



Southwest Region – Annual Report July 2015 to June 2016

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Rachael Kangas, MA, Public Archaeology Coordinator

Highlight-Welcome Rachael

This year saw major transitions throughout the southeast and southwest region with the departures of Ms. Timo, outreach coordinator for the southwest, and Dr. Williams, who had directed the region admirably for eight years. Rachael Kangas was hired as the Public Archaeology Coordinator in December of 2015 and in six months has earned laudations from regional partners, university professors actively working in the area, and representatives from the DHR.

First Quarter July-September 2015:

- The highlight of this quarter was the success of the Southwest Regions' children summer programming. Summers traditionally have been slow for the region, so it was impressive to see the strong response to this year's topics. Ms. Timo built upon previous youth programs success, and she developed a directed flyer in January to advertise for the summer. Between June and August, staff had visited with 17 libraries and other youth programming venues. Over 600 children and their caregivers were reached this summer.

Second Quarter October-December 2015:

- Public Archaeology Coordinator Rachael Kangas began at the start of December and dove right in. In her first month, Ms. Kangas proved herself to be a public archaeology powerhouse who formed new partner relationships, gave well-received lectures, spoke with local press, and brought a renewed excitement and energy to the region.

Third Quarter January-March 2016

- The highlight of the quarter was our participation at Calusa Days at Everglades National Park. FPAN SW took a larger role in helping to organize and market this event. The region interacted with a hundred people during the event, sharing a new hands-on mapping exercise with many of the children. Ms. Kangas also revitalized the FPAN South blog and social media accounts during this period.

Fourth Quarter April-June 2016

- The highlight of this quarter was Ms. Kangas' efforts in working with a regional partner, Pineland, to document sea level rise at this critical archaeological site. FPAN documented over 30 artifacts eroding from a coastal midden near Pineland in Lee County, demonstrating the importance of monitoring this threatened archaeological site. Pineland has been actively excavated for decades, making it one of the most thoroughly documented sites in Southwest Florida. The partnership with the researchers from the Florida Museum of Natural History as well as the staff and dedicated volunteers at Pineland will allow for a deeper understanding of sea level rise impact, which Ms. Kangas will use as a case study for the Tidally United Summit on FPAN's Sea Level Rise monitoring program in August of 2016. Additionally, Ms. Kangas formed a solid partnership with Florida Gulf Coast University, through volunteering at their field school and using the opportunity to promote awareness of the heritage of southwest Florida to members of the public and students.



Ms. Kangas and Ms. Green (FPAN-SE) filling out documents associated with Heritage Monitoring Scouts Program in Pineland