

Northwest and North Central Region Quarterly Report

January/February/March 2024

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The new year started off, as usual, with the Annual Meeting of the Society for Historical Archaeology, held this year in Oakland, California. FPAN had a strong presence at the conference, presenting papers, posters, and serving on boards and committees. Barbara and Tristan presented a poster on the “Archaeology Books for Fun” podcast and were surprised to meet a listener in person for the first time. They were also able to network with other organizations working on incorporating archaeology into literacy programs, including the Digital Stories Project, a product of the Data Literacy Program, a National Endowment for the Humanities and Mellon Foundation Project of the Alexandria Archive Institute. Nicole co-authored two papers for the conference, “Citizen Science in Saipan: Engaging an Island Community” (with Della Scott-Ireton, Mike Thomin, and Jennifer McKinnon) and “Multifaceted and Multivocal: Utilizing a ‘Multimedia Storytelling’ Approach to Interpret the Role of Science in Exploring Saipan’s Underwater Cultural Heritage” (with Mike Thomin). Both papers were related to her work in Saipan with East Carolina University for the 2023 NOAA Ocean Exploration grant exploring submerged WWII battlefields.

The North Central Region was able to record several sites for the Florida Master Site File this quarter. Barbara has been working with the small community of Estiffanulga, located in Liberty County on the Apalachicola River. Through her work there, she was able to document a previously undocumented historic cemetery, The Armstrong Cemetery (8LI1807). FPAN is working on developing a partnership with MLAP to help bring awareness to some of the issues this community is facing, such as riverbank erosion. Another documented site is the result of a site visit request by the Florida Master Site File. The Ashton Site (8LE6811) is a historic archaeological site consisting of two structure foundations, a historic roadbed feature, a well, and a potential privy.

January marked the beginning of Nicole’s [“People of the Apalachicola System: Exploring Cultural Heritage to Support Ecosystem Planning, Management, and Adaptation”](#) Catalyst Grant project through the NOAA National Estuarine Research Reserve System’s Science Collaborative. The grant includes a broad array of team members, including Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve staff, FPAN’s Mike Thomin, and graduate student assistant Bria Brooks. For one week of each month this quarter, Nicole, Mike, and Bria conducted fieldwork at 15 sites in the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve (ANERR) to document the sites, record any potential impacts, and take precise measurements with a borrowed Arrow Gold GNSS RTK Receiver from FPAN’s Northeast Region. During these months, the project team also held three “Community Conversations on Heritage at Risk” to engage with community members about how

they understand, value, and are concerned about heritage in their community. These workshops will eventually be transcribed and analyzed to provide insight for cultural resource managers within the ANERR and in other land management units in the Apalachicola area. Tristan also generously donated his time to the project in February by assisting with fieldwork for a day and attending that month's "Conversation." Related to the "People of the Apalachicola" project but also important for Bria's thesis research, Bria and Barbara attended the Black History Month celebration in Apalachicola in February. This event was an important opportunity for Bria to speak with the city's Black community and recruit individuals to participate in interviews for her thesis research.

The North Central region held several programs at their host park, Alfred B. Maclay Gardens State Park. The Heritage Hike through the Overstreet Tract aimed to create awareness of the African American community that once existed within the park boundaries. Attendees were able to learn about the history and archaeology remains associated with this community. The hike also touched on the plantation history, geography, and plantlife in the area. During Leon County School's spring break Barbara and Tristan led two Archaeology Storytime programs at Maclay Gardens as well.

The North Central region assisted the Riley Center & Museum by 3D printing two artifacts recovered and modeled from the Maroon Fort archaeological site. The museum plans to use these prints for their exhibit update and for educational outreach.

This year marks the bicentennial celebration of Tallahassee. FPAN will be participating in a variety of programs throughout the year, but we kicked things off with a tour of Old City Cemetery in partnership with the City of Tallahassee. This tour was well attended, and we have another one scheduled for October. As a result, many other organizations saw the advertisement and have requested private tours of the cemetery for their members. We have scheduled several over the coming months, including a summer tour for the Florida Geographic Alliance, a program associated with the National Geographic Society that provides curriculum, training, and resources for K-12 educators around the state.

The Northwest Region continued several programs in partnership with Mike Thomin, including the popular "Archaeology After School" and "Archaeology Story Time" programs, with lessons focusing on Black history and ancient hunting technologies. Nicole had the incredible opportunity to participate in the Southeast Region's Archaeobootcamp at Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area. Nicole worked with representatives from most of FPAN's Regional Centers to give participants a crash course in archaeological field methods (including underwater archaeological field methods) over the course of three days. She was also invited to participate in a public panel discussion at the Lighthouse alongside FPAN's Mary Minkoff, archaeologist Bob Carr, and Lighthouse historian Josh Liller.

The North Central partnership with Swift Creek Middle School, which is located at the location of the Block-Sterns Swift Creek archaeological site, continues to develop. Last quarter we were able to visit with their students to discuss the site and introduce them to basic archaeological principles. In return for our visit, we asked that we have a moment to speak to their teachers during a faculty meeting. This March, we were able to meet with them to share our resources and introduce them to Florida Archaeology Month. This resulted in Tristan scheduling another program at the school,

this time focusing on primary documents written during the Civil War. This program will help students understand primary documents better, which will serve them well during the research phase of their history fair projects.

Speaking of Florida Archaeology Month, both regions were kept busy with a variety of programs across the panhandle. As always, Florida Archaeology Month activities seem to start before March and not slow down until after. Both regions attended a variety of festivals, including the Primitive Arts Festival at Letchworth-Love Mounds Archaeological State Park (NC) and the Camellia Festival at Eden Gardens State Park (NW). Staff also presented a variety of lectures to organizations, including the Carrabelle Historical Society, the Lake City Public Library, the Port St. Joe Public Library, the FSU Anthropology Department, the UWF Leisure Learning group.

The Northwest Region's Nicole has also been hard at work with Mike Thomlin to provide the first update to the Destination Archaeology Resource Center's permanent exhibit in 15 years. Funded through a community grant from the Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program, Nicole and Mike are serving as co-PIs in creating an exhibit dedicated to the long history of human interaction with estuarine environments both in the Northwest Region and throughout Florida. The exhibit will feature translated text in Mvskoke by the Santa Rosa Creek Band of the Lower Muscogee, as well as multimedia interpretation for audiences of all ages. The exhibit and grant are slated to be completed by early May 2024, with a public opening reception on May 17, 2024.

Both regions continue to make social media and other digital outreach a priority. Facebook and Instagram followers continue to increase in both regions. North Central currently has 3215 Facebook followers and 466 Instagram followers. Northwest currently boasts 6,472 Facebook followers and 793 Instagram followers. Northwest's newsletter also continues to be a great way to connect with the public. The podcast "Archaeology Books for Fun" continues to grow with 1454 total listens, 252 listens this quarter. We were recently notified by the Tallahassee Trust for Historic Preservation that the podcast will also be receiving an award in May! YouTube also continues to be a great way to create digital content for the public. This quarter YouTube acquired 76 new subscribers and 6.6 thousand views.

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 and chairs their marketing committee.
- Nicole is serving on the planning committee for the 76th annual Florida Anthropological Society meeting in Pensacola on May 10-11, 2024.
- 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.
- 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.



The Heritage Hike at Maclay Gardens was a mile long walk along the Overstreet Trail, and focused on the archaeological heritage of the park, including that of the historic African American Overstreet community.



Alicia Bruno (ANERR), Nicole Grinnan, Mike Thomin, and Bria Brooks pose for a group photo during a fieldwork visit to Little St. George Island for the “People of the Apalachicola” project.