



AWIARE

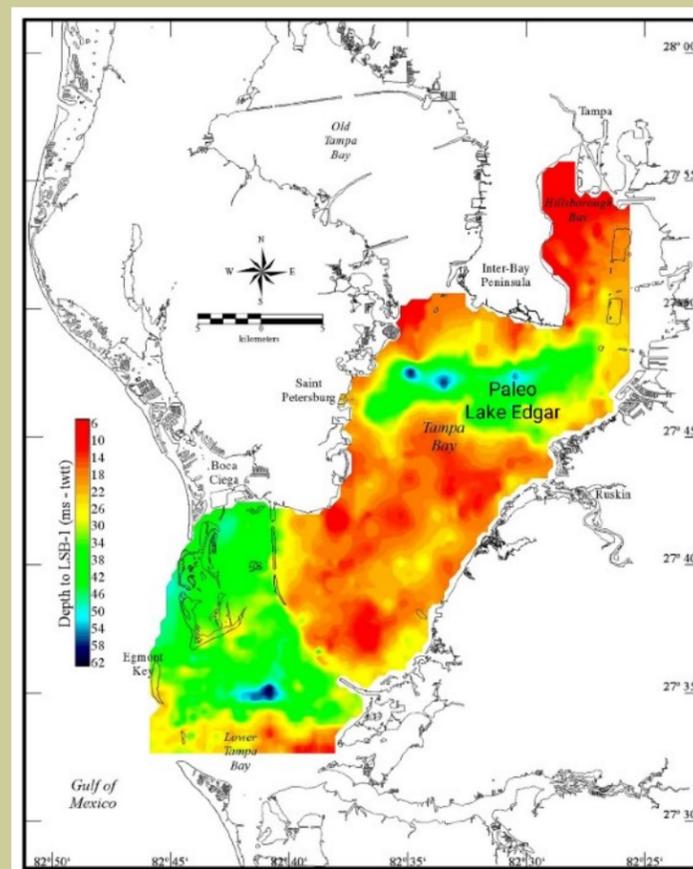
1500 WEEDON DRIVE NE, ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33702 • WWW.AWIARE.ORG

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL OF TAMPA BAY

During the 1960s & 1970s, local avocational archaeologists collected Paleoindian (ca. 11,000 years ago) through the Late Archaic (ca. 4500 years ago) artifacts from along the bay shore and from spoil and oyster shell dredged from Tampa Bay. Marine geologists have shown that a large spring-fed, freshwater lake known as Paleo Lake Edgar once existed in the bay, and the ancestral Hillsborough River flowed south towards the Gulf of Mexico. Raw material (chert) for tool production also is abundant in outcrops around and within the bay.

With lower sea levels and the Gulf of Mexico shoreline as much as 150 km to the west of the present coast, the availability of freshwater, plants, animals, and raw material in what is now Tampa Bay would have provided a major oasis near the center of the Florida peninsula for the first humans entering Florida 15,000+ years ago. It is only by searching for early submerged sites that scientists will find the precursors to the early inland sites that, to date, have been our only sources of information about these ancient people. Discovering and studying submerged sites can tell us much about who these people were, how they lived, how widespread they were, and how they adapted to long-term climate and environmental change.

The first step in conducting this research is to identify potential locations for deep coring and dive-team investigations, the goal of our current project. During subsequent phases, we intend to collect artifacts and paleoenvironmental data from secure contexts and date these contexts using a variety of chronometric dating techniques.



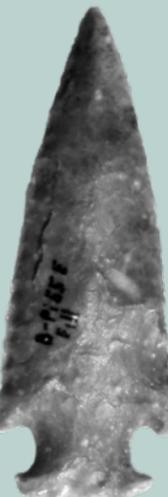
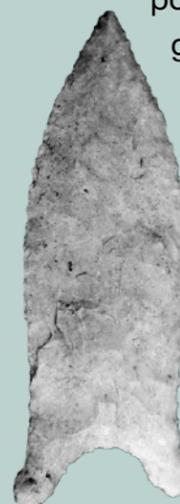
AWIARE RECEIVES GRANT TO SEARCH FOR TAMPA BAY'S EARLIEST PEOPLE

AWIARE, in cooperation with the University of South Florida's School of Geosciences, has begun a multi-year, multi-institutional project to discover archaeological evidence of the earliest occupation of Florida's west coast from submerged landscapes within Tampa Bay. Robert Austin and Kendal Jackson are Principal Investigators for the project, which is being funded by a \$12,500 grant from the Felburn Foundation plus \$7500 in private donations.

Considerable evidence exists for occupation of the now submerged Tampa Bay landscape extending back at least 12,000 years. This consists of artifacts that have been found in spoil from commercial dredging, much of it reported by professionals and avocationalists in newsletters and *The Florida Anthropologist*. Some of these artifacts have been donated to AWIARE and are available for study. Chert outcrops and related quarries also are known for the bay which provided usable tool stone for several thousand years,

potentially providing some high visibility for site discovery. Finally, marine geologists have discovered a large fresh water lake known as Paleo Lake Edgar, some possible sinkholes, as well as the drowned ancestral Hillsborough River. Taken all together, these provided valuable wetlands critical for prehistoric subsistence. Given these resources, the pre-marine Tampa Bay is likely to have been something of an oasis along the west coast of Florida.

The first phase of our project will be to compile existing archaeological and marine geology data to identify potential locations for subsequent deep coring and dive-team investigations. These investigations will form the basis of future phases of the project.



ADULT ARCHAEOLOGY CAMP

FEBRUARY 24 – 28 & MARCH 3 – 7, 2025

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. You will contribute by:

- Assisting AWIARE researchers in excavation, recording data, screening sediment, and collecting artifacts, bone, and samples.
- Helping to analyze artifacts and process findings in the lab.

You will be part of a small group limited to eight participants each week. Participants will rotate daily between field work and lab analysis.

Introductory lectures will be given by archaeologists, Dr. Robert Austin and Dr. John Arthur.

This camp is an active participant level with walks to and from the site of almost one mile over some uneven terrain.

Expedition cost: \$550 per week, includes daily lunch at the AWIARE Research Station and field trip to a local archaeological site.



JUNIOR ARCHAEOLOGIST CAMP AT WEEDON ISLAND RETURNS

After a four-year hiatus, AWIARE's popular Junior Archaeology Camp returned in July. This year's camp was small, only three campers, and short, just three days, July 1-3, but the "little juniors" participated in a variety of indoor and outdoor activities. The classroom tasks included a brief synopsis of Florida prehistory and hands-on activities related to excavation techniques, site mapping, and artifact identification, pottery making and restoration, and mask making. In addition to an outdoor nature hike, kids got a chance to throw real atlatls and try to hit cardboard targets of mammoth and mastodon. The camp culminated in field excavation in filled excavation where campers were able to



excavate midden spoil from a looter's pit, sift the excavated sediments, and recover artifacts and animal bones. The salvage work produced pottery sherds and faunal material that were returned to the lab for the campers to wash, sort and identify. We look forward to a new crop of "junior" archaeologists at Weedon Island next year!



STUDENT RESEARCH GRANTS

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. Research related to the Weedon Island culture and period is encouraged but not required. Paleoenvironmental research must have applicability to archaeological or historical time periods and interests.

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

The deadline for applying for the 2025 grant is December 15, 2024. For more detailed information, please visit www.awiare.org.

MEET AWIARE'S NEWEST INTERN

AWIARE's internship program with the University of South Florida (USF) has proven to be enormously successful with 11 outstanding students passing through the program since Fall of 2021. Our most recent intern for the Fall 2024 semester is Casey Horning. Casey is a junior majoring in anthropology at USF. He was born and raised in Jacksonville and now lives in Tampa. During his time at USF, he has pursued his interest in understanding human history and culture. "My fascination with past societies and their respective cultures

has guided me to pursue anthropology as my major with a focus in archaeology. Currently, I find bioarchaeology to be one of the most fascinating subfields within archaeology. However, I want to explore more subfields of archaeology and keep my mind open to new opportunities and interests. I'm honored to be given this internship opportunity at AWIARE and I plan to absorb as much knowledge and information as I can." We're honored to have you on board Casey.



BECOMING AWIARE



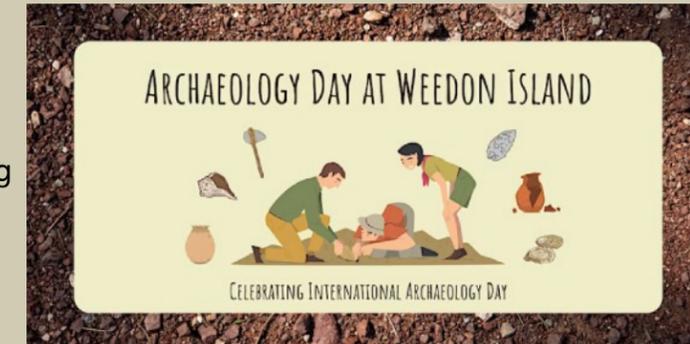
The Alliance for Weedon Island Archaeological Research and Education Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that has as its goals to promote and facilitate long-term archaeological research, scientific exploration and public education at the Weedon Island Preserve and the adjacent gulf coast regions. 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

INTERNATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY DAY

OCTOBER 19, 2024 - 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 19th at 10am – 11am** 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 were making 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. It will be led by professional archaeologists and educators with AWIARE. Register online at Weedon Island Preserve Calendar/Classes.



SAYING GOODBYE

Cindy Martin, a member of our original founding Board of Directors, has decided to retire from the board after 16 years of service. Cindy has been a dedicated member of AWIARE and has participated



in many of our most important activities, including excavation of the Weedon Island canoe, archaeology month events, volunteering at FAS annual meetings, and working in our lab. Thank you, Cindy, for your steadfast support of AWIARE and its mission. You will be dearly missed.

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