



**Southwest Florida Archaeological Society (SWFAS)**  
**OUR 42nd YEAR**  
**January 2022 Newsletter**  
<https://swflarchaeology.org/>

**PRESIDENT'S CORNER** *By John F. Furey M.A., RPA*



Happy New Year to everyone. I hope that this year will certainly be much better than the last two years. The May 2022 Annual Meeting will be held in person as other archaeological and anthropological societies are currently doing. Local in-person meetings will not be far behind. This year we will continue to provide you with interesting new articles and zoom presentations to keep you up-to-date and informed as to what is new in Florida and in archaeology. Enjoy!

There are many local activities that are available here in southwest Florida that are educational and interesting that you may not think of. The 5-member Collier County Museums have opened their Spring Special Exhibits at the member museums. Go to <https://colliermuseums.com/events> to find out what is happening. The Friends of Rookery Bay is celebrating the Festival of Birds January 1-31. Go to <https://rookerybay.org/events/festival-of-birds/> and note that a Festival Pass will be required.



In the December SWFAS Newsletter I indicated that there was a new dating technology that had dated the Viking occupation at L'Anse aux Meadows site in Canada with an absolute date of 1021. Michael Dees and Margot Kuitens of the University of Groningen in the Netherlands in conjunction with others, have developed a new dendrochronological time marker from an A.D. 993 cosmic radiation event seen in tree rings worldwide. See below.

It seems that the Vikings really did get around! Not only has their exploration in North America in 1021 been confirmed but it appears that they also explored the Azores between 700 A.D and 850 A.D., long before the Portuguese arrived in 1427. This was determined through an interdisciplinary approach by analyzing lakebed sediments and mouse DNA, .....yes, you read correctly, mouse DNA! See below.

As societies become more advanced, they become more unequal: the archaeology of wealth and how to calculate it archaeologically. How is it done? See below.

2022 is a La Nina year and our weather is projected to be warmer and drier. What happened in Mesoamerica 2000 years ago that precipitated the collapse of the Mayan Empire. Was it La Nina? Two new articles offer recent findings on the collapse of the Mayan civilization.

**MOUND HOUSE NEWS**



Welcome to Bobby Feldman, the new Curator of Education at the Mound House at Fort Myers Beach. Originally from Lakenheath, England, Mr. Feldman is a graduate of FGCU and he is looking for volunteers at the Mound House. If interested, please contact him at

[robert.feldman@fmbgov.com](mailto:robert.feldman@fmbgov.com) .

**SWFAS 2022 NEWSLETTER and ZOOM SCHEDULE**

**January – May:** Zoom and SWFAS Newsletters Monthly

## ARTICLES

### NEW DATING METHOD SHOWS VIKINGS OCCUPIED NEWFOUNDLAND IN 1021 C.E.

By Brian Handwerk, Science Correspondent

October 20, 2021

From Smithsonian Magazine at <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/new-dating-method-shows-vikings-occupied-newfoundland-in-1021-ce-180978903/>



A recreation of Viking structures at L'Anse aux Meadows Dylan Kereluk via Wikimedia Commons under CC by 2.0

Three rough pieces of wood—discarded sections of branches and tree stumps found among the refuse Vikings left behind after their short sojourn in Newfoundland—have turned out to be some of the more important evidence of the Norse in North America. The scars left by iron blades on these sections of fir and juniper can still be seen after more than 1,000 years. Was it the legendary Viking explorer Leif Eriksson himself whose blade chopped off these unwanted scraps? Might it have been Thorfinn Karlsefni or his wife, Gudrid, the lesser-known explorers of a different Viking saga who tossed these useless scraps aside? Many questions may never be answered, but researchers now have an extraordinarily precise date for when Norse hands and blades worked in the New World.

A new study of wooden artifacts found at Newfoundland's famed L'Anse aux Meadows site shows that Vikings lived, and felled trees, on North American soil exactly 1,000 years ago—during the year 1021 C.E. The evidence, published today in *Nature*, means that these Norse seafarers accomplished the earliest known crossing of the Atlantic from Europe to the Americas. Such incredibly precise dating of the wood was possible thanks to an intriguing new method that examined growth rings for a once-in-a-millennium cosmic-ray event that showered Earth with high energy particles in 993 C.E. Finding that telltale spike in the tree rings allowed scientists to count additional rings outside that mark to pinpoint the exact year the Vikings cut fir and juniper trees here, as they lived and explored on the edge of the continent.



A piece of wood from the Norse deposit at L'Anse aux Meadows M. Kuitens

"I am impressed by the results," says Thomas McGovern, an archaeologist at Hunter College in New York City who was not involved in the research. "The site continues to provide data after all these years. I think the date is totally plausible and fits with Birgitta Wallace's original idea of a fairly short, circa 1000 [C.E.] settlement event," adds McGovern, who has spent some two decades studying the demise of Norse settlements in Greenland. Wallace, a former Parks Canada archaeologist and co-author of the research, spent many years working at the L'Anse aux Meadows site.

Moving across the frigid waters of the North Atlantic in their legendary longships, a few thousand Vikings colonized Greenland for almost 500 years, building churches and communities, keeping records, and maintaining ties with Europe before mysteriously vanishing for reasons that still stir debate. They left behind clues—bones, artifacts, cloth and other remnants—with which scientists are still piecing together their story. The Vikings' Icelandic sagas spoke of the intrepid voyagers journeying even further than Greenland—to a mysterious place they called Vinland, which was described in detail. Inspired by the sagas, researchers searched for traces of Vikings in the Americas for years, but it wasn't until the 1960s that L'Anse aux Meadows at last proved that the tales of Norse in North America were true.

The remains of eight sod and timber buildings were found, including workshop spaces and a forge used to craft iron tools. Experts consider L'Anse aux Meadows a base for further explorations, a site where Norse might overwinter, repair their ships, or stockpile provisions and trade goods. Such sites are described in the sagas as key waypoints in the Vinland adventures of explorers like Eriksson. "Here we are fixing in time these somewhat legendary [Norse] sagas," says co-author Michael Dee, who specializes in the study of isotope chronology at the University of Groningen. "We're providing some scientific evidence to say at this exact moment in time, this happened, which actualizes them a bit more."

Timber was critical for the Norse in Newfoundland. Wood provided fuel for heat and cooking, as well as material to construct timber and sod buildings and famous Viking longships. Hundreds of wood chips, shavings and discarded pieces have been found from the workshops at L'Anse aux Meadows. Co-author Margot Kuitens, also of the University of Groningen, sorted through wood scraps from L'Anse aux Meadows at a storage facility in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, where the excavation's archaeological remains are stored. She selected three wooden artifacts that she knew were produced by Vikings, not only because they were found in context at the site but also because they showed clear markings of being cut and shaped with metal tools, which weren't used by the area's Indigenous residents.

Kuitens wasn't looking for outstanding examples of Norse woodworking skill. "What we used was basically rubbish," she says, "which was really good for research because we were looking for pieces of wood that included their bark edges. If you have an artifact or even a construction beam, often those outer layers are stripped off." The bark would be part of the ingenious dating method's endgame.

Dendrochronological archives from around the world, in Germany, Ireland, Arizona and Japan, provide evidence that in 993, a cosmic radiation event, probably an enormous solar storm, caused a huge spike in atmospheric carbon levels that can clearly be measured in tree ring samples. "On rare occasions, once or twice a millenium, you get these blips in the record probably from solar storms that created a sudden surge of radiocarbon that gets absorbed by that tree ring," Dee says.

After identifying the 993 anomaly in the tree ring history of each artifact from the Viking settlement, it was a fairly simple matter to count each year's growth ring all the way to that critical bark layer still clinging to the wood. The team determined that each of the three different trees used to produce the wooden artifacts was felled exactly 28 years after the major cosmic-ray spike, in 1021, an apparently busy year of woodcutting for Norse in North America. By examining cells on the bark edge, the group could even determine in what season of the year each tree was felled.

Iceland's Vikings chronicled their trips to what they called Vinland (i.e. today's Canada and possibly the United States) in two great epics of Norse literature: The Saga of Erik the Red and The Saga of the Greenlanders. These adventurous works of literature relay compelling tales of heroism, treachery, triumph and tragedy that intersperse real historical persons and events with colorful myths—Icelandic stories of the era boast their fair share of trolls, witches, and dragons. The known versions were written around 1200 or 1300, several hundred years after the events they chronicle, meaning they likely represent older oral histories, possibly embellished with retellings down through the years.

The sagas differ in some details, like which explorers were preeminent and deserve the most credit, but they tell how Vikings first spotted unknown North American locations when blown off course during travel from Iceland to Greenland. They later journeyed from Greenland to explore those far coasts under leaders like Eriksson and, later, Karlsefni and Gudrid.

According to the sagas, the Norse found plenty of fish and game, timber, and pastureland during their explorations of Vinland. They described establishing several base camps—L'Anse aux Meadows appears to have been one—that enabled further explorations of these strange shorelines. Butternuts and butternut tree fragments found at the site suggest they traveled south of Newfoundland, where those species have never grown, but just how far they went remains anyone's guess. Thorfinn and Gudrid's son Snorri even became the first known European baby born in the Americas.

For reasons that are still debated, the Norse never ventured beyond Greenland to settle other parts of North America for the long term. One factor might have been relations with Native Americans, whom the Norse deemed "wretched people." The sagas tell of trade between the groups, but also of bad blood and violence. And the Norse may not have established sustainable settlements in Newfoundland because they would have required too many individuals and resources from Greenland's own small Norse populations. Though the new study

shows that the journeys chronicled in the sagas actually happened, it can't solve these historic mysteries. "All we can really say is that they were definitely there in that year," Dee notes.

Viking chronologies are reasonably well known thanks to some strong evidence from other locations. Icelandic sites, for example, often have quite precise dates thanks to the island's volcanic activity, which lays down layers of tephra, ash and debris that can be matched with the known timings of eruptions. These clues, along with the narratives of the sagas, have combined to paint a picture of Norse exploration and voyaging between Iceland, Greenland and Vinland that fits the new L'Anse aux Meadows dates quite well.

"On the one hand it does fit well with what was expected from the sagas, it's close to what people thought," Dee says. "But I think most of the saga experts would have been looking for a date in the 990s or around 1000, so at the same time I think it will surprise them a little bit." Though only perhaps 20 years later than what might have been suspected, the precise date may have some interesting implications. "It adds some intrigue," says John Steinberg, an anthropologist at the Fiske Center for Archaeological Research at the University of Massachusetts Boston. "If the Vikings left Greenland around 1000, as the sagas suggest, L'Anse aux Meadows was occupied at least sporadically for perhaps 20 years, rather than just three years as has been assumed. On the other hand, it may be that it was only occupied for three years but those years were 15 years later than we thought." Steinberg raises another possibility as well—that the Vikings went back and forth between Greenland and Vinland more commonly than has been believed. "There are hints of that in the sagas. But because they are just hints, fleshing that out has been really difficult."

Such travel is certainly possible from a seafaring perspective; as both raiders and traders, the Vikings were amazing sailors. The Vikings undoubtedly knew their way around their part of the world and traveled widely from about 793 to 1066. The Norse sailed from Scandinavia west to the British Isles, settled Iceland by 874 and continued exploring until they eventually became the first to cross the Atlantic. But they also ventured east into Russia, traveling the river valleys. Some Norse individuals even left mysterious runes in Istanbul, Turkey and Athens, Greece.

Cosmic ray events like the 993 burst are very rare in the historical record. But because they are global in scope, their telltale signatures can be found in trees and wood around the world. That means the innovative new dating technique Kuitens and Dee used will likely be employed at archaeological sites far and wide. "The possibility of returning exact year results, from any scientific dating method, is very new indeed," Dee notes, "and this method is just getting underway in terms of what it's going to be capable of doing."

## ***DID VIKINGS BEAT PORTUGAL TO THE AZORES? RESEARCHERS STUDYING ANIMAL REMAINS SAY NORSE EXPLORERS STEPPED FOOT ON THE ISLANDS HUNDREDS OF YEARS BEFORE THE PORTUGUESE***

*By Lizzie May*

**October 31, 2021**

From the Daily Mail at <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-10149697/Researchers-say-Vikings-Azores-islands-HUNDREDS-years-Portuguese.html>



Researchers have discovered evidence to support the idea that Vikings settled on the Azores several hundred years before the Portuguese arrived in 1427. Evidence from animal remains has led ecologist Pedro Raposeiro and his team, of the University of the Azores, to believe the Vikings were there first. In a paper published in the US journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences this month, Mr Raposeiro said of the findings: 'Our reconstructions offer unambiguous evidence for the pre-Portuguese settlement of the Azores.' The claim is astonishing considering Vikings are usually linked to the frozen north.

Lakebed sediments from the Azores were recently analysed by the researchers, who found them to be rich in organic compounds that are found in cow and sheep faeces. The samples were also found to contain low levels of pollen from native trees, but had high levels of charcoal. This mixture suggests that early

settlers were burning trees to clear land for the sake of their livestock to graze. What provided the real surprise, though, was the dating of one of these samples. The research team from the University of the Azores found that the samples had been deposited some time between AD700 and 850. This is several centuries earlier than the date given for the arrival of the Portuguese on the islands.

The wind and weather conditions in the northern hemisphere between AD700 to 800 would have helped settlers from higher latitudes. The research paper adds that the conditions would have inhibited those from southern Europe, making it easier from the people from the north to reach the Azores. 'These results suggest that the Norse were most likely the earliest settlers on the islands,' the researchers add. The new research counters the long-held belief that 15th century Portuguese sailors were the first humans to arrive in the Azores, 900 miles from the coast of Portugal. 'Even with abundant available historical information allowing us to have a very accurate picture of the past, it is necessary to foster interdisciplinary research among the humanities and natural sciences to fully understand our history,' co-author Santiago Giralt, a paleoclimatologist at Geosciences Barcelona, said in a statement.

The first archaeological evidence of humans on the islands, though, dates to 1427 when Portuguese sailor Diogo de Silves landed on Santa Maria Island while searching for new routes to Asia under orders from Prince Henry the Navigator. The Flores Corvo islands were reached 25 years later and eventually, more Portuguese came and colonized the archipelago. The natural record tells a different story, however: sediment samples are valuable tools in peeling back layers of history because material that sinks to the bottom of a lake is often preserved as new strata of sediment is layered on top.

Evolutionary biologist Dr Jeremy Searle of Cornell University has supported the conclusions by Mr Raposeiro. He has also argued that Vikings made it to the Azores - but his work is based on the mouse as his biological source. Dr Searle told the Observer that mice sneaked on board ships and are carried round the world by humans, and you can work out where the mice came from if you understand where the humans had their original homes. His studies have showed that populations of the house mouse have different genetic signatures. This depends on their locality, and Dr Searle said: 'By analysing the mitochondrial DNA – which is inherited through the female line – we can tell the difference between mice from different parts of Europe.'

One distinctive house mouse lineage is found in Orkney, the Isle of Man, the Hebrides, Caithness and parts of Ireland, all areas of Viking influence. When they looked at Norway, they found the mice carried the same genetic signature. The biologist and his team of researchers believe they have identified the Viking mouse and found its presence in ancient mice remains from Iceland and Greenland, where the Vikings settled over 1,000 years ago. He also looked at the Azores and Madeira, and in both they found the mice had the same genetic signature as the Viking mouse. They found very few mice that had the same genetics as those found in mouse populations in Portugal. He added: 'These mice were obviously accidental travellers that were dispersed by Vikings across the Atlantic, to Iceland and Greenland and also the Azores and Madeira, we believe. 'It shows just how far the Vikings had spread.'

## ***THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF WEALTH INEQUALITY***

***By Matthew Shaer***

***March 2018***

*From Smithsonian Magazine at <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/archaeology-wealth-inequality-180968072/>*

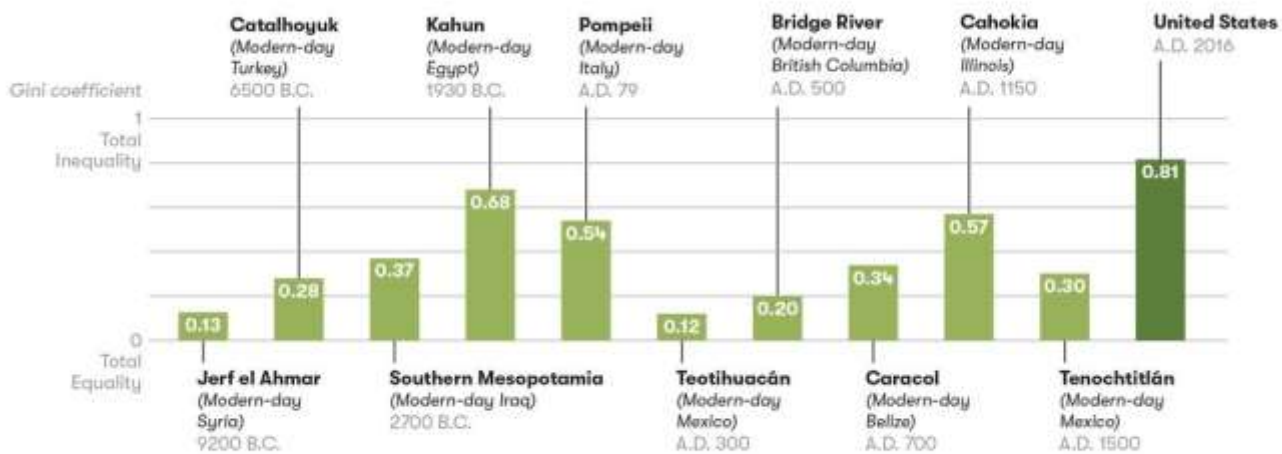
When the last of the volcanic ash from Mount Vesuvius settled over Pompeii in A.D. 79, it preserved a detailed portrait of life in the grand Roman city, from bristling military outposts to ingenious aqueducts. Now researchers say the eruption nearly 2,000 years ago also captured clues to one of today's most pressing social problems. Analyzing dwellings in Pompeii and 62 other archaeological sites dating back 11,200 years, a team of experts has ranked the distribution of wealth in those communities. Bottom line: economic disparities increased over the centuries and technology played a role. The findings add to our knowledge of history's haves and have-nots, an urgent concern as the gulf between the 1 percent of ultra-rich and the rest of us continues to grow.



“We wanted to be able to look at the ancient world as a whole and draw connections to today,” says Michael E. Smith, an archaeologist at Arizona State University, who took part in the study. The research is being published this month in *Ten Thousand Years of Inequality*, a book edited by Smith and Timothy Kohler of Washington State University.

The idea of using house size as a proxy for economic status may not be revolutionary—a palace is bigger than a hovel, after all—but the researchers found a new way to gauge the economy of ancient settlements from structural measurements. For each site they calculated a value known to economists and policy wonks as the Gini coefficient, which quantifies how evenly wealth is distributed. In a population with a Gini coefficient of 0, everyone has the same economic resources; 1 represents maximum disparity. The Gini score of the United States, one of the most unequal countries, is about 0.81, while that of Slovakia is about 0.48.

How do past societies stack up? Hunter-gatherers, as scholars long hypothesized, tended to be the most equitable. But around 10,200 B.C., societies began to farm the land. Economic disparity edged up: farming enabled families to collect wealth and pass it on. In Europe and Asia, domestication of draft animals beginning around 10,000 years ago let some landowners cultivate ever larger areas, further concentrating wealth. That didn’t happen in the Americas until after Europeans exported that agricultural innovation in the 16th century. The more technologically advanced a society was, the researchers say, the less equal it tended to be—a cautionary tale for our increasingly high-tech future.



Comparing the size of dwellings at archaeological ruins, researchers found increasing wealth inequality over thousands of years. Technology accelerates the trend, first in the Old World and then in the New. For each site the experts calculated the Gini coefficient, a standard measure of wealth distribution. The gap between rich and poor in the United States is shown for reference.

# ANCIENT MUD REVEALS AN EXPLANATION FOR SUDDEN COLLAPSE OF THE MAYAN EMPIRE

By Sarah Sloat

August 6, 2018

From Inverse at <https://www.inverse.com/article/47758-maya-empire-collapse-drought-theory>



Happy Sari/Shutterstock

During their 3,000-year dominance over Mesoamerica, the Mayans built elaborate architectural structures and developed a sophisticated, technologically progressive society. But immediately after reaching the peak of its powers over the entire Yucatan Peninsula, the Mayan Empire collapsed, falling apart in just 150 years. The reasons for its sudden demise remain a mystery, but in a new Science study, scientists find clues buried deep in the mud of

Lake Chichancanab. Deforestation, overpopulation, and extreme drought have all been proposed as the reason for the empire's collapse. The most probable of those, argue the University of Cambridge and University of Florida scientists in the new study, is drought. The evidence they gathered in the muddy sediments underlying Lake Chichancanab, which was once a part of the empire, underscore the devastating power of a drought on a population.

The sediment cores that the scientists dug up from the depths of the lake are like a time machine, giving a glimpse of what past environments look like. In the study, the team specifically looked at precipitated gypsum, a soft mineral that incorporates oxygen and hydrogen isotopes of water molecules into its crystalline structure. Looking at it was like peering into fossil water, and in this case, it showed that the area surrounding the lake had gone through extremely arid periods. During periods of drought, larger amounts of water evaporate, and so a higher proportion of lighter isotopes in gypsum indicates a period of drought. The team determined that between the years 800 and 1,000, annual rainfall in the Maya lowlands decreased by nearly 50 percent on average and up to 70 percent during peak drought conditions. This means the rainfall in this region essentially stopped about the same time that the empire's city-states were abandoned.

Today, drought continues to aggrrieve societies. The United States drought causes annual losses nearing \$9 billion, and the environment is increasingly unable to bounce back. In 2017, a NASA study showed that land ecosystems are taking progressively longer to recover from droughts in the 20th century, stating that "incomplete drought recovery may become the new normal in some areas." The impact of climate change, some scientists argue, may induce multi-decade "mega-droughts."

However, modern-day droughts don't necessarily spell out the collapse of our own society, says Andrew Plantinga, Ph.D., who was not involved in the study. Plantinga, a professor of natural resource economics and policy at the University of California, Santa Barbara, says that today "we have many ways to mitigate water scarcity that would not have been available to ancient civilizations." Modern societies can pump water from great depths, move it over great distances, and make water drinkable with technologies like desalinization. We can survive — but it'll come with a cost. "Although we have great potential for adaptation to water scarcity, adaptation comes at a cost, and we may well see these costs increase if droughts become more severe with climate change," says Plantinga. "While humans will adapt to water scarcity for many generations to come, they may be living in a less hospitable and more resource-constrained world."

## **ARCHAEOLOGISTS UNCOVER NEW CLUES TO MAYA COLLAPSE**

*Source: University of Arizona*

*January 23, 2017*

From Science Daily at <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/01/170123162301.htm>



Using the largest set of radiocarbon dates ever obtained from a single Maya site, archaeologists have developed a high-precision chronology that sheds new light on patterns leading up to the two major collapses of the ancient civilization. Archaeologists have long puzzled over what caused what is known as the Classic Maya collapse in the ninth century A.D., when many of the ancient civilization's cities were abandoned. More recent investigations have revealed that the Maya also experienced an earlier collapse in the second century A.D. -- now called the Preclassic collapse -- that is even more poorly understood. University of Arizona archaeologist

Takeshi Inomata and his colleagues suggest in a new paper, to be published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, that both collapses followed similar trajectories, with multiple waves of social instability, warfare and political crises leading to the rapid fall of many city centers.

The findings are based on a highly refined chronology developed by Inomata and his colleagues using an unprecedented 154 radiocarbon dates from the archaeological site of Ceibal in Guatemala, where the team has worked for over a decade. While more general chronologies might suggest that the Maya collapses occurred gradually, this new, more precise chronology indicates more complex patterns of political crises and recoveries leading up to each collapse. "What we found out is that those two cases of collapse (Classic and Preclassic) follow similar patterns," said Inomata, the paper's lead author and a professor in the School of Anthropology in the UA College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. "It's not just a simple collapse, but there are waves of collapse. First, there are smaller waves, tied to warfare and some political instability, then comes the major collapse, in which many centers got abandoned. Then there was some recovery in some places, then another collapse."

Using radiocarbon dating and data from ceramics and highly controlled archaeological excavations, the researchers were able to establish the refined chronology of when population sizes and building construction increased and decreased at Ceibal. While the findings may not solve the mystery of why exactly the Maya collapses occurred, they are an important step toward better understanding how they unfolded. "It's really, really interesting that these collapses both look very similar, at very different time periods," said Melissa Burham, one of three UA anthropology graduate students who co-authored the paper. "We now have a good understanding of what the process looked like, that potentially can serve as a template for other people to try to see if they have a similar pattern at their (archaeological) sites in the same area."

Inomata and his UA colleagues -- anthropology professor Daniela Triadan and students Burham, Jessica MacLellan and Juan Manuel Palomo -- worked with collaborators at Ibaraki University, Naruto University of Education and the Graduate University for Advanced Studies in Japan, and with Guatemalan archaeologists and students. Radiocarbon dating was done at Paleo Laboratory Company in Japan and at the Accelerator Mass Spectrometry Laboratory in the UA Department of Physics.

"Radiocarbon dating has been used for a long time, but now we're getting to an interesting period because it's getting more and more precise," said Inomata, who also is an Agnese Nelms Haury Chair in Environment and Social Justice at the UA. "We're getting to the point where we can get to the interesting social patterns because the chronology is refined enough, and the dating is precise enough."



## **OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE 2022 CALENDAR YEAR**

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*Find us on Facebook at Southwest Florida Archaeological Society!*

*Check out our website at <http://swflarchaeology.org/>*

## **SWFAS AND FAS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS**

We encourage those interested in Florida archaeology to become members of The Florida Anthropological Society (FAS) and The Southwest Florida Archaeological Society (SWFAS). Annual dues are due in January and membership applications to both organizations are attached. Membership in the FAS provides you with four annual volumes of *The Florida Anthropologist* and occasional newsletters on anthropological events in Florida in addition to the annual statewide meeting. More information on FAS can be found online at: [www.fasweb.org](http://www.fasweb.org). Membership in SWFAS offers you a local series of talks on archaeological and anthropological subjects that you can attend. The SWFAS monthly newsletter keeps you up to date on local events as well as other important archaeological topics. We urge you to support both with your membership. All of the SWFAS Lecture Series are open to the public at no charge.



# JOIN US!

## The Southwest Florida Archaeological Society

<http://swflarchaeology.org/>

The Southwest Florida Archaeological Society (SWFAS) was founded in 1980 as a not-for profit corporation to provide a meeting place for people interested in the area's past.

Our goals are to:

- Learn more of the area's history
- Create a place for sharing of this information
- Advocate for preservation of cultural resources

Its members include professional and amateur archaeologists and interested members of the general public. Members come from all walks of life and age groups. They share a lively curiosity, a respect for the people who preceded them here, and a feeling of responsibility for the conservation of the places and objects they left behind.

The Society holds monthly meetings between October and April, attracting speakers who are in the forefront of archaeological and historical research. Occasionally members join in trips to historical and archaeological sites.

A monthly newsletter, Facebook page, and website keep members abreast of our events and happenings.

The organization is a chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society, a statewide organization that publishes quarterly newsletters and a journal, *The Florida Anthropologist*, and holds an annual conference.

**I want to help The Southwest Florida Archaeology Society preserve and interpret Florida's heritage!**

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**I hereby agree to abide by the rules and bylaws of the Southwest Archaeological Society. I further release from any and all liability due to accident and injury to myself, dependents and any property owners cooperating with the society.**

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make your check out to SWFAS and mail to:**

**Charlie Strader  
SWFAS Treasurer  
27655 Kent Road  
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# FAS Membership Categories

Membership in the Society is open to all interested individuals who are willing to abide by the Florida Anthropological Society Statement of Ethical Responsibilities, which can be found on our website [fasweb.org](http://fasweb.org). *Membership is for one year.*

Student *	\$15	Sustaining	\$100
Regular	\$30	Patron	\$1,000
Family	\$35	Benefactor	\$2,500
Institutional	\$30		

\*Student membership is open to graduate, undergraduate and high school students. A photocopy of your student ID must accompany payment. \*\*Add \$25 for foreign addresses.

Send Membership Form and Dues Payment to:

Florida Anthropological Society, P O Box 1561 Boynton Beach, FL 33425

*You can join online or pay Membership dues renewals via PayPal on our website [fasweb.org](http://fasweb.org).*

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