

Journeys

St. Catherines Island

travels to the elusive St. Catherines Island. The island's 22,000 acres of salt marsh, barrier beaches, and maritime forest take up 10% of Georgia's coastline.

St. Catherines is known for its history and its diverse ecosystems. Since 1981, the island has been the center for the research, education, and conservation programs of the St. Catherines Foundation. The staff of the Foundation will be host to the Society during our field trip. Dr. Thomas will be on the island, leading an archaeological field school. Our tour will travel to the north end of the island to view historic structures and wildscapes, and possibly lemurs, before visiting the site Dr. Thomas and his crew are investigating.

The cost of the field trip is \$65, which includes a box lunch, boat transportation to the island, and an all-day tour. Tour participants will be responsible for getting to the departure dock on their own. Further information about departure location and the day's schedule will be provided upon registration.

Due to the private nature of the work on St. Catherine's Island, space on this field trip is extremely limited. Registration will only be available online at coastalgeorgiahistory.org. Registration will open at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, March 18, and close when full. Once purchased, tickets are non-refundable.

Partnering on History with the National Park Service



At the request of Fort Frederica's staff, the Society's archaeology laboratory used electrolysis to remove thick layers of rust from a cannonball found near Cumberland Island. The process took five months. To prevent future deterioration, the artifact was then coated in a thin layer of wax. Seen here are Society Curator Mimi Rogers and Lab Manager Myrna Crook returning the cannonball to Michael Seibert, the Fort's Resource Manager.

The Society also assisted the Fort with another project – a new nomination for the National Register of Historic Places. The Fort was first listed in the Register in 1978 based on historic documentation prepared in 1974. That documentation identified a single resource that included the fort, townsite, and Battle of Bloody Marsh site. The new nomination increases the boundary from 217.94 acres to a total of 304.49 acres. It also includes documentation for an expanded period of significance, some of which was developed through research in the Society's archives.

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He continues to conduct field schools on St. Catherines. Dr. Thomas has served as Curator of Anthropology at the American Museum of Natural History (New York) since 1972. He has directed more than 100 archaeological excavations, including the discovery of Gatecliff Shelter in Nevada, the deepest archaeological rock shelter in the Americas. Since 1998, he has led excavations at Mission San Marcos, near Santa Fe, New Mexico. He is author and editor of dozens of books, including *St. Catherines: An Island in Time*, and he has lectured in 40 countries.

This year's field trip on Tuesday, May 12,

Winter Refresh

While the Museums were closed for inventory and maintenance in January, we were busy taking care of important projects!

At the World War II Home Front Museum, we completed a wall dividing the theater from the Correll Family Foundation Atrium in the Boathouse. This long-anticipated construction project is an excellent aesthetic complement to the surrounding galleries and is a part of our ongoing efforts to create the best experience possible for our visitors. The film is now contained in an immersive space that allows the visitor to experience the emotions felt by residents of Coastal Georgia as the world went to war.

A significant project was also completed at the Lighthouse Museum. Insulation in the Keeper's Dwelling attic was upgraded, and a new dehumidification system was installed to control moisture in the crawl space and attic as well as the public spaces. In the Heritage Center, the carpeting and upholstery were cleaned in the event hall and theater.