

Museum celebrates Archaeology Month with speakers

Saturday

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Artifact and history lovers learned more about archaeology Saturday during Archaeology Day at the Destin History & Fishing Museum.

To celebrate Florida Archaeology Month, the museum invited three regional experts to share a little about their research in Northwest Florida. Visitors learned the truth about pirates in the Panhandle, the archaeology of Florida fish camps and prehistoric Native Americans.

“We want people to be aware of what is out there and find out different approaches on how to find this information” said Jodi Preston, who spoke about the history of fish camps and research in maritime cultures.

Other guest speakers were Mike Thomin, who spoke about the history of pirates and privateers, and Jim Morehead, who lectured about prehistoric settlement and Native Americans.

“Ever since my dad used to take us out digging, I have been interested about archaeology,” said Joni Foster, a visitor to the museum. “We can appreciate and learn about people who lived here way before our time and the things they did to survive.”

Foster said it was fascinating to hear all the stories, particularly about the fish camps.

“I think they should do more events like this so people can come out and learn from real experts.” she said.

Tarra Wixom, the museum's associate director, said events like Saturday's are designed to encourage locals and visitors to learn more about the history of the state.

"We want to preserve these important parts of Florida's rich cultural heritage," she said.

Wixom said this is a way to remind the community how unique the local culture and heritage is. She wants to encourage people to come out and get more involved.

"Expect more presentations and events like this in near future," she said.