

AWIARE ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN

Your generous support ensures AWIARE's mission to explore, study, and educate about Tampa Bay's past continues into the future.

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.

The science of archaeology continues to progress by incorporating new methods and making exciting discoveries. To keep pace with these developments and to ensure continued growth and expansion of our programs and facilities, AWIARE requires funding beyond current levels of support.

Our goal is to raise \$1,000,000 of permanent endowments over five years. This will permit AWIARE to continue its long-term commitment to research, education, and public outreach by offering new and exciting opportunities to students and researchers studying the deep history of Tampa Bay and the Gulf of Mexico.



AWIARE is a completely volunteer, not-for-profit organization. All funds are directly applied to programs, facility upkeep and maintenance, equipment and supplies necessary to support our mission. Your financial support is critical. Tampa Bay's fragile archaeological and historical resources are increasingly threatened by development, rising sea levels, and severe weather events. A gift to the AWIARE ENDOWMENT FUND will help achieve our financial goal and support our mission of discovery,

research, and education. All gifts will grow in value through the Pinellas Community Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization. Please join us in ensuring the legacy of the first Weedon Islanders continues. Donors may give either outright or defer gifts to establish these funds. The AWIARE Endowment Fund can be accessed via QR code or pinellascf.org/AWIARE



If you are interested in learning more, please visit us at:

www.awiare.org
 Email: awiare1@gmail.com



AWIARE

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

ADULT ARCHAEOLOGY CAMP EXCAVATES SHELL BEAD PRODUCTION AREA

The 2023 Adult Archaeology Camp continued to investigate a shell bead production area at Weedon Island that had been identified during last year's camp. To date, nearly 100 shell bead blanks and drilled shells have been recovered along with cut lightning whelk shells, sandstone abraders, and microlith drill blanks. Ceramics associated with the shell artifacts are diagnostic of the Pinellas Phase of the Safety Harbor period, ca. AD 1100-1500. Fourteen campers participated in this year's camp, including several return campers. The two-week camp (February 20-March 3)



Campers excavating in the shell bead workshop area at Weedon Island.



Beads! Beads! Beads! A sample of the drilled beads and bead blanks recovered during the 2023 archaeology camp.

included field and lab experiences at Weedon Island Preserve and informative site visits. In addition, Dr. John Arthur, Dr. Kendal Jackson, and Dr. Robert Austin made brief presentations about the Weedon Island site, its history and importance to Florida archaeology, and local prehistory. Plans for the 2024 camp include expanding the workshop area to determine if any structural features are associated with the beads.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

This issue we highlight a long-time volunteer, Michelle Birnbaum. Michelle joined us as a volunteer in 2019 after moving to the area from Key West. Before moving to Florida Michelle worked in CRM (Cultural Resource Management) in the Midwest for 10 years and received her PhD from the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee. Prehistoric pottery technology is her area of interest especially the humble cook pot. Working with materials from Weedon Island and other local archaeological sites is an exciting opportunity to learn about local archaeology and talk shop.



Currently, Michelle is overseeing a project to rebag and stabilize the large, important collection from the Anderson Mound on Boca Ciega Bay that was excavated by Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society in the mid-1990s. When not working at AWIARE Michelle enjoys long walks on the beach and working to preserve undeveloped land in Pinellas County from development. She also enjoys sharing stories about her rescue Iguana Phoenix and going to baseball games with her husband Jon.

INTRODUCING DR. KENDAL JACKSON

AWIARE board member, Kendal Jackson, successfully defended his dissertation on April 17 at USF, Tampa campus. Kendal's research focused on Indigenous terraforming of estuarine sub-basins in Tampa Bay. Shown to the right are Kendal Jackson, Ph.D. candidate, Jaime Rogers, doctoral committee chair, Dr. Tom Pluckhahn, and committee member, Dr. Greg Herbert.



Congratulations Kendal!!!

2023 AWIARE / LEVETT FOUNDATION STUDENT GRANT RECIPIENTS

The AWIARE/Levett Foundation grant is awarded yearly to graduate students who are pursuing research topics in the fields of archaeology, history, or environmental science within the greater Tampa Bay region. The 2023 award was divided between three worthy students from the University of South Florida (USF). Jaime Rogers, a Ph.D. candidate at USF, will receive funding to support his study of Indigenous Oyster Management Systems in Lower Tampa Bay using archaeological, ecological, and geochemical methods. USF graduate student, Dennis Pierson, will use his funds to obtain radiocarbon dates from a portion of the Mill Point site located near the mouth of the Alafia River in Hillsborough County. The site was once a major mound and midden complex before it was developed, but has received very little archaeological investigation. Dennis's work will form the basis for his Master's thesis. Finally, Colby Williams will be using grant funds to support his research on artifacts recovered from recent excavations at Prospect Bluff in Franklin County. Although located a bit north of AWIARE's primary area of interest, Colby plans to compare this collection from a free black (maroon) settlement to other maroon artifact assemblages in order to form a potential baseline for the identification of maroon sites in the state of Florida, with special attention given to the greater Tampa Bay region.



Colby Williams



Dennis Pierson



Jaime Rogers



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

1500 Weedon Drive NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33702