



# JANUARY - 2021

PRESERVATION ♦ EDUCATION ♦ RESEARCH ♦ INSPIRE

**Time Sifters Presents**  
In partnership with Adult & Community Enrichment (ACE)

**In-Depth Series USS Monitor & the Navies of the Civil War**  
A two day workshop via ZOOM  
**January 28 & 29, 9:30 - Noon**

**David Alberg**  
Former Sanctuary Superintendent  
Monitor National Marine Sanctuary, NOAA

**Tane Renata Caserley**  
Resource Protection & Permit Coordinator  
Monitor National Marine Sanctuary, NOAA

**William Hoffman**  
Director of Conservation  
& Chief Conservator  
The Mariners' Museum & Park

Turn over for Registration Information

Time Sifters Archaeology Society - A Chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society - #10, Box 5383, Sarasota, FL 34277  
www.timesifters.org  
President: Darwin "Smitty" Smith - hmsbeagle22@gmail.com

Dear Member:

We have decided that the Spring season will be presented on ZOOM. The Selby Library will not be available in the Spring. A reminder that all dues are due January 1st. You can pay on the website or mail a check to the PO Box.

We have a very busy January. On **January 13** we have the **"Archaeology Year in Review"** via ZOOM. On **January 28 & 29 of 2021** we will be presenting, in partnership with Adult & Community Enrichment (ACE) via ZOOM, **"USS Monitor & the Navies of the Civil War"**. The four part series will start at 9:30 am and finish by noon, with two, one hour presentations each day. **See page 2 for the curriculum and registration information.**

Thank you for being a Time Sifters member.

Darwin "Smitty" Smith, President hmsbeagle22@gmail.com

## January 13 - at 6:00 PM - ZOOM.

### The Archaeology Year in Review



**Darwin "Smitty" Smith**  
President, Time Sifters Archaeology Society

We will discuss what was talked about in 2020 including The Grand Egyptian Museum; The Year of the Mummy; Iroquoian Woodland Village; La Unión Slave Ship; 25,000-Year-Old Circle of bones of 60 Mammoths; Roman mosaic floor found under Italian vineyard; The USS Nevada; Hobby Lobby & the Museum of the Bible and much more.

Instructions for real time viewing:  
Go to [www.zoom.com](http://www.zoom.com)  
Register in advance for this meeting:  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/joining/register/tZMsc-Gupz8jGdWzrm-dj3Ua4LB\\_a8kovniq](https://us02web.zoom.us/joining/register/tZMsc-Gupz8jGdWzrm-dj3Ua4LB_a8kovniq)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



Photos: Egypt's Antiquities Ministry; Helena Barba Inah via AP; Frank Frazetta Museum; The Grand Egyptian Museum.org; Ancient Origins; Comune di Negrar di Valpolicella; Naval History and Heritage Command; Lumsden Heritage Trust.

## Course Description

### Day One - Part 1: The U.S.S. Monitor - Hero of a Nation (Speaker: Dave Alberg)

- The Civil War 1861-1862
- The U.S.S. Monitor, her construction, what made her so innovative?
- Battle of Hampton Roads and the Summer of 1862
- Her Loss off Cape Hatteras



### Day One - Part 2: Heavy Metal on the High Seas: The History of the USS Monitor (Speaker: Tane Casserley)

- The Search for an American Icon
- The Creation of America's First National Marine Sanctuary
- Recovery of the USS Monitor (1998-2003)
- An Ironclad partnership: NOAA and The Mariners' Museum



### Day Two - Part 3: Honoring our Nation's Heroes: The Effort to Identify and Lay to-Rest Two Sailors from The Civil War (Speaker: Dave Alberg)

- Discovery of human remains and the effort to recover them
- Forensic work of JPAC/CILHI
- Facial Reconstructions: The faces of two men from 1862. Who were they?
- Arlington National Cemetery



### Day Two - Part 4: Two Decades of Progress in Artifact Conservation and the USS Monitor (Speaker: Will Hoffman)

- Provide an overview of the Monitor conservation effort to date including the establishment of the USS Monitor Center and Batten Conservation Complex at The Mariners Museum and Park
- Highlight some of the challenges and accomplishments during the treatment of several high-profile objects.
- Outline future steps to be undertaken with the conservation project



## Speaker Bios



**David Alberg** spent 15 years as the Sanctuary Superintendent for the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary. As Superintendent, Alberg provided daily oversight of the sanctuary and managed the long-term management of the wreck site, and the artifacts recovered from the ship. In November 2020, Alberg joined the National Park Service (NPS) where he serves as the Chief of Resource Management and Compliance at Lake Mead National Recreation Area in Arizona and Nevada.



**Tane Renata Casserley** is the Resource Protection & Permit Coordinator for the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, NOAA. He is responsible for the development of policies and programs to address commercial/recreational uses/impacts in and around the sanctuary. Casserley holds a graduate certificate in maritime archaeology from the University of Hawaii at Manoa and a Masters from the Program in Maritime Studies at East Carolina University. He has led NOAA archaeological expeditions in the Florida Keys, the Great Lakes, California, the NW Hawaiian Islands, Alaska, and the USS Monitor. Other projects included a sunken B-29 Superfortress in Lake Mead, the CSS Mary Celestia in Bermuda, USS Arizona, and was most recently part of an expedition to RMS Titanic.



**William Hoffman** is the Director of Conservation and Chief Conservator at *the Mariners' Museum and Park*. Hoffman oversees all conservation-related activities. He has bachelor's degrees in Anthropology and Fine Arts at the State University of New York College at Buffalo and received his master's degree in Art Conservation from Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, specializing in the conservation of objects. His work at *The Mariners' Museum and Park* in Newport News, VA has focused on the conservation of archaeological metals recovered from the wreck site of the ironclad USS Monitor.

## Registration begins December 7 through the Adult & Community Enrichment (ACE) program.

### HOW TO REGISTER:

**ONLINE ...** Visit [www.ace-sarasota.com](http://www.ace-sarasota.com). If you haven't taken an ACE class, you will need to create a profile first.

**IN PERSON ...** 4748 Beneva Road, bldg.3, Sarasota. ACE office closed (Dec.21 – Jan.3).

**BY PHONE ....** Call (941) 361-6590. Office Hours: M-Th from 8:00am to 5:30pm and Friday 8:00am to 3:30pm.

**COST ...** \$69.00



# Notes from a Time Sifter

## Our World is Warming.

By Evelyn Mangie Time Sifters Board Member



No matter who or what is responsible, our world is warming. Glaciers and frozen tundra are melting and anything that had been frozen within is now being exposed. This gives archaeologists a unique opportunity to find objects frozen in time within the ice. To do that, two new branches of archaeology, **Glacial Archaeology** and **Ice Patch Archaeology** have evolved to work in this different environment.

Glacial archaeology is the study of objects retrieved from glaciers. These objects are usually found serendipitously, like **Ötzi the Ice Man** who died in the Alps 5,300 years ago and was discovered by hikers in 1991, and **Kwāday Dän Ts'ínchi**, the oldest well-preserved human in North America, found by hunters in 1999. He was frozen nearly 600 years ago on an icefield in Northwestern British Columbia.

Glaciers are rivers of ice that flow (very slowly) toward sea level. Anything that falls into the glacier or is buried within the snow that accumulates on top of it, flows along with it, so the location of an event is uncertain. Nevertheless, these finds are excellent ways to learn of ancient lives and changing environments. The body of Kwāday Dän Ts'ínchi had been dismembered by the shifting ice but his DNA, clothing, and hunting weapons tell of his life 600 years ago. An entire forest was engulfed within Alaska's Mendenhall glacier as the ice slowly flowed through it about 20,000 years ago. The forest is now being revealed as the glacier melts. An entire mountain range is emerging from the mile-deep ice sheets of Antarctica, and 46 Mesozoic ichthyosaur fossils are now



Photos: [Visionlearning.com](#); [travel agent central](#); [archaeologynewsnetwork](#); [Ancient origins](#)

exposed as a glacier melts in Chile.

Ice patch archaeology is different in that it does not move (much) so searches can be planned, and anything found can be considered in situ. Ice Patch archaeologists can use satellite technology to spot specific frozen areas that have the potential to contain artifacts. Recently, the Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee funded aerial photography that found 400 prime spots for potential finds. At least 70 ice patches in Yellowstone National Park have yielded objects like 10,000-year-old chipped stone projectile points, wooden shafts, and an atlatl dart.

Finds from frozen sources have expanded our knowledge of ancient living conditions, available food, clothing, and weapons. Otzi the Ice Man lived a harsh life and suffered from hardened arteries, arthritis, and worms. Kwāday Dän Ts'ínchi ate marine food for most of his life and hunted squirrels with an atlatl. Artifacts such as wood, bone, fabric, twine, etc. provide good records of past climates

that provide a context for ancient life. The remains of a horse and horseshoe show the Norwegian Iron Age (ca. 500 BCE-1050 CE) hunters used horses to carry reindeer carcasses off the moun-

tains. Hunting sticks and a leather shoe found in Norway show that hunters from at least 1500 years ago developed a very organized way to hunt the reindeer that fled to the mountains to escape summer biting flies. Ancient hunting blinds, weapons, and some caribou antler, bone, and dung under the ice in the Yukon indicate early organized hunting there also.

Interesting as it is, glacial archaeology also presents problems. The most common problem is that decomposing bodies stink. People who live in the Arctic and sub-arctic are complaining of the smell. Corpses that were buried under buildings where the ground is no longer frozen for 48 weeks per year, must be dug up and reinterred elsewhere. Thawing corpses near a water supply can contaminate the water. Even worse, some diseases that were extinct or eliminated by modern medicine are reemerging. Bacteria dormant for 8 million years have been found in Antarctica, and NASA scientists have revived bacteria in Alaska that is estimated to be 32,000 years old. These bacteria and viruses can still affect humans and animals. In 2016, some frozen reindeer in Siberian tundra began to thaw and herds of living reindeer came down with Anthrax that spread also to 20 people. Clearly, Glacial and Ice Patch archaeology must be done quickly and carefully.

A fascinating YouTube on Glacial Archaeology can be seen at **the Secrets of the Ice Glacier Archaeology Program**, a collaboration between Norway's Innlandet County Council and the University of Oslo's Museum of Cultural History co-directed by archaeologist Lars Pilø.

What's up at the Lab?

# Identifying Nails by Electrolysis

by: Sherry Robinson Svekis, Vice-President, Time Sifters Archaeology Society

Identifying nails, based on the type of nail head or whether they are hand wrought or machine cut, is one way to help date the layers of the Manatee Mineral Spring site. But often, the iron is so oxidized that it is impossible to make out these details and the corrosion will continue to degrade the artifact until it is stabilized. So our intrepid lab crew set up an electrolysis tank to treat and conserve metals.

Electrolysis passes a direct

electrical current through an ionic solution to separate the chlorides, or salts, from the base metal in the artifact. It sounds complicated, but is carried out with common objects - **a plastic storage bin, metal plates, pvc pipe, some bolts and wire, a battery charger, and sodium carbonate (washing soda).**

It can take months, but the conservators at Florida's Division of Historic Resources recommended speeding the

process by first removing as much corrosion as possible using a dremel tool. After spending time in the electrolysis tank, the nails are boiled in distilled water to remove the sodium carbonate, and then conserved with a tannic acid solution. Polished with some wax, they are stable and ready to be used in an exhibit.

Related video is available on our website.

[https://youtu.be/tGvoxur\\_p80](https://youtu.be/tGvoxur_p80)



Nail boiling

Electrolysis tank

An Assortment of Nails

Before and After Electrolysis of Nails

Jean Lammie with dremel

Photos: Sherry Robinson Svekis

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