

# Cemeteries as Participatory Museums

## The Cemetery Resource Protection Training Program across Florida

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In America, as elsewhere, cemeteries are outdoor museums—of history certainly, but also of art, architecture, ethnicity, regionalism, and a host of other elements of cultural evolution. For the folklorist, they represent a substantial body of readily available resources whose full potential has been barely explored [Meyers 1996:277].

Cemeteries in Florida—and indeed worldwide—are in crisis. Historic cemeteries are fragile, nonrenewable cultural resources that contain human remains. Natural and human disturbances to cemeteries, such as vandalism and demolition by neglect, create a variety of impacts that endanger these sites (Figure 1). First responders to neglected and abandoned cemeteries are most often not archaeologists, but nonprofessional community members. They voice their concerns and ask for help from local governments, law enforcement, and preservation professionals,

### ABSTRACT

Preservationists and archaeologists often assess cemeteries for their research value as cultural resources of communities. Cemeteries hold significant interpretive and educational value because they serve communities as outdoor museums (Meyers 1996). The Cemetery Resource Protection Training (CRPT) workshop, developed by the Florida Public Archaeology Network (FPAN), engages the public by providing an archaeological perspective and hands-on experiences for local communities to aid them in addressing the real-world problem of neglected historic cemeteries. After completing over 36 workshops in 28 different communities, the CRPT workshop template has proven to be a highly transferable means to provide education and outreach to underserved communities and sites, as directed in FPAN's mission. This paper considers cemeteries as participatory museums using Nina Simon's (2010) co-creation framework. Following a brief summary of cemetery training programs and a review of the larger cemetery crisis in Florida, the rationale for creation of the CRPT program and building blocks of the workshop are provided for other public archaeologists to adapt for training cemetery stewards. Finally, the creation of training opportunities for nonprofessionals as an advance in public archaeology practice is discussed.

Los profesionistas dedicados a la preservación del patrimonio cultural y los arqueólogos, a menudo, evalúan los cementerios por su valor para desarrollar investigación como recursos culturales de las comunidades. Los cementerios tienen significado interpretativo y valor educativo, porque sirven a las comunidades como museos al aire libre (Meyers 1996). El taller de Formación de Protección de Recursos de Cementerios (Cemetery Resource Protection Training-CRPT), desarrollado por la red de arqueología pública de Florida (Florida Public Archaeology Network-FPAN), involucra al público a partir de la perspectiva arqueológica y de la experiencia práctica para que las comunidades locales les apoyen a hacer frente al problema real que representa el descuido de los cementerios históricos. Después de haber realizado más de 36 talleres en 28 comunidades diferentes, el modelo del taller de CRPT ha demostrado ser un medio de transferencia altamente exitoso que proporciona educación y que llega a las comunidades y lugares marginados, como se indica en la misión del FPAN. Este documento considera a los cementerios como museos participativos utilizando el marco de la creación en colaboración de Nina Simon (2010). A continuación del breve resumen de los programas de entrenamiento en relación a los cementerios y de la revisión global de la crisis en los cementerios de la Florida, la lógica que sigue la creación del programa CRPT y la construcción de los contenidos del taller se presentan a otros arqueólogos que trabajan con el público para que puedan adaptarlos al entrenamiento de los profesionistas dedicados a la preservación de cementerios. Finalmente, se discute la creación de oportunidades para entrenar a los aficionados como un avance en la práctica de la arqueología pública.

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**FIGURE 1.** Vandalism reported to FPAN at Oaklynn Cemetery, Volusia County.

but there is no systematic and affordable way to provide training to these willing stewards. In addition to the aspects of the crisis that are visible to the community, the invisible obstacle is large gaps in cemetery data reported to the state.

One solution to this crisis is the Cemetery Resource Protection Training (CRPT) program developed by the Florida Public Archaeology Network (FPAN), established in partnership with archaeologists, cemetery stewards, and local governments, which falls on the more co-creative end of the collaborative continuum (Bollwerk et al. 2015; Colwell-Chanthaphonh and Ferguson 2008). FPAN was created in 2004 to engage the public by promoting and facilitating the appreciation, value, and stewardship of Florida's archaeological heritage through regional centers and partnerships (Figure 2) (Bense 2005; FPAN 2010, 2012). Regional centers opened across the state to provide education and outreach, assist local governments, and assist Florida's Division of Historical Resources. As regional centers opened, a two-way dialogue began with the public to address their community needs and concerns. From the beginning, calls into the Northeast Regional Center hosted by Flagler College included concerns over local cemeteries. Those interested in protecting cemeteries expressed the need for "Friends Groups" or auxiliary support organizations, training, and assistance in getting started. The state has similarly asked preservation professionals and the greater public for help in recording basic information on historic cemeteries to fill in gaps in site file data.

CRPT is a single-day workshop with formal presentations in the morning and an outdoor fieldwork component in the afternoon (Figures 3–6). The focus is on basic cemetery care and protection. Cemeteries are framed as outdoor museums that must be managed with thought towards sustainability. Four formal presentations follow a brief icebreaker. The first presentation focuses on the management of historic cemeteries from survey to recording, basic maintenance that will keep the stones visible and upright, best practices based on sound conservation studies, and outreach efforts to promote awareness and volunteerism. The second presentation is a discussion of Florida's laws based on ownership of historic cemeteries and regulations for abandoned cemeteries. The best way to protect a cemetery is to list it on the state's database for historical resources, Florida Master Site File (FMSF), which is detailed in the third presentation. The last presentation illuminates a particular aspect of cemetery research, most typically use of ground penetrating radar. In the afternoon, the class reconvenes for a series of activities culminating in cleaning headstones with water and, when appropriate, D2, a nontoxic biocide solution commonly used by conservators to remove stains and plant growth from historic materials including stone. The program will be described in greater detail in the CRPT Program Description section.

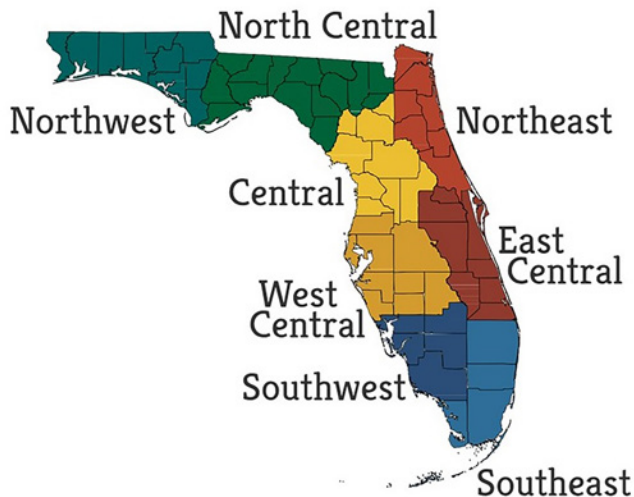
With the development of CRPT, FPAN joined the community of other archaeologists and preservationists that administer outreach in cemeteries. Many Florida communities are already

**TABLE 1.** Locations of CRPT Workshops in Chronological Order by Region.

Location	Morning Partner	Afternoon Partner	Participants
Palatka	City of Palatka	West View Cemetery	20
Ponce Inlet	Ponce Inlet Town Hall	Pacetti Cemetery	22
Bunnell	Flagler County Courthouse	Espanola Cemetery	10
Green Cove Springs	Clay County Courthouse	Mt. Olivette Cemetery	20
Jacksonville	Jacksonville Historical Society	St. Josephs Cemetery	9
St. Augustine	Flagler College	Nombre de Dios	11
Fernandina Beach	City of Fernandina Beach	St. Peters Cemetery	12
Deland	Volusia County Court House	Oakhill Cemetery	21
Mandarin	Mandarin Historical Society	Mandarin Cemetery	13
Interlochen	Sisters Springs Baptist Church	Sisters Springs Cemetery	12
St. Augustine	Flagler College	Tolomato Cemetery	12
Edgewater	New Smyrna Beach Community Center	Oaklynn Cemetery	11
Fernandina Beach	Amelia Island Museum of History	Bosque Bello Cemetery	22
Mayport	Mayport Presbyterian Church	Pablo Cemetery	12
St. Augustine	Florida National Guard	San Sebastian Cemetery	8
Bradenton	Manatee Village Historical Park	Manatee Burial Ground	10
Tampa	USF Department of Anthropology	Major Adams Cemetery	12
Sarasota	New College Public Archaeology Lab	Galilee Cemetery	25
Tampa	Tampa Preservation Inc	Oaklawn Cemetery	15
Tampa	Florida Trust for Historic Preservation	Oaklawn Cemetery	12
Cocoa Beach	St. Luke's Episcopal Church	St. Luke's Episcopal	18
Melbourne	Rossetter House Museum	Houston Cemetery	20
Oakland	Oakland Nature Preserve	Oakland Cemetery	18
Stuart	Leighton Park Recreation Center	Moore's Cemetery	9
Cape Canaveral	Cape Canaveral Air Station	Burnham Cemetery	11
Sanford	UCF Public History Center	Page-Jackson Cemetery	18
Orlando	City of Orlando	Greenwood Cemetery	12
West Palm Beach	City of West Palm Beach	Woodlawn Cemetery	15
Key West	Old City Hall	Key West Cemetery	22
Punta Gorda	Charlotte County Historical Center	Indian Springs Cemetery	5
Punta Gorda*	Charlotte County Historical Center	Indian Springs Cemetery	5
Captiva	Captiva Memorial Library	Chapel by the Sea	12
Micanopy	Micanopy Historic Cemetery Assn	Micanopy Cemetery	22
Gainesville	City of Gainesville	Evergreen Cemetery	12
Pensacola	University of West Florida (PACT)	St. Michael's Cemetery	25
Tallahassee	Bureau of Archaeological Research	The Grove Cemetery	11

FPAN Regions: Northeast (blue), West Central (orange), East Central (pink), South East (green), Southwest (gray), Central (purple), Northwest (yellow), North Central (peach).

\*Note: Not redundant; same number of attendees at two different workshops at repeat venues.



**FIGURE 2.** Regions of the Florida Public Archaeology Network.

engaged in cemetery preservation, including Huguenot Cemetery in St. Augustine, Rosemary Cemetery in Sarasota, and Greenwood Cemetery in Orlando, all cited as case studies of best practices by the state (Florida Division of Historical Resources [FDHR] 2015a). Two other notable public archaeology projects conducted in cemeteries include Uzi Baram's (2012) work with New College students at Galilee Cemetery in Sarasota and work by Valencia College students at Oakland Cemetery (Wenzel and George 2011). Combined, these case studies represent archaeologists and communities coming together to clean up and record these sensitive cultural resources. Many of these examples, and others to follow in the Brief Summary of Cemetery Preservation section, demonstrate the success of public engagement in historic cemeteries.

Nationally, cemetery preservation training has been made most widely available by the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT) and the National Preservation Institute (NPI) with instructors from Chicora. These are excellent programs with many benefits for professionals and nonprofessionals, including exposure to basic headstone and landscape maintenance. Due to their national scope, laws and reporting procedures are more general and tend to focus on professional audiences.

What makes CRPT an advance in public archaeology practice is its ability to address the statewide need to care for historic cemeteries while shining light on the larger issue of data gaps in the state's inventory. CRPT is affordable training available to the public. The workshop provides a venue where the community can voice concerns and engage with others of similar interests. The power to preserve is realized by the cemetery stewards, and the results are creative and varying. In this way, cemeteries move beyond their designation as outdoor museums and could also rightly be called participatory museums.

The goals for CRPT mirror those identified in Nina Simon's (2010:187) co-creative framework *The Participatory Museum*:



## CEMETERY RESOURCE PROTECTION TRAINING

PRESERVING HISTORICAL CEMETERIES AND HUMAN BURIAL SITES

**FIGURE 3.** Logo for the CRPT program.

to “give voice and be responsive to the needs and interests of local community members; to provide a place for community engagement and dialogue; and to help participants develop skills that will support their own individual and community goals” (Simon 2010:187). CRPT fulfills the “co-” criteria by sharing cemetery preservation instruction with a diverse group of concerned community members based on their needs, as well as the “creative” criteria by supporting a significant number of community-directed, original preservation projects. Those creative achievements are then shared back with the group through social media or formal presentations at the annual conference. Further rationale and description of the CRPT program are provided in later sections so that other public archaeologists may consider adapting the template for use in engaging their own communities.

## BRIEF SUMMARY OF CEMETERY PRESERVATION

### The Many Uses of Historic Cemeteries

Historic cemeteries are first and foremost burial grounds for the deceased. Barber (1994:192–193) lists eight basic types of cemeteries: churchyard, public cemetery, customary cemeteries common in rural areas, private cemeteries owned by corporations, lodge cemeteries owned generally by fraternal orders, ethic cemeteries that may overlap with other categories, family cemeteries in which family members and friends are interred on a designated plot of land, and mass graves. The oldest burials in Florida are prehistoric burials, mounds, and mortuary ponds that are beyond the scope of the CRPT program. The oldest historic cemeteries in Florida are no longer visible on the surface,



**FIGURE 4.** Formal class presentations in the morning.

including several Medieval-style burial grounds in St. Augustine and early Christian burials at Mission sites across the state (Deagan 1983). The oldest extant cemeteries in Florida are Tolomato Cemetery in St. Augustine established prior to 1788 and St. Michael's in Pensacola established in 1810 (Thompson 1989:4). Above-ground remnants of cemeteries exist from the Second Spanish and Territorial periods in numerous counties across Florida. Pioneers and churches established burial grounds near homesteads and churches. Early ethnic cemeteries include Southeast Indian, African-American, Minorcan, Bahamian, Cuban, and Greek. Thompson (1989:5) states that these early ethnic cemeteries are important "because burial practices tend to be one of the most conservative, or least changed, factors of a group's material culture—the oldest and most persistent values are sometimes preserved only in cemeteries."

Archaeologists frequently use cemeteries as training grounds for future archaeologists to conduct non-ground-disturbing exercises, such as headstone data collection for college level classes. Many archaeologists are first exposed to the idea of cemeteries as archaeological sites in reading Dethlefsen and Deetz's (1966) seminal headstone seriation work also featured in Deetz's (1977) *In Small Things Forgotten*. Russell Barber (1994) adapted research by Deetz and many others for a series of cemetery studies exercises in *Doing Historical Archaeology: Exercises Using Documentary, Oral, and Material Evidence*, including frequency seriation, population structure, analysis of grave markers and offerings, and inferring ideology from inscriptions. More recently Baugher and Veit (2014) published case studies to highlight the diversity of archaeological cemetery studies from the East Coast to Alaska and Hawaii and to demonstrate changes in above and below ground concepts of death and remembrance.

Academics have engaged the community in cemeteries as part of Community Service Learning (CSL) projects (Nassaney 2009).



**FIGURE 5.** A nonprofessional and a professional archaeologist work together during a fieldwork session.



**FIGURE 6.** A brief overview of the Cemetery Resource Protection Training (CRPT) program. Click to activate video.

Scott McLaughlin (2009) outlined what Community Service Learning is and why archaeologists should use it to focus on real-world programs as he presents University of Vermont students working in Jericho Center Cemetery in Jericho, Vermont. Uzi Baram (2009) similarly used a CSL model to engage New College students at Rosemary Cemetery in Sarasota, Florida. CSL programs are very similar to what the CRPT program set out to accomplish in that they provide service to a community with shared benefits between participants and the community. The greatest difference is audience and time duration. CSL programs are designed to be intensive learning experiences requiring in-depth personal reflection. CRPTs are intended to be completed in a day and, while moments of reflection are encouraged, the benefit falls mainly to the community and the resource.

## Cemetery Preservation Training Opportunities

NCPTT and NPI offer workshops aimed at professionals but available to nonprofessionals that promote research, education, and training seen as essential to their missions (NCPTT 2015; NPI 2015). NCPTT offers a workshop of varying length with hands-on stations for demonstrating current best practices in preservation technology. NCPTT participants learn a variety of maintenance and repairs, including cleaning with D2 biocide solution, lime washing vaults, resetting headstones, and other major stone repairs. NPI offers a similar classroom-based workshop facilitated by Chicora Foundation, Inc. Both NCPTT and NPI workshops provide a resource binder, and both organizations maintain excellent resources on their websites (NCPTT 2011; NPI 2009).

Another group to offer workshops and conferences on cemetery research and preservation is the Association for Gravestone Studies (AGS). Similar to NCPTT and NPI the AGS mission is to “foster appreciation of the cultural significance of gravestones and burial grounds through their study and preservation (AGS 2015).” While no chapter exists in Florida, they produce print and electronic resources appropriate for professionals and nonprofessionals alike. One of the best resources available online to cemetery stewards is their downloadable field guide to forming a “Cemetery Friends” organization (AGS 2003). Another resource they promote on their website is Lynette Strangstad’s (2013) *A Graveyard Preservation Primer*, now in its second edition.

While there is much to recommend these national offerings, CRPT, by comparison, is uniquely poised to offer affordable, basic training to a diversity of communities and to provide Florida-centric information. For example, a nonprofessional interested in cemetery preservation could attend NCPTT or NPI training, but they are not often offered in Florida, at least not on an annual basis. Travel to the national workshops is a financial constraint compounded by \$150–600 registration fees. CRPT narrows the focus of the cemetery crisis to address Florida issues. Community volunteers willing to work to improve cemeteries in Florida need to be aware of their rights to access sites on private land, local governments rights to declare cemeteries abandoned, laws protecting volunteers and Good Samaritans helping to clean up cemeteries, the procedure to follow in case of access disputes, laws pertaining to easements, and the procedures for reporting human remains, both marked and unmarked. Florida’s humid subtropical and savannah tropical climate also introduces a host of environmental complications—

**TABLE 2.** Northeast Region Cemeteries Listed on FMS before and after Launch of CRPT.

County	FMSF Pre	FMSF Post	Reported by CRPT Alums	Find A Grave Stats
Putnam	14	19	5	98
Volusia	25	69	44	104
Flagler	5	5	0	12
Clay	24	30	6	65
Duval	115	118	3	142
St. Johns	46	46	0	47
Nassau	55	56	1	78
TOTAL	284	343	59	546

such as dense foliage, hurricanes, and salinity—not encountered in other states.

### Florida Models for Cemetery Preservation and Outreach

In Florida, statewide cemetery preservation was championed in the 1980s and 1990s by Sharyn Thompson, who was influenced by geographers and archaeologists in the 1960s and 1970s. Thompson’s (1989) *Florida’s Historic Cemeteries: A Preservation Handbook* remains the standard for preservation and care in the state. Topics include survey, management, laws, maintenance, and repair. Although currently out of print, the handbook is readily available for free download on the Florida Division of Historical Resources website (FDHR 2015b). Thompson also wrote the cemetery recording form used to list historical resources on the FMSF (2011a). The instructions for filling out the form are 37 pages of terms and advice useful to anyone working in cemeteries (FMSF 2011b).

In the Florida Panhandle, Margo Stringfield at the University of West Florida (UWF) in Pensacola set the bar for cemetery preservation, research, and stewardship with her continued efforts at St. Michael’s Cemetery. In March 2003, Stringfield conducted cemetery preservation workshops sponsored by St. Michael’s Cemetery Foundation and UWF with grant assistance provided by the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources. In addition to training provided during the workshop, participants also received a suggested readings booklet that is still in circulation among Florida cemetery stewards today (Stringfield 2003).

Moving towards a more participatory model, Stringfield more recently organized the Pensacola Area Cemetery Team (PACT) in response to a request by the Mayor of Pensacola for assistance in identifying and addressing issues related to cemeteries within the city limits. The mission of PACT is to “promote local historic cemetery preservation through an interdisciplinary approach to education and training and by fostering an informed stewardship base” (Stringfield 2014). A series of 11 class meetings and hands-on cleaning days was established and the program ran from February to October in 2014. PACT is an example of another successful collaborative program in which the cemetery

is used as a participatory museum, although it is currently limited in scope to Escambia County.

## CRPT PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

### Responding to the Data Gap Aspect of the Cemetery Crisis

Many cemetery training programs attend to work done to improve a single cemetery, but none so far have addressed the large-scale issues of the cemetery crisis. In Florida, the state assembled a Task Force on Abandoned and Neglected Cemeteries in the late 1990s to address the overwhelming issue of abandoned and neglected cemeteries. The Task Force examined 3,580 cemeteries and found half to be in an abandoned or neglected state. Data gaps proved a major obstacle, thus they cautiously estimated the number to be closer to 6,700 abandoned cemeteries, based on an average of 100 in each of Florida’s 67 counties (Pappas et al. 1999:7). At present the Division of Funeral, Cemetery and Consumer Services estimates this number to be near 8,000. It’s alarming how few cemeteries are recorded on the Florida Master Site File, the Division of Historical Resources’ official inventory of cultural resources for the state. The number currently stands at 1,342 (FMSF 2015), which is less than half of the cemeteries formally studied by the Task Force two decades ago. The Task Force concluded that “local governments are the best way to handle the problem created by abandoned and neglected cemeteries” (Pappas et al. 1999:9–10). No funding or resources followed the report and the responsibility was passed on to local governments.

When local governments attempt to address the issue, they reach a similar dead end. Following the 1999 statewide Task Force, the city of Jacksonville established a Blue Ribbon Cemetery Commission that identified 125 abandoned cemeteries within the city (Spinks et al. 2007:11–12). They made a similar list of recommendations, including the need to identify gaps in the Florida Master Site File data, assess condition in a uniform manner, expand public awareness, and increase stewardship. Unfortunately, funding and sustainable stewards proved hard to find. The city’s Historic Preservation Section investigates reports of abandoned cemeteries, which often leads to documentation of previously unrecorded resources (Joel McEachin, personal



FIGURE 7. "Cemetery of Us" icebreaker.

communication 2014). However, cemetery preservation on a larger scale is not possible under current budgetary and personnel restrictions.

With no preexisting statewide cemetery preservation training available to meet the needs of the crisis and fulfill the demand for cemetery stewards, the Cemetery Resource Protection Training (CRPT) program took shape as a daylong workshop. The template for CRPT was inspired by another FPAN program, Heritage Awareness Dive Seminar (HADS) (Moates and Scott-Ireton 2015; Scott-Ireton 2011). Developed in 2011, the purpose of HADS is to provide SCUBA instructors training so that they can offer a Heritage Awareness Diving Specialty Course as part of their standard PADI, NAUI, and SSI offerings. FPAN and state staff members facilitate a day of formal instruction followed by two dives to contrast a preserved site against a depleted site. CRPT began by adapting HADS goals, swapping out submerged resources for historic cemeteries, and drafting appropriate preservation-themed content.

In a sentence, CRPT provides basic training needed to ensure that a historic cemetery is still standing in 100 years. What simple recording and maintenance tasks can nonprofessionals provide to safeguard their local cemetery? What skills do they need, what laws do they need to be aware of, and what best practices can inspire them as they take on adopting a historic cemetery? Three core objectives were identified. First, nonprofessionals need to be aware that cemeteries are endangered cultural resources that require management. Second, they need to be aware that recording a cemetery on the state's site file will do more to protect that resource in the future than a single cleanup day or transcription of headstone inscriptions. Third, a shared lexicon needs to be developed to give stewards the best chance at networking and taking control of their ability to make informed decisions.

## Implementation of CRPT

Archaeologists with previous cemetery experience are uniquely qualified to present the research value of historic cemeteries and emphasize why it is so important to keep features intact above the surface so that archaeologists don't have to become involved underground. Our perspective is unique, but we must also partner with preservation and conservation professionals to provide safe, reliable knowledge to pass on to future cemetery stewards.

Those wishing to develop similar cemetery preservation workshops are advised to begin with assembling a class binder and compiling resources to copy and display. The binder should include a preamble on the importance of cemetery preservation, a brief explanation of burial laws that pertain to both prehistoric and historic burial sites, procedures for whom to notify if human remains or burials are discovered, and a list of recording forms and procedures required by the state's State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). As previously mentioned, many states have separate cemetery recording forms, but not all. It is advisable to check whether a cemetery form is available from the SHPO. If no forms exist, then guidance should be sought on how nonprofessionals can report basic cemetery location data to the state. Other resources can be compiled in advance of scheduling a workshop, including a glossary for common cemetery terms, sample recording forms from organizations, and printouts of federal, state, and local statutes concerning human burial sites. The material safety data sheet (MSDS) and purchasing information for D2 should be provided. Standard forms should also be placed in the binder: an agenda, a photo release form, and an evaluation of the workshop by topics. The last things to add are the slides with notes from the presentations. The CRPT binder is similar to those used by NCPTT and NPI, but with less focus on advanced repairs and more emphasis on state laws affecting



abandoned cemeteries and state recording procedures (Miller 2011). Note that the binder is periodically updated as knowledge of case studies expands and that the contents may vary depending on the needs of the community where the workshop is being held. Guidelines for slides are detailed, and the presentations are described in the following section.

A wide range of venues for hosting the formal presentations and a cooperating cemetery for the fieldwork component should be considered. Local governments, particularly planning or parks departments, need help with training and establishing preservation benchmarks for their historic cemeteries. If no municipal or county-owned cemeteries are known in the vicinity, look for volunteer groups that maintain cemeteries, such as Scout troops or 4-H clubs. In northeast Florida, the group Keep Putnam Beautiful is an environmental steward for Putnam County that is often involved in clearing foliage from abandoned cemeteries. Garden clubs also commonly serve as stewards of neighborhood historic cemeteries and are interested in proper maintenance of the landscape. For example, in Jacksonville the Clifton Cemetery is maintained by the Arlington Garden Club. Historical societies, community centers, and educational institutions are also go-to partners for cemetery preservation and marketing.

Cemeteries for the afternoon fieldwork session can range from family to religious to commercial. An ideal cemetery is a municipal or public cemetery near the location of the training session conducted in the morning. Parking, distance from the morning to afternoon sites, and water access are factors to guide the decision-making process. Permission from the landowner, if known, is essential. In Florida, the Good Samaritan law (Ch. 497.345, F.S.) protects those working in abandoned cemeteries. On private land, easements (Ch. 704, F.S.) provide limited access for care for burial grounds; however, the procedure to obtain permission is vague. Obtain written permission to work in the cemetery and include landowners whenever possible as part of the workshop. Discerning cemetery ownership is often difficult. During planning, note procedures for identifying owners, obtaining permission, and following all applicable laws to share with participants later during the workshop, as these notes will serve them well as they take on stewardship responsibilities.

Registration follows a round of marketing. CRPTs in Florida have a standard flier template that includes the program title and logo, the date and time, the morning venue name and address, mention of the afternoon cemetery, logos of all partnering organizations, a standard descriptive paragraph, contact information, and a photograph of a headstone in need of cleaning from afternoon cemetery. Registration can be handled online or by PDF form. The average registration fee is \$15, which varies depending on the facility and the materials required. Funds generated from the workshop help to offset the cost of D2 (an estimated \$250 per 5 gallons) and to allow hosts to purchase refreshments.

After registration is open and drawing closer to the week of the workshop, a letter is sent by email confirming registration and detailing what to bring so that participants come prepared. Lunch is not typically included as part of the workshop, unless the partnering cemetery is at a remote site or a sponsor offers to pay. The packing list for the morning materials includes colored paper and masking tape for the ice breaker, resources

for display, assembled binders, nametags, and drinking water. The afternoon fieldwork session requires sample forms and clipboards, sprayers for water, if not available onsite, hand-held sprayers filled with half D2 and half water, soft bristle brushes, wooden skewers or popsicle sticks, a sign board, and letters.

## Formal Class Presentations

CRPT begins with the "Cemetery of Us" ice breaker, loosely based on the "Museum of Us" activity from *Investigating Shelter* (Letts and Moe 2009:29). The workshop facilitator starts by asking participants to draw their final resting place on colored paper. Participants are asked to consider the setting and their inscription and are directed to be creative. Invariably, a wide range of places are drawn, from formal cemeteries to reef balls and from memorial trees to pyramids. Participants are then asked to introduce themselves, tell the class what their interest is in historic cemeteries, and present their final resting place as they tape it up on a wall. As the cemetery is assembled, discussion moves beyond individuals to the shared cemetery as a population (Figure 7). Based on the assemblage, what inferences can be drawn about the group as a population? Is the group particularly religious? What do they have in common? How would they manage this imaginary cemetery? Introductions and discussion take time, but as the class moves on to other topics and the outdoor field portion, it is important to realize that managing historic cemeteries is complicated. First, historic populations likely never decided what their cemetery should look like. Second, the level of maintenance within a single cemetery can vary greatly, for example, from those wanting "green" burials requiring no maintenance to monumental crypts requiring perpetual care. As stewards we do our best to interpret the historic landscape and make decisions that ultimately commemorate the population the best we can.

Four formal presentations follow the introductions and ice breaker. The first formal presentation, "Managing Historic Cemeteries," begins with how archaeologists more typically get involved with historic cemeteries: salvage projects that result in relocation and study of human burials. While the information demonstrates the scientific value of historic cemeteries from an archaeological point of view, the examples are selected to intentionally show increased destruction of historical landscapes with each slide, which sharply contrasts with an image of a well-maintained cemetery. While cemeteries are interesting to study, archaeologists prefer that human burial sites remain intact and preserved, as mourners intended. As neglect of historic cemeteries often leads to abandonment and loss of above-ground features due to dense growth or vandalism, what steps can be taken to preserve a cemetery that is still visible on the surface? The keys to successfully managing historic cemeteries are survey, research, identification and recording, maintenance, and outreach. Slides demonstrate examples of each of these ongoing tasks. Decisions for a cemetery should be based on an agreed-upon cemetery management plan written in line with Secretary of Interior Guidelines for managing historic cemeteries as historic landscapes (Birnbaum 1994, Strangstad 2003). The process of cleaning headstones is described by using "before" and "after" images, with information on when and how to clean, emphasizing that bleach is harmful to the stones and should be avoided. Tips on how to document headstones using forms, photography, and maps are provided. The focus is not on advanced repairs, but,

**TABLE 3.** Laws that Protect Historic Cemeteries by Property Type in Addition to Florida's.

Federal	State	Local	Private	Abandoned
Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) (1979/1991)	Historical Resources Act, Ch. 267, F.S.	Local ordinances	Easements, Ch. 704, F.S.	Removal procedure 470.0295
				Good Samaritan 497.345
Human Burial Law (Ch. 872, F.S.) that Protects All Human Burial Sites on All Land.				

rather, on what basic steps will keep a cemetery intact far into the future. This leads into the reason why laws and statutes are necessary to protect human burial sites.

Next, the class reviews Florida's Historical Resource Act, Florida's Unmarked Burial law, Abandoned Cemeteries statutes, easements, and principles regarding the ownership of cemeteries. Initially, this session was organized in chronological order according to the dates when the laws were passed, but this did not serve the stewards best once they left the workshop to take on new responsibilities. Thinking of the laws in terms of a flow chart based on frequently asked questions regarding rights to visit sites and landowner permission, the section was reorganized according to cemetery ownership type (Table 3). Laws are not read but presented as a solution to a typical problem. Laws were created ostensibly to address issues related to the long-term protection and respect of human burial sites, as well to preserve the rights of descendants to visit and maintain family plots. Federal laws, and laws that pertain to state-owned lands, are briefly mentioned but set aside, given that nonprofessionals should not be working in these areas without supervision. Prehistoric burials are beyond the scope of CRPT.

Interpretation and limits of the law are best understood through local case studies. In workshops conducted in the northeast, the case study of the Friends of Oaklynn Cemetery group is presented (Miller 2011). This example centers on a neglected African-American cemetery located on the private land of a White owner not related to the families interred. It traces the ongoing conflicts that arise as descendants and non-descendants struggle for access and services from the landowner (FPANNortheast 2014; Miller 2013). While the issue of access continues to fluctuate according to the landowner's mood, the case study demonstrates the difficulty of interpreting statutes and tests the limits of Florida's existing laws. Chapter 872 protects all burials on all land in Florida. However, it is more often applied in unmarked prehistoric burial cases because the law defers jurisdiction of historic and marked burials from the state to local law enforcement. But what happens when local law enforcement won't enforce the law? In the case of Oaklynn, FPAN worked closely with Florida's Bureau of Archaeological Research to advise the Friends group and ease tensions between stakeholders. Note that statutes differ by state and can be located in multiple places, including historical resources, consumer protection, and cemetery regulatory sections of the law code.

The number one thing you can do to protect a cemetery is to get it listed on the Florida Master Site File (Margo Stringfield, personal communication 2010). The third formal presenta-

tion describes how to fill out the Florida Historic Cemetery Site Form. Florida is one of the few states with a designated historic cemetery recording form, which is tracked separately from archaeological sites. This affords the state a greater capacity to compile and compare cemetery data, while limiting the confusion of sites, given that multiple cemeteries go by the same name and many single cemeteries are referred to in historical documents by many different names. Assigning an individual site number based on geographic location reduces redundancy and makes communicating site specific information clearer. While Barber (1994) outlined eight cemetery types in the academic study of cemeteries, the Florida Cemetery Form recognizes 13 types of cemeteries, including community, memorial park, prison, company town, military, religious, epidemic, municipal, rural movement, family, national, fraternal order, and potter's field. "Ethnic" is not identified as a cemetery type, but there is a field on the form where the recorder can select from seven options: White non-Hispanic, American Indian with a tribe field, Hispanic, Asian, Caribbean, African American, and Other. CRPT mostly focuses on community, religious, municipal, family, and potter's field types of cemeteries. The presentation ends with a list of previously recorded cemeteries on the FMSF for the county in which the CRPT workshop is held. People are often upset to see their favorite cemetery not listed and the larger scale of the cemetery crisis (data gaps) is more fully felt. Participants are further moved to action when they learn that 4,000 Florida cemeteries are listed on Find a Grave (2015), but only 1,342 are listed on the FMSF.

The final session is a case study based on current research to promote managing historic cemeteries. Most often this is a presentation on the affordances and constraints of ground penetrating radar (GPR) as a tool for managing historic cemeteries. In other instances, county and city preservation planners offer a survey of known cemeteries, or specialists in iconography or other material culture studies in cemeteries can provide a presentation. While the highlighted project is often beyond the financial capacities of start-up Friends groups, the presentation provides another opportunity to discuss site boundaries, public involvement, and current cemetery research.

### Fieldwork Session

After lunch, the class reconvenes at a local cemetery to put morning lessons learned into practice (Figure 8). A local historian or local government staffer is designated to lead the group on a tour. This provides an opportunity to involve more of the community in conducting the workshop and gives facilitators extra time to set up the hands-on stations. After the tour, the



**FIGURE 8.** Fieldwork session begins in the afternoon with a tour of the cemetery by a local historian.

group conducts a rapid assessment form and considers greater landscape issues: security, drainage, ADA compliance, and threats to visitors and headstones (Chicora 2015). Cleaning is demonstrated by testing the stability of the headstone to be cleaned, followed by a discussion of cleaning with water and dry brushing, then progressing to situations ideal for cleaning with the D2 biocide. Participants pair up and clean at least one headstone, starting at the base and working upward with a soft bristle brush (Figure 9). Based on workshop evaluations collected after the program, this activity ranks as the number one thing participants will take away and use from the workshop. After cleaning, we work together to record the headstone data, including transcribing inscriptions exactly as they appear, taking measurements, and noting material and condition. The treatment is recorded with “before” and “after” photographs.

Participants continue the conversation after their initial CRPT workshop. Alumni are now their own best resource for solutions and best practices, and therefore FPAN started a CRPT Alliance closed group on Facebook and asks graduates at the end of the program to join. FPAN also helps to sponsor an annual conference in partnership with CRPT Alliance members. In 2014, the inaugural CRPT Conference was held in Gainesville at a former CRPT workshop and cemetery venue (Figures 10 and 11). Professionals and nonprofessionals presented case studies in planning, preservation technology, establishing Friends groups with 501(c)3 status, conflict management, aesthetics, and mate-

rial culture research topics. Planning for the second statewide CRPT conference is underway for June 2015 with an emphasis on managing vernacular and folk markers, as requested on the 2014 evaluations.

## SUCCESS OF THE CRPT TEMPLATE

CRPT has now grown to include a total of 36 workshops in 28 cities, including 23 counties. The number of CRPT graduates changes month to month but stands as of today at 524 individuals who have contributed 1,583 hours of community service during the program. As a result, CRPT alumni have submitted 51 cemetery reporting forms to the Florida Master Site File (2015), and those are only the forms tracked for the Northeast region. One of the greatest benefits of CRPT is that it brings people with a common interest together so that they can begin to speak a similar language. For the most part, the CRPT audience consists of nonprofessional cemetery stewards, those interested in cultural or environmental preservation, local history enthusiasts, and local government workers. Cemetery preservation is not their day job; they may work as planners, teachers, writers, artists, genealogists, or photographers. Many also serve in the military or are active in their church.

The diversity of participants is to be celebrated but makes the discussion of outcomes unwieldy. CRPT alumni advance to



**FIGURE 9.** CRPT participants clean headstones using a 50/50 D2-water solution.

participate in a variety of tasks, from survey and recording to background research, maintenance, and outreach. In terms of the co-creation model, Nina Simon in *The Participatory Museum* (2010) calls this “scaffolding,” describing participation as steps on a ladder. Little and Shackle (2014) have also encouraged public archaeologists to use Rosenblatt’s (2010) “Engagement Pyramid,” where engagement ranges from Observing at the bottom then increases in intensity through Following, Endorsing, Contributing, and Owning until finally capped by Leading. True to the pyramid schema, the majority of graduates become Observers or Followers of cemetery issues. Some join the CRPT Alliance or follow FPAN on social media as a way of endorsing the program. Many contribute to cleanup days or return for CRPT afternoon sessions. Some go as far as joining a local Friends group or historical society with a cemetery stewardship program in place as a form of owning.

Those who reach the top of the “Engagement Pyramid” (leading) are most often planners and Friends groups establishing nonprofits. In Volusia County, preservationist Julie Scofield submitted a record of 40 cemetery site forms, prepared a local landmark designation for Beresford Cemetery, and now serves as the clearinghouse for all cemetery data in the county (Scofield 2014). Planner Adrienne Burke in Fernandina Beach similarly took great

strides in Nassau County by completing a needs assessment for the city-owned Bosque Bello Cemetery, drafting a new cemetery management plan, and taking the lead on addressing the future impacts of sea level rise on historic cemeteries by organizing sessions at the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation annual conference (Burke 2014).

Volunteers from the Florida National Guard also ascended to the top of the “Engagement Pyramid.” Mark and Teresa Frank first arrived at San Sebastian Cemetery in search of veterans and vital statistic information. Unfortunately, their initial search for veterans rendered unintentional damage to some stones and burials. After an onsite meeting coordinated by St. Johns County, they took it upon themselves to attend a CRPT and went on to host a CRPT at the Headquarters for the Florida National Guard in St. Augustine. Now organized as Operation Restore Respect, they help train others in mass removal of vegetation. They worked nearly every weekend for a year to clean up San Sebastian Cemetery and earned a nomination by FPAN staff for the Florida Archaeological Council’s Stewards of Heritage Award, which they won in May 2014 (Kielbasa 2014).

## RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION



FIGURE 10. Inaugural CRPT conference group picture.



FIGURE 11. CRPT conference T-shirt with dates and location of all local CRPTs listed on the back. Image courtesy of Rebecca O'Sullivan.

Archaeology educators have spent decades developing workshop models to train public school teachers but less so to train the general public. Examination of public archaeology workshops for cemetery preservation narrows the field of opportunities considerably, and none address the data gap aspect of the cemetery crisis. As the CRPT template drew from HADS, the single day workshop template can further be used to address other real-world concerns. For example, the FPAN staff is now developing training for local government staff and local citizens for mitigating impacts to cultural resources during emergencies such as oil spills or long term impacts such as coastal sea level rise.

CRPT exists to protect human burial sites at historic cemeteries through relevant training and to extend partnerships to achieve cemetery adoption and preservation. Filling in the data gaps on historic cemetery data for the state and local governments is essential—protection cannot be afforded without identification. The public can help by identifying and recording historic cemeteries. Once the scope of the problem is better understood, prioritization of restoration by need or community relevance can further advance cemetery preservation.

In conclusion, the Florida Task Force on Abandoned and Neglected Cemeteries placed the burden of care on local governments, but training is essential to developing a tradition of sustained cemetery stewardship. Preservationists and conservators cannot take this on alone. CRPT is a transferable participatory model that other states can adopt to increase stewardship of cemeteries, shipwrecks, and other potential categories of historical resources. Once trained with a baseline level of skills for cemetery preservation, the informed public can advance to make decisions and develop creative solutions to make the world a better place for the living and the dead.

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## Data Availability Statement

All data cited in this article are available upon request to Sarah Miller ([semiller@flagler.edu](mailto:semiller@flagler.edu)). Cemetery site forms and data by county are available by request from the Florida Master Site File ([SiteFile@dos.state.fl.us](mailto:SiteFile@dos.state.fl.us)). Since 2011, the CRPT training binder has undergone several revisions and is slated for a major update

in 2016. Previous and updated materials in preparation are available upon request by the author.

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