

## Northwest Region Quarterly Report

October/November/December 2020

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Nicole Grinnan, 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

As COVID-19 continues to limit in-person interactions, FPAN staff are thriving in the new environment of virtual public archaeology! Continuing into 2021, the majority of our programming continues to be in a virtual format. The only exception is monitoring of archaeological sites for Heritage Monitoring Scouts. On some occasions, we have allowed a limited number of volunteers to attend outdoor monitoring events, adhering to both CDC and UWF COVID-19 protocols, including social distancing and mask wearing.

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 will continue into the new year. “Zoom into Archaeology” has also drawn some significant attention to FPAN’s Northwest Region online and several requests for group programs have resulted. In October and November, Nicole partnered with the University of West Florida’s Leisure Learning group to provide two virtual lectures: “Shipwrecks of Northwest Florida” and “Fantastic Archaeology: Florida Frauds, Myths, and Mysteries. The UWF Leisure Learning group provides education and social engagement for people 50+ and has been a longtime FPAN partner. Nicole was also asked by the UWF Women’s Studies Collective in October to virtually present “The Julee Cottage: Exploring Race and Female Entrepreneurship in Pensacola’s History,” attracting over 70 participants within and outside of the UWF community.

Tristan and Mike have continued with their two popular programs, [Archaeology Arcade](#) and the [NMS Archaeological Survey](#) in a continued effort to take advantage of virtual programming to reach new audiences. Both programs are live streamed on “Twitch”, and uploaded to our YouTube channel. Both Nicole and Barbara, as well as other FPAN staff and archaeologists from outside of our organization, have participated as guests on Archaeology Arcade. Our online presence continues to expand at a steady pace. We have added another 69 new videos to our [YouTube Channel](#), which has received yet another 77 new subscribers and 2,500 views. Our most popular views continue to be [“Hike with Mike”](#) and [“Zoom into Archaeology”](#). This time the search category that brought us the most traffic is “archaeology for kids” so we are looking into exploring some more kid-focused content. Barbara has taught herself how to record and edit videos this quarter and will be working on a series of youth activity videos for the upcoming quarter.

Our blog traffic also continues to increase. Each month focuses on a different theme. December's focus was archaeology and climate change, focusing on not only Heritage Monitoring Scouts, but also other programs and related issues. November's theme focused on Native Americans in Florida to bring awareness and celebrate Native American Heritage Month. October focused on historic cemeteries, starting with a two part series dispelling urban myths relating to a popular grave in Tallahassee's Old City Cemetery. Our most popular post this quarter was on the Muscogee Nation of Florida, with 138 views and 33 shares on Facebook. We will continue to post blogs weekly, focusing on heritage celebration months when relevant, as a way to help meet our social equity and inclusion goals.

Both regions continue to promote virtual events and post relevant information on Facebook and Instagram. Social media has become more important as a tool for communicating information and engaging with the public as the pandemic continues. Throughout the quarter, FPAN graduate assistant Megan Ashbrook worked diligently to provide new content for FPAN Northwest's social media platforms. Graduate assistant Abby Stone has likewise been assisting local partners, like Arcadia Mill Archaeological Site, and UWF Historic Trust, with creating digital content as it relates to their archaeological resources. Caroline Peacock continues to work with Milton High School students in the school's archaeology class from her computer.

Apart from the push to provide virtual programming, FPAN Northwest and North Central staff and graduate assistants got back outside to monitor a number of archaeological sites for FPAN's Heritage Monitoring Scouts program. FPAN Northwest visited several locations within the three-county area, including Tarkiln Bayou Preserve State Park, Big Lagoon State Park, Perdido Key State Park, Arcadia Mill Archaeological Site, and Fred Gannon Rocky Bayou State Park. Related to Heritage Monitoring Scouts digital products, Nicole was able to produce a FARO 3D scan of the Hyer-Knowles Planing Mill Chimney in the City of Pensacola. North Central Staff visited numerous locations as well, including Chattahoochee Landing, St. George Island, and Econfina River State Park. Tristan and Barbara, with the assistance of staff from the Northeast and North Central Region, produced a FARO scan of Butler's Mill site at Lake Jackson Mounds Archaeological State Park. Not only do these Heritage Monitoring Scouts visits provide much needed information on the overall stability of archaeological sites, they also give land managers critical data to continue management and preservation efforts. A by-product of these efforts is a much closer relationship between FPAN and various land manager across the region!

#### **Social equity and inclusion initiatives:**

- 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.
- Nicole Grinnan 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.

- Nicole Grinnan participated in the Society for Historical Archaeology's virtual "Workshop on Antiracism, Equity, and Inclusion."
- Barbara Clark has worked to include heritage-based holidays and celebration months into the weekly blog posts.
- Tristan Harrenstein and Mike Thomin continue to invite archaeologists from underrepresented groups to participate in Archaeology Arcade when possible, especially when it is relevant to the game they are featuring.
- All staff has continued to revise their lectures to include messages on equity and diversity when relevant and appropriate.

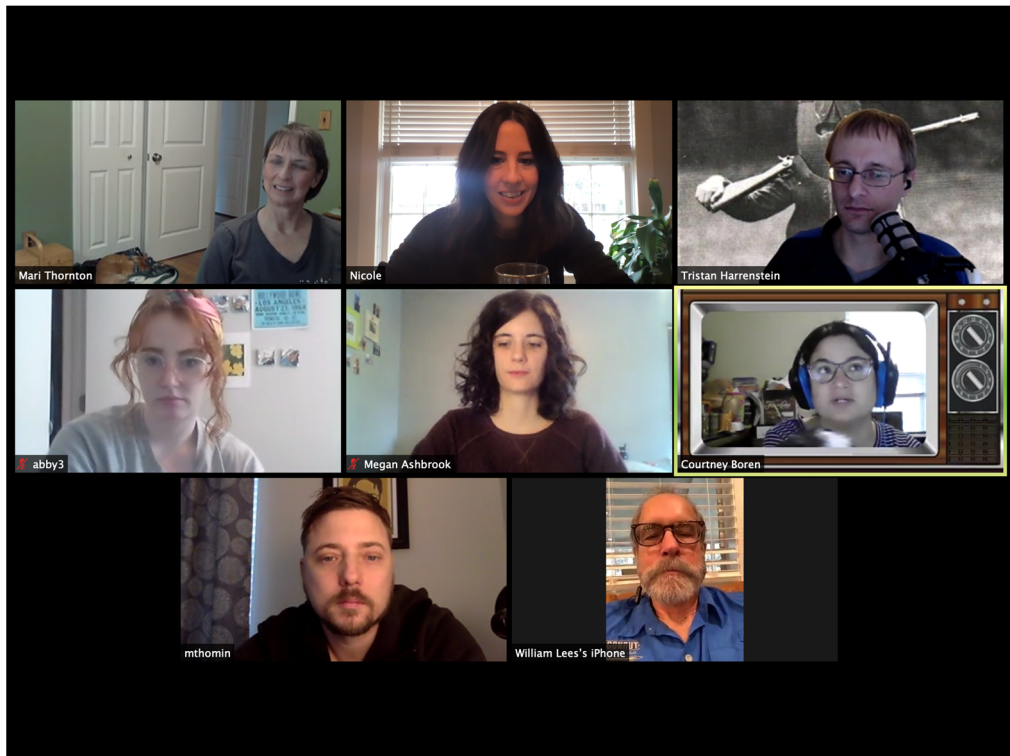


Nicole Grinnan taking Heritage Monitoring Scouts efforts to Tarkiln Bayou Preserve State Park!





Destination Archaeology Resource Center's Mike Thomin surveys the far reaches of Arcadia Mill Archaeological Site for a Heritage Monitoring Scouts mission.



FPAN Northwest, North Central, and Coordinating Center staff and graduate assistants continue to hold bi-weekly meetings over Zoom.





Barbara Clark baking “Cocoa Picante” cookies in preparation for a “Zoom Into Archaeology” Program presented by FSU’s Dr. Tanya Peres on the origins of common baking ingredients.



Barbara Clark, Tristan Harrenstein, and Park Ranger “Sparky” at Econfina River State Park conducting HMS Monitoring.