SOUTHEASTERN ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

NEWSPAPER
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Editted by Cliff Boyd, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Radford University, Radford, VA 24142

NOMINEES FOR SEAC OFFICES

The candidates for SEAC offices selected by the nominations committee are as follows:

Editor-Elect:
- Robert Mainfort

Executive Officer I:
- R.P. Stephen Davis, Jr.
- Gail E. Wagner
- Richard W. Jeffries

SEAC members are encouraged to vote, especially for the contested position! Special thanks go to the 1995 Nominations Committee of George Milner (Chair), Edwin Jackson, and Kristen Grennison for their efforts.

1995 SEAC MEETING

The 1995 meeting of the Southeastern Archaeological Conference will be held between November 8-11, 1995 at the Knoxville Hilton Hotel, Knoxville, Tennessee. Please check your April, 1995 Newsletter for details.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Position Openings

Poverty Point Station Archaeologist. Applications are being accepted for a joint program of Northeast Louisiana University, the Louisiana Division of Archaeology, and the Louisiana Office of State Parks. The archaeologist will define research priorities and objectives for the Poverty Point site, a National Historic Landmark site located in northeastern Louisiana; survey and test portions of the site; collaborate on preservation, interpretation, and development plans for Poverty Point State Commemorative Area; and share information about archaeological and historical preservation with governmental representatives and with the public. The archaeologist in the Poverty Point position will be part of the Regional and Station Archaeology Program coordinated by the Division of Archaeology. This highly visible program has strong public support and offers the opportunity to develop research interests. This position does not involve fieldwork related to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The archaeologist will be an adjunct on the faculty of Northeast Louisiana University in Monroe and will have office and lab space at Poverty Point State Commemorative Area northeast of Monroe, operated by the Louisiana Office of State Parks. A master's degree in anthropology with a specialization in archaeology is required; a Ph.D. is preferred. Completion of a prehistoric archaeological field, lab, and analysis project must be evidenced by a thesis, dissertation, or equivalent report. Experience in prehistoric archaeology of the Southeast is highly desirable. Also helpful is experience in: organizing independent research, word processing, public speaking, report writing, and experience working
with governmental representatives. Salary is $27,500. Applications will be accepted until November 15, 1995, or until a suitable candidate is found. Send letter, vita, and names of three references to Dr. Thomas H. Eubanks, State Archaeologist, Division of Archaeology, P.O. Box 44347, Baton Rouge, LA 70804 (phone 504/342-8170). EOE/AADA.

East Carolina University. East Carolina University seeks a North American archaeologist, assistant professor, tenure-track position starting August 19, 1996. Preference is for those with expertise and research experience in the prehistory of the Southeast and Middle Atlantic subareas. Teaching responsibilities will include general anthropology, introductory and graduate level archaeological methodology and theory, North American and regional culture area courses, and courses in their area of expertise. Applicants should demonstrate the potential for research, publication, and obtaining grants and contracts. Appropriate professional service expected. Please send vita and names of three references by November 30 to Linda D. Wolfe, Department of Anthropology, Brewerster A-215, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC 27858-4353. An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action University. Accommodates individuals with disabilities. Applicants must comply with the Immigration Reform and Control Act. Official transcripts are required upon employment.

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New Organization

ACRA, a New Professional Business Association, Launches Historic Preservation Initiatives—"The National Historic Preservation Program, like other federal programs, is under assault in the Congress, but I'm convinced we can help save it," said Charles Niquette, an archaeologist and the recently elected president of the newly formed American Cultural Resources Association (ACRA). "We're in the business of preservation," he added, "and we care about protecting our nation's cultural heritage. We therefore have a double responsibility to help protect these resources for future generations."

Niquette is owner and founder of Cultural Resources Analysts, a multi-state consulting firm based in Lexington, KY. He was elected president of ACRA at the first meeting of the board of directors on April 8-9, 1995, in Atlanta, GA. Other officers elected at the meeting include Vice President for Administration, Donna McGowan of Jones & Stokes in Sacramento, CA, and Vice President for Public Policy, Patrick O'Bannon of Kisse Frank & Straw in Philadelphia, PA. Michael Polk of Sagebrush Archaeological Consultants in Ogden, UT, was elected Secretary. Treasurer is Charissa Wang of Hardlines: Design and Delineation in Columbus, OH.

ACRA's mission is to promote the professional, ethical and business practices of the cultural resources industry, including all of its affiliated disciplines, for the benefit of the resources, the public, and the members of the association. Its board and membership represent the business interests of cultural resources companies from all disciplines across the country—archaeology, architectural history, historical architecture, history, landscape architecture, planning and public policy. McGowan and Polk are archaeologists. O'Bannon is an historian. Wang is an architect.

"No other association addresses the particular business needs of this diverse community," Niquette said. He stated that ACRA's first task is to assure continued funding and enforcement of the cultural resources laws and regulations. "We have therefore hired a governmental relations firm to help us effectively lobby Congress over the next months as critical decisions are made in Washington. As business owners, officers and managers, we are prepared to respond quickly and effectively to changing circumstances. But we need the support of the cultural resources industry."

Thomas R. Wheaton of New South Associates, Stone Mountain, GA will serve as ACRA's Executive Director. "Voting
memberships in ACRA are open to for-profit firms whose income is derived from cultural resources services. Associate memberships are available for individuals and organizations in the non-profit, governmental and academic sectors," Wheaton said.

Wheaton noted a number of other benefits that ACRA will provide its members. These include a monthly newsletter, discounts on a variety of products and services, and access to a dedicated electronic communications system. ACRA is also developing a code of ethics emphasizing the business side of cultural resources, a World Wide Web site, and a job opportunity service.

Other ACRA board members are: Duane Peter with Geo-Marine in Plano, TX; Kevin Pape with Gray and Pape, Inc. in Cincinnati, OH; Loretta Neumayr with CEHP Incorporated in Washington D.C.; Dan Roberts with John Milner Associates in West Chester, PA; David Keas with The 106 Group in St. Paul, MN; David Heltzer with Computer Sciences Corporation in Claverton, MD; Tom Lennen with Western Cultural Resource Management in Boulder, CO; Judy Robinson of Robinson & Associates in Washington, DC; Dale Jaeger with The Jaeger Co. of Gainesville, GA; Kathryn Tongel with HRA, Inc. in Eugene, OR; Shelley Biskopgan with PRH Environmental Consultants, Inc. in Santa Barbara, CA; Lee Cox with Dolan Research in Philadelphia, PA; and Carol Mehls with Western Historical Studies in Lafayette, CO.

For information on how to join ACRA and contribute to the professionalization of the cultural resources industry, please look for our literature at conferences and meetings across the country, ask any ACRA member, or contact Thomas R. Wheaton, Executive Director, c/o New South Associates, Inc., 6150 East Ponce de Leon Ave., Stone Mountain, Georgia 30083, (404) 498-4155, FAX 404 498 3809. You can also send e-mail to tomwheaton@aol.com.

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Women in Southeastern U.S. Archaeology Before 1965

Biographical information, manuscripts, and photos are invited for a volume on women in Southeastern U.S. archaeology before 1965, in field, lab, or other context. We can use interesting anecdotes and stories and personal reminiscences about both prominent and unknown women, including the contributions of wives of archaeologists. Please contact Nancy White (Dept. Anthropology, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL 33620, (813) 974-0815, nwhite@luna.cas.usf.edu) or Rochelle Marrinan (Dept. Anthropology, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32306, (904) 644-8349, rmarrinan@garnet.acns.fsu.edu) or Hester Davis (Arkansas Archeological Survey, P.O. Box 1249, Fayetteville, AR 72702-1249, (501)375-3536, haldavis@comp.wrk.edu) or Lynne Sullivan (New York State Museum, 3122 Cultural Education Center, Albany, NY 12230, (518) 474-5513, jsulliva205@dov90.nyseqd.gov).

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Wanted: Soot from Exterior Surfaces of Soapstone Vessel Sherd

Soot adheres often to the upper exterior surfaces of soapstone vessels from Southeastern sites. I have begun a program of dating this material using the AMS method and am seeking additional samples from across the region. My hope is to build a database of potential samples for a grant application to NSF in mid-1996. I aim to date some 3 or 4 samples from 25 or more locates across the region in order to refine the chronology of soapstone vessel technology for purposes of problem-oriented research. I am interested particularly in examining the role of soapstone vessel production and exchange in the regional integration of Late Archaic and Early
Woodland societies. If you or researchers you know have access to soapstone sherds with soot, I would much appreciate the opportunity to include these samples in my database. Highest priority for dating will go to samples with documented, subsurface provenience, but I am also interested in samples with simply site-level, or even locality-level provenience. This is a good opportunity to get some dates free of charge! Please send information about samples to Ken Savasian, SRARP, P.O. Box 371, New Ellenton, SC 29809. Thanks.

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CURRENT RESEARCH

Panamerican Consultants, Inc.

Alabama

Jefferson, Marion, Walker Counties. During December 1994, Panamerican Consultants, Inc. (PCI) performed a cultural resources survey of three alternative locations for the Blossburg Interchange along the proposed Corridor X, Section 35, in northwestern Jefferson County, Alabama. This survey was conducted following Reed-Hoffman’s (1994) study of the original proposed alignment of the interchange. Reed-Hoffman determined that the original alignment, if carried out, would necessitate the destruction or removal of domestic and industrial historic properties in Blossburg determined to be potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Nine previous investigations of discrete sections of Corridor X have been carried out by PCI staff, the Blossburg Interchange being the last of the nine. The objectives of these investigations were to ascertain the presence or absence of previously recorded cultural resources and to assess the potential for the occurrence of unrecorded cultural resources based upon known prehistoric and historic settlement patterns within the study areas. A total of eight independent sections (12, 13, 28, 34, 35, 36, 37, and 47) of Corridor X were surveyed from April to December 1994, resulting in the identification of twenty-four potentially eligible sites: six historic standing structures, one historic cemetery, nine aboriginal sites, and eight historic-industrial sites. The April investigations were led by Jack R. Bergstresser, the May-June by Jeffrey P. Blick, the July-August by Jace Reed-Hoffman, Paul D. Jackson, and Daniel R. Pratt, and the November-December by Paul D. Jackson.

Mobile County: In mid-December 1994, maritime archaeologists with Panamerican Consultants, Inc. conducted submerged cultural resources investigations of three proposed bridge construction sites in the delta area of Mobile Bay, Alabama, for the Alabama Department of Transportation. Remote sensing surveys, including magnetometer and sidescan sonar instrumentation were performed at the proposed Tensaw, Blakeley, and Apalachee river bridge locations. In addition, diver investigations were conducted at the proposed Tensaw bridge location. While significant cultural resources were not encountered during the remote sensing survey and diver investigations of the Tensaw River bridge area, at least one remote sensing target in the Blakeley River project area was identified for further investigation. The Blakeley River project boundary falls within an area of intense maritime activity during the Civil War, including the sinking by Confederate “vorporeda” of at least five Union vessels, including two ironclads, the Milwaukee and the Osage, and the timber ship Rodolph.

A HABS/HAER mapping project was also contracted for the Tensaw River Lift Bridge in Mobile, Alabama. The bridge is one of the oldest remaining lift bridges in Alabama and the southeastern United States. It is important in local history as an integral component of the “Cochrane Bridge”, a 10.5 mile-long causeway connecting Mobile and Baldwin counties over Mobile Bay. The construction of the causeway helped complete the “Spanish Trail”, a transcontinental highway designed to increase tourism and commerce on the Gulf of Mexico coast and westward. The bridge is the work of
Harrington, Howard & Ash Consulting Engineers of Kansas City, Missouri, one of the most important early 20th-century bridge designers in the United States. A Level 1 HAER documentation of the Tom Sawyer Bridge was completed by Panaramic Consultants, Inc. in December of 1994, and the structure is currently slated for demolition by the Alabama Department of Transportation.

Mississippi

Between January and August 1994, maritime archaeologists with Panaramic Consultants, Inc. conducted magnetometer surveys of three areas of proposed riverbed construction along the Mississippi River, in Arkansas and Mississippi. Performed for the Vicksburg District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the survey identified two anomalies with signal characteristics potentially representative of historic shipwreck sites (e.g., steamboats). Additional sidescan sonar and magnetometer surveys of these two anomalies determined that the targets are buried below river bottom sediments and will most likely not be impacted by riverbed construction, though construction monitoring is planned for these locations.

South Carolina

Jasper County. In June 1994, under contract with the Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, Jeffrey P. Black conducted a land surface and riverside cultural resources survey of approximately 60 land acres (24 ha) at the location of Cuts 3 and 4 of the Lower Savannah River Environmental Restoration, Effingham County, Georgia and Jasper County, South Carolina. The study area consisted of five separate land areas including a small ca. 4-acre (1.6ha) area at the confluence of Mill Creek and the Savannah River; the south bank of the Savannah River from opposite the middle of Bay Bush Point around Flat Ditch Point up to Hickory Bend; Flat Ditch Point (Cut 4 Island); Cut 3 Island; and the north bank of the Savannah River from Cut 4 to Cut 3. These areas were intensively shovel tested, totaling 166 tests with depths ranging from 10-87 cm. In addition, the banks of the Savannah River bordering the survey areas were visually examined for evidence of prehistoric evidences and possible shipwrecks. No cultural remains were found during the survey, and there are no further recommendations for the Cuts 3 and 4 project where cultural resources are concerned.

Coastal Carolina Research, Tarboro, North Carolina

Thomas Day House/Union Tavern. In September, 1994, Coastal Carolina Research, Inc. conducted a limited archaeological testing program at the Thomas Day House/Union Tavern, in Milton, Caswell County, North Carolina. Project director was Loretta Launzenheiser. The work was conducted for the Thomas Day House/Union Tavern Restoration Association and was partially funded by a grant from the National Park Service.

Milton, a town incorporated in 1796, is located on the uplands above the Dan River in northern North Carolina. The town flourished during the first half of the nineteenth century and contained numerous stores, schools, hotels, and taverns. Although the Thomas Day House/Union Tavern (constructed ca. 1810) is architecturally important as one of the finest of the few known taverns surviving in North Carolina, it derives its primary significance from its association with free-black cabinetmaker Thomas Day. Day trained the slaves of wealthy whites, employed a few white apprentices, and eventually became a slaveholder himself in order to maintain a permanent staff. Day's customers were among the wealthiest and most important families in the state. Day became nationally famous for his furniture design and construction and was accepted by the white society.
The Thomas Day House/Union Tavern is currently undergoing restoration, and the limited testing was conducted to provide information about structural elements of the building. During excavations, a possible foundation trench from the original cabinet shop was located. A basement fireplace original to the building contained an unusual arrangement of bricks in the fireplace that may have served as baffles to concentrate heat for purposes of casting metals. A circular construction of brick, dating to third quarter of the nineteenth century, also appears to be associated with the Day workshop. Excavations indicate that other significant features dating to the early occupancy of the structure survive in the rear yard, and the Association plans additional excavation to guide the interpretation of the Thomas Day Manufactory.

Survey and Data Recovery at Crystal Shores (31CR268). In September 1994, Coastal Carolina Research, Inc. conducted an archaeological survey and limited data recovery of site 31CR268 in the Crystal Shores Subdivision, at Cedar Point, Carteret County, North Carolina. Project director was Loretta Lautzenheiser. The study area was confined to 11 heavily wooded acres along the Bogue Sound estuarine shoreline. The survey utilized shovel tests to identify the approximate extent and depth of the shell midden, establish the boundaries of any archaeological sites, and guide the placement of backhoe trenches over selected areas of the site. Backhoe testing provided an assessment of the density and nature of cultural features in the vicinity of the midden.

The excavations at site 31CR268 yielded important information on site structure and depositional processes. The stratigraphy of the site indicates that the upper zone dates to the Woodland period and contains mostly ceramic sherds and some stone artifacts. The midden zones appeared to have been largely deposited during the Late Woodland period. The Woodland zones are underlain by an Arcadian occupation consisting of diagnostic stone artifacts. A burial of a child approximately 3 to 6 years of age was located in the upper zones of the midden, just below the blowzone. This is the first documentation of a burial placed directly in a shell midden in this region. The limited excavation at site 31CR268, Crystal Shores, indicates that smaller sites can contribute important information about the organization of Woodland period villages.

Survey and Limited Testing at Windmill Point (31BF43). In early 1993, Coastal Carolina Research, under the direction of Loretta Lautzenheiser, conducted an archaeological survey and limited testing at the proposed Windmill Point Subdivision and site 31BF43 in Beaufort County. This site was originally recorded in 1956 by William Haag as part of his study of the archaeology of coastal North Carolina. At that time, Haag noted that the site was at least 1,500 by 1,000 feet in size and that it contained one of the largest shell midden deposits in the area. Haag noted that ceramics from all time periods were present and that the site was a potential candidate for the town of Aquaseogoc visited by members of Ralph Lane's expedition in 1586.

No sites in addition to 31BF43 were recorded during the survey. Site 31BF43 has experienced extensive erosion over the years and the midden has been reduced from the 1,000 feet recorded by Haag to only about 100 feet at its current maximum extent. Few artifacts were recovered from the shovel tests and excavation units placed in this site, although a large number were recovered from the beach. Midden deposits were located in three backhoe trenches placed in the site. Another backhoe trench contained no midden deposits, but did contain a series of postholes and a possible hearth.

Haag's suggestion that this site may be a candidate for Aquaseogoc cannot be documented by the information recovered from the testing. Although the site contained Late Woodland period ceramics, no artifacts associated with a contact situation were recovered by Haag or during the current investigation. Despite extensive erosion and reduction of site 31BF43, however, the presence of intact features and the
presence of a possible house pattern indicate that the site still does retain important information.


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Lousie Berger & Associates, Inc. (LBA)

Greater Sandy Run Pocosins, North Carolina.

William H. Reid and Kay Simpson served as co-principal investigators for an archaeological survey of portions of the Greater Sandy Run Acquisition (GSRA) Area, U.S. Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, Onslow County, North Carolina. The contract was administered by Wilmington District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with funds provided by the Marine Corps.

Located in the Outer Coastal Plain of North Carolina, the GSRA area encompasses approximately 42,000 acres and is characterized by minimal relief and poorly drained soils. Contained within this tract are two large pocosin basins, extensive pine plantations, and areas of hardwood swamp, located along the major streams. The research strategy pursued in this study was based on a previously demonstrated relationship between archeological site types and sites. Approximately 5,351 acres were intensively surveyed.

Eleven prehistoric sites were recorded; 3 sites produced historic materials; 3 sites contained both historic and prehistoric materials; and 3 sites were historic cemeteries. Cultural periods include the Middle Archaic, and the Early, Middle, and Late Woodland. Early Woodland materials, however, were most often recovered. All of the prehistoric sites, except one isolated find, were recommended for further work. The historic sites or components produced materials consistent with late 19th - 20th century domestic occupations. The disturbed contexts and limited size of the enclosure blocks, however, indicated that there was a low probability of these locations contributing data of additional research value. Additionally, no further work was recommended for the 3 cemeteries.

All of the sites, both prehistoric and historic, were located on well-drained microlandforms. These landforms, generally no more than 100 meters in diameter, exist as areas of well-drained soil or as small hills or ridges which rise above the surrounding terrain by less than a meter. The surrounding land surface is often poorly drained and, in some cases, these landforms are discernible only by the type and density of vegetation, which is a reflection of the quality of soil drainage. Both prehistoric and historic sites were generally located within 300 meters of one of the major streams or their tributaries. More important, however, was their proximity to the hardwood swamps bordering these water sources. All but one historic site were located immediately adjacent to the swamp margins.

Bogue Sound, North Carolina. William H. Reid recently conducted an intensive archaeological survey of the Shelly Point Site (31CRS), located on the southeast-facing shoreline of Bogue Sound, within the reservation of MCALF Bogue, a facility administered by the U.S. Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point, Carteret County, North Carolina. The work was conducted at the request of the Wilmington District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with funds administered by the Mobile District.

The survey strategy included mechanical excavation of a series of 50 trenches placed in the vicinity of the shoreline, near the tip of the peninsula, as well as away from an apparent shell midden. Additionally, shovel tests were excavated in these areas where dense growth restricted machine operation and a pedestrian examination of the shoreline was also conducted.

Forty features were identified. Lithic and ceramic diagnostic materials recovered indicate
the presence of Middle Archaic, Early, Middle, and Late Woodland components at Shelly Point, although artifact density suggests that the most intensive occupation occurred during the Late Woodland period. One sherd of 19th century historic ceramics was also recovered from the shoreline.

Three features were excavated to confirm their cultural origin. The features were bow-shaped pits which contained large amounts of oyster and clam shell and faunal material associated with duck, deer, frog, box turtle, rat, possible dog, unidentified fish, unidentified bird, and unidentified small and medium mammals. Radiocarbon dates of 910 ± 60 AD (Beta-69589), 1120 ± 60 AD (Beta-69588), and 1250 ± 60 AD (Beta-69590) were derived from shell samples taken from the three features. Additionally, several large sherd of shell-tempered, plain surface, Late Woodland White Oak ware were recovered from two of the features.

Trench excavation found evidence of intact midden deposits in several areas of the site. Also uncovered as a result of opening the trenches were 274 postmolds, many aligned in linear and rectangular patterns. Several were excavated to confirm their cultural origin. Close examination of the postmold patterns confirmed the presence of at least three prehistoric structures. Based on the data gathered during this investigation, the Shelly Point Site (31CR53) appears to occupy the entire peninsula and, although areas of disturbance were noted, substantial portions of undisturbed midden as well as intact cultural features remain. The site is considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Lee County, Virginia. Excavation of Sites 44LE121 and 44LE129 in southwest Virginia was conducted from June to August 1993 by LBA. William H. Reid served as the principal investigator for the project. Funding was provided by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT).

Excavations at both sites produced approximately 9000 artifacts; floral, pollen, and blood residue samples; a number of pit-type features; and numerous postmolds. The data recovery at Site 44LE129, where only a small portion of the site lay in the right-of-way, yielded relatively little evidence of an intact archaeological context. However, at Site 44LE121 twelve archaeological features and a large number of postmolds were identified. Four of the features, including one identified during earlier testing, were determined to be prehistoric in origin. The remaining eight contained historic materials. The remains of one structure, identified from the postmold pattern, was also uncovered.

Radiocarbon dating of a charcoal sample taken from one of the postmolds provided a date of 1420±40 AD (Beta-67654), indicating a Late Woodland occupation. One of the prehistoric features, the possible remains of a hearth, was also located within the structure, suggesting that it was probably associated with some occupation.

The three remaining prehistoric features at Site 44LE121 were generally circular or roughly oval pits with steeply sloping walls. Based on their size and shape, they appear to be storage pits, later filled with refuse. All contained limestone-tempered Long Branch fabric-marked pottery, tools manufactured from locally available chert, and wood charcoal. Radiocarbon dates of 170±60 BC (Beta-57718), 170±90 BC (Beta-67648), and 260±80 BC (Beta-67651) were obtained from the wood charcoal. Based on the generally accepted regional chronology, these dates suggest a late Early Woodland or early Middle Woodland occupation. Also recovered from the pit-type feature producing the radiocarbon date of 260±80 BC were several sherd of clay/grog tempered plain/smoothed pottery with a light to dark gray exterior. This ware appears to be previously unknown in this portion of Virginia during this time period.
The analysis of pollen and blood residue samples and the faunal assemblage was generally inconclusive. Analysis of flotation botanical samples from the three features, however, documented the use of a number of cultigens and wild plant foods at Site 44E121. Among the cultigens identified were chicenopod, erect knotweed, sunflower, and marshelder. Also well represented in the assemblage were grape, sumac, and persimmon seeds along with black walnut, hickory, and acorns. A large sample of squash was also identified.

The contents of the historic features at Site 44F121, which included a possible cellar pit as well as trash pits, suggest a relatively short-term Euro-American domestic occupation dating to the late 18th - early 19th century. This occupation would have been relatively early for this portion of Virginia and may have been associated with the early use of the Wilderness Road.

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Florida Bureau of Archeological Research

During the first week of December 1994, Calvin Jones and Henry Baker participated in the annual Florida Park Service "DeSoto Winter Encampment" celebration at the DeSoto site in Tallahassee. Over 1000 area school children were introduced to the concepts of archaeology as a sub discipline of anthropology, the importance of conserving archaeological resources, and summaries of the archaeology of Lake Jackson and the DeSoto site.

Dr. Alan Craig, of Florida Atlantic University, has been conducting research on the state’s silver coin collection. Dr. Craig, who earlier wrote a volume on the state’s gold coin collection, has been contracted to write a history and analysis of the silver collection.

At the end of December, The Unusual Point Shipwreck was featured live on a new nationwide cable channel, IX TV. The project was featured on the early morning show, "Breakfast Time," which sent producers to Pensacola. The broadcast was conducted live underwater from the shipwreck site with communication headsets, then relayed from a microwave on the barge to a satellite truck on the beach, and via satellite to New York. Response to the broadcast was very favorable. The shipwreck project was also featured on local Pensacola television news (WFA) Channel 3, which included underwater video of the site. Curious red burnished ceramics, molded in the shapes of human facial features and painted with a graphite-based pigment, are turning up on the wrecksite. They appear to be AZTEC IV colomawares from Mexico, which lend additional support to the theory that the ship was part of Tristan de Luna’s 1559 expedition to Florida.

Other interesting items that have been found on the wreck include five stone and three lead cannon balls, over 500 rodent bones and seven pounds of liquid mercury.

The Bureau will conduct a three day archaeological resource management workshop, March 28-30. This will be the second training session of its type designed for the Florida Park Service to increase awareness of archeological resources by state land managers. The August, 1994 Workshop was very well received by park personnel.

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During the past ten years, the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, Bureau of Archeological Research has assisted the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (formerly Department of Natural Resources), Division of Recreation and Parks in the identification and evaluation of archaeological sites at the Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park. Previous project monitoring activities suggested that potentially significant Paleoindian to Early Archaic materials dating some 9500-12,000 years old were likely to be encountered in the deeper levels on site #WA329, which occupies the sandy ridgecrest area upon which the Wakulla Springs Lodge is located. For that reason, when the current sewer line
replacement project was proposed, our two agencies agreed to cooperatively investigate the project impact area in advance of construction activities.

Bureau of Archaeological Research archaeologists B. Calvin Jones was assigned to supervise the project. He was assisted by Florida Parks staff and citizen volunteers. First, the seven line route was systematically sampled with a power auger at fixed intervals and the augured soil screened to determine the presence of cultural remains. That information was used to identify specific portions of the project impact area likely to contain significant material. Next, Mr. Jones assisted by Park staff conducted limited format archaeological excavation within identified sensitive areas. These efforts resulted in the recovery of material dating from Early Archaic, Middle Archaic, Late Archaic, Woodland Island, Fort Walton, Seminole and historic lodge construction activities. More deeply buried nondiagnostic artifacts suggested that identifiable Paleoindian artifacts might be found in that portion of the project located between the lodge and the spring—an area that would have to be excavated by hand because of the number of pipes buried in the top three feet of soil.

In order not to delay the project contract, it was decided to sacrifice the data contained in the first 75 cm (30") of soil measuring from present ground surface. This zone contains the most recent 5,000-6,000 years of cultural data. Soil from this level was generally excavated without systematic screening, although incidental artifacts were noted and collected. From 75 cm below surface downward, the soil was excavated in arbitrary 15 cm levels to permit the recovery of a stratified sequence of cultural material. A distinctive Early Archaic projectile point/knife type known as Bolen bevel-edged points occur stratigraphically in the 75-105 cm below surface zone.

Near the eastern end of the excavation trench unit (the area toward the bath-house facility) Calvin Jones excavated in place a large bifacial tool at 105 cm below surface. This object is in the style of Florida’s Paleoindian projectile points known as Simpson points. It is made from a locally obtained chert that has since become heavily patinated. Its size (roughly 7 1/4" long and 4" wide), form of manufacture, hallowing and use may suggest that it likely dates to ca. 10,000 years ago and functioned as a blade affixed to a short handle and was used to separate the hide from large animals, such as large Pleistocene bison (Bison antiquus). It is among the largest examples of this type found in the United States and one of the very few excavated from a known context. Two bifacially retouched flakes of the type found in Paleoindian and Early Archaic settings were also found at this level. To the southeast of the large biface and some 10 cm deeper (ca. 115 cm) was found a Paleoindian fluted projectile point of the type first identified near Clovis, New Mexico. Additional, nondiagnostic artifacts evidencing tool manufacture and maintenance also have been found.

These objects confirm that an intact Paleoindian through early Archaic cultural zone is present at site WWA 329. This is a very exciting and important discovery as it is rare to find such cultural material in undisturbed contexts. Their discovery and interpretation will add another dimension to the public interpretation of the property surrounding Wakulla Springs. Their setting suggests the temporary, seasonal occupation of the sand ridge area overlooking what is now Wakulla Springs and its run. The walls suggest that the area was relatively drier; a not unexpected occurrence since geologists tell us that some 10,000 years ago sea level was over 100 feet lower than present. At that time, evidence from the now submerged spring cavern suggests that people and animals would have had to walk downslope into the cavern to obtain water. Camping on the then drier dune ridge (where the lodge is now located) would not have interfered with (heightened off) animals seeking access to the water hole in the cavern mouth. Prehistoric hunters could have fed in wait for the animals on the crest of the overhanging ledge.
The recovered stone artifacts indicate activities associated with hunting and butchering of animals, processing of plant foods, and the working of animal hides, wood and bone. A number of small bone fragments preserved as a result of being partially burnt (so that they are chemically altered and resistant to deterioration) have been found in the Early Archaic zone. These remains will be analyzed to provide information on what types of animals were included in the diet of the prehistoric people occupying the site. These remains will also help further our understanding of local environmental conditions.

Calvin Jones recently completed site assessment and minor archaeological mitigation fieldwork on the Heathcote and Spanish components of the Mt. Royal site (FLU125) on the St. Johns River near Palatka, Florida. Calvin has begun analysis of the recovered cultural material. The Archaeological Conservancy is acquiring a significant portion of the privately-owned Mt. Royal site village area. The owner had previously donated the mound to the State of Florida.

Ligullae pendant from Late Woodland Site 44PE43, Pittsylvania County, Virginia (two times actual size).
About the Journal:

Published quarterly, this is the only general journal dedicated solely to North America—with total coverage of archaeological activity in the United States, Canada, and northern Mexico (including the Southwest).

The North American Archaeologist surveys all aspects of prehistoric and historic archaeology within an evolutionary perspective, from Paleo-Indian studies to industrial sites. It accepts the results of Resource Management and Contract Archaeology, the newest growth areas in archaeology, often neglected in other publications.

The Journal regularly and reliably publishes work based on activities in state, provincial, and local archaeological societies.

Recently Published Articles:

A Source Area Perspective on Expeditent and Formal Core Technologies
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Finally, a description of an intact Paleo-Indian complex in the Southeast. Jr. Jay Custer. University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware

HARNEY FLATS: A FLORIDA PALEO-INDIAN SITE
I. RANDOLPH DANIEL, JR. AND MICHAEL WISENBAKER

Harney Flats will stand as a benchmark in Southeastern Paleo-Indian studies because it marks a major turning point: A major professional excavation, analysis, interpretation, and publication of a deeply buried, previously undisturbed, multicomponent, dry-land, Paleo-Indian site. The significance of the quality and variety of artifacts recovered is enhanced by their tight associations and well-defined contexts. One must see the beautiful artifact photographs.

The interpretation of this site did not begin after the excavation, but with the planning of the initial survey for a major interstate highway. Had the team not been prepared to understand the significance of a few tantalizing clues, had they not quickly planned a major data recovery program in the face of construction deadlines, the site would have been lost. As it was, many compromises in scheduling had to be faced to recover as much data as they did.

Once the material was out of the ground, the major task of data analysis began. The reader should not think that everything that can be done with the data has been done. The authors allude to many fruitful lines of investigations which were not followed to permit a timely report on what has been learned to date.

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Harney Flats, a remarkable site. Several reasons why:
1. Deeply stratified Paleo-Indian site, whereas most in the region are individual finds, surface finds, or eroded from their original context.
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4. Despite the massive scale of the project, to intrusive activity 
area patterning was evident. This may be because the same area 
was repeatedly visited during Paleo-Indian times or because the 
patterning is different than the other known Paleo-Indian sites.
5. Comparisons to other significant Paleo-Indian sites and finds 
throughout the United States.
6. Specially focused comparisons and overview of central Florida 
sites and finds from Paleo-Indian through Early Archaic.
7. Broadly based paleoenvironmental research from the vicinity 
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