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Society for Historical Archaeology 43rd Annual Conference

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The 43rd Annual Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology will be held at Amelia Island Plantation, located just north of Jacksonville, Florida. Amelia Island is situated between the Atlantic Ocean and the Intracoastal Waterway, providing the perfect setting for this year’s conference theme, Coastal Connections: Integrating Terrestrial and Underwater Archaeology. Coastal communities of all sizes provide many opportunities for archaeological discussion on current research and theoretical approaches to the coast, but also provide an opportunity to discuss archaeological responsibilities within the profession, and with the public.

The annual forum of the African Diaspora Archaeology Network will be convened on Thursday, January 7, from 9am to 12pm, and is entitled African Diasporas in the South: A Conversation with John Michael Vlach. John Vlach is Professor of American Studies and Anthropology and Director of the Folklife Program at George Washington University. For more than thirty years, he has studied aspects of African diasporas through field research in Africa, the Caribbean, and across the American south. Author of ten books, his titles include The Afro-American Tradition in Decorative Arts, By the Work of Their Hands: Studies in Afro-American Folklife, and Back of the Big House: The Architecture of Plantation Slavery. Vlach will discuss subjects such as the material culture of architecture, cemeteries, and ceramics, and areas of concentration he recommends for archaeologists. Additional lead discussants include: Leland Ferguson, University of South Carolina; Kenneth Brown, University of Houston; J. W. Joseph, New South Associates; Carol McDavid, Community Archaeology Research Institute; and James Davidson, University of Florida. Leland Ferguson will respond to Vlach’s suggestions from his perspective as a leading scholar in African-American archeology. Joe Joseph and Ken Brown will comment on archaeology in the southeast, and Carol McDavid will address issues of community engagement in such projects. James Davidson will discuss recent projects in Florida. Chris Fennell, University of Illinois, will moderate.

Additional events related to African diaspora archaeology include the following panels and symposia (among others): available tours of Fort Mose State Park, the site of one of America’s first free black settlements, and Kingsley
planted; Behind the Scenes of Time Team America at New Philadelphia, Illinois; What's New in Plantation Archaeology; the Archaeology of Freedom; Multiplicity, Remembering, and Forgetting the Recent African American Past; "Standing the Heat," the Material Culture of Kitchens; Cosmopolitanism and Ethnogenesis, Colonialism and Resistance, Florida in Global Perspective; Re-assessing the Archaeology of Fort George Island, Florida, 1587-2009; Mortuary and Cemetery Studies; the Life and Times of Leland Ferguson: From Mississippian to Moravia; Archaeology at a Presidential Plantation, James Madison's Montpelier; Contributions to New World African Diaspora Archaeology; Current Research into Historical Landscapes; and African Historical Archaeology, Diasporic Conversations.