

Northwest and North Central Region Quarterly Report

July/August/September 2024

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The first quarter of this fiscal year saw several changes for the Northwest region in particular. Nicole Grinnan, former Public Archaeologist of the Northwest Region moved on to the UWF Archaeology Institute. While we were sad to see her leave, we are looking forward to new opportunities for collaboration with the Institute. In August, Bria Brooks, former Graduate Assistant, joined us as the new Public Archaeologist for the Northwest Region. We are excited to have her join FPAN in this new capacity and looking forward to supporting her continued work in Apalachicola and elsewhere. We also had a new Graduate Assistant join us, Elizabeth White. Elizabeth earned her bachelor's degree from UWF, and is excited to return to Pensacola after a stint doing CRM. These staff changes present timely opportunities to refresh our “super region” goals, one of which is to work more closely as a cohesive unit. In line with that effort, as well as another goal of increasing HMS activities in the panhandle, both North Central and Northwest staff have agreed to meet up monthly to conduct HMS monitoring in areas between the two regional offices. This also has the potential to get us into communities where we have not been very active in the past.

All staff have had the opportunity to set goals for the coming year. Included in these goals are creating new programs and reaching out to previously underserved areas of the regions in an effort to develop new partnerships and reach new audiences. For the past few years Tristan has been learning Chinese, and was able to spend a month in China this past August. One of his goals is to continue his studies and use his language skills to increase outreach to the Chinese population in our regions. Bria has a similar goal regarding reaching out to new potential partners in the Northwest Region, and will also be continuing her work in Apalachicola. She is updating and developing targeted programming and activities to more effectively address the needs of a diverse demographic in the Northwest Region. Bria is using her knowledge gained through her experiences in Apalachicola to develop customized outreach strategies to engage audiences not currently represented on Northwest social media platforms as well. In an effort to reach our Spanish speaking community, we have joined several social media groups catering to that population, and have sought out related events. This has proven to be a more difficult task in the North Central Region than anticipated, but we continue to try to engage whenever possible and seek new opportunities. Barbara has also been brushing up on her Spanish speaking skills.

Hurricane season has been quite difficult for the state this year, and unfortunately some of the cultural and heritage sites in the North Central Region have been impacted. Barbara has been in

communication with several of our partners and emergency management agencies. We were asked to wait to start doing site visits at some of the more affected state parks, but are ready to assist when called upon. However, despite the damage, when checking in on several of our partners we received the positive news that they did not sustain damage, and were well prepared thanks, in part, to the disaster preparation training they received from FPAN, which was developed by Tristan after Hurricane Michael. Bria had plans to attend the “Return to Angola” festival in the Tampa area, but due to damage sustained from Hurricane Milton the festival had to be postponed. We have not received a new date yet, but Bria still plans to attend when it happens.

Summer is always a busy season for FPAN, and this year was no exception. In addition to staff changes and making big plans for the upcoming fiscal year, both regions continued their regular programming. The summer was full of summer camp activities, kayak tours, summer reading library programs, and more! The Tallahassee Senior Center hosted their annual Lifelong Learning Extravaganza, and FPAN North Central held the record for the number of partner organization programs. As part of their offerings, we provided three different programs: a lecture on Florida’s Spanish history, a program on the archaeology of beer (in partnership with Oyster City Brewing Company), and two tour of Tallahassee’s Old City Cemetery. North Central also partnered with the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation and the Tallahassee Trust for Historic Preservation to help with programming for the Preservation on Mainstreet Conference hosted in Tallahassee this year. The “Archaeology Books for Fun” podcast is still going strong, with a growing audience as well. On podcasting platforms it currently has over 2,100 plays. YouTube has seen an additional 2,100 total 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.
- Barbara continues to serve as a member of the Tallahassee/Leon County joint government Advisory Committee for Quality Growth.
- 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.
- Bria graduated with her MA from University of West Florida!
- In November Bria will begin the "Archaeology Bingo" program with two local community centers in the Pensacola area. The program was developed to engage and introduce local seniors to basic archaeological concepts.
- Bria updated the “Archaeology after School” program and will begin hosting workshops at local Pensacola community centers in November.
- Bria is developing programs, workshops, and events for Black History Month 2025.



The North Central Region partnered with Young Engineers of Tallahassee to provide summer camp programming for campers to teach them the various ways archaeologists use technology, touching on everything from chemical analysis to LiDar.



Both North Central and Northwest Regional staff got together in Chipley to monitor several cemeteries.