

ST. AUGUSTINE ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

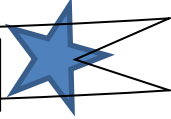


A CHAPTER OF THE FLORIDA ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY

N E W S L E T T E R

February 2023

Upcoming Programs



February 7 – **Dr. Jon Endonino**, Associate Professor, Eastern Kentucky University and recipient of SAAA's Eugene Lyon Education Fund Award



“The Coontie Island Collection: Exchange Networks and Social Landscapes During the Late Archaic Period”

NOTE: This meeting will be held in **Markland House**. Parking is available in the lot behind the house.

Other Upcoming Programs

March 7 – **Theresa Schober**, The Archaeological Research Cooperative, Inc

April 4 – Local archaeologists, **Sarah Miller and Chuck Meide**, present reviews of their year's work

May 12-14 – **Florida Anthropological Society Annual Conference** here in St. Augustine
Stay tuned for more information!

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greeting Fellow SAAA Members,

I'm beyond thrilled to step into the presidential position for 2023. It's been almost 2 decades since I last served as an officer for the association and I'm very pleased to be serving again.



We have some additional new officers to welcome to the Board of Directors: Robyn Mooney (Corresponding Secretary), Donna McCarthy-Jensen (Director-at-Large), and Alison Simpson (Director-at-Large). Finally, a big thank you to the officers who have completed their terms: Don Roberts (President), Janet Fittipaldi (Corresponding Secretary), and Mercedes Harold (Director-at-Large). Please be sure to thank these individuals for contributing their time to our wonderful organization.

It was great to see many of you at our annual Christmas party. For once the weather was mild and the ambiance was spectacular. Special thanks to Kelcie Lloyd and all who helped make the party a smashing success, and for the St. Augustine Lighthouse for hosting us!

A lot of exciting things are scheduled for 2023. This year we are planning a full slate of in-person meetings and speakers, including February's speaker, Jon Endonino, an SAAA's ELEF recipient.

In May, SAAA will be hosting the annual Florida Anthropological Society (FAS) conference bringing archaeologists and archaeology enthusiasts together in our city! Special thanks to conference committee

members Chris Newman, Pat Balanzategui, Emily Jane Murray, Jon Simon Suarez, and Katherine Sims who have been working diligently behind the scenes to put together an outstanding slate of events. We all know our community is a popular, historic destination and we are expecting a high attendance. I hope you will consider participating, as well as volunteering your time to make this meeting one to remember.

Membership renewals are due in March. Please consider renewing now and check it off your to-do list. You can pay at the monthly meeting or <https://saaa.shutterfly.com>. Additionally, please consider donating to the Eugene Lyon Education Fund (ELEF) to support local archaeological education and research. Your dues will help sustain SAAA's mission in 2023 and beyond!

Warm Wishes and Happy New Year,

Andrea White

Linda Chandler Receives the Richard Todd Award



At the January meeting President Don Roberts presented long-time member Linda Chandler with the Richard Todd Award. Named after a deceased member of the organization who was instrumental in getting SAAA started back in the 1980s, this award is given to a current member of SAAA in recognition of

his or her commitment to the organization over the years. Thank you for your service, Linda! (Note: Linda, a founding member of SAAA, has served as President, Vice President, Secretary, and Board Member over the years and currently serves as the Newsletter editor, Archivist, and Chair of the Historic Marker Committee.)

SAAA to Host the 2023 Florida Anthropological Association Conference

St. Augustine Archaeological Association (SAAA) will be hosting the 75th Annual Meeting of the Florida Anthropological Society (FAS). SAAA is one of thirteen FAS Chapters around the state that provide opportunities for public engagement in archaeology and anthropology. The Annual Meeting will take place May 12th through 14th.

Included is a reception at the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum on Friday, May 12th. On Saturday, May 13th, a full day of paper and poster presentations in Kenan Hall at Flagler College and an award banquet in the dining hall of the College on Saturday evening are planned. On Sunday, May 14th, several exciting tours of local sites led by SAAA members will be offered; Fish Island led by Marsha Chance, St. Francis Barracks and St. Augustine National Cemetery by Alison Simpson, and a Trolley Tour by Dr. Andrea White and Katherine Sims.

If you are interested in attending the event, please register at <https://fasweb.org/annual-meeting/>. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Chris Newman at guppy@aug.com. More information to come in the next newsletter!

Why does local history matter? It matters because it informs. It explains a place to the people who live there and to those who visit. It allows us to understand how a community developed...the differences between places...the core of regional identity. Knowing about the past allows us to people our world with the quick and the dead

-- Carol Kammen, American historian and educator

Producing an Historical Marker

The final version of SAAA's most recent Historical Marker "The Puente House" was presented at the January meeting, and the sign is now in production. For those who were not at the meeting or have wondered how we go about producing a historical marker, here is an explanation.

First of all, SAAA has a standing committee whose purpose is to produce the markers. The chair is Linda Chandler, and the committee members are Chris Newman, Elsbeth (Buff) Gordon, Janet Jordan, Pat Balanzategui, and Gail Hart.

Each marker costs about \$1200 to produce, so when the SAAA treasury is getting close, the Board instructs the Committee to begin to plan the next marker. You may also be aware that the monthly 50-50 raffle also goes towards the historic markers. The

organization tries to produce a marker about every two to three years.

First, the Chair asks the committee for ideas of a site to be featured. Some criteria are a site that SAAA volunteers have worked on and one that is in an area of fairly high pedestrian traffic. A site recently in the news or one that is threatened or about to be demolished can also influence the choice as well as whether the site might already have a marker of some kind.

The committee discusses the options and chooses the site. Then, the committee members are asked to do research. What do we know about this site? Why is it important? How does its story fit with St. Augustine? And, importantly, are there photographs, maps, or other graphics that can be used as illustrations? Charles Tingley at the St. Augustine Historical Society Research Library has been a great resource for helping find material.

City of St. Augustine
Nation's Oldest City
Founded 1565

The Home of Elixio de la Puente

On this site stood a grand, two-story coquina house, the home of St. Augustine native, Juan Joseph Elixio de la Puente (1724-1781), an official of the Spanish Royal Treasury. When Spain ceded Florida to the British in 1763 at the end of the Seven-Years War (French and Indian War), and the Spanish population of St. Augustine relocated to Cuba, Puente was appointed to sell the citizens' and the Church's properties. To this end, he had a map made that listed all the town properties, their sizes, locations, owners, and building materials. This map has proved to be invaluable to later historians and archaeologists.

In 1986 archaeologists conducted an excavation on the site of the Puente house. This project was the first excavation that made use of volunteers from the newly established St. Augustine Archaeological Association (SAAA).

Discovered at the site were the house foundations, a unique scallop shell-shaped well, pieces of fine imported ceramics, a silver spoon, and an ebony religious medallion, all attesting to the high status of Puente's household and that of subsequent owners. The "dig" also confirmed the map's accuracy and that of early sketches of the house showing its balcony overlooking the bayfront.

Sketch of Puente's House (on the left with missing balcony) from John Horton's panoramic "View of St. Augustine, 1855"
Courtesy of the St. Augustine Historical Society Research Library

Juan Elixio de la Puente 1764 map of St. Augustine
The arrow points to his house
Courtesy of Museo Naval, Madrid

Front and back of silver spoon found during the excavation of Puente's House
Sketch by Handly (Corky) Caraway II, 1986

This sign was donated by The St. Augustine Archaeological Association

The committee will then meet in person to share what they have found. The committee sifts through all the information and decides on what aspects or points are most important or relevant, and they write a rough outline. They will also choose what graphics they would like to use.

Then comes the most difficult part—the writing of the text. Good interpretive sign design says that there should be a minimum of text, and that the illustrations chosen should help tell the story, like the saying “A picture is worth a thousand words.” The committee tries to keep the text to under 200 words, not an easy task, as various members try their hand at writing.

Meanwhile, Linda, who has layout and Photoshop experience, toys with the graphics and their arrangement on the Photoshop template provided by the city.

The committee meets in person again to discuss the text, taking a bit from this one, a bit from that. The layout and captions for the graphics are also discussed.

The chosen text is combined and emailed to the committee for review out for review. Is there any way the text might be tightened? Do we really need this sentence? Should this word be capitalized? Emails fly fast and furious until the committee is satisfied with the text.

Also, sometime during this stage, the committee goes to the site and looks to see where the sign might be placed and whether it might be best presented on an upright pole or as a low, angled sign. Most previous markers have been on city property, but this Puente marker will be placed on private property. The site of the Puente house is now the parking lot for OC White’s Restaurant, so the committee had to get signed permission from the owner.

When the committee is happy with what they have created, it is sent to the SAAA Board for review, and any other [hopefully minor] changes that they suggest are made. When everyone is in agreement, the design is approved by the board.

The chair then emails the template to the city which sends it to the production company. The company sends back a proof which is minutely gone over by the board and committee since this is what will be used to make the finished product. If that looks good, (no misspellings!) the go-ahead is given to the city, and the sign is produced. Three or so months later, the finished product is delivered, and the city will helpfully install it for us, and we will then have a festive unveiling. Watch for this this spring.

Previous sites for which SAAA has produced markers are the La Punta Mission on Tremerton Street, La Solidaridad Church on Aviles Street, The Old Boat Basin near the Bridge of Lions, and the original Lighthouse near the boat ramp and Yacht Club at Lighthouse Park. Go around and take a look. Also, if anyone has an idea for our next marker, please tell the board.

SAAA Board



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Chris Newman, Program Chair - guppy@aug.com

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Ex Officio Members--

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Newsletter – **Linda Chandler** hoekchan@windstream.net