

Friends of the Randell Research Center

Vol. 6, No. 4

December 2007

NEH Funds Curation of Pineland Collection

by *Bill Marquardt*

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) has awarded a grant to Bill Marquardt and Karen Walker to preserve and organize the world's largest systematic collection of Calusa Indian artifacts and environmental specimens. Materials excavated from the Pineland Site Complex between 1988 and 1995 comprise more than 140,000 specimens recovered by hundreds of volunteers and students under Bill and Karen's supervision, along with Donna Ruhl's.

Now the home of the Calusa Heritage Trail, the Pineland site has been inhabited for 2,000 years. By the time the Spaniards arrived in the early 1500s, the Calusa Indian people controlled all of South Florida from their homeland on the southwest Florida coast. Pineland – then known as *Tampa* – was the second largest of all the Calusa towns.

The Pineland Calusa collection is made up of artifacts, environmental specimens, and associated archaeological records. Artifacts include Native American pottery sherds; tools and decorative objects made of shell, bone, shark teeth, and stone; Spanish-derived glass, metal, and ceramic objects; and waterlogged wood, seeds, and other organic materials. Oxygen-free waterlogged areas of the Pineland site preserved the only known prehistoric papaya seeds ever found in North America, as well as the only prehistoric chile pepper seeds known for the eastern United States. The seeds are un-charred, and are about 1900 years old.

The \$284,504 NEH grant will fund the curation of materials that resulted from five major field seasons at Pineland (1988, 1989, 1990, 1992, and 1995) as well as 18 linear feet of associated records. Museum staff will rehabilitate the collection by rehousing artifacts, specimens, and samples using an archival bagging and boxing method that will maintain physical order by catalog number and provenience.



In the archaeology lab in the Florida Museum of Natural History, Ryan Van Dyke and Melissa Ayvaz prepare Pineland artifacts for long-term curation. The project is being funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. (Photo by W. Marquardt.)

The Pineland collection is the largest systematic collection from a major Calusa town site. Pineland's long period of occupation and the collection's broad range of extensively documented materials mean that even its smallest elements are in great demand by researchers. Much of the collection is still unanalyzed. Many possible theses and dissertations are waiting to be discovered in this collection. Its rehabilitation will greatly enhance both its research and educational value.

What is "Curation"?

The word curation comes from the Latin word *curare*, meaning "to care for." In the museum context, it means taking care of museum collections so that they will be available for study by scholars and students and for museum exhibitions when needed. Museums keep collections of artifacts and other materials (bones, shells, plant remains, sediment samples, etc.) in dust – and acid-free containers, so they will be protected from deterioration, and house them in secure, climate-controlled conditions. We also keep the documents that relate to the collections, such as field notes, maps,

photographs, and other data. These paper records are invaluable aids when one analyzes, or re-analyzes the collections. Finally, like libraries, we maintain a catalogue – a systematic listing of what is in the collections and where the materials are located. The Florida Museum of Natural History, of which the Randell Research Center is a part, is the largest collections-based museum in the southeastern U.S., and it is Florida's official natural history museum. The new NEH grant will help us curate the Pineland artifacts and records to the highest standards, greatly enhancing their long-term usefulness.

Native Tree Planting Project Nears Completion

by *Bill Marquardt*

By the end of December, well over half of the native trees had been planted at the Randell Research Center, some at the state-owned Pineland Site Complex, some at the Lee County-owned Gill House property. Almost 200 new cabbage palms now grace the RRC. Other trees planted include buttonwoods, wax myrtle, gumbo limbo, firebush, dahoon holly, cocoplum, Florida privet, seagrape, Jamaican caper, and live oak. If all goes well, most or all of the remaining trees will be in the ground by the end of January.

Volunteers are still needed to help water and care for the trees while they become accustomed to their new locations. Once established, the native south Florida trees will thrive with little attention, and are quite resistant to droughts. Call the RRC office (239-283-2062) if you can help; no experience is necessary. 



Volunteers carry a tree to its planting spot. (Photo by W. Marquardt.)



The local boy scout troop learned how to plant native trees. (Photo by W. Marquardt.)



Reforestation project director Karen Walker inspects trees that have just arrived at the Pineland site. (Photo by W. Marquardt.)

Citrus Ridge Replanted

On December 29, 2007, Karen Walker, Bill Marquardt, Mark Chargois, and several friends and neighbors planted 40 citrus trees at the Pineland site, replacing trees lost to citrus canker in the fall of 2004 (see *Friends of the RRC Newsletter* vol. 3, no. 4, p. 2). Although citrus trees are not original to Florida, they have been an important part of Florida's – and Pineland's – recent history and economy. Our new trees were planted where the grand old trees had been, and we hope that one day they will be producing citrus once again, helping to educate visitors about the agricultural history of Pine Island. The citrus trees were bought with funds contributed by the Friends of the RRC. Thank you all for making this possible. ➤



Judy D'Agostino digs a hole for a grapefruit tree, while Bunny Hutchinson sifts the dirt to be sure no archaeological materials are being disturbed. (Photo by W. Marquardt.)



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The citrus-planting party.
 Left to right, standing:
 Pat Nanney, Bill Marquardt,
 Judy D'Agostino, Bunny
 Hutchinson, Mark Chargois;
 seated: Rona Stage, grapefruit
 tree, Margi Nanney, Karen
 Walker. (Photo by M. Nanney.)

FPAN Relocates

by *Bill Marquardt*

After being hosted by the Randell Research Center for its inaugural two years, the Southwest Regional Center of the Florida Public Archaeology Network will relocate to another location, to be announced in February. We were glad to host the Center, but delays in renovating our headquarters house forced us to give up our partnership with FPAN.

Institutions that host an FPAN center must provide adequate office space and a conference room, and we could no longer guarantee to fulfill that responsibility until our headquarters house is rehabilitated. We must raise \$108,000 more to finish the building repairs and renovations (see *Friends of the RRC Newsletter* vol. 6, no. 3).

We will work with the new FPAN center, making the Calusa Heritage Trail and classroom facilities available to its public-archaeology programs. Of course, we will continue our own public programming, as always, including hosting regular school field trips, conducting volunteer-assisted lab work, and offering guided tours. We wish the new FPAN regional center every success, and look forward to working with its new staff. ➤

New and Renewing Friends of the RRC from September 23 through December 31, 2007

(* indicates donation of services; please let us know of any errors or omissions. Thank you for your support.)

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Calusa Heritage Day Planned for February 23, 2008

by *Bill Marquardt*

The past will come to life from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. February 23 at the Calusa Heritage Trail in Pineland, as the Florida Museum of Natural History's Randell Research Center offers its third annual Calusa Heritage Day.

This festival at the teaching pavilion and short loop of the Calusa Heritage Trail includes exhibits on archaeology, history and ecology, as well as demonstrations of ancient Calusa Indian technology and guided tours of the archaeological site. The event is free, but donations support upkeep of the site and trail.

Festival highlights include a hands-on pottery workshop by Robin Brown, renowned author of *Florida's First People*. Those participants making pots will be encouraged to return the following Saturday (March 1) to see the pots fired by the same technique used by the Calusa. Stacey Brown and John Beriault will assist participants.

Other demonstrations and activities on February 23 will be led by Terry Powell (shell, bone and wood tools), John Paeno (musical instruments),

Michael Wylde (flint knapping), Dick Workman (basketry and fibers) and Dick Hunter (spear throwing). Elizabeth Neily will portray a 16th-century Spanish market woman.

Visitors are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and a picnic lunch and stay for the day.

Other artists and illustrators will share how they have worked to bring the Calusa to life, including Merald Clark, David Meo, Hermann Trappman and Sue Ellen Hunter. At 2 p.m. in the classroom, Florida Museum Archaeology Curator Bill Marquardt will present "Calusa Archaeology Since Cushing." Florida Museum archaeologists Karen Walker, Irv Quitmyer, Donna Ruhl, Melissa Ayvaz and Ryan Van Dyke also will be available to discuss the latest Pineland research and artifact collections. Other participants include Pineland area museums, conservation organizations and eco-tour operators.

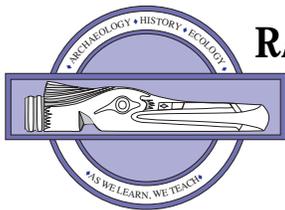
If You Go

Follow Pine Island Road (State Road 78) to Pine Island. At the four-way stop, turn right and proceed north on Stringfellow (SR 767) about 3 miles and look for a sign pointing to Pineland on the left. Follow Pineland Road through several curves until it meets Waterfront Drive. The event is at 13810 Waterfront Drive, across the street from the Tarpon Lodge.



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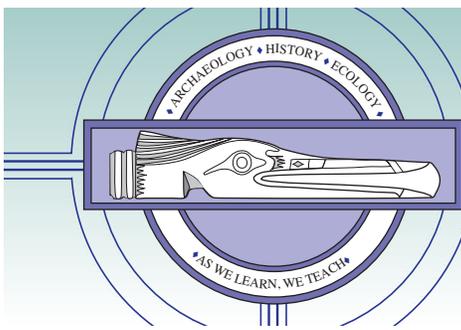
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Friends of the Randell Research Center

Pineland, Florida • December, 2007
Phone (239) 283-2062 E-mail: randellcenter@comcast.net

Dear Friend,

You are cordially invited to join, or renew your membership in, the RRC's support society, *Friends of the Randell Research Center*. All Friends of the RRC receive a quarterly newsletter and free admission to the Calusa Heritage Trail at Pineland. Supporters at higher levels are entitled to discounts on our books and merchandise, advance notice of programs, and special recognition. Your continuing support is vital to our mission. It means more research, more education, and continued site improvements at the Randell Research Center. Thank you.

Sincerely,

William H. Marquardt
Director
Randell Research Center

Please check the membership level you prefer, and send this form with credit card information or check payable to Randell Research Center, to:

Membership Coordinator • Randell Research Center • PO Box 608 • Pineland, Florida 33945

- Individual (\$30) and Student (\$15):** quarterly Newsletter and free admission to Calusa Heritage Trail
- Family (\$50):** The above + advance notice and 10% discount on children's programs
- Contributor (\$100-\$499):** The above + annual honor roll listing in newsletter + 20% discount on RRC publications and merchandise
- Sponsor (\$500-\$999):** The above + invitation to annual Director's tour and reception
- Supporter (\$1,000-\$4,999):** The above + listing on annual donor plaque at Pineland site
- Sustaining Members (\$5,000-\$19,999), Benefactors (\$20,000-\$99,999), and Patrons (\$100,000 and above)** receive all of the above + complimentary RRC publications and special briefings from the Director.
- Please use my gift** to obtain matching funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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by Darcie A. MacMahon and William H. Marquardt, U. Press of Florida, hardcover \$39.95

_____ \$ _____

Sharks and Shark Products in Prehistoric South Florida

by Laura Kozuch; Monograph 2, softcover \$5.00

_____ \$ _____

The Archaeology of Useppa Island

edited by William H. Marquardt; Monograph 3, hardcover \$35.00, softcover \$20.00

_____ \$ _____

New Words, Old Songs: Understanding the Lives of Ancient Peoples in Southwest Florida Through Archaeology

by Charles Blanchard, illustrated by Merald Clark; hardcover \$19.95, softcover \$9.95

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Fisherfolk of Charlotte Harbor, Florida

by Robert F. Edic; hardcover \$35.00

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Florida's First People

by Robin Brown, Pineapple Press, hardcover, \$29.95

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Missions to the Calusa

by John H. Hann, U. Press of Florida, hardcover, \$35.00

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Florida's Indians

by Jerald T. Milanich, U. Press of Florida, softcover, \$19.95

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Archaeology of Precolumbian Florida

by Jerald T. Milanich, U. Press of Florida, softcover, \$27.95

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The Lost Florida Manuscripts of Frank Hamilton Cushing

edited by Phyllis E. Kolianos and Brent R. Weisman, U. Press of Florida, hardcover, \$59.95

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Indian Art of Ancient Florida

by Barbara Purdy, U. Press of Florida, hardcover, \$35.00

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AWARD-WINNING DOCUMENTARIES

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DVD video, \$12.95

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