The Osceola Library
Presents
A lecture series by The Florida Public Archaeology Network’s
Dr. Rachel Wentz

August 10, 6:30 pm
Life’s a Beach: The Archaeology of Florida’s Coasts — Florida has over 1,300 miles of coastline, which provided numerous resources for Florida’s native populations. We’ll examine life among the Calusa and see how they built complex societies based on the rich coastal resources of south Florida.

September 14, 6:30 pm
Windover: A Mortuary Pond from Florida’s Archaic — Explore one of the most ancient, well-preserved archaeological sites in North America. The 7,000-year-old Windover archaeological site was a pond used for the interment of the dead and produced over 160 individuals whose analyses have provided insight into the life and health of people during Florida’s Archaic period.

October 12, 6:30 pm
Forensic Anthropology: How the Dead Died — A look at how forensic anthropology helps solve crimes and determine “cause of death” through the analysis of human skeletal remains. We’ll explore the vital role trauma analysis plays in forensics and how forensic anthropologists assist law enforcement in solving homicides.

November 16, 6:30 pm
Beneath the Surface: Exploring Florida’s Ancient Pond Cemeteries — Explore how Florida’s early people used natural bodies of water in which to bury their dead and how these amazing sites provide detailed knowledge about past populations.

December 14, 6:30 pm
The History of the Human Skeleton — The skeleton provides a framework for muscles and skin, nutrients necessary for survival, and is one of the most essential tissues of the human body. But the skeleton also plays a fundamental role in our iconography. The human skeleton has intrigued, haunted, and amazed us through time. We’ll explore the many uses of human remains and how the bones of our bodies serve as symbolism within human culture.

Dr. Rachel K. Wentz, RPA
Director, East Central Region

Dr. Wentz graduated from Florida State University with a PhD in Anthropology and specializes in the analysis of human remains with foci on ancient disease and population health. Her master’s thesis was an analysis of fracture frequencies among the Windover skeletal population, a 7,000-year-old site in Titusville, FL. Her doctoral dissertation was a bioarchaeological assessment of the same population. Dr. Wentz has also analyzed remains from Little Salt Spring and Calico Hill, both prehistoric sites in Florida. She has done skeletal work in St. Croix, England, and Ukraine. She obtained experience in forensic anthropology at the C.A. Pound Human Identification Laboratory at the University of Florida, Gainesville and has taught courses in physical anthropology, human osteology and forensic anthropology at Florida State University. She sits on the board of