

# MARCH-2026

PRESERVE ♦ EDUCATE ♦ RESEARCH ♦ INSPIRE

Dear Member:

Have you dreamed of making history? Of course, we all have. Now Time Sifters has a chance to be part of a region-wide 24 hours of online giving – an opportunity to widen our impact and help us connect to the larger community of people who care about archaeology and preservation. **On April 15-16, 2026, visit the GivingChallenge.org** and make a donation to us and/or to any of the great participating nonprofits in Sarasota, Manatee, Charlotte, and DeSoto counties. See page 4 for more information

Darwin “Smitty” Smith, President  
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**Historical Trivia**  
*Where can the famous Nazca Lines be found?*



*Answer on page 4.*

*March 18th - at 5:45 PM at the Selby Library in downtown Sarasota*



## **“Templars, Hospitallers, and Teutonic Knights: Medieval Histories and Modern Echoes”**

**Dr. Matt King**  
*Associate Professor of Medieval History and Digital Humanities,  
University of South Florida*

This talk considers a peculiar type of Christian soldier that emerged during the age of the Crusades: the so-called “warrior monks” of the Military Orders. Far from the cloistered intellectuals that devoted their lives to prayer within the confines of a monastery, members of the Military Orders were monks who fought physical battles on behalf of Christianity (occasionally against other Christians too), assisted pilgrims in the Holy Land, and actively engaged in the secular politics of the Middle Ages. These men undertook vows on behalf of God but also had very earthly power. Although the influence of the Military Orders has waned since the Middle Ages,



Photos: Codex Manesse, Wikipedia, & pinterest.

mythologies surrounding the Knights Templar, Knights Hospitaller, and Teutonic Knights have cast a long shadow. This is particularly true of the Templars, whose medieval identity has largely been lost amid their modern associations with long-lost treasure, US involvement in the Middle East, and anti-immigration rhetoric.

Matt King specializes in the history of the medieval Mediterranean during the age of the Crusades. His first book was *Dynasties Intertwined: The Zirids of Ifriqiya and the Normans of Sicily* (Cornell University Press, 2022), which used Latin and Arabic texts to consider the relationship between these two polities in the center of the Great Sea. His recent research has pivoted to the world of folklore and its folkloresque derivations. His current book project is a history of goblins from the Middle Ages to the present, to be published with Palgrave in 2026.

*In The News*

## **U.S. Repatriated 25 Smuggled Ancient Artifacts to Egypt.**

*By Smitty. Sources: ABC News, CBS News, and Egypt Today.*

Egypt's Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities announced in May it had successfully recovered a rare trove of smuggled artifacts from the United States, concluding a three-year diplomatic effort between the countries. The items spanned centuries and included a range of styles from different eras of ancient Egyptian civilization, the ministry said.

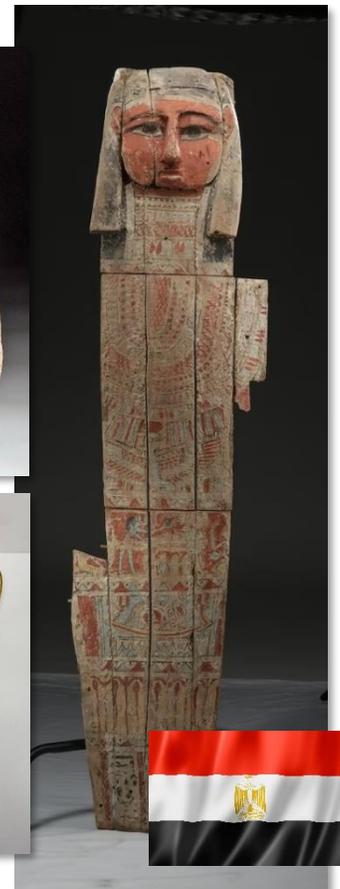
The collection included wooden and gilded sarcophagus lids dating back more than 5,500 years, parts of a temple believed to belong to Queen Hatshepsut, and a Greco-Roman mummy portrait from the southern city of Fayyoun, renowned for its distinctive Greco-Roman art.

The trove also features intricately crafted jewelry from around 2,400 years ago, a granite foot fragment dating back to the Ramessid, as well as small ivory and stone figurines. A rare gold coin dating back over 2,000 years to the reign of Ptolemy I, founder of ancient Egypt's last royal dynasty.

The pieces were recovered in New York City in coordination between Egypt's consulate, the New York District Attorney's Office and American security agencies.

However, such thefts are not uncommon. During the 2011 uprising that ousted longtime ruler Hosni Mubarak, looters ransacked museums and archaeological sites in the chaos. Many of those artifacts later appeared on the international market or in private collections. Egyptian authorities say they have succeeded in bringing home over 30,000 artifacts over the past decade.

In 2019, a stolen ancient Egyptian coffin that ended up being sold to New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art



*Photos: Egypt's Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities*

for \$4 million was given back to Egypt. In 2023, an ancient wooden sarcophagus was returned to Egypt after U.S. authorities determined it was looted years ago. The year before that, a stone sculpture that arrived in Memphis, Tennessee, was discovered to be a centuries-old artifact from Egypt. The artifact was confiscated by U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers.

# *Landscape Character Assessment Update*

## **Sample of Memorials that have been Assessed.**

By Uzi Baram, Time Sifters Board Member.

Time Sifters is partnering with the *New College Public Archaeology Lab* to document the historical markers, monuments, statues depicting historical figures and events around the Sarasota/Manatee region. Our robust heritage includes the ancestral Seminoles more than 10,000 years ago through the Spanish and initial American settlements to historical structures and history of the last few decades.

By using *Landscape Character Assessment*, we are gathering information about the condition of the monuments/memorials and its surroundings. The goal is to identify and explain the combination of elements and features that make landscapes distinct from one another by mapping and describing the landscape.

By themselves, each Landscape Character Assessment is an interesting moment for a marker of heritage; the program will look for patterns across the assessments. To gain enough data, Time Sifter members have been adding to the database. For instance, here are four examples:

### *Nan Cindy Freeman "Morning Glory" Memorial* *October 15, 2025 - 11:30 am*

It is nestled in a corridor in the outside of the ACE (Academic Center) building, in Sarasota with an easy access to the memorial. The signage regarding the memorial is unremarkable and looks just like all the signs in the building despite the profound message of the memorial. Overall, the area is important to many students. It provides a shady spot for students or visitors to relax from the heat or wait out the rain.

The area has heavy traffic of both students and faculty on their way to class. Many students sat at the picnic tables nearby, but no one ever entered the small corridor which holds the memorial.



### *The Carnegie Library* *January 30, 2026 - 12:30 PM.*

This historic building is in a beautiful semi residential neighborhood in downtown Bradenton. No trash, graffiti or weeds; and no activity during the midday half hour of observations. The library is open to the public by appointment.



### *Courthouse Square* *January 30, 2026 - 12:30 PM.*

This beautiful old Courthouse sits in downtown Bradenton in a beautiful and well used park. Parking is available but limited. The location is on Manatee Ave., a very busy one-way street; lots of foot traffic during the midday half hour of observations.



### *Memorial Marker, Air Force One - September 11, 2001*

*October 5, 2025 - 11:00 am*

The marker is not visible from the entrance, where there is a noticeable green sign stating **SRQ Observation** with an image of a plane, and parking lot. Walking on the sidewalk by the three signs for the history of Aviation in Manatee County, turning away from the airport toward 301 Blvd, the colorful photograph of Air Force One and the words are visible. The sidewalk leads to a structure for shade and a playground for children.



### **Join the Program**

If you want to volunteer for this project, please contact Professor Uzi Baram at [Baram@ncf.edu](mailto:Baram@ncf.edu)  
For more information and the form used for documentation, see Commemorative Landscapes across Florida <https://sites.google.com/ncf.edu/baram/commemorative-landscapes-across-florida>



## ***Help Us Make History Save the Date 2026 Giving Challenge***

Have you dreamed of making history?

Of course, we all have. Now Time Sifters has a chance to be part of a region-wide 24 hours of online giving—an opportunity to widen our impact and help us connect to the larger community of people who care about archaeology and preservation.

But we need your help! Please join our campaign and help us reach our goal of \$5,000 and 100 donors!  
Save the date and get ready to give.

**On April 15-16, 2026,**  
**visit [GivingChallenge.org](http://GivingChallenge.org)** and make a donation to us and/or to any of the great participating nonprofits in Sarasota, Manatee, Charlotte, and DeSoto counties.  
**All giving will end at 12:00 PM on April 16,**  
so make sure to get your gift in on time!

Your gift means even more during the Giving Challenge.  
**The Patterson Foundation** will generously contribute a 1:1 match for donations, up to \$100 per donor, per nonprofit, made online during the Giving Challenge!

### **Questions?**

For more information, visit our Giving Challenge page:  
**[www.givingchallenge.org/organizations/time-sifters](http://www.givingchallenge.org/organizations/time-sifters)**

If you have any questions, contact Sherry at [ssvekis@gmail.com](mailto:ssvekis@gmail.com). Thank you in advance for your generosity to our organization!



# Tree Rings as Poetry:

*Reciprocity, Storytelling, and Science from Florida Trees*

<b>WHEN:</b>	April 10, 2026
<b>WHERE:</b>	New College of Florida Public Archaeology Lab (most sessions offered virtually)
<b>SESSIONS:</b>	
<b>9:30 AM:</b>	WELCOME TO NCPAL!
<b>10:00 AM:</b>	DOING DENDROCHRONOLOGY with Professor Kat Napora
<b>2:00 PM:</b>	POETICS IN DENDROCHRONOLOGY with Reverend Houston Cypress
<b>3:30 PM:</b>	NCF HISTORIC LANDSCAPE TOUR with Professor Uzi Baram
<b>4:15 PM:</b>	CLOSING DISCUSSION



## REGISTRATION REQUIRED

**RSVP: Email or Use the QR CODE!**  
EMAIL: [a.bernard25@ncf.edu](mailto:a.bernard25@ncf.edu)



Funding for this program was provided through a grant from the Florida Humanities with funds from The Mosaic Company. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of Florida Humanities or The Mosaic Company.



Event Poster, created by Professor Frederick Pirone

Time Sifters Archaeology Society members are invited to a special upcoming workshop that marks a revitalization of the long-standing collaboration between the New College Public Archaeology Lab (NCPAL) and Time Sifters. Titled, *"Tree Rings as Poetry: Reciprocity, Storytelling, and Science from Florida Trees,"* this initiative challenges participants to look at dendrochronology, the science of tree-ring dating, through a humanistic lens. The program is built on three core tenets: Science, Reciprocity, and Storytelling. Where tree-rings provide critical empirical data about past climates and chronologies, they also serve as a poetic, silent record of resilience just waiting to be discovered. Every ring is a year in the life of the tree, recording anecdotes of plenty, drought, and the changing world shared by humans and nature in its width.

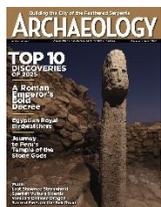
This event is free and open to the public, but registration will be required as space is limited. We hope to see many Time Sifters members there to celebrate this union of archaeology, environmental science, and the humanities. Please email [a.bernard25@ncf.edu](mailto:a.bernard25@ncf.edu), or click this link: [Tree Rings as Poetry RSVP form](#), to RSVP!

## Notes from a Time Sifter

# Where to Dig for Dig Information

By Karen Jensen & Smitty, Time Sifters Board Members.

We all love archaeology and history and are always on the lookout for new sources of information about what is happening, what are the new discoveries, and analysis of old finds. Luckily there is a large selection of both magazines and websites available to quench this need! Below is a list of some of these publications and websites. This is not intended to be a complete list and if you have a favorite that is not listed please let us know. First, we will look at magazines with websites.



**Archaeology ...** This monthly publication is the official magazine of the *Archaeological Institute of America (AIA)*. It covers the entire world of Archaeology with the latest finds and feature articles on famous and not so famous digs and sites. If you are a member of AIA you receive it as part of your membership. It is also available at bookstores. There is a companion website, [www.archaeology.org](http://www.archaeology.org) which has late breaking news.



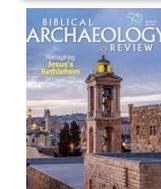
**Current World Archaeology ...** This British magazine is a monthly publication that covers the entire world of Archaeology with the latest finds and feature articles on digs and sites. It also lists current digs with contact numbers. It is well written with tons of quality photos and illustrations. It is also available at bookstores or via subscription. There is a companion website, <https://www.world-archaeology.com> which has breaking news.



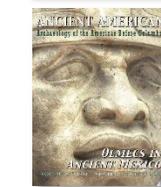
**Current Archaeology ...** Don't confuse this sister British publication with the one above. They are both very good but Current Archaeology is slanted more towards Britain. It too has good current feature stories and columns by renowned archaeologists. The photography and illustrations are excellent. Its website is <https://www.archaeology.co.uk/>. It is harder to find in the US bookstores but is available via subscription.



**British Archaeology ...** This is the official publication of the *Council for British Archaeology*. It is a bi-monthly magazine concentrating on both international and local digs in Britain. It has good feature stories and in-depth stories on local societies and their projects. The photography and illustrations are excellent. Their website is <https://www.archaeologyuk.org>. It is available in the US bookstores or via subscription.



**Biblical Archaeology Review ...** This is a bi-monthly magazine. It covers archaeology being done in the Near East, even Canaanite, Philistine, Moabite, Babylonian, etc. It is very comprehensive and contains good information. It features columns by leading archaeologists and feature stories. The photography and illustrations are excellent. Their website is [www.biblicalarchaeology.org](http://www.biblicalarchaeology.org). It is available in bookstores or via subscription.



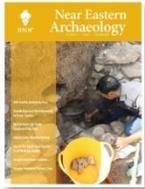
**Ancient American ...** This quarterly magazine's tag line "*Archaeology of the Americas before Columbus*" identifies their focus. The magazine covers exclusively Native American archaeology in North America. Good feature articles and guest columns. It is available at bookstores and via subscription. The companion website is: [www.ancientamerican.com](http://www.ancientamerican.com).



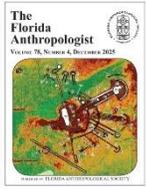
**BBC History ...** This monthly publication doesn't really talk about archaeology but has very well written stories about the history of the world but from a British point of view. Photography and illustrations are excellent. A few samples from the current issue: "Was King John Murdered"; "Child Soldiers from Agincourt to the Trenches". It is available at bookstores or via subscription. Their website is: [www.historyextra.com](http://www.historyextra.com).



**National Geographic History ...** It is published with their same high quality standards and everything is well done. The stories, photography and illustrations are first class. Very little archaeology, but it is full of good stories about the people and events that shaped our world. It is available at bookstores and by subscription. There also is a website: [www.natgeo.com](http://www.natgeo.com) .



**Near Eastern Archaeology ...** This quarterly journal is published by *the American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR)*. It brings to life the ancient world from Mesopotamia to the Mediterranean with vibrant images and authoritative analyses. It is published March, June, September, and December. Their website is: <http://www.asor.org/> .



**Florida Anthropologist ...** This journal is published twice yearly by *the Florida Anthropological Society (FAS)* and is included with the cost of membership. The journal covers current research into Florida's archaeological sites, both pre-historic and historic. Their website: <http://fasweb.org/> .

**Here are some YouTube sites of note ...**



**North 02**



**World of Paleoanthropology**



**World of Antiquity**



**Gutsick Gibbon**



**Discovery Future**



**Stefan Milo**



**Ancient Origins**

**Here are some Web sites of note ...**

<http://www.timesifters.org/> ... We are a non-profit association of professional and amateur archaeologists, plus interested citizens of Sarasota and Manatee Counties in Southwest Florida.

<http://popular-archaeology.com/> ... A digital magazine dedicated to bringing discoveries out of the field and scholarly journals to you in plain language.

<http://www.sciencemag.org> ... *Science* has been at the center of important scientific discovery since its founding in 1880— with seed money from Thomas Edison. Today, *Science* continues to publish the very best in research across the sciences, with articles that consistently rank among the most cited in the world.

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*Historical Trivia: Peru.*