

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA STUDENT RECEIVES 2020 AWIARE/LEVETT GRANT

Lindsey Parsons, graduate student in geology at the University of Georgia, was selected to receive this year's AWIARE/Levett Foundation student research grant. The \$10,000 grant will support her MS research to study how scallop harvesting practices of prehistoric Tampa Bay Native communities were affected by climate change between ~ A.D. 800 and 1850. Lindsey will be conducting stable isotope analysis of bay scallops collected during previous excavations at the Weedon Island and Bayshore Homes archaeological sites to determine paleoenvironmental conditions during the time of scallop harvesting. She previously conducted a similar analysis of

scallop shells from the Pineland site in southwest Florida. Her results there indicated scallops collected by Native inhabitants were larger during the cooler Little Ice Age (~AD 1200-1850) when conditions for scallop growth were more favorable and smaller during the earlier Medieval Warm Period (~AD 800-1200). She expects to see a similar difference in the Tampa Bay scallops. In addition to providing information on how Native people adapted their harvesting practices, Lindsey's study will have important implications for how climate change may affect modern marine shellfish populations.



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 or click [HERE](#). Email: awiare1@gmail.com
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NEW RADIOCARBON DATES FOR TAMPA BAY SITES

Being able to date archaeological sites and components are critical to documenting cultural and environmental changes through time and, more importantly, how people responded to these changes. Research supported by the AWIARE/Levett Foundation student grant has contributed new dates for the Tampa Bay region. University of Florida Ph.D. candidate Trevor Duke, obtained radiocarbon dates from two previously undated sites in Pinellas County, Tierra Verde (8PI51) and Maximo Point (8PI19). Trevor is analyzing pottery from both sites as part of his dissertation project on the role of mortuary pottery specialization in creating, maintaining, and transforming social connections in the region during Safety Harbor and Weeden Island periods.

A date of AD 1024-1155 was obtained from soot on a Tucker Ridge Pinched vessel sherd from the Tierra Verde burial mound. The sherd is one of several from AWIARE's Lyman Warren Collection, which are being studied by Trevor. The date obtained for this vessel is squarely within the Safety Harbor period (AD 1000-1750), however Tucker Ridge Pinched is typically considered a Weeden Island ceramic type, and Weeden Island pottery from the mound has been interpreted as representing cultural continuity between the two periods. This sherd may represent

the use of an heirloomed vessel during burial ceremonies.

A second date of AD 1045-1250 is from a sherd of Pinellas Plain pottery excavated from the domestic midden at Maximo Point by William Sears in 1958 and curated at the Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville. This date also falls within the Safety Harbor time period consistent with Sears' and others interpretation of this large mound-midden complex that once existed at the southern end of the Pinellas peninsula.

Trevor is currently thin-sectioning sherds from both of these sites for petrographic analysis in order to determine if different pastes were used in the manufacture of mortuary and domestic vessels.



COVID-19 EFFECTS ON AWIARE ACTIVITIES

The current COVID-19 pandemic has affected all walks of life and AWIARE is no different. In the interests of public safety and in accordance with the latest CDC guidelines, AWIARE has cancelled its public lectures and activities as well as all AWIARE-related field work until further notice. The AWIARE Research Station and the Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center are also closed. We continue to plan for our Junior Archaeology Camp, scheduled for the weeks of July 13-17 and 20-24, however events are changing rapidly and may require cancellation of the camp. If you have registered your child for the camp, you will be notified if safety concerns necessitate a cancellation. In the meantime, please check our website, www.awiare.org for updates. You may also visit www.weedonislandpreserve.org for updates related to use of the Preserve.

BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

CINDY MARTIN

Board member, Cindy Martin, is from Northern Virginia, where she graduated from George Mason University, Education, B.S. Her interest in archaeology grew from the histories of Jamestown, Williamsburg, Mount Vernon, and the Civil War. As a child, she visited Mount Vernon with her family frequently, "so often, it felt like visiting our ancestral home".

Following a move to Florida, Cindy pursued a B.S. degree in Anthropology from the University of South Florida. In 1996, she attended the USF Archaeological Field School under the direction of Dr. Roger Grange at Fort Mackinac,

Mackinac Island, Michigan. Fort Mackinac is a British Fort, est. 1780, during the American Revolution.

After receiving her Anthropology degree, Cindy worked for two cultural resource management firms (PCI and SEARCH) While volunteering at Weedon Island. Cindy participated in the initial investigations of the 1,100 year old dugout canoe, currently on display at the Weedon Island Cultural and Natural History Center. She served on the board of Central Gulf Coast Archaeology, assisting in public archaeology projects, such as the Bayshore Homes site, a pre-columbian mound and midden complex in Pinellas County. Currently, Cindy enjoys riding and competing in Dressage with her horses Leroy and Rori.



AWIARE/FRIENDS OF WEEDON ISLAND UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GRANT

The AWIARE Student Grants Committee selected Morgan Grieg, USFSP undergraduate student in history, to receive the 2020 AWIARE/FOWI Student Grant. Morgan will receive \$1250.00 to help support an eight-week research trip to Spain to conduct original archival research in Badajoz, Zafra, and Seville on the Hernando de Soto expedition. Morgan is working under the supervision of Dr. Michael Francis. The central goal is to locate information related to the expedition's participants, and to assemble a detailed inventory of the supplies and provisions brought on the expedition. The new material will be integrated into the open-access digital database titled La Florida: The Interactive Digital Archive of the Americas.



ARCHAEOLOGY SUMMER CAMPS AT WEEDON ISLAND

AWIARE, in partnership with the Florida Public Archaeology Network, (FPAN), are planning exciting new archaeology summer camps at Weedon Island Preserve designed for children who are interested in exploring the past. All camps are conducted by professional archaeologists, including educators from FPAN, and will allow kids to experience archaeology first-hand through activities, experiments, hikes, and even a real excavation.

Each summer camp is designed for children with an interest in prehistory and history as well as learning how early people interacted with their environment. Campers will learn about the importance of archaeology and gain an understanding about early natural resources that were necessary for life in the Tampa Bay region. Highlights of the camps include guest experts, tour of an archaeological site, hands-on archaeology, lab analysis, pottery making, atlatl adventure, and earning the certificate of Tommy the Tortoise, Junior Archaeologist.

We hope you will consider joining us this summer!



**Dates: July 13-17, 2020 (9a - 3p)
July 20-24, 2020 (9a - 3p)**

Ages: Children ages 7 - 11

Registration: \$175 per camper/week

For more information and to register, visit www.awiare.org to download registration and liability release forms.



USF ST. PETERSBURG EXCAVATIONS UNCOVER DAILY LIFE AT THE WEEDEN ISLAND SITE

This winter for five Fridays you could hear the chatter and laughter as USF students strolled down the Weedon Island trails to the famous site of Weedon Island*. Fifteen students and three volunteer graduate students, including Elizabeth Southard, AWIARE's Vice-President, worked with Dr. Arthur from USF St. Petersburg to continue their excavation of households dating from AD 900 to 1450. Dr. John Arthur, who is President of AWIARE, began this project in 2007, to give undergraduate students the opportunity to actually experience archaeology outside of the classroom and to learn archaeological techniques.

In some field schools, students dig for days and do not find much, but at the Weedon Island site there is ample evidence of people living and prospering along the banks of Tampa Bay. The area contains an abundant evidence of daily life where people were eating their meals and making and using their tools over a 550-year period. The site is rich with a variety of food remains from shellfish, fish, and terrestrial animals. There is also a great diversity of artifacts made from shell such as bead blanks, beads, hammers, awls, adzes, as well as pottery vessels, grinding stones, and hand stones.

Over the last two field seasons, excavations have uncovered a house floor. All the artifacts are found within a 7 cm or less horizontal stratum located beneath the shell midden. What caught our curiosity was that many of the artifacts are laying in a horizontal position and the diversity of artifacts is greater than what we have found in previous excavated units.

Two remarkable finds we uncovered this field season is a hearth and a possible bone hairpin that may have had feathers attached to the end. The hearth area is void of artifacts and contains large pieces of charcoal. We hope to be able to identify the types of wood people were using to fuel their house fires as well as how people were spending their time around the hearth. The bone pin was found next to the hearth and while more research needs to be conducted on this beautiful carved pin, it represents a very intimate object that belonged to one person who left it there about 1,000 years ago.

The excavations now lead us to the lab located on the USFSP campus where the artifacts are stored and curated. Over the next year, students will begin to clean, sort, and analyze all the artifacts they have uncovered this field season. It is in the lab where we begin to tell the story about how some of the earliest inhabitants who lived along Tampa Bay lived. This story is ongoing as we answer questions that lead to new questions that open a window into the past.

* We can thank Jesse Fewkes from the Smithsonian Institution for misspelling the Weedon Island site with an "e" and causing us to spell the Preserve as "Weedon" and use "Weeden" for the culture area and the site.



COLLECTIONS ARCHIVE

AWIARE maintains collections of artifacts, archival documents, and photographs from archaeological sites in the greater Tampa Bay area, including Weedon Island. The collections are available to students and researchers by appointment. Most documents and photographs have been digitized and are viewable online. A searchable online collections database can be accessed at (<https://awiare.pastperfectonline.com>). AWIARE does not charge for copies, but donations do cover the costs of reproduction and shipping. *Reproduction, exhibition, and distribution of images is strictly prohibited without prior written permission from Alliance for Weedon Island Archaeological Research and Education, Inc.*

VOLUNTEER

Opportunities for volunteers to assist AWIARE in the field and lab are available. For more information, contact Robert Austin at awiare1@gmail.com.

