

# Press Release

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## **Rayonier Awards Amelia Island Museum of History Two Educational Grants**

Rayonier awarded AIMH a check yesterday for \$5,798.00 to fund two Amelia Island Museum of History educational projects. Lisa Haviland, Interim Director and Education Program Coordinator, applied for two grants in October of 2007 and waited seven months for the announcement that the Museum would receive the full amount she requested. \$2948 of the grant will fund %10 of an extensive project to "Capture the Museum's Collection" of photographs, books, newspapers, and objects relating to Nassau County and make them available locally and to the world via the web. \$2850 of the grant will fund the completion of more "Traveling Trunks", a teacher resource that has proven valuable to Nassau County teachers for enriching current history lessons with specific information relating to the area in which students live.

Since May of 2005, the Museum's staff and a small

group of volunteers have been slowly adding to the online archives of extensive resources available in the second floor library, working 100 hours a week and utilizing limited operational funds, when available. Rayonier's grant will now expedite the process of computerizing and conserving the archives by providing for the purchase of a large-format scanner, storage materials, and funds to pay for additional trained staff. Through this collection, the Museum educates with tours and exhibits and conducts outreach programs for the community.

The Museum began developing "Trunks through Time" in 2006. Haviland joined the team in February of 2007 after teaching in Nassau County schools for eleven years, and she began working with fellow teachers Ashley Haney and Judith Webber. The trunks incorporate Florida Sunshine State Standards with a varied introduction to the rich history of their community. Rayonier's grant will purchase craft supplies, books, and other teaching tools needed to complete more trunks to remain in our schools. The trunks will enable each student to connect to their community, their state, and their own place in history.

The first Trunk, targeted on history in Nassau County

until the late 1500s, debuted at Southside Elementary, Callahan Intermediate School, and is now at Atlantic Elementary. She and her staff are now at work on the second and third trunks: "French, Spanish and British Rule" and "Pirates, Confederates, and Statehood". Haviland said, "The trunks are designed to be teacher-friendly. They are an alternative resource that connects existing curriculum with our local story, and the new materials will be formatted for use with the technology currently in our schools."

The Museum's goal is to complete trunks focused on specific grades to be donated to the libraries of the nine public schools in our area. In the future, Haviland would like to see the program expanded to provide additional trunks for use in private schools, children's clubs, youth organizations, and summer programming.

According to Lisa Haviland, "Rayonier has been a constant supporter of the Museum's many programs, including the Veteran's History Project, and different educational programs and exhibits. The Museum will be honored to present these resources to our schools on Rayonier's behalf."

Call Lisa Haviland for more information on how to get  
a Traveling Trunk in your school: (904)261-7378, ext.  
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