

Friends of the Randell Research Center

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State Gives \$300,000 for Site Interpretation *New Grant to Pay for Interpreted Walking Trails at Pineland*

by Bill Marquardt

The Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources has granted \$300,000 to the Randell Research Center for its next phase of site development. In-hand grant funds are paying for a teaching pavilion, public restrooms, and a parking area, to be completed in 2003. The new grant will pay for design and construction of an educational walking trail that will wind through the site. Included will be pedestrian bridges, an observation tower, and attractive, durable signs that will inform visitors about southwest Florida's archaeology, history, and environment.

The new grant will complete the current phase of site development, furthering the RRC's commitment to public education. Already a destination for school children and guided tours, the RRC will soon be a permanent educational "park" open on a regular basis.



New facilities will improve public access and interpretation at Pineland (1992 photo by Karen Walker).

Our experience has shown that local residents as well as newcomers are fascinated by Florida's history and environment and are eager to learn about them. The RRC will offer

exciting programs for the visitor who stays just a few days as well as meaningful activities (such as environmental monitoring and supervised archaeological excavations) for longer-term visitors, part-year residents, and full-time residents.

By walking through the Randell Research Center at Pineland, visitors will not only experience the 1,500-year history of the ancient Calusa Indians, but also come to understand the changes that have taken place in the past 500 years as first one, then another group of people has made southwest Florida home. We hope that our visitors, whether tourists or residents, will pause to consider their own roles in Florida's future. Only wise and informed human action will ensure that the Florida of tomorrow is as bountiful as that of today.



Stuart Brown

The Value of Endowment

by Stuart Brown

Fund raising is a funny thing. It is often possible to find funding for a specific program like bringing school children out for a day or for

building a structure in which we can keep those same children dry in a thunderstorm. Yet, rare is the donor who gets excited about paying our electric bill or springing for toner for the copier. Let's face it, electricity and toner and many other necessary but mundane things are very real needs in any organization, but they lack the allure to make them good targets for a donation.

Recently, the Maple Hill Foundation did a fine thing. The Maple Hill folks offered us more than money, they offered us an opportunity. Their gift has provided the RRC with sufficient operating funds to pay the light bill and buy toner for three years. But they made the continuation of this gift contingent upon our raising an endowment that will allow us to buy our own electricity and toner from now on.

No nonprofit organization can provide consistent, quality programs without stable funding to cover these humbler needs. If we place the RRC in the position of having to beg year in and year out for funds simply to operate, we surrender many valuable hours – hours better spent sharing the process of scientific discovery with the public.

Over the year that I have served as Chair of the RRC Advisory Board I've learned a great deal. I've learned that there is tremendous enthusiasm in this community for the work we do at the Randell Center, that Archaeology fires the imaginations of people from every walk of life, and that the best way to get people to help is to ask.

So, in that spirit, I would like to ask for your help. Please consider making a gift to the endowment fund. No, it isn't the most glamorous way to help but it is by far the most lasting way. Lasting, because your endowment gift will be invested and produce income forever. By making a gift to the endowment fund now, you will help insure not only world class archaeological research in Southwest Florida but also the long term survival of the RRC itself.

Report of the Coordinator

by John Worth

The summer rainy season has finally arrived at Pineland, and while visitors are fewer than before, the RRC is still bustling with activity. Since our March newsletter, there has been a good amount of progress at the Pineland site, including a remarkable transformation of the summit of Randell Mound. Beginning in April and finishing in May, RRC staff and volunteers were able to complete and backfill salvage excavations initiated in 2000 in some 29 footer holes dug in 1995 for a proposed home site on the mound. Under the guidance of Dr. Karen Walker, Florida Museum of Natural History zooarchaeologist and chair of the RRC Advisory Board's committee on Research and Collections, excavation units were cleaned and profiled, lined with plastic, and then backfilled to level the mound surface, making it safer for visitors and halting erosion. RRC Board member Dick Workman then donated and planted native groundcover that will eventually eliminate the need for mowing.

In addition, volunteers Gary Edwards and Dick Owens worked diligently this spring to refurbish the RRC tractor and to clear vegetation from the citrus ridge and adjacent historic shed structure. While other volunteers worked on the RRC comparative skeletal collection (see p. 4), RRC business manager Rona Stage worked with an experienced volunteer office team to streamline day-to-day affairs at our Pineland headquarters.

Regular weekend tours of the Pineland site are now docent-led, and some 400 visitors toured between March and June, including a number of local school groups. Volunteer coordinator and tour docent Lana Swearingen is working hard on training materials for prospective docents, and I would invite anyone interested to contact her directly.

And as the on-site coordinator, I've been keeping busy with everything from administration



John Worth demonstrates pottery-making to youngsters on Useppa Island (photo by Diane Maher).

to fieldwork, and I have also given a number of public presentations to many groups ranging from civic organizations to schoolchildren on Useppa Island (above). The RRC is becoming more and more visible on the Southwest Florida landscape, and this will ultimately help us achieve our educational goals. The upcoming year will see even more improvements, and we hope all our members will be able to come visit and see our progress.

RRC Volunteers Visit the Florida Museum of Natural History

by Lana Swearingen

A group of RRC volunteers recently had the opportunity to visit the Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville, as the guests of Bill Marquardt, Karen Walker, and Darcie MacMahon. The tour began with a behind-the-scenes look at the new Calusa exhibit, currently under construction. Artists and designers were busy replicating the world of the Calusa and their environment. Bill explained how the exhibit expresses the link between the past, the present, and the future.



Volunteers listen to Stacey Breheny explain the techniques of mural painting. From bottom left, Meghan McPhee, Diane Maher, Barb Thomas, and Suzanne McPhee.

The group marveled at the time, effort, and ingenuity that go into the creation of such life-like exhibits. Darcie explained the process of selecting just the right artifacts to convey the many facets of the Calusa's complex culture. The project has been many years in planning and development, and the volunteers came away with a much better understanding of how the idea for an exhibit becomes a reality.

The tour continued with stops to observe the museum staff and interns hard at work in the labs. When Karen Walker opened the doors to their comparative fish collection, we were overcome by the vast storehouse of so many different specimens.

The last stop on the tour gave us our first glimpse of some of the artifacts found by Frank Hamilton Cushing at Key Marco. Everyone agreed pictures just don't compare to seeing the genuine artifacts.

The entire group would like to express our sincere thanks to Dr. Marquardt, Dr. Walker, and Ms. MacMahon for taking the time out of their busy schedules to share their world with us. We will remember the experience as a journey into the past that will continue to enrich our lives into the future.

New Friends of the RRC as of June, 2002

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

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Susan Oates

Original Location of Tampa?

Spanish map may show Calusa name of Pineland site

by John Worth

As part of a renewed focus on Calusa ethnohistory, I have recently begun reviewing Spanish archival materials from published and unpublished sources in an effort to assemble as much information as possible about the social geography and history of the Calusa Indians. In reviewing such documents, a relatively well-known map of the Florida missions, drawn in 1683 by governmental notary Alonso Solana, has provided new clues about the Calusa heartland, and might possibly show the original name for the Pineland site. The map clearly shows the Caloosahatchee River and the Peace and Myakka Rivers to the north, as well as the westward thrust of Sanibel Island (the map shows only the eastern edge of the Gulf, without detailing all the islands inshore). In addition, it shows only two Indian towns: an unnamed "town of pagans" located right where Mound Key should be, and the "town of Tampa" situated where Pineland is located. Other historical information implies that the Calusa capital at Mound Key and another town called Tampa were among the largest and most important towns in the Calusa heartland, and that evidence combined with this



map actually fits the archaeological data quite well. Mound Key and Pineland are the two largest shell mound sites in this region, and both have archaeological evidence for Spanish-period Calusa occupation. Furthermore, since Charlotte Harbor/Pine Island Sound was originally known as the "Bahia de Tampa" (Tampa

Bay, mistakenly "relocated" north to its present location by the mid-18th century), it makes sense that the town of Tampa is the largest colonial-era site on those waters. And while early maps show that nearby Useppa Island was once called "Toampe" or "Toampa," archaeological testing on that island indicates it was abandoned by the Calusa after about A.D. 1200. At present, then, our best information makes Pineland the best candidate for the Calusa town of Tampa shown on the 1683 Solana map.

1683 map (left) by Alonso Solana showing South Florida. (Original map in Madrid.)

Closeup of Solana (above) map showing "Pueblo de Tampa" southeast of modern Boca Grande (originally the "Barra de Asapo").

Saving the Calusa Canal

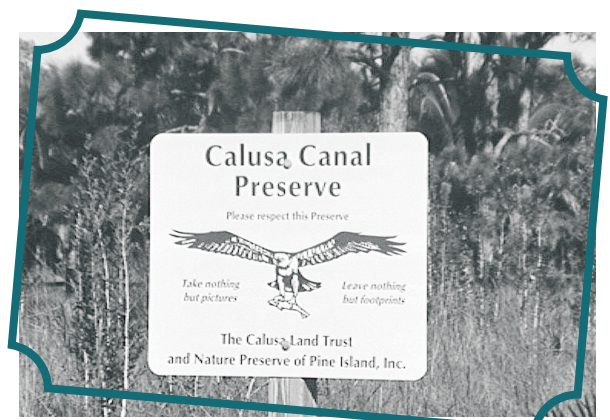
by Bud House

Following his visit in 1895, Smithsonian anthropologist Frank Cushing described a remarkable Indian canal that was 30 feet wide and 5 to 6 feet deep. Originating at Pineland, it traversed Pine Island, terminating some 2-1/2 miles away in Matlacha Pass. Archaeologists George Luer and Ryan Wheeler investigated the remnants of the canal, concluding that careful planning went into its placement and intensive effort went into its construction and maintenance. As many as eight impoundments might have made up the canal. Sufficient water in each impoundment allowed for uninterrupted canal travel.

In July, 1995, George invited Wheeler, Lee County archaeologist Annette Snapp, and Calusa Land Trust (CLT) directors Rick Moore and me to

visit a section of Pine Island that still contained evidence of the canal. Recent storms had flooded Harbor Drive, and we soon found ourselves walking through water from ankle to knee deep. The path of the ancient canal became clear as it traversed the meadow to the east. We determined that six unoccupied lots on Meadow Lane were the logical parcels for acquisition.

So far the CLT has purchased two parcels and is working with the Archaeological Conservancy to obtain a third. In the meantime the CLT has been eliminating invasive exotic plants from the three lots. Native pine trees, both longleaf and slash, have started to grow. There are at least three gopher tortoise burrows, with at least



Sign at the new Calusa Canal Preserve (photo by Bud House).

one on each parcel. We will continue to seek other locations with evidence of the old canal for possible future purchases. The CLT invites any interested parties to visit these sites and to participate in the project. For more information, contact Bud House in care of the Calusa Land Trust at PO Box 216, Bokeelia, FL 33922.

Skeletons in Our Closet

by Karen Walker

It's often an odiferous endeavor, but the RRC's stalwart volunteers are up for the challenge. Skeletons of modern-day Pine Island Sound fishes are being cleaned and cataloged by the RRC's Zooarchaeology Team. The skeletons are the core of the Center's growing collection of "comparative specimens" being housed at the headquarters building. By comparing modern bones to fish bones that were discarded hundreds of years ago by the Calusa Indians, zooarchaeologists can identify the ancient fishes. Scientific inferences can then be made about Calusa diet and fishing techniques, and even environmental changes! The RRC is indebted to the Florida Wildlife Commission's Bill Curnow (Punta Gorda), FWC/RRC volunteer Bill Pretsch, and FLMNH's Scott Mitchell for securing many fishes

for the collection; also to John and Christopher Worth, Len and Ruth Walker, and Betty Anholt.



Zooarchaeology Team members (above) show off their recently prepared Crevalle Jack skeleton. Left to right are Julie Hancock, Diane Maher, Betty Anholt, Pat Blackwell, and Debbie Cundall (photo by Karen Walker).



Barb Thomas, Debbie Cundall, and Lana Swearingen (left) check on progress of burrfish carcass (photo by Diane Maher).

RRC
news

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