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### **Dead Men *Do* Tell Tales**

WABASSO ISLAND, Fla. With the discovery of a 13,000 year old bone etching of a mammoth in Vero Beach last year, an upcoming lecture at the Environmental Learning Center (ELC) will provide an appropriate context. “Coastal Archeology” will be presented at the ELC campus on Wednesday, February 17 from 5 until 6:30 PM.

Guest speaker Dr. Rachel Wentz is presently the Regional Director of the east central region of the Florida Public Archaeology Network. The Network’s goal

is to educate the public about the wealth of archeological sites in Florida, their importance in understanding Florida's past and the need for their preservation.

Her working and educational career has taken her from a paramedic to a firefighter to a BA, MS and PhD in anthropology at Florida State University, and she is an expert on studying skeletal remains both on crime scenes and archeological excavations. Wentz has participated in digs in the Ukraine, the US Virgin Islands, Texas and Florida and is an authority in analysis of skeletons taken from Florida's ancient "mortuary ponds" which she studies for sexing, age, nutrition, injury and disease.

Dr. Wentz will use the Native American Calusas for a case study of coastal resource utilization by Florida's aboriginals. The cost of the lecture is \$15 per adult (\$12 for ELC members) and reservations can be made by calling the ELC at 772-589-5050.

The Environmental Learning Center is located north of Vero Beach off County Road 510 at the western edge of the Wabasso Bridge. Its 64-acre island campus includes exhibit areas, native plant gardens, picnic facilities, gift shop and visitor center. A list of its many field excursions including hikes, boat excursions, nature walks and bird watching can be found at [www.DiscoverELC.org](http://www.DiscoverELC.org).

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