

# Cretan Corner- Megala Horafia Friday Morning Coffee Talk

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presents

## Kommos Archaeological Park Conservation, Education & Sustainable Job Creation in Greece



an illustrated presentation by

**JAMES STRATIS**

Executive Director

Kommos Conservancy



11:00 am 18 October 2013

Cretan Corner, Aptera/ Megala Chorafia

[www.kommosconservancy.org/](http://www.kommosconservancy.org/)

Kommos was an inhabited site for 2000 years and it includes a Minoan emporium and seaport town with a later Hellenistic Greek temple sanctuary. This archaeological site adjacent to the beach and sea was excavated by Professors Joseph and Maria Shaw of the University of Toronto from 1976 through 2006. Situated on the south coast of Crete, it is considered by scholars to be the port of Minoan Phaistos and Hagia Triada. Extensive research and publication has produced important contribution to the corpus of knowledge for Bronze and Iron Age Eastern Mediterranean studies. Maria and Joseph Shaw received the prestigious 2006 Gold Medal Award for Distinguished Archaeological Achievement from the Archaeological Institute of America.

A conservation and development plan was created by Joseph Shaw and James Stratis in 1998 and the Kommos Conservancy was established as a U.S. 501 c 3 Nonprofit organization in 2007. The organizational mission is centered on both conservation for and educational outreach about the Kommos archaeological site.

James Stratis served with the Colorado Historical Society for twenty seven years as the Director of General Services, the State Historical Architect and the State Historical Fund's Preservation Projects Manager. His work as the project manager for the development and construction of the Georgetown Loop railroad park and his conservation work with the National Park Service at the UNESCO World Heritage park at Mesa Verde, the U.S. Forest Service at the Chimney Rock archaeological park/ National Monument and the Bureau of Land Management's Canyons of the Ancients, inform his planning and management for the Kommos Conservancy.

Job creation associated with conservation planning and physical conservation treatments have continued from the cessation of the excavation in 2006 to the present time. The thirty minute presentation provides an overview of the Cretan site's context, excavation and the archaeological park planning and it includes recent collaboration with the University of Colorado post graduate architecture program towards creating virtual reconstructions of some of the buildings and the overall excavation at Kommos.