

Friends of the Randell Research Center

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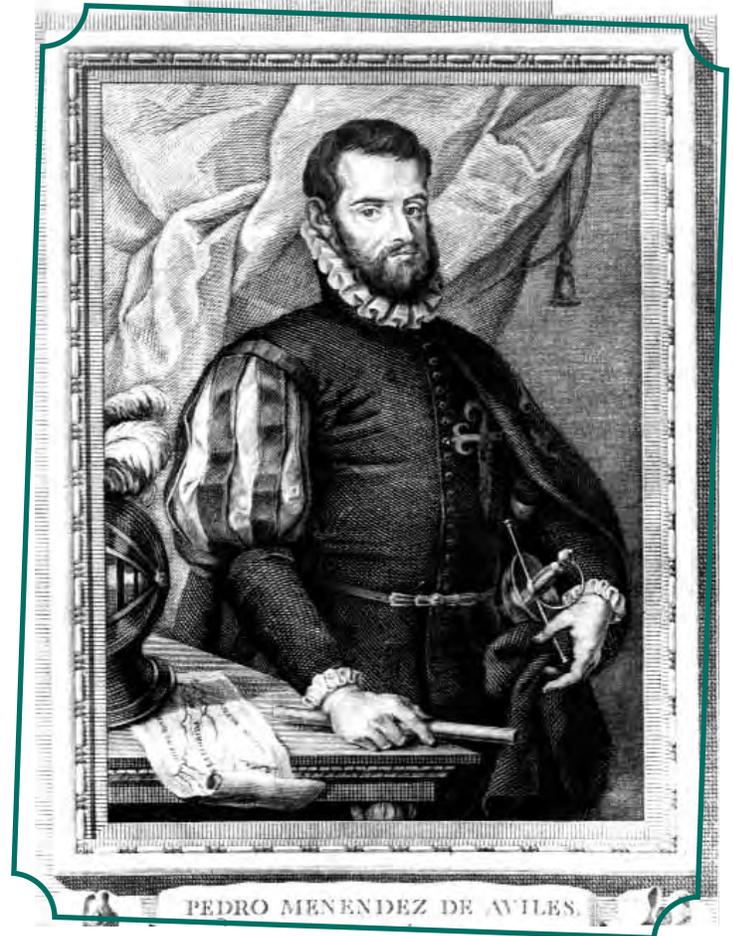
To Enslave or Not To Enslave: The Colonial Fate of South Florida's Indian People

by John Worth

Beginning early in 1566, Florida's founder Pedro Menéndez de Avilés embarked on a far-reaching strategy to bring the native peoples of South Florida into his new colony. With the colony's hub at St. Augustine (in the territory of the agricultural Timucuan people of northern Florida), and its primary maritime connection to the rest of the Spanish colonial empire in Havana, Cuba, South Florida's non-agricultural chiefdoms were sandwiched in the middle, and represented a pivotal area for Menéndez's colonial plan. Within a year, Spanish garrisons had been placed at forts in Calos (on Mound Key), Tocobaga (in Tampa Bay), and Tequesta (in Miami), and perhaps 30,000 Indian people were nominally under Spanish control.

By January, 1568, the Tocobaga and Tequesta forts had been overrun and abandoned, and by June, 1569, the last garrison had been withdrawn from Calusa territory. Jesuit missionaries were relocated to Georgia and South Carolina, and Spain relinquished control of South Florida to its natives. Only a handful of European visits are documented for this region over the next two centuries.

In January, 1573, just a year and a half before his death in Spain, Menéndez proposed a truly radical change in strategy for South Florida, one which reflected his complete loss of hope for controlling its native peoples. He lamented that "although all the Indians from the Mosquito River [Mosquito Inlet] at the beginning of the Bahama Channel down to the Martyrs [Florida Keys], and returning up to Tocobaga Bay [Tampa Bay], have been approached in great friendship, and have been given many gifts and brought many times to Havana and returned to their lands, and have rendered obedience to His Majesty, they have many times ruptured the peace, killing many Christians,



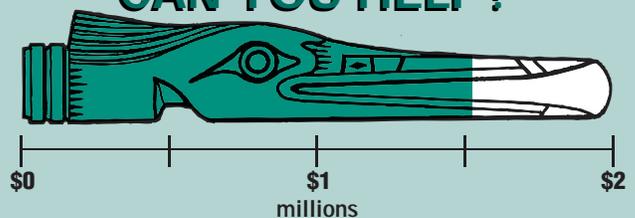
and they have been pardoned, and despite everything they have not taken advantage of this... I have established peace with them three times, and they have broken it." Describing details of these acts, Menéndez proposed that "from now on, in order to protect the service of God our lord, and of His Majesty, it is suitable... that war be waged on them with all rigor, in blood and fire, and that those who are taken alive can be sold as slaves, removing them from the land and carrying them to the neighboring islands of Cuba, Santo Domingo, and Puerto Rico, because in this manner... it will remain clean

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13 Months To Go: Can We Do It?

Since 1996, the Randell Research Center has raised a little over \$1.6 million toward its \$2 million goal. Gifts to the endowment fund are invested, and the annual income supports research, education, and site maintenance. Between now and July 31, 2008, the National Endowment for the Humanities will add \$1 for every \$4 donated to our endowment fund. The State of Florida will match with \$2. So, for another 13 months, your donation of \$100 is worth \$175. Your \$1000 will become \$1750! Because of this extraordinary matching opportunity, we need to raise not \$400,000, but only \$247,000 to reach \$2 million. **Our goal is within reach. Can you help with a special tax-deductible donation?**

**Our Goal: \$2,000,000
CAN YOU HELP?**



**RRC Endowment Gifts as of
May 15, 2007: \$1,602,142**

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and depopulated...and it will be a great example and fear for the friendly Indians who maintain and fulfill our friendship.”

Importantly, the Spanish crown denied Menéndez’s request to enslave the South Florida Indians, and instead proposed that Spanish soldiers “go into the interior and apprehend all those guilty for the murders and sacrifices that have been committed against Christians under pretense of peace and friendship” but that the rest “should be brought to the islands of Cuba, Hispaniola, and Puerto Rico and turned over to the justices of those islands so that they are distributed among the people that seem most suitable to instruct them in government, and to become Christians, or to give them places to make their villages with the government of people who will occupy them in labor, and to have regulation and catechesis.” In all cases, however, the Spanish crown commanded “that neither one nor the other should be slaves.” Although this plan was never implemented, it demonstrates staunch legal support for the prohibition of any Indian slavery in Spanish colonies after the early sixteenth century.

Finally, it is a curious coincidence that after nearly a century and a half of near-total isolation, between 1704 and 1760 several hundred South Florida Indian refugees from English-sponsored enslavement were voluntarily transported to Cuba and resettled at a location on Havana Bay just opposite downtown Havana, where they established a community and were sent missionaries, just as proposed in the official response to Menéndez’s 1573 proposal. The fierce independence and isolationism of South Florida’s native peoples may have delayed the process for many generations, but their ultimate fate was indeed resettlement in Cuba, where their descendants may yet remain to be discovered among modern populations.

Farewell to John

by Bill Marquardt



With this issue, we bid a fond farewell to John Worth, who will leave his position as RRC assistant director in June to take an academic position at the University of West Florida in Pensacola. John has served as local coordinator of our research programs and outreach services since 2001, and has made many friends in the community. The past six years have been eventful ones for the RRC, and John has been very much a part of our successes. In his new job as Director of the Historical Archaeology Program at UWF, John will be able to pursue his interests in university teaching and the mentoring of students. Although John will be elsewhere in Florida, he assures us that he will continue his research interest in southwest Florida, even as he branches out in new directions.

New and Renewing Friends of the RRC February 13, – May 15, 2007

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

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FPAN Update

by Kara Bridgman Sweeney

Since last I wrote in this space, I have continued presenting programs about archaeology to numerous audiences, including public school students as well as at libraries and other venues. Also, I have been part of several events tied to Florida Archaeology Month (celebrated annually in March). Details about upcoming events relating to my FPAN operations can be found at our new FPAN website at < www.pinelandparc.com > .

About 450 people attended Calusa Heritage Day at the Randell Research Center, where they enjoyed guided tours of the trail, lectures about various archaeological topics (by John Worth, Alex Sweeney, and me), and demonstrations of atlatl use and fieldwork (by Michael Wylde and many volunteers, ably directed by Diane Maher). Visitors also learned about environmental archaeology near Surf Clam Ridge, thanks to Donna Ruhl and Karen Walker of the Florida Museum of Natural History, and about Calusa myths and legends thanks to storyteller John Paeno. Finally, people learned basic paddling techniques from Gaea Guides and got information about the Great Calusa Blueway paddling trail. The weather was beautiful for our event, and several people reported being interested enough in what they learned that day to become involved as volunteers, or to return for more visits in the future.

I also recently participated in several events held in Fort Myers, Naples, Marco Island, Chokoloskee, and Everglades City, all celebrating local archaeology and history. Some of these events were informal (such as an artifact identification session held at Big House Coffee in Chokoloskee), while others were more structured (as at festivals held at Collier-Seminole State Park near Naples, the Museum of the Everglades in Everglades City, and the Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Naples). Working with many other stewards of area heritage, I was able to relate much of what we know about southwest Florida archaeology to numerous people at these events. One particularly exciting event was the opening of the Otter Mound property to the public. This is a small park and interpretive trail on Marco Island, containing many intact shell mounds and other cultural features (including a historic outhouse which seems rather out of place atop an obvious shell mound). This unique site, complete with native plantings, can now be preserved in perpetuity thanks to the efforts of Conservation Collier and many volunteers with the Southwest Florida Archaeological Society, directed by Jack Thompson.

I have continued to present programs about archaeology to numerous student groups in Alva, Bonita Springs, Cape Coral, Everglades City, Fort Myers, LaBelle, Lehigh Acres, Matlacha, Naples, and North Fort Myers. Additionally, I have assisted in judging numerous science and history projects throughout Collier and Lee Counties. I also have arranged to present lectures and tours to numerous groups in partnership with Lifetime Learning at Edison College in Punta Gorda. Jennifer Jennings has helped a lot in keeping many schedules straight! Obviously, our jobs involve interactions with all ages and levels of experience, and this is one reason working with FPAN and the RRC is so enjoyable. However, I must admit that some of the best rewards I have enjoyed thus far in my job have been due to the enthusiastic feedback from some of my youngest audiences. Here are some excerpts from charming thank-you notes, courtesy of area students who met me twice, for presentations and for guided site tours:

From nine-year old Hannah: "Our class enjoyed your recent visit and discussing the joys of archaeology. I especially found the information regarding Frank



The new Otter Mound Park on Marco Island. An enhanced wall composed of lightning-whelk shells can be seen in the photograph. (Photo by K. Bridgman-Sweeney.)

Cushing interesting. It must have been so amazing to live among native people [in the southwestern United States] over a century ago and to also be the first scientist at Pineland. All of the artifacts you showed us were the most interesting. I could almost imagine what it would be like to be a Native American back then...."

From ten-year old Austin: "Now I know archaeologists are studiers [sic] of the past, but they might study bones if they're related to humans from the past. The pictures of the shell mounds were cool because they used their trash for elevation. Also, the artifacts and replicas were best of all. That Marco Cat was very cool; still I think the Calusa were thinking they might evolve into cats. One thing still lingers in my mind; why didn't the shell hammers break? I hope you can answer all my questions on the field trip...."

And, my personal favorite note to date may be from **eight-year old Thomas at Caloosa Elementary in Cape Coral**, who wrote, "The field trip to the mounds was great! It was even better than eating lunch, more like 95/100 better than lunch. I wish I worked there so I could visit Calusa mounds every day." If this child can sustain his enthusiasm, Florida archaeology is in good hands!!

While schools will be out for summer break before long, several groups of campers and other young people are expected to visit the Pineland site beginning in June. Specifically, they will be learning about typical Southwest Florida artifacts, as they assist in sifting materials salvaged during construction on Brown's Complex Mound 4. This material has already produced many interesting finds. For instance, two fragments of carved bone pins and two chert projectile points (both largely complete) were recently found by sharp-eyed RRC volunteers Pat and David Townsend.

Finally, as reported elsewhere in this newsletter, John Worth has taken a new position at University of West Florida. We as a staff have begun a transition period, preparing for the arrival of a new assistant director, as well as an outreach assistant who will eventually join me in conducting the educational activities of the center. John deserves thanks for all of his work in making the Calusa Heritage Trail and the Randell Research Center so recognizable in southwest Florida, and his many contributions to area research and to the center will continue to be appreciated.

Rare Visitor Meets Unlucky Fate



Turtle skeleton being excavated: left to right, Karen Walker, Bill Marquardt, Gigi Mills.

(Photo by G. Amsler.)

On Monday, April 10, 2006 visiting archaeologist John Dietler discovered a recently killed Kemp's ridley sea turtle on the southern end of Useppa Island's eastern beach. The Kemp's ridley (*Lepidochelys kempi*) is the rarest of the world's seven sea-turtle species. With permission from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, John buried the turtle so that its skeleton could be recovered later for use in teaching and research. On March 27, 2007, Karen Walker and Bill Marquardt excavated the remains with the assistance of Useppa Islander Gigi Mills and

logistical help from Ginny Amsler and Carter and Mary Bacon. Karen and Bill transported

the skeleton back to

Gainesville, where it will be cleaned and prepared for use as a teaching specimen.

(Photo by Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation.)

The RRC expresses its gratitude to John Paeno of Calusa Ghost Tours for his recent gift of an assortment of reproduced Calusa tools for use in ongoing hands-on educational programs. The items include cabbage palm frond baskets and a platter, cabbage palm and agave fiber cording and cloth, horse conch shell horns, shark tooth knives, and a cabbage palm frond spear and dart shafts along with the clam shell scraper used to make them.



John Paeno (left) presents replicas to John Worth (center) and Michael Wylde.

RRC Welcomes Linda Heffner

by Bill Marquardt

We are pleased to welcome Linda Heffner to the RRC team in Pineland. Linda works half-time in the RRC office as fiscal assistant for the Southwest Regional Center of the Florida Public Archaeology Network.

Linda's first bookkeeping experience was back in the early 1970s: "My husband and I owned a gas station and I did the bookkeeping for the business. I thought I might like it better than learning to work on cars!" When her children were in grade school, they became interested in BMX racing, and Linda became the bookkeeper for the race track in her home town. "It was also a non-profit business and all the funds were put back into the track by way of purchasing trophies, maintaining the track, etc." Linda and her husband Jim moved to San Jose, California in 1998, where they spent six years. Linda worked in the real estate field. They moved to Pine Island in 2004.

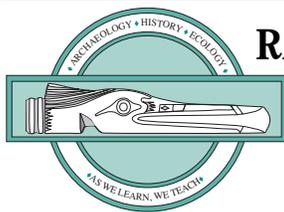


(Photo by W. Marquardt.)

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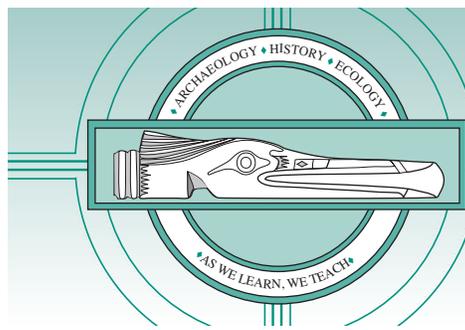
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Friends of the Randell Research Center

Pineland, Florida • June, 2007

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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,



John E. Worth, Ph.D.
Assistant Director
Randell Research Center

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