



Central & West Central Region

Quarter 2 Report: October, November, December 2022

Rachael Kangas M.A., RPA Director, Central & West Central Region

Nigel Rudolph Public Archaeology Coordinator, Central Region

Richard Ott M.A., RPA, Public Archaeology Coordinator, West Central Region

West Central Region

The West Central office is pleased to welcome Richard Ott, M.A., RPA as our new Public Archaeology Coordinator! Richard brings years of experience in archaeology, geophysics, film making, and much more to the role in WC. We are excited to welcome Richard and have him as part of our team! Richard jumped right into the work, attending events with Director Rachael Kangas and beginning development of new engagement ideas for the region.

The region had high outreach numbers from attending the DEMA convention, where FPAN staff including Rachael Kangas spoke with over 1,000 people about underwater archaeology and scuba diving in Florida, promoting the state's 12 underwater preserves. We also worked with FPAN around the state and the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation on initial response to Hurricane Ian by training HMS Scouts and asking them to monitor cemeteries and standing structures possibly impacted by Hurricane Ian. The HMS Scouts helped identify areas and sites that needed professional documentation as well as those areas that appeared to be in good shape, this response is vital to organizing resources in response to storms.

Highlight

The highlight of the quarter was welcoming Richard Ott, M.A., RPA to the region! Here is Richard's inaugural social media post introducing himself and some of his work:

"Hello everyone! I want to introduce myself as the new Public Archaeology Coordinator for the West Central Region. My name is Richard Ott, and this is a very exciting opportunity for me because my focus as an archaeologist is public/community archaeology.

My background includes 10 years of field archaeology, including recently finishing my M.A. in anthropology at the University of Central Florida. I enjoy interacting with the public and helping people participate in archaeology in their communities in the West Central region and all around Florida. Some of my other interests are making documentary films, writing music, and photography.

Please follow us and tell your friends and family about our page and the Florida Public Archaeology Network. We will keep you updated on our events and Florida archaeology. I'll also post fun facts, videos, and photos of our events and historic and prehistoric sites we visit and conduct public archaeology in the field."

1 Richard Ott, M.A., RPA- New Public Archaeology Coordinator for the West Central Region



Central Region

The Central office continued both in-person and virtual public archaeology events and worked to maintain community projects by continuing work in local community cemeteries. We published our latest episode of The Materialists podcast, a Halloween special, available here:

https://www.podbean.com/media/share/pb-659en-1304544?utm_campaign=w_share_ep&utm_medium=dlink&utm_source=w_share

We worked with the USDA and presented some archaeology basics to USDA students to help broaden their education and knowledge of Florida, and we hosted our annual History Bike Gainesville Halloween Tour. As mentioned, we spent much of our time doing fieldwork at local cemeteries including Bethlehem Methodist Episcopal Cemetery (BMEC), Saint Peters Cemetery, Groveland Cemetery, and other site visits. Nigel and Rachael also assisted in the monthly Moon Over the Mounds event at Crystal River State Park.

Highlight

In October Nigel and Rachael had the great privilege to attend the dedication of the Florida State Historic Marker for St. Peter Cemetery of Archer. Nigel was asked to be a speaker as part of the ceremony and gave wonderful remarks contextualizing this marker among the State Historic Markers and noting the significance of adding another Black cemetery to the list of markers thus helping to better represent the history of Florida and the significance of places like Archer and its community. Other speakers included notable NFL and MLB athletes from Archer who told stories of growing up in town, and other descendants, young and elders, who spoke about the importance of remembering ancestors, sharing history, and commemorating important places like this cemetery.

2 Unveiling of new state historic marker for St. Peter Cemetery of Archer



3 Nigel giving a presentation during our CRPT course on September 10, 2022