

West Central Regional Center
Quarterly Report – Jan/Feb/March 2013
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Highlight of the Quarter

WCRC staff and volunteers initiated a shovel test survey on a set of 3 adjacent lots in Ybor City. This is a big deal as it's our first foray within Ybor City boundaries but outside the protected confines of the Ybor City Museum State Park. We coordinated the work with private property owners who contacted us last year while we worked inside the State Park. We also partnered with the Adult Education Program at the Tampa Bay History Center and offered an opportunity to participate in the fieldwork as part of a 3-week class focused on the Archaeology of Ybor City.

This quarter we finalized a lease agreement with Pinellas County for space and use of the Weedon Island Cultural and Natural History Center. In so doing, WCRC staff teamed up with CGCAS (Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society a local chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society) and AWIARE (Alliance for Weedon Island Archaeological Research and Education) to host an Archaeology Day event at the Weedon Island Preserve. We connected with Florida Expedition 500 and helped coordinate an Ocean-Hour Cleanup on part of the preserve. This was a great step forward with our new partners at Weedon Island, the Pinellas County Extension Service and Florida Sea Grant. The event included educational activities, a tour of the Weedon Island canoe conservation lab, and a dramatic reenactment of the Narvaez expedition to Florida in 1528. The rest of Florida Archaeology Month proved to be quite busy as we coordinated and participated in several heritage-related events and festivals.

A third highlight of the quarter involves our ongoing partnership with the Tampa Bay History Center. This time around we were asked to provide a curriculum and staffing for their Spring Break Camp. This also took place in March. The camp was loads of fun and proved to be another great outlet for the Junior Archaeologist educational program.

Progress on Work Plan Objectives

- Continued partnerships in outreach: cont. to coordinate workshops with New College Public Archaeology Lab; Coordinate Florida Archaeology Month Event at Weedon Island Preserve
- Attended public events: heritage festivals during March in Desoto, Manatee, Sarasota, and Manatee counties
- Assisted DHR:
 - Continued documentation of all cemetery sites in Hillsborough County – working with Lee Hutchinson. WCRC Staff completed 20 cemetery site file forms
 - Guest speaker for Certified Local Government Training in Tarpon Springs. Event was co-hosted by the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation



Archaeology of Ybor City class helps sort recovered material at our field lab during shovel test survey on 3 lots in Ybor City.



We delivered Florida Archaeology Month Posters to all 4 of our regional FAS chapters. Becky holds one of them up with field crew from the Kissimmee Valley Historical and Archaeological Conservancy (KVAHC) at the Blueberry Site.



Spring Break campers learn how to use a compass and measure distances with their steps. Tampa Bay History Center in background.