

Friends of the Randell Research Center

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Randell Center Receives Reforestation Grant *Native Trees Will Educate While Enhancing Trail Experience*

by *Bill Marquardt*

The Randell Research Center has received a grant of \$122,700 from the Division of Forestry, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, to plant more than 900 native trees at the Pineland Site. Also included are funds earmarked for removal of invasive exotic plants, such as Brazilian pepper. The grant proposal was written by John Worth and RRC Advisory Board member Rick Joyce. The planting will be supervised by Rick, a certified arborist who will donate his time to the project. We are counting on volunteers to help plant, water, and mulch, so this is your chance to get some exercise while learning about native plant cultivation. Phone the Center at 239-283-2062 to learn about this and other volunteer opportunities.

The RRC qualified for this grant because in August of 2004, the 50+ acres of land we manage suffered a direct hit from the eye-wall of Hurricane Charley, with sustained winds exceeding 150 mph and a storm surge of more than 3 feet. Tree and shrub damage was extensive, costing \$18,500 for debris removal alone, and dispersing the seeds of exotic invasive plants throughout low-lying areas of the property. The new project will involve complete removal and herbicide treatment of exotic pest species from storm-affected areas, and the planting and maintenance of a range of appropriate native trees to reforest these areas as well as other open areas of the site. The plan is to create "ecological restoration islands" of 40-50 trees in public areas, restoring shade to the recently opened 3,700-foot-long Calusa Heritage Trail.

Many people in southwest Florida have learned firsthand that native trees often stand up to high winds better than such exotics as the ubiquitous Australian pines. Native trees, which are well adapted to local soil and weather conditions, provide shade, protection from storms, and habitat for wildlife. We hope that in addition to providing much-needed shade for visitors along the Calusa Heritage Trail, the project will be a positive and visible example of reforestation and habitat restoration in a critical shoreline area of a quickly-developing coastal region in South Florida. For further reading, see *Growing Native*, by Richard W. Workman, published by the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation, Inc.



Hurricane Charley knocked over many non-native Australian pine trees, such as this one (top photo) on Waterfront Drive in Pineland. In contrast, the native gumbo-limbo trees (bottom photo) lost their leaves and some of their limbs, but most were not toppled over and are coming back (photos by B. Marquardt).

In Brief

by Bill Marquardt

Two Presentations at SEAC

The Randell Research Center was well represented at the Southeastern Archaeological Conference in Columbia, South Carolina. On November 3, John Worth presented "Exploring Early Pineland: 2003-2004 Excavations at Surf Clam Ridge." Findings from our last two volunteer-assisted field seasons at Pineland have provided new information on ancient life along the shore of Pine Island Sound at about A.D. 450-500. Systematic sampling of a black sand midden that underlies a surface shell layer has revealed clues to foods eaten, artifacts used, and activities carried out next to wooden structures on the shore-ward side of the ridge's summit. The shell artifacts are made from local materials, but steatite, quartzite, and chert all point to travel to other regions or trade with people from other areas (see page 3).

On November 4, Karen Walker and Bill Marquardt displayed a poster entitled "Modeling and Presenting Sixteenth-Century Pineland." Also contributing to the poster were Merald Clark, John LoCastro, Darcie MacMahon, and John Worth. The poster featured a new map of Pineland based on excavations, interviews, aerial photographs, and the 1895-1896 descriptions and sketches of Pineland by Frank Cushing recently discovered by Phyllis Kolianos. The combination of all the different kinds of information allowed Karen and Bill to draw a new map of Pineland's probable sixteenth-century appearance. They now envision a much more complex site and a repositioned canal route. Alterations in the early twentieth century included the destruction of at least two enormous mounds. John LoCastro of Synergy Design Group digitized the new map and modeled it in three dimensions, helping us to select views to be transformed into scenes of sixteenth-century Pineland life. These were drawn by Merald Clark and incorporated into outdoor signs for the Randell Research Center's Calusa Heritage Trail, now open to the public.

Classroom Permit Received

The last hurdle has been cleared for construction of the RRC's classroom and bookshop at the Pineland site. A building permit has been granted by the University of Florida's Facilities Planning and Construction division, and the builders are now cleared to begin construction. If all goes well, the building will be completed by next spring. The permit followed submission of revised and updated plans compiled by RRC Advisory Board member Jeff Mudgett of Parker-Mudgett-Smith, Architects. Jeff donated his services to the RRC. Thanks again, Jeff, for your great support.

New Project on Useppa Island

UCLA graduate student John Dietler, who did archaeological excavations on Buck Key last year for his dissertation research, will continue his work in February and March, this time on Useppa Island. John is interested in the relationship between craft specialization and the emergence of political complexity. Because wooden items (e.g., canoes, containers) and

shell tools were essential components of prehistoric economies in southwest Florida, John thinks that elites may have organized craft specialists using a coordinated system of production, distribution, and consumption, and that this may have happened between A.D. 600 and 1000. An area of Useppa Island first investigated by Karen Walker in 1998 has deposits of the right time period (about 1,000 to 1,400 years ago), and it has yielded shell artifacts in abundance. With volunteer assistance, John will open up an excavation in the southeastern part of the island and try to locate and expose evidence for shell-tool manufacturing. The project will be sponsored jointly by the Useppa Island Club, the Useppa Island Historical Society, and the Randell Research Center.

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To be planted at the Pineland site in the coming months:

TREES

cat claw (*Pithecellobium unguis-cati*)
green buttonwood (*Conocarpus erectus*)
gumbo limbo (*Bursera simaruba*)
Jamaica dogwood (*Piscidia piscipula*)
mastic (*Mastichodendron foetidissimum*)
pigeon plum (*Coccoloba diversifolia*)
sabal or cabbage palm (*Sabal palmetto*)
satinleaf (*Chrysophyllum oliviforme*)
seagrape (*Coccoloba uvifera*)
strangler fig (*Ficus aurea*)
wild tamarind (*Lysiloma bahamensis*)
West Indian mahogany (*Swietenia mahagoni*)

SMALL TREES

cherokee bean/coral bean (*Erythrina herbacea*)
cocoplum (*Chrysobalanus icaco*)
firebush (*Hamelia patens*)
Florida mayten (*Maytenus phyllanthoides*)
Jamaica caper (*Capparis cynophallophora*)
joewood (*Jacquinia keyensis*)
marlberry (*Ardisia escallonioides*)
myrsine (*Rapanea punctata*)
red stopper (*Eugenia rhombea*)
Simpson's stopper (*Myrcianthes fragrans*)
spicewood (*Calyptanthes pallens*)
Spanish stopper (*Eugenia myrtooides*)
white indigo berry (*Randia aculeata*)
white stopper (*Eugenia axillaris*)
wild coffee (*Psychotria nervosa*)
wild lime (*Zanthoxylum fagara*)
wild olive (*Forestiera segregata*)

List prepared by Rick Joyce, Certified Arborist



John Dietler, pictured here on Buck Key in 2005, will continue his dissertation research on Useppa Island in 2006 (photo by J. Mathison).

Extra-local Stone at Surf Clam Ridge

by John Worth

Despite the fact that the Pineland site is situated well south of the natural geologic range of stone suitable for making tools and other implements, shell tools were not the only items of this sort recovered during recent field-work at Surf Clam Ridge. During 2003-2004 excavations in Pineland's southern pasture, several examples of stone from well outside of southwest Florida were found, indicating not just casual down-the-line trade from nearby Florida groups, but also much longer distance exchange. Flakes and tools made from chert (a flint-like rock) were found in several places, including an elongated hearth-like feature sandwiched in the middle of a shell midden dating to between ca. A.D. 500 and 600. A charred and exploded Sarasota-type spearpoint fragment was found within this hearth. It and other chert artifacts must have originated no closer than 100 miles from Pineland, because chert occurs naturally no farther south than the Hillsborough River region just north of present-day Tampa Bay.

This same hearth layer produced a hand-sized water-worn cobble of quartzite, possibly used as a hammerstone, as well as two fragments of a pipe bowl carved from steatite, or soapstone. While the quartzite cobble might have been picked up from the Florida panhandle within a riverbed that ultimately brought it from its source in the middle-Georgia Piedmont region, the steatite has a much more restricted distribution, with the nearest major quarry located near Atlanta some 500 miles away.

The later mounds at Pineland have previously produced evidence for long-distance trade in the form of chunks of galena (lead ore) traced to Missouri, but the steatite pipe from Surf Clam Ridge dates to Pineland's pre-mound occupation, about 1500 years ago. This places it within the era of the Hopewell culture, a pan-eastern North America interaction network that was characterized by long-distance trade in exotic materials, including steatite.

(Right) Stemmed spearpoint fragment from hearth (photo by J. Worth).

(Below) Steatite pipe fragments, exterior left, interior right (photo by J. Worth).



The possible platform pipe, carved from steatite and engraved with at least one circular design (see exterior surface, upper right quadrant), may well indicate that Pineland's 6th-century A.D. inhabitants were on the far southern margin of a far-flung trade network that linked local societies across much of the eastern United States.

New and Renewing Friends of the RRC from September 2, 2005 through November 22, 2005

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

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In Brief continued

by Bill Marquardt

Wilma a Near Miss

Hurricane Wilma entered Florida to the south of us, but Pineland was once again lashed by hurricane-force winds on October 24. Although the RRC headquarters survived thanks in part to recent siding repairs after 2004's Hurricane Charley, the entire staff and volunteers spent three days picking up branches and other debris, including some from fallen strangler figs and gumbo limbo trees on Brown's Mound.



Jennifer Jennings and Craig Timbes clear debris of strangler fig from Brown's Mound (photo by John Worth).



RRC staff and volunteers pose with three days of debris hauled from Pineland site (Back row: John Worth, Jennifer Jennings, Craig Timbes, Terry Pierce; Front row: Henry Worth, Christopher Worth; (photo by Scott Jennings).

Gill House Repairs

Repairs are underway at the RRC headquarters building at the Gill House, funded in part by a small grant from the Lee County Historic Preservation Board as well as a number of private donations from RRC supporters and friends. Exterior siding damage has already been repaired, along with the stairwell and rooftop handrail on the garage, and interior work will be implemented over the next few months.

Volunteers Active

Volunteers have continued to participate in lab work relative to the 2003-2004 Surf Clam Ridge excavations, and two docent/greeter

training sessions have recently been held for new and returning volunteers. The RRC also participated in several recent local public events, including Ding Darling Days and Matlacha Madness, when the northern half of the Great Calusa Blueway was inaugurated, featuring a highlighted stop at Pineland and the RRC (see map at <http://www.greatcalusablueway.com/map/>).

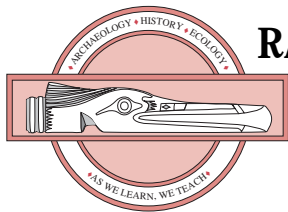
Calusa Heritage Day

Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 18, when the RRC will sponsor Calusa Heritage Day at the Pineland site. More details to follow.

RRC
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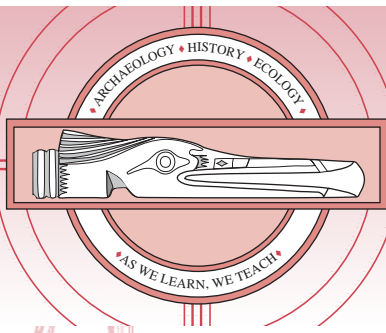
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Friends of the Randell Research Center

Pineland, Florida • December, 2005
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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,

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

Please check the membership level you prefer, and send this form, along with your check payable to Friends of the Randell Research Center, to:

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by Darcie A. MacMahon and William H. Marquardt
U. Press of Florida, hardcover \$39.95

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edited by William H. Marquardt; Monograph 1, softcover \$25.00

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