

## Friends of the Randell Research Center

December 2013 • Vol. 12, No. 4

### Educational Enhancement Project Completed

#### *"Sneak Preview" and Ribbon-cutting Event Draws Interest*

by Bill Marquardt

**In 2012**, Cindy Bear and Bill Marquardt received a grant from the Arts and Attractions program of the Southwest Florida Community Foundation to enhance the visitor experience at the Calusa Heritage Trail. The \$14,520 grant was used to share the costs of enhancing two areas of prominent visitor interest: (1) a restored boardwalk to the Calusa burial mound, and (2) exhibits and hands-on artifact replicas in the classroom. The boardwalk project is finished, and the artifact replicas by Terry Powell have been delivered. A generous gift from Robert A. Wells, Jr. allowed us to expand the scope of the classroom exhibits on the Calusa Indians and their surroundings, which will now include answers to the questions most frequently asked by our visitors.



A sample of replica Calusa tools made for the RRC classroom by Terry Powell. (Photo by V. Amsler.)

The original 125-foot boardwalk to the Smith Mound was built in 2004 to provide visitors access to the edge of the 25-foot-tall sand burial mound. The boardwalk traverses an area where standing water accumulates in wet weather and takes the visitor from interpretive signage describing Calusa spiritual practices to the base of the mound. Standing at the base of this mound, used by Calusa people from approximately 1,000 to 300 years ago, visitors find an emotional and personal connection to the people who lived on our site centuries ago.

However, the old boardwalk was in need of reconstruction.



Cindy Bear welcomes visitors to "sneak preview" event, October 18, 2013. Wall exhibit and Calusa net replica are seen in the background. (Photo by V. Amsler.)

We wanted to elevate it slightly to reduce wood rot and to add a "toe-rail" for safety. A substructure was built of lumber and filled with a stabilizer material to prevent uneven settling of the structure and minimize warping. Mike's Landscaping, a Pine Island business, donated the stabilizer material, valued at \$450, and provided expert consultation at no cost. Major contributors to the design and implementation of the boardwalk project were Alan Marcus, Jim Niehaus, Paul Carballo, Bob Crum, Ron Kerlin, and Gary Vinson. The boardwalk was completed and opened to the public in October.

We also wanted to improve the educational opportunities in our wheelchair-accessible classroom, which is typically the first and/or last area utilized by our visitors. The grant allowed us to add high quality exhibit panels with newly developed art and text, greatly enriching the visitor experience. The classroom exhibit planning phase included a visit to the RRC by Darcie MacMahon, Director of Exhibits for the Florida Museum of Natural History. Darcie met with Bill Marquardt, Cindy Bear, and RRC staff and volunteers, and led us in a conceptualization process based on the needs of our visitors. This process led to the decision to change our plans from one relying on pre-fabricated, stand-alone, permanent exhibit panels to a "poster" panel system, which will allow updating and modifications, complemented by replicas, display carts, and space for visitors to provide insights and questions.

The Florida Museum of Natural History provided expertise and assistance with the planned classroom exhibits, including text, images, graphics, and artifact replicas for display. RRC maintenance specialist Gary Vinson worked on the boardwalk improvement project and supervised volunteers.

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RRC staff member Cindy Bear devoted several weeks to text writing, consultation with teachers and museum professionals, and local coordination. RRC director Bill Marquardt contributed advice on content, exhibit design, and text writing, provided illustrations, and coordinated with graphic designer Nancy Koucky.

More than 40 people attended a boardwalk ribbon-cutting and sneak preview of the classroom enhancements on October 18, 2013. Some came from as far away as Buckingham, and several came by boat from Useppa Island. There was much enthusiasm about the newly replicated Calusa artifacts, which include a splendid fishing net that was artfully suspended from the wall. Several of the interpretive posters had already been delivered and they generated much interest and positive comments. Cindy Bear gave an introduction and welcome, thanking donors of funds and in-kind services. Then Bill Marquardt gave a talk entitled "A Brief Look at Calusa Technology and Architecture." Then the entire group strolled to the Smith Mound where a "ribbon" of grape vines and flowers (made for the occasion by Martha Kendall) was cut, opening access to the new boardwalk. The group gathered at the Smith Mound edge, and asked many questions about the Calusa and their

beliefs. The event was reported by Ed Franks in the *Pine Island Eagle*. Nancy MacPhee, Program Director for Marketing, represented the Lee County Tourist Development Council, which sponsors the Arts and Attractions grants program.

We welcome everyone to come walk the new structure and view the new classroom materials. And, with the cooler weather, this is a great time to renew your acquaintance with the Calusa Heritage Trail. See you there! 🏰

## The Smith Mound at Pineland

*About 1,000 years ago, Pineland's people began to bury their dead in a sand mound.*

The Smith Mound, a burial place for Calusa people, was built mostly from sand. It is different from the Brown's and Randell complex mounds, which are *midden-mounds* (made of discarded shells, other food remains, dirt, ashes, and charred wood). The Smith Mound was located to the east, away from the main village. We do not know about burial practices of Pineland people before about 1,000 years ago, when they began to use the Smith Mound.

The Smith Mound was once about 300 feet long and 30 feet high. It was surrounded by a shallow lake. A canal led into the lake. On the mound, a spiral pathway led to the top. Over 100 years ago, half of the burial mound was torn down and the sand used to fill part of the lake and canal. Captain John Smith owned the other half of the mound, and would not allow it to be destroyed. Thanks to Captain Smith, the eastern half of the mound still stands today. In his honor, we call it the "Smith Mound."



Standing next to the Smith Mound at Pineland, Bill Marquardt answers questions from visitors. (Photo by V. Amsler.)





# A Tour of the Islands of Pine Island Sound: A Geological, Archaeological, and Historical Perspective

## Part 7: Cayo Costa History

by Denége Patterson

**Accessible only by boat,** Cayo Costa comes alive when happy people step into the sunshine with their colorful bags laden with supplies for “a day at the beach.” The island is a paradise of natural wonders supported by modern conveniences and well-maintained hiking trails.

Today’s experience of Cayo Costa is far from the lifestyle of the early historic fishing families. They built palm-thatched huts without windows so they could keep mosquitoes out. They dug shallow wells for drinking and washing. Their boats had no motors, just sails and oars. Their fishing techniques were based on ancient traditions using stop nets, seine nets, dip nets, and gill nets just like their predecessors, the Calusa.

Today Cayo Costa has nine recorded

“historic sites,” including the remnants of two fishing villages, a homestead, three U.S. military and maritime-related sites, and two cemeteries. In 1959, the federal government turned over its 640-acre reservation to Lee County for a park. In 1976, this parcel was incorporated into the 2416-acre Cayo Costa State Park.

The Quarantine Trail leads northward to the site of the U.S. Quarantine Station, first built on neighboring Gasparilla Island in the late 1800s and then moved to Cayo Costa in 1904. Consisting of a long dock with a roofed structure, and with outbuildings on the north shore, it remained there until destroyed by the hurricane of 1926. During the era of Yellow Fever, it served international ships loading phosphate at Boca Grande. Local pilots such as Captain Nelson and Captain Johnson guided each ship into port. Ships at anchor flew a yellow quarantine flag and waited for a doctor to examine everyone on board. Ships stayed several weeks.

**Palm thatch hut on central Cayo Costa, circa 1900.**

(Photo courtesy of Richard Coleman.)



Denége

Dr. Perry McAdow occasionally converted the storeroom of the quarantine station into a dance floor for visiting dignitaries and ship’s officers. During epidemics, doctors not only treated the sick, they also arranged for burial of the dead in mass graves on Cayo Costa.

According to Charles Foster’s *The Benevolent Dane*, the pilot Captain Peter Nelson (1839-1919) was born in Denmark and arrived in Florida around 1865. He named the town of Alva using the Danish word for its beautiful white flowers. He set aside plots of land for the school, park, church, and library. He served on the earliest Board of Lee County Commissioners until he was seen drinking in public. He resigned and moved to Cayo Costa. There he served as a teacher, postmaster, ship’s pilot, and government employee.

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## New and Renewing Friends of the RRC

August 16, 2013 through October 31, 2013

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

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Dear Friends

We would like to take a moment to say thank you for your loyalty and support of the Randell Research Center. Your gifts make a tangible difference to our mission to learn and teach the archaeology, history, and ecology of Southwest Florida.

As 2013 comes to a close, please keep in mind year-end giving. If you wish to support the Randell Research Center, please make your check payable to UF Foundation, indicate the Friends of the Randell Research Center fund #007073 and send to: PO Box 14425, Gainesville Florida 32604. Envelopes must be postmarked December 31, 2013 to qualify as a 2013 deduction.

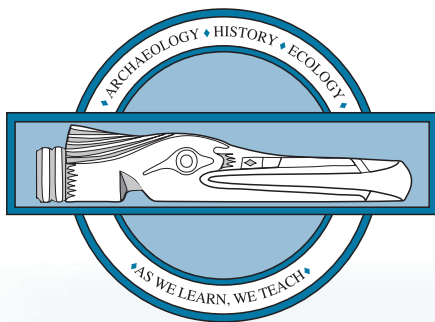
If you prefer to make a gift using your credit card, please go to <https://www.uff.ufl.edu> click on "giving," "make a gift online," choose a unit "Florida Museum of Natural History," and finally, "Friends of Randell Research Center." Online gifts eligible for 2013 tax deductions will be accepted through December 31, 2013.

Gifts of real estate, such as residences, vacation homes, commercial property, farms, and parcels of land are a generous and valued way to show your appreciation. For more information on supporting the Randell Research Center, including creating an endowment which will last in perpetuity or a future gift in the form of a bequest, please don't hesitate to contact me.

We truly appreciate your support of the Randell Research Center. Thank you for all you do for us and best wishes for a wonderful holiday season.

Sincerely,

Marie Emmerson  
Director of Development  
Florida Museum of Natural History  
[emmerson@ufl.edu](mailto:emmerson@ufl.edu)  
352-256-9614



## Friends of the Randell Research Center

Pineland, Florida • December 2013  
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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.

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:***

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Photo by A. Bell



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Portrait of the Taribio Padilla clan, circa 1901. (Photo courtesy of Perry Padilla.)

Robert F. Edic in *Fisherfolk of Charlotte Harbor, Florida* recorded Esperanza Woodring, who in the early 1900s attended the one-room school-house on Cayo Costa. "Well, the first teacher that I had was named Captain Peter Nelson. Now, I know you have heard of him. He was a great old guy, I will tell you." Today, visitors to the Cemetery Trail see Nelson's prominent headstone, etched with the words, "After life's artful fever/ He sleeps well."

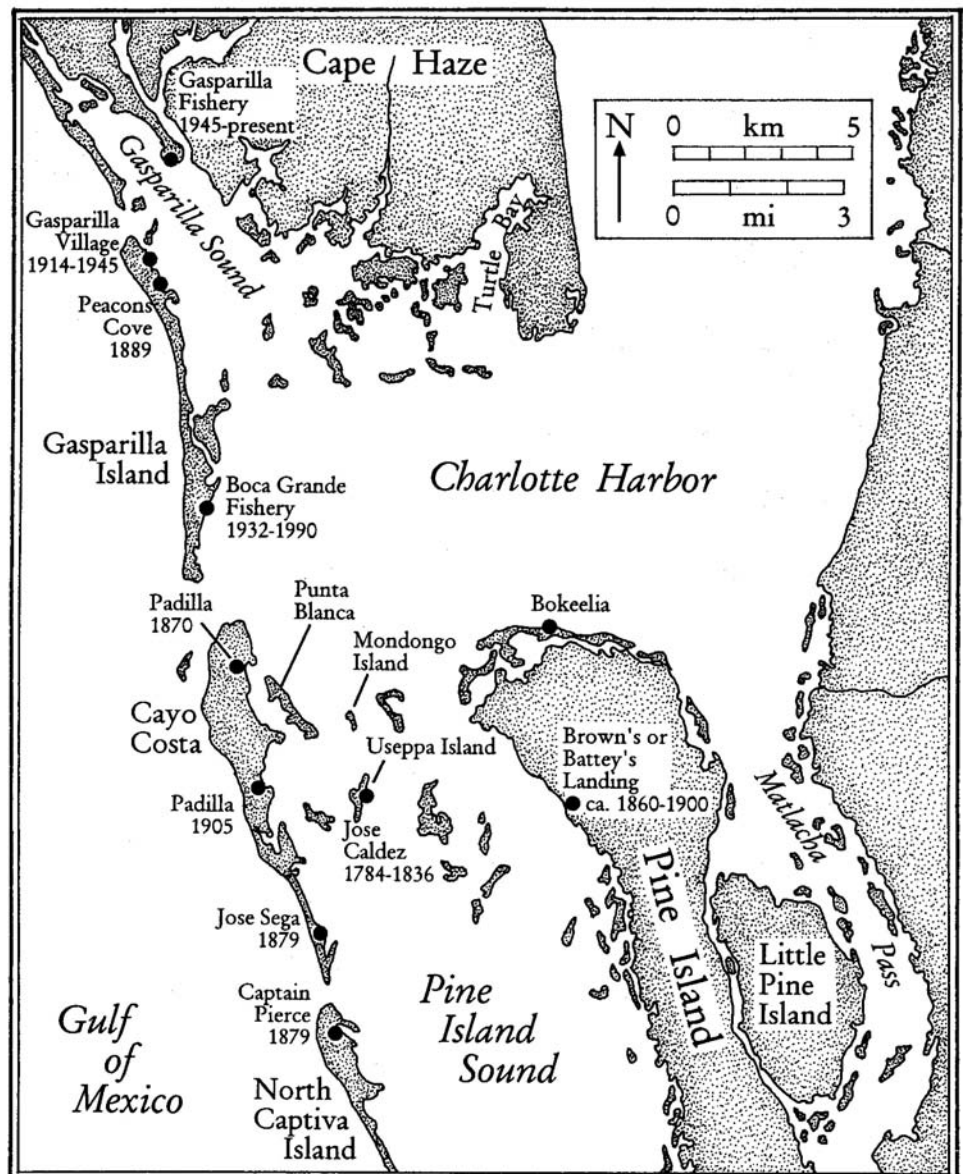
Archaeologists have discovered that an estuary-based fishing culture thrived in this region almost six thousand years ago. The well-known Calusa, who lived in the area when Europeans first arrived, continued this ancient fishing tradition. These cultures caught all of the species mentioned by today's fisherfolk, and prospered within these great fishing grounds for thousands of years.

During the Cuban Fishing Era (1687-1835), fishing ranchos existed on Cayo Costa. Cuban fishing captains hired Native Americans as fishing guides. At first the Cubans used only hook and line for grouper in deeper water. Then they adapted to the local net-fishing techniques. A very lucrative mullet fishery emerged. According to William Marquardt in *The Archaeology of Useppa Island*, by the late 1700s more than 30 Spanish vessels based in Cuba were sailing regularly to southwest Florida to fish and trade.

Many different races worked as deck

hands on Cuban vessels. Pine Island Sound became a meeting ground for divergent cultures, all practicing traditional Calusa fishing methods. According to Edic, the eighteenth century workers were coastal Indian people, Spanish-mission Indians fleeing the British in northern Florida, escaping slaves from the American South, and various "mixed-blood natives living a nomadic existence."

In 1814 Indian people from present-day Alabama fled into Spanish Florida after a major defeat by Andrew Jackson. These newly homeless people joined others whom the Spanish called



Historic fishing operations of Pine Island Sound (Drawing by Merald Clark.)





*cimmarónes*, meaning “wild, untamed,” who by mispronunciation (the Indians had no “r” sound in their language) became known as Seminoles. During the 1800s war was declared upon the Seminoles three times, but they were never defeated.

In 1821 Florida became a territory of the United States. The 1830 Indian Removal Act forced Spanish Indians, Seminoles, and other Native Americans to immigrate to reservations west of the Mississippi. Noncitizen Cuban commercial fishermen were ordered to leave. Indian wives and children (some baptized in cathedrals in Cuba) were removed to reservations while their husbands and fathers returned to Cuba. One Cuban man protested that he lost three wives to the Indian Removal Act.

Resistance was heavy but the military prevailed in the environs of Pine Island Sound. A Naval Lieutenant wrote in 1836: “All the old Ranchos were visited, but they had been abandoned and for the most part destroyed during the last season.” By 1848, a military reservation on the northern end of Cayo Costa was concerned with the smuggling of liquor and arms to the Seminoles.

According to Marquardt, a map based on survey data of 1859 showed Cayo Costa’s north-central part with two large buildings and two small buildings known collectively as the “Burroughs Ranch.” During the Civil War (1861–1865), a Union blockade at the northern end of Cayo Costa sealed off Charlotte Harbor. The military reservation on Cayo Costa continued.

After the war, Hispanics returned and fishing ranchos were again established. A survey by the Smithsonian Institution in 1879 located the Padilla *rancho* on the northeast side of Cayo Costa facing Pelican Bay. The José Segá fishing *rancho* was situated along the south-east bay.

These early modern fisherfolk caught mullet, spotted sea trout, redfish, pinfish, pigfish, pompano, oysters, clams, and scallops. In some cases they netted so many fish their nets broke. Their fishnet repair kits resembled those found in Calusa artifact assemblages, including handmade wooden shuttles



Boca Grande Quarantine Station. (Courtesy Boca Grande Historical Society.)

for pulling line through, and net mesh gauges of three sizes: small, medium, and large (the gauge is used as a measure for how far apart to tie the knots). The sizes of the net mesh gauges matched those of the Calusa to within millimeters.

The early Burroughs Ranch grew to twenty fishing families with a school established in 1887, a post office at the Quarantine Station in 1904, and a grocery store. During that era, several families, including the Padilla, Coleman, Spearing, Woodring, and Darna families, resided on Cayo Costa. According to the US Commission of Fish and Fisheries, in 1870 “the Captiva fish ranch...produced 660,000 pounds of salted mullet and 49,500 pounds of dried mullet roe. On south Cayo Costa, José Segá, the head ranchero along with 26 fishermen, yielded about a quarter of that amount. Ranchero Tariva Padilla (Captain ‘Pappy’) and his crew of 23 Spanish and one American produced about the same.”

The fishing family patriarch, Toribio “Tariva” Padilla (1832–1910) was born in the Canary Islands, immigrated to the Florida Keys, became a U.S. Citizen in 1862, and married Lainey (Juanita Parez), a Mexican woman, in 1867 in Key West. According to his great-granddaughter, Virginia Padilla Morton, his first name was spelled Toribio on his birth certificate, his marriage certificate, and citizenship papers.

The Padillas in 1901 were forcibly removed from the military reservation

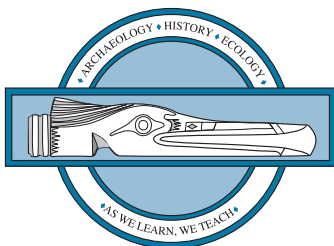
for allegedly trading Cuban goods such as tobacco and *aguardiente* (a distilled liquor). By 1905 they moved to a bay on the central east side of the island. Fisherfolk call it Tariva Bayou. Their great-grandson Richard Coleman explained to Edic, “He did not do the fishing himself. He was a boss. He would see that [the fish] were split and salted, and all of that...He would trade the fish in Cuba for liquor and would get a little money. He would bring that back over here.”

In the early to mid-1900s the fishing families attended school and delivered their fish to the ice house at Punta Blanca. This island, along with the 1922 “Fish Houses of Pine Island Sound,” will be discussed in the next part of this series. 🏠

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Ninth Annual Calusa Heritage Day**  
**March 15, 2014**  
**Calusa Heritage Trail**  
**13810 Waterfront Drive, Pineland**  
**Featured speaker:**  
**Dr. Victor Thompson**  
**(University of Georgia)**







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(left) Florida Master Naturalist students take a break as Cindy Bear prepares for the next lecture in the RRC classroom. (Photo by K. Kingle.)

(below) Florida Master Naturalist students at Little Pine Island listen as Cindy Bear describes the salt marsh community they are about to see. (Photo by K. Kingle.)



## Fall Activities at the RRC



RRC volunteer Winnie Roberts welcomes visitors at the Calusa Blueway reception on November 1. (Photo by A. Marcus.)

### RRC News

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