

Naples Backyard History, Inc. Announces

SCIENTISTS UNRAVEL MYSTERIES OF ANCIENT INDIAN CANAL IN NAPLES, FLORIDA

Naples, Florida ~ April 16, 2012
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Exciting video coverage of press conference announcement in the
Naples Backyard History Old Naples Museum!

Discovery of Ancient Calusa Indian Canal in Naples Florida

A team of archaeologists, including Bob Carr from the Archaeological & Historical Conservancy, followed a backhoe as it dug trenches for a new water line in downtown Naples. The man-made canal has been known to scholars since the nineteenth century when it was first documented by a survey in 1874.

After months of digging, the backhoe uncovered the canal at the intersection of 10th Avenue and Gulfshore Boulevard South on November 10, 2011. Archaeological technician Scott Faulkner scurried into the eight foot deep hole and secured a soil and wood sample that would allow archaeologists a means to obtain a radiocarbon date.

The sample's oldest organic fraction had an intercept of AD 1670, with newer intercepts up to modern times. Because the sample was recovered from about 1.5 feet above the canal bottom it is estimated the canal itself may have been dug around circa AD 1200-1400, when the area was likely under the dominion of the Calusa.

Archaeologists hope to be able to conduct an archaeological dig on a portion of the canal on city-owned property, first using ground-penetrating radar to precisely locate it, followed by a controlled dig that will allow more documentation on the exact age of the canal and its importance. The team, *working alongside Naples Backyard History*, will request that historic markers be placed along the canal marking its path.

Locating the canal was aided with maps from Todd Turrell's book *Naples Waterfront History - Changes in Time*. Funding for radiocarbon dating was provided by Mr. Turrell and by Mrs. Lavern N. Gaynor and the Naples Backyard History Old Naples Museum.

**Walking maps of the Indian Canal route available in the
Naples Backyard History Old Naples Museum**
1170 Third Street South Naples, FL. 34102
239-774-2978 for more information
Museum Hours 10am - 2pm Mon - Fri