

# Northwest and North Central Region Quarterly Report

April / May / June 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

With the end of the spring semester here at the University of West Florida, FPAN Northwest and North Central took on several new projects, celebrated the graduation of two student assistants, and looked forward to a summer of fieldwork and interpretive programs!

This quarter included the beginning of our summer presentation season, when demand for adult and children's programs typically increases. All regions started to plan for library summer programs, and the North Central and Northwest Regions were no exception. In an effort to collaborate more as a statewide network, all staff held a zoom meeting to discuss ideas for summer library programs. Tristan was particularly active in this group by providing information on the storytime activities that he and Mike Thomin have created. June and July proved to be busy as the library programs started and staff visited libraries in multiple counties throughout the panhandle. Talks in the Northwest included our regular "Archaeology After School!" series for young learners visiting the FPAN Coordinating Center, a look at "Fantastic Archaeology" for the Gulf Breeze Senior Center, and several "Introduction to Archaeology for Kids!" presentations at public libraries across the region to celebrate this year's summer reading theme: "All Together Now." North Central trekked across their region visiting numerous counties for youth library programs as well, and also were guest lecturers at Billy Joe Rish State Park, Florida's only park dedicated to access for the differently abled, for two different lectures. Barbara Clark was able to get back into Dr. Jason Wenzel's anthropology class for the first time since before the pandemic to present to his undergraduate anthropology students. Barbara also worked with the new Executive Director, staff, and board of the Tallahassee Trust for Historic Preservation to host a lecture on Historic Hotels at Lofty Pursuits (a local ice cream shop), which proved to be a great success despite a torrential downpour.

As hurricane season started, Tristan planned a hurricane preparedness workshop for museums in the region. This workshop stemmed from the larger DaMP (Disaster and Museum Preparedness) program he

developed to help museums and heritage sites better prepare for hurricanes and other disasters. This particular workshop focused on easy and inexpensive things that small community museums can do to be better prepared for hurricanes and better protect their property and collections from damage.

Barbara, along with the other board members of the Northwest Florida Maritime Landscape Alliance for Preservation (MLAP), which also includes Mike Thomin, were able to complete a draft of the National Heritage Area feasibility study. The board was excited to have Dr. Della Scott-Ireton volunteer to review the document. After the writing committee made the recommended changes the document was submitted to the National Park Service for review. The committee is eagerly awaiting feedback.

The “Archaeology Books for Fun” podcast continues to release monthly episodes, and in June released a bonus episode about the new Indian Jones movie, where Barbara and Tristan discussed its merits as far as archaeology content goes and reminisced about the franchise. During the month of June we started to read the book “In Small Things Forgotten” by James Deetz. This book will be covered over three episodes released at the beginning of each month. The podcast has grown to over 600 listens (with over 100 in June alone) and has received positive reviews and comments. The most recent statistics show that 81% of listeners are in the U.S., with 33% of those residing in Florida (with approximately 11% of Florida listeners being in the North Central Region).

This spring also brought some extremely important events and projects to FPAN’s Northwest Region. In April, Nicole Grinnan worked with the American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS) to host the Academy’s 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Diving for Science Symposium. The week-long event included dive workshops, travel opportunities, dive tours, the annual Dive Safety Officer meeting, the annual AAUS business meeting, and a science paper symposium. The 2023 AAUS Symposium exceeded all expectations in terms of participation and FPAN had the opportunity to show off both the University of West Florida and the beautiful downtown Pensacola area to scientific divers from across the world. For her assistance with coordinating and hosting the event, Nicole received an AAUS Service Award. FPAN Coordinating Center staff and several UWF student volunteers were also *critical* in volunteering their time to make the event happen and welcome participants.

Twelve hours after hosting the AAUS Annual Symposium, Nicole Grinnan and Mike Thomin turned around and traveled to Saipan in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to participate in Dr. Jennifer McKinnon’s NOAA Ocean Exploration grant project. Over the course of two weeks, Nicole and Mike worked with veterans and locals trained in citizen science archaeological methods to monitor and record WWII ship and aircraft wreckage sites off Saipan. Former Associate Director Dr. Della Scott-Ireton also participated in the project. Nicole worked with the deep-water diving team to dive potential cultural resource targets identified by machine-learning software processing LiDAR data. For this project, Nicole was awarded a Women Divers Hall of Fame Advanced Dive Training Grant to receive her dive certifications in both Advanced Nitrox and Decompression Procedures. Over the course of the next year, Nicole and Mike will work together and with other project team members to develop both an update to the existing Saipan WWII Maritime Heritage Trail website and develop interpretive materials for resource managers on-island to travel around to local schools.

Within a week of arriving back in Florida from Saipan, Dr. Della Scott-Ireton and Nicole Grinnan traveled to south Florida to host the spring Heritage Awareness Diving Seminar (HADS). Graduate

student assistant Bria Brooks also joined to participate. HADS was held in partnership with the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, the Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research, and the amazing staff of FPAN's Southeast and West Central Regions. With participants attending online and in person, including representatives from NAUI (a dive training agency), we believe the Seminar was an important success in spreading the word about submerged resource preservation in Florida and elsewhere. In the day before HADS began, Nicole and Bria worked with Sara Ayers-Rigsby (FPAN Southeast/Southwest) and Rachael Kangas (FPAN West Central/Central) to host a Submerged Heritage Monitoring Scouts (SHMS) training at John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park for Florida State Parks staff in south Florida. The training included one morning of virtual classroom learning the week before, and then on-site snorkeling visits to the Cannon Patch site to talk about how to monitor and record submerged archaeological sites. Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary staff also assisted with facilitating the training.

In June, Nicole Grinnan worked in the office to catch up with administrative tasks during her service as Interim Executive Director since the retirement of FPAN Executive Director Dr. William Lees at the end of March. She also had the opportunity to travel to Carrabelle, Florida, to participate in some archaeological fieldwork off Dog Island with Florida Division of Historical Resources, Bureau of Archaeological Research staff. This work included taking core samples in areas offshore Dog Island to better detect and understand the paleo-geography of the area. Also in June, Nicole received notification that her grant proposal to the NOAA National Estuarine Research Reserve System's Science Collaborative was approved for funding! With this \$99,968 grant, Nicole, Mike Thomin, Bria Brooks, and several other project team members will work with the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve to monitor archaeological sites at risk of impact from climate change, as well as work with the community around Apalachicola and the Apalachicola River to better understand how they perceive of and value local archaeology. The project is scheduled to begin October 1, 2023, and serves as the basis for Nicole's doctoral dissertation with the University of St Andrews (Scotland).

As previously mentioned, this quarter we celebrated the graduation of two graduate assistants. Abby Stone wrapped up her tenure as Manager of the Public Archaeology Lab, having guided volunteers in sorting and coding a precontact permanent loan collection at the University of West Florida since August 2022. In total, since August, Abby worked with volunteers who donated almost 1,000 hours of time. We are incredibly grateful for Abby's amazing work over the last three years as Public Archaeology Assistant! Abby has brought her expertise, unique perspective, and good humor to all aspects of her work here at FPAN while she worked hard to complete her Master's degree at the University of West Florida. It is always a bit bittersweet for us to say goodbye to our Assistants after their three-year assistantship has ended, but we know they are always off to do incredible things!

Additionally, Milton High School Special Project Assistant Caroline Peacock wrapped up her work with FPAN, UWF, and Milton High School as she prepared for her graduation and a job with the National Park Service's Southeastern Archaeological Center. Over the last several years, Caroline has done an impeccable job overseeing FPAN's collaboration with Milton High School's Mr. Steve Ramirez and his Anthropology students. In addition to teaching students the basics of anthropological archaeology, coordinating field trips, and organizing guest speakers for the class, Caroline oversaw students' excavation work on the Milton High School grounds as part of their in-field training. She did this all while completing her coursework and thesis toward a Master's degree here at the University of West

Florida. Thank you for your dedication and hard work, Caroline! This fall, Pax Johnson will take over these duties and we are thrilled to work with them going forward.

Other projects this quarter included Caroline Peacock's hosting of a "Public Day" for Milton High School students to show off their new knowledge and excavation experience. The Pensacola Museum of History hosted several "Photogrammetry on Display" days with graduate assistant Ellie Minette. Abby Stone worked incredibly diligently to organize the Public Archaeology Lab before fall and to reorganize our traveling educational artifact type collection. Caroline Peacock and Abby Stone created two temporary exhibits with Mike Thomin for the Destination Archaeology Resource Center. Every May Tallahassee hosts the Florida History Fair and usually Tristan Harrenstein and Barbara Clark volunteer as judges. This year however, Tristan was unable to participate because of jury duty. Barbara did participate and represented FPAN at the event. North Central was invited to participate in a STEM Day event at FAMU. Students and organizations from around the state participated, and it was great exposure for FPAN, which included the opportunity to informally meet with state and local officials. North Central Regional staff was also invited to set up a booth at the Tallahassee School for Math and Science during their annual math competition. FPAN Northwest staff worked with Mike Thomin to host a kayak tour of the Gulf Islands National Seashore's Naval Live Oaks area in partnership with National Park Service staff and the Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program (PPBEP).

Although programs will continue through August, staff from both regions will be taking time that month to plan for the upcoming year. We look forward to presenting some new ideas and programs and to welcoming our incoming Executive Director next month!

### **Projects in Progress:**

- Tallahassee celebrates the bicentennial in 2024, and Barbara has started to attend planning meetings hosted by Visit Tallahassee and the North Central Region is starting to plan events and other related material to support the celebration.
- Nicole, Mike, Barbara, Tristan, and Rachel Hines (University of South Alabama) are working together to organize the first Conference on Public Archaeology in September 2023.
- Barbara was invited to speak at the Partnership for the National Trails System Conference in Orlando to present a workshop on how heritage and recreation trails can better incorporate and interpret cultural sites along their trails.
- Nicole and Mike are in the planning stage of applying for a Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program (PPBEP) Community Grant to renovate a portion of the permanent exhibit in the Destination Archaeology Resource Center.
- 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 co-authoring an article with Jay Haigler (Diving With a Purpose) and Ashley Lemke (University of Wisconsin) on citizen science and accessibility in underwater archaeology.
- Nicole is overseeing the development of a new FPAN-managed "Museums in the Sea" website for Florida's Underwater Archaeological Preserves.
- 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.
- Nicole is working with Natalie De La Torre Salas (FPAN Southwest) and Malachi Fenn (FPAN Southeast) to develop a “Honrando Nuestra Historia (Honoring our History)” page on the FPAN website to celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month.
- Abby Stone organizing FPAN outreach materials during summer semester work through July 2023.
- Bria Brooks is planning a summer internship with the National Park Service’s Biscayne National Park to assist in their work and partnership with Diving With A Purpose during July/August 2023.
- Barbara is working with Rachael Kangas to develop the introductory module for the web-based HMS Scout training series.
- Tristan is coordinating with Nigel Rudolph to develop a CRPT Advanced program which will train attendees in some basics of headstone repair. This program is scheduled for September for the Wakulla County Historical Society.
- Tristan continues to serve on the Trail of Florida’s Indian Heritage board and coordinated the annual printing and distribution of their rack cards and brochures.



FPAN staff and Public Archaeology Lab volunteers pose following the annual volunteer appreciation lunch! Graduate student assistant Abby Stone worked with these volunteers as they contributed nearly 1,000 hours of time to UWF archaeology.



Scientific divers from across the world attended the 2023 AAUS Diving for Science Symposium hosted by FPAN and UWF in April 2023. As the Symposium celebrated the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of AAUS, Nicole Grinnan worked with the AAUS Board of Directors to focus the Symposium on history and heritage in the scientific diving community. This picture shows the annual AAUS Dive Safety Officer meeting taking place at the Museum of Commerce in Pensacola, Florida.

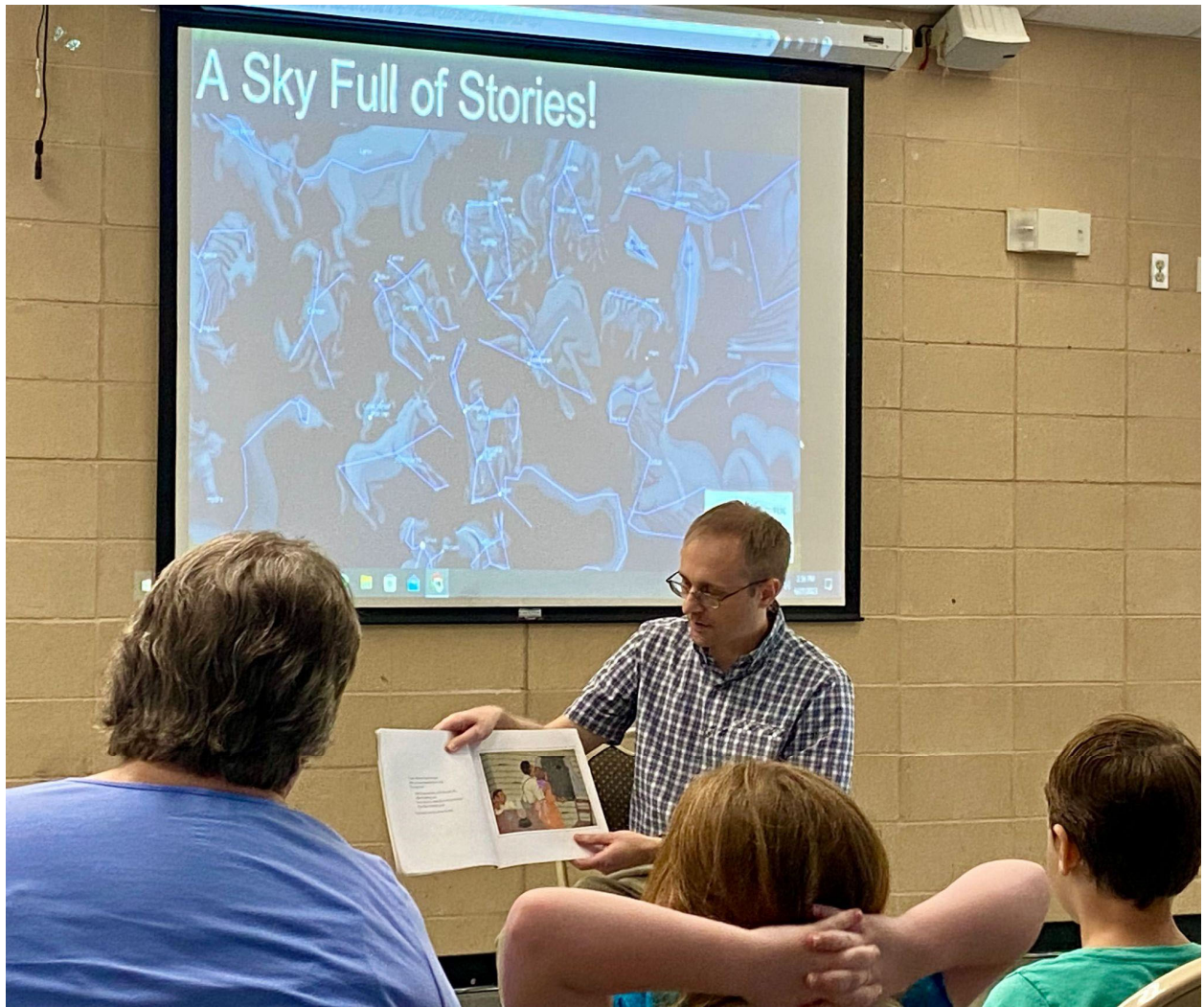


FPAN graduate student assistant Bria Brooks explores one of the masts from the wreckage of *Adelaide Baker* in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary during this spring's Heritage Awareness Diving Seminar (HADS).



North Central Regional Public Archaeologist, Tristan Harrenstein, talking with students and guardians at the Tallahassee School of Math and Science annual math competition.





Tristan Harrenstein reading, "Follow the Drinking Gourd" by Jeanette Winter, at the Woodville Branch of the Leon County Library System, as part of our summer library reading program.

Comments on "Archaeology Books for Fun - In Small Things Forgotten, Part 1 of 3"



Highlighted comment



@seminolewar 4 days ago

What a great program! I have done historical research for over 40 years, and it is a subject which I don't think has been taken seriously until recently. It is great that the field of archaeology is branching out into so many areas. My mother was a cultural anthropologist, and she once said that she wanted to find out about the living cultures and not wait until they've died out.

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@ReverendHowl 3 days ago

I live in Europe. I live within walking distance of a 2000 year old earthwork hill fort, a 600yo stone built castle, and a late 1930s military air field. I'd have to take a half hour bus ride to see the amphitheatre built by our "contact culture", the Romans who brought us writing and 'History'.

Thank you for sharing such an interesting conversation.

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The "Archaeology Books for Fun" podcast continues to grow in popularity, with over 600 listens. We have started to receive public comments and feedback. Here is a sampling of some of the comments received thus far.