

AWIARE PROVIDES GRANTS FOR WEEDEN ISLAND RESEARCH

To further our mission of facilitating archaeological research and educational opportunities, AWIARE, in cooperation with the Levett Foundation, is offering up to \$10,000 in grant funds annually to support student research on Weedon Island and the Weeden Island culture. This year the awards committee chose three worthy recipients to receive funding. University of South Florida doctoral candidate Kendal Jackson will receive funding for 12 radiocarbon dates to assist in dating relict estuarine flooding surfaces to determine how human-environmental interaction shaped the establishment and development of late-Holocene (ca. 6500 BP-present) estuarine ecosystems in Tampa Bay. Kendal's project is a fine example of using an interdisciplinary approach (archaeology and geo-sciences) to address a topic that also has relevance for today. Trevor Duke, from the University of Florida, will receive funding that will contribute to his petrographic and instrumental analysis of clays used to make pottery found in mortuary and domestic contexts at Weeden Island and Safety Harbor culture sites in Tampa Bay. Determining whether mortuary pottery was made with different or more restricted varieties of clay, would support the hypothesis of ceramic specialists and will contribute to his doctoral research topic of assessing the role of mortuary pottery specialization in creating, maintaining, and transforming social connections in the region during these periods. The final recipient, Heather Draskovitch, is an MA student at USF who is currently surveying and testing the Weeden Island site to better understand its chronological development. Her grant funds will help obtain radiocarbon dates to document this development. Congratulations to all three recipients for submitting clear and well-developed proposals that are consistent with the overall mission of AWIARE.

Watch this newsletter for future announcements on the 2020 Grant and how to apply, or visit our web site, www.awiare.org.



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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CELEBRATING ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH

On March 2nd, the Weedon Island Preserve was full of archaeological activities to celebrate Florida Archaeology Month. Heather Draskovich and Kendal Jackson, who are University of South Florida graduate students, gave two short presentations focusing on current archaeological project at the Weeden Island site. Heather discussed her research to determine when and where Indigenous people were occupying the site and Kendal presented a summary of the University of South Florida St. Petersburg (USFSP) excavations undertaken since 2007. Also, Rebecca O'Sullivan and Kassie Kemp from the Florida Public Archaeology Network (FPAN) created an inventive pop-up exhibit outlining the USFSP excavations with associated artifacts of shell tools, pottery, stone tools, and plant specimens, which gave attendees a new perspective of what has been uncovered at the site over the last 12 years. While people were enjoying the lectures and the pop-up exhibit, visitors also were able to walk over to the AWIARE Research Station where AWIARE's Secretary Phyllis Kolianos exhibited artifacts from her recent archaeological excavations at two Weeden Island sites along the Anclote River. The final act of the day was a short hike out to a

portion of the Weeden Island site where USFSP and AWIARE have been excavating and Dr. John Arthur (AWIARE's President) and Elizabeth Southard Razzouk (AWIARE's Vice President) gave a lecture of the excavations and what they have been finding at the site. If you missed this year's celebration of Archaeology Month at the Preserve, we will be doing something similar next year. So come on out and celebrate Archaeology Month next March!



Phyllis Kolianos discusses recent excavations from Anclote River sites.

FLORIDA'S WATERY REALMS

The Weedon Island Canoe is featured in a new book by University Press of Florida, **Iconography and Wetsite Archaeology of Florida's Watery Realms**. The book includes a chapter written by Phyllis Kolianos and titled, "Wood Preservation Dilemmas of Florida's Prehistoric Saltwater Sites: Key Marco and Weedon Island" which details the preservation of the canoe. This book edited by Ryan Wheeler and Joanna Ostapkowicz is part of the Ripley P. Bullen series, and explores new discoveries and reexamines existing artifacts to reveal the influential role of water in the daily lives of Florida's early inhabitants. To order a copy visit: www.upf.com.



BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

TOM PLUCKHAN

My own fascination with the Weeden Island tradition came while I was a graduate student at the University of Georgia. My dissertation research, published by the University of Alabama Press: *Status in the Deep South, A.D. 350 to 750*, focused on one of the largest Weeden Island-related sites, Kolomoki in southwestern Georgia. I was captivated by the elaborate Weeden Island animal effigies recovered by archaeologists working at Kolomoki in the 1940-50s. I was even more excited when my own fieldwork at the site produced Weeden Island pottery.

After graduating with my Ph.D. in 2002, I accepted a tenure track position at the University of Oklahoma. While I liked my position there, when an opportunity arose at USF, I jumped at the chance to move closer to home and my area of research. In 2008, I started research in what might be considered the southern end of the Weeden Island culture area, the Crystal River site north of Tampa. The fruits of this research, a collaboration with my friend and colleague Victor Thompson, were published last year by the University of Florida Press: *Early Histories of Village Life at Crystal River*. Concurrent with the work at Crystal River, I have had the pleasure of working with colleagues Ann Cordell and Neill Wallis on technical and stylistic studies of Weeden Island and closely-related Swift Creek pottery. More recently, I have begun research on archaeological sites in the Tampa Bay region, including the Weedon Island site itself.



Studying Weeden Island from its distribution along the Gulf Coast has made for a circuitous career path. But it has also proved intellectually stimulating, allowing me and my colleagues to see larger patterns than would be possible studying any single site in relative isolation. It's been a privilege and pleasure to contribute in some small way to the story of Weeden Island.

ARCHAEOLOGY SUMMER CAMPS AT WEEDON ISLAND

Alliance for Weedon Island Archaeological Research and Education (AWIARE), in partnership with the Florida Public Archaeology Network (FPAN), plans 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 allow kids to experience archaeology first-hand through activities, experiments, hikes, and even a real excavation.

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 15 - 19, 2019 (9a - 3p)

July 22 - 26, 2019 (9a - 3p)

Ages: Children ages 7 - 11

Registration: \$175 per camper/week

Registration is a on a first-come, first serve basis. Before-camp care is available from 7:45am to 9:00am for an additional fee (\$50.00) each week.

How to Register: Visit www.awiare.org to download registration and liability release forms.

For more information, please contact: Rebecca O'Sullivan at rosulliv@usf.edu



FLORIDA ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING 2019

The 71st annual meeting of the Florida Anthropological Society will be held in Crystal River, May 10-12. this year's meeting will be co-hosted by the, Florida Public Archaeology Network's Central Region and the Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society. Crystal River. The Plantation on Crystal River will serve as the Conference hotel and the location for organizational meetings and conference proceedings. Presentations and posters on a wide range of topics related to Florida archaeology are planned, as well as field trips to nearby sites. The meetings are open to the public. For information on how to register, visit www.fasweb.org.

