

Northwest & North Central Region Quarterly Report

April/May/June 2021

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Jeffery Robinson, Public Archaeology Assistant
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Public outreach programming continued virtually this quarter, with a new in-person programs planned after receiving permission from the UWF College of Arts and Social Sciences. The Northwest Region's "Zoom into Archaeology" series has been a regional mainstay with some very well-attended programs in all three months of this quarter. Live streams drew the largest crowds: two programs had over 300 registrants! Recorded versions of "Zoom into Archaeology" also continue to be popular on the FPAN YouTube channel (which currently has 324 subscribers). Aside from public outreach objectives, one of the major successes of the "Zoom into Archaeology" series has been in solidifying partnerships with organizations and agencies outside of FPAN as we ask them to speak to our audiences. These partners have included the University of West Florida Department of Anthropology, the University of West Florida Department of History, the University of Tennessee Chattanooga Department of Anthropology, the State of North Carolina Office of State Archaeology, the Florida State University Department of Anthropology, the Kukua Institute, and cultural resources management firms CARDNO and SEARCH, Inc.

Other FPAN virtual programs on which we have collaborated this quarter include the Destination Archaeology Resource Center's regular "Heritage Monitoring Scouts Vlog" series, the North Central Region's "Archaeology Arcade," the St. Augustine Archaeological Society's monthly meeting, the University of West Florida Leisure Learning program, and Bay County Public Library's summer reading program. The North Central Region staff has developed a new partnership with STEMConnect, a virtual education program based in Central Florida. Both Barbara Clark and Tristan Harrenstein have done multiple programs with them, with more planned up through October thus far. In partnership with WFSU, the North Central Region filmed two youth programs that have aired nationally on PBS throughout the summer as part of their CAMP TV series. Barbara and Tristan are also in the initial planning stages of a podcast that will review archaeology themed, publicly accessible, books. Tristan has also been working on a weekly hurricane preparedness lunch and learn that will be hosted on Zoom in August. This program targets small museums and will have guest speakers from across the country. Although we have permission for in-person programming, staff will continue some virtual programming due to the interest and potential to reach those outside of our immediate area.

This quarter also included a push to wrap up Heritage Monitoring Scouts activity for the Heritage Monitoring Scouts Florida Special Category Grant from the Florida Division of Historical Resources. Staff continued to visit sites in both Blackwater River State Forest and Gulf Islands National Seashore in a rallying effort to monitor as many as possible before the hot

weather arrives. The North Central Region was able to obtain a permit for Bald Point State Park and complete all monitoring there, with the assistance of several new HMS volunteers. Staff from both regions have also been busy working on FMSF updates as well. As with last 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 to monitor sites in far-flung areas across the Northwest 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.

Along with the Heritage Monitoring Scouts grant activities, Nicole Grinnan and Mike Thomin assisted Jeffery Robinson with the scanning of several local sites at risk with FPAN's FARO 3D laser scanner. The scanned sites were identified by Jeffery as a part of his UWF Master's thesis and include notable archaeological sites at risk like Butcherpen Mound in Gulf Islands National Seashore and Middle Middens on Santa Rosa Island. FPAN staff and Jeffery will continue to create scans of these sites over time to track any changes, particularly those caused by climate impacts.

Other activities during this quarter included the hosting of the University of West Florida Luna settlement site field lab at the FPAN Public Archaeology Lab and the establishment of monthly kayak tours along major waterways in the Pensacola area, led by Nicole Grinnan and Mike Thomin with partners from the UWF Historic Trust. The kayak tours are FPAN Northwest's first return to in-person programming since March 2020. Though kayak tour group sizes remain limited, the outdoor nature of the program and the need to stay at a distance to accommodate kayaks while on the water fosters one of the safest environments, we believe, for hosting in-person programs at this time. The North Central Regional Center has partnered with their host park, Alfred B. Maclay Gardens State Park for several limited in-person programs as well, with more planned in the near future. As health and safety guidance changes, we hope to resume a more normal programming schedule and reintroduce volunteers to our Public Archaeology Lab in fall.

Finally, we want to thank our departing graduate student assistant, Jeffery Robinson, for three years of service and dedication to FPAN! Over the last three years, Jeffery has helped staff events, run programs, monitor archaeological sites, and complete significant projects while he works to complete his Master's degree at UWF. Although Jeffery leaves this role, we are excited to keep him on as a Museum Assistant for the Destination Archaeology Resource Center beginning in August 2021.

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.

- Jeffery Robinson continues to collect and analyze 3D scan data for both his Master's thesis and for the Heritage Monitoring Scouts Grant.
- Jeffery Robinson, Megan Ashbrook, and Abby Stone transitioned to their respective UWF field schools for the summer, receiving training in supervising field projects.
- Nicole is working with the City of Pensacola and the Florida 200th University Commission to design and fabricate wayside signs that highlight relevant historical and archaeological topics for Pensacola and Escambia County. One of these signs will celebrate the diversity of historic St. John's Cemetery in Pensacola, founded by African American residents in the 19th century.
- 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 continues to work on a Ph.D. in Cultural Heritage with the University of Birmingham (UK)
- Barbara Clark and Mike Thomin continue to work on developing a National Heritage Area in the Florida Panhandle through their work with the Northwest Florida Maritime Landscape Alliance for Preservation.
- Tristan Harrenstein continues to serve as a board member on the Trail of Florida's Indian Heritage.
- Barbara Clark and Tristan Harrenstein continue to be active in the Community Classroom Consortium in Tallahassee, which has met virtually throughout the pandemic, and has led to numerous virtual program partnerships, include that with WFSU/PBS.



A participant in our May 2021 “Zoom into Archaeology” scientific illustration workshop in partnership with FPAN’s Southeast Region sent us this finished product after the workshop ended. This “Zoom into Archaeology” presentation was completely full and individuals from over 15 countries participated!



Destination Archaeology Resource Center's Mike Thomin talks to kayak tour participants during our very first in-person program since March 2020. This tour took kayakers along a section of the Blackwater River near Bagdad, Florida. Our program partners, UWF Historic Trust, assisted us in talking about the importance of history and ecology along and in Blackwater River.



Tristan Harrenstein, Public Outreach Coordinator for the North Central Region, walks along the beach at Bald Point State Park in search of a site to monitor for Heritage Monitoring Scouts.