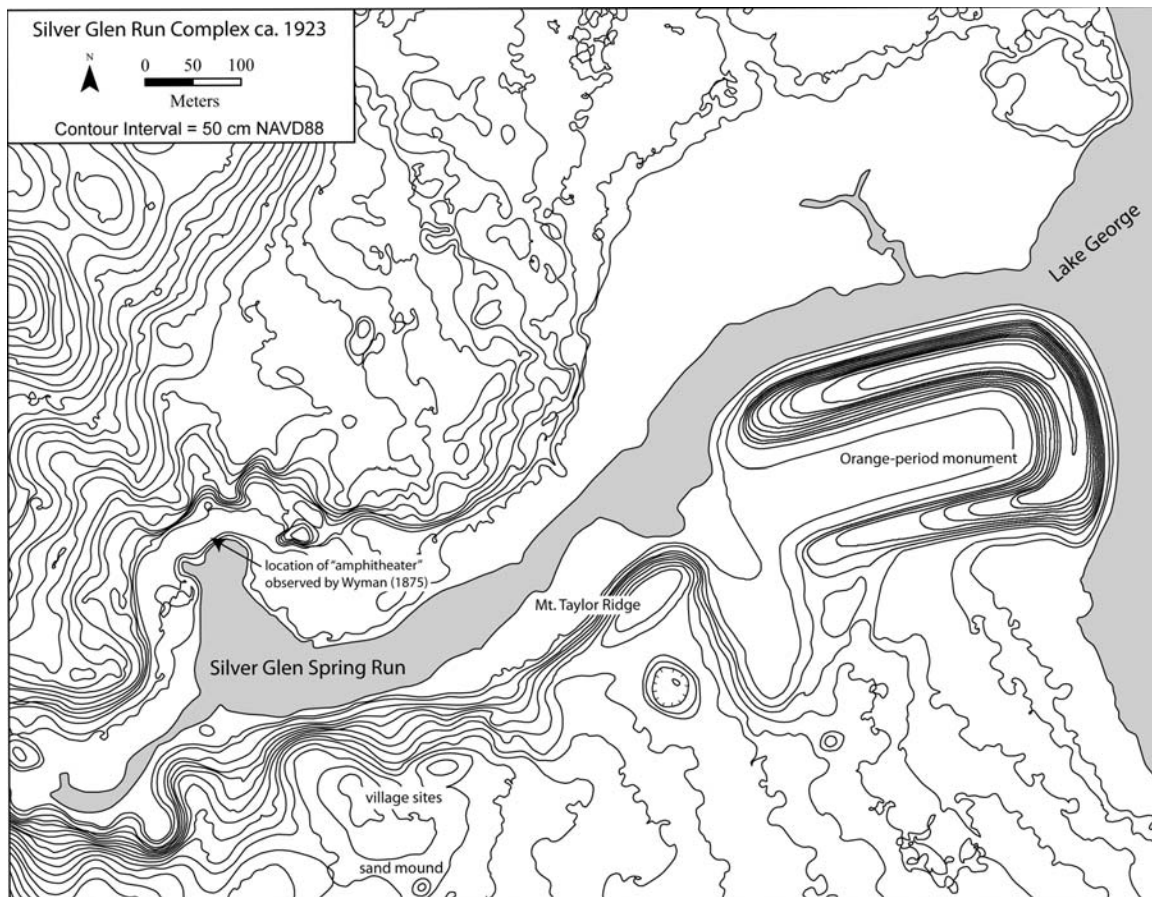


ST. JOHNS ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SCHOOL 2007-2010
SILVER GLEN RUN (8LA1)



Kenneth E. Sassaman, Zackary I. Gilmore, and Asa R. Randall

Technical Report 12
Laboratory of Southeastern Archaeology
Department of Anthropology
University of Florida

**ST. JOHNS ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SCHOOL 2007-2010:
SILVER GLEN RUN (8LA1)**

Kenneth E. Sassaman
Zackary I. Gilmore
Asa R. Randall

Technical Report 12
Laboratory of Southeastern Archaeology
Department of Anthropology
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611

December 2011

© 2011 Department of Anthropology, University of Florida
all rights reserved

Cover map of the reconstructed landscape of Silver Glen Run produced by Asa R. Randall

Management Summary

Since 2007, faculty and students of the St. Johns Archaeological Field School, Department of Anthropology, University of Florida have been conducting field investigations at pre-Columbian sites along Silver Glen Run in Lake and Marion counties, Florida. The sites are located on property of the Juniper Club of Louisville, Kentucky, hosts of the field school and stewards of an archaeological record spanning thousands of years of intensive occupation. Among the sites on the property are several shell mounds, at least one sand mound, and innumerable subsurface remains dating from the early Holocene.

Field school investigations to date have involved reconnaissance survey of Juniper Club land fronting Silver Glen Run and test excavations at several areas within the site on record for this location (8LA1/8MR3601). The eastern aspect of the site (8LA1-East) once housed a massive U-shaped mound of shell and associated archaeological remains at the confluence of Silver Glen Run and Lake George. Although the mound was mined for shell in 1923, subsurface remnants preserve the footprint and basal strata of the deposit. A program of coring, ground-penetrating radar (GPR), and stratigraphic excavation has helped to document the footprint of the mound's south ridge, but its counterpart on the north side of the mound has been difficult to characterize due to advanced subsurface disturbances associated with mining. Observed through GPR survey along the south ridge are arcuate arrays of subsurface shell deposits, possible evidence for circular settlements akin to coastal shell rings. The lack of definitive evidence for domestic architecture and associated deposits (i.e., vertebrate fauna, food-processing technology) among these arrays may be merely sample error, but perhaps the area was utilized for purposes other than daily living. Elaborately decorated pottery of the Orange tradition (ca. 4600-3600 years ago) attests to specialized (most likely large social) activities along the north ridge of the mound. Pottery from the south ridge is generally plain and infrequent, and appears to date a century or two later than the pottery from the north ridge. Irrespective of the practices responsible for the basal deposits of the south ridge, whole shell was deposited over the ground surface in large quantities, suggesting that the ridge was constructed deliberately over a short timeframe.

The western aspect of 8LA1 (8LA1-West) includes the post-mining remnants of a 200-m-long shell ridge dating to the middle part of the Mount Taylor period (ca. 6300-5750 years ago). Surviving today are subsurface deposits up to one meter deep, as well as mining escarpments averaging about two meters high. At three locations along the ridge, field school students profiled escarpments to document the above-ground layers and then excavated below the mining pit to expose basal deposits. Revealed in all exposures were complex sequences of basal midden capped by brown sand and then successive, relatively thin strata of crushed shell with artifacts, shallow pits, vertebrate fauna, charcoal and ash, paleofeces, and other indications of domestic living. A 6-m-long trench in one location enabled us to observe stratigraphic relationships between primary and secondary deposits, between presumed house platforms and associated refuse, and between emplaced sand and shell. Observations to date suggest that the Mount Taylor ridge formed primarily through repeated occupation, although the emplacement of sand

and clean shell, and occasional interment of subadult humans, points to activities other than domestic living.

A relatively small ridge nose to the west of Locus A contains evidence for intensive activity over the Mount Taylor and Orange periods. Reconnaissance survey in what is known as Locus B showed this portion of the site to be fully intact, with shell-bearing deposits extending well below the surface. Extensive testing, including block excavation, shows that Locus B contains the stratified remains of three successive but fundamentally different episodes of site use. At the base is a Mount Taylor component indicative of repeated occupations dating from ca. 5750 to 4600 cal B.P., followed by a period of intensive pit digging ca. 4500-4000 cal B.P., and finally a capping event ca. 4000-3800 cal B.P. involving the emplacement of clean shell over the pit-pocked surface. The first use of pottery (Orange Plain) coincides with pit digging. The shell capping event, however, was accompanied by the deposition of incised Orange pottery of the Tick Island variety—a rare curvilinear and zoned incised punctate type. Evidence for domestic activities dating to either Orange component has proved elusive. Results of GPR survey conducted in 2011 will be detailed in a later report, but of note is an arcuate pattern of subsurface features not unlike that observed at 8LA1-East.

Field school investigations are ongoing. The results of work conducted over the first four years of the project (2007-2010) are reported here in full with exception of work in Locus C, at the western end of 8LA1-West. Testing in this location did not begin in earnest until 2011. Sufficient data are available to hypothesize that Locus C was a St. Johns II period village (ca. 800-600 years ago) with an arcuate array of houses and associated features (hearths, pits) surrounding a small central plaza devoid of shell. Fronting this village along the spring run is a thick deposit of secondary refuse including ample pottery, vertebrate and invertebrate faunal remains, charcoal and ash, and other evidence of intensive habitation overlooking the spring pool. Along with undocumented shell mounds and other deposits elsewhere on Juniper Club property, Locus C provides ample opportunity for continued investigations well into the future. Recommendations for additional work are provided in the back of this report.

Acknowledgments

Since 2007, the St. Johns Archaeological Field School has been enabled through the support and generosity of the Juniper Club of Louisville, Kentucky. I was introduced to the club by member Dr. James Gay, who reached out to the University of Florida in the Fall of 2005 for a speaker for the annual Main Camp, held every January at the club's property along Silver Glen Run in Lake and Marion counties, Florida. By stroke of good fortune, the request landed on my desk, and I invited Dr. Gay and his wife for a visit to Gainesville. At that meeting Dr. Gay related his interest in providing club members with a lecture on the archaeology of the region, and he shared with me what he knew about sites on the club property. With an active program of archaeological research in the region, I agreed without hesitancy to visit Main Camp that January. Arriving early the day of the lecture, I was treated to a tour of some of the archaeological sites on the property, including remnants of a shell ridge, surface shell deposits spanning several acres, and an intact sand mound. I also met then-President Dr. Thomas Reichard, who agreed to take a proposal for a field school to the club's Board of Directors for consideration. The combination of archaeological sites in need of testing and onsite facilities for housing 15 students for five weeks was a godsend for a field school program that had run its course at Hontoon Island after five good years. It was not until I got back to Gainesville and delved into the literature of Silver Glen that I fully understood the significance of the sites on Juniper Club property and their potential for research. Four years of field schools at the Juniper Club have substantiated this potential manifold.

Visits to Main Camp to report on the results of the previous summer have become an annual tradition, as have visits to the summer field school by club members. In these and other opportunities to share what we have learned, my students and I have appreciated the sincere and enduring interest club members have in its land and its history, and we respect that enormously. A great debt of thanks is owed to all Juniper Club members for their generosity, support, and enthusiasm for what we do. The trust they bestow upon us in using their clubhouse and other resources, and in digging into their land is truly humbling. Special thanks go to Gene Nelson, Resident Manager, for not only tolerating the annual invasion of a hoard of students, but also teaching us about the land and its history, not to mention backfilling our excavation units with heavy equipment. Gene's assistants over the years, most recently Tony, have helped in more ways that we can count.

Our thanks to Richard Estabrook of the Florida Public Archaeology Network (FPAN) for helping field school go high-tech. On three occasions Rich brought FPAN's Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) equipment to the site to survey for subsurface anomalies and to show the students how we can learn about the anatomy of sites without digging them up.

Back in Gainesville the field school benefited from the administrative assistance of Karen Jones and her staff of the Department of Anthropology, and former chair Allan Burns. The department's blue van was indispensable. Additional material support for

the field school has been provided by the Hyatt and Cici Brown Endowment for Florida Archaeology.

My deepest thanks go to Graduate Teaching Assistants for the field school: Asa Randall, Zack Gilmore, Neill Wallis, Paulette McFadden, Jason O'Donoughue, Meggan Blessing, and Elyse Anderson. Of course, the dozens of field school students who did nearly all the physical work deserve special recognition, so we include here photos and the names of all students in the three years of full-blown field schools (pp. vii-ix). In addition, the 2009 field season that involved focused excavation at Locus B with a veteran squad benefited from the capable help of Julie Byrd of Florida State University, Erik Johanson of the University of Tennessee, and Alisa French of the University of Florida.



2007 Crew. Top row (left to right): David Echeverry, Kira Beam, Neill Wallis, Ann Carvalho, Scott Major. Middle row (left to right): Stacie Sachs, Sheila Rojas, Elizabeth Olson, Josh Robinson, Raymond Wright. Bottom row (left to right): Asa Randall, Riefler Lee, Jeff Brzezinski, Jennifer Pietarila (not pictured: Randi Wilson).



2008 Crew. Top two rows (left to right): Alex Taylor, Matt McCarthy, Aleksei Moskvina, Natan Bastoky, Daniel Tobin, Patrick Donery, Asa Randall, Fernando Luque, Meggan Blessing, Zack Gilmore. Middle row (left to right): Brandon Deegan, Amanda Fisher, Christian Davis, Moriah Goldfarb. Bottom row (left to right): Maranda Kles, Breann DeChellis, Heather Handegard, Catherine Aust, Jason Whitney (not pictured: Neill Wallis).



2010 Crew. Back row (left to right): Asa Randall, Paulette McFadden, John Moran, Kevin Gaduski, Clayon Melhado, Zack Gilmore, Jason O'Donoghue, Cody Davis, Matt Newton. Middle row (left to right): Rudy McIntyre, Lisa Wright, Summer Jupin, Erin Harris-Parks, Lori O'Neal. Bottom row (left to right): Ed Zegarra, Jessica Bartnick, Andrea Bartnick, Katie Cook, Allison Nick.

Contents

Management Summary	iii
Acknowledgments.....	v
Chapter 1. Introduction and Research Orientation	1
Chapter 2. Environmental and Archaeological Background	13
Chapter 3. Mouth of Silver Glen Run (8LA1-East).....	35
Chapter 4. Reconnaissance Survey of 8LA1-West.....	101
Chapter 5. Silver Glen Run, Locus A (8LA1-West).....	121
Chapter 6. Silver Glen Run, Locus B (8LA1-West).....	171
Chapter 7. Conclusions and Recommendations.....	315
References Cited	325
Appendix A: Catalog	339
Appendix B: Radiocarbon Data.....	427