



St George's Caye Village Council

Latest News & Events for Residents & Friends of the Caye

S U M M E R 2 0 1 6



Freya Alive & Well
in Mexico!



The loggerhead sea turtle that recovered from a shark attack on St George's Caye last summer is still sending signals!

(Con't page 3)



Sifting through sand in search of artifacts.



Crabs encountered while looking for Thomas Pott's sarcophagus!

8th Annual St George's Caye Archaeology Project

Lauren Springs, Graduate student under Dr Garber, Texas State University, is interested in comparing DNA from residents of St George's Caye in the 1700s to people living in Belize today.

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Save the Date!

Village Council Elections

June 12, 2016

Nominations at 9am,
elections commence
10am.

Battle Regatta

August 27-28, 2016

7th Annual sailing
regatta launches
opening of Sep
Celebrations!

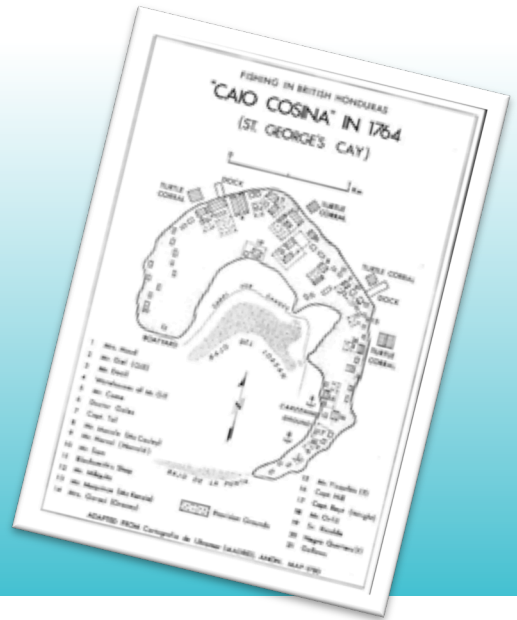
St George's Caye Day

Sep 10, 2016

Celebrate the 218th
Anniversary of the
historic Battle!

8th Annual St George's Caye Archaeology Project Jul 11-Aug 1, 2016

Dr Jim Garber, Texas State University at San Marcos, and Dr Lauren Sullivan, Boston University, will be returning to St George's Caye to continue their excavations of Historic St George's Caye. All residents are welcome to visit the site and ask questions!



Archaeological and Contemporary Genetic Research Plan

Archaeology of the Historic Cemetery

The cemetery St. George's Caye has been the subject of archaeological investigation since 2009 and is the oldest known historic, non-Maya cemetery known in Belize. Over the past six years, the St. George's Caye Archaeological Field School has recovered a total of 53 historic burials in the cemetery. Christian burial traditions are most common in the cemetery and coffin styles indicate that it was in use at least as early as the 18th century. Because the identities of most of the burial population remain unknown, one main goal of the project is to use archaeological, historical, and genetic data to characterize the demography of the colonial population.

Genetic analysis at the early cemetery is currently underway, and a total of 36 individuals have been sampled for inclusion in the genetic study. Preliminary genetic data has indicated that most individuals have maternal genetic ancestry (on their

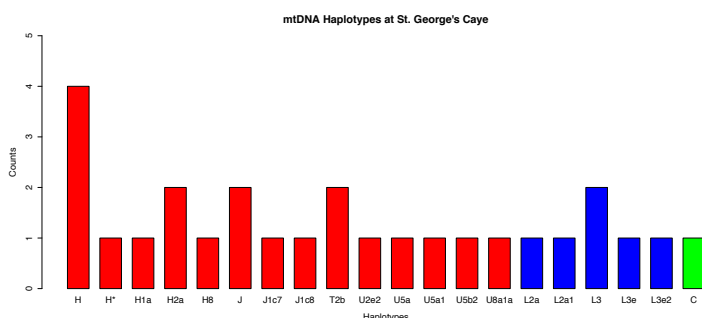
mother's side) that is most common in Europe. Additionally, a number of individuals have maternal ancestry that can be traced to Africa or the Americas.

Contemporary Genetic Research

The purpose of the contemporary genetic study is to

- 1) study the genealogical and genetic (DNA) history of modern Belizeans, and
- 2) compare the DNA of modern Belizean families to the ancient DNA from early Belizeans who lived on St. George's Caye.

As a result of this research, participants will be able to learn about the genetic history of the settlers on the island, see if their genetic ancestry (DNA results) fits with their personal understanding about their genealogy, and learn about how closely related early and contemporary Belizeans are.



mtDNA Haplotypes at St George's Caye

Twenty different maternal haplotypes have been identified from early residents at St George's Caye. The haplotypes marked in red are most commonly found in European populations, while those marked in blue and green are most common in African and Native American populations, respectively. Results indicate that of the 27 samples from the 1700s, 74% of the colonial residents are European, 22% African and 4% are Native Americans.

Who can participate in this study and what will you be asked to do?

Any male or female over 18 years of age who has at least one ancestor that lived in Belize during the 18th century (1700-1799). Participation is completely voluntary and we ask that no more than one male and one female per immediate family participate so that as many families can participate as possible.

If you agree to participate in this study, you will be asked to:

- provide a saliva sample that will be used for genetic analysis
- provide some information on your background, such as your racial or ethnic background, birthplace, length of residence in Belize, etc.

Contact Information

If you would like to participate in the genetic study or have any other questions please contact Lauren Springs at lsprings@utexas.edu. Lauren will be in Belize from July 2-31, 2016 to collect samples.

Lauren Springs, a graduate student of Dr James Garber, who has spent five field seasons at St George's Caye, contributed this article. She has contributed to reports of her findings each year that are included in The St George's Caye Archaeology Project: Results of the Field Season reports. Lauren is currently working on her doctorate and is studying DNA from St George's Caye burials. Little research has been done on DNA analysis of early residents of Belize making this research extremely significant.

Freya Still Sending Signals after 300 days!

Freya was rehabilitated and released by ECOMAR near the southern point of St George's Caye on July 29, 2015. A satellite tag was applied on her carapace so her movements and health could be tracked. She remained near St George's Caye for about a week before undertaking her journey to Mexico. She ended up in an area off the 6.5 km mile pier at the port city of Progreso Mexico, in the Yucatan State, 30 km north of Merida. Recently the transmissions have been intermittent, but we hope to continue receiving data so we know she is doing well, and to monitor her possible remigration back to Belize!



http://www.seaturtle.org/tracking/?tag_id=130823

Who else from St George's Caye travelled to Merida?

In 1779 Thomas Potts and other residents from St George's Caye were captured by the Spaniards and marched to Merida where they were imprisoned. They were later sent to dungeons in Cuba where they remained until 1782 when they were released.

VILLAGE COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Sunday - 12 June 2016

Nominations	9am
Elections	10am
Location	Bradley Property – formerly British Forces Adventure Training Center – Mrs Bradley has generously allowed us to utilize the facilities for the Village Council Elections

Please come out to support your Village Council!

Karlie Bischof Conducts Community Service Project in Fishermen Town

On May 22 & 23 St John's College student and St George's Caye resident Karlie Bischof completed a community service project by cleaning up the coastline in Fisherman Town area on St. George's Caye. He removed many bags of garbage that littered the coast. Thanks Karlie for helping keep St George's Caye clean!



Photo courtesy Karl & Ophelia Bischof



Photo courtesy Brian Keating

"Spent most summers on St Georges, my first dory with the Dinger house in background, must have been about 1953."

Brian Keating



There's no better place to be than St. George's Caye!

St George's Caye Village Council

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Please send us your photos and stories of St George's Caye!