

WEEDON ISLAND, INC

1800 Weedon Drive NE Saint Petersburg, FL 33702

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**A message from Lindsay Cross, President**

I am excited and honored to serve as your President of FOWI. Weedon Island is a very important place to me and I feel inspired every time I'm here. In my professional career, I work as an Environmental Scientist at the Tampa Bay Estuary Program. I have been privileged to work with Pinellas County staff over the years on numerous environmental projects, including serving on the Environmental Science Forum.

My goals this year are to implement our 3-year strategic priorities from the Collaborative Labs workshop, with a focus on increasing our membership. An exciting project in the early planning stages is a trail run at the Preserve, with proceeds going to the Friends. One of my favorite activities is to run the trails at Weedon and I look forward to sharing this experience with others. The run will help to promote the Preserve as a recreational center – a natural gem within the urban community – as well as an educational and cultural center. The run will be held in late fall or early winter and I'm hopeful that each of you will participate as a runner/walker or a volunteer! Our next Executive Committee and Board of Directors meetings will be held on Tuesday, July 26th at the Cultural and Natural History Center. The Executive Committee will meet at 5:00 PM with the Board Meeting at 6:00 PM. Meetings are held every other month.

I encourage all of you to talk to your family, friends and neighbors about FOWI so that we can introduce more residents and visitors to the beauty and history of Weedon. Better yet, bring them to our next meeting; they'll be welcomed with open arms!

New Least Tern Exhibit at Weedon

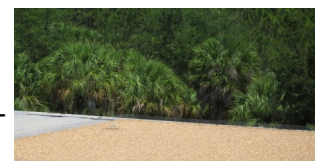
By Phyllis Kolianos

Diane Gladu, an intern volunteer from Eckerd College Program for Experienced Learners, has created an excellent exhibit on Least Terns for the third floor at the Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center. Ms. Gladu is an Environmental Studies major and is completing her senior year. Her exhibit focuses on declining Least Tern populations and their loss of habitat. They are considered a "threatened species." The exhibit details important information about the birds and displays a typical beach scene nesting area with wonderful color photos. To complement the exhibit is the new gravel roof nesting site for Least Terns easily viewed from the third floor and recently installed as a grant project by the Friends of Weedon Island. Ms. Gladu also constructed removable concrete structures to hold decoys strategically placed on the rooftop nesting site to encourage live participation from local populations of Least Terns sighted at Weedon Island. She plans to add additional elements to the exhibit area, including posters for the wall and takeaway information on Least Terns.

A Special thank you to **Bill King** for the purchase of the decoys .



*3rd floor
Least Tern Exhibit*



*Gravel roof top nesting
with Least Tern decoys*



THE BARBARA SHEEN TODD ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP AWARD PRESENTED TO BOB KERSTEEN

Barbara Sheen Todd was the first President of Friends of Weedon Island so it was fitting for her to present this award to our outgoing President, Bob Kersteen. She took us back 20 years when a group of concerned citizens realized that this land was owned by the state of Florida. This group built support for an education center and to preserve the land in its natural state. By combining the support of archaeologists, city leaders, Water Management, Progress Energy, Riviera Bay and others soliciting Tallahassee to support the community vision, today we have Weedon Island

Preserve. She stated that it was a privilege to present the award to a friend of many years. Bob serves on the Regional Planning Council, is Chairman of the Agency on Bay Management, he is very active in the community, not only as FOWI President and Leader for the last three years. He has shown outstanding Environmental Leadership. Congratulations Bob! As another form of thank you for all his accomplishments as our Leader we presented him with a plaque of a gavel signifying his terms of office. Bob will remain on our Board as a member of the Executive Committee.

FOWI's "Member of the Year" award recipient, **Ronn Ginn** was presented the award by Bob Kersteen on behalf of the membership. Ronn was instrumental in developing the construction documents to complete the Least Tern Project. When it came to moving forward with the canoe retrieval, once again Ronn stepped up to develop the drawings for the canoe preservation vat to comply with the city of St Petersburg zoning criteria and construction codes. Both projects are great accomplishments for the Friends. Ronn also has been working on projects to generate more interaction and badge opportunities for Scouts at Weedon Island. Ronn was presented a plaque for his efforts and his name will be added to the plaque that is on display in the Center as well. Ronn Ginn has also been appointed to the Executive Committee.



OUR GIFT SHOP IS NOW OPEN FOR BUSINESS!



With the county budget cuts a decision was made to close the shop last October. The Friends decided it was another opportunity to help the Center and generate revenue for future programs. We opened May 14th, the day of our annual Membership Appreciation Picnic. Fresh new stock was in place and our great volunteers have been eager to help. Categories of merchandise include newly designed T-shirts, realistic plush animals, all that can be found at Weedon, including armadillos, otters, raccoons and more. Audubon birds that sing, new wildlife books, stationary, and clay Indian motif designed jewelry. Please stop in on your next visit to Weedon Island. Pictured, Heather & D D checking out new items.

This coupon is good
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New T-Shirt Designs
Regularly \$14. - \$16.
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Regularly \$16. - \$19.50
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\$16.00

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WEEDON ISLAND GIFT SHOP

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Remembering Weedon

Celebrate Weedon Island Preserve with memories and tales of its colorful history and not-so-distant past.

Saturday, Sept. 17 1 to 3 p.m.

Through the years the Weedon Island landscape has changed in dramatic ways, from the early Native American mounds to the recent past of airport runways and movie production. Used as a getaway for generations of residents, Weedon Island has been a playground, fishing and shell fishing paradise, lover's lane, dump site and treasures site.

Come out to hear and share stories and experiences of the history of this vital piece of land — even record your memories for a *Story Corps*-like project!

Discover the many experiences and connections that bond people with this land.

For more information or to RSVP, call (727) 453-6500.

Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center

8th Annual Heart's Breath Flute Extravaganza and Concert of Creative Sounds

August 5, 2011, 1:00pm – 6:00pm

August 6th 10:00am—5:00pm



This is a 2 day Celebration. Opening **Friday** afternoon with flute music and shopping available for Native American-style flutes, flute bags, and other craft items.



2:30pm — 3:30pm Children story telling and a flute workshop. 6:00pm—8:30pm Concert of Creative Sounds featuring Richard Schrei and the Teresa Arruza & Nuestra Tierra Trio.

Saturday — Native American enthusiasts of all ages will enjoy this event featuring music, art and culture. Join us for a Silent Auction of hand-carved flutes and gifts or shop for other American Indian-style flutes, flute bags, CD's and more. 11:00am –1:00pm Two workshops on the basics of indigenous flute playing will be held.

ANCIENT CANOE UPDATE

March 1st, 2011 the retrieval began on a rainy morning at low tide. The ancient canoe was exhumed from a sandy grave where in has gone undisturbed for almost 1100 years. It is now being cared for by the (Alliance for Weedon Island Archaeological Research and Education, Inc) AWIARE group headed up by Dr Robert Austin. The first step was to remove the salt and thoroughly clean the remains. It is immersed in a solution of poly ethylene glycol which will penetrate the wood and keep it from desintegrating. The process will take approximately 2-3 years. Once complete the canoe will have a feature display in the Education Center.

Beginning retrieval



Carrying to boat for transport



In the preservation vat

