New Excavations at Pineland

by Melissa Ayvaz and Bill Marquardt

On May 18, Melissa Ayvaz began a new excavation on Citrus Ridge at the Pineland Site Complex. The dig is expected to last until June 18. The study is intended to test the hypothesis that about 1700 years ago at least one high-intensity hurricane impacted Pineland’s landscape and its people. The results will form a part of Melissa’s masters thesis in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Florida, chaired by Bill Marquardt.

The findings from a nearby 1992 excavation suggest that a powerful hurricane hit Pineland around A.D. 300. Storms occur over short time intervals, but — as Pine Islanders who lived here in 2004 well know — they can have both immediate and long-term effects on people’s lives. The Calusa were no exception.

Specifically, a thin sandy layer contained surf clam shells (some articulated), sea urchin remains, pen shells, and sea-turtle bones, indicating animals that live in high-salinity habitats. Because the Pineland site is situated in an area of typically lower salinity, we reason that the animal remains must have been swept in from the barrier islands to the west due to a powerful storm surge. Overlying this layer of animal remains is a sand layer that may have been deposited by a second surge associated with the same storm. The source of the sand may have been the Citrus Ridge, so the current dig is designed to gain a better understanding of the Citrus Ridge deposits so they can be compared to those from the previous 1992 excavation. Melissa will focus her analysis on faunal and sedimentological assemblages to tease out the subtle signatures that would characterize a storm surge. The excavations will proceed slowly and carefully in order to provide information at a scale and resolution rarely accessible to archaeologists.

The new excavation is located right next to the Calusa Heritage Trail. Visitors are welcome any day, Wednesdays through Saturdays, through June 18. Lab work on Tuesdays at the Ruby Gill House will involve washing and cataloging artifacts, following museum archival standards and guidelines.

What is paleotempestology?

Paleo means “old.” A tempest is a storm. And “ology” means “study of.” So paleotempestology is the study of storms that happened in the past, particularly tropical cyclones, such as hurricanes. Paleotempestologists use a variety of techniques to identify and study the effects and frequency of ancient storms, such as the characteristics of sediments deposited in coastal marshes and lakes, or chemical indications of heavy influxes of fresh water on corals.
Hundreds Attend Calusa Heritage Day

Images compiled by Cindy Bear and Bill Marquardt

About 800 people attended the sixth annual Calusa Heritage Day on March 12, 2011. On a clear, crisp, spring-like day, our visitors enjoyed archaeological exhibits provided by the Florida Museum of Natural History as well as talks by John Beriault, Robin Brown, Bill Marquardt, and special guest speaker Lee Newsom, who was visiting from Pennsylvania State University. Vendors of native plants, arts and crafts, and food were popular with the crowd, as were information tables provided by local archaeological, historical, and conservation organizations. “Calusa Tastings” was again offered, with free samples of foods eaten by the Calusa Indians, such as mullet, clams, and papaya. Many children enjoyed hands-on activities, and both kids and adults tried their hand at throwing the atlatl, an activity organized by the Florida Public Archaeology Network.
New and Renewing Friends of the RRC  
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**Graduate student Ryan VanDyke shows a young visitor what can be learned from animal bones found in archaeological sites.** (Photo by Gladys Schneider.)

**Woody Hanson of Fort Myers exhibited objects and photographs from his family’s archives and discussed Seminole history and culture with visitors. To Woody’s left are graduate students Austin Bell and Amanda Rowe, who were exhibiting Seminole materials from the Florida Museum’s collections.** (Photo by Bill Marquardt.)

**Lee Newsom discussed the evidence for a variety of plant uses by the Calusa at Pineland and elsewhere in Florida. Over 100 people heard her outdoor presentation, shown here. She also presented a lecture in the RRC classroom.** (Photo by Bill Marquardt.)
Good Questions: What inspired the RRC logo?

by Bill Marquardt

Several visitors to the Calusa Heritage Trail have inquired about the origin of the Randell Research Center’s logo. Created by artist Merald Clark, our logo was inspired by a fragment of a bone pin found at the Pineland Site in 1995 during excavations conducted by Jennifer Wallace. Carved in the form of a bird’s head, it was first found by volunteer excavator Jim Anholt. It comes from excavation A-11, Stratum 10, and dates to about A.D. 1000-1200. Broken at both ends, it weighs only 1.3 grams and is 42.8 mm long (about 1½ inches). Based on the size and solid nature of the object, it was probably made from the metapodial bone of a white-tailed deer. Etched lines detail the bird’s plumage and facial features. To most, it looks like the head of a woodpecker, but some have suggested a merganser duck. The original object can be seen in the Hall of South Florida People and Environments, Florida Museum of Natural History, Gainesville.
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 your check payable to U. F. Foundation, to:

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

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The Randell Research Center is a program of the Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida.
# Books, Videos, Cards, and RRC Gear

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- **The Calusa and Their Legacy: South Florida People and Their Environments**  
  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

- **Fisherfolk of Charlotte Harbor, Florida**  
  by Robert F. Edic, hardcover, $35.00

- **Edisonia Native Girl: The Life Story of Florence Keen Sansom**  
  by Denége Patterson, Peppertree Press, 2010, softcover, $39.95

- **Florida’s First People**  
  by Robin Brown, Pineapple Press, hardcover, $29.95

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

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  by Carol Mahler, U. Press of Florida, hardcover, $34.95

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  edited by Randy Wayne White and Carlene Fredericka Brennen, U. Press of Florida, hardcover, $34.95

- **I-Land: At the Edge of Civilization**  
  by Roothee Gabay, a part-fantasy, part-historical novel based in the Calusa domain, PublishAmerica Books, $14.95

- **Song of the Tides**  
  by Tom Joseph, a historical novel about the Calusa, U. of Alabama Press, $19.95

- **Eyes of the Calusa**  
  by Holly Moulder, a historical novel for young readers, winner of the silver medal in young adult fiction from the Florida Publisher’s Association, White Pelican Press, $8.95

- **The Crafts of Florida’s First People**  
  by Robin Brown, a step-by-step guide to making Florida Indian tools and containers (for ages 10 and up), Pineapple Press, softcover, $9.95

**Calusa Postcards**

| Image from the Calusa Heritage Trail  
Art by Merald Clark, 4” x 6” postcards, full-color, set of 11 cards, $4.50 |

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