

## EXPLORE WEEDON ISLAND PRESERVE: CONNECTING PEOPLE AND PLACE

Take the plunge into the exhibit hall as you are treated to a fish-eye view of Tampa Bay. How many microscopic organisms are in the water of Tampa Bay? What are some of the animals burrowed beneath the sea floor? How do animals share the resources of Weedon Island Preserve? Find out the answers to these questions and more as we unlock some of the secrets of life underwater and in the soil.

## THE EARLY PEOPLE OF WEEDON ISLAND: UNCOVERING PAST CULTURES

You are the continuation of over 7,000 years of human history at Weedon Island Preserve. Prehistoric people got everything they needed for survival from the land around them. Without grocery stores, pharmacies, and hardware stores, the environment provided all necessary resources. Be sure to look for information about how trees became transportation. What types of materials were used for tools?

## UNDERSTANDING A CULTURE THROUGH ITS POTTERY

Archaeologists piece together clues to tell the story of how prehistoric populations lived on the Preserve thousands of years ago. Scientists are able to use fragments of shell, pottery, stone, and bones to interpret important information about the lifeways of ancient populations. Stop by the "archaeological dig" to try your hand at reconstructing pottery.

## RELIVE THE RECENT PAST: MEMORIES, MISCHIEF, AND MOVIES

Movies, mystery, and mayhem await you in the recent history section of the exhibit gallery. Since the late 1800s, Weedon Island has been host to film studios, airports, speak-easies, and other fascinating ventures. Did you know that early land developers tried to trick scientists into studying the archaeology of the Preserve? This section even has a video screen playing clips of one of the movies filmed at this location. Do you recognize any familiar landscapes?

## WEEDON ISLAND PRESERVE: DISCOVER ITS HIDDEN WORLDS

Weedon Island Preserve is an important natural area in a highly urbanized county. Research, education, and restoration are ongoing efforts to unlock the hidden worlds of Weedon Island Preserve. Come see how several of the organisms found at the Preserve are providing important information about the natural world around us. You can even learn ways of bringing some of the Preserve into your own backyard.

## WHAT IS A WATERSHED? YOU'RE IN ONE NOW!

The Preserve is part of the Tampa Bay Watershed. We are all part of our watershed, and the actions we take in our homes and yards all impact the land and water around us. How can you help make Tampa Bay a cleaner and more productive water body? Don't miss this area of the exhibit gallery where you will learn tips and techniques you can use to improve Tampa Bay and ensure healthy ecosystems for future generations.

## WEEDON ISLAND PRESERVE CULTURAL AND NATURAL HISTORY CENTER

The Center promotes understanding of the natural and cultural history of the Preserve, while demonstrating how people and the natural world shape each other. Through interpretive tours and hikes, teaching programs, curriculum development, presentations, workshops and this exhibit gallery, the Center challenges citizens to make informed decisions about the environment. Become part of the Preserve's future by learning about its past and present.

Support for this exhibit was provided by the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners, "Penny for Pinellas," Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) Project and the Pinellas-Anclote River Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District, Progress Energy, and the Friends of Weedon Island, Inc.

Center hours vary. Before visiting contact us at (727) 453-6500.

Weedon Island Preserve  
Cultural and Natural History Center  
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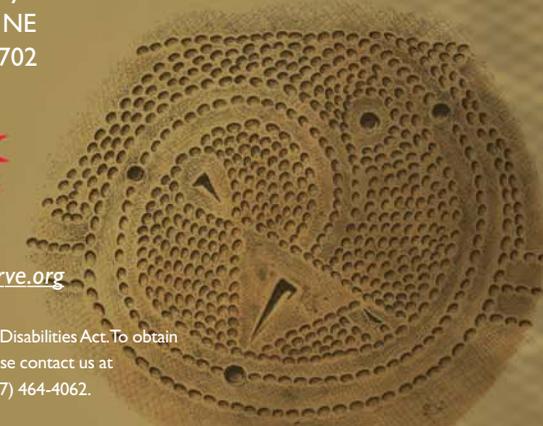
[www.weedonislandpreserve.org](http://www.weedonislandpreserve.org)

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# Exhibit Gallery Weedon Island Preserve

Welcome to "Weedon Island Preserve - Connecting People and Place." The exhibits contained within the gallery highlight many aspects of the history, ecology, and archaeology of Weedon Island Preserve. We invite you to explore these exhibits, which allow you an opportunity to travel underwater, through mangrove swamps, and even back in time. Hidden worlds and secrets will be revealed on your journey, so pay close attention to the sights and sounds that surround you.

A PLACE TO REMEMBER



A Pinellas County Government Program



# Look for the answers to these questions during your exploration. (See answers below.)

4: What is a midden and what is concealed within the layers of earth? Pull out the drawer and find out.

3: Here's a hot topic! How do some plants deal with fire?

2: Don't miss the mangrove crawl-thru! How many animals can you find among the roots?

1: What lives under the fishing pier?

10: Why is the puzzle of ecosystem restoration so difficult to solve?

5: What major Central American civilization existed at the same time as the Weeden Island Culture?

6: Try your hand at decorating pottery. What are some animal symbols featured on pottery from the Weeden Island Culture?

7: Where did the name "Weedon Island" come from?

8: What do dwarf seahorses tell us about our environment?

9: What are some simple ways to save water in your home?



Explore Weedon Island Preserve: Connecting People and Place

The Early People of Weedon Island: Uncovering Past Cultures

Relive the Recent Past: Memories, Mischief, and Movies

Understanding a Culture Through Its Pottery

Weedon Island Preserve: Discover Its Hidden Worlds

What Is a Watershed? You're In One Now!

Begin Your Exploration Here!



ANSWERS — 1: Crown conchs, barnacles, oysters, decorator worms, whelks; 2: Seven, Roseate spoonbill, mangrove skipper, green heron, periwinkle snail, mangrove snake, green anole, and mangrove crab; 3: Wiregrass seeds thrive in the nutrient-rich, sunny open spaces created when fire burns away vegetation. Longleaf pines have extremely thick bark. Saw palmettos have a growing bud deep within the plant that is well protected by thick fibers; 4: Middens are actually past living areas with layers of shells, bones, pottery pieces, and soil. Differences in the layers can tell archaeologists a story of how people lived; 5: Maya; 6: Snakes, birds, opossums, and vultures; 7: Weedon Island is named for Dr. Leslie W. Weedon, a local physician best known for his study of yellow fever; 8: Dwarf seahorses are biological indicators, which are species that can provide important information about the environment. Since seahorses rely on the seagrass ecosystem, their presence or absence gives important clues about the health of that habitat; 9: Install a low-flow toilet, shorten showers, and use water-efficient washing machines; 10: Ecosystems are complex puzzles built from many dynamic pieces, some of which are unknown. We try to learn how each piece functions and how it connects to other pieces. The more parts of the puzzle we fit together, the better we understand how natural systems work.