

The 2011 excavations were located atop the mound where the house sits, and revealed a lot about the construction of the mound of shells. First, what had been called a midden mound (ie trash heap) was actually, purposefully built as an architectural feature, and was not a prehistoric landfill. In all likelihood, either a ruling class or religious leaders lived on top of the mound, while common folk occupied the lower areas. A donation from a Martin County resident financed one carbon 14 date test of the mound, and the Parks and Recreation Department covered the cost of the last dating. They revealed the top three feet of the mound were occupied between A.D. 1210 and A.D.1030.

Recovered artifacts include "Pappy's Bayou" pottery from the Panhandle area, and historic trade beads. Trade beads are small glass beads that were exchanged by the early explorers with the Native Americans.

Truly exciting, is that some of the recovered beads are Faceted Chevron Beads. Current research reveals these specific types of beads are only found in the very first areas visited by the Spanish explorers. In total, less than ten sites in the entire New World contain these beads. Among other early explorers; it is believed Ponce de Leon visited the site in 1513 and these small objects could, in theory, be from his visit. These objects literally represent the Old World meeting the New World, for the first time. It is hoped these items will be displayed locally, for Florida's 500th anniversary celebration next year.

The County Historic Preservation Officer will be presenting more information on these findings in the upcoming months.

To learn more about Palm Beach County Historic Preservation visit:
<http://www.pbcgov.com/pzb/planning/Archaeology/index.htm>

To learn more about the internship program you can visit:
http://www.pbcgov.com/pzb/planning/Archaeology/Arch_Interns.pdf



**Palm Beach County
Board of County
Commissioners**

County Administrator
Robert Weisman

Main County Office
2300 N. Jog Road
West Palm Beach, Florida 33411
561-233-5300

**PALM BEACH
COUNTY**



Historic Preservation



PLANNING DIVISION

**Planning, Zoning and
Building Department**

561-233-5300

Dubois Park Findings

When not in the wilds of Palm Beach County, Christian Davenport, the County's Historic Preservation Officer, works in the Planning, Zoning, and Building Department's Planning Division at Vista Center. In accordance with the County Comprehensive Plan's Historic Preservation Element, the Planning Division works in conjunction with other County departments to address historic/cultural resource issues. This interdepartmental cooperation was recently exemplified by archaeological investigations undertaken at Dubois Park.



Dubois Park is one of the most studied Native American sites in Florida. Based on the presence of a type of prehistoric pottery called "fiber tempered" and specific types of stone spearheads or knives, people have probably been living on the site for the last 6000 years. In comparison, the Pyramids of Egypt are only 4000 years old. Simply put, people have been living in Jupiter a minimum of 2000 years before the pyramids were built.

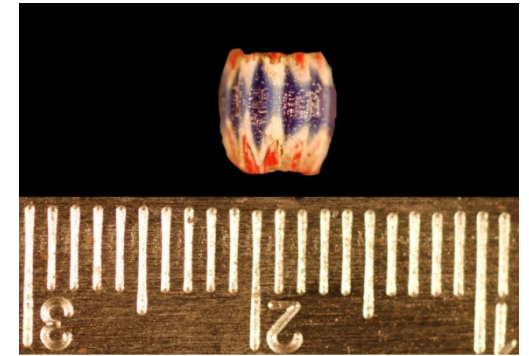
In 2010 and 2011, the County's Parks and Recreation Department undertook

renovations of the Dubois Pioneer Homestead in Dubois Park. In addition to structural renovations of the main home, new electric and plumbing had to be brought in. Under Article Nine of the Unified Land Development Code (ULDC), these renovations required trenches to be excavated into the ancient Native American mound, on top of which, the home sits. As a result, the County was required to undertake archaeological investigations to minimize the adverse impacts to this critically important cultural resource.

The Jupiter Inlet Historic and Archeological Site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and the County's Register of Historic Places. A group of Native Americans called the Jega (Hay-ga) once occupied the site. The artifacts that were found, reveal a shifting pattern of occupancy by groups from the south, the west, and lastly by people from the north. The Jega were the southernmost tribe of the larger Ais confederation that stretched from approximately Jacksonville to Jupiter, and possibly as far south as Riviera Beach. The excavations were along the western side of the park and revealed a wealth of information.

They uncovered what today is a six foot deep pit, just one part of a prehistoric ceremonial mound. A monetary gift to the Parks and Recreation Department covered the cost to carbon-14 date the findings. Samples were found to date back to approximately A.D. 780, very important, because during that time, worldwide sea levels were as much as three feet lower than in modern times. So the Jupiter Inlet would have contained more freshwater than today. Environmental research

indicates that this date falls within a 400 year drought, and due to the fluctuations at the Jupiter Inlet, the ancient inhabitants would have had to move their settlements to areas with more reliable sources of freshwater.



Above: A 15th century glass trade bead

The County's Historic Preservation Office coordinates with Florida Atlantic University (FAU) to provide interns to the County. These unpaid paraprofessionals are both graduate and under-graduate students. They assist with most historic preservation undertakings. The program is unique in the state, as seldom do such resources coexist in the same county. With direct supervision from the Historic Preservation Office, Ms. Katie Higgins (FAU intern) is examining the prehistoric pottery from the Dubois excavations, and that data will likely become the basis of her Master's thesis.