

Northwest & North Central Region Quarterly Report

July/August/September 2020

Barbara Clark, RPA, Director
Nicole Grinnan, RPA, Public Archaeologist
Tristan Harrenstein, RPA, Public Archaeologist
Jeffery Robinson, Public Archaeology Assistant
Megan Ashbrook, Public Archaeology Assistant
Abby Stone, Public Archaeology Assistant
Caroline Peacock, Milton High School Special Project Assistant
Tara Skipton, Florida State University Intern

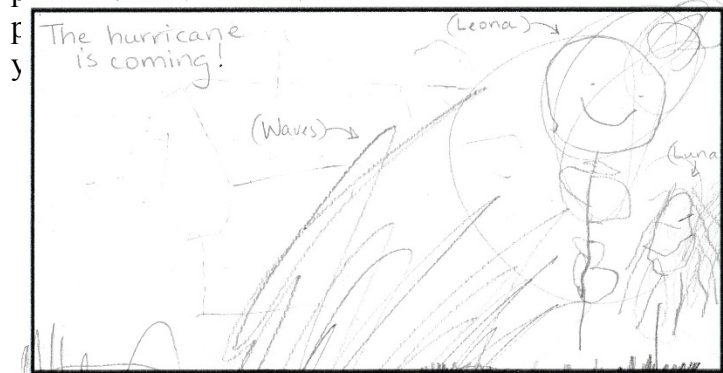
Regional Updates

While COVID-19 continues to disrupt regular outreach and education efforts at FPAN, staff have been very successful in translating typical in-person programming to a digital environment. Since late May, Nicole has continued her [“Zoom into Archaeology” series](#) almost every Thursday afternoon. Bringing in new presenters from varied FPAN regions, University of West Florida staff and faculty, and outside academic organizations, “Zoom into Archaeology” has a dedicated group of participants each week with a typical audience of around 20-40 people. Feedback about the program is overwhelmingly positive and it is likely we will continue the program less regularly even after in-person events are possible. “Zoom into Archaeology” has drawn some significant attention to FPAN’s Northwest Region online and several requests for group programs have resulted.

In July, Nicole worked with UCP of Central Florida, a tuition-free charter school group for students with a variety of learning abilities, to provide four “Introduction to Archaeology” and “Archaeology Story Time” programs via Zoom. Nicole also presented her “Shipwrecks of Northwest Florida” presentation to a Zoom audience of over 100 people in partnership with the Tallahassee Museum’s “Museum Mixology” program. In August and September, Nicole and Destination Archaeology Resource Center Museum Manager Mike Thomin published a children’s chapter book, [Luna the Cat](#), inspired by the history and archaeology of the 1559 Spanish settlement attempt in what is now Pensacola, Florida. *Luna the Cat* is available to read for free online, but Mike and Nicole also took the opportunity [to read the book via Zoom](#) over the course of six weeks. Each week, Mike and Nicole read two chapters and then provided a short presentation with background on the history and archaeology of the 1559 settlement attempt. Barbara and Tristan have done several digital “Puzzles of our Past” presentations throughout the quarter for public libraries as part of their summer reading program, and in partnership with the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation. Barbara also presented a virtual program for the Tallahassee Senior Center’s LifeLong Learning Expo on climate change and cultural resources.

In the time between digital programs, Nicole and Barbara continued to apply for permits for the HMS grant monitoring and scanning. All staff have been monitoring and record archaeological sites for FPAN’s Heritage Monitoring Scouts grant project. While awaiting permits for state lands, staff is working on monitoring all accessible non-state land sites on the grant priority list, as well as sites that are not part of the grant project but still in need of monitoring. Barbara also conducted a virtual HMS workshop for the FSU Anthropology Graduate Student Association, which resulted in three new HMS Scouts. In addition, Tristan and Barbara presented a DaMP workshop focusing on hurricane preparations for museums and heritage sites. This program was developed because of the damage done by Hurricane Michael in 2018 in an effort to provide sites and museums with information on how to proactively plan for disasters. While the overall

1. Draw a picture of your favorite chapter from *Luna the Cat* in the box below.



2. In five sentences, tell us what you liked most about the book. Once completed, email this to anthomin@uwf.edu by September 11th. Our staff will select the three best submissions, and the winners will be awarded their very own signed copy of the book *Luna the Cat*!

I liked the hurricane and Luna. I liked the black rat. I liked it when Luna was with his family and when he found the little girl. Thank you for writing the story!
I liked it when Luna ran away from his family.

fires and hurricanes, this most recent hurricane season has been quite active this

It came to our attention that a large portion of archaeology related videos on YouTube were unethical or questionable in nature, dealing heavily with looting and receiving a lot of views and subscribers. In an effort to curb that, we have set up our own FPAN [YouTube channel](#) and add content to it regularly, usually multiple times a week. We record our “Zoom into Archaeology” virtual lectures, as well as create original content. Our two most popular series are “Zoom into Archaeology” and “[Hike with Mike](#)”. The additional content from our two [Twitch streaming series](#) “[Archaeology Arcade](#)” and the “[No Man’s Sky Archaeological Survey](#)” both mean we have added almost 60 new videos this period with 73 new subscribers,

743 unique views, and 1,900 views of our videos total. We have also grabbed two YouTube searches for “arrowhead hunting” and one for “ancient aliens”, thus redirecting some of the traffic to more educational and ethical video content! Though these numbers are still quite small in terms of social media, we are very satisfied with the progress and plan to continue working on this type of content. We expect to see our statistics continue to increase as we add more content and continue to promote these videos on social media. We have also reached out to some of our public media contacts to make

them aware of some of our education content in an effort to expand our reach to their viewing audience.

This fall semester Tara Skipton has joined the North Central Region as an intern from FSU. She is developing a centralized public resource for users to see what cultural heritage sites are in their area, what they are about, and how they can go and visit them. Right now, this digital resource focuses on Tallahassee, but we hope to expand it at a later date. It is separated by type of place, and the online map allows users to choose their interests (e.g. cemeteries, museums, parks and trails, archaeological site, etc.), see all available POIs in the area, and get more information about them through the links to FPAN's comprehensive guides. This resource is being created in ArcGIS online and will include a way for us to update the site database as we go and expand the area it covers.

Caroline Peacock, Milton High School Special Project Assistant, has been teaching Milton High School's archaeology students remotely due to COVID restrictions. She is hoping to be able to get onto campus in the coming weeks and open up an excavation unit at the school. Finally, the Northwest Region was very pleased to welcome Abby Stone as a new FPAN Graduate Assistant in August! Abby will be working with FPAN's Northwest Region over the next three years as she pursues her Master's with UWF's Department of Anthropology.



Abby Stone, Public Archaeology Assistant and newest member of our Northwest team.

Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives

FPAN has been making diversity and inclusion a priority in our programming. All regions have been meeting monthly to discuss how FPAN programming can be more inclusive, increase diversity in archaeology, and educate the public about such issues. Northwest and North Central Regional staff realized that the Florida Panhandle presents some unique challenges that may differ from other areas of the state. This quarter, staff from both regions began holding a joint meeting to discuss how to overcome those challenges. This resulted in a draft document outlining goals and establishing specific initiatives to meet those goals. To keep staff accountable, we agreed to include a separate section in our quarterly reports on our diversity and inclusion efforts. Staff has also attended numerous webinars and read numerous articles pertaining to this topic in an effort to stay informed on this particular topic.

This quarter we have focused on things we can do immediately to increase diversity in our programming. An immediate change we have instituted was reviewing our lectures and programs that we provide and incorporating relevant diversity messages where appropriate. For example, Barbara has now incorporated information on how climate change adversely and disproportionately affects minority and low-income communities. We are also looking to create a more diverse pool of lectures and programs between all of our staff. Nicole developed and presented the “Face of Freedom: Free People of Color and the Julee Cottage” presentation for the “Zoom into Archaeology” series. This presentation was based on the information provided by Rachel Hines for the temporary exhibit of the same name in the Destination Archaeology Resource Center. The UWF Women’s Studies Collective has already requested this talk for a Zoom event in October 2020.

Tara Skipton, our FSU intern, is working on a comprehensive guide for the Civil Rights Heritage Walk in downtown Tallahassee. It will include pictures of the site today, a well-researched historic overview, and a guide for what to do when you get to the site. This guide will be made available on the FPAN website and linked in the broader cultural heritage map she is creating for Tallahassee.

Staff has also made it a goal to promote heritage holidays and months, focusing on archaeology and archaeological contributions. We have also worked to include more diversity in our guests on our Archaeology Arcade series and incorporate topics focusing on specific heritage celebrations when possible. Barbara has revived the blog, [“The Trowel Tribune”](#) and will be posting weekly, seeking out material that will add to the diversity of our material and coincide with heritage months and holidays when appropriate. When possible we also theme the talks for “Zoom into Archaeology” around diversity and inclusion issues, and heritage celebrations. For example, we planned all of our October talks around Native American Heritage to gear up for Native American Heritage Month in November. In November the theme will be cemeteries and Nicole has lined up a diverse group of speakers, including Melissa Timo who will be speaking on an African American cemetery on November 5.

We have also looked into ways we can collaborate with more diverse organizations and businesses. With COVID, our programming is currently virtual, but we hope to increase this effort to include BIPOC brick and mortar businesses and organizations in the future. One idea we have is to seek out BIPOC-owned and operated food and drink establishments for our Archaeo Cafes once we are able to do in person events again. This will help support those businesses as

well as create a safe and familiar space for new audiences to attend our programs. In the meantime, 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, are in discussions regarding 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.