

SECTION E: CONCLUSIONS

“The exciting information recovered from the Page-Ladson Site shows the great potential of underwater sites to produce extraordinary data on Paleoindians.”

Jerald T. Milanich.

The most important contribution of this book is not to draw bold conclusions. Rather it is to represent a full array of relatively specific details by more than a dozen outstanding specialists. We have all attempted to integrate some major features of this considerable compilation. But it is easy to get seduced by one coincidence, or to stretch one line of reasoning into a grotesque exaggeration.

The two of us who led the Aucilla River Prehistory Project through two decades of endeavors are pleased to offer a few final ideas. But we both recognize that the results of this work must be integrated with other evidence from other regions before its full significance can be understood. New paradigms regarding the “Peopling of the Americas” are emerging, and we are convinced that this volume represents one cornerstone of that new edifice. Likewise, the lifeways of the Pleistocene megafauna are becoming more richly detailed, especially with independent data from stable isotopes. We trust that our contributions to aspects of their lives during their last few centuries will help illuminate the processes that led to their final extinction and extirpation.

Reference

Jerald T. Milanich. 1994. *Archaeology of Precolumbian Florida*, 476 pp, University Press of Florida, Gainesville, FL. (Quotation from p. 46.)