



CEMETERY RESOURCE  
PROTECTION TRAINING  
CONFERENCE

Gainesville, Florida

SUNRISE: FEBRUARY 8TH, 2024

SUNSET: FEBRUARY 9TH, 2024



FLORIDA PUBLIC  
ARCHAEOLOGY  
NETWORK

A PROGRAM OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA  
FPAN.us

# Hosted By:



## Event Committee

Nigel Rudolph, Public Archaeology Coordinator, Florida Public Archaeology Network, Central Region

Amanda Wagner-Pelkey, Public Archaeology Assistant, Florida Public Archaeology Network, Central Region

Rachael Kangas, Director, Florida Public Archaeology Network, Central & West Central Regions

Richard Ott, Public Archaeology Coordinator, Florida Public Archaeology Network, West Central Region

## Acknowledgements

The 2024 CRPT Conference Committee would like to thank Bailey Bruce from Top Secret Events, The Top Restaurant, Historic Evergreen Cemetery, University of South Florida, and the Orlando artist community who graciously donated to make the conference possible. A special thanks to the communities and descendants who have shared their knowledge and experience with us.

# Sponsored By:

We would like to thank our generous sponsors for helping to make this conference possible and more affordable to the community. We were able to significantly reduce ticket prices and offer discounted tickets because of their generous donations.



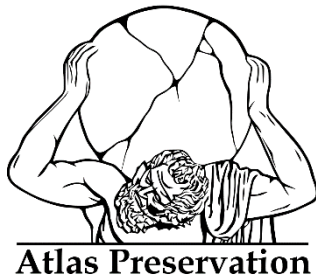
**Historic Evergreen Cemetery:** Morning Refreshments on Friday and Granite Level Sponsorship



**The Matheson History Museum:** Morning Refreshments on Thursday



**Community Planning Collaborative:** Marble Level Sponsorship




**Atlas Preservation:** Golden D-2 Award

# CONFERENCE LOCATIONS



## Gainesville's Historic Evergreen Cemetery



**Evergreen Cemetery Association of Gainesville, Inc. (ECAGI)**

At some time prior to 1888, the original Evergreen Cemetery Association was formed. From that time forward to 1944, the Evergreen Cemetery Association and Cemetery were privately operated by a group of devoted members of old Gainesville families who lovingly cared for it until they were unable to do so. On May 11, 1944, the association sold the cemetery to the City of Gainesville for \$1.00, and the city has managed it since.

The Evergreen Cemetery Association was revitalized in 1994 to provide support to Evergreen Cemetery for the historical and cultural enrichment of the entire community. ECAGI is a 501(c)3 non-profit, which seeks to organize and conduct programs and activities that will enhance community appreciation and support for Evergreen Cemetery in perpetuity.

Learn more about the history of the cemetery and how to become a member of the Evergreen Cemetery Association of Gainesville, Inc. at [www.ThisWonderfulPlace.org](http://www.ThisWonderfulPlace.org).

### Gated Entrance

Azules												Azules											
800	801	799	798	797	796	795	794	793	792	791	790	800	801	799	798	797	796	795	794	793	792	791	790
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**3-Acres Area for Future Development**

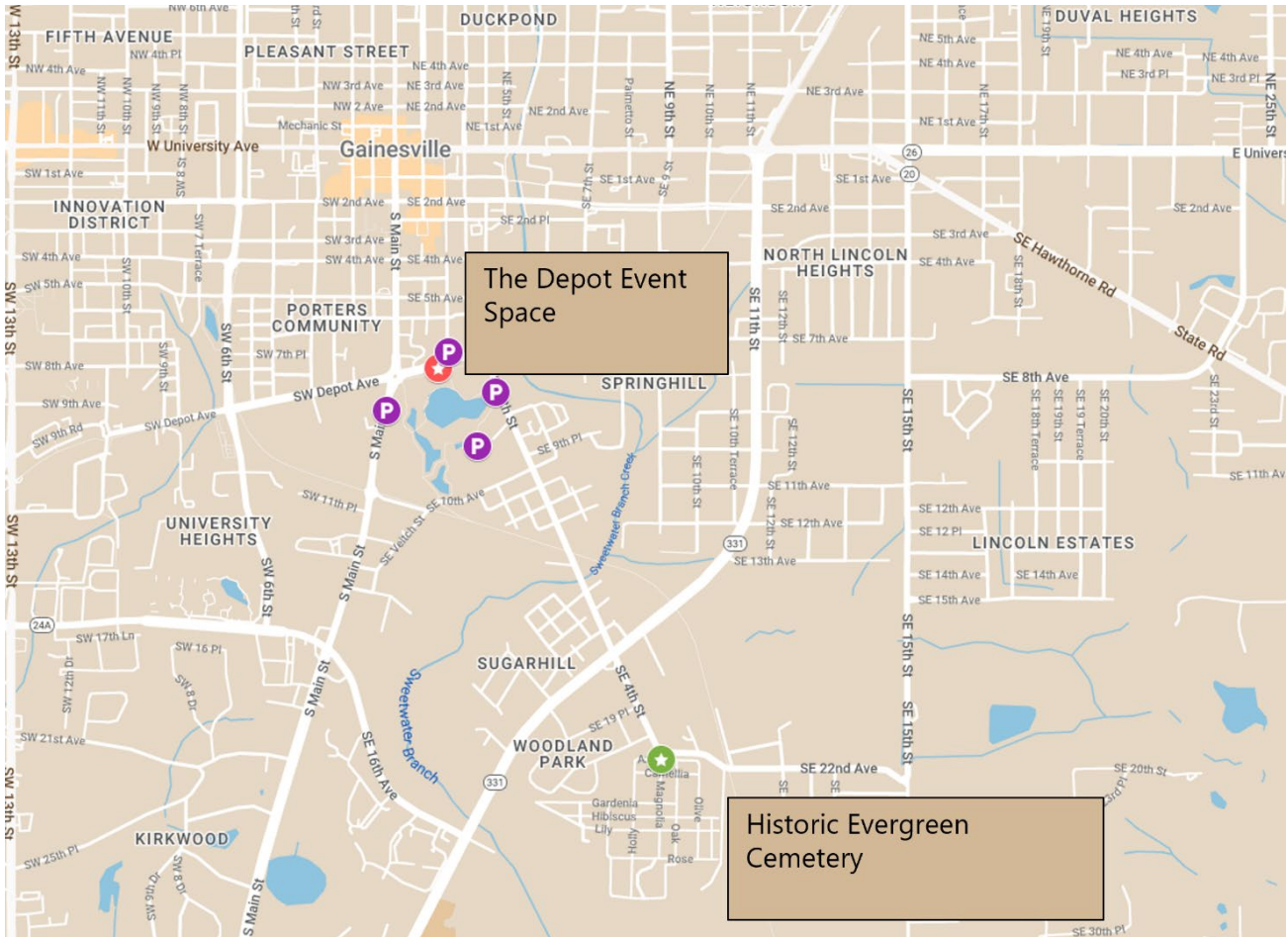
**area of CRPT conference field work**

**Cemetery Section Key**

- Old Yard
- Chase One
- Chase Two
- Chase Three
- Chase Three
- Pinkoson Addition
- Geer One
- Geer Two
- Geer Three
- Evergreen One
- Evergreen Two
- Evergreen Three
- Evergreen Four
- Evergreen Five
- Thomas Addition
- Tacachale Burials
- Alachua County Social Services Burials

**Prayer for Evergreen**  
 God of all places of which I am part,  
 God of all places of eternal rest,  
 Grant us the wisdom and strength to embrace  
 the work that is needed to maintain the peace  
 Of Your eternal presence  
 In This Wonderful Place.  
 — Thomas Holland Ivy

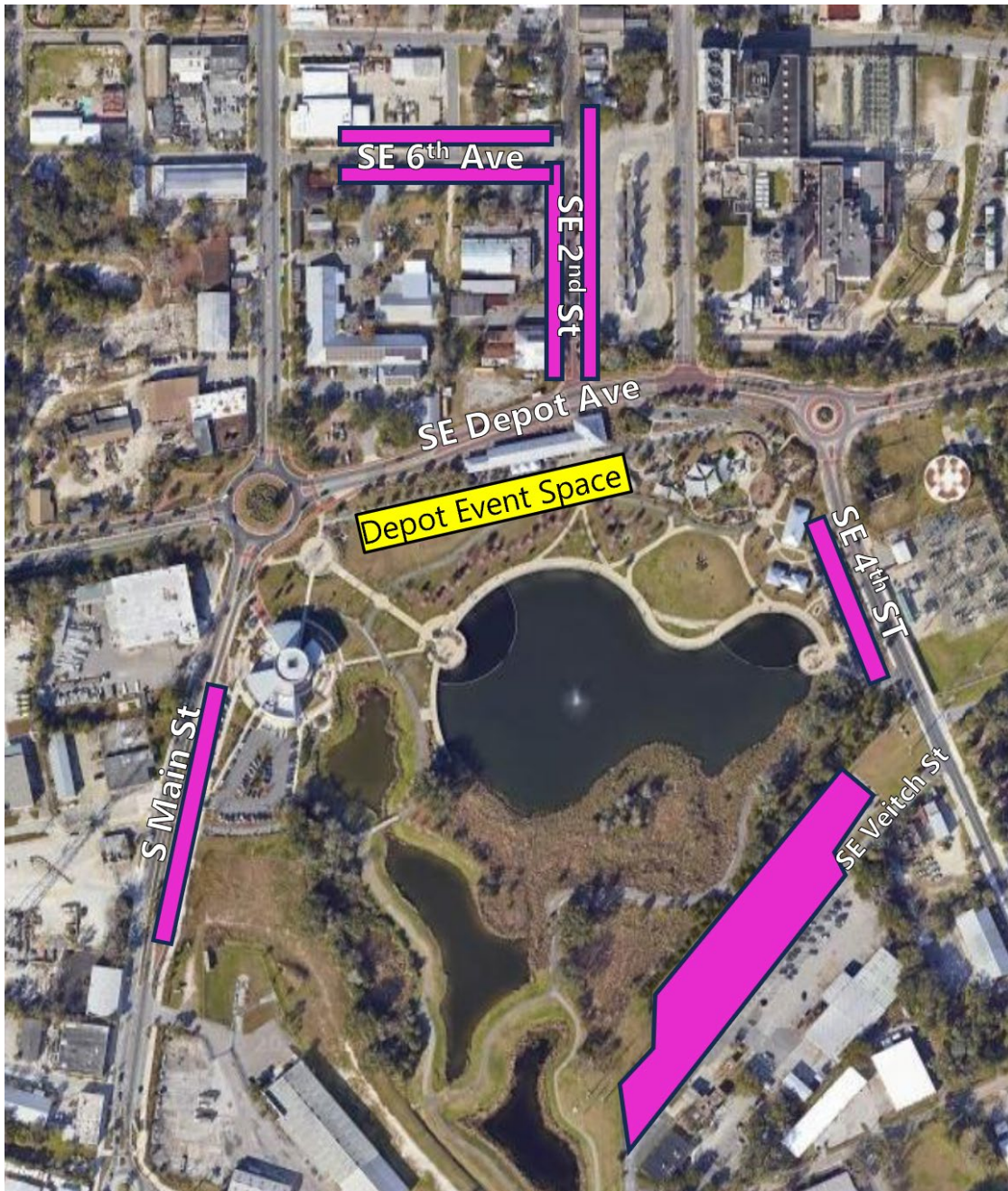
# CONFERENCE LOCATIONS



The Depot Event Space: 201 SE Depot Ave, Gainesville, FL 32601

Historic Evergreen Cemetery: 401 SE 21st Ave, Gainesville, FL 32641

## CONFERENCE PARKING



The Depot Event Space: 201 SE Depot Ave, Gainesville, FL 32601

### Suggested Parking:

- |  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| ○ Depot Park Main Parking Lot – off SE 4 <sup>th</sup> St. | 3-4 min. walk (0.2 miles)  |
| ○ Street parking - SE 2 <sup>nd</sup> St                   | 3-4 min. walk (0.1 miles)  |
| ○ Street Parking – SE 6 <sup>th</sup> Ave                  | 5-7 min. walk (0.2 miles)  |
| ○ Street parking- East side of South Main St.              | 4-5 min. walk (0.2 miles)  |
| ○ Depot Park special overflow parking – SE Veitch St.      | 6-10 min. walk (0.3 miles) |

## EVENTS AT-A-GLANCE



### **Thursday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Morning Session** – The Depot Event Space, 201 SE Depot Ave, Gainesville, FL 32601

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| 9:00 am          | Registration and Coffee   |
| 9:30 am          | Welcome   |
| 9:45 am          | Keynote Presentation<br>Promises and Postmortems: Recovering and Restoring Dignity to<br>Gullah/Geechee Burial Grounds<br>Representative Glenda Simmons Jenkins, Gullah/Geechee Nation,<br>Florida Representative |
| 10:30 – 12:10 pm | Paper Presentations   |

**Lunch** – On your own at any of the nearby offerings in downtown Gainesville.

**Afternoon Session** - The Depot Event Space, 201 SE Depot Ave, Gainesville, FL 32601

- |                |                                |
|----------------|--------------------------------|
| 1:25 – 4:45 pm | Paper Presentations and Panels |
| 4:45 pm        | Closing Remarks                |

**Evening Reception** - The Depot Event Space, 201 SE Depot Ave, Gainesville, FL 32601

6:00 – 7:30 pm

### **Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| 10:00 am - 1:00 pm | <b>Field Demonstrations at Historic Evergreen Cemetery</b> , Historic<br>Evergreen Cemetery, 401 SE 21st Ave, Gainesville, FL 32641 |
|--------------------|---|

# DETAILED PROGRAM & ABSTRACTS

## **Thursday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Morning Session** - The Depot Event Space, 201 SE Depot Ave, Gainesville, FL 32601

9:00 am **Registration and Coffee**

9:30 am **Welcome**

9:45 am **Keynote Presentation**  
**Promises and Postmortems: Recovering and Restoring Dignity to Gullah/Geechee Burial Grounds**  
 Representative Glenda Simmons Jenkins, Gullah/Geechee Nation, Florida Representative



This presentation will seek to deconstruct the commitments that created organized burial spaces for Gullah/Geechee and African American people and to examine the reasons that today there are hundreds if not thousands of sacred Black cemetery sites that have been destroyed or desecrated. There will be a case study of progress made in Nassau County and a review of what still remains to be done.

*Biography: Rep. Glenda Simmons Jenkins is a native of Fernandina Beach. She traces her maternal ancestry in Florida to her great-great grandparents who migrated from South Carolina to Alachua County sometime after the Civil War. Simmons Jenkins learned of her Gullah/Geechee heritage in 2002. In 2003 she co-founded the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Committee of Northeast Florida, the first known grassroots organization in the state to carry the title "Gullah/Geechee." She became elected a Gullah/Geechee Nation Representative for Florida serving the Assembly of Representatives in 2004. In 2006 the United States Secretary of the Interior appointed her a Commissioner of the inaugural Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission. She stepped into climate advocacy more than a decade ago in 2012 as a charter member of the Gullah/Geechee Sustainability Think Tank. Joining Queen Quet, Chieftess of the Gullah/Geechee Nation, she was a drafter and signatory of "The Pocantico Call to Action on Climate Impacts and Cultural Heritage" produced by the Pocantico Call to Action Coalition during a convening in February 2015 led by the Union of Concerned Scientists and other sponsors. Simmons Jenkins earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Journalism from the University of Florida in Gainesville. She worked as a staff reporter and contributing writer in her hometown. In October 2020, after community members alerted her of unmarked burials in the former Yulee sawmill community of Piney, Simmons Jenkins, in partnership with the Florida Public Archaeology Network, launched the Gullah/Geechee Burial Ground Recording Project to record on the Florida Master Site File the many forgotten Gullah/Geechee burials located on private property in Nassau County, as well as overlooked historic resources related to Gullah/Geechee culture. As a result of this work, the Florida Archaeological Council awarded her the 2022 Stewards of Heritage Award. She serves as an At-large Lay Person Director, Board of Directors, FPAN. In November 2022, after many years building the concept for an organization that could create solutions to address the local marginalization of her people, she founded the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Community Trust Inc., (GGCCT) and serves as the nonprofit's executive director. Her work is to guide the nonprofit's mission "to serve and sustain [the Gullah/Geechee] community by protecting our land ownership, investing in our cultural resources and promoting our history and heritage" with an emphasis on cultural sustainability, land retention, and climate resilience.*



10:30 am

### **Cemetery Resource Protection Training (CRPT): An Update for 2024**

Sarah Miller, Florida Public Archaeology Network

Since CRPT began in 2011, FPAN staff have gone on to facilitate 100 workshops with over 1600 graduate across 34 counties and 38 cities. This presentation will review major highlights to the program since the 4th conference was held in Punta Gorda in June of 2019. Some of the updates include moving the workshops online during the covid-19 pandemic, expanding out of state after the pandemic, updates to the CRPT materials used in workshops, and networking with other state programs.

10:45

### **Break**

10:55

### **Introducing Florida's Historic Cemeteries Program**

Patrisha Meyers, Department of State - Division of Historical Resources

In 2021, the Florida Legislature created a task force to study the extent of unmarked or abandoned African-American cemeteries and burial grounds in the state. As a result of their work, on May 25, 2023, Governor DeSantis signed CS/CS/CS/HB 49 (Chapter 2023-142, Laws of Florida) into law, creating a Historic Cemeteries Program within the Division of Historical Resources. The Historic Cemeteries Program serves as a governmental center encouraging stakeholders to work together to preserve, rehabilitate, and share information relating to abandoned and historic cemeteries. Subject to legislative appropriation, the program also provides grants to research and protect abandoned African-American cemeteries.

11:10

### **The Florida Historic Cemetery Inventory: Highlighting the Successes and Collaborative Spirit of a Public-Minded Reporting Program**

Nicole Grinnan, Florida Public Archaeology Network and Vincent Birdsong, Florida Division of Historical Resources

In 2019, the Florida Public Archaeology Network and the Florida Division of Historical Resources partnered to launch the Florida Historic Cemetery Inventory (FPAN.us/HCI), a user-friendly means for residents and visitors to contribute to the documentation of historic cemeteries statewide. This presentation considers the Inventory's enhancements to the historic cemetery reporting process, shares lessons learned over the program's almost five-year span, and showcases its successes. In addition, the presentation explores the evolution of the Inventory over its first two years and the effective collaborative process behind its mission of helping preserve Florida's community legacies.

11:25

### **Towards an Engaged Archaeology: Newnansville African American Cemetery Conservation Project**

Megan Fry, University of Florida

Newnansville African American Cemetery is a segregated cemetery which houses individuals from slavery-era Florida to present day. The cemeteries are the only remaining structures from the town of Newnansville, which was integral to formation of early Florida. Recent survey work has demonstrated a significant portion of the African American cemetery houses unmarked burials which were previously unknown to the community. The distinct lack of records leaves many unanswered questions and requires an alternative approach to teasing out Newnansville's African American history. Working with descendant communities and stakeholders, we are creating a digital archive of the site, including a 3D model and GPR mapping. The website permits the community at large to contribute to the project through the online platform by providing their own photographs, stories, or records of the ancestral community in hopes of identifying the names of the unmarked graves. This project shows great potential in the education, outreach, public engagement, and conservation spheres.

11:40

### [Page Jackson Cemetery](#)

Jennifer Eve, Central Florida Cemetery Project

We have been working in the Page Jackson African American Cemetery going into our 6th year. It has changed so much since we last presented!! We have cleared brush, cleaned headstones, raised sunken/fallen stones, done countless repairs, built new bases, and have finally begun installed pavers to mark our more than 3000 unmarked graves, etc. It is a work of love for sure. We have had our challenges with the local community not always being supportive, and the flip side - the city being willing to help us in any way they can! But we WILL push through and see this project completion!

11:55

### [Defining Historical Significance in Eatonville Memorial Gardens](#)

Caroline Amein, Rollins College

Eatonville, Florida is the first all-Black incorporated town in the United States and the hometown of Zora Neale Hurston. This remarkable town is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Eatonville's historic cemetery, however, is left out. For her undergraduate honors thesis, Caroline Amein is examining why Eatonville Memorial Gardens was considered ineligible for the National Register and is collecting data to submit a new nomination. This presentation is a progress report for this research, which uses ethnographic interviews and archaeological and archival data to explore what historic Black cemeteries mean to their communities as well as our shared history. This project hopes to answer the question of what is lost when a cemetery is lost.

**12:10-1:25 Lunch** – On your own at any of the nearby offerings in downtown Gainesville.

**Afternoon Session** - The Depot Event Space, 201 SE Depot Ave, Gainesville, FL 32601

1:25

### **Trees and Cemeteries**

Dave Conser, City of Gainesville

We love trees, but...They can create huge problems in cemeteries. Proper tree selection and care can significantly reduce hazards and problems.

The principle "Right Tree in the Right Place" is crucial. Meaning selecting trees carefully based on their characteristics (like size, care, native habitat, and longevity) and your cemetery needs (like how trees will interact with cemetery monuments, infrastructure and hardscapes).

Basic tree care is often neglected but is essential to minimizing problems in cemeteries. Proper planting, mulching, adequate watering, proper pruning for young and old trees, attention to correct serious deficiencies and remove dead branches, and knowing when a tree needs to be removed are all important to maintaining healthy trees and a safe cemetery. I would always recommend hiring a Certified Arborist Tree Surgeon for your tree work.

I can't imagine a cemetery with no trees. Therefore, we really have no choice but to pay close attention to our tree selections and tree care.

1:40 pm

### **Digital Applications and Engagements in the Recording and Restoration of Cemeteries.**

Michael Lucas, Johns Hopkins University

Many historic societies are focusing their public engagement on projects around cemeteries, and heritage organizations worldwide are utilizing digital applications to record and restore old cemeteries. This report will detail some digital applications that record and restore cemeteries. This report shall include various methodologies of recording and restoring via media of video applications such as VoiceThread and photogrammetry/3D model applications such as Scaniverse. Finally, the report's objective is to provide a beneficial showcase of the use of digital applications to steward cemetery heritage. The critical dissection of these applications will illuminate the best technological applications for heritage research and engagement.

1:55 pm

### **Creating Historical GIS Data in Search of Cemeteries**

Marcus Curtis, Tallahassee/Leon County Geographical Information Systems (TLCGIS)

Cultural, and heritage sites oftentimes fall into disrepair or become abandoned. Utilizing GIS for historical burial sites and cemeteries can assist with management as well as location. Georeferencing historical surveys and maps can provide new insights and clues when overlaid on modern topography, lidar and aerial imagery. The combination of data sources can chronologically show legacy development patterns and historical infrastructure. Once the data is structured in a GIS format, the data can be integrated, manipulated, analyzed,

and shared in various ways. Cemetery burials varies between ethnic groups and relative acceptable burial practices. Extrapolating homestead and old road data can maximize the time, effort, and resources.

2:10 pm

### [The Black Cemetery Network & Living Archive](#)

Kaleigh Hoyt and Alanah Cooper, introduction by Dr. Antionette Jackson, Black Cemetery Network/USF

The Black Cemetery Network (BCN) is a platform for highlighting activities to identify, interpret, preserve, and record African American burial grounds and their histories. These sites have been abandoned, neglected, erased, and continually underrecognized throughout the U.S. Our network provides a space for honoring sacred spaces and sharing stories and resources to raise awareness about the marginalization of Black cemeteries as a national concern. Join us to learn more about the network's latest developments with members of the BCN team.

2:25-2:35 pm

### [Break](#)

2:35-3:35 pm

### [Panel: Preserving Legacies: Grassroots Funding for Historic African American Cemeteries](#)

Panelists: Roberta Lopez, BMEC; Chief Kevin Carroll, Old Groveland Cemetery Project Director and Fire Chief for City of Groveland, Patrisha Meyers, Department of State - Division of Historical Resources

Moderator: Nigel Rudolph, FPAN

The panel explores grassroots funding for historic African American cemetery preservation, emphasizing the role of site significance in funding opportunities. These cemeteries embody cultural heritage and resilience but often face neglect. Experts discuss innovative funding strategies, addressing limited resources and systemic inequities. They highlight the importance of amplifying the historical significance of these sites to mobilize support. The panel aims to raise awareness and secure sustainable funding through community engagement, advocacy, and storytelling. By sharing best practices and empowering stakeholders, the discussion seeks to preserve the invaluable legacy of historic African American cemeteries for future generations, ensuring their significance is honored and protected.

3:35-3:45 pm

### [Break](#)

3:45-4:45 pm

### Panel: Memorializing Sacred Spaces

Panelists: Diane Stephenson, Clearwater Colored Cemetery Society ; Michelle Rutledge Historic St. Peter and Pinesville of Archer resident ; Gerie Crawford (SPSPCC) ; Karen Kirkman

Moderator: Nigel Rudolph, FPAN

This panel delves into the challenges of restoration and memorialization of threatened or once-threatened African-American cemeteries. Discussing and highlighting community-driven efforts to unite behind restoration goals. The discussion addresses hurdles confronting cemetery projects, community organization both formally and informally, and envisioning the future of these sacred spaces. Through a blend of personal narratives and expertise, the panel offers perspectives on the cultural significance of these sacred spaces and the urgent need for collaborative action. It advocates for honoring the memory of the departed and fostering community resilience amidst restoration endeavors.

4:45 pm

### Closing Remarks

**Evening Reception** - The Depot Event Space, 201 SE Depot Ave, Gainesville, FL 32601

6:00-7:30pm

Reception catered by The Top restaurant. Reception is casual and dinner will be self-service taco bar with vegetarian, vegan, and gluten free options. Food and beverages are also available for purchase at the other shops in the building. Awards ceremony and social.

## **Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

10:00 – 1:00 pm

**Field Demonstrations**, Historic Evergreen Cemetery, 401 SE 21st Ave, Gainesville, FL 32641

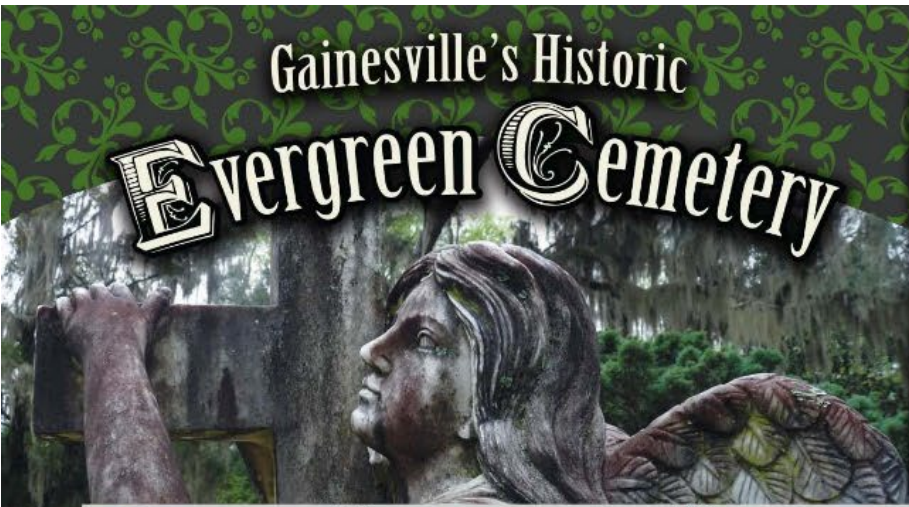
Meet at historic Evergreen Cemetery for field demonstrations and hands-on learning including headstone re-setting, Ground Penetrating Radar, headstone cleaning, tours of the cemetery, and cemetery monitoring and documentation.

Light snacks will be available at the cemetery, sponsored by Historic Evergreen Cemetery.

We will be outside for the entirety of the Friday session, please dress appropriately for the weather, wear closed-toed shoes, and we recommend bringing a refillable water bottle.

Attendees will participate in the various stations in groups, rotating on a schedule. Everyone will get to participate in each of the stations.

# Gainesville's Historic Evergreen Cemetery

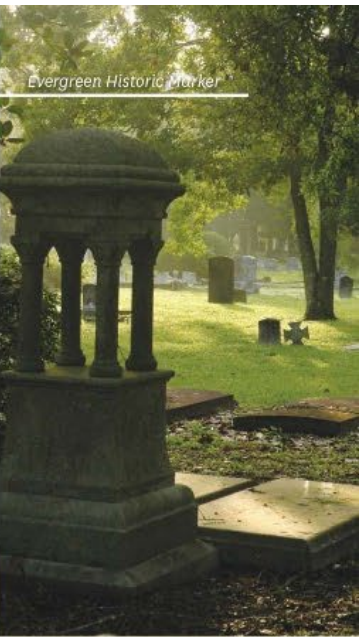
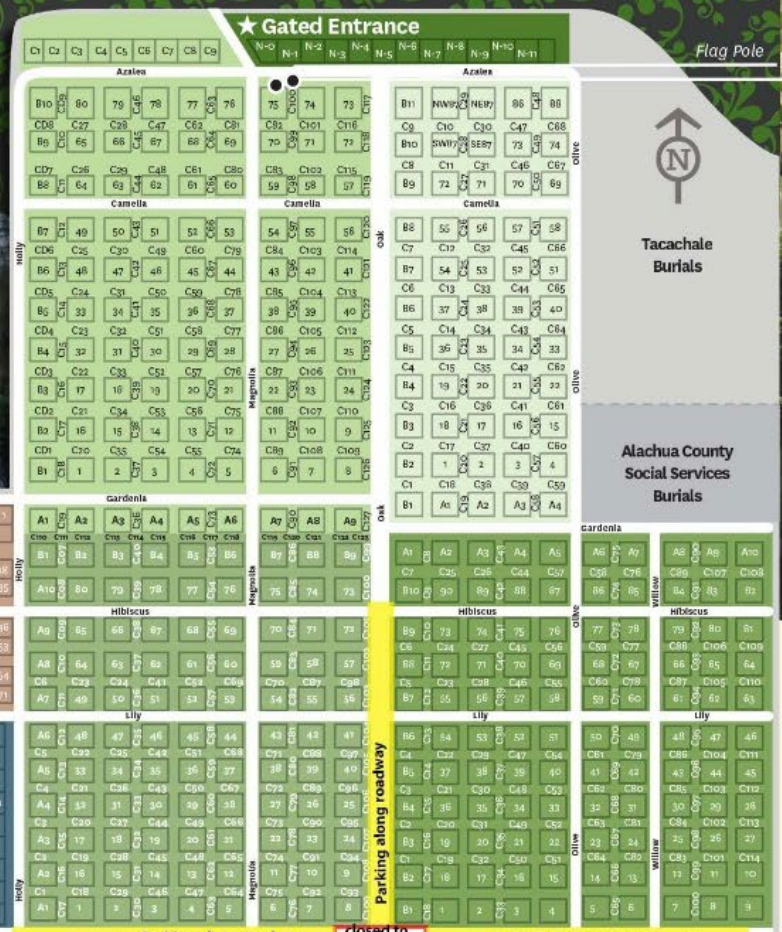


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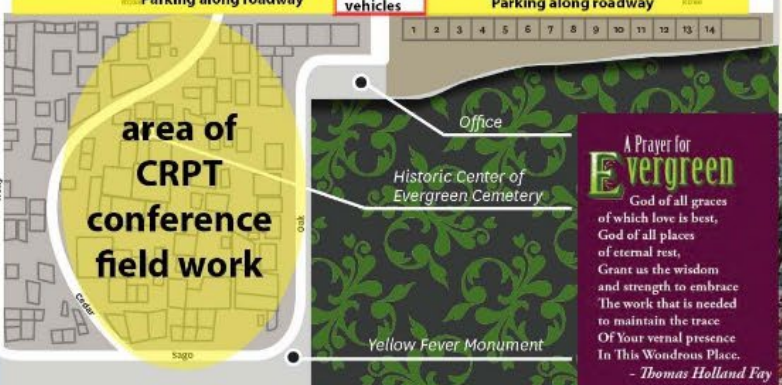
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  - Evergreen Four
  - Evergreen Five
  - Thomas Addition
  - Tachahale Burials
  - Alachua County Social Services Burials



**A Prayer for Evergreen**  
 God of all graces  
 of which love is best,  
 God of all places  
 of eternal rest,  
 Grant us the wisdom  
 and strength to embrace  
 the work that is needed  
 to maintain the trace  
 Of Your vernal presence  
 In This Wondrous Place.  
 - Thomas Holland Fry

