

# Northwest and North Central Region Quarterly Report

July/August/September 2023

Barbara Clark, RPA, Director  
Nicole Grinnan, RPA, Public Archaeologist  
Tristan Harrenstein, RPA, Public Archaeologist  
Bria Brooks, Public Archaeology Assistant  
Ellie Minette, Public Archaeology Assistant  
Kate Schreiber, Public Archaeology Assistant  
Pax Johnson, Milton High School Special Project Assistant

The first quarter of the year has been a busy one! North Central Region staff finished up their library summer reading programs for the year, which focused on how other cultures interpret constellations and use the skies for various cultural purposes from navigation to religious beliefs. Both regions also continued their various lectures, including a lecture on turpentine in Port St. Joe, a lecture on native plants at the Baker Block Museum, a presentation on the 1559 Luna settlement attempt for UWF Leisure Learning, and a talk on FPAN's work on the 2024 NOAA Ocean Exploration grant to Saipan for an "Archaeology on Tap" program at St. Michael's Brewery in Navarre. Nicole Grinnan also partnered with FPAN's Mike Thomin to continue hosting the monthly "Archaeology Storytime!" and "Archaeology After School!" programs for young students.

Tallahassee will be celebrating its bicentennial in 2024. The North Central Region has joined the "History Taskforce," which will be focusing on history and heritage education throughout the bicentennial celebration. Staff has been working with city staff to plan several tours and programs. They have also met with Maclay Gardens State Park staff, their host, to discuss plans for joint programs to celebrate the bicentennial at the park. In August, Barbara was asked to present some public interpretation tips for the other members of the Bicentennial History Taskforce. There were a lot of questions from members, so Barbara and Tristan decided to plan for an interpretation workshop to allow for a deeper dive into the subject. This workshop is planned for September.

This quarter, staff started to utilize Buffer to help improve our social media presence. Both regions continue to see a growth in both Instagram and Facebook followers. One of our focuses this quarter has been to improve both the frequency and quality of posts. This has resulted in more engagement with our followers as well. Additionally, our YouTube channel remains a resource for the public and we continue to update content there as well. This quarter, channel content has gained an additional 10,000 views with a total watch time of 546 hours. The podcast, "Archaeology Books for Fun" continues to grow in popularity, with 13 episodes and over 1000 listens!

The North Central Region used August primarily as a planning month, although several programs did occur that month as well. During the planning month, staff held meetings with various partners and set to planning programs for the coming year. Staff met with Maclay Gardens, the Tallahassee Trust for Historic Preservation and others. As the school year started, staff also reached out to various teachers and educators to start to schedule school visits and other school-related programs throughout the year. During July and August, FPAN Northwest Region graduate assistant Bria Brooks participated in an internship with Biscayne National Park in southeast Florida. Administered by the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture's Slave Wrecks Project and Youth Diving With A Purpose, the goal of Bria's internship was to help her develop expertise and professional skills related to underwater archaeology, citizen science in submerged heritage resource management, and serving as a role model for young students.

August brought the start of the 2023 fall semester at UWF and the Northwest Region was very pleased to welcome its newest graduate assistant, Kate Schreiber. Kate joins us from the University of Florida where she graduated with a B.A. in Anthropology, as well as two minors in History and Classical Studies. She was inspired to pursue archaeology as a career when she participated in the field school at Fort Mose Historic State Park in St. Augustine, FL, and is excited to be working with FPAN during her graduate program at UWF. We also look forward to working with Kate over the next three years!

The FPAN Northwest Region/Coordinating Center also reopened the doors to its volunteer Public Archaeology Lab in August, welcoming both new and returning volunteers to help rough sort archaeological collections from UWF. The Lab will be open under the supervision of senior graduate assistant Bria Brooks on most Mondays and Wednesdays this semester from 10:00am-4:00pm CT. Additionally, as the Santa Rosa County school year started, Pax Johnson took over the Milton High School archaeology program in the Northwest Region. We are excited to have Pax, and their enthusiasm for this program is going to be a great asset in ensuring its continued success. September was a busy month for both regions! The North Central Region was visited by Nigel Rudolph of the Central Regional Center. Tristan and he developed an advanced CRPT workshop for the Wakulla County Historical Society. Nigel shared his knowledge of resetting and mending techniques at the Richardson Cemetery in Wakulla County. The workshop was well attended and received by historical society and community members. Tristan and Barbara also learned a lot and gained confidence in their ability to teach similar workshops in the future. Being able to cross-train with other regions is of huge value to staff and the communities they serve. North Central also participated in the annual Tallahassee Science Festival, held downtown. As always, this event was well attended and a great opportunity to showcase the various sciences used in archaeology.

For the past year or so, Northwest and North Central staff, along with Mike Thomin (DARC) and Rachel Hines (former FPAN Graduate Assistant), have been hard at work planning the first Conference on Public Archaeology. This project came to fruition this September as the first conference was hosted in Pensacola! We had initially expected approximately 80 attendees but ended up hosting over 170 public archaeology practitioners from around the country, and even a few from outside the US. The conference also hosted an "Archaeology on Tap" on Dr. Jennifer McKinnon's (East Carolina University) citizen science work with Special Operations Forces veterans in Saipan, CNMI, at Odd Colony Brewing, which was open to the public. To open the

conference, Dr. Barbara Little gave her keynote address to a packed house at the UWF Historic Trust Museum of Commerce. Every FPAN region was represented at the conference, leading workshops and panels, as well as providing assistance to conference organizers. UWF FPAN Graduate Assistants and other UWF graduate students also volunteered to help with the reception, registration, and more. The weekend was lively and filled with good discussions and networking opportunities. We received great feedback and have several organizations willing to host future Conferences on Public Archaeology. It was wonderful to see our idea for a conference dedicated to public archaeology become a reality and we are grateful to our leadership, and colleagues for all the support and participation!

Nicole Grinnan, Northwest Region Public Archaeologist, was awarded a \$104,967 grant from the NOAA 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 research will serve as the basis for Nicole’s PhD dissertation with the University of St Andrews (UK) under supervision of program partner Tom Dawson. Additionally, Nicole Grinnan, Mike Thomin, and graduate assistant Taylor Brown applied for and were rewarded a \$11,441 grant from the Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program to update and revitalize a Destination Archaeology Resource Center exhibit on the relationship between human populations and estuarine environments in Florida.

#### **In Progress/Ongoing:**

- Barbara Clark continues to serve as Chair of the Tallahassee Trust for Historic Preservation, as well as Chair of the Rural Acquisition Committee of the National Forests in Florida.
- Tristan continues to serve as a board member of the Florida Trail of Indian Heritage.
- Nicole continues to serve as webmaster for the FPAN, Destination Archaeology Resource Center, and Florida Archaeology Month websites.
- Nicole continues to serve as Website Editor 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.
- Nicole serving on UWF Anthropology graduate student thesis committees for: Chrissy Perl, Bria Brooks, Nolan Swaim, and Kaitlin Decker
- Barbara continues to serve as a member of the Tallahassee/Leon County joint government Advisory Committee for Quality Growth.



Dr. Barbara Little giving her keynote address at the First Conference on Public Archaeology in Pensacola, Florida, on September 22, 2023.



As part of the first Conference on Public Archaeology, staff organized an “Archaeology on Tap” at Odd Colony Brewing, featuring a lecture by Dr. Jennifer McKinnon (East Carolina University). The event was open to the public and attended by more than 80 people!



In September, Mike Thomin and Nicole Grinnan received a grant from the Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program to update one of the exhibit spaces in the Destination Archaeology Resource Center. The new exhibit will focus on the interactions between people and the natural environment in and along Florida estuaries.