

West Central & Central Regional Centers

Fiscal Year 2015-2016

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Annual Summary & Highlights

- FPAN Staff in the West Central & Central Regions participated in 247 distinct events reaching a total of 11,966 people.
- 1. 2015 Summer highlights consisted of many, many library visits throughout both regions. Each library visit was scheduled for a 45 minute presentation with another 30 to 45 minutes of hands-on activities or question/answer period depending on the crowd. We also had time to coordinate and lead two, one-week summer camps in both regions. We do these in partnership with the Florida Park Service (Central) and with the Alliance for Weedon Island Archaeological Research & Education (AWIARE) (West Central).
- 2. Staff in both regions conducted History Bike Tours – Working with History Bike Tampa, staff from the West Central Regional Center developed and conducted a history bike tour in St Petersburg riding to and providing interpretation at prehistoric archaeological sites within the City of St Petersburg. In the Central Region, staff coordinated and conducted the second (quarterly) History Bike Gainesville bike tour. The focus of the bike tour this time around covered the development of Gainesville's historic neighborhoods. (**Heritage Tourism**)
- 3. In September, FPAN staff successfully defended a grant proposal to update and complete the website and public resource, the Florida Preservation Atlas. The grant project received favorable ranking by the review committee (#3!) and looks to be fully funded for the 2016-17 grant award cycle from the FL Division of Historical Resources. (**Assistance to Local Governments; Assisting DHR**)
- 4. For the third year in a row staff of the Central Regional Center have been asked to lead an archaeology hike of the Ferndale Preserve in Lake County. Situated adjacent to Lake Apopka, the Ferndale Preserve is part of the Lake County Parks and Trails Division.

We're happy to continue a great partnership with Lake County and look to expand on the partnership in 2016. **(Assistance to Local Governments)**

5. FPAN staff in both regions updated exhibits at two state parks. Staff created and installed a permanent exhibit at the Ybor City State Park Museum based on earlier archaeological survey of the state park conducted in 2011-2012. FPAN staff coordinated the donation of a prehistoric dugout canoe to the State of Florida and requested a long term loan of the canoe for display at the Crystal River Archaeological State Park.

(Heritage Tourism)

6. Florida Archaeology Month 2016 – Staff participated in several events and programs based on this year's theme *Artisans of the Woodland*. In both regions, at Weedon Island and Crystal River, staff organized and conducted tours and other fun activities paired with various outreach events. We conducted the 4th installment of History Bike Gainesville with a 12 mile ride to Newnan's Lake for talk of canoes and other things archaeology from the Woodland time period. Staff in the West Central Region created the first Archaeology Academy where folks listened to theme-related presentations and were able to choose a particular activity: ceramics lab, kayak tour, archaeology and plant hikes. **(Florida Archaeology Month)**

7. Replacing Fort Brooke is a historic map and archaeology interactive exhibit created in partnership with the Tampa Bay History Center. The exhibit opened on February 20 and will be showing through September. We created the exhibit to increase public awareness of Tampa's origins, especially the founding of Fort Brooke in 1824. The exhibit highlights the process of georeferencing old maps along with archaeological discoveries in downtown Tampa. The results of the work and the exhibit are promoted as a resource for city officials and planners. FPAN staff also conducted a bicycle tour in conjunction with History Bike Tampa and the exhibit opening. USF grad students in Dr. Pluckhahn's Public Archaeology class created related activities and information tables, helping with the public event at the History Center. **(Assistance to Local Governments; Heritage Tourism; FPAN in the Media)**

8. Staff worked alongside archaeologists from the National Park Service's Southeastern Archaeology Center (SEAC) on excavations at Desoto National Memorial in Bradenton, Manatee County. SEAC is planning for major impact on archaeological resources in low lying areas. The site of the Tabby Ruins in the park is one of those resources that will be lost with minimal sea level rise.
9. In partnership with the Florida Coastal Office, FPAN staff conducts annual archaeo-eco kayak tours in Crystal River as part of Earth Day celebration and awareness week. Kayak Tours are also conducted throughout the fiscal year. **(Heritage Tourism)**
10. FPAN staff instituted a coastal monitoring program with Aquatic Preserve staff from the Florida Coastal Office. As part of FPAN's Heritage Monitoring Scout program, Central

Region staff work closely with Aquatic Preserve managers to facilitate access and cultural resource monitoring protocol in 2 of the state's 41 Aquatic Preserves. **(Assisting DHR)**

11. FPAN Public Archaeology Coordinator, Kassie Kemp successfully completed requirements to fulfill a Masters in Arts degree in Applied Anthropology from USF. FPAN program Assistant, Brittany Vojnovic completed Certified Interpretive Guide training. **(Staff Development)**