



East Central Region
Dr. Rachel Wentz, Director
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Highlight of the Quarter

It's been another busy quarter, filled with lectures, educational events, and professional conferences. The highlight of our quarter was co-hosting the 1st Annual Florida Maritime Science Festival, which was held at Harbor Branch Oceanographic Research Institute on June 8th. The event was the brainchild of Dr. Roger Smith, Florida's Underwater Archaeologist, and HBOI served as the perfect location to highlight Florida's rich maritime history and the exciting new research that continues throughout our state. Local preservation groups exhibited tables and information, there was food and festivities, and the highlights of the day were three lectures presented by Dr. Shirley Pomponi (HBOI), Jeff Moates, and Roger Smith. Attendance was well over 500 and we intend for the festival to be an annual event from now on.

Progress on Work Plan Objectives

- On April 22nd, I held our first webinar course for the Florida Park Service. I presented lectures on human remains and historic cemeteries, which I developed for the CRYPT course, and had twenty-six in attendance from throughout the state.
- We held our fourth CRYPT course, this time at the historic St. Luke's Episcopal Church on Merritt Island on April 24th. We had a packed classroom of over twenty attendees and completed our hands-on exercises in the Church's historic cemetery.
- On May 23rd Kevin and I, along with the FHS staff and volunteers, set sail for the Bahamas where we hosted the Florida Historical Society Annual Meeting. We held a special archaeology session, where I, along with Sarah Miller and Annette Snapp, presented lectures on Florida's indigenous people.
- Kevin has been working with local libraries throughout our region, presenting summer programs in archaeology and serving seven different libraries in four of our counties, just in the month of June.
- I have been assisting Sarah Miller with work on the historic Oaklynn Cemetery in Volusia County, serving as bioarchaeologist to identify human remains that have been found scattered throughout the cemetery. A group of volunteers have been cleaning up the cemetery, which has been heavily looted and vandalized.



Dr. Roger Smith presents the keynote lecture at the 1st Annual Florida Maritime Sciences Festival at HBOI.



CRYPT students put to use new techniques in headstone cleaning at the historic St. Luke's Episcopal Church.