

Friends of the Randell Research Center

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An Ancient Pineland Shoreline

RRC volunteers and archaeologists join forces to investigate rare waterlogged deposits

by Bill Marquardt

RRC volunteers excavated at the Pineland site near the corner of Waterfront Drive and Pineland Road, in front of the historic Wilson Sisters house. Our purpose was to investigate in more detail the waterlogged deposits we first encountered in the summer of 2015 when a septic tank was installed on the property (see *Friends of the RRC Newsletter* for September, 2015). Karen Walker and I were joined by University of Georgia archaeologists Victor Thompson, Isabelle Lulewicz, and Jake Lulewicz during their UGA spring break, March 6-11. Our paleoethnobotanist colleague Lee Newsom, now with Flagler College in St. Augustine, worked with us March 11-15. Also helping out were FPAN archaeologists Rachael Kangas and Sara Ayers-Rigsby and FPAN intern Victoria Lincoln.



We opened a 1-x-4-m trench a meter west of the 2015 excavation and soon encountered the familiar shell midden deposit, which quickly became wetter excavated deeper. Using a pump, we kept the water under control and were able to recover many normally perishable remains including fragments of cordage and knots from one or more Calusa fishing nets, unburned seeds, and fragments of wood. Radiocarbon dates show that these materials, along with pottery, shell artifacts, shells,

The 1-x-4-meter trench, being excavated below water table, assisted by a pump. Top to bottom: Bill Marquardt, Victor Thompson, Jake Lulewicz, Isabelle Holland Lulewicz. (Photo by Karen Walker.)



Some of the RRC volunteers who were an integral part of the project. Screening, foreground: left, Gloria Andrews; right, Phyllis Faust; background: Lawrencine Mazzoli. Tom Vander Velde. (Photo by Karen Walker.)

and fish and other animal bones, had been left behind by Pineland residents on a shoreline between AD 1000 and 1200, then rapidly covered over by more recent deposits, sealing in the old shoreline materials and creating an anaerobic (oxygen-depleted) deposit that favored excellent preservation of organic materials.

Selected samples from the excavated deposits were waterscreened through a series of nested screens by our hard-working volunteers, and are now awaiting detailed analysis by Lee and her students. As we wrote in the 2015 article, preservation of such normally perishable materials is quite rare in archaeology, but the Pineland site has now yielded deeply buried, waterlogged deposits at several locations, adding to its overall scientific value.

A big thank-you to our RRC volunteers who worked long hours excavating and carrying buckets of heavy, wet sediments to the screens, carefully screening for finds, keeping the finds

Continued on page 4



Twisted palm-fiber cordage, about 1000 years old. (Photo by Karen Walker.)

Hundreds Attend Calusa Heritage Day

New Trail segment opens to the public for the first time

by Bill Marquardt

n March 25, more than 800 people visited the Randell Research Center to enjoy a day of speakers, exhibits, and guided tours. The RRC classroom hosted displays on finds from the Blueberry site in Highlands County (Nate Lawres), recent Pineland and Mound Key excavations (Karen Walker and Jeanne Gossman), ongoing research on Calusa fuelwoods and other wood uses (Jen Haney), and the environmental histories of Pine Island Sound and Estero Bay (Mike Savarese). The speakers tent featured talks by Torben Rick (archaeologist, Smithsonian Institution), the Florida Museum/RRC's Bill Marguardt, artist/anthropologist Merald Clark, and Florida Public Archaeology Network Southwest Region's archaeologist Rachael Kangas. Free samples of foods eaten by the Calusa - oysters, clams, mullet, and papaya - were enjoyed by many visitors. Local artists showed and sold their creations, replicators demonstrated Native American crafts such as stone tool making and weaving, and information booths



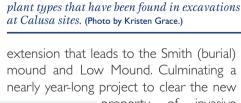
FGCU geologist Mike Savarese, assisted by FGCU students Kylie Palmer and Aiden Ari, explains how cores reveal environmental histories of Pine Island Sound and Estero Bay. (Photo by Karen Walker.)



Chelsea Collison, Danielle Nelson and Meghan Audo hosted an information table for the Florida Museum of Natural History, which this year celebrates its 100th anniversary. (Photo by Kristen Grace.)

were staffed by representatives eager to share information about their museums, archaeological and historical societies, and conservation programs. Three Captiva Cruises boat tours of Pine Island Sound moderated by Denége Patterson, author of our new book A Tour of the Islands of Pine Island Sound, were much enjoyed.

The highlight of the day for many was a first look at the new Calusa Heritage Trail



The Char-Lee Weavers engaged visitors in

twining and weaving with plant fibers from





Torben Rick gives a talk to a capacity crowd of more than 120 in the speakers tent. (Photo by Kristen Grace.)









As this newsletter goes to press, three full-color interpretive signs designed by Merald Clark and funded by the Florida Humanities Council are being manufactured, and they will soon enhance the new Trail segment for our visitors. We are grateful to the Florida Humanities Council for their support of tent rental and travel expenses for our out-of-town speakers,

and to the dozens for RRC volunteers who managed parking, logistics, visitor assistance, Calusa Tastings, and site tours during the day.

(Top left) Future scientists learn from Florida Museum volunteer Jeanne Gossman, who traveled from Gainesville to help with our outreach activities. (Photo by Karen Walker.)

(Top right) Visitor tries her hand at throwing the atlatl, while FPAN archaeologist Rachael Kangas looks on. (Photo by Kristen Grace.)

(Bottom left) A young visitor was pleased with her newly painted face. (Photo by Kristen Grace.)

(Bottom right) Helen Fox, RRC docent, explains the significance of the Smith Mound during the first public tours on the new Trail extension. (Photo by Kristen Grace.)

New and Renewing Friends of the RRC

March 1,2017 to May 15,2017

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Continued from page 1

organized and properly hydrated, keeping records updated, and later waterscreening the column samples and cataloging them. We appreciate the cooperation of property owners Crandon, Debbie, and Ricky Randell, who allowed us to excavate on their property. P.R. Smith cheerfully tolerated the daily activity and noisy pump in his front yard. We thank neighbor Lawrence Massey, who used his tractor to carefully move fill dirt from the excavation area prior to our excavations and then place it back over the area when we completed the work. A grant from the National Geographic Society's Waitt Fund helped pay for travel, field, and lab expenses.



Lee Newsom examines the extraordinarily well preserved wood and cordage in the RRC lab, Ruby Gill House. (Photo by Karen Walker.)



PINELAND RC P10102/8 SPROF 3 **1**7 2017

Volunteers Polly Eldred and Paula Streeter admirably handled the complex task of field-processing the finds as they came from the excavations and screens, including careful storage of delicate waterlogged materials. (Photo by Karen Walker.)

A wooden plank uncovered in the waterlogged levels. (Photo by Karen Walker.)



Some of the recovered wood shows evidence of having been worked with an adze, probably made of shell. (Photo by Karen Walker.)

RRC News

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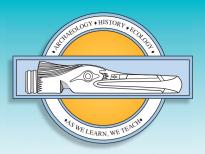
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Friends of the Randell Research Center

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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,

Bie Marquart

William H. Marquardt Director Randell Research Center



Please check the membership level you prefer, and send this form with your check payable to University of Florida Foundation, to:

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The Plant World of the Calusa: A View from Pineland			
written and illustrated by Martha Kendall, RRC Popular Series No. 1, softcover, full color, \$24.95 The Calusa and Their Legacy: South Florida People and Their Environments		9	
by Darcie A. MacMahon and William H. Marquardt, U. Press of Florida, hardcover, \$39.95 The Archaeology of Pineland: A Coastal Southwest Florida Site Complex, A.D. 50-1710, edited by			5
William Marquardt and Karen Walker, Monograph 4, hardcover, 935 pages, 408 figures, 231 tables, bibliographic references, \$125.00			5
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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		9	
CALUSA POSTCARDS			
Images from the Calusa Heritage Trail Art by Merald Clark, 4"-x-6" postcards, full-color, set of 11 cards, \$4.50			S I
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