

Northwest and North Central Region Quarterly Report

January/February/March 2023

Barbara Clark, RPA, Director

Nicole Grinnan, RPA, Public Archaeologist

Tristan Harrenstein, RPA, Public Archaeologist

Abby Stone, Public Archaeology Assistant

Bria Brooks, Public Archaeology Assistant

Ellie Minette, Public Archaeology Assistant

Caroline Peacock, Milton High School Special Project Assistant

The new year kicked off with another annual meeting of the Society for Historical Archaeology in Lisbon, Portugal. All Northwest and North Central staff were able to attend and present. Barbara presented a poster on the work that MLAP is doing in an effort to establish the Florida Panhandle as a National Heritage Area. She also presented a paper that she and Dr. Sorna Khakzad Knight are working on which discusses climate change trends and response in Florida as it pertains to cultural and heritage resources. Nicole co-authored two papers at the conference, one on terrestrial laser scanning and photogrammetry as site recording methods with former FPAN graduate assistant Jeffery Robinson, and the other on the archaeology of labor in the port of Apalachicola with FPAN Museum Manager Mike Thomin. She also participated in a panel discussion on setting the stage for future climate-related research in maritime archaeology topics. Nicole was appointed back on to the SHA Board of Directors as Webmaster and looks forward to serving the Society in this new capacity. Tristan and Mike Thomin co-presented a poster highlighting their efforts to reach new audiences through their [Archaeology Arcade](#) program.

The North Central Region has been working hard on reaching new audiences with their public outreach. In March, staff met with the Riley House Museum of African American History to meet their new Executive Director and brainstorm ideas for collaboration. Staff have been assisting them with finding items for their upcoming exhibit, including reaching out to DHR Collections to see if they have relevant artifacts to loan to the museum. Another discussion item included future events pertaining to the Tallahassee bicentennial. Staff were able to get the museum in touch with the Tallahassee Trust for Historic Preservation, which is another potential source for resources and events.

Furthering the effort to broaden staff reach, some virtual programs have continued, including the Archaeology Arcade. Although not held as frequently, Tristan and Mike Thomin have worked hard to find new material and new guests. The program is also recorded and uploaded to our [YouTube Channel](#). This quarter, the YouTube Channel reached 5,500 views, with over 80 followers and 314 hours of watch time. The North Central Region has also continued the “[Archaeology Books for Fun](#)” podcast, releasing a new episode monthly. Staff have released two new episodes this quarter (taking a break in January due to the holidays and SHA). The podcast has seen steady growth, with a peak of 86 listens in one month, or 36 in one week!

Other events North Central Region staff hosted throughout the quarter included a Department of Environmental Protection webinar about protecting and promoting heritage sites along trails, various lectures throughout the region, and the Natural Bridge Battlefield Civil War reenactment. Barbara was invited to present at Billie Joe Rish State Park, a new State Park and the only Florida Park designed to provide outdoor recreational opportunities for people with disabilities. Regional staff are working with staff there to provide more programming in the upcoming year. Mike and Barbara continue to work with the rest of the MLAP Board to finalize the National Heritage Area feasibility study. MLAP received comments from an initial review and have been working to make those changes with the goal of having the study submitted to the National Park Service in September 2023.

In February, Nicole completed a grant proposal to the National Estuarine Research Reserve System Science Collaborative to undertake research on heritage resources and climate/anthropogenic impacts to heritage resources in the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve. Titled “People of the Apalachicola System: Exploring Cultural Heritage as a Vector for Ecosystem Planning, Management, and Adaptation,” the grant draws from methodology implemented by FPAN Director Sarah Miller for her Science Collaborative grant with the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve in northeast Florida. To ensure significant aspects of the research will be guided by local knowledge, methodological emphasis for the project will be placed on engaging with Reserve staff, partnering land managers, community organizations, and Apalachicola area residents. These community partners include groups like the North Florida African American Corridor Project and North American Heritage at Risk, as well as governmental agencies like the U.S. Forest Service, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. When accompanied by digital modeling of marine, estuarine, and riverine coastline areas, the project will represent a community-led means to both understanding long-term resource use along the Apalachicola system and to prioritizing cultural heritage research efforts into the future. Data collected from the project will also serve as the basis for Nicole’s doctoral dissertation with the University of St Andrews (UK).

Nicole, Barbara, Mike, and Tristan have all continued to work on planning the first [Conference on Public Archaeology](#), to be held on September 22-23, 2023, in Pensacola. Nicole was able to secure Dr. Barbara J. Little as the Keynote Speaker. The call for participation has also steadily been receiving submissions for workshops, panel discussions, roundtables, and posters. The planning committee continues to send out personal invitations to organizations and individuals we would like to see participate.

March is Florida Archaeology Month and, this year, several FPAN staff (including those from both the North Central and Northwest Regions) formed a committee to discuss changes to FAM to modernize it and make it more financially viable. Nicole worked diligently on a new FAM website as part of this

update. The committee also decided, with the approval of DHR, FAC and FAM, to forego posters this year to be more economical and environmentally friendly. The FAM committee also decided to forego hosting an event at the Florida State Capitol this year. Staff were concerned that the event's intended purpose of educating legislators and their staff was not being met. FPAN hopes to have an alternative event or program in place next year that is more effective in terms of reach.

Also in March, Nicole traveled with former FPAN Associate Director and now Interim Associate Dean of the UWF College of Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities Dr. Della Scott-Ireton to continue citizen science efforts in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas. Along with East Carolina University and the Task Force Dagger Special Operations Foundation, FPAN provided training to veterans participating in the project as citizen scientists. The goal of the project is to work on behalf of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency to return service members lost during the World War II Battle of Saipan to their families. This year's field season represents the fourth year of this joint task force partnership.

Both regions have continued to promote events and provide information on social media. The North Central Region has seen [Facebook](#)'s reach increase 70%, with page visits up 226% and page likes up 31%. North Central's [Instagram](#)'s reach increased 36%, with profile visits up 42% and followers up 4.5%.

Current projects in-progress:

- Nicole is overseeing the organization of the American Academy for Underwater Sciences Annual Symposium at UWF in April 2023.
- Nicole, Mike, Barbara, and Tristan are working together to organize the first Conference on Public Archaeology in September 2023.
- Nicole and Mike are working in collaboration with the City of Pensacola to provide potential expertise and public engagement related to the discovery of and continued research on archaeological human remains in Miraflores Park, Pensacola.
- Nicole is receiving technical dive training to contribute to a NOAA Ocean Exploration grant awarded to Dr. Jennifer McKinnon (ECU) for continued research in Saipan, CNMI.
- Nicole is overseeing the development of a new FPAN-managed "Museums in the Sea" website for Florida's Underwater Archaeological Preserves.
- Jeffery Robinson continues to analyze 3D scan data for both his Master's thesis.
- Caroline Peacock continues to work with students in Milton High School's Anthropology class.
- Nicole continues to work on her PhD research with the University of St Andrews.
- Nicole continues to serve as webmaster for the FPAN, Destination Archaeology Resource Center, and Florida Archaeology Month websites.

- Tristan continues to serve as a Board member and committee chair for the Florida Trail of Indian Heritage, working diligently as chair of their marketing and programming committee.
- Barbara continues to serve as the Chair of the Tallahassee Trust for Historic Preservation, which, under new leadership, is working to reinvigorate the organization.
- Nicole now serves as Webmaster for the Society for Historical Archaeology as of January 2023.
- Nicole continues to serve as Membership Chair and Appointed Director for the American Academy of Underwater Sciences.
- Nicole continues to serve as Events Chair and Director for the St. Michael's Cemetery Foundation, Inc.
- Barbara, Tristan, Nicole, along with Mike (and several other FPAN staff) volunteered to work on the Florida Archaeology Month Committee to revitalize and reimagine this annual statewide celebration of Florida archaeology.
- Barbara was reappointed to the Tallahassee/Leon County joint government Advisory Committee for Quality Growth.