



Mission of the Alliance for Weedon Island Archaeological Research and Education, Inc.

The Alliance for Weedon Island Archaeological Research and Education (AWIARE) is a newly formed non-profit organization that has as its goal to promote and facilitate long-term archaeological research, scientific exploration, and public education at the Weedon Island Preserve and the adjacent Gulf coast region. Our Officers and Advisory Board include professional archaeologists and interested lay persons.

Why Support Weedon Island Research?

- People lived here for thousands of years and sustained themselves in this environment, yet we know very little about who they were and how they did it.
- Archaeology gives us a peek into a time capsule of past environmental changes and can reveal the impact of climate on human life in Tampa Bay.
- Ancient Weedon Island artisans created some of the most exquisite pottery in the southeastern United States, though the meaning of the designs they impressed into the fine clays remains a mystery.
- The first Weedon Islanders should be included in the public history of the Gulf coast region.



The First Weedon Islanders

Weedon Island Preserve is one of Pinellas County's beautiful preserves and is recognized for Native American influence both in the past and in the present. The first Weedon Islanders were discovered by the Smithsonian Institution long after their culture ceased to live in the Tampa Bay area. The culture is named after Weedon Island because of the famous archaeological site, first excavated by the Smithsonian Institution in the 1920s and then by Florida State Museum in the 1960s. The Weedon Island Site on the Preserve was unanimously approved by the St. Petersburg Historic Preservation Commission for designation as a local landmark in 1986 and has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1972. It remains a site of local, state and national significance today.



Purposes of AWIARE

- Provide research opportunities for post Doctoral scholars;
- Provide opportunities for public involvement in archaeological and environmental research projects;
- Promote and facilitate long-term archaeological research at the Weedon Island Preserve and the adjacent Gulf Coast;
- Establish a permanent Research Facility at the Weedon Island Preserve;
- Provide Pinellas County and surrounding county residents and visitors with research updates, presentations, and related programs;
- Support interdisciplinary scientific exploration;
- Provide intern opportunities for archaeology and environmental science students; and
- Promote a better awareness through public education of the intrinsic value of the fragile cultural resources at the Weedon Island Preserve.



Officers and Board Members:

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