

Book Review of *New Directions in the Search for the First Floridians*

David K. Thulman and Ervan G. Garrison (editors)

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New Directions in the Search for the First Floridians is an important volume for the study of Late Pleistocene North America. Editors Thulman and Garrison achieve their goal of establishing “New Directions”—by the end of the book, I could not help but get excited thinking about the next big discovery that will undoubtedly emerge from Florida or its waters. Although *New Directions'* contributors write about a myriad of methods (e.g., geoarchaeology, underwater archaeology, dating, archival work) and artifact types (e.g., lithics, bone, charcoal, shell), the book is nicely coherent given its tight geographic and temporal constraints. This reviewer walked away from the volume not only with a much greater appreciation for Florida's Paleoindian archaeological record, but also with a much greater understanding and respect for the tremendous amount of work and (often frustrating) challenges faced by Paleoindian archaeologists in Florida.

Several thought-provoking themes run throughout the chapters. I was impressed with the self-awareness and reflection that the volume's authors showed toward the very high costs of underwater archaeology in both time and funding versus its potential for contributing unique and insightful discoveries about Florida's Paleoindians. Such balance is necessary for successfully convincing land lubbers (like me) that underwater archaeology is ultimately worth it. Toward that end, also convincing are personal reflections, like Faught's (Chapter 2) fascinating retrospective detailing the adversity and accomplishments he has faced over several decades.

Another theme that runs throughout the book is advocacy for collaboration between professional archaeologists and non-professionals, an approach this reviewer strongly favors. Hemmings' paper (Chapter 4) most directly demonstrates the benefits of integrating information from a variety of professional and non-professional sources, while Glowacki and Dunbar's (Chapter 8) paper on illicit looting and collection vividly illustrates the challenges archaeologists still face in educating the public. Smith's (Chapter 5) hunt for the Guest Mammoth and its original site—argu-

ably one of the strongest papers in the volume—is not only an excellent example of research tenacity and sleuthing, but mentions how “cooperation between avocational and professional archaeologists” over 40 years ago led to the Guest Mammoth's original investigation.

Any reader of *New Directions* will be awed at the methods and technologies currently employed by Florida Paleoindian archaeologists. Ranging from remote sensing and LiDAR (de Smet and Smith, Chapter 12) to geometric morphometrics (Thulman, Chapter 7), and from petrography and geochemistry (Hale, Chapter 11) to large online databases (Anderson et al., Chapter 13), the plethora of present-ed approaches gives a sense to the reader that each archaeologist here has an important part to play for the overall team. If every state aimed to produce a book like this one, collaboration and research quality would likely improve dramatically.

This reviewer had only two minor quibbles. First, my personal preference is for references to be listed at the end of each individual chapter, rather than collectively at the end; the latter is done in *New Directions*. This is in no way the fault of the editors, but of publishers, and such practice not only detracts from each of the volume contributor's individual research efforts but denies credit to other authors who are cited by numerous chapters. Second, some of the figures appear washed out, as if they have been photocopied. The figures are clear and crisp otherwise, so this appears again to be an issue with the publisher. Along these lines, the front cover image also seems pixilated. Nevertheless, the book's tables are clean and easy to read, and the index is very thorough.

Overall, *New Directions* will be of significance to anyone interested in the Peopling of the New World, hunter-gatherer archaeology, the Late Pleistocene, or underwater archaeology. It is a book I will return to time and again. One can only hope that with all the new directions being taken in the search for the first Floridians, Thulman and Garrison will soon produce a sequel volume entitled “*New Discoveries in the Search for the First Floridians*.”