



Southwest Region
Quarterly Report –March 2017
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HIGHLIGHTS

Heritage Tourism: Kayak Tour at Mound Key

On Saturday, February 4th, the staff members from the region, including Victoria Lincoln, Outreach Assistant, and Rachael Kangas, Public Archaeology Coordinator, partnered with Koreshan State Park for a kayak adventure tour of Mound Key led by Victor Thompson of University of Georgia and Bill Marquardt from the University of Florida. Mound Key is known as the Calusa Capitol, and is one of the premier sites of southwest Florida. UGA and UF are conducting excavations at the site.

A group of avid kayakers braved the two-hour trip out to the park from Lovers Key State Park, then were brought up to speed on the archaeological excavations at the site by Thompson and Marquardt. FPAN SW staff also had the opportunity to volunteer on excavations at the site in January.



Victoria Lincoln (left) and Ms. Kangas (fourth from left) with tour group including PI Mike Harris (third from left), and archaeologists Dr. Victor Thompson and Dr. William Marquardt (center)

FPAN in the Media: HMS initiative featured in local press

In February, Rachael Kangas spoke to NewsPress.com about sea level rise and FPAN's Heritage Monitoring Scouts initiative. Kangas discussed how sea level rise will impact archaeological sites in southwest Florida, and established scouts discussed their concerns for south Florida and their engagement with the program. Read Kangas' interview here: <http://www.newspress.com/story/life/outdoors/2017/02/25/citizen-scientist-fpan-florida-public-archaeology-network-chestnut/98052764/>



HMS training photo featured in NewsPress.com

Progress on Strategic Plan Objectives

- Goal 1: Thinking Like a Network By Delivery of Standardized Programs
 - The region had a successful Florida Archeology Month in March, highlighted by joint archaeology day efforts with Everglades National Park and the Randell Research Center, as well as assisting with UF led excavations at Pineland
- Goal 2: Increase Protection of Archaeological Resources By Working at the Local Level
 - Sara Ayers-Rigsby and Kangas began meeting with the village of Estero in order to support long-term efforts to promote and preserve archaeological resources.
- Goal 3: Provide for the Long-Term Viability of the Network
 - Ayers-Rigsby led a round table luncheon focused on public outreach at the Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA) annual conference, as well as presenting about hurricane relief efforts in Florida during a workshop on disaster planning.
 - Ayers-Rigsby spoke to Fort Myers' local NPR affiliate, WGCU, about archaeology in southwest Florida during a discussion with FAU's Dr. Andy Hemmings, who has been excavating the Vero Beach Site. Listen to the interview here: <http://news.wgcu.org/post/old-vero-dig-unearts-answers-centuries-old-questions>