

Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida
Alachua Archaeological Field School
ANT4824; Section 2D22

Spring 2015

Instructor: Neill J. Wallis, Ph.D.

Graduate Teaching Assistants: Kristen Hall and Hayley Singleton

Meeting Times: Wednesdays and Fridays, departing from Dickinson Hall at 8:00 am and returning at 3:00 pm.

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Office hours: on site or Tuesday 9:00-12:00, Dickinson Hall.

Overview

The Alachua Archaeological Field School will take place in north-central Florida, a distinctive region defined by karst topography and numerous associated freshwater lakes, bogs, swamps, and rivers. The region has been occupied since the end of the Pleistocene epoch, more than 12,000 years ago, but it would be thousands of years before the well-watered landscape that we know today began to take shape. Beginning ca. AD 100-200, the region was permanently inhabited by populations that became uniquely adapted to the abundant aquatic habitats of north-central Florida, known today archaeologically as the Cades Pond culture. An aquatic adaptation was made possible by a climatic optimum that ended during the AD 600s.

A drier climatic trend followed for several centuries, punctuated by many severe drought events. Coincident with this shift, after about AD 675, the Cades Pond culture was replaced by the Alachua Tradition. Alachua Tradition sites were positioned in the uplands with favorable agricultural soils and contain faunal assemblages that show the use of far fewer animals, with preference for terrestrial taxa. Alachua Tradition sites thus reflect a much different way of life, perhaps one that was focused on maize agriculture, and certainly a de-emphasis upon wetland resources compared to the Cades Pond culture.

Although burial rituals of the Cades Pond culture and Alachua Tradition are understood through mound excavations many decades ago, fewer village contexts have received thorough investigation. Moreover, the transition between Cades Pond and Alachua Tradition is poorly understood and seldom represented at archaeological sites. Along the shores of Orange Lake, the

research program for the field course strives to begin filling these lacunae, focusing on village settlements along the shores of Orange Lake. Sites in this area include dense occupations of the Cades Pond and Alachua Tradition, with potentially overlapping components in some areas. The research thus holds the potential to reveal the nuances of village life and local responses to severe climate changes.

Course requirements: Participation in all field work, lab sessions, and lectures is required. Students are expected to develop a working knowledge of archaeological methods and the local culture history of the area.

Grading: Grades are based on active participation in field work, lab sessions, and lectures, and development of requisite skills. **Unexcused absences from the field school result in a 10% reduction in the student's grade.**

Letter grades are assigned as follows:

A (93-100%)

A- (90-92%)

B+ (88-89%)

B (83-87%)

B- (80-82%)

C+ (78-79%)

C (73-77%)

C- (70-72%)

D+ (68-69%)

D (63-67%)

D- (60-62%)

E (59% or below)

Texts for the course: There are no required readings for the course, but the following books and articles are highly recommended. Some will be made available and circulated electronically.

Ashley, Keith H. and Nancy Marie White

- 2012 Late Prehistoric Florida: An Introduction. In *Late Prehistoric Florida: Archaeology at the Edge of the Mississippian World*, edited by K. H. Ashley and N. M. White, pp. 1-28. University Press of Florida, Gainesville, FL.

Fradkin, Arlene and Jerald T. Milanich

- 1977 Salvage excavations at the Law School Mound, Alachua County, Florida. *The Florida Anthropologist* 30(4):166-178.

Hemmings, E. Thomas

- 1978 Cades Pond Subsistence, Settlement, and ceremonialism. *The Florida Anthropologist* 31(4):141-150.

Milanich, Jerald T.

- 1972 Excavations at the Richardson Site, Alachua County, Florida: An Early 17th Century Potano Indian Village (with Notes on Potano Culture Change). Florida Bureau of Historic Sites and Properties Bulletin 2:35-61
- 1978 Two Cades Pond Sites in North-central Florida: The Occupational Nexus as a Model of Settlement. *The Florida Anthropologist* 31:151-173.
- 1994 *Archaeology of Precolumbian Florida*. University Press of Florida, Gainesville.
- 2002 Weeden Island Cultures. In *The Woodland Southeast*, edited by David G. Anderson and Robert C. Mainfort, pp. 352-372. University of Alabama Press, Tuscaloosa.

Rolland, Vicki

- 2012 Alachua of North-Central Florida. In *Late Prehistoric Florida: Archaeology at the Edge of the Mississippian World*, edited by K. H. Ashley and N. M. White, pp. 126-148. University Press of Florida, Gainesville.

Sears, William H.

- 1956 Melton Mound Number 3. *The Florida Anthropologist* 9:87-100.

Wallis, Neill J.

- 2014 Ritualized Practices of the Suwannee Valley Culture in North Florida. In *New Histories of Pre-Columbian Florida*, edited by N. J. Wallis and A. R. Randall, pp. 243-261. University Press of Florida, Gainesville.

Wallis, Neill J., Ann S. Cordell and James B. Stoltman

2015 Foundations of the Cades Pond Culture in North-Central Florida: The River Styx Site (8AL458). *Southeastern Archaeology* 33:168-188.

Worth, John E.

2012 An Overview of the Suwannee Valley Culture. In *Late Prehistoric Florida: Archaeology at the Edge of the Mississippian World*, edited by K. H. Ashley, and Nancy Marie White, pp. 149-171. University Press of Florida, Gainesville.

Field Equipment: All archaeological equipment and supplies are provided. Water is provided but students must bring a water bottle or other container and a lunch. Optional items which students may bring if desired: gloves, insect repellent, sunscreen, collapsible chair (for lunch and breaks).