



## Central & West Central Regions

Quarter 3 Report:

January, February, March 2023

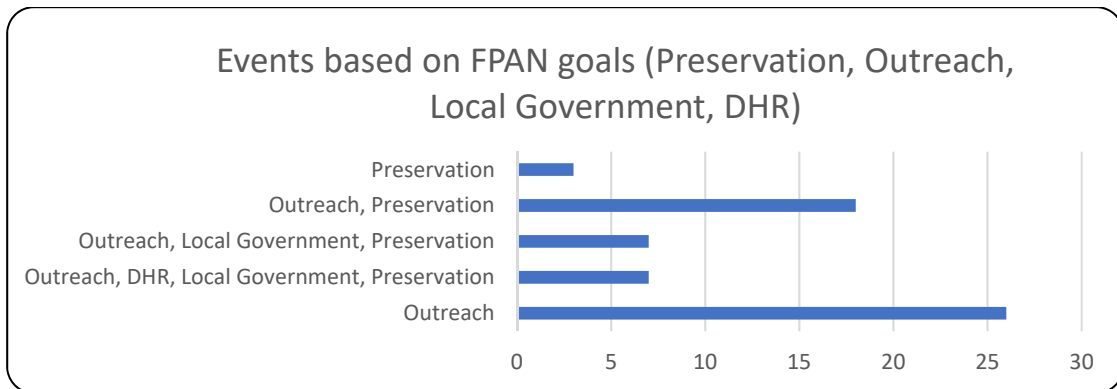
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**Nigel Rudolph Public Archaeology Coordinator, Central Region**

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### Super Region

The Central and West Central Regions were busy during Q3 providing a range of events for communities and partners. In total, we reached over 1,000 people with over 60 events, presentations, meetings, and media events including ongoing community work with cemeteries, interviews with local media stations like WUSF and WUTF, meetings with local, state, and national partners on a wide variety of topics, and presentations of new and existing interpretative topics!



Our staff worked separately and collaboratively on a variety of events, using individual expertise to assist where needed and leading independent events and assisting with fieldwork. As we prepare for summer programming, we had meetings to arrange and plan for field work and upcoming trainings (such as the HADS training upcoming in May), and meetings with other FPAN regions to prepare for summer library programming. We strive to work together to provide the best outreach possible in our super region of FPAN.

### West Central Region Highlight

The FPAN History Hike event at the Weedon Island Preserve was a great success, with more guests than expected in attendance. During the hike we explored the peninsula and learned more about the region's history through stories of the historic Grand Central Airport, which played an important role in St. Petersburg and Tampa communities. We walked through the area of the old airplane hangar, outlined using flagging tape from historic aerial images, and visiting the ruins of the old airport terminal building. Overall, the History Hike event was a fantastic success and will be a recurring event!



*Figure 1. Guests of the History Hike at Weedon Island Preserve learning about the history of the Grand Central Airport. (1) guests at the ruins of the terminal building (2) Richard Ott shares and discusses historic photos and aerials of the airport to help guests picture what was on the land in the past (3) pink flagging tape outlines the footprint of the old airplane hangar (4) Richard Ott talks with guests at a stop along the trail where an old runway used to be, still impacting the vegetation today.*

## Central Region Highlight

The Central office had an active quarter with outreach covering the spectrum of Florida archaeology. Historic cemetery fieldwork and public outreach comprised the bulk of activities. After more than a year of waiting for it to be manufactured, the Central office installed a Florida State Historic Marker at the Bethlehem Methodist Episcopal Cemetery (BMEC) in Archer. In addition to installation, Nigel Rudolph coordinated the unveiling ceremony with the BMEC board and spoke at the event. The Silver River Knap-in a three day “prehistoric tool and technology” festival in Ocala was the highlight of February. This was primarily a tabling event, however, FPAN presented on Indigenous Tools and Tech to a large group during the festival. The rest of the quarter was marked with presentations and public outreach throughout the region.

Fieldwork continued as well at the Old Groveland Cemetery in Groveland with the Central office assisting archaeologists (one a former FPAN employee) from Stantec Engineering in a GPR survey of the entire cemetery property. A descendant of folks buried in the cemetery, Sam Griffin, was present during the GPR survey and learned about the technology and its use, he was able to see the radar returns from a grave of his ancestor, further connecting him as a community member and descendant to the archaeological work happening at the site.



*Figure 2. (1)Nigel Rudolph screening during monitoring of fence column installation, Groveland Cem. (2)Sam Griffin and Stantec archaeologist, Becky O'Sullivan during GPR survey, Groveland Cem. (3) Fire Chief Kevin Carroll and Sam Griffin with Becky O'Sullivan, during Groveland GPR survey (4)State historic marker unveiling at BMEC.*