



AWIARE

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

OF PIPES AND PIRATES AT WEEDON ISLAND

A clay smoking pipe discovered on Weedon Island Preserve in the 1990s was recently identified as a British-made pipe dating between 1620 and 1730. The pipe is currently on display at the Weedon Island Cultural and Natural History Center. Aside from being an interesting artifact, its early age and British origin begs the question: "How did it get to Weedon Island?" There is no evidence of English settlement in the Tampa Bay area during the 17th or early 18th centuries. In fact, Britain did not obtain Florida from Spain until 1763. Even then British settlement was limited to northeast Florida and Pensacola. By 1783, Spain had regained control of Florida. British trading posts were not established in Florida until the late 18th century. Given this historical backdrop, what other possibilities are there for a British smoking pipe to end up at Weedon Island?

Spanish, Seminole, and native Tocobaga sources were all considered and discarded because of timing or cultural preferences. For example, the Tocobaga had abandoned the region by the mid-1600s and were not known to use kaolin clay pipes. The Spanish preferred cigars to pipes until well into the 18th century. The Creek ancestors of the Seminoles did not enter north Florida until the early 1700s and did not move south in great numbers until after the first Seminole War (1817-1818). Which brings us back to the British.

In 1655 Britain captured Jamaica from Spain as it attempted to expand its foothold in the New World. Situated near Spanish trade routes, Port Royal became a haven for British privateers preying on Spanish vessels laden with gold, silver, and other booty. Voyages into the Gulf of Mexico were common, as weak colonial oversight made traveling ships and coastal communities easy targets. It is difficult to determine specific locations where pirates visited, but historian Mark Boyd cites early documents indicating they sailed near Tampa Bay and may have established a hideout on the Anclote Keys. Therefore, it is possible that this pipe washed ashore from a visiting pirate ship or perhaps came from a pirate stronghold on a nearby barrier island.

So did British pirates visit Weedon Island? All we can say with certainty is that an English-made smoking pipe from the 17th or early 18th centuries was found on the Preserve. From what we know of the area's history, it is unlikely to have been the result of Spanish, Seminole, or Tocobaga use. Which leaves British pirates as a distinct possibility and the only explanation thus far that fits the historical and archaeological evidence. A survey of the suspected location of the find may reveal more evidence. Stay tuned!



5 cm

AWIARE 2011.23.01.06

DISCOVER WEEDON ISLAND'S ANCIENT PAST

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

Each camp offered is for one week: **February 26 - March 1, 2024** and **March 4 - 8, 2024**.

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.



AWIARE offers two one-week camps where you will be part of a small group limited to eight participants each week assisting AWIARE researchers in excavation, recording data, screening sediment, and collecting

artifacts, bone, and samples. You will also help sorting and processing artifacts from the excavation and other sites in the Tampa Bay area. Archaeologists Dr. Robert Austin and Dr. John Arthur will give talks about the site and local Indigenous history. We also will take a field trip to Emerson Point Preserve to see the Portavant Mound.

Expedition cost: \$550 per week, which includes daily lunch at the AWIARE Research Station.

Return campers receive a 15% discount. The camp is an active participant level with walks to and from the site over some uneven terrain. For more information, and to register for the camp, visit <https://awiare.org/2024-adult-archaeology-camp/>



INTERNATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY DAY

OCTOBER 21, 2023 - 9:30am - 10:30am

Be a part of International Archaeology Day with youth activities at Weedon Island Preserve. AWIARE will lead a special Youth Workshop on Ancient Pottery that is planned for **Saturday, October 21st at 9:30 am – 10:30 am** for youth ages 6 and up. Learn to make pottery like the ancient people who once lived at Weedon Island. Over 1,000 years ago, early potters made coiled pots out of clay and sand for cooking vessels and ceremonial functions. This workshop will teach youth how to form a small-coiled pot and add distinctive decorations using early techniques. Register on-line at Weedon Island Preserve Calendar/Classes.



BECOMING AWIARE



The Alliance for Weedon Island Archaeological Research and Education Inc. 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
1500 Weedon Drive NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33702**

AWIARE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM ENTERS ITS THIRD YEAR

As our student internship program enters its third year, AWIARE would like to thank Catherine Koziol, Internship Coordinator, USF College of Arts and Sciences, St. Petersburg campus for helping us to establish the program and for working with professors in anthropology and related disciplines to provide us with several outstanding undergraduate students for internships.

The focus of the non-paying internship is to work at the AWIARE Research Station and to gain experience in archaeological, historical, and environmental research and museum studies. To date, students have worked with AWIARE staff to conduct archaeological and historical research, assist with field work, perform various tasks related to the analysis and curation of artifacts and documents, and prepare interpretive exhibits for display at the Weedon Island Cultural and Natural History Center. For more information on how to apply for an internship, contact Dr. John Arthur, arthurj@usf.edu, or Catherine Koziol, cjk@usf.edu.

INTERNSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Our intern for Fall 2023 term is Shannon Gicker, a senior in Anthropology at USF, St. Petersburg. Shannon's interests include pottery and public engagement in archaeology. "At first I didn't know what anthropology was," says Shannon. "But I was encouraged to take an archaeological field school by a retired anthropologist, Polly Higgins, and after some searching, I decided to take a field school in England." Shannon spent two field seasons working in York. The first year was spent excavating a Roman settlement and the second was spent working at a Victorian site in Walmgate, the Irish corner of York.

"As a USF anthropology student, I'm excited to intern at Weedon Island's AWIARE Research Station. These first days I have mostly been sorting pottery, but also learning a bit about each AWIARE team member's unique knowledge and expertise. I'm enjoying my experience so far and I'm looking forward to the skills I will continue to gain through various projects here at Weedon Island."

In addition to her studies and interning two days a week at AWIARE, Shannon also works at the Museum of the American Arts and Crafts Movement in St. Petersburg. After graduation she plans to continue her education by entering a graduate program in anthropology.

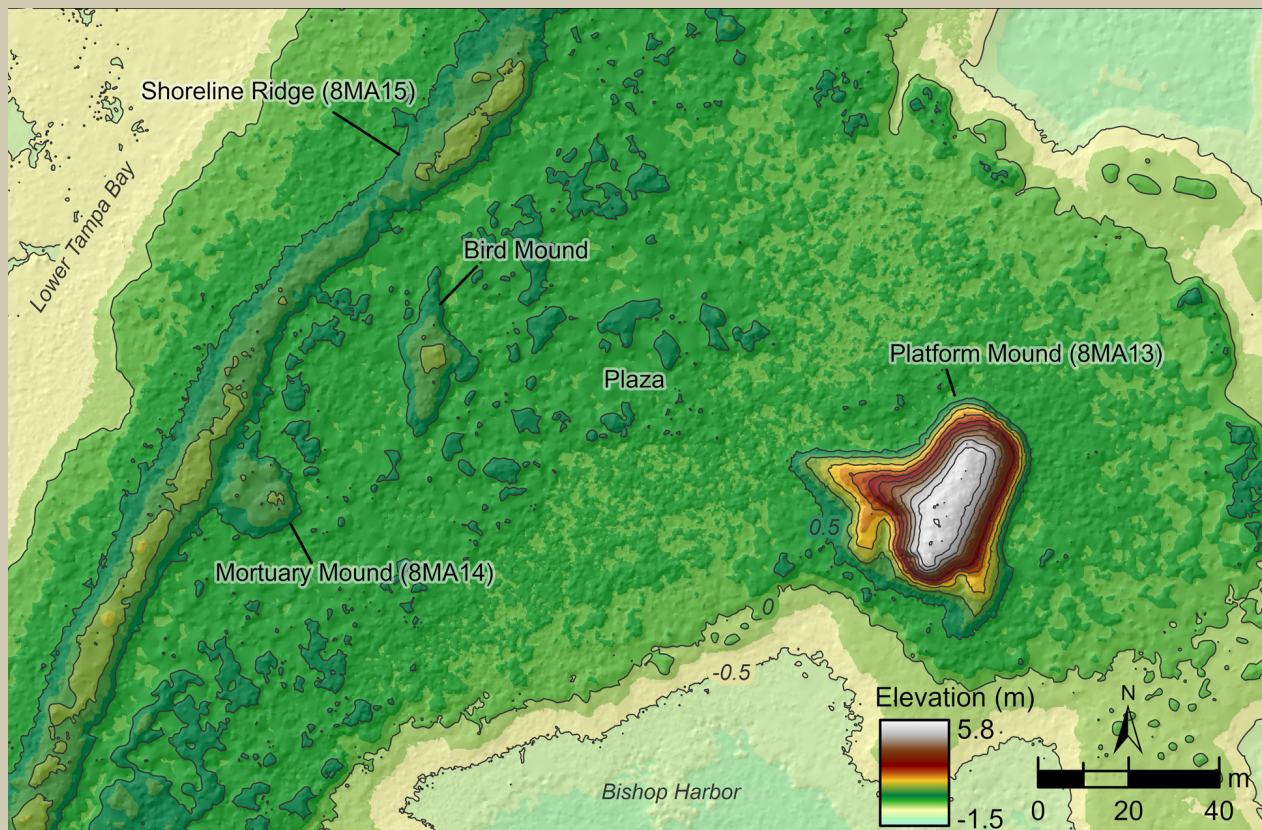


AWIARE ARCHAEOLOGISTS STUDY EARLY MOUND BUILDING AT HARBOR KEY

In an article just published in the journal *American Antiquity* (<https://doi.org/10.1017/aaq.2023.45>), AWIARE board members Kendal Jackson and Tom Pluckhahn, along with archaeologist Jaime Rogers (USF/CGCAS) and geologist Ping Wang (USF Geosciences), report findings from recent sediment coring and excavations at the partially inundated Harbor Key mound complex in Terra Ceia Preserve State Park on the southeastern shore of Tampa Bay. The research was funded by the AWIARE-Levett Foundation Student Research Grant, as well as grants from the National Science Foundation and the PaleoWest Foundation.

Among the most interesting results are the revision of the site's chronology. While Harbor Key was previously considered a classic Safety Harbor culture (ca. AD 1000-1500) temple-mound-village complex, stratigraphic and radiocarbon evidence reveal that the mound complex was constructed centuries earlier, ca. AD 200-600, during the Middle-Woodland period. This revision resolves long-standing questions about the lack of diagnostic Safety Harbor artifacts at the site and bolsters the growing recognition of early, pre-Mississippian platform building in the southeastern US. By investigating buried, sub-tidal deposits beneath the standing mound center, the team found that the mounds were built atop an earlier platform of shell and sand. Detailed analyses of this buried shell platform determined that it was built from ancient storm deposits that ancestral peoples recontoured into a raised foundation for the ceremonial complex. Additionally, by collecting and analyzing sediment cores seaward and landward of the Harbor Key site the team found that—for the last c. 2000 years—the Harbor Key mound complex has functioned as an artificial barrier protecting the Bishop Harbor subbasin from the energetic conditions of the open bay. Seaward core records reveal dramatic and continuous reworking of estuarine habitats by storm waves, while landward cores in Bishop Harbor contained evidence for the establishment and proliferation of oyster reefs and other productive, low-energy habitats. The work is the first in the region to suggest that ancestral Native American mound-building modified flow and wave dynamics in estuarine environments.

The new article is published as “Gold Open Access”, enabling free public access and download at the link above. Links to other recent AWIARE supported research publications are available at www.awiare.org/publications/



With the results of their study now published, the team is continuing work in Terra Ceia. Co-author Jaime Rogers is currently leading excavations at the adjacent shell mound sites of Hell's Half Acre in search of ancient Native mariculture traditions; while Jackson and Wang are currently seeking funding to empirically study the hydrodynamic effects of Native shell mound sites within Gulf Coast estuaries.

The team dedicates their work at Harbor Key to the memory of the late archaeologist Bill Burger in recognition of his life-long dedication to the study and preservation of Tampa Bay's natural and historical resources.

AWIARE ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN



**Discovering The Past;
Making History**

Be a part of it.

**As we continue our quest to become a
premiere research facility fostering
scientific knowledge
of our past.**

Be an advocate of AWIARE.

**Become part of a living time capsule.
From an individual donation to an
endowment.**

**Each gift connects people to nature,
to history, and to Tampa Bay's legacy.**

*See how what you give
becomes something we all can keep.*

**To learn more, please visit us
at: www.awiare.org**