

Author puts together Florida fiction kits

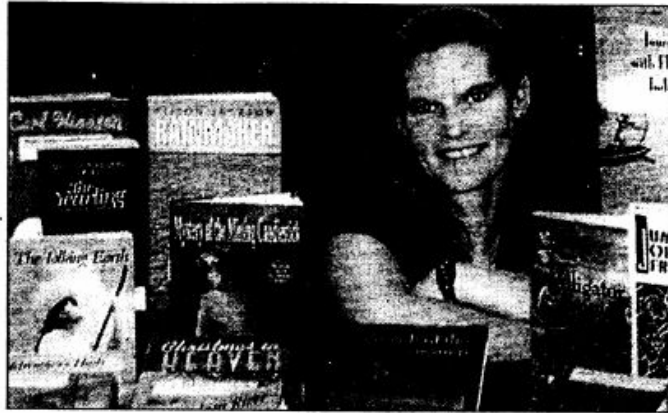
By RHONDA REESE

River City News correspondent

When Kelley Weitzel, author of children's books *Journeys with Florida's Indians* and *The Timucua Indians — A Native American Detective Story*, was awarded a \$500 mini-grant by the Jacksonville Earth Day Committee to help build environmental awareness through Florida literature, the Mandarin native knew exactly what she was going to do.

Weitzel put together two Florida Fictions Kits, one for elementary (third to fifth) and one for middle school (sixth to eighth) students. Each kit contains 30 books of stories that take place in Florida.

The kits include a teacher index that details each selection's period in history, geographical region, habitats, cultures, social issues, science topics and more. Curricula, activity sheets and even kid-friendly "Choose A Book" Guides (which share each main character's gender, hobbies and pets) round out the



Special

Teachers can now take advantage of the Florida Fictions Kits put together by author Kelley Weitzel. The books in the kits take readers on a wide range of adventures in the state.

free resource.

During the first week of August, Weitzel donated the kits to the Northeast Florida Educational Consortium to help teachers in their efforts to combine social studies and science with literacy in Florida classrooms. Teachers can now check out these resources from NEFEC's lending library at

www.nefec.org/acee/library/ or by calling (386) 329-3828.

In addition to the Florida Fictions Kits, NEFEC has two other lending kits Weitzel put together: "Teaching Timucua" and "Orienteering — Math, Maps & Compasses." Weitzel may be contacted at kelly.weitzel@comcast.net.

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