

# Friends of the Randell Research Center

Vol. 5, No. 3

September 2006

## RRC Hires Public Archaeologist

### *FPAN Center at Pineland Gearing Up*

*by John Worth, Assistant Director*

**Following a lengthy national search,** we are pleased to announce that we have hired a full-time public archaeologist for the new Pineland charter regional center within the statewide Florida Public Archaeology Network (FPAN). South Carolina native Kara Bridgman Sweeney, presently a doctoral candidate at the University of Florida, joins us from her most recent work as an anthropology instructor at Kennesaw State University in Atlanta, Georgia (see page 2). Although she has specialized in analysis of stone artifacts, Kara is eager to explore social approaches to archaeology and technology as they relate to Southwest Florida's rich archaeological record.

Kara will join the RRC team as the primary outreach specialist serving the five-county area of the new charter FPAN center. Not only will she be charged with bringing archaeology to the public across Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, and Lee counties, she will also act as

a local public archaeology liaison for both the primary FPAN center in Pensacola as well as the State Archaeologist's office with the Division of Historical Resources in Tallahassee. In this role, she will interact with local governments, agencies, institutions, and other organizations not only to promote understanding of and appreciation for archaeology, but also to advise and assist those groups in local preservation and stewardship efforts. In addition, as the broader statewide FPAN network evolves and expands over the course of the next months and years, Kara and the rest of the RRC will be working alongside a diverse team of public archaeology specialists across the state, contributing to and learning from the other seven regional centers within the network.

The new and expanded role of the RRC within FPAN will build upon and enhance our core activities at the Pineland archaeological site, managing and interpreting the site, relating its remarkable human and environmental history to the public through the Calusa Heritage Trail, and continuing to conduct research on a variety of fronts in association with the many scientists at the Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville.



FLORIDA PUBLIC  
ARCHAEOLOGY  
NETWORK

The new FPAN logo features a stylized sun, emblem of Florida and of FPAN's mission to enlighten the state's citizens and visitors about the importance of archaeology.

Kara Bridgman Sweeney (right) at the Pineland site with Bill Marquardt (left) and Karen Walker (Photo by W. Lees).



## Kara Bridgman Sweeney

### *A Closer Look*

by John Worth,  
Assistant Director

Kara Bridgman Sweeney at the Topper site in South Carolina (Photo by D. Miller).

**Kara Bridgman Sweeney** has been employed as an archaeologist in public, private, and academic sectors for the past twelve years. She has worked throughout the southeastern U.S. and also has done some studies abroad in Ireland and Ethiopia. She is especially interested in studying people, past and present, who can meet their daily needs without reliance on agriculture, and in the ways they design and organize their tools.

In 1993, while undertaking her studies of anthropology and archaeology at the University of South Carolina in Columbia (B.A. 1995), Kara served as a lab director and research assistant for various archaeological projects conducted by the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology

(SCIAA). Years later, while a graduate student at the University of Florida, she coordinated more than 100 volunteers at the ancient Topper site in South Carolina, assisting Dr. Albert Goodyear of SCIAA.

Kara attended the National University of Ireland in Cork in 1996, where she worked with Mesolithic-period artifact collections. Upon completing her M.A. degree in archaeology in 1999, Kara returned to the Southeast and worked for several cultural resources management companies. She has directed work at a variety of sites ranging in date from the Early Archaic period to the early twentieth century, while coordinating closely with developers, local landowners, and state officials.

In 2001, Kara began her Ph. D. coursework at the University of Florida under the direction of Dr. Ken Sassaman. Her dissertation research is focused on studying patterns of Early Archaic stone tool variation throughout the Southeast. During her time at the university, she has assisted Dr. Sassaman's work at several Archaic-period sites in South Carolina and Georgia by conducting analyses of stone tools. She later had the opportunity to join an expedition to Konso, Ethiopia, where some people still make and use stone tools. Most recently, Kara has served as a lecturer at Kennesaw State University in Georgia.

## Early African Heritage in Southwest Florida

### *Free and Enslaved Africans on Early 19th-Century Pine Island, Useppa*

by John Worth, Assistant Director

**In recent Friends newsletters**, I have explored several dimensions of the post-Calusa era here along the Southwest Florida coastline, and specifically of the long-lived Cuban fishing era (through 1836), focusing primarily on the interaction and sometimes intermarriage between immigrant Creek Indians and Spanish fishermen who lived in fishing ranchos during the early 19th century. One intriguing aspect of this era that is still only dimly understood is the presence of people of African ancestry here, both as slaves of local Cuban fishermen and as escaped former slaves from Anglo-American states to the north.

Documentary evidence suggests that very few Spanish fishermen kept African slaves at their Florida ranchos or even at their Cuban residences, but one exception was José María Caldéz, who with his wife María de Regla Gonzáles owned at least two enslaved Africans in 1824 in their hometown of Regla, Cuba (Severino, of Mandinka origin, and María del Transito, from Congo). We know from an 1836 baptism record that Caldéz freed the infant son of his slave María de los Dolores Caldéz, who was said to have been born on "Cayo Tio Zespez," the earlier name for Useppa Island here in Pine Island Sound. At the very least, this suggests Useppa may have had at least some resident African presence late in the Second Spanish Period (1783-1821).

Just to the north, the Tampa Bay region had also been home to escaped African slaves from the southern border region of the United States since at least 1812, and the members of a refugee community known as Angola near the Manatee River evidently interacted with both the Seminoles of the Florida interior and the Cuban fishing ranchos along the coast. Not long after the

1821 transfer of Florida to U.S. rule, a Lower Creek war party was ordered into Florida by General Andrew Jackson, not only destroying Angola and capturing some 300 Africans, but pushing as far south as the Cuban fishing rancho at Punta Rassa, which was plundered of some \$2,000 worth of property.

In the aftermath of this raid, surviving free Africans moved southward, taking refuge for at least a short time on Pine Island. In 1823, Florida Governor Duval reported intelligence that "a considerable number of these Slaves have established themselves on Pine Island at the mouth of the Charlotte river, & are well armed with Spanish Muskets &c, & that they refuse to permit any American to visit the Island. The Indians state that some Spaniards are with them who have several small vessels carrying from one to three Guns each & that these Negroes are employed in cutting timber on the Island, and in fishing for the Havanna market." While many or all eventually settled in the Bahamas, their short-lived Pine Island settlement may eventually be identified archaeologically, providing a unique opportunity to study this free African community, which at least briefly interacted with the Spanish-Indian communities of Southwest Florida.

A multidisciplinary team has recently inaugurated a directed search for the Angola community along the Manatee River; this project is detailed at [www.lookingforangola.com](http://www.lookingforangola.com)

# Teaching Pavilion Finished

## Renovations Begin on Gill House

by Bill Marquardt, Director

**Our teaching pavilion** on Waterfront Drive is finally finished.

We broke ground for the pavilion, classroom, and book/gift shop on April 3, 2003, following over a year of site preparation and archaeological research at the building site. Major gifts and donated services got us off to a good start, and within a year the first phase was done – the rest rooms, the deck, and the pilings for the classroom. After additional gifts and state matching funds were received, we were able to resume construction in October, 2005, finally seeing completion of the structure in July, 2006.

Our next task is to furnish and equip the classroom and shop. We will have a built-in presentation board and screen on the west wall of the classroom, along with a podium with sound system. On the south wall will be two permanent plaques, one acknowledging major contributors of money and services, along with major gifts to our endowment fund. The other plaque will list current annual supporters of the Randell Research Center at the Sponsor level and above. Five dozen chairs have been ordered



The new RRC classroom (above), viewed from the southeast. The inclined walkway in the foreground allows easy access to or from the Calusa Heritage Trail. (Photo by J. Worth.)



View of the deck and doors to the book shop (left) and classroom (right). (Photo by J. Worth.)

for seating during public lectures and programs. The chairs can be removed and stacked in a nearby storage room when not in use, allowing us to configure the room for small conferences or meetings as well as receptions. The air-conditioned shop will have displays of books and gifts, and will double as an information center for visitors.

*continued on page 4*

## New and Renewing Friends of the RRC from May 21, 2006 through August 15, 2006

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

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Patty Jo Watson

## Teaching Pavillion *continued from page 3*

Meanwhile, with repair funds and all permits finally in hand, our RRC staff has moved into temporary quarters in a construction trailer as we begin renovations to the historic Gill House, our RRC office and lab building. Some repair costs will be reimbursed by FEMA due to their being necessitated by hurricane damage. Other renovations, such as a new heating and air conditioning system and electrical wiring, will make the house fundamentally safer and more pleasant for our staff and visitors. Finally, thanks to grant support from the Lee County Historic Preservation Board, we also plan to restore the historic wood floors, walls, and ceilings to resemble their 1920s appearance.

Getting the Gill House renovations finished promptly is important for two reasons. We want to be ready for the main visitation season that begins in the winter, but we also need to provide adequate space for our new public archaeology program. Kara Bridgman Sweeney will eventually have a dedicated office in the Gill House, but right now she is out in the trailer with everyone else.

Finishing the Gill House renovations and opening the RRC classroom and shop this fall will finally complete the building project we began over five years ago. All Friends of the RRC will receive a special invitation to an open-house celebration and dedication of the classroom, to be held this fall. In the meantime, please come and visit us anytime, and follow our progress. Without the interest and support of our RRC Friends, none of this would have been possible, and we are profoundly grateful for your support.

# Wet Season Arrives at Pineland

by Craig Timbes, Operations Manager

**Hello friends.** The last time I wrote I asked where the rain was. Now I know. The summer rain pattern is in full effect here at the site. You can tell by the lush green aura that surrounds you as you enter the burgeoning canopy at the base of Brown's Mound and as it slowly envelops you while you climb the path to the summit of the mound, arriving at a view that tells you that the site is recovering steadfastly in this small respite of strong summer tropical systems (I'm NOT going to say that other word).

We have actually had excellent rainfall this season, filling our canals and ponds, adding to the ambience of the trail and replenishing our

fresh water supply in and around Cape Coral, easing our worries of inconvenient local water restrictions. Once again our ospreys provided us another glimpse into the world of their bittersweet life by producing another batch of fledglings. All but one survived this year, showing us that they refuse to give in to what can be a hostile weather environment. The trail is doing wonderfully and when we plant more than nine hundred trees as a part of our ongoing Division of Forestry grant, a whole new world of trails and canopies will emerge, restoring and preserving a little piece of paradise. 'Til next time.

**Erratum:** In the article welcoming Dave Hurst to our staff in our most recent issue, we quoted him as saying that the "dinosaur footprints...were imprinted towards the end of the Carboniferous Period." The correct time is the Cretaceous Period.

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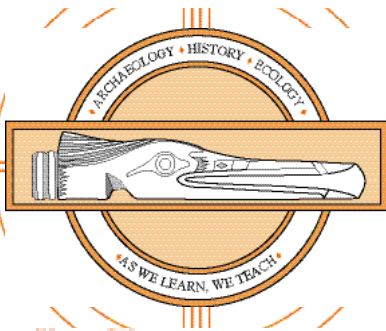
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# Friends of the Randell Research Center

Pineland, Florida • September, 2006  
Phone (239) 283-2062 E-mail: johneworth@comcast.net

Dear Friend,

You are cordially invited to join, or renew your membership in, the RRC's support society, *Friends of the Randell Research Center*. (Current members can find out when their memberships expire by looking at the address label on their newsletter.)

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.  
Assistant Director  
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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### *The Calusa and Their Legacy: South Florida People and Their Environments*

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

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### *Culture and Environment in the Domain of the Calusa*

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

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### *Sharks and Shark Products in Prehistoric South Florida*

by Laura Kozuch; Monograph 2, softcover \$5.00

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### *The Archaeology of Useppa Island*

edited by William H. Marquardt; Monograph 3, hardcover \$35.00, softcover \$20.00

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### *New Words, Old Songs: Understanding the Lives of Ancient Peoples in Southwest Florida Through Archaeology*

by Charles Blanchard, illustrated by Merald Clark  
hardcover \$19.95  
softcover \$ 9.95

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### *Fisherfolk of Charlotte Harbor, Florida*

by Robert F. Edic  
hardcover \$35.00

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## AWARD-WINNING VIDEOS FROM THE FLORIDA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

### *The Domain of the Calusa: Archaeology and Adventure in the Discovery of South Florida's Past*

VHS video \$19.95

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