



# CALUSA NEWS

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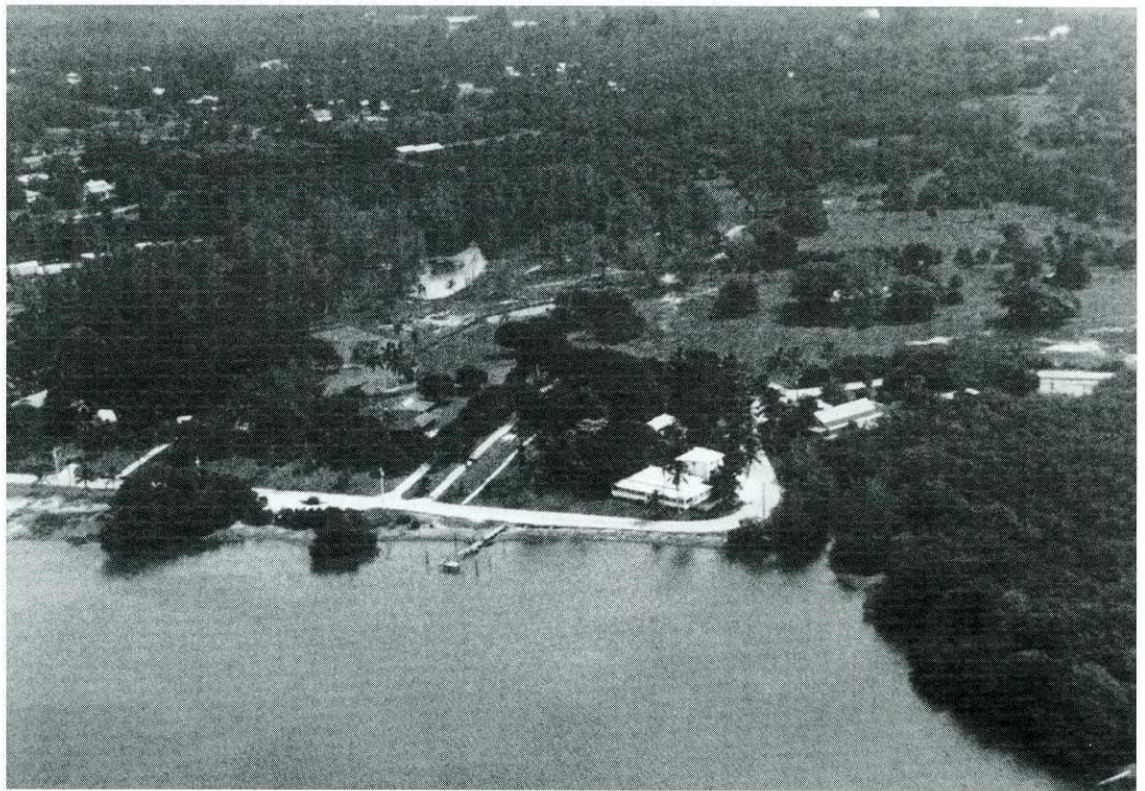
## Pineland, a Gift of the Past to the Future

by Claudine Payne and William H. Marquardt

In August, 1994, Colonel and Mrs. Donald Randell donated 56 acres of land in Pineland to the University of Florida Foundation. The property will be preserved as an archaeological and environmental research and education center. In the Randells' honor, the property has been named the **Randell Research Center at Pineland**. It will be managed by the Florida Museum of Natural History (FLMNH).

For many years, Pat and Don Randell have worked to preserve the environment and heritage of their beloved south Florida. Years ago, they helped create the "Make Pine Island Beautiful" award. In the 1970s, they donated land to Lee County for a park dedicated to the Calusa Indians. And they personally protected natural environments and ancient Indian shell mounds by buying nearby Josslyn Island as well as land adjacent to their home at Pineland.

Since 1983, the Randells have been active and enthusiastic supporters of the FLMNH's search for knowledge about southwest Florida's ancient peoples. During that time, the Randells funded archaeological excavations at Josslyn Island and Pineland, and they hosted thousands of visitors (including 5,400 schoolchildren) at excavations taking place literally in their backyard.



*The Pineland Site Complex, viewed from the west. (Photo by W. Marquardt.)*

The property the Randells donated includes a portion of the famous Pineland archaeological site complex. Estimated to have covered about 200 acres at one time, the Pineland complex is a cluster of archaeological sites dating to different times. Thanks largely to the protection of the Randells, many parts of the complex remain remarkably well preserved.

First settled around A.D. 100, the Pineland complex has been home to ancient and modern Floridians ever since. For almost 2,000 years, its residents have left their mark on the landscape and, in turn, have adapted to its unique and changing environment.

*Continued on page 2*

