

Friends of the Randell Research Center

Vol. 1, No. 1

March 2002

Lee County Purchase Provides RRC Headquarters

Fall Event Attracts New and Old Friends

by Karen Walker

Thanks to the efforts of many individuals, Lee County and the Randell Research Center forged a partnership when commissioners crafted a purchase of a Pineland property both environmentally and historically significant. Next door to the picturesque Pineland post office, the county-owned 1920s Ruby Gill House now serves as the RRC's headquarters.

On November 2-3, a combined Open House and welcome for newly hired John Worth was a great success. With support from volunteers, the two-day event attracted a steady stream of visitors who viewed the new office, meeting/work rooms, upstairs archaeology labs, outdoor workshop/patio, garage lab, and even the kitchen's freezer-load of fish specimens awaiting preparation as comparative specimens. Also featured were David Meo with his stunning Calusa art reproductions, Dick Workman transforming native-plant fibers into cord and other items, and geochemist Donna Surge gleaming information about past environments from the clam shells thrown out by Calusa Indians.

Although many new RRC friends were made, the event resembled a reunion at times, as many members of the 1988-1995 excavation field teams were in attendance. We all reminisced about how we had only a lab tent in "those days."



From left to right, RRC Friends Warren and Paul Miller, John Worth, and Bill Marquardt in front of the new RRC headquarters at Pineland. (Photo by Karen Walker.)

Endowment Drive Begins

Maple Hill Foundation to Help with Operating Funds

by Bill Marquardt

Most of us can identify with this experience: You want to save money for long-term security, but you have bills to pay. In a way, this was the situation the RRC found itself in. Raising an endowment fund is the best way to ensure that the RRC will continue and prosper into the future, because – like a savings account – it produces dependable income every year. Up until 2001, keeping our programs going took most of the money we brought in.

But now the Maple Hill Foundation has offered the RRC up to \$230,000 in operating expenses over the next five years while we make a concerted effort to build our endowment fund to its minimal goal of \$1,300,000. The Maple Hill grant pays \$80,000 the first year, \$60,000 the second, and \$40,000 the third. If we make satisfactory progress toward the endowment, \$30,000 will be paid in the fourth year and \$20,000 in the fifth and final year of the campaign. The support diminishes each year under the assumption that as our endowment fund grows, so will the income it produces. *To continue receiving the Maple Hill Foundation operating funds, we must show steady progress toward raising our endowment.*

The RRC appreciates the Maple Hill Foundation's faith in us, and has accepted the challenge. With your help, we will raise our endowment fund by 2006. Gifts to the RRC endowment fund are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by federal law. Income from the RRC endowment will be spent in Pineland and its environs for research, education, and public interpretation. Please join us in this campaign. For more information about how you can help, please contact John Worth (941-283-2062), Bill Marquardt (352-392-1721, ext. 492), or Susan Pharr (352-846-2000, ext. 211).

Report of the Coordinator

by John Worth

The past six months have been busy ones for the RRC, and as the new full-time Coordinator, I'm pleased to report that we're making progress on a number of fronts. The new RRC headquarters next to the Pineland post office is already bustling with activity. The office and laboratories form the local base of operations for the RRC, including the Friends society and volunteer program.

The RRC has sponsored or participated in several special public events, including the "Sounds of the Calusa" concert in October on Sanibel and the recent Pine Island archaeology fair and public lecture in March co-sponsored with the Museum of the Islands and the Native Plant Society. The RRC is prominently featured in the new "Trail of the Lost Tribes" brochure, which publicizes archaeological sites all along the Florida Gulf coast. We have also been the subject of a number of very positive newspaper articles and several local video features.

At the Pineland site, more than 650 visitors have taken guided site tours since October, including public tours on Saturdays and a wide variety of public and school-group visits during the week. And thanks to the work of volunteers, board members, and an Americorps crew, several vegetation-clearing and invasive-plant-removal days have been held. A new wooden stairway and handrail have been constructed at Randell Mound, and the nearby storage shed has been re-roofed. The low entranceway to the dirt access road into the site has been filled and graded.

With full-time staffing, a permanent headquarters, a growing volunteer force, and financial support from the Friends organization and several grants, the focus is now on preparing for the upcoming construction of our pavilion, parking lot, and trails, and on building an



John Worth tries out the Alumacraft boat (see page 3). (Photo by Scott Mitchell.)

endowment to support our long-term financial stability. The future looks bright, and we at the RRC appreciate the support of all our new members in making this vision a reality.

Friends Society Off to a Good Start

by John Worth

With more than 190 members as of this writing, the Friends of the Randell Research Center organization is now a reality, thanks in large part to the widespread and positive response of many past and present supporters of the Southwest Florida Project of the Florida Museum of Natural History. The Friends society was inaugurated with the final issue of *Calusa News* published this past November. The new Friends organization will provide a basis for the long-term support of the Randell Research Center and its programs in and around Pine Island and greater Southwest Florida. Through this quarterly newsletter, the Friends organization will ensure prompt communication of ongoing and future RRC activities and programs to the supporters who help make it all possible.

Friends of the RRC as of March, 2002

(Please let us know of any errors or omissions. Thank you for your support!)

Benefactors (\$20,000-\$99,999)

Anina Hills Glaize
Maple Hill Foundation

Sustaining Members (\$5,000-\$19,999)

Charles B. Edwards, Jr.
Robert A. Wells, Jr.

Supporting Members (\$1,000-\$4,999)

Virginia Amsler
Don Cyzewski
William H. Marquardt
Paul and Warren Miller
The Mote Scientific
Foundation
Penniman Family
Foundation

Sponsoring Members (\$500-\$999)

Carol Byrne
Lammot DuPont
SBC Communications, Inc.
Tom Taylor
Karen J. Walker
Victoria and William
Winterer

Contributing Members (\$100-\$499)

Anne Allan
Lawrence E. Aten
Carter and Mary Bacon
T. Peter Bennett
Anne Boomer
Patty and Jim Borden
Joseph P. Brinton 3d
Stuart and Stacey Brown
Jerry and Joretta Butcher
Captiva Cruises
U.S. Cleveland
William and Mary
Cyzewski
Brant and Carolyn
Donalson

Robin and Lin Fox
Greater Pine Island
Chamber of Commerce
A. William and Edna
Hager

Ginger Fann Hall
Gene and Evelyn Hemp
Max B. Huss
Carole Kircher

Bob and Jackie Kish
Ron and Mary M. Koontz
Robin Krivanek

Janet Levy
Richard Liu
Ben MacKinnon
Jennie B. McBean
Joan McMahan
Robert N. McQueen
Richard Merritt

Jerald T. Milanich
Linda J. Miller
Cynthia and Jeffrey
Mudgett

Doris Murray
J. William and Carol
Newbold

Abraham and Cynthia
Offer

Mr. and Mrs. Wiley M.
Parker

David and Darbee Percival
Carol Pooser

Shirley M. Reeves
Anne Reynolds

Mary Ann Scott
Bob and Paula Scott

Betty and Herbert Seidel
Robert and Inger Stovall

Stephen Tutko
Caitlin Joy Walker

Leonard and Ruth Walker
Rae Ann Wessel
Dr. James S. Wilson
Mary S. Wright

Family Members

Dr. Elizabeth F. Abbott
Chris and Paul Andrews

Cindy Bear and Frank
Stapleton

Patricia Blackwell
Debby Boots

Nancy and Bob Brooks
Tom and Carol Brown

Jeff Chapman
Matt Corry

The Cundall Family
Sheila Denner and Mike
D'Agostino

J.C. and Wendy Dewing
Louis and Joan Franks Jr.

Bill and Dee Fulk
Peter and Carol Girardin

Norm Gowan
Richard J. Greenwald
Dr. and Mrs. William
Hammond

Jean H. Harper
John J. Hlis

Shirley Hoch
Stephen W. Kent

Don and Dottie
Kernaghan

Randy and Dianne King
Art and Lynn Lee

Freda and Jan Long
J. Robert and Karen Long

Sandra and Lawton
McCall

David and Lisa Meo
Guenter and Paula Metz

John and Sue Miller
Scott and Susan Mitchell

Robert P. Mooney
Myrtle and John B. Orzalli

Debi and Joe Peloso
Pinellas County Historical
Society Inc.

O.W. and Regina Risher
Tim and Judith Sear

Ray Seguin
Dee Serage and Lucas
Century

Graig and Kris Shaak
Alice R.C. Sharp

John and Glenda Sirmans

Lillian E. Sizemore
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Spuhler

Stuart and Rita Stauss
John and Sally van
Schaick

Kathy VanDeree
Dr. and Mrs. T. B.
Vantallie

Mrs. Wm. Blunt White
Ann and Bill Wollschlaeger

John and Concha Worth
Mr. and Mrs. Warren
Zeiller

Individual Members

Margot Allen
Harris W. Barber, M.D.

Eileen G. Boren
Mark Brenner

Mark J. Brooks
Michael Brown

Mrs. John T. Bryans
Dr. Phillip G. Buchanan

Mr. Lois E. Clarke
Joanne Cole

Ann Cordell
Robert Cotton

Arthur A. Cramer, Jr.
Barbara Dobbs

Paul R. Douglass, DVM
Dolores J. Finnearty

Guy P. Fischer
Barbara Fleshman

Charles Foster
Robert Foxworth

Michael Friel
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Gaddy

Richard J. Garcia
Carol J. Godwin

Janet A. Gooding
Lee Harrison
Frances Hermann

Dr. Charles A. Hoffman, Jr.
Keith E. Hope

Marcella Howard
Jill Hutchinson

Robert Hutchinson
Marjorie K. Johnson

Penny Johnson
Mark Johnson

Douglas Jones
Carolyn A. Kerlin

Elise V. LeCompte
Ray C. Lever

George M. Luer
Edith Marquardt

Joanne Dutcher Maxwell
Bonnie McEwan

Ruth Meergans
Jeffrey M. Mitchem

Michael E. Moseley
Mary Myers-Peterson

Helmut Nickel
Bette Northrop

Vernon Peebles
Charlotte M. Porter

Earl Rectanus
Joan Rogers

Donna L. Ruhl
Margo Schwadron

Michael Simonik
William M. Spikowski

Lana Swearingen
Phillip W. Trembley

Randolph R. Tully, Jr.
Tom Vickery

Janet Walker
Warm Mineral Springs

Archaeological
Society, Inc.

Ms. Julia H. Watts
Mr. and Mrs. Randolph H.

Watts, Sr.
Rosanne Weber

Judith Williams
Mr. and Mrs. Matthew B.
Wills

Jerry Zank
Susan Zell

Student Members

Ann S. Hunnicutt

Mary Davis Southall

Mr. Karl F. Vierck



Lee County School Students Get Up-Close Look at Pineland Site

by Cindy Bear and Rick Tully

Calusa people living at Pineland might have given the name "Fluttering Butterfly" to the star constellation we now refer to as Orion, imagines Courtney Bass, a sixth grader from Gulf Middle School. Courtney, writing as a part of a language arts activity before her class field trip to the Pineland site, notes the star formation reminded her of "two sharp butterfly wings."

Alexis Vidal, Courtney's classmate, offered a different interpretation: "This one says you will find love. It shows two becoming one – The Match Maker."

These Lee County students and many others have a unique opportunity to explore an ancient people, both in classrooms and at Pineland. They visit the long abandoned town of the Calusa Indians, touch long discarded artifacts, recreate long forgotten tools, and imagine anew what life might have been like centuries ago.

The synergy of events on a field trip makes all the difference for student understanding. Students climb a mound and gaze westward

across Pine Island Sound toward the distant barrier islands. In the next glance they study the exposed face of a small pit and realize they are seeing perhaps hundreds of years of mound development. Minutes later they sort the raw material of a mound. Meaningless rubble becomes subtle clues to food of the past.

"Random" scrapings on a shell become signs of tool construction and use. The mysteries of the mound become stories of our forebears.

The sharing of these stories is one result of a collaboration between the School District of Lee County's

Environmental Education (EE) Program

and the Randell Research Center. Quality educational materials, student site visits, a summer teacher institute, and broader understandings of the relevance of our Calusa heritage are also taking place, with many future events and programs planned. For more information contact the RRC at (941) 283-2062 or the EE program at (941) 275-3033.

(Photos by Rick Tully.)



Scott Mitchell Restores RRC's Boat Classic 1958 Alumacraft Gleams Like New

by Bill Marquardt

If I hadn't seen some of its transformation with my own eyes, I wouldn't have believed that the sleek 15-foot Alumacraft before me was the same boat that took me to Josslyn Island every day in the summer of 1983, the year the Southwest Florida Project began. That year, Michael Hansinger had graciously loaned me the boat, gently but firmly insisting that I hire young Mickey O'Donohue as my pilot. A few years later, Mike had donated the boat to the project, and it had served us well for many more years, accumulating the usual wear and tear that boats do in salt water.



Scott Mitchell at work on the hull.
(Photo by Susan Mitchell.)

Last fall, Scott Mitchell, museum collections manager and big-time boater, offered to restore the vessel on his own time and buy us a new trailer to boot. Naturally, I said yes. He first stripped the hull and discarded all worn wood and hardware. He pressure-washed, cleaned, and sanded the hull, patched holes with special metal epoxy putty, and replaced loose rivets. He then sprayed the hull with marine-grade primer and applied numerous coats of epoxy marine paint. He cut and installed new transom wood and a wooden shelf below the bow deck for dry storage. Finally, new stainless steel hardware and a lighting system were installed and the RRC logo and new boat numbers were applied. Thanks to Scott, the RRC's boat is once again ready to ply the waters of Pine Island Sound.

Volunteers Enhance RRC Programs

by John Worth

One concrete result of the recent burst of local publicity about the RRC was the rapid growth of our volunteer program. Since October, more than 30 volunteers have registered at the RRC, representing a broad range of ages, backgrounds, and interests in the local community and beyond. Between November and March alone, 765 volunteer hours were logged in such areas as office work, laboratory work, vegetation clearing and site maintenance, tour delivery, special events, and training. Only a few months after the program was formalized, volunteers work in the office nearly every day of the week, special events are staffed primarily by volunteers, and Saturday tours are primarily docent-led. Volunteer training and enrichment sessions are scheduled regularly. All bulk mailings are done with substantial volunteer help, and



Betty Anholt and Barb Thomas catalogue artifacts and zooarchaeological specimens at the RRC headquarters. (Photo by Lana Swearingen.)

recurring tasks such as database entry and management, phone reception and visitor assistance, and other specialized projects such as processing donated fish specimens for the skeletal comparative collection are all volunteer supported.

In sum, volunteers are playing a pivotal role in making the RRC a success. Our heartfelt thanks are extended to all the volunteers for their cheerful and energetic dedication, and many long hours of work in support of the RRC.

In Appreciation

So many people contribute to the success of the RRC that it is impossible to list them all. Several are mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, and here we acknowledge some others who have pitched in recently. Dick Workman conceived the idea for and organized the "Sounds of the Calusa" event. Thomas Workman and Kat Epple donated their musical talents, Tim Keene paid for printing the program, and Cindy Bear and Frank Stapleton donated the refreshments and the profits from their sale. Cheryl and Rick Joyce graciously hosted two RRC Board meetings at their home. Karen Walker organized our Open House, and many volunteers assisted with mailing, greeting visitors, and donating food. DEP's Keith Laakkonen brought Americorps volunteers to Pineland to help with brush clearing. Bill Pretsch, Bill Curnow (Fish and Wildlife Commission), and others donated fish for our new comparative skeletal collection. Led by Betty Anholt and Lana Swearingen, the zooarchaeology team (Barb Thomas, Diane Maher, Debbie Cundall, Julie Hancock, Pat Blackwell) is preparing these skeletal specimens. The FLMNH's George Burgess, Rob Robins, and Kenny Krysko supplied identifications and specimens for the collection. Darcie MacMahon, Cindy Bear, John LoCastro, and Mary Frances Weathington offered their advice on interpretive pathways at the site. Karen Walker and Scott Mitchell conducted training sessions for our volunteers. Parke Lewis repaired our boat trailer at his expense. Marty Ardren worked many hours helping coordinate the March 10 archaeology fair and the March 11 lecture, as did Museum of the Islands president Sharon Traylor. The Florida Humanities Council provided funding. We thank the Native Plant Society for co-sponsoring these events, and Robin Brown for demonstrating Calusa cordage at the fair. The Tarpon Lodge has been most cooperative in helping spread the word about the RRC and its programs. The Wentworth Foundation (William Goza, President) funded the extension of our pavilion archaeology project. Aquatunity Enterprises, Inc. provided a pump for the excavations at reduced cost, and Jack Himschoot supplied diesel fuel for it at a discount rate. Penny Johnson, Debbie Cundall, Lana Swearingen, Barb Thomas, Diane Maher, Joan McMahan, Edith Marquardt, and Karen Walker donated supplies and equipment for lab and office use. We thank you all for your great support of the Randell Research Center.

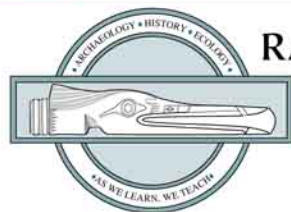


Editor:
William Marquardt

Writers:
Cindy Bear
William Marquardt
Rick Tully
Karen Walker
John Worth

Production:
GBS Productions

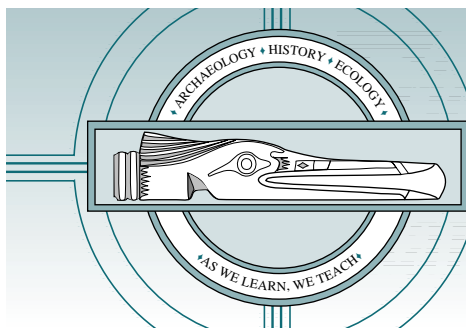
Send questions or comments to:
John Worth
Randell Research Center
PO Box 608
Pineland FL 33945-0608
Telephone (941) 283-2062
Email: randellcenter@aol.com



RANDELL RESEARCH CENTER
PO Box 608
PINELAND, FL 33945-0608

Non-profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Pineland, FL
33945
Permit No. 26

Return Service Requested



Friends of the Randell Research Center

Pineland, Florida • March 30, 2002

Dear Friend,

I am sending you a free copy of our first *Friends of the Randell Research Center Newsletter*. I hope you will join our support society. By means of financial and volunteer support, the Friends are actively promoting archaeological and environmental research and education in southwest Florida.

Your annual support as a Friend will help us reach our endowment goal so that the RRC will become self-sufficient. You can join for \$30 per year, \$15 if you are a student. Please consider participating at a higher level if you can. Your donation is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by federal law.

All Friends of the RRC receive a quarterly Newsletter. Supporters at higher levels are entitled to discounts on our books and merchandise, advance notice of programs, and special recognition. Please join us today, and continue to receive our Newsletter. Your gift will help us conduct more research, reach more visitors, and get new knowledge out to everyone.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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

Friends of the Randell Research Center receive:

Individual (\$30) and Student (\$15): quarterly Newsletter

Family (\$50): Newsletter + advance notice and 10% discount on children's programs

Contributor (\$100): The above + annual honor roll listing in newsletter + 20% discount on RRC publications and merchandise

Sponsor (\$500): 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 plus free RRC publications and special briefings from the Director.

Please detach and mail with your check made out to **Friends of the Randell Research Center**.

Name _____

\$ _____
Amount enclosed

Address _____

Mail to: Randell Research Center
PO Box 608
Pineland FL 33945

City _____

State _____

Zip Code _____