

## AWIARE / LEVETT GRANT APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE



# AWIARE

1500 WEEDON DRIVE NE, ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33702 • WWW.AWIARE.ORG

### Deadline for applications: December 15, 2022

AWIARE, in cooperation with the Levett Foundation, is making available up to **\$10,000.00** to be awarded annually to provide assistance to graduate students (MA, MS, Ph.D.) who are conducting archaeological, historical, and paleoenvironmental research in the greater Tampa Bay region of Florida.

Types of projects that will be considered include field research, laboratory analyses, collections research, and documents research. Priority will be given to applicants whose proposals include 1) field research at Weedon Island Preserve; 2) research using artifact, faunal, or documents collections at AWIARE; 3) field research at sites in the greater Tampa Bay area (Pinellas, Hillsborough, Pasco, Hernando, Citrus, Manatee, and Sarasota counties); 4) research using Tampa Bay area collections held elsewhere (e.g., Florida Museum of Natural History, Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research, Smithsonian Institution, universities, local museums, private collections).

Research related to the Weeden Island culture and period is encouraged but not required. Paleoenvironmental research must have applicability to archaeological or historical time periods (i.e., Late Pleistocene through the modern era) and interests (e.g., human-environment interaction; effects of sea level variation on human populations; climatic variability through time).

Individuals interested in applying must be currently enrolled in a university graduate program.

**The deadline for applying for the 2023 grant is December 15, 2022.** Individuals interested please contact Dr. Robert Austin, AWIARE, 1500 Weedon Drive NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33702 or at [awiare1@gmail.com](mailto:awiare1@gmail.com) for application guidelines.

### 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

## WEEDON ISLAND HANDS-ON ADULT ARCHAEOLOGY CAMPS

Registration is now open for the Hands-On Adult Archaeology Camps. We hope you will join us next year in discovering the prehistory of the Tampa Bay region.

We will hold two camps. Each camp offered is for one week: **February 20 - 24, 2023** and **February 27 - March 3, 2023.**

Experience hands-on archaeology at Weedon Island Preserve, one of Florida's preeminent archaeological sites. Work with professional archaeologists and researchers to uncover clues about the culture and lifeways of the early people who inhabited the Tampa Bay region.



Camp participants will assist AWIARE researchers in excavation, recording data, screening sediment, and collecting artifacts, bone and samples, as well as helping to analyze artifacts and process findings in the lab.

Groups will be limited

to 8 participants for each 5-day camp. Participants will rotate between field work and lab analysis.

**Expedition cost:** \$495 per week, includes lunch.

Introductory lectures will be given by archaeologists, Dr. Robert Austin and Dr. John Arthur. Day 5 will include field trips to local archaeology sites.

*Please note:* This camp is an active participants' level with walks to the site of almost one mile over some uneven terrain.

Payment and form must be received in order to be registered. Registration is on a first come, first serve basis and available online on our website: [www.awiare.org](http://www.awiare.org). If you have any questions or inquiries, please email us at: [awiare1@gmail.com](mailto:awiare1@gmail.com).



## AWIARE ENDOWMENT FUND

Since its incorporation as a nonprofit organization in 2008, AWIARE has supported and conducted archaeological and environmental research to expand our knowledge of the ancient Native peoples who made Weedon Island and the greater Tampa Bay area their home. Our past and current projects and related publications are posted on our website: [www.awiare.org](http://www.awiare.org).

Today AWIARE is at a critical point and ready to take the next step in exploring and preserving the past for the future. Our goal is to raise **\$1 million dollars** in the next **five years** to provide a stable source of funding for new projects, student internships, and improvements to our research station.

**YOU** can help by making a tax-deductible contribution to *The AWIARE Endowment Fund*. Please join us in ensuring the legacy of the first Weedon Islanders continues.

For direct enquiries and gifts:

Robert Austin, Treasurer, 1500 Weedon Drive NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33702

## INTERN SPOTLIGHT

*“My time at the AWIARE Research Station was the first time in my life where I truly felt that I was an anthropologist. Being able to hold in my hands actual artifacts, having access to accommodating literature, and learning about the intricacies of lithic tool manufacture was like no learning experience I had ever encountered. I was so inspired by my studies that I elected to learn how to knap stone and I still carry flintknapping with me as a personal hobby today. I most certainly learned more about archaeology at AWIARE than any university level class I’ve yet taken.”*

- William Anderson  
Intern, Spring 2022

## VERTEBRATE SPECIMEN CABINET

A Vertebrate Specimen Cabinet is a new addition to the lab at the AWIARE Research Station thanks to funding by Duke Energy. The cabinet will house collections of modern comparative vertebrate faunal of various species to identify animal, reptiles, and fish recovered from excavations at Weedon Island Preserve. This is an on-going project of value to researchers hoping to identify different species for reports and analysis. Board Member Phyllis Kolianos has prepared seventeen species for the Specimen Cabinet to date.

In addition, grant funds from Duke Energy and funding from the Friends of Weedon Island, Inc. were also instrumental in the acquisition of a new computer for the laboratory and four new screens needed for field work. AWIARE sincerely appreciates the continued support from our partners and friends.



Archosargus probatocephalus – sheephead



Vertebrate Collection Cabinet

## SEPTEMBER SPEAKER

**September 15, 2022 @ 7PM @ Weedon Island Cultural Center**

**The Archaeology of Colonialism at Fort Mose: Forging Freedom Through Practice**

**Dr. Lori Lee**, Kenan Distinguished Associate Professor of Anthropology at Flagler College.

Fort Mose was the first legally sanctioned free black community in North America. The Spanish governor of Florida guaranteed the legal freedom of self-emancipated Africans and African Americans if they converted to Catholicism, built and occupied a fort on the frontier of St. Augustine, and fought against Spanish enemies. These soldiers created a multicultural community of African, African American, and indigenous families. This paper analyzes archaeological evidence and historical documents to investigate the daily practices people used to enact their freedoms in a location and time where those freedoms were contested.

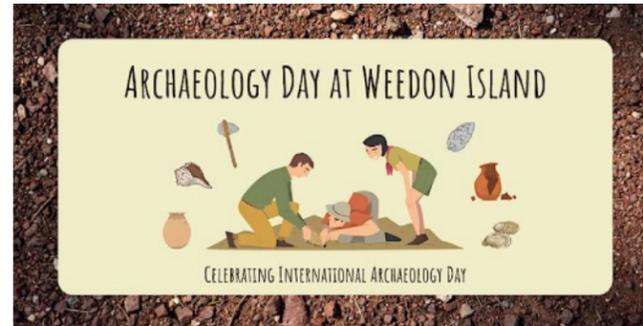
Dr. Lee’s research examines the materiality of migration, health practices, and identity among African Diaspora populations.



## INTERNATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY DAY

**OCTOBER 15, 2022 - 10AM - 2PM**

October 15 is International Archaeology Day and the Weedon Island Cultural and Natural History Center is planning a celebration of archaeology and its contributions to society. Every October the American Institute of Archaeology (AIA) and archaeological organizations around the world present archaeological programs and activities for people of all ages and interests. AWIARE will be on-site with a display of pre-Columbian artifacts from the Tampa Bay region and experts will be on-hand to illustrate the use of these tools and their importance to Native populations. Visitors are encouraged to bring in artifacts such as spear points, tools, and pottery sherds for identification during the event. No dollar value will be assigned or discussed, but educational information will be generously shared.



The Center is open between 10 AM and 2 PM.

## 2022 AWIARE / LEVETT GRANT RECIPIENTS

The AWIARE/Levett Foundation grant is awarded yearly to graduate students who are pursuing research topics in Tampa Bay archaeology, history, or environmental science. The 2022 award was divided between three worthy students. Theodora Light, a graduate student at the University of Georgia, will receive funding to support her research on the seventeenth-century Tocobaga diaspora as part of a larger pattern of displaced Indigenous settlements across Florida in the aftermath of European contact. Melissa Price is pursuing her Ph.D. at Leiden University in the Netherlands. Using non-burial data from the Manasota Key Offshore site in Sarasota County, Melissa will use non-burial materials to evaluate sea-level rise and study the factors that resulted in the preservation of 7000-year-old human remains. Finally, Richard Davis will receive funds to support his comparative study of fishing technologies used by Safety Harbor and Caloosahatchee Indigenous groups. Richard is pursuing a MA degree at the University of Central Florida.



Richard Davis



Melissa Price



Theodora Light

## USF ST. PETERSBURG FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGY'S CLASS EXCAVATES AT THE WEEDEN ISLAND SITE

Amongst the tall palm and live oak trees, USF St. Petersburg students this winter busily uncovered beautifully crafted objects that the Indigenous Floridians made at the Weedon Island site. Thirteen undergraduates and three graduate students continued the USF St. Petersburg excavations of an ancient household floor dating to around 1100 years ago. Supervising the students were Dr. John Arthur (AWIARE President and USF St. Petersburg Professor), Elizabeth Southard (AWIARE Vice-President), and Kendal Jackson (AWIARE Board Member and USF graduate student). Dr. Arthur began excavating at the Weedon Island site in 2007 and over the past few years has revealed a house floor with a diverse set of artifacts from broken pots, a variety of shell tools, shell beads, and bone hair pins all situated next to a possible hearth. All of these remarkable artifacts are found within a 7 cm or less horizontal strata located beneath the shell midden. Visiting the site while we were excavating was a group from the public organized by the Pinellas County as well as Mike Hughes from FOX 13 Tampa Bay, who produced a wonderful video of the visit. You can check out this video here: <https://www.fox13news.com/video/1047150>

Presently, we are working with Jaime Rodgers (USF graduate student) and Dr. Thomas Pluckhahn (AWIARE Board Member and USF Professor) to determine the season that the site was occupied. While it is thought that the community living at Weedon Island lived there year-round, this perspective has never been tested scientifically. Therefore, we are studying the growth bands of the quahog clams (*Mercenaria* sp.) and oysters (*Crassostrea virginica*) found on the house floor. Geochemical analysis of the growth bands will help determine the season(s) when the Weedon Island people were harvesting their food. We are hopeful that this scientific analysis will offer us a new perspective concerning when people were living at the site.

