



Central & West Central Regions

Quarter 4 Report:

April, May, June 2023



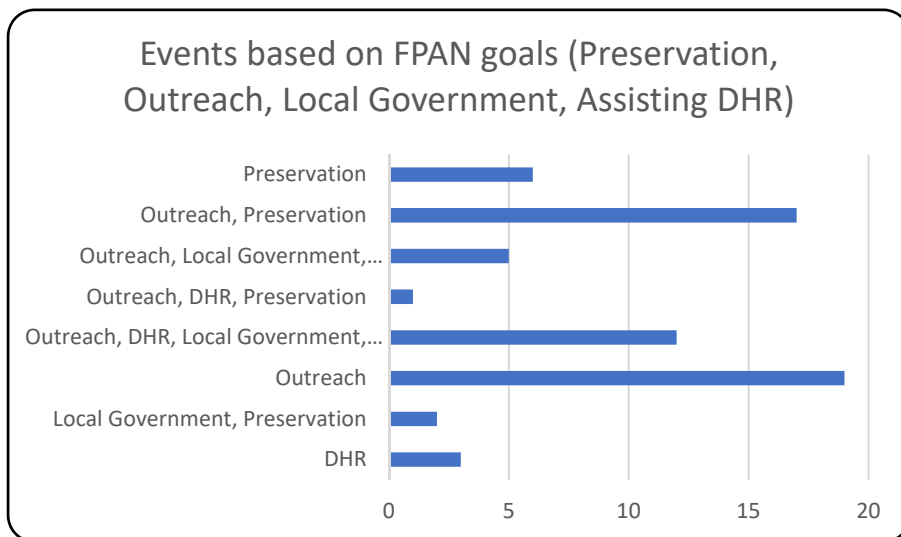
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Super Region

The Central and West Central Regions were busy during Q4 providing a range of events for communities and partners. In total, we reached almost 900 people with over 65 events, presentations, meetings, and media events including ongoing and new community work with local cemeteries, work with local landowners, meetings with local, state, and national partners on a wide variety of topics, and presentations of new and existing interpretative topics!



Staff worked with other FPAN regions on public trainings like HADS and staff-focused training such as Nigel teaching staff from around the state some basics of headstone repair and resetting- work that FPAN has growing requests to assist with as a result of our organization’s diligent work with community cemeteries, notably the CRPT program, which has been running for well over 10 years. Nigel’s expertise in this more advanced work is helping us locally and his knowledge is being shared throughout the state with other FPAN staff. In June, all 3 staff members from the super region gathered in Gainesville for a year-end review meeting and team building including practicing our experimental archaeology skills by making replica tools for our outreach kits (Figure 1).



Figure 1. C/WC staff making replica tools during end-of-year staff meeting. Richard (foreground) works to prepare a shell hammer, Nigel (back right) works to remove whorl from shell for a tool; Rachael (back left) works to attach replica shell hammer to handle.

West Central Region Highlight

Although picking just one event to highlight was difficult, the 'Archaeopaddle' at Emerson Point with Sara Alvarez of the Natural Resources Department of Manatee County stood out this quarter. This public event is a kayak experience with archaeological and ecological interpretations of the preserve given by FPAN and the Natural Resources Department team. Attendance was at maximum capacity, and the kayakers enjoyed both the beauty of the estuary and the essential cultural heritage within the park.



Figure 2. Archaeopaddle kayak tour at Emerson Point, Manatee County.

Central Region Highlight

FPAN Central stayed active for the fourth quarter. Cemetery fieldwork led the way for the first month of the quarter with continued work in the Bethlehem Methodist Episcopal Cemetery (BMEC) in Archer. Lake County outreach opportunities expanded with a presentation at the Tavares Historic Courthouse Museum with partners from the Crystal River Archaeological State Park, as well as a visit to the Island Pond Cemeteries. May saw more cemetery fieldwork including a scheduled clean-up partnered with the mayor's office of Micanopy. FPAN staff from throughout the state visited the BMEC for a hands-on cemetery workshop/tutorial session led by FPAN Central's Nigel Rudolph. Rounding out the quarter, fieldwork trickled off due to heat and rain, however, field visits to cemeteries in Alachua County continued. June closed out with a Summer Solstice event at the Shell Mound Archaeological Site in Levy County, partnered with University of Florida Staff, Dr. Ginessa Mahar and Dr. Ken Sassaman. Nigel led a kayak tour for participants to sites associated with the Shell Mound complex.



Figure 3. Left: Nigel with Micanopy Mayor Jiana Williams at cemetery cleanup; top right: FPAN staff from SE/SW (and Rachael) at BMEC learning how to re-set a headstone with Nigel; Bottom right: Kayak tour of Shell Mound Complex.