

# Northwest and North Central Region Quarterly Report

April/May/June 2024

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 fourth quarter of the fiscal year was a busy one for both the Northwest and North Central Regions. As the weather started to warm, outdoor events picked up. Pax Johnson and her Milton High School archaeology students hosted a media day in April. A number of faculty and staff representing both FPAN and UWF were present. It was quite the success with members of the media, local school board, and other officials in attendance. Barbara and Tristan also met with the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation and the Tallahassee Trust for Historic Preservation to start planning for the 2024 Preservation on Mainstreet Conference, to be held in Tallahassee to coincide with the city's bicentennial. This quarter also marked the last one with Nicole Grinnan as Public Archaeologist at the Northwest Regional Center. She has accepted the position of Associate Director of the UWF Archaeology Institute. While we are saddened to lose her as part of the FPAN family, we are excited about the prospect of strengthening our relationship with the institute. We know she will become a huge asset there, as she has with FPAN. In anticipation for her transition to her new position, she kept the Northwest event schedule light, and worked with other staff at the Coordinating Center and North Central Region to ensure any programs she had booked were adequately covered. Bria Brooks will be stepping up into the Public Archaeology position at the Northwest Region in August, and we look forward to having her take on this new role.

Dr. Minkoff was able to establish a partnership with the UWF Communications instructors and graduate students, who were able to take us on as a client. They have worked to create branding for our 20th anniversary and have actively created content for the Northwest Facebook and Instagram pages. Some of the branding materials have been shared with the other regions to help create a more cohesive and unified presence on social media across the state. Barbara and Mike have been assisting with this effort through Buffer, a platform we have started using across the state to manage social media accounts. The North Central region continues to work towards improving their social media presence as well. North Central has seen an increase in both content interactions and followers on Facebook and Instagram. The FPAN YouTube channel has also continued to be popular, and surprisingly has seen large growth in the area of "Archaeology Books for Fun" podcast listens, with 89 "watch hours". The podcast was also presented with an award for education and outreach from the Tallahassee Trust for Historic Preservation this past May.

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 continued this quarter. 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. FPAN staff from other regions also have had the opportunity to join in on portions of the fieldwork. Sarah Ayers-Rigsby and Emily Jane Murray have both traveled from other regions to assist with the project. Barbara and Tristan also assisted with a booth at the ANERR's Estuary Day in May. The project team continues to keep the public updated via their newsletter, website, social media posts and has also released a [video](#) summarizing the project.

Barbara continues to research ways to assist the community of Estiffanulga, located in Liberty County on the Apalachicola River. There unfortunately has not been a lot of progress yet, but she is reaching out to various community members thanks to her local contact. She has discussed the project with her fellow MLAP board members and they are also interested in seeking ways to assist. There is one archaeological site that is partially located on accessible land and plans are in the works to monitor that site. Another site is located on private property, but gaining access has been an issue thus far. Staff believe that patience is key, along with working to better understand the community's concerns and needs.

The North Central Region had the opportunity to partner with Young Engineers Tallahassee and Scientae for their STEM summer camp in Leon County. FPAN agreed to provide programming once a week for five weeks, starting in June. This has provided the opportunity to use programming content that is built upon previous knowledge, rather than our usual "one off" summer programming. To ensure that the campers are exposed to both the science and technological aspects of archaeology, we have focused on how archaeologists use technology, including remote sensing and 3-D modeling. The hands-on components included various activities from using RealityScan to do photogrammetry to conducting an experiment using atlats.

Barbara also kicked off what has become our annual tour of Leon County Senior Center outreach lunch and learn programs. In addition to the main Senior Center located in downtown Tallahassee, they also offer programming to eight different satellite community centers throughout the county on a monthly basis. These lunch and learn programs offer seniors in these outlying communities an opportunity to participate in programming and learn about different resources available to them. This year Barbara has been visiting each location to provide a program on Florida's Spanish history, which also includes information on Latin-x and Hispanic heritage in Florida.

As previously mentioned, 2024 marks the Tallahassee bicentennial celebration. FPAN North Central continues to participate in a variety of events, but our cemetery program seems to be of particular interest to the public. Our initial Old City Cemetery Bicentennial tour has resulted in numerous requests for cemetery programs. This past quarter we provided a tour for residents of the Westminster Retirement Community as part of their educational programming.

The Northwest Regional and Coordinating staff were vital to providing planning support For the Annual Florida Anthropological Society meeting held in Pensacola this year in May. North Central staff also attended and assisted with logistical support during the meeting. Barbara and Tristan also presented a poster promoting their podcast, "Archaeology Books for Fun".

## **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 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.
- Barbara continues to work with Rachel and Kassie on HMS module video recording and beta testing of the Canvas platform training.
- Barbara continues to serve as the Secretary for the Maritime Landscape Alliance for Preservation and work towards the goal of establishing the Florida Panhandle as a National Heritage Area.



Barbara and Tristan received an award from the Tallahassee Trust for Historic Preservation for their educational podcast, “Archaeology Books for Fun”.



Staff from Northwest, North Central, Southeast, and DARC convened in Apalachicola to assist Nicole with fieldwork and outreach related to the “People of the Apalachicola” project.