In Loving Memory Of Don Gavin

The voice of the Wakulla River
To Don Gavin: Friend, Neighbor, Captain

Dr. Madeleine Carr

We were all strangers that gravitated to Wakulla Springs. Some of us came out of concern for the health of the water that gushed out to form the Wakulla River; others wanted to know why mastodons died here. But for Don Gavin, the spring and the river had a legendary significance. He had worked on the river all his life, following in his father’s and uncle’s footsteps. Theirs was a life only a couple of miles away from their historically black communities called Bethel, Shadeville, or Hyde Park.

Gavin was a world-renowned river tour guide who was bestowed the Florida Park Service’s “Interpreter of the Year” award. When the glass bottom boats still cruised over the world’s largest and deepest spring, the Henry allowed a group of visitors (including myself) a look into the clear abyss. Gavin sang his song to Henry the pole-vaulting fish. When the fish disappeared due to algae, he spoke about the birds above and below the water. His passion intrigued us all.

Sadly, Don Gavin died unexpectedly March 4th. Though after him continues a legacy of a former “jungle boat” guide whose entire life centered on his community and the river. He will be dearly missed.

About Don: A Personal Sentiment

Lance Kelly

“Don had a gift. He could talk to the wildlife... He had a connection to the wildlife and place here that no book could teach you... He had been here all his life so it’s like he could hear it. After a busy summer day... He would always take his last boat tour and tell people instead of him telling them about the river, he would let the river do the talking. It was weird, he did not have to say a word and somehow everyone could grasp what they were seeing.”
Our Farewell to Don Gavin..................................................Dr. Madeleine Carr
Lance Kelly p.1-2

Welcome..................................................................................Joe Latvis p. 4-5

The Wakulla Springs Lodge Site (8WA329)......................Dr. James Dunbar p. 6-9

In Search of Ghosts and Meaning.................................Dr. Madeleine H. Carr p.10-12

Wacissa Point Recovery.......................................................Phil Gerrell p. 13-14

Freshwater Springs: The Landscape of the 2016 Surveys...Joe Latvis p.15-17

Targeted Small Block Excavation.................................Phil Gerrell p. 18-23

“MOAI” Upright Stone: Cultural or Natural?.....................Joe Latvis p. 24-26

Salute to Park Staff and Management..............................Joe Latvis p. 27-28

Salute to Volunteers.................................................................Joe Latvis p. 29-30

Wakulla Crew: A Day in the Life of an Archaeologist........Matt Newton and Cole Smith p. 31-32

The Mysteries of Wakulla Springs State Park......................Dr. Madeleine H. Carr p. 33-34

Bob Thompson Photography...........................................Joe Latvis p. 35-42

Scouts Volunteer at Wakulla Springs Project.................................p. 43

Ceramics and Lithics Class.....................................................p. 44

Fall 2016: Field Campaign Update..................................................Joe Latvis p. 45-50

October 2016: Update.................................................................Joe Latvis p. 51-55

Acknowledging Our Sponsors....................................................p. 56

All newsletters created by the Aucilla Research Institute are available online at: http://aucillaresearchinstitute.org/
Welcome to the Inaugural Edition!
The Aucilla Research Times Newsletter

This publication represents the inaugural edition of our long term commitment to sharing the process, progress, and products of the Aucilla Research Institute’s ongoing Archaeological, Historical, and Earth Sciences research projects in Regional Florida among an audience of both professional and general public communities. Emilee McGann, Karel Wolberg, and I come to this newsletter assignment having been nominated by Archaeological Project Chief Scientist Dr. James (Jim) S. Dunbar. Jim and my own independently-acquired commitment to public outreach and educational publication began in 1983 when our paths first crossed on inaugural diving forays at the now widely recognized Aucilla River Prehistory Project’s paleoindian, paleontological, and paleoenvironmental sites.

Jim initially solicited articles from me for inclusion in his prototypical “Half-Mile Rise Times” newsletter to foster communication among enlightened avocational river-divers and the professional research-diving community that recognized the mutual benefit such collaboration could promote. Enlightened research divers like Jim (then with the Bureau of Archaeological Research) and Dr. S. David Webb (then with the Florida Museum of Natural History at University of Florida) forged common ground with their avocational counterparts. Jim ultimately entrusted me with the editorship of his inspirational publication, which evolved into the Aucilla River Times newsmagazine (1996 through 1999 editions still available online at the ARPP website below):

http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/vertpaleo/arrp.htm

We aspire to these same standards in our fledgling Aucilla Research Times format and franchise online.

As we find ourselves barely five weeks into a 10-week field campaign at Wakulla Springs State Park, our necessarily expedient inaugural edition articles represent project staff reports only. We fully recognize and celebrate the volunteer counterpart articles by students and non-student volunteers that have made such a valuable contribution to past “Aucilla River Times” newsmagazine discourse, and our “Aucilla Research Times” readership can fully expect our amazing volunteers’ first-person narratives and technical articles to be featured in all upcoming editions. Be assured that a number of articles in this edition written by staff do indeed acknowledge and celebrate a number of these dedicated people among our ranks.

We find ourselves with a groundswell of volunteer talent and enthusiasm inspired by two principal organizations.

The first organization is “The Friends of Wakulla Springs State Park” (website below):

http://wakullasprings.org/

The Friends of Wakulla Springs operate under acclaimed historian Dr. Madeleine Carr’s dedicated leadership. She has been a tireless defender of this park’s natural pristine preservation while making it accessible to all visitors who come to behold its wonders. Her boundless enthusiasm has inspired volunteers from “The Friends” membership... (Continued on page 5)
(Continued from page 4) ...for decades, many now fully integrated into our current research project field crews. Thanks to the efforts of Madeleine and countless volunteers, donors, and members, the “Friends” have raised funding over the past two decades for numerous preservation, restoration, and improvement projects at the beloved Wakulla Springs State Park.

Our second principle organization is the “Panhandle Archaeological Society at Tallahassee” (PAST) (websites below):

http://fasweb.org/past/ or fasweb.org/past/ OR www.past-tallahassee.org/

PAST operates under Senior Archaeologist Marie Prentice’s dedicated leadership. She has been a mainstay of support for the membership’s active stakeholder’s interest in “promoting the exploration and preservation of archaeological resources in the Florida panhandle region”. The PAST membership has likewise represented a dedicated resource of enthusiastic, talented volunteers for previous and current projects here with us now at Wakulla Springs State Park.

As stewards of the past we also aspire to instill a sense of pride and ownership in organizations and institutions, public or private, for the greater good that comes from participation in such abstract endeavors as understanding how the earth and humans came to this juncture in place and time, and in understanding where we want to proceed from here and now. So welcome aboard as we send out our “postcards” to you from our current field season, along with invitations to come join us in ongoing collective hands-on ventures into future discoveries about the past.

Senior Editor

Joseph M. Latvis

Friends of Wakulla Springs
What brought us back to Wakulla Springs after the 2008 National Geographic Ice-Age Florida Project?

Dr. James S. Dunbar

INTRODUCTION
The Wakulla Springs Lodge site (8WA329), located in North Florida’s panhandle, has been known for many years as one of the state’s few early man sites. Recent reassessment of research conducted by the Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research (BAR) in the mid-1990s suggests that this site was occupied well before the early Clovis peoples, who were initially thought to have been the first Americans. This report summarizes the results of investigations carried out in April 2008 at the Wakulla Springs Lodge site, funded by the National Geographic Society, to address the question of the site’s early chronology.

In 1994, excavations at the Wakulla Springs Lodge site (8WA329) generated an in situ projectile point identical to pre-Clovis points formerly recovered elsewhere in the region. This find suggested that the site was occupied prior to the Paleoindian Clovis period. Paleo-climate research has shed further light on the issue. It indicates that the occupation of pre-Clovis sites in the region corresponded to Late Pleistocene events in which the inland water table dramatically dropped, halting river flow. This caused oasis ponds in sinkholes and other karst features to form. During these episodes, humans and animals alike congregated near such rare sources of fresh water. The Wakulla Lodge site shares this physical association with these other early sites, that is, it is adjacent to one of the nation’s largest first magnitude springs set in a karst environment, thus corroborating the view that it may likewise possess a pre-Clovis component. In order to test this hypothesis, the project conducted excavations adjacent to the location of the 1994 pre-Clovis point discovery with the goal of identifying additional Paleoindian artifacts and generating material to radiometrically date the site’s earliest strata.

During the month of April 2008 several test units led to the discovery of two Paleoindian artifacts that were deemed sufficiently diagnostic to use their recovery positions as vertical control horizons for radiometric dating. The locations of both finds became the subject of careful inspection, and both were determined to have a very good probability of having undisturbed stratigraphic contexts. Optically Stimulated-Luminescence (OSL), a dating technique that measures the last time quartz sand grains were exposed to sunlight was employed. OSL samples were collected in two different units where deeply buried artifacts had been recovered. Upon successfully obtaining seven OSL dates both Clovis and pre-Clovis age determinations were secured.

ANOTHER NOTABLE SITE
In August 2007, a park ranger, Jason Vickery, discovered the buried remains of a mastodon in the Wakulla River below the headspring. (continued pg. 7)
OSL sampling locations in Test B and Test C were identified by stone tool recoveries from the Paleoindian levels of the site. The term “level” is used rather loosely because identification of natural levels was difficult. Faint coloration differences can more easily be detected once the samples from each level are desiccated and high-resolution images acquired through a flatbed scanner with samples placed in optically clear sample bags. Changes in sediment coloration might be due to decomposing organics and differential leaching and therefore represent differences in post-depositional development. If not, the color differences of each level represent distinct episodes of deposition through time. The level of the Clovis blade recovered in Test B originates in dark-colored sediment compared to an endscraper recovered in Test C in light-colored sediment. The Paleoindian endscraper came from the level below that of the Clovis Blade and from the same level that Calvin Jones recovered the Simpson preform and Page-Ladson point.

In December 2007 members of the Bureau of Archaeological Research (BAR), Florida Geological Survey, and the Geology Department and Coastal & Marine Laboratory at Florida State University gathered to vi-bra-core near the mastodon site on its north, east and west sides. The results of that effort confirmed that the Wakulla River just below the springhead has a channel fill sediment sequence around a meter or more in thickness above limestone bedrock.

THE 2008 DIG

The crew excavated approximately 46 cubic meters of sediment from seven test units covering a horizontal area of approximately 35.5 meters squared. About one third of the total volume excavated consisted of disturbed sediment resulting from the lodge’s construction or from subsequent maintenance such as the replacement sewer line that Calvin Jones’ crew excavated in 1994 to mitigate the impact on the archaeological resource.

Artifacts, bulk sediments, OSL sediments, and sediment monoliths were taken. Sediment was screened through window screen beginning at the 90 cm level, which lead to the recovery of a tiny 3mm diameter seed bead at a 1.30 meter depth.

OSL DATING

OSL sampling locations in Test B and Test C were identified by stone tool recoveries from the Paleoindian levels of the site. The term “level” is used rather loosely because identification of natural levels was difficult. Faint coloration differences can more easily be detected once the samples from each level are desiccated and high-resolution images acquired through a flatbed scanner with samples placed in optically clear sample bags. Changes in sediment coloration might be due to decomposing organics and differential leaching and therefore represent differences in post-depositional development. If not, the color differences of each level represent distinct episodes of deposition through time. The level of the Clovis blade recovered in Test B originates in dark-colored sediment compared to an endscraper recovered in Test C in light-colored sediment. The Paleoindian endscraper came from the level below that of the Clovis Blade and from the same level that Calvin Jones recovered the Simpson preform and Page-Ladson point.

An important field objective and justification for including geo-archaeological and geological consultants on the project was to ensure the sediment column proposed for OSL sampling represented undisturbed areas of the stratigraphic column. Both OSL sampling loci were determined to represent unified, undisturbed locations. Jack Rink and Kevin Burdette conducted the OSL sampling, taking four samples from Test B and three samples from Test C. The radiometric age of the Clovis blade level yielded an age of ~12,600 cal BP. The endscraper in Test C yielded an age of ~13,500 cal. BP. The radiometric ages of all seven dated samples were in the correct chronological order.
THE ARTIFACTS

The lower levels of the site yielded three notable artifacts and a number of lesser tools such as biface fragments and flake tools. The more noteworthy artifacts include the Clovis blade from Test B and endscraper from Test C. Perhaps the most unusual stone artifact, the stone seed bead, which is an item of adornment, was recovered from Test F, 1.30 m below the surface.

The blade from Test B is pretty much identical to Clovis blades found elsewhere. Clovis blades are struck from cores and a large generally prismatic unifaces that are twice as long as they are wide. The Simpson and Page-Ladson artifacts belongs to another assemblage and tool tradition. After going through a number of archaeological salvage project collections held in the Bureau of Archaeological Research collection, a second Clovis blade was identified from a similar depth on the southwest side of the Wakulla Lodge. Blades of this type are uncommon in Florida. The endscraper manufactured on a flake from Test C could comfortably fit into any Paleoindian toolkit. This is an endscraper manufactured from a medium-sized flake. It is not diagnostic of any particular time period although it is a common tool form in Paleoindian toolkits.

The seed bead from Test F came from the Paleoindian levels of the site (130 cm). Close up imagery and measurements of the Wakulla bead was accomplished with the use of a digital microscope (Keyence Corp. VHX-600 digital microscope). These and other images indicate the bead was manufactured by drilling both sides, which resulted in a bi-conical hole. An effort to determine the type of rock was undertaken using a scanning electron microscope and ion probe.

Archaeological investigation has returned to Wakulla Spring in part because there is a great potential to better understand the early Paleoindian occupation that once existed here.
<table>
<thead>
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<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Simpson preform recovered by Calvin Jones</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Simpson point similar to the one that was on display in the Wakulla Lodge before the property became a state park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Large flake extracted from a large biface such as the Simpson preform displayed in the first of these artifacts</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>A Clovis or Clovis-like blade from the 12,600 cal BP level at the Wakulla Springs Lodge</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Page-Ladson point made from a flake and displaying a flute-like feature that is part of the original flake scar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Tiny seed bead manufactured on a flat quartz pebble drilled on both sides</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
At Wakulla Spring, the types of archaeological cultures discovered during field work in 2015 and in the fall of 2016 are now being analyzed and classified. In order to assign meaning to assemblages from the second Spanish Period (1783-1818) a different investigation is necessary.

What happened during that time along the Wakulla River and its source, the world’s largest and deepest spring? To begin, it is necessary to realize that during the 20-year British period that preceded retrocession to Spain in 1783, two administrations oversaw the Floridas. Both were British, but one had jurisdiction over East Florida, the other over West Florida.

During this period the Wakulla River was governed from St. Augustine. It fell into Britain’s East Florida colony that extended from St. Augustine westward to the Apalachicola River.

Often repeated is the myth that this border between the two Floridas continued to separate east and west after Spain regained both former British colonies at the end of the American Revolution.

The Peace Treaty ending this revolution took effect May 12, 1784. The Gulf of Mexico once again was a Spanish sea. Also in May Spain assembled an Indian Congress in Pensacola.

The resulting 13 articles of this 1784 Treaty with a variety of southeastern Indian tribes included Spain’s promise to provide “adequate trading goods according to an established schedule.” Creeks were also assured protection against infiltration from Georgia and from the sea. A short while later, in 1785, the Creeks ceded a small parcel of land at the mouth of the Apalache Bay to Spain. The reconstruction and renovation of Spain’s old Fuerte de San Marcos de Apalache would continue in earnest until at least 1787.

The fort’s location at the confluence of the St. Marks and Wakulla rivers, and a short distance from the Gulf of Mexico, was within reasonable access to Creek settlements. The garrison provided protection to the Panton, Leslie firm from seafaring marauders. In January 1783, while peace negotiations continued in Europe, Britain had already extended the firm a license to do business on the Wakulla River three miles north of the fort on the Apalache Bay. Just two months later, the notice of regime change reached British Governor Tonyn in St. Augustine.

Regardless of under whose authority the Floridas were governed, the Panton trading post that opened in the fall of 1783 was allowed to continue its interactions with the Indians. The Indian Treaty Congress in Pensacola had been saved from embarrassment when Panton rushed merchandise to that city from the Wakulla River store to satisfy Indian demands that assured their continued loyalty to Spain.

To facilitate the management of trade through the fort, Spain relocated the old British boundary from the Apalachicola River eastward to the Wakulla River. On
January 7, 1786 jurisdiction over Fuerte San Marcos and the Wakulla River came under the governor located in Pensacola. Creek Indians had access to a large variety of goods traded along the Wakulla River until 1792 in return for deer hides, cattle, tallow, and honey. Through a series of misapplied loyalties, some Creeks and Seminoles became enthralled with William Augustus Bowles, a British loyalist. According to Bowles, prices for the trade goods were much too high and he promised to offer better deals from his own fantom post on the Ochlockonee River. Indians, eager to buy cheaper wares from Bowles, became restless when his ship failed to arrive at Ochlockonee. The Panton fortune on the Wakulla River was about to change. The inveterate Bowles decided to loot Panton’s store in 1792, causing the store keeper to flee to the protection of the fort.

The Spanish soon captured Bowles and he was sent into exile, only to return in 1779. The bad news of the loss of trade on the Wakulla River was good news for a Panton, Leslie partner, Robert Leslie. Robert, living at San Marcos and taking care of Panton, Leslie and Company accounts, granted permission in 1796 to open a different trading post at the head waters of the river.

The owners, William and John (Jack) Kennard were no strangers to either Robert or his older brother Thomas Leslie.

In choosing their trading post location north of Fuerte San Marcos, the Kennards, who maintained a large Lower Creek (Hitchiti) settlement near today’s Albany, realized the strategic advantage of the Wakulla River for access to the Gulf of Mexico.

Why? Its location was outside the jurisdiction of the nascent American Indian agency on the Flint River (closer to the Kennards) in the new Mississippi territory. By establishing a presence at Wakulla Spring their

Footnotes
Din, Gilbert C. War on the Gulf Coast (The Spanish Fight against William Augustus Bowles). UP FL, 2012
cattle trade and mercantile relations with the Creeks and Seminoles profited from the cheapest and safest way to the Gulf of Mexico. Their trading posts and houses were south of the new boundary between the United States and Spanish West Florida.

The opening of a branch of their operations in Florida coincided with a British blockade of Spain’s ports during its war with Spain (1796-1802). It would be almost 20 years before the locations of the Kennards’ operations at Wakulla Spring were noted on an 1815 Spanish map.

By then, trade and the lives of Creek, Seminole and Spanish fortunes had begun a vortex of dizzying spirals creating confusion, starvation, wars and displacement.

Footnotes
7: Pintado, Vicente Sebastian, map Library of Congress 1815
Wacissa Point Recovery:
Early Archaic People’s Diagnostic Stone Tools

INTRODUCTION

Phase II of the Wakulla Springs Archaeological Project began September 20, 2016 and ended on November 20, 2016. During this phase, field excavations in a 10 acre area encompassing site WA323 produced a projectile point¹, later identified as a Wacissa Point. Subsequent to the field work, a new site number and name was assigned. The site is now called The Watters Hill Site, WA1221². The WA323 site, Chimney Springs, is actually located some distance away from the Watters Hill site.

FIELD METHODOLOGY:
Wacissa Point Recovery

A series of transect lines were established within the site. The excavation of post-holes occurred at 20 meter intervals along each transect line. Soil from each hole was removed at 25 centimeter levels, then screened through 1/4” hardware cloth. Identified artifacts were bagged based on type (i.e. chert flakes, ceramics, glass, metal, etc.). If artifacts could be further identified (i.e. projectile point, scraper, Wakulla Checked Stamped, Fort Walton Incised ceramics) they were placed in a separate bag. On transect line “H”, a projectile point was recovered and identified as a Wacissa Point. Wacissa Points are assigned temporal placement in the Early Archaic Period (8000 BC—5000 BC)³ which will be further discussed.

Footnotes
3: Milanich, Jerald T., Archaeology of Precolumbian Florida. 1994
Paleoindian peoples may have shared similar lifeways. Most early Archaic stone tools come from surface collections. Few Early Archaic sites with stratigraphic integrity (undisturbed soil columns) have been excavated. One such site does exist in our area: The Page-Ladson site. The Wacissa Point was recovered from the 75 cmbgs level (centimeters below ground surface). Additional diagnostic artifacts were recovered both above and below this level. A thermally altered (heat-treated) Florida Stemmed Point was found in the 50-75 cmbgs level, so this point is assigned to the Middle Archaic Period (5000 BC – 3000 BC). Several Middle Archaic sites were excavated in Florida, mostly in the uplands of middle Florida and along the east coast. Information on Middle Archaic sites in North Florida is sparse. To date there are no known chert outcrops in the park. The artifacts we recovered are predominantly made from St. Mark’s formation chert.

Chert resources in the park are distributed throughout the landscape, predominantly St. Marks formation limestone. The Wacissa Point is made from this material whereas the Middle Archaic Point was manufactured from Suwannee chert. The nearest outcrop of Suwannee chert lies in the Wacissa and Aucilla River basins. The Suwannee River Valley is approximately 80 miles to the east of Wakulla Springs.

The Watters Hill site is now recorded in the Florida Master Site File as a multi-component site. This site may help archaeologists answer questions concerning the transitional period between Paleoindian and Archaic peoples lifeways. Because so few Early and Middle Archaic sites have been excavated, especially in the uplands of North Florida, researchers may have a site that will produce important information with respect to stone tool manufacture and use within the Watters Hill site. Additional artifacts could also add to our overall knowledge. Further research is warranted for the Watters Hill site because it may contain elements which would make it eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.
Freshwater Springs:  
The Landscape of the 2016 Surveys

CREW CHIEF
Phil Gerrell points to two spring holes in bottom of depression (visible in next image)

VERTICAL SPRING holes in the bottom of a depression. They’re running laterally below a surface that was dry at the time of photo capture

Chimney Springs Site (8WA323)
Chimney Springs Site (8WA323)

CHIMNEY SPRING RUN
flowing on surface out into Wakulla River
(visible beyond swamp vegetation)
THE FIELD CREW Observes the Sally Ward Spring Run on the way to their initial exploration of the 8WA331 site (which is located to the north and east sides of the run)

Sally Ward Spring Site 8WA331

A MAJESTIC VIEW of the Sally Ward spring run. This photo was taken while standing on a bridge crossing the run
Targeted Small Block Excavation: More Rigorous Examination of a Promising Area

A Photo Article

Philip R. Gerrell

Volunteers and crew out in the field discussing methodologies and procedures for the day

Test Unit 1 laid out for excavation as a 1 m x 0.5 m unit

Editor’s Note

After a concentration of ceramic artifacts northeast of Sally Ward Spring run was discovered on the surface of an animal burrow’s excavation ejecta, and subsequent posthole digger testing confirmed additional finds, Principle Investigator Dr. Jim Dunbar directed staff archaeologist Dr. Willett Boyer to conduct an expedient 1/2 by 1-meter block excavation utilizing crew chief Phil Gerrell’s experience to train the volunteer crew to professional standards. This article briefly illustrates the procedures followed in conducting a typical small block excavation.
Left: Phil Gerrell conducts the beginning processes of excavation. The unit is laid out with string and a photo board lies in the back with provenience information.

Right: George Apthorp removes a root mass from the excavation unit for screening while Phil Gerrell stands above ready to assist.

Left: Crew and Volunteers dump soil into a shaker screen with 1/4 inch mesh looking for artifacts.
Right: George Apthorp carefully shovels soil to ensure the excavation proceeds in 5 centimeter levels.

Right: The first 5 cm level clean photograph with photoboard

Left: Munsell Soil Color Charts used to document all soil color changes within the test units.

Left: Kathyrn Gibson excavates down to the 10 cm level bottom
Left: George Apthorp uses a line level to record depths at each corner and in the center of the unit. This happens for every level excavated.

Right: North arrow next to an artifact in-situ. Vertical and horizontal measurements were then recorded.

Left: George Apthorp and Dr. Willett Boyer excavate the end of a level using a trowel and dustpan.

Right: Fully excavated Test Unit #1 after soil removal, wall straightening, and cleanup. Note the various soil color changes and the details on the photoboard.
Left: West wall profile with measuring tape for scale. Lines were created in the profile using a trowel in order to separate different soil colors and strata for easier viewing and mapping.

Right: A closer and longer photograph of the West wall profile. Depths for separate soil colors were recorded in 10 centimeter horizontal increments.

Left: Phil Gerrell holds out chert flakes discovered during excavation.
Top: A Point Washington Effigy handle with continued concentric circle Incisions next to its refit body and rim sherds. The artifact was recovered in Test Unit 1.

Below: Volunteer Harriet Wright and the Point Washington effigy handle.

Left: The effigy after cleaning and processing in the lab. Note the Incised horizontal Incision parallel to rim and circular motif continuing downward on vessel.

Below: Volunteer George Apthorp holds the effigy from another angle.
Project Crew Chief Phil Gerrell originally broached the consideration that this upright stone was reminiscent of the Moai (also known as mo'ai) on Easter Island in Chilean Polynesia. The Moai are monolithic human figures carved from rock which were created between the years 1250 and 1500 BP.

The upright stone we discovered on the Wakulla Springs State Park property stands approximately 1.43 meters high. The nature of the Karst platform on which much of Florida rests (especially in exposures close-by sinkholes and springs like Wakulla Springs) is often replete with limestone rubble ranging from massive monolithic outcrops to fine sand, including all gradations of shape and size in-between. Three images below show typical specimens encountered randomly during grid surveying operations at the Wakulla Springs State Park prior to posthole excavations there.

The “solution holes” occur as a consequence of limestone’s chemically basic dissolution by acidic water in the environment, so it is not uncommon to find curiously-appearing products of this naturally occurring process exhibiting various shapes and sizes.

For your own further consideration, we present a 360 degree panoramic 30 image photo series of this “MOAI” Upright Stone on the next two pages which provides overlapping views of all its aspects. This admittedly freehanded photographic exercise is an expedient preliminary to a more rigorous photogrammetric-modeling field exercise coming up later this year.

Note: Disregard camera default reset dates on images. All images in article were captured by Joe Latvis.
The small Block Excavation field crew returns from the Effigy recovery to share the excitement of this discovery with their field lab colleagues and the Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park management and staff, whose logistical and knowledgeable scientific support enable this ongoing archaeological research program to be so successful.

All images were captured by Joe Latvis.
Top: (Left to right) Project staff archaeologist Willet Boyer displays the Effigy to crew chief Phil Gerrell, Park Manager Pete Scalco, Park Biologist Patty Wilbur, and Park Ranger Charlie Baisden, and project field lab co-managers Karel Wolberg and Nicole Pezzotti.

Right: Crew chief Phil Gerrell discussing details of the Effigy with (left to right) Park Manager Pete Scalco, Park Biologist Patty Wilbur, and Park Ranger Charlie Baisden.
My purpose in writing this article is to document and acknowledge the important contributions volunteer enthusiasts in archeology, paleontology, and earth sciences can make to the advancement of research in these professional disciplines. As a recreational diver having experienced this cultural and scientific interface (ever since having fortuitously first volunteered with a joint Florida Museum of Natural History and Bureau of Archaeological Research diving expedition to conduct black-water site reconnaissance in the Aucilla River) I understand the passion and commitment that flourishes within this collaborative symbiotic relationship. Principal investigators Webb and Dunbar on that inaugural 1983 field season demonstrated their genuine respect and appreciation for the contributions volunteers make to scientific research by discovering, reporting and excavating Florida’s submerged sites under professional direction. A mutually beneficial hybrid vigor ensues when these communities subscribe to the commonly held fascination with exploring cultures and environments from prehistoric to historic to current times.

The diversity of socioeconomic backgrounds, academic levels of achievement, perspectives, ages, and life-experiences that the Aucilla Research Institute’s Wakulla Springs Project volunteers contribute to scientific research helps fuel the commonly-shared enthusiasm for passage aboard Dr. Webb’s “time machine” (“Aucilla River Times” Volume XII, No. 1 May 1999 page 15). Whether acting as site reporters, field surveyors, posthole-diggers, block excavators, screen operators, field data recorders, lab managers, photographers, or all-around daily logistical troubleshooters, our volunteers are invaluable. I now find myself serving proudly on the staff of the ARI’s WSSP research project, still assisting professional scientists exploring the wealth of historic, prehistoric and earth sciences information that continues to illuminate the environmental, paleontological, and cultural events of millennia in the making. If this recitation of my own personal experience in such matters stirs something in your world, then you might also consider exploring your place in time, as you explore for buried clues to long-lost events, among the inspirational company of like-minded volunteers and professionals.

Joe Latvis
Now permit me to introduce two seemingly timeless and tireless paragons of volunteerism that have repeatedly answered the call to archaeological research service they also could not resist. As a posthole-digging and sediment-screening dynamic duo they bring a combined 176 years of fascinating lifetime work-in-progress experience from their traditional livelihood professions to the ARI WSSP project. They represent the finest traditions of “amateur” (“a person who does something for the pleasure of it rather than for money”) volunteers in scientific research projects. They expect no special consideration in the sometimes demanding project duties they perform routinely, and deliver their full measure every day they are on the roster. John Grant and Ed Green have been venerable and inspirational role models for us all. They have blazed trails that run freely across open horizons of the earth’s spaces and times, unimpeded by any self-constructed walls of unimaginative self-imposed constraints. We salute the dedication you represent every time you answer the call to participate and the role models you have become across the decades of project volunteers you have trained and led by example.

HONORED VOLUNTEERS
John Grant (right) retrieves another 8-foot long posthole digger cutter-head of sediment into the transfer bucket, while Ed Green (left) stands by to screen sediment through the rocker-box ¼-inch screen-deck for artifacts
Wakulla Crew: A Day in the Life of an Archaeologist

The Wakulla crew of archaeologists, graduate students, lab managers, undergraduate interns and volunteers meet to discuss the day’s activities at 9 a.m. every week, Tuesday through Sunday. Here is a glimpse of the typical workday as experienced by the graduate student crew chiefs.

All crew members make their way to the excavation sites upon completion of the morning briefing, carrying with them great attitudes and important pieces of equipment: the total stations. These high precision survey devices are crucial to documenting provenience for all items encountered during an archaeological excavation. Knowing the precise location of an artifact in situ, creating maps, and exploring former land surfaces is an important facet of archaeological research, and the highest level of accuracy is paramount when documenting every possible detail. While volunteer crew members gather the necessary equipment for the day’s work, Tom Watters, a retired professional surveyor and volunteer for the Wakulla 2 project sets the instruments for use in both of the excavation areas while the graduate student crew chiefs begin documenting the daily operations in their field notes.

Aside from documenting the physical location of items of interest, a graduate student crew chief is typically responsible for the day’s paperwork. Yes, copious amounts of paperwork are created during an archaeology dig. So much paperwork. Again, proper documentation is crucial to an archaeological excavation and the interpretation and analysis is nearly impossible without accurate measurements in the field. All photographs, physical features,
locations of artifacts, and ever-changing ground surfaces are documented as the excavation proceeds. All files are organized by date and stored appropriately.

Each of the two areas are divided into 12 individual 2 X 2 meter excavation units totaling 48 square meters per tent. Each of the 2 X 2 units are partitioned into 4 quadrants which are excavated separately, generating 4 level forms, 4 level photographs, 4 planview maps, 4 sets of elevation coordinates, and 4 sets of fieldnotes. In sum, 48 level forms, planview maps, sets of elevation coordinates, and sets of fieldnotes are generated across each excavation area, per level of sediment removed. If a depth of 2 meters is reached, as is the goal of the project; 1,920 level forms will be utilized in either dig area, bringing the total count to 3,840 level forms, planview maps, elevation coordinates, and sets of fieldnotes for the project! As one can imagine, keeping organized is a formidable, yet achievable task.

As the day progresses, sediment is removed and screened, artifacts and other items of interest are documented and kept for laboratory analysis. It is the crew chief’s job to keep log of every artifact occurrence, in some cases, the precise location is captured with the total station. In addition to this, an instrument called an inclinometer is used to record the specific orientation of an artifact before it’s removal from the ground, increasing accuracy and helping to interpret the context in which an artifact was initially interred.

As the day winds to a close, final notes are taken, the total station equipment is stowed, the excavation units are draped with tarps, artifacts are collected, and the paperwork is filed appropriately.
The Mysteries of Wakulla Springs State Park

Three years have made an enormous difference in our grasp of the mysteries of Wakulla Springs State Park. River boat captains often refer to the Wakulla River as the river of mysterious waters. Progress in understanding from where these waters emanate has resulted in a variety of scientific findings. And it is only logical to support the archaeology of this National Register of Historic Places District as well.

The Wakulla II project under the direction of Dr. Jim Dunbar, chairman of the Aucilla Research Institute, has begun its focus on two major excavation areas near the spring boil this field season. Since 2015 these ongoing research efforts have been supported by a variety of individuals and institution. Volunteers from “The Friends of Wakulla Springs State Park” and the “Panhandle Archaeological Society at Tallahassee” (PAST) have donated thousands of hours to this archaeological research program to date. Organizations and Agencies provided the following funding for this ongoing project:

- 2016 Division of Historical Resources grant to “The Friends of Wakulla Springs State Park”.
- 2016—2018 Division of Historical Resources grant to the Aucilla Research Institute.

With volunteer and financial assistance, both from the Friends and the State of Florida’s Division of Historic Resources, the Wakulla II project under the direction of Dr. Jim Dunbar, chairman of the Aucilla Research Institute, has begun its focus on two major excavation areas near the spring boil. And although our financial and in-kind support for the project ends June 30 after three years, our board and members eagerly await the results of the next few years of exploration.
Above: Crew Chief Phil Gerrell and Lee Yawn hold up the banner and matching shirts they made to raise money for the project

Below: Gerrell, Dunbar, and Boyer keeping spirits and conversation lively during pre-lecture chat.
Soft-spoken and mild-mannered Bob Thompson came to the Wakulla Springs Archaeological Research Project as a volunteer and gravitated to the excavation crew immediately. You might recognize him as one of the Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park tour-boat captain and guide from back when he worked here, or you might know him from his nature and wildlife photography website www.bobthompson.me

We on the project have all come to know him as a skilled practitioner of the 8-foot posthole digger, as well as a knowledgeable naturalist and human activities photographer. We have taken this opportunity to share a sampling of his perspective on the activities, environments, and those who work along with him on the excavation crew, which constituted six mornings a week from project staff and dedicated volunteers like Bob.
On the way to the Chimney Springs Site in the morning sunshine

Clockwise from left: Dr. Willet Boyer, Sandy Williams, Ed Green, Joe Latvis

Just a fraction of an amazing crew
Joe Latvis using post-hole diggers to test the site area for archaeological activity.

Volunteer Sandy Williams screening through soil to spot any artifacts.
Volunteer Harriet Wright keeps track of levels being dug while taking the ever important field notes.

Project staff archaeologist Dr. Willet Boyer III keeps spirits high with stories from his hometown.
We all remind ourselves that walking miles through these woodlands and working daylong in this natural environment demands constant vigilance for threats to personal health and safety, as well as for the well-being of all the plants and animals whose habitats we encroach upon during our field research. We encountered this beautiful diamondback rattlesnake one cool fall morning, took some photos from a safe distance, and gave it fair clearance when returning through its area at day’s end.
Bonus Bob Thompson Photography: Exploratory Tour of Other Site Possibilities and Natural Beauty At Wakulla Springs

Debating the potentials of the cairn
Palmer Carr looks over the cairn.
Above: Landscape
Below: Hurricane Lily
Scouts Volunteer at Wakulla Springs Project
To Earn Archaeology Merit Badge

Scoutmaster Bear Register coaches posthole-digger excavation mechanics

Principal investigator Jim Dunbar advises sediment and artifact screening procedures

Boy Scouts Trey Shmegel, Dakota Harris, Mason Craig, Tristan Craig, Roger Carroll, and JB Holk pose for a picture after working
As a part of the project at Wakulla Springs, we’re offering a course in identifying Native American and historical ceramics common in Florida. The course also teaches lithic identification. The course began on Tuesday, February 21st, and we’ve had an excellent response! Fourteen people attended the first week’s classes, and we’ve covered how to identify different pottery types, as well as several of Florida’s pre-contact Native American cultures.

Classes are held every Tuesday and Thursday from 3:30 – 5:30 PM at the Governor Martin House, 1001 De Soto Park Drive, Tallahassee, Florida 32301, until Thursday, April 13, 2017. The class is free of charge and weekly hand-outs will be provided to assist with class lectures.
The path of Hurricane Hermine made a bullseye hit over the Wakulla Springs State Park area.

Hurricane Hermine’s landfall on September, late in the night of the 1st and early morning hours of the 2nd at nearby St. Marks altered WSSP’s forested landscape with numerous tree-falls, wetland levels with increased depth and reduced clarity, as well as disruption of the park’s electric grid power. Despite these temporary setbacks, heroic efforts by the park’s tireless management team, rangers and staff, combined with similarly dedicated commitments by power company crews from surrounding states, land surveying of the Wakulla River’s main run survey grid was completed in time for archaeological excavation teams to begin on schedule.

The grid markers on the ground consisted of lettered rows running East/West combined with numbered columns running North/South. The grid point intervals ran 20 meters in both axes totaling 113 grid points. Typical archaeological testing at each grid marker consisted of excavating sediment samples utilizing a scissor-type posthole digger with 2.5-meter-
long handles, enabling a total penetration up to 2 meters. The sediment clamshell cutters were advanced in a series of 25-cm vertical intervals; each sample being retrieved from the hole for fine-screening separately to identify the presence of historic or prehistoric artifacts. A designated data recorder sealed each artifact into a plastic bag with unique identification of its description and provenience, before logging it onto field data forms. In a controlled environment laboratory nearby the excavation, technicians processed, analyzed and cataloged all artifacts for further study. A total of 44 grid points at this site have been completed to date in this manner.
Wakulla Springs State Park and Wakulla Archaeology Project Staff Share Resources in the aftermath of Hurricane Hermine

Good music, good food, and most of all: good company.

The only electricity was the generator at the administration building. All other power was out for days.
Top: Dr. Willett Boyer enjoying conversation
Bottom: Former assistant park manager Bonnie Allen joins keeping spirits high
Panhandle Archaeological Society at Tallahassee (PAST) and Wakulla II Project Coordinate Hosting British Tour Group to WSSP Archaeology

The British tour group memorializes their experience with a photo enhanced by the spectacular main spring run and lush natural vegetation background.
PAST program coordinator Lonnie Mann (right back) introduces Wakulla II project staff archaeologist Dr. Willet Boyer (to his left) as guest speaker on this season’s activities within the park and their historical context.
October 2016 Monthly Update:
Wakulla Springs Project

Funding through grants S1737 and Sc721, Division of Historical Resources with supplementary grants from the Florida First Foundation, Inc. and the Felburn Foundation, Inc.

A Cooperative effort of the Aucilla Research Institute, the Friends of Wakulla Springs State Park, and the Panhandle Archaeological Society at Tallahassee

Wakulla II Project Organizational Outreach
Grid Surveying

$7500 worth of brand new state-of-the-art survey equipment was generously donated by Friends of Wakulla Springs State Park this month, and it afforded us the happy circumstance of familiarizing ourselves with its intricacies on the WSSP administration building lawn before deploying it in the woodlands beyond. Retired surveyor Tom Watters (below) has witnessed the amazing technological advance of surveying instruments in the course of his distinguished career. The surveying crew proceeds by first gaining vehicle access to the predominantly woodland area to be examined for archaeological potential. This first step can be problematic, as Hurricane Hermine’s wrath demonstrated to the survey crew and WSSP road clearing crews last month. Jim Dunbar consults with Patti Wilbur about one such roadblock ahead. Even after vehicle access is finally established, clearing lines of sight from point to point still occupies a good deal of time and energy. Ultimately, a 20-meter square grid is then superimposed on the woodland terrain, with each grid intersection marked with a piece of flagging tape identifying its row and column designation and then nailed into the ground. A similarly marked flagging tape is then tied to the top end of a ½” PVC stake and driven into the ground alongside each nail for greater visibility when the excavation crews follow later.

Our typical irregularly bordered 12-acre grids often require well over a hundred survey points, each requiring line-of-sight clearing.

Tom Watters donates his years of experience and great passion to the project and field as a whole.
The surveying crew proceeds by first gaining vehicle access to the predominantly woodland area to be examined for archaeological potential. This first step can be problematic, as Hurricane Hermine’s wrath demonstrated to the survey crew and WSSP road clearing crews last month. Jim Dunbar consults with Patti Wilbur about one such roadblock ahead.

The fruits of cooperation between Tom, crew members of the project, park staff and rangers alike. A truly group success. Ultimately, the new survey data collector tablet clearly displays the southwest grid-point margins (the so-called “Boot of Italy”) as they meander along the targeted high ground along the northeast boundary of Sally Ward Spring Run.
Excavation Crew

Right: Testing a unit using an eight-foot long posthole digger and 1/4” shaker screen.

Early morning planning outside the Administration Building before going into the field.

The Bob Thompson Level tracker®.

2016/10/02
Field Lab

A field lab was established this season under the direction of Nicole Pezzotti and Karel Wolberg. Wakulla Springs State Park generously permitted them to set up lab space in the warehouse located nearby the ways, by which boats requiring maintenance can be pulled from the Wakulla River. Field lab responsibilities require control over the continuous stream of specimens as well as the provenience data associated with them. Above is a photograph of the end-of-the-day review of specimens recovered. Below, Dr. Jim Dunbar and lab manager Karel Wolberg discover the detail magnification reveals through a scanning process.
Wakulla Archaeological Project Sponsors
Acknowledgement and Appreciation

The following businesses and organizations have generously donated goods and/or services in support of our Wakulla Archaeological and Historical Research Project. Many research grant awards disallow use of their funding for costs such as providing basic lunch materials and electrolyte beverages for our physically active woodlands field crew members. Your donations resolve this and other similarly worthwhile unfunded situations that require the flexibility you thoughtfully provide.

Florida First Foundation of Tampa
Florida First Foundation Corporation

Felburn Foundation

Wakulla Hospitality

Winn Dixie

Dewberry | PREBLE-RISH

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March is Archaeology Month!

Every year in March, the statewide celebration of Florida’s history takes place in parks, schools, and museums. Throughout the month, the state’s rich cultural history is enjoyed and shared with Floridians and visitors alike. This year on March 25th, we are proud to announce our very own Archaeology Month Festival, complete with ancient crafts, open visits to our unique public laboratory and games for all ages. Come out, bring a picnic, and enjoy the festivities in one of Florida’s most well-known and beautiful natural springs.

Aucilla Research Institute on the web!
Visit our web page to read more about our research endeavors, find out how you can become an associate scholar, get in contact for conferences and other opportunities, check out our funded research, and tour our brand new virtual museum!

http://aucillaresearchinstitute.org/

Also, follow and like us on Facebook for regular updates and watch our researchers at work! Search #WakullaArchaeology and #AucillaResearch for even more ways to track our work!

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