



TIMUCUAN

SCIENCE AND HISTORY

S Y M P O S I U M

January 23, 2026, Ribault Club, Jacksonville, Florida

Agenda	
M.C.: Vanessa Trujillo, National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA)	
8:30 – 9:00 a.m.	Registration and Light Breakfast Sponsor tables are in the front hall. All oral sessions will be in the Ballroom. The posters will be in the Hall and Dining Room Foyer.
9:00 – 9:15 a.m.	Welcome Fred Richards, Executive Director, Timucuan Parks Foundation Chris Hughes, National Park Service Timucuan Superintendent Michelle Waterman, Park Manager, Talbot Islands State Parks Vanessa Trujillo, Sr. Conservation Program Manager, NPCA
9:15 – 10:15 a.m.	Session I: Stories, Collections & Advocacy Location: Ballroom Update on Research and Projects at Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve R. Steven Kidd Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve From Time and the Cosmos to Personal Health and Adornment: Rediscovering a 16th-century Astronomical Compendium Stephen Johnston University of Oxford The Unlikeliest Influencer: How the Accidental Cult of Willie Browne Inspire(d/s) a Particularly Floridian Environmentalism Tim Gilmore Florida State College of Jacksonville / JaxPsychoGeo.com Advocating for the Places That Tell Our Story: Emerging changes impacting history & science in National Parks Vanessa Trujillo & Melissa Abdo National Parks Conservation Association



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10:15 – 10:35 a.m.

Morning Break

10:35 – 11:50 a.m.

Session II: Cultural Landscapes, Identity & Community History

Location: Ballroom

Ethnographic Overview and Assessment of the Timucuan Preserve

Rhianna Bennett & Ellyn DeMuynck
NDN Companies

Searching for a Soldier's Grave: United States Colored Troops, Genealogy, and Community Building

Luke Kasbarian
National Park Service

Migrations, Interactions, and New Practices: Transforming the Tenth-Century Landscape of Indigenous Northeastern Florida

Keith Ashley
University of North Florida

An Archaeological and Historical Analysis of St Johns Town

Allison Alcántara
University of North Florida

American Beach National Historic Landmark Study: Integrity, Context, and National Significance

Alesha Cerny
National Park Service



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11:50 - 12:00 p.m.	Group Photo
12:00 – 12:45 p.m.	Lunch Location: Dining Room or Outside Picnic Tables
12:45 - 1:15 p.m.	Session III: Poster Session & Networking Location: Hall / Dining Room Foyer
1:10 - 2:10 p.m.	Session IV: Ancient Places — Shell Mounds, Missions & Settlement Dynamics Location: Ballroom Mapping and Excavating the Borgman Shell Mound on Big Talbot Island Chance Courtney-Durrett University of North Florida Uncovering Mission Era Households on Cedar Point Preserve Carsten Comberg University of North Florida Raising Shell for the Rising Sun: Unearthing Significance at the Cedar Point North Site Victoria Hayes University of Florida Reconstructing Fishing Seasons at Cedar Point North Alexis McEwan, Tiana Kastanos and Jacqueline Meier University of North Florida



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2:10 – 2:30 p.m.	Afternoon Break
2:30 – 3:30 p.m.	Session V: Coasts in Motion: Monitoring, Modeling & Nature-Based Solutions Location: Ballroom Tracking Change in Timucuan Ecological And Historical Preserve: Wetland Elevation Change and Shoreline Movement William “Ches” Vervaeke National Park Service Methods for removing derelict crab traps in Northeast Florida Jimmy Tomazinis Florida Department of Environmental Protection Oysters from above: mapping and monitoring oyster habitats at Kingsley Plantation using drones, cameras and geospatial approaches Chris W. Baynard & Robert Richardson University of North Florida Assessment of the bed stressing due to tidal action at Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve and other National Parks in the area using ADCIRC Michael Kabendera & Raphael Crowley University of North Florida
3:30-4:00 p.m.	Closing Remarks, Evaluations, Adjourn