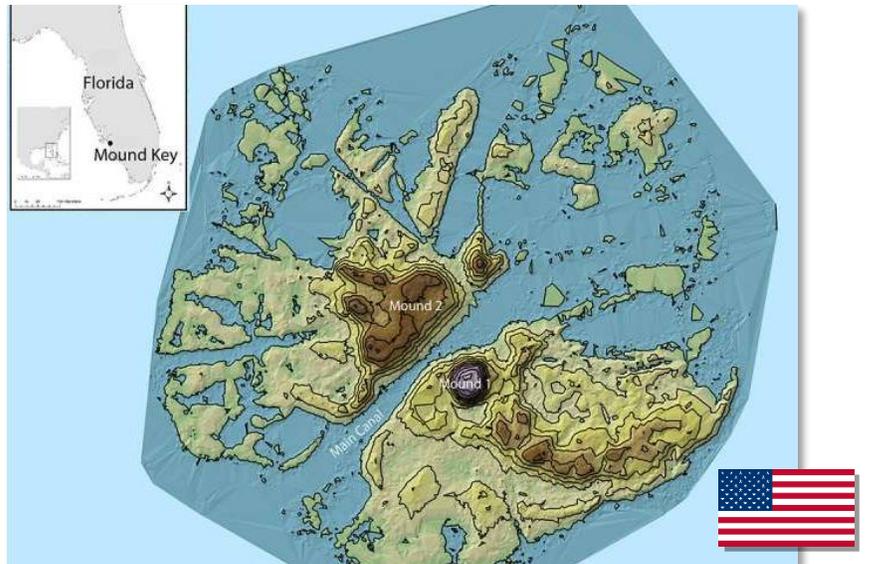
It was reported in early 2020 that Florida and Georgia archaeologists discovered the location of *Fort San Antón de Carlos*, home of one of the first Jesuit missions in North America. The fort is on the present-day Mound Key in the center of *Estero Bay on Florida's Gulf Coast*. The Spanish fort was built in 1566 in the capital of the *Calusa*, the most powerful Native American tribe in the region. Researchers have been searching for concrete evidence in the area since 2013. Archaeologists and historians have long suspected that the fort, named for the Catholic patron saint of lost things, was located on Mound Key.

Historical Spanish documents suggested that *the Calusa capital was on Mound Key* and that Fort San Antón de Carlos was there, too. Researchers from the University of Florida, the University of Georgia (UGA) and students from UGA's archaeological field school used a combination of remote sensing, coring, ground-penetrating radar and excavations to uncover the walls of the fort and a few artifacts, including ceramic shards and beads. The team uncovered a substantial amount of the walls, but it is still only a small sample of the entire fort. There is still so much more to learn and excavate.

The fort is the earliest-known North American example of "tabby" architecture, a rough form of shell concrete. "Tabby," also called "tabbi" or "tapia," is made by burning shells to create lime, which is then mixed with sand, ash, water and broken shells. At Mound Key, the Spaniards used primitive tabby as a mortar to stabilize the posts in the walls of their wooden structures. Tabby was later used by the English in their American colonies and in Southern plantations.

The Calusa were one of the most politically complex groups of fisher-gatherer-hunters in the world and resisted European colonization for nearly 200 years. They are often considered to be the first "shell collectors," using shells as tools, utensils and jewelry and discarding the fragments in enormous mounds. They also constructed massive structures known as watercourts, which acted as fish corrals, providing food to a growing population. The Calusa kingdom controlled most of South Florida before being devastated by European disease introduced by the Spanish. Researchers believe that by the time the Spanish turned Florida over to the British, any remaining Calusa had already fled to Cuba.

Fort San Antón de Carlos was abandoned by 1569 after the Spaniards' brief alliance with the Calusa deteriorated and collapsed, causing the Calusa to leave the island and the Spanish to follow shortly after.



Photos: Florida Museum of Natural History & zmescience.

A Time Sifters Book Review

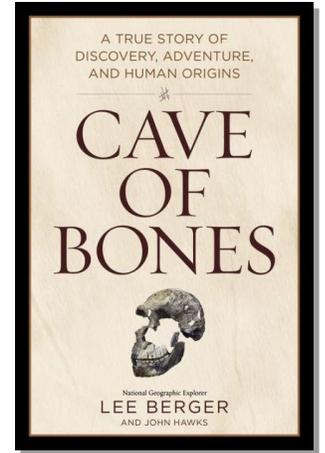
Cave of Bones: A True Story of Discovery, Adventure, and Human Origins.

By: John Hawks & Lee Berger (review by: Goodreads)

In the summer of 2022, Lee Berger lost 50 pounds in order to wriggle through impossibly small openings in the *Rising Star cave complex in South Africa* – spaces where his team has been unearthing the remains of **Homo naledi**, a proto-human likely to have coexisted with *Homo sapiens* some 250,000 years ago. The lead researcher on the site, Berger had never made his way into the dark, cramped, dangerous underground spaces where many of the naledi fossils had been found. Now he was ready to do so.

Once inside the cave, Berger made shocking new discoveries that expand our understanding of this early hominid, discoveries that stand to alter our fundamental understanding of what makes us human. So what does it all mean?

Join Berger on the adventure of a lifetime as he explores the Rising Star cave system and begins the complicated process of explaining these extraordinary finds – finds that force a rethinking of human evolution, and discoveries that Berger calls "*the Rosetta stone of the human mind.*"





Speakers for 2025/2026

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

Time Sifters Archaeology Society is pleased to announce our 2025 -2026 Spring schedule of presentations. All lectures will start at 5:45 PM and are free. Each presentation will be about one hour with time for questions and answers. Please come and join us.

January 21, 2026
Year in Review: What's been Discovered & What's being Talked About
Dr. David Miano

February 18
"Overview of Tampa's Heritage: 3D imaging of Five Historical Sites"
Dr. Laura Harrison

March 18
"The Military Orders of the Crusades: Knights Templar, Knights Hospitaller, & the Teutonic Knights"
Dr. Matt King

April 15
"Mithras Sanctuary in Ostia"
Dr. Frederick Pirone

May 20
"Royal Heads are Hunted: A Calusa Story"
Will Granger



Photos: Roman ports.com, Will Granger, Pinterest

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Historical Trivia: Scotland.