**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?

**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.

**Revel the Recent Past: Memories, Mischief, and Movies**

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The Early People of Weedon Island: Uncovering Past Cultures

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

**Visit the Gallery**

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.

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

1: What lives under the fishing pier?

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

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

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

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?

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

Begin Your Exploration Here!