

Northwest and North Central Region Quarterly Report

January/February/March 2016

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The first quarter of 2016 was a busy one! The year started off with the Society for Historical Archaeology conference in Washington D.C. Staff from both the Northwest and the North Central regions participated in a variety of ways. Our relatively small staff made a great showing at the meeting, presenting six papers, hosting one panel, and participating in a variety of SHA committees and subcommittees. The two regions also partnered for various Florida Archaeology Month events throughout March, including the first Archaeology Advocacy Day at the Florida Capitol. This event was planned in response to activities during the recent legislative session. We are hoping to make this an annual event to help bring awareness to our state lawmakers and those active within the state legislature. During the 2016 legislative session staff from both regions traveled to Tallahassee at various times to participate in the legislative process when appropriate. In February, Nicole traveled to the North Central Region to assist Barbara in participating in the Diving Equipment and Marketing Association's (DEMA) annual "Dive-In Day" at the Florida State Capitol. Nicole and Barbara were able to speak with both legislators and visitors to the Capitol about the importance of Florida's submerged cultural heritage and why these underwater sites are worth preserving. Staff from all FPAN regional centers attended our annual staff meeting in Orlando as well.

In addition to the events above, the North Central Regional Center participated in various festivals and educational events this quarter, including the annual Children's Day at the Florida Museum of History, the annual Ochlockonee River State Park Primitive Arts Festival and many more. We partnered with the Florida Division of Historical Resources, Bureau of Archaeological Research's Underwater Program to offer our second Boat Recording Workshop and also assisted the Division in promoting the public meetings for the update of Florida's Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan. The North Central Regional Center, with the assistance of Mike Thomin at DARC, was able to work with WFSU and WUWF to get the Unearthing Florida radio program on air on WFSU. The broadcast of the segment started on February 29th at 7:31am EST/6:31am CST on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The timing couldn't have been more perfect, as it was just in time to kick off Florida Archaeology Month! The region also hosted its first ArchaeoCafe in partnership with The Riley House Museum and The Edison. The event was held at The Edison (Tallahassee's historic electric building turned restaurant) and the subject of the ArchaeoCafe was the history of the historic Smokey Hollow community. This community was a vibrant African American community in Tallahassee that was eventually destroyed, in part, as a result of eminent domain. This quarter we have been building a couple promising partnerships with Dig-It Games and Making Awesome. The former is a video game company who makes archaeology educational games.

They have expressed an interest in promoting FPAN's programs and in developing a game for St. Augustine. Making Awesome is a local maker space here in Tallahassee. They have access to a variety of electrical, metalworking, woodworking, and 3D printing equipment for their members to use. We are hoping to provide their members with projects that benefit archaeological science, local museums, or other educational activities. Staff also worked with the Division of Historical Resources collections and conservation staff and Goodwood Plantation Museum and Gardens to create their most recent museum exhibit, "From Simple to Sublime: Centuries of Settings at Goodwood".

The first two months of 2016 were busy as FPAN's Northwest Regional Center participated in events across the region and geared up for Florida Archaeology Month in March! Nicole participated in Pensacola's science fiction convention, Pensacon, for the first time in February. She held an informative panel to a packed room about marine remote sensing technologies and how these technologies have been of tremendous benefit to archaeologists looking for underwater sites. Apart from these and other events, staff spent much of January and February helping educate Florida legislators and the general public about the 2016 Florida House Bill 803 and Senate Bill 1054. Education and outreach was absolutely critical in helping non-archaeologists understand why archaeological sites are important to Florida's heritage, economy, and identity. Outreach continued into Florida Archaeology Month even after the legislative session ended! Staff and interns partnered with a variety of groups, including the Northwest Regional Library System, Gulf Coast State College, the Turtle Point Science Center, Washington County, Florida State Parks, the National Park Service, and the Florida Division of Historical Resources (among many others), to host archaeology and history events across the Northwest Region. In all, North Central and Northwest FPAN staff hosted or participated in 38 events during the month of March, reaching new people and making many new partners!

Progress on Work Plan Objectives:

- All staff continue to work towards preparing for the 2017 legislative session in regards to any proposed bill that may arise effecting Florida's cultural resources.
- Tristan continues to work on the local government preservation training project with assistance from FPAN staff and DHR.
- Barbara and Tristan continue to work with the Panhandle Archaeological Society of Tallahassee to provide public opportunities to get involved in the archaeological process.
- Barbara continues to be active on the FAC board of directors.
- All staff continues to provide informational booths and workshops for various educator conferences around the state.
- Nicole continuing to coordinate with staff from the FPAN Coordinating Center and UWF Historic Trust to design interpretive panels for a Pensacola Maritime Heritage Trail funded by a grant from the National Park Service.
- Nicole continuing to coordinate with staff from the FPAN Coordinating Center, the UWF Archaeology Institute, and the UWF Historic Trust to assist in new interpretation planning for the Commanding Officer's Compound in downtown Pensacola.

- Janene working with Mike Thomin from the FPAN Coordinating Center to put together an exhibit for the Destination Archaeology Resource Center based on her thesis research.
- Nicole and the Mike Thomin from the FPAN Coordinating Center hosted a teacher in-service workshop with the Okaloosa SCIENCE Project in Niceville.
- Nicole now serving as Membership Committee Chair for the Florida Archaeological Council (FAC).
- Nicole continuing to serve as Board Member for the St. Michael’s Cemetery Foundation of Pensacola, Inc.
- Nicole continuing to serve as Graduate Student Representative for the Advisory Council on Underwater Archaeology (ACUA).



Stamped pottery medallions activity at Children’s Day, Museum of Florida History



FPAN staff assisted with the unveiling of the new “Emanuel Point Shipwrecks” Florida Historical Marker in Pensacola. Representatives from the City of Pensacola, Escambia County, the University of West Florida, and the Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research all attended the event!



FPAN Northwest and North Central staff and interns get ready for our annual Archaeology Weekend in Port St. Joe during the last weekend of Florida Archaeology Month.