to secure the roof. With this task we were ably assisted by David Harlos, Scott Mitchell, Jon Fajans, and John Worth. Florida Museum colleagues George Hecht, Elise LeCompte, Paul Ramey, Donna Ruhl, and Al Woods also spent several days with us, working through the heat of the day and “camping” in the darkened house at night.

Telephone and water services were back on by the 18th, but power was not restored until August 28. By week 2, RRC staff had secured their own houses and returned enthusiastically to work. Much vegetation was down in our yard and at the site. Together we managed to clear much of the yard and finished cleaning the house. Then, with help from students and staff of Florida Gulf Coast University coordinated by Carol Newcomb-Jones, on August 27 we began the formidable task of clearing the Pineland site and restoring the native plant landscaping.

The Pineland site looks very different. Because so many trees are down and the remaining ones are temporarily bare, one can now see all the mounds and out to the waterfront when standing on Brown’s Mound. None of our new Calusa Heritage Trail signs was badly hurt, though numerous heavy tree limbs fell all about them. One wayfinding sign was missing, but then later found, unharmed except for being caked with mud.

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“They’re here!” RRC scientist Karen Walker was very pleased to discover on August 28 that the water-temperature data recorders (called “tidbits”) were still intact and functioning after the passage of Hurricane Charley. Water temperature fluctuations are being monitored as part of the National Science Foundation-sponsored paleoclimate study by Walker and University of North Carolina geochemist Donna Surge (see RRC newsletter, vol. 2, no. 3). (Photo by W. Marquardt)

“At the Pineland site, massive royal poinciana trees were deposited on top of the walkway to the top of Brown’s Mound. (Photo by J. Worth)

Floodwaters begin to recede, August 14. Pictured: John Worth; background: Brown’s Mound at Pineland site. (Photo by Concha Worth)

“How did it get here?” Donna Ruhl, John Worth, and Elise LeCompte discover the RRC’s canoe where it had landed, unharmed, in a thicket of Brazilian pepper trees. (Photo by K. Walker)

Staff and students from Florida Gulf Coast University joined RRC staff on August 27 to begin the task of vegetation clean-up at the Pineland site. (Photo by W. Marquardt)
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On August 30, workers began to repair the roof damage from Charley but on Labor Day weekend, slow-moving and ponderous Hurricane Frances paid an unwelcome visit. The RRC was further damaged, with flooding of the offices/labs due to leakage where the roofers had put down only a single layer of tarpaper. Now three rooms will need new ceilings and carpets instead of just one. Again, there was no damage to equipment. However, the landscaping that we had restored in late August was again disturbed and flooded by Frances. Clean-up efforts have resumed yet again as this newsletter goes to press. Volunteers are welcome at any time, and should call 239-283-2062 to be informed of current needs.

Paul Ramey pulls wet insulation from the ceiling in the RRC headquarters house, August 20. (Photo by K. Walker)

David Harlos, Bill Marquardt, and Scott Mitchell work to secure the damaged roof at RRC headquarters against further storm winds and rain, August 15. (Photo by K. Walker)

Pineland postmaster Gina Poppell opened the Pineland post office for business on Monday, August 16 – the only post office functioning on all of Pine Island. (Photo by W. Marquardt)

Using the RRC tractor, John Worth clears debris from the lot between the RRC headquarters and the Pineland post office (background, right). (Photo by W. Marquardt)

Bill Marquardt got a new appreciation of the phrase “hot tin roof” as he re-nailed metal sheeting on top of the Pineland post office, August 16. (Photo by K. Walker)

Making progress: RRC staff members Craig Timbes, Jennifer Jennings, and John Paeno pause from stacking brush in the RRC headquarters’ back yard. (Photo by K. Walker)

Jon Fajans (UF Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences) lends a hand with roof repair, August 17. (Photo by W. Marquardt)
New Calusa Book Available in November

The Calusa and Their Legacy, by Darcie MacMahon and Bill Marquardt, will be published in November by the University Press of Florida. The book tells the story of the Calusa people and the coastal environment that sustained them. It is illustrated with drawings created by artists for the Florida Museum of Natural History’s award-winning Hall of South Florida People and Environments and includes dozens of photographs, many in color. The book is non-technical and is intended for all ages.

The book sells for $39.95 and can be purchased from your local bookseller, directly from the University Press of Florida, www.upf.com, or from the Randell Research Center at 7450 Pineland Road, Pineland.
Staff Spotlight: Rona Stage
by John Worth

In this issue, we at the RRC are pleased to focus on Rona Stage, RRC store manager. Rona was raised in Florida, and after having managed a national microfilm operation for Bell & Howell in Chicago, she returned to Florida and to Pine Island in 1986. Since then she was a Vice President of Research for a company in Fort Myers, and started and operated (with the help of her father) a records management company, while simultaneously implementing a records management department for a Canon dealership in Tampa. She previously owned a gift shop, “Stages,” in Matlacha, featuring one-of-a-kind artwork and created hand-painted clothing, mostly of Calusa design. She still creates and wholesales hand-painted and silk screen clothing.

Rona has been with the RRC since the fall of 2001, starting as the business manager handling the daily operations for the new headquarters. Currently she is the store manager, responsible for purchasing and managing merchandise sales for the RRC.

She also works as Business and Operations Director for the Useppa Island Historical Society and Barbara Sumwalt Museum on Useppa Island.

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Pineland FL 33945-0608
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Email: 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. (Current members can find out when their memberships expire by looking at the address label on their newsletter.)

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,

John E. Worth, Ph.D.
Coordinator of Research Programs and Services
Randell Research Center

Please check the membership level you prefer, and send this form, along with your check payable to Friends of the 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.

Please use my seasonal address from ___________ to___________.

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Name

Address

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(date) (date)

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

BOOKS ON SOUTHWEST FLORIDA’S ARCHAEOLOGY & HISTORY

**NEW!** 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

**NEW!** Culture and Environment in the Domain of the Calusa
edited by William H. Marquardt; Monograph 1, softcover $25.00

**NEW!** Sharks and Shark Products in Prehistoric South Florida
by Laura Kozuch; Monograph 2, softcover $5.00

**NEW!** The Archaeology of Useppa Island
edited by William H. Marquardt; Monograph 3, hardcover $35.00, softcover $20.00

**NEW!** New Words, Old Songs: Understanding the Lives of Ancient Peoples in Southwest Florida Through Archaeology
by Charles Blanchard, illustrated by Merald Clark
hardcover $24.05 $19.95 SALE price until 12/31/04
softcover $14.95 $ 9.95 SALE price until 12/31/04

**NEW!** Fisherfolk of Charlotte Harbor, Florida
by Robert F. Edic
hardcover $35.00 $29.95 SALE price until 12/31/04

AWARD-WINNING VIDEOS FROM THE FLORIDA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

The Domain of the Calusa: Archaeology and Adventure in the Discovery of South Florida’s Past
VHS video $19.95

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Expedition Florida: Wild Alachua
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(specify color: bone, charcoal, or blue) $20.00

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To place order, make check payable to: Randell Research Center and mail to:
Randell Research Center / PO Box 608 / Pineland FL 33945.
Check or money order only. Sorry, no credit cards.
Inquiries and Questions? 239-283-2062 / E-mail: johnneworth@comcast.net