

Southeast Region
July 2024 to June 2025

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Photo 1: Ayers-Rigsby and Fenn at Flagler Museum for NAPC FORUM

**First Quarter Highlight:
Improving Florida's
Resiliency and Assisting
Local Governments at the
National Alliance for
Preservation Commissions
Annual Conference**

In August, FPAN SE staff assisted with the National Alliance for Preservation Commissions annual FORUM conference. This conference attracts historic preservation professionals from across the country. Sara Ayers-Rigsby served on the conference planning committee for the event.

Ayers-Rigsby worked with the City of Fort Lauderdale Historic Preservation Office to lead a water taxi tour of the riverfront area. Fenn partnered with the City of West Palm Beach to lead a cemetery bus tour of the site. Ayers-Rigsby and Fenn were joined by FPAN staff for other regions for a session on Climate Change and Vulnerability

Assessments: Considering Cultural and Archaeological Sites. FPAN staff who participated in this program included Emily Jane Murray (FPAN NE), Nicole Grinnan (FPAN CC), and Rachael Kangas (FPAN WC/C), who were joined by heritage preservation professionals in their regions.



Photo 2: Kayak Tour Participants arriving at Indian Key State Park (Photo credit: Betsey Burden)

Second Quarter Highlight: Kayak Tour to Indian Key State Park

In December, FPAN staff partnered with Islamorada Area State Parks for a kayak tour to Indian Key State Park. This site is accessible only via water. Participants learned about the history and use of the site, as well as about the maritime heritage of the area. Participants in the tour traveled from Stuart and Miami to participate in the tour. Staff from NOAA also collaborated to make the tour a success.

Other Highlights

- [*A Practioner's Guide to Public Archaeology*](#), featuring a contribution on kayak tours from Ayers-Rigsby, published.
- Fenn partered with the Deering Estate to lead a workshop for their artists in residence.
- Ayers-Rigsby and Piotrowski led monthly kayak tours in partnership with the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse ONA and the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Museum.



Photo 3: Rachael Kangas (Director, FPAN Central and West Central) supervises students at Archaeobootcamp

Third Quarter Highlight: Archaeobootcamp and Field School Graduation

In March, FPAN completed its eighth annual Archaeobootcamp. This free three-day program invites students from across the country to learn the basics of archaeology including survey, excavation, artifact identification, ground penetrating radar, photogrammetry, and public outreach and archaeology. Students this year came from FAU, USF, UCF, and FSU. This program is a collaboration between the Florida Public Archaeology Network and the Bureau of Land Management. FPAN SE staff were joined by FPAN from across the state including Executive Director, Dr. Mary Minkoff, who presented on ceramics during the Saturday public day.

Other Highlights

- *Journal of Field Archaeology* special issue: [A Global Perspective: The Need for Climate Change Action in Heritage Management Now](#), co-edited by Sara Ayers-Rigsby, published.
- [A Framework for a Sustainable Archaeology Field School in South Florida](#), co-authored by Sara Ayers-Rigsby and Malachi Fenn, published.



Photo 4: Field School 2025 Students Celebrate Graduation with FPAN and FAU staff (Photo: Mike Panek, Bureau of Land Management)

Fourth Quarter Highlight: Field School Graduation

In April, FPAN completed its third annual field school. This program is certified by the Register of Professional Archaeologists as an introductory level field school. This program is a collaboration between the Florida Public Archaeology Network, Florida Atlantic University, and the Bureau of Land Management. The program is funded through an award agreement with the Bureau of Land Management. Fourteen students completed the program this year and represented undergraduate and graduate students from Florida Atlantic University. Undergraduate students from other schools in Florida, like UCF and FIU, also completed the program.

Other Highlights

- Fenn and Candia partnered with Broward College to update their archaeology exhibit. As part of this process, Fenn and Candia also scheduled an archaeology careers panel for undergraduate students at Broward College and FAU featuring speakers from the City of Fort Lauderdale and History Fort Lauderdale.