

NEW CONSTRUCTION UNCOVERS ARCHAIC SITE



A Late Archaic site was recently discovered on the island of Palm Beach: prime real estate since 1000 B.C.

In May, 2010, a previously unknown prehistoric site was discovered in Palm Beach. The Archaeological and Historical Conservancy was notified by Palm Beach resident Bill Williams that a deep horizon of shell midden had been uncovered during new construction at a residence on Via La Selva Avenue. An AHC team including Joe Mankowski and Dorothy Block assessed and monitored the site over a five day period. Profiles were cleaned within the construction trenches and soils sifted. A representative sample of artifacts, animal bones, and shell refuse was collected.

The absence of any pottery suggests a pre-ceramic age site likely dating from the Late Archaic Period (ca. 1000 B.C.) Of particular interest was the recovery of a large quantity of non-local lithic artifacts including a stone bead. Donations have been received that will allow for the completion of radiocarbon dates for the site using ASM (Accelerated Mass Spectrometry) dating from charcoal samples.



Deep horizon shell midden uncovered in trench dug for new wall construction at Palm Beach mansion.



Archaic stone bead found in Via La Selva midden.

5000 YEARS ON THE LOXAHATCHEE

The Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse and Museum has opened a new exhibit showcasing 5000 years on the Loxahatchee River in eight rooms of a restored, historic U.S. Coast Guard barracks, headquarters of the Loxahatchee River Historical Society (LRHS). The exhibits presents prehistoric Native Americans, Seminoles, and pioneers, the Lighthouse and local maritime history, the U.S. Weather Bureau, and the secret history of World War II “Station J.” Exhibited here for the first time are



the Carlin White and John Durham collections. AHC was instrumental in facilitating the donation of John Durham’s incomparable assemblage of Spanish contact period artifacts, including several zoomorphic metal ornaments of high artistic value. AHC, under the direction of Tim Harrington, consulted on the design of many of the exhibits, focusing especially on the prehistoric Native American collections of tools, ceramics, and contact period artifacts.

Last year the site administered by the Loxahatchee River Historical Society - the museum, lighthouse, and grounds - was designated Jupiter Inlet Outstanding Natural Area by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM). On January 13, 2010, JILONA and its partners celebrated the 150th anniversary of the lighthouse, attracting 1500 people to the park on one of the coldest Sundays in Jupiter history. Among the day’s activities was the unveiling of a series of interpretive signs, funded by the Florida Humanities Council and designed by AHC, marking a trail around the lighthouse. More interpretive signs are planned as the trail is expanded. Keynoting the unveiling of the trail signs, AHC director Bob Carr gave a presentation on *Discovering Jupiter Inlet’s Native Roots*. The Conservancy has conducted archaeological surveys for LRHS for several years, and is currently assessing an unexplored area on the property for the BLM. For more information on Jupiter Inlet’s unique and magical blend of Florida prehistory, history and natural beauty, visit LRHS on the web:

www.jupiterlighthouse.org.

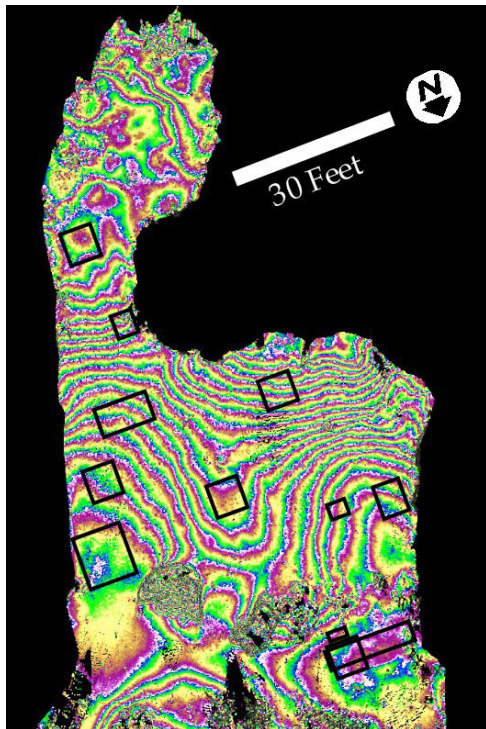


Interpretive trail sign designed by AHC; painting by Eric Speyer.

BAHAMIAN LUCAYAN DNA RECOVERED FROM TEETH

Archaeologists from AHC have completed a three season field investigation of Preachers Cave on Eleuthera in the Bahamas. Excavations there uncovered three intact graves of indigenous Lucayans. Radiocarbon dates of associated charcoal indicate that the graves date from ca. A.D. 900-1350. The recovery of mitochondrial DNA was successfully conducted by Wolfgang Haak of the Australian Center for Ancient DNA at the University of Adelaide.

Two haplotypes were identified : B4 and C1. Types B and C are consistent with Native American populations. B4 evolved from haplotype B in Asia 50,000 years ago. Haplotype C1 is estimated to stem from a mutation that occurred about 11,000 years ago with its likely source being the Japanese Archipelago. Some researchers hypothesize that people carrying the gene reached the Americas between 6000-8000 years before present.



Laser map of the plan of Preachers Cave
(Courtesy of Integrated Spatial Technologies at the
University of South Florida)



Above: main entrance to Preachers Cave; below, archaeologists
Jeff Ransom and Joe Mankowski explore upper levels of the cave.

Florida Antiquity is a publication of the Archaeological and Historical Conservancy. AHC was incorporated in Florida in 1979 as a 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit organization with the mission of investigating and preserving significant archaeological and historical sites across Florida and the Caribbean.

MEMBERSHIP

Members and donors receive complimentary admission to special events and are eligible to participate as volunteers on excavations. Membership costs and donations are tax-deductable.

Memberships	
Student	\$15
Regular	\$25
Family	\$50
Institution	\$100
Corporation	\$500
Partnerships	
Sherdmaster	\$1,000
Potlatcher	\$5,000
Potmender	\$10,000
Site Master	\$25,000 or more

HISTORY

Beginning with excavations at the Cutler Fossil site in Miami-Dade County, AHC has documented over 1000 sites throughout Florida and the Bahamas including excavations at the Miami Circle, Ten Thousand Islands, the Ortona Canals, Fort Pierce, Okeechobee Battlefield and Fort Van Swearingen. AHC played a pivotal role in preserving these and other sites including Snake Warrior Island, the Ortona Mound Complex, the Loxahatchee Battlefield, Otter Mound and the Pine Islands in Broward County.

At Preacher's Cave on Eleuthera Island, where a prehistoric and 17th century site occur, AHC documented the first macro evidence of maize cultivation in the Bahama archipelago. AHC also provides site management plans, site tours, and interpretive design and development—the exhibit hall at Long Key Nature Center set a new standard for Broward County parks and natural areas.

Archaeological and Historical Conservancy, Inc.

4800 SW 64th Avenue
Suite 107
Davie FL 33314
(954) 792-9776

Board of Directors

Executive Director:

Bob Carr

President:

Beth Read

Vice President:

Jim Clupper

Secretary:

Barbara Tansey

Treasurer:

Jeff Shepard

Directors:

John Beriault

E. Carter Burrus

Bob Carr

Debbie Carr

Mary Ellen Gray

Tim Harrington

Ann Murray



www.flarchaeology.org