



## 2021 AWIARE/LEVETT GRANT RECIPIENTS

Two University of South Florida graduate students were selected to receive AWIARE/Levett Foundation student research grants for 2021. Jaime Rogers will receive \$5400 to fund 12 radiocarbon dates from four shell midden sites on Upper Tampa Bay. All four sites are being washed away by sea-level rise and erosion. The dates will help establish the chronology of the Upper Tampa Bay District, support the documentation and study of cultural resources threatened by modern climate change and sea level rise, and provide a context for datasets that will be used in his dissertation research centered on the historical ecology of the Tampa Bay estuary. McKenna Douglass will receive \$2500 to assist in funding her MA research project that will utilize several types of trace element analyses on ceramic sherds recovered from excavations at habitation sites in the Tampa Bay area and which are curated at AWIARE. The sites span the Manasota, Weeden Island, and Safety Harbor archaeological periods, ca. AD 250-1400. The goal of

McKenna's research is to determine if local clays were being used to manufacture domestic pottery or if some non-local clays also are present. The presence of non-local clays could reflect exchange of pots with neighboring social groups or the direct exploitation of non-local clay sources.



## BECOMING AWIARE

The Alliance for Weedon Island Archaeological Research and Education is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that has as its goals to promote and facilitate long-term archaeological research, scientific exploration and public education at the Weedon Island Preserve and the adjacent gulf coast regions. Our Officers and Advisory Board include professional archaeologists and interested lay persons.



If you are interested in making a donation, please visit us at: [www.awiare.org](http://www.awiare.org) or click [HERE](#). Email: [awiare1@gmail.com](mailto:awiare1@gmail.com)  
1500 Weedon Drive NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33702

## AWIARE'S FIRST ADULT ARCHAEOLOGY CAMP A BIG SUCCESS

AWIARE held its first Adult Archaeology Camp February 22 – 26, 2021. Eight participants spent a week of performing archaeological activities that included field and lab experiences at Weedon Island Preserve and informative site visits. The camp enjoyed great weather the entire week. Protocol was in place for Covid-19 restrictions at all times.

On Monday, after the participants were welcomed by Phyllis Kolianos, the group learned about the area's archaeological past in a slide presentation from Dr. Robert Austin followed by a trip to the Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center to view the ancient canoe and exhibit area. After lunch, the campers hiked to an excavation area of the Weedon Island site for a talk by Dr. John



Arthur with Kendal Jackson and George Stovall about the USFSP research and

excavations, and to view the trench area where the group would participate in field work for the rest of the week.

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## COVID-19 EFFECTS ON AWIARE ACTIVITIES

The current COVID-19 pandemic has affected all walks of life and AWIARE is no different. In the interest of public safety and in accordance with the latest CDC guidelines, AWIARE will continue to virtually zoom our public lectures. The AWIARE Research Station is open, but the Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center is closed. At this time we will not be able

to hold our Junior Archaeology Camp this summer; however as events change we will keep you posted. In the meantime, please check our website, [www.awiare.org](http://www.awiare.org) for updates. You may also visit [www.weedonislandpreserve.org](http://www.weedonislandpreserve.org) for updates related to use of the Preserve.



## BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### KENDAL JACKSON

As a PhD candidate in Applied Anthropology at the University of South Florida, my major research interest is the Precolumbian history of Florida, especially the Gulf Coast. My area of specialization is the study of past environments, how they transformed over time, and how past societies interacted with changing landscapes and seascapes.

I grew up in Pasco County, and was introduced to Weedon Island Preserve after moving to St. Petersburg in 2009 to study anthropology at USF. I quickly became enchanted with the deep history and beautiful coastal habitats of Weedon Island and took advantage of research and volunteering opportunities there led by Dr. John Arthur and by AWIARE. Ten years on, I'm still in love with Weedon Island Preserve. My current research is focused on the Precolumbian peoples and ancient seascapes of Tampa Bay Estuary, and part of which is based right here at Weedon.

One thing (among many) that makes Weedon Island truly special to me is its unique history has led to the conservation of vast estuarine habitats in addition to terrestrial areas. The protection, preservation, and study of natural coastal gradients between land and sea are essential to maintaining the ecological health and productivity of Tampa Bay Estuary and the Gulf of Mexico. At Weedon, as elsewhere in Tampa Bay, this type of conservation is also critical for protecting threatened cultural heritage sites that attest to the deep antiquity of Native American land-use in this region and contain material histories of ancient lifeways.



## ARCHAEOLOGY CAMP continued

Tuesday through Thursday, the participants were divided into two excavation teams led by Austin and Kolianos with morning and afternoon shifts of working in the field excavating and doing artifact and shell analysis in the lab at the research station. Heather Draskovich assisted the campers in the field and Cindy Martin worked with the lab team.

On Friday, Austin led a caravan to visit the important south St. Petersburg sites of Pinellas Point Mound and Maximo Park. The participants were given informational hand-outs, as Austin spoke of the context of these mounds and their archaeological history and importance. With the success of this inaugural camp, future camps are being planned. The 2020 camp was underwritten in part by a donation from the Margaret and David Perry Foundation.



## UPCOMING LECTURE

**SPEAKER: Christopher Hunt**  
**DATE: April 15, 2021 at 7pm on ZOOM**

Situated along the banks of St. Joseph's Bay in northwest Florida, the antebellum city of St. Joseph played a foundational role in Florida's early political and economic history. Unfortunately, little is known about its inhabitants or why this important coastal city never recovered after the 1840 yellow fever epidemic and subsequent hurricane. Only after the turn of the 20th century was this area resettled into what is today modern Port. St. Joe. Through archaeological excavation and archival research, a new narrative is forming around the once lost city of St. Joseph.

For information and to register, visit <https://tinyurl.com/c5609xp9>.

