



Central & West Central Regions

Quarter 1 Report:

July, August, September 2023



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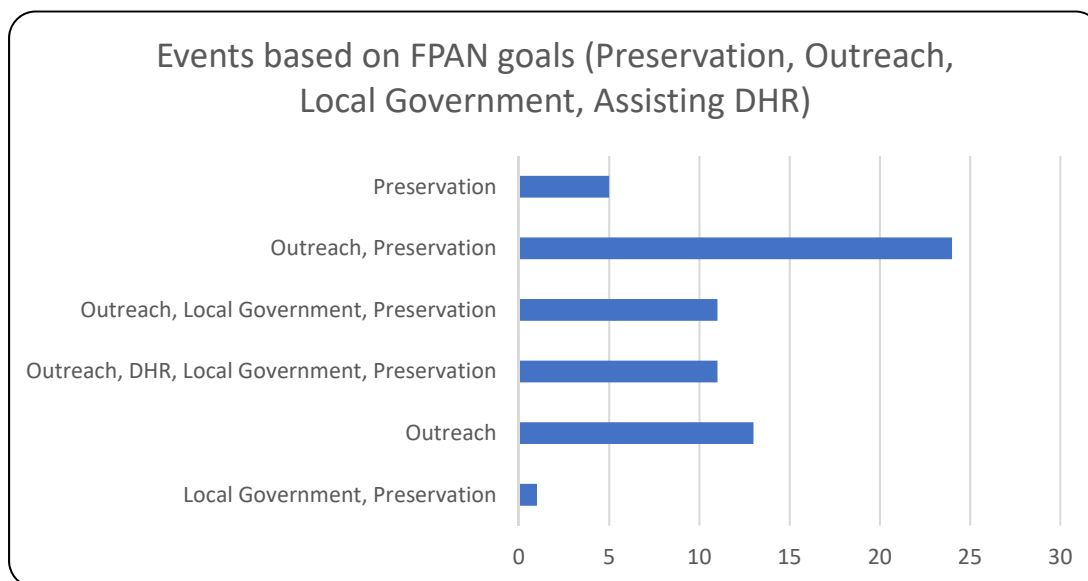
Nigel Rudolph Public Archaeology Coordinator, Central Region

Richard Ott MA, RPA, Public Archaeology Coordinator, West Central Region

Mandy Wagner, Public Outreach Assistant, Central Region

Super Region

The Central and West Central Regions were busy during Q1 providing a range of events for communities and partners. In total, we reached over 700 people with 66 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 notably on cemetery projects in North East, East Central, and North Central. See the Central Highlight to learn about our amazing new part-time staff member, Mandy Wagner! We were happy to welcome Mandy in August and are excited to work with her on projects and events!



West Central Region Highlight

The West Central staff was busy this quarter with multiple cemetery events including clean-ups and community meetings, multiple talks with the Palm Harbor Museum, and numerous other events around the Region.



Figure 1. Left: Rachael talking with descendants, caretakers, and owners of a cemetery in Seffner. Right: From Richard's "Pre-Contact Pottery for Kids" program at the Palm Harbor Museum.

We also were honored to be at a meeting with the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, and the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, as well as local partners like the Tampa Bay History Center and local contract archaeology firms to discuss possible educational programming in 2024. The goal would be to help educate the public about the commission of Fort Brooke, the major Seminole War period fort in Tampa, where downtown Tampa is now located. We hope to partner with these sovereign nations to help tell a more complete story of the fort and correct some common misconceptions about this difficult history.

Central Region Highlight

In August we welcomed Mandy Wagner to our Region as the new Public Outreach Assistant! Mandy brings a wealth of knowledge and experience about interpreting the past, especially difficult history like that of enslavement. Mandy's experience is vast, and we are thrilled to have her on the team! If you've participated in a "What is it Wednesday" post on the Central Region's social media, then you've enjoyed some of Mandy's engaging work!

The Central Region staff continued work on the major cemetery projects including the Groveland cemetery and BMEC. We also partnered for exciting events at the Florida Museum of Natural History, Crystal River Archaeological State Park for the return of Moon Over the Mounds Tours, Big Bend Seagrasses Aquatic Preserves for an Archeo-Eco kayak tour for Save our Waters Week, and a presentation for the Florida Trust Conference in Ocala.



Figure 2. Welcome Mandy to the FPAN team! Left: Mandy Wagner, the new Public Archaeology Assistant for the Central Region of FPAN. Right: Mandy and Nigel performing field work.