

# Friends of the Randell Research Center

Vol. 2, No. 3

September 2003

## Construction Begins on Teaching Pavilion *Design Work Begins on Interpreted Pathway*

by **Bill Marquardt**

**As reported** in our June *Friends Newsletter*, we broke ground for the RRC's new teaching pavilion and visitor welcome center in April, 2003. Now that the sale of the Randell gift property has been completed (see page 4), construction has begun in earnest. Here is what you can expect to see when the building is finished.

A parking area off Waterfront Drive will provide access to an inclined walkway leading to an activity deck, handicap-accessible public restrooms, bookshop, and classroom. The spacious deck will be used for outdoor teaching activities, craft demonstrations, and exhibits. Two 60-square-foot storage rooms, one for teaching materials used daily by docents, the other for equipment, will be located behind a 12-x-16-foot welcome center/bookshop. For lectures and programs, a 20-x-32-foot classroom will seat 50 people comfortably in an attractive open-air classroom, with exposed beams and ceiling fans. Adjustable louvers will provide flexible ventilation and light control. Built-in projection equipment will enable us to show slides, computer-assisted presentations, and videos.



Artist's rendering of RRC teaching pavilion and visitor center.

(Architecture by Parker-Mudgett-Smith, Fort Myers)

The pavilion will also serve as the starting point for an interpreted walking trail, complete with bridges and benches. The trail, funded by a grant from the Florida Division of Historical Resources, will feature museum-quality, full-color signs placed at strategic locations about the site that will interpret the archaeology, history, and environment of Pineland and southwest Florida. It will be completed by June, 2004. We have hired Synergy Design Group to design the signs, and they are already at work.

### Help Us Complete the Pavilion

Costs to build and equip the pavilion come to \$577,000. So far, we have \$408,000, so we need only \$169,000 more. Gifts in any amount are welcome, and are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by federal law. Special donor recognition opportunities are offered for gifts ranging from \$2,500 to \$100,000. For more information, contact John Worth at (239) 283-2062.

## RRC Researchers Receive National Science Foundation Funding

by **Karen Walker**

**The** National Science Foundation's Paleoclimate Program has awarded RRC researchers \$364,528 to develop and test a new method for reconstructing Southwest Florida's past climate using shells of the southern quahog clam, *Mercenaria campechiensis*. This species is the native quahog clam of Pine Island Sound. Co-directed by geochemist Donna Surge (Iowa State University) and RRC's environmental archaeologist Karen Walker, the 3-year

project will focus on climate changes over the past 2,000 years. Thanks to the local Calusa Indians who discarded many clam shells over the centuries, archaeological sites in coastal southwest Florida (such as Pineland and Useppa) provide an ample supply of shells that contain chemical signatures of past water data which may translate into paleoclimate information.



RRC researchers, volunteers and FFWCC biologists were invited by Don and Dorothy Gulnac to muck around at Demere Key in search of native, southern quahog clams. The venture was a great success. (Photo by Karen Walker)

*continued on page 2*

# Behind the Scenes in Gainesville: RRC Research & Collections Committee

Compiled by Karen Walker



Caring for Pineland's archaeobotanical collections: Collections manager Donna Ruhl curates ancient seeds and artifacts of wood and fiber excavated from wet deposits. Shown here, she holds a specimen of chipped wood that was discarded by a craftsman during the first century A.D. It is stored in water. Such collections require special care to ensure that they do not dry out and deteriorate. Donna is assisted by University of Florida student interns in her Pineland work. (Photo by Karen Walker)

## Fall 2003 Excavations at Pineland: Call for Volunteers

Volunteers are needed for archaeological excavations directed by John Worth, beginning in November, 2003. No previous experience is necessary. You will be trained on site, and work with other volunteers in excavation, sifting, and artifact processing. Positions are limited from week to week, so call (239-283-2062) or e-mail (rrcsydney@comcast.net) Sydney Cosselman at the RRC office to sign up.

Curating Pineland's artifact collections: Collections manager Scott Mitchell begins to curate pottery and artifacts of shell, bone, and stone from the excavations at the construction site of the Teaching Pavilion and parking lot. Scott is assisted by University of Florida student interns in his Pineland work.

(Photo by Karen Walker)



Pottery specialist Ann Cordell regularly uses a microscope in her studies of Pineland's Native American pottery collections to help her determine what materials the pottery was made from. She recently analyzed a small sample of pottery sherds from John Worth's excavation at Pineland's Surf Clam Ridge to help determine the age of the deposits there. Ann also researched microscopes for the RRC, choosing one for multiple uses (pottery, seeds, animal bones). Thanks to this effort by Ann and to friends Paul and Warren Miller (Maple Hill Foundation) for the funds, the RRC now has its own microscope at Pineland. (Photo by Karen Walker)



## RRC Researchers Receive National Science Foundation Funding – *continued from page 1*

The first phase of the project will calibrate the ratio of Strontium to Calcium as a proxy for water temperature and the ratio of the oxygen isotopes O-18 to O-16 as a proxy for salinity, using modern shells taken from quahog clams presently living at Demere Key. Later, the testing phase of the project will calculate these same ratios in ancient clam shells from Pineland to see if the results correlate with what is already known about Calusa-

environment relationships from other sources such as artifacts, animal bones, and shells.

The modern clams needed for the calibration work must be *M. campechiensis*, the same species collected by the Calusa. With today's farming of the nearly identical, but non-local, northern quahog, *Mercenaria mercenaria*, in Pine Island Sound, avoiding this species is a concern for the project. In part as a way to address this potential

problem, a spin-off study is already in the works by shellfish biologist Bill Arnold of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Marine Research Institute. He will determine to what degree the Demere southern quahog population is being "infiltrated" by the northern species. Results of this study should appear in the new year while results of the paleoclimate study are farther down the road.



## Staff Spotlight: RRC's Operations Manager, Sydney Cosselman

by Karen Walker

Sydney Cosselman of Bokeelia joined the RRC staff last January as operations manager and works closely with John Worth. Shown here in her Pineland office, she keeps things running smoothly, whether it is paying bills or interacting with visitors. More recently, she also has taken on the responsibility of supervising laboratory activities. She brings lots of archaeological and museum experience to her RRC position, including office, laboratory, and collections management. She is the newest member of the RRC's Research and Collections Committee. (Photo by Karen Walker)



## Net-making at the RRC

by Karen Walker

At the invitation of RRC docent Diane Maher, Steve Phanco of Island Cast Nets took time to give net-making lessons at a recent Tuesday meeting of RRC volunteers. Shown here, Steve teaches volunteer Nicole Ferris how to use a net-mesh gauge and a needle to begin a net while docent Lana Swearingin studies the technique. The lessons had everyone contemplating how the Calusa must have made their fishing nets: what materials did they use? what did their needles and gauges look like? how much time was required? (Photo by Karen Walker)

## RRC Lab Ready for Fall Dig

by Karen Walker



Staff and volunteers transformed RRC's garage into a functioning laboratory ready to receive and process artifacts and environmental archaeology samples from John Worth's upcoming fall dig. Multi-tray steel carts, perfect for many laboratory uses and shown in the far right of the photo, were donated by Steve Walker. In the foreground, volunteers Marv Hersh, Gary Edwards, Joan MacMahan, and Sally Cornell participate in an impromptu shell identification workshop. (Photo by Karen Walker)

## Red Dog, Blue Dawg Void left by red Ford truck is filled by donated blue Chevy

by Bill Marquardt

**When** I first began to work in southwest Florida in the 1980s, I had no budget and no vehicle to use. Tom Eubanks, then a graduate student in the Anthropology department, told me about a 1977 truck once used by UF archaeologist Charles Fairbanks, but abandoned since his retirement. Sure enough, the old truck was still parked at UF motor pool, with rotted tires, some dents, and a few parts missing. Amazingly, it had only 47,200 miles on it. Using money from donations, I bought 4 new tires, a new battery, and the missing parts, and the guys at motor pool got the truck running. I was told that people called the vehicle the "Red Dog." It had a dull red color, and it was easy to imagine it as a shaggy, friendly mutt, tongue hanging out, always ready for an adventure.

In 2000, seventy thousand miles later, having carried me, my colleagues, my students, and our equipment into and back from the field countless times with no complaints, the old Red Dog could run no more, leaving us "truckless" for the first



The "Red Dog" (top) at Pineland in 1995. Washing artifacts are, foreground, left to right, Fred Tyers, George Nelson, and Don Taggart; background, Don Harayda and Shirley House. (Photo by Jenna Wallace)



The "Blue Dawg" (bottom) at Pineland, August 2003 (Photo by Karen Walker)

time since 1986. We had become acutely aware of our need for a truck for site maintenance work and pulling our boat trailers, but couldn't swing the cash for a new vehicle. But in June of this year, Leonard Walker of Watkinsville, Georgia, generously donated his vintage 1983 Chevy 4-wheel-drive pick-up truck to the RRC. In great condition, it needed only tires and a side mirror to become roadworthy. In deference to our friends in Georgia who like to talk about their Georgia "Dawgs," we'll call the new RRC vehicle the "Blue Dawg." Thank you, Len, for this wonderful gift.

# Land Sale Boosts RRC Endowment Fund

## *Randell gift property sold to the State's Florida Forever Program*

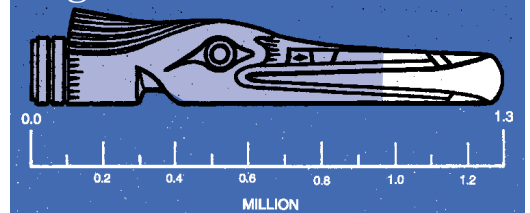
by Bill Marquardt

**On July 31,** 2003, about 50 acres of Pineland land donated by Donald and Patricia Randell was sold to the State of Florida through the "Florida Forever" program. The Florida Museum of Natural History will continue to manage the land and operate the Randell Research Center there. The land sale added a little over \$600,000 to our endowment fund. Thanks to sale of the Randell gift land, less than \$330,000 remains to be raised.

In 1994-1996, the Randells gave the land to the University of Florida Foundation with the understanding that a permanent research and education center would be established. In order to help pay for the center's operations, they envisioned that the land would be sold to the State through what was then known as the CARL (Conservation and Recreational Lands) program. Neither Don nor Pat lived to see their dream become reality, but the Randell Research Center will always be their legacy.

In 2002, the National Endowment for the Humanities approved up to \$200,000 in federal matching funds, payable 1:4 during the five-year period 2002-2006. In other words, NEH will match \$1 for every \$4 we raise towards the RRC endowment. We invite you to help us reach our endowment goal by 2006. Gifts are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by federal law. To contribute to the RRC Endowment, make your check payable to Randell Research Center. Indicate on the check that the gift is intended for the endowment fund, and note that you want your gift to be matched by NEH. Or visit our endowment web page at [www.flmnh.ufl.edu/anthro/sflarch/rrc\\_endowment.htm](http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/anthro/sflarch/rrc_endowment.htm), print and sign the "rrc-neh-match.pdf" donor form, and mail it with your check. Mail your gift to: Dr. John Worth, Randell Research Center, PO Box 608, Pineland, Florida 33945. Working together, we can fulfill the Randell family's vision for a permanent learning and teaching center at Pineland.

RRC Endowment Gifts as of August 15, 2003: \$970,226.20



### New and Renewing Friends of the RRC as of August 15, 2003

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

#### Contributing Members (\$100-\$499)

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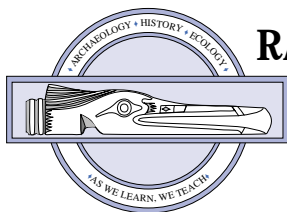
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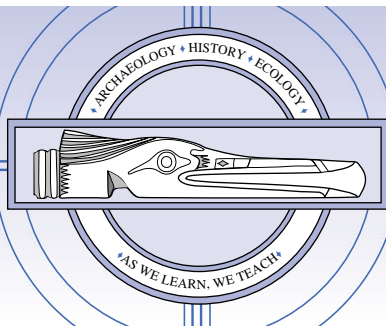
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# Friends of the Randell Research Center

Pineland, Florida • September, 2003  
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. 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:*

**Membership Coordinator • Randell Research Center • PO Box 608 • Pineland, Florida 33945**

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- Contributor (\$100-\$499):** The above + annual honor roll listing in newsletter + 20% discount on RRC publications and merchandise
- Sponsor (\$500-\$999):** The above + invitation to annual Director's tour and reception
- Supporter (\$1,000-\$4,999):** The above + listing on annual donor plaque at Pineland site
- Sustaining Members (\$5,000-\$19,999), Benefactors (\$20,000-\$99,999), and Patrons (\$100,000 and above)** receive all of the above + complimentary RRC publications and special briefings from the Director.
- Please use my gift** to obtain matching funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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VHS video, \$19.95



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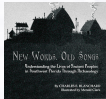
VHS video, \$19.95



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VHS video, \$19.95

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by Charles Blanchard, illustrated by Merald Clark  
hardcover \$24.95  
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