

# From the Ground Up Building Collaborative Research at Weedon Island

Weedon Alliance / AWIARE

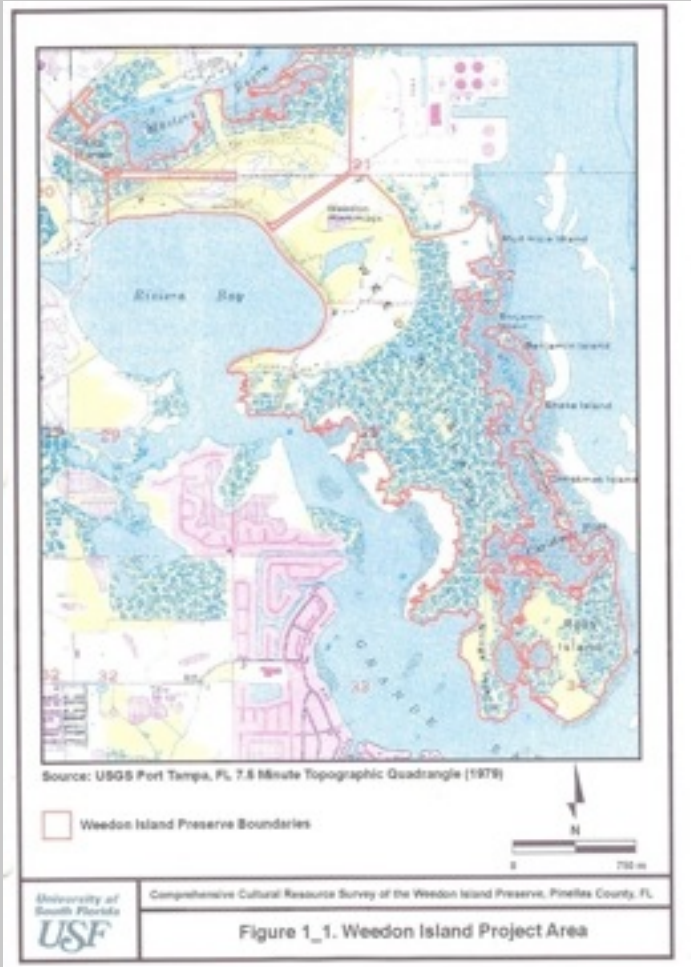


**AWIARE**

# How Do You Build Support For Archaeological Research?

- Identify the Need
- Put Up the Tent
- Talk About Things That Matter
- Draw the Blueprint
- Get Out The Hammer and Nails
- Keeping the Roof On

# A Place Called Weedon Island



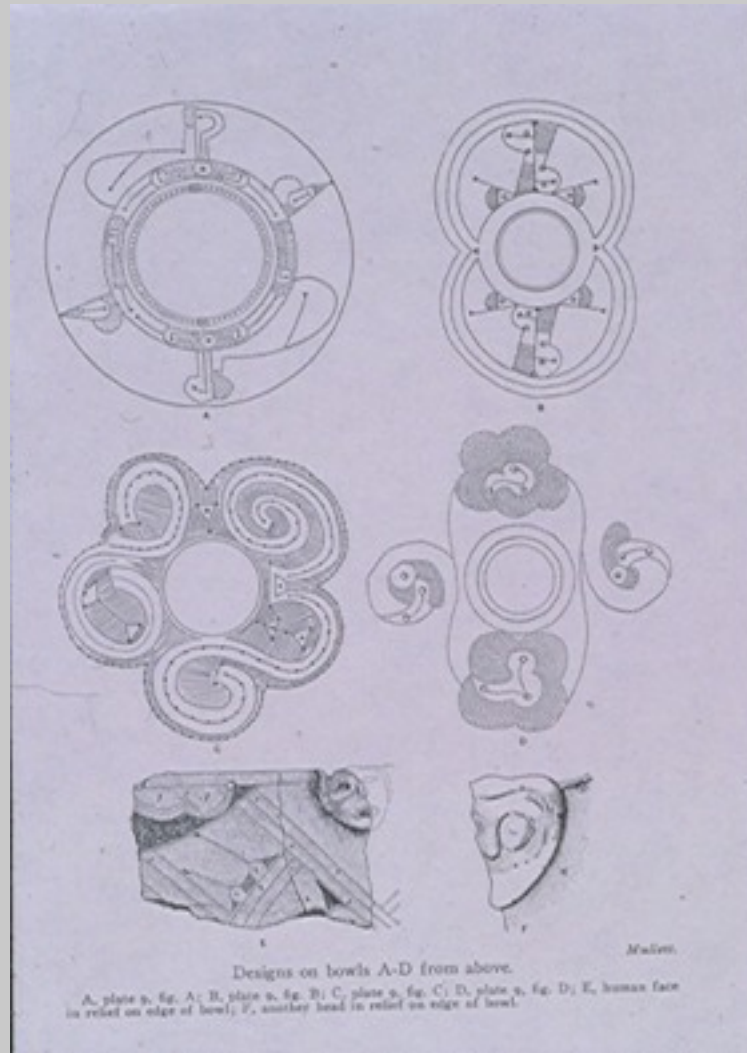


# Weedon Island Preserve



Tuesday, July 20, 2010

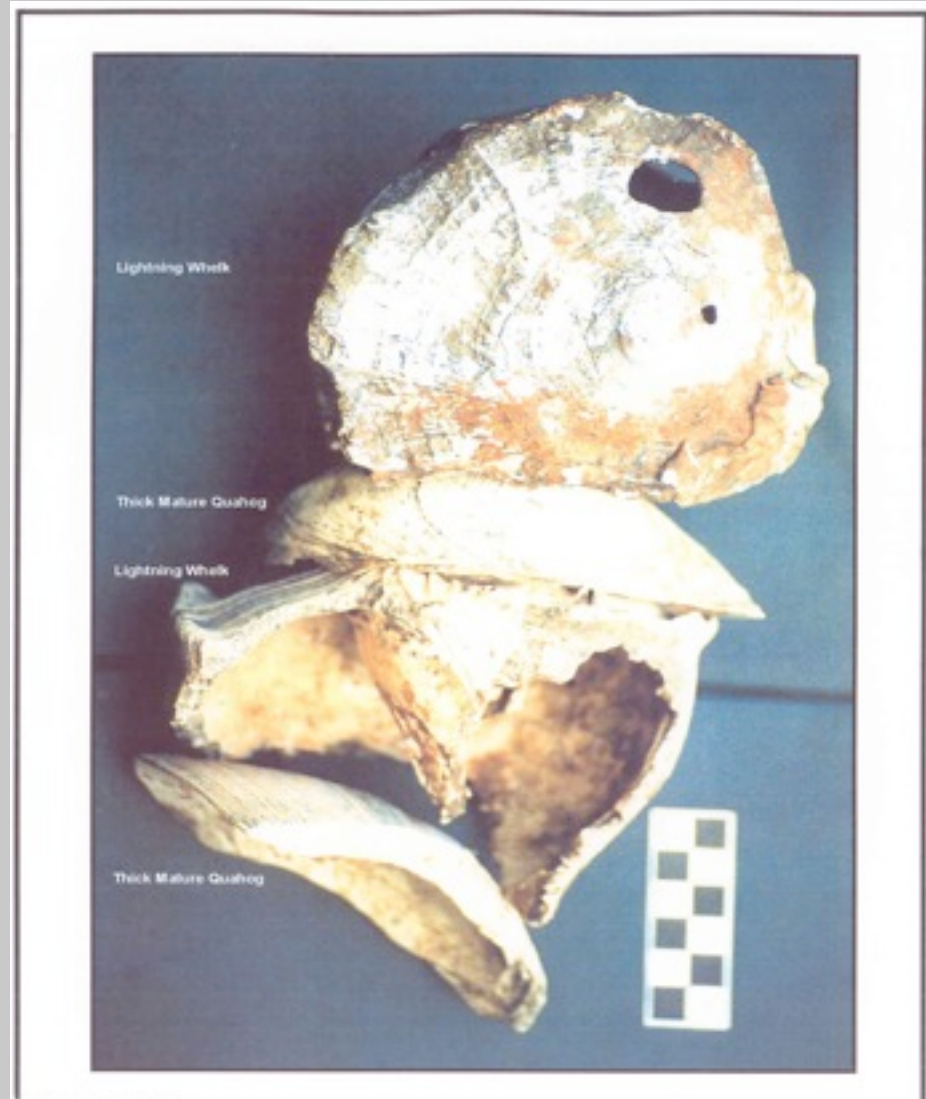
# A Culture Called Weeden Island







# Weeden Island Archaeology



# Identifying the Need

- Gordon Willey: “something adventurous”
- Weeden Island represents one of the most distinctive archaeological complexes in North America, but also one of the least studied and understood
- Weeden at Weedon?
- AWIARE: unprecedented attempt to coordinate collaborative research and discussion among scholars interested in issues relating to Weeden Island culture





# Putting Up the Tent

- Getting the Right Folks Under
- Pinellas County, FAS, CGCAS, FPAN, USF
- Friends and Advisors

# Talking About Things That Matter

Rethinking Weeden Island Roundtable

What Does Weeden Island Mean in Florida and in the lower Southeast?

Facilitated by Tom Pluckhahn.

What Does Weeden Island Mean at Weedon Island? Exploring the concept of Weeden Island as expressed at the type site and in the greater Tampa Bay Region.

Facilitated by Robert Austin

Who is the Public and What do they Want to Know? Issues and challenges in public archaeology and interpretation.

Facilitated by Rich Estabrook.

What Can We Know About Weeden Island Symbolism and How Can We Know It?

Facilitated by Jim Knight

How Have Historic Environments and Human Occupation Impacted Each Other at Weedon Island?

Facilitated by Eric Oches.

Finding the Way Forward: Who Will Fund Research at Weedon Island?

Facilitated by Bruce Rinker.

# Outcomes: the Blueprint

- Broaden the Base
- Research Relevant to Public and Science
- Develop Appropriate Organizational Structure
- Implement State of the Art Technology



# Outcomes: Research Questions

How can Weeden Island art be understood in the context of Weeden Island ways of life?

How has human habitation at Weedon Island impacted local ecosystems?

How has climate change impacted past human life at Weedon Island?

How can Weeden Island research in general and on both local and regional scales contribute to anthropological perspectives on the causes and consequences of social and political complexity?

# The Sound of Hammers

- Roundtable
- Pottery Potlatch
- Research Facility
- Save Weedon Island!
- Canoe Preservation Plan



# Potlatching





# From Tent to House

- Weedon Island Archaeological Research Station



# Keeping the Roof On

- Educate public and other archaeologists
- Alliances with other groups
- Activate support networks
- Careful use of media
- Consistent message: value-added, quality of life, solving problems



# ARCHAEOLOGY:

From investigation to the past



Recent excavations of sites like the Watson residence at the site of the first European settlement in St. Augustine, Florida, have uncovered new historical documents and archaeological artifacts.



Typical artifacts found include earthenware, stone tools, and other items that provide insight into the lives of the people who lived there.



Archaeological sites

## ARCHAEOLOGY: WHY WE DIG SQUARE HOLES

Archaeology is the study of human history and prehistory through the excavation of sites and the analysis of artifacts and structures that remain from past societies. It is a multidisciplinary field that combines the natural and social sciences to understand the human past.

Archaeologists use a variety of methods to uncover and study the remains of past cultures. These methods include excavation, surveying, and the use of specialized equipment like ground-penetrating radar (GPR) and lidar. The goal is to piece together the lives of people who lived long ago by examining the objects and structures they left behind.

Archaeology is not just about digging up old things; it's about understanding the people who made them. By studying the remains of past societies, we can learn about their daily lives, their beliefs, and their interactions with the world around them. This knowledge helps us to better understand our own place in history and the human experience.

Archaeology is a fascinating and important field that helps us to uncover the secrets of the past. It is a journey of discovery that takes us back in time and allows us to see the world through the eyes of our ancestors.

Florida Department of Cultural Heritage

Tuesday, July 20, 2010





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# Stay Aware of AWIARE

Bob Austin  
Loren Blakely  
David Burns  
Kim Dudley  
Richard Estabrook  
Rae Harper  
Phyllis Kolianos  
Cindy Martin  
Jeff Moates  
Tom Pluckhahn  
Terry Powell  
Sheila Stewart  
George Stovall  
Brent Weisman



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