BREAKING NEW GROUND:
ARCHAEOLOGY OF DOMESTIC LIFE AT THE WEEDO(EN) ISLAND SITE, PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA

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ABSTRACT

The site was occupied year-round from the Pinellas Phase of the Safety Harbor complex (~2500-900 BP) through the Mississippi period (900-500 BP). During the Pinellas Phase, the site was occupied during the winter months, and during the Mississippi period, primarily during the summer months. This continuum of seasonal occupation is supported by the presence of a series of looter’s trenches in the dense midden deposits located to the east of the primary midden ridge. Five discrete clusters of 200-300 cm 2 postholes, recovered in clusters from Operation 5-6-D, shell & burn area, indicate the presence of a domestic structure. The structure is oriented east-west and was occupied for a minimum of 300 years in the Pinellas Phase and 300 years in the Mississippi period. The structure was primarily used for processing shellfish and debris was discarded in the area to the west of the structure.

Fig. 1. Proportional representation of MNI by faunal class, 8SE11, 8PI1-5-6-A.

Fig. 2. Regional stratigraphic sections at Weedon Island.

Fig. 3. Sedimentary units identified in cores, northern end of the outer midden ridge. Cores discussed in text are A-A’ and B.

Fig. 4. Downcore sedimentary units along the northern end of the outer midden ridge.

Fig. 5. The site was occupied year-round from the Pinellas Phase of the Safety Harbor complex (~2500-900 BP) through the Mississippi period (900-500 BP). During the Pinellas Phase, the site was occupied during the winter months, and during the Mississippi period, primarily during the summer months. This continuum of seasonal occupation is supported by the presence of a series of looter’s trenches in the dense midden deposits located to the east of the primary midden ridge. Five discrete clusters of 200-300 cm 2 postholes, recovered in clusters from Operation 5-6-D, shell & burn area, indicate the presence of a domestic structure. The structure is oriented east-west and was occupied for a minimum of 300 years in the Pinellas Phase and 300 years in the Mississippi period. The structure was primarily used for processing shellfish and debris was discarded in the area to the west of the structure.

Fig. 6. Regional stratigraphic sections at Weedon Island.