

Northwest/North Central Region Quarterly Report

January/February/March 2021

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Nicole Grinnan, RPA, Public Archaeologist
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Jeffery Robinson, Public Archaeology Assistant
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Caroline Peacock, Milton High School Special Project Assistant

While FPAN's programming remained primarily online during the third quarter of this year, the virtual nature of these programs does not diminish their impact on FPAN's ability to accomplish its goals and objectives. The Northwest Region's "Zoom into Archaeology" series remains very popular both as a live streaming event and as a recorded series on the [FPAN YouTube channel](#), which continues to see a steady increase in subscribers. Though the number of live attendees to "Zoom into Archaeology" has fluctuated, Northwest staff are seeing increased interest since the beginning of 2021; one event in March received well over 200 registrations! These virtual events have also seen impact well beyond just the regional Northwest Florida area; registrants from Egypt, Poland, Greece, Peru and a variety of other countries have also participated despite what is often a significant time difference for live streaming. Other FPAN virtual programs with which we have collaborated with other regional offices include the Destination Archaeology Resource Center's regular "Heritage Monitoring Scouts Vlog" series, the North Central Region's "Archaeology Arcade," the Northeast Region's monthly presentation series, and the Northeast Region's Heritage Monitoring Scouts Florida training sessions. Nicole also partnered with the Tallahassee Museum, UWF Leisure Learning, and American Academy of Underwater Sciences to conduct virtual presentations on topics in Northwest Florida archaeology. Barbara has collaborated with several Girl Scout troops around the state for virtual programming, as well as chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution, United Daughters of the Confederacy, and Florida Garden Club. Tristan had the opportunity to participate in Skype a Scientist this quarter as well.

In addition to creating digital content and hosting live streaming events, the Northwest Region has made a push to do a significant amount of site monitoring for the Heritage Monitoring Scouts Florida Special Category Grant from the Florida Division of Historical Resources. Notably, staff monitored well over 50 sites on municipal land, in Fred Gannon Rocky Bayou State Park, in Gulf Islands National Seashore, and in Blackwater River State Forest in just this quarter. A great deal of credit goes to graduate assistants Jeffery Robinson, Megan Ashbrook, Abby Stone, Caroline Peacock, and Courtney Boren for volunteering so much time during the Spring 2021 semester to monitor sites in far-flung areas across the region! Coordinating Center staff, including Dr. William Lees, Dr. Della Scott-Ireton, Mike Thomin, and Mari Thornton, also helped the Northwest Region accomplish their monitoring goals in service to the grant. Aside from site monitoring, one of the greatest benefits of this effort has been the strengthened relationship between the Northwest Region and Gulf Islands National Seashore and Blackwater River State Forest.

Other activities during this quarter included the celebration of Florida Archaeology Month in a diminished, but no less significant capacity. As in the past, Nicole Grinnan oversaw the creation of the 2021 Florida Archaeology Month website and planned “Zoom into Archaeology” presentations that spoke to this year’s theme of “Community-based Archaeology.” Graduate assistant Abby Stone continued assisting local partners, like Arcadia Mill Archaeological Site, and UWF Historic Trust, with creating digital content as it relates to their archaeological resources. Caroline Peacock continued her work with Milton High School students in the school’s archaeology class both from a distance and in person. Jeffery Robinson and Megan Ashbrook also partnered up to sort through and reorganize the FPAN Coordinating Center/Northwest Region library; no easy task! Their reorganization will be a huge benefit to staff and graduate assistants as they conduct research in the future.

The North Central Regional Center has continued the weekly blog posts, which throughout March focused on Women’s History Month and Florida Archaeology Month, combining the two by focusing on women in archaeology and archaeological sites that are significant to women’s history. The blog has continued to focus on monthly heritage celebrations as part of both region’s commitment to diversity, social justice, and inclusion. Tristan started daily archaeology news posts on Facebook and Instagram highlighting articles about archaeological research worldwide with a more involved mock newspaper edition each Thursday. The response to this activity has been excellent with our post engagements increasing by 450% for the first month. Tristan and Barbara also judged the Florida History Fair competition and continue their involvement with the Community Classroom Consortium in Tallahassee. North Central closed out March with a collaborative project with WFSU PBS Public Media, filming two FPAN children’s activities for a PBS Summer program, CAMP TV, which will air nationwide this summer.

Current projects in-progress:

- Nicole Grinnan, Mike Thomin, and Della Scott-Ireton in conversations with Teniade Broughton (2020 Pensacola City Council District 5 nominee) and Les Burke of Junior Scientists in the Sea to help create an ongoing program that would certify underserved young people in the Pensacola community to SCUBA and then engage them with scientific projects, focusing on maritime archaeology. FPAN would work in an assistive capacity, potentially providing training to already-certified divers and coming up with archaeology-related curriculum aspects.
- Nicole Grinnan attended the 2021 virtual Society for Historical Archaeology conference in January, co-chairing a session on the challenges of archaeology outreach and engagement during the COVID-19 pandemic (“Adaptation and Alteration: The New Realities of Archaeology during a Pandemic) and sitting on an ACUA-sponsored panel that considered issues of public engagement in underwater archaeology (“Digital Public Outreach and Education in Underwater Archaeology”)
- Barbara Clark attended the 2021 virtual Society for Historical Archaeology conference in January, serving as a panelist for the workshop, “Building a Community of Professional Archaeologists: The Importance of Ethics, Of Improving Your Social Skills, and of Continued Professional Development”.
- Nicole Grinnan is overseeing the development of an updated FPAN website that will increase functionality for FPAN staff and be more user-friendly to website visitors.

- Nicole Grinnan is overseeing updates to the FPAN brand, including a re-imagined logo, that will roll-out with the new website.
- Nicole Grinnan and Mike Thomin are submitting proposals to UWF for the resumption of limited in-person public archaeology tour programs for Summer 2021.
- Nicole Grinnan continues to work on a Ph.D. in Cultural Heritage with the University of Birmingham (UK)
- Tristan Harrenstein continues to serve as a board member for the Trail of Florida's Indian Heritage.
- Barbara Clark completed the CLEO Climate Change speaker program and is now a Certified Climate Speaker through the CLEO Institute of Florida.
- Barbara Clark Continues to serve as Chair of the Tallahassee Trust for Historic Preservation, although much of that work has been on hiatus during the pandemic.
- Barbara Clark was appointed to the Leon County's Advisory Committee on Quality Growth by the Leon County Board of Commissioners, serving as the Archaeologist on the committee.
- Barbara Clark has been overseeing repairs and improvements to the North Central Regional Office located at Maclay Gardens State Park.
- Barbara Clark, as Secretary, and Mike Thomin, as Treasurer, continue to serve as founding board members of the [Northwest Florida Maritime Landscape Alliance for Preservation](#) (MLAP). Officially incorporated in January, MLAP was founded to continue the work towards the panhandle designation as a National Heritage Area, as well as to provide education, guidance, and advocacy to the area through collaboration with various entities in the panhandle.



Graduate assistants Courtney Boren, Abby Stone, and Jeffery Robinson (left to right) pose in front of the FPAN vehicle during a monitoring session in Fred Gannon Rocky Bayou State Park.



Destination Archaeology Resource Center's Mike Thomin fords a creek in Blackwater River State Forest to make sure he gets the best possible shot for the "Heritage Monitoring Scouts Vlog" series.



FPAN Associate Director Dr. Della Scott-Iretton shows off some surface finds (ceramic sherds) during a monitoring visit in Gulf Islands National Seashore.



Tristan Harrenstein on the set for the filming of WFSU's PBS Camp TV program, which will air nationwide this summer on PBS.