

Celebrating 20 Years

ARCHAEOLOGY • HISTORY • ECOLOGY



AS WE LEARN, WE TEACH

Friends of the Randell Research Center

June 2016 • Vol. 15, No. 2

Felburn Foundation grants \$20,000 – Invasive Vegetation Removal Begins

*Grants from FHC and Felburn matched with private gifts allow
interpretive project to begin*

by Cindy Bear



Can you see the two Calusa mounds in this picture? Neither can we! These photos were taken May 16, as this newsletter went to the printer. This was the day before clearing of invasive vegetation was to begin. Look for a progress report in the September newsletter. (Photos by Charles O'Connor.)

aliens reduce the biodiversity of the land and threaten the survival of native vegetation, including large live oak trees. The thick vegetation also makes it nearly impossible to see the two mounds.

The land-clearing work should be completed by late May, allowing us to move forward with fencing and determining where and how we will extend public access. Fund-raising continues for these next steps. For contributions already received in support of the new interpretive project, we thank Bill and Norma Pretsch, John and Gretchen

Coyle, Karl and Kathy Schroeder, and Ed Winn. Please contact Cindy Bear at 239-283-6168 if you would like to earmark a contribution to this project. 🏰

In our last newsletter, we reported that that the Florida Humanities Council had granted the Randell Research Center \$11,560 for creating interpretive signs, with new artwork by Merald Clark, for the recently acquired Smith and Low Mounds. Now, we are honored to announce that the Felburn Foundation, known for its support of environmental and historic preservation in Florida, has granted \$20,000 toward the removal of invasive vegetation on the five-acre parcel acquired last year through the generosity of the Sear Family Foundation and the Calusa Land Trust.

The noxious plants on the site include large Australian pines and Ear-leaf Acacia, and dense thickets of Brazilian peppers, among others. These

Out-of-control Brazilian pepper plants (right) intrude over the RRC fence from the newly acquired mound property. These and other invasive, non-native plants will be removed by the end of May, so that the two mounds can be seen and interpreted for the public.

(Photos by Charles O'Connor.)



Calusa Island North Beach Archaeological Monitoring Project

*A Randell Research Center/Calusa
Land Trust Partnership*

by Karen J. Walker, Jennifer Haney, and Bill Marquardt

A rapidly rising sea level and an increase in storm frequency/intensity, both due to climate warming, are adversely impacting archaeological sites at a world-wide scale. A local and dramatic example in the Charlotte Harbor/Pine Island Sound region is the Calusa Island Site. The North Beach area of Calusa Island exhibits a severely eroded, dense shell midden. Long-time resident Ed Chapin reports that some 38 to 40 feet of the upper half of this midden has eroded away since the late 1970s. Many shells and some features and artifacts have been washed out into the water and to some degree redeposited further down



the beach, some to the east, some to the west. In the close-up picture, the layers of charred wood and ash represent different episodes of human activity.

Most of the exposed midden dates to the terminal years (1200-500 BC) of the Late Archaic (LA) Period. The LA people are greatly under-represented in history in large part because relatively few coastal LA archaeological sites are known to exist in this area. Because Calusa Island serves as a record of Southwest Florida's LA people and their environment, it is a precious, rare "book" in an already small library on the history of the Calusa people and their predecessors. And its pages are being voraciously torn out.

In April of 2016, in partnership with the Calusa Land Trust, owner of the two lots associated with the North Beach, the Randell Research Center initiated a North

Close-up view of discrete layers of the eroding face of the Calusa Island midden.
(Photo by Karen Walker.)



Gloria Andrews (left) measures while Jen Haney makes a drawing of the eroding midden at Calusa Island's north shore.
(Photo by Karen Walker.)

Beach monitoring project that aims: (1) to document past and continuing loss of the midden (via oral history and aerial photos); (2) to produce a measured drawing of the entire length of eroded midden not only to document it for April 2016 but also to serve as a means to record collections in a systematic manner; (3) to sample the midden, recording these locations on the drawing; and (4) to establish a system that allows for surface (beach) collection of artifacts that have eroded from the midden in a way that records their location along the roughly 300 feet of beach. Some RRC volunteers have already offered to participate in monitoring the erosion of this important site, joining a worldwide effort to collect information from such sites before they are lost forever. 🏠

New and Renewing Friends of the RRC

February 16, 2016 to May 15, 2016

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

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NSF Grants Funds for Research at Mound Key and Pineland

Role of Surplus, Intensification of Fishing to be Studied

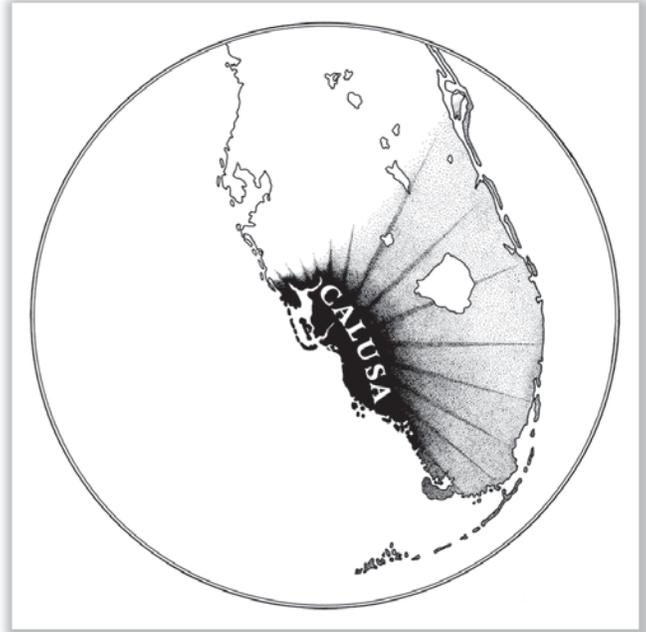
by Bill Marquardt

Most of us set a little money aside in case of unexpected needs. In Florida, during hurricane season, some of us stash some extra water and food, just in case there's no electricity for a spell. In a way, this is storage of surplus — setting aside some resources in case of need. But now think of surplus at a broader scale. Suppose you are a farmer who has a bumper crop in corn or beans this year. You could sell it at a cheap price, or just let it rot, or you could share it with friends or kinfolk elsewhere whose crops didn't do as well as yours. Next year, if their fields are productive and yours aren't, they will return the favor. By cooperating, everybody is better off in the long run. This is called reciprocity, and it is a step above the "rainy-day fund" kind of surplus with which most of us are familiar. Now imagine an even more complex kind of surplus exchange. In this situation, surpluses are brought to a central place, where they are redistributed by a leader, who gains status

and power by virtue of this position.

In fact, surplus production is often linked to social development and the rise of politically complex societies. Largely, however, anthropologists have focused on agricultural societies, and few scholars have considered how surpluses were produced and managed by non-farming societies. We all know that the Calusa Indian people of Southwest Florida were politically powerful and socially complex in the 1500s, and we also know that they were fisherfolk, not farmers. How, then, were they able to support their own people and control most of south Florida without producing agricultural surpluses?

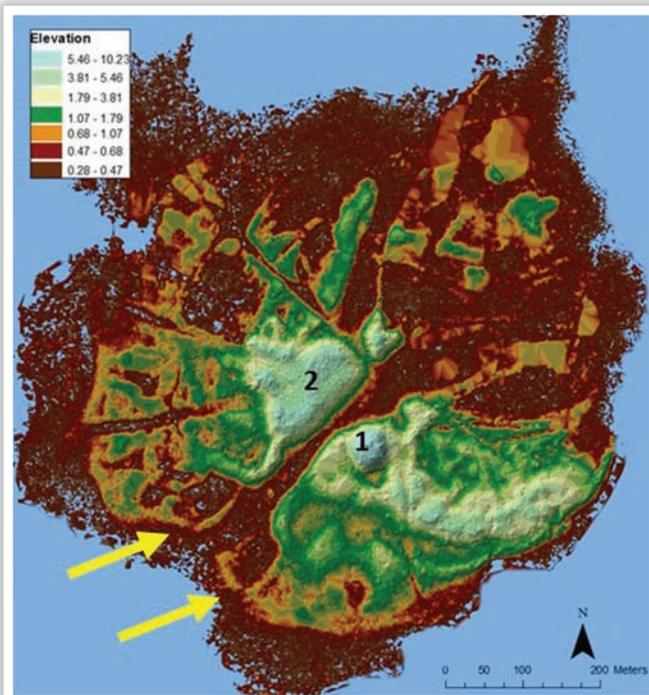
With support from the National Science Foundation, Bill Marquardt (Florida Museum of Natural History), Victor Thompson (University of Georgia), and Michael Savarese (Florida Gulf Coast University), along with Lee Newsom (Flagler College), Elizabeth Reitz (University of Georgia), Amanda Roberts-Thompson (University of Georgia), and Karen Walker (Florida Museum of Natural History) will conduct research at the Mound Key and Pineland archaeological sites to investigate the role of surplus produc-



Map showing area of Calusa influence in the 1500s. (Drawing by Merald Clark.)

tion among the Calusa, the most powerful group in peninsular Florida in the 1500s. The Calusa king collected tribute from a population in excess of 20,000 distributed among 50 to 60 Calusa communities and extending to many other towns, from the northern reaches of Charlotte Harbor to the Florida Keys. However, unlike the farming people of the interior river valleys of the southeastern U.S., the Calusa relied primarily on fish and shellfish for protein, collecting wild plant foods and using only a handful of plants from home gardens.

Most importantly, they did not grow maize (corn), which formed the basis of surplus production and political complexity for many groups across the Southeast. Few archaeologists have examined surplus production among fisher-gatherer-hunters, especially those in the sub-tropics. We hope to shed light on long-term sustainability of fisheries, a topic of considerable world-wide interest, and address the potential impact of over-harvesting shellfish. We also want to determine if the Calusa purposely developed ways to produce more food as their population increased and competition with Indian people in the Tampa Bay area became more significant.



LiDAR elevation map of Mound Key showing Mounds 1 and 2 and location of possible fish traps or surplus storage areas.

Continued on page 4





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Specifically, by means of coring and archaeological excavations in structures thought to be fish traps or fish and shellfish storage and processing features at Mound Key, our team will examine how the Calusa produced and managed large-scale food surpluses presumed to be necessary to sustain their large populations. Further work in the area of the two Spanish missions will be aimed at discovering the extent to which the Spaniards consumed food provided by the Calusa. We will also re-examine collections from Pineland to see if mullet use increased between A.D. 1200 and 1500. In short, our work aims to discover how surplus production was situated within the larger history of the Calusa, and how these practices structured interactions with Europeans.

Updates of our findings will be presented in this newsletter and communicated in our public programs. We are grateful for the support of the National Science Foundation and for the assistance of Ted, Todd, and Tim McGee, who have facilitated our work on Mound Key in many ways. 🍌



On March 28, members of the RRC gathered at the Sandy Hook Restaurant in Matlacha to share a meal and hear updates on the year's activities from Cindy Bear and Bill Marquardt. (Photo by Charles O'Connor.)

Bill Marquardt reminisced about the 20-year history of the RRC for Volunteer Appreciation Day at the Randell Research Center, April 30, 2016. RRC volunteers contributed nearly 5,000 hours this past year, valued at over \$110,000. Numbers of hours contributed per individual ranged from 6 to 385. Each task and each hour of volunteer service enhances the research, teaching, and service that we conduct each year. (Photo by Charles O'Connor.)



RRC News

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Friends of the Randell Research Center

Pineland, Florida • June 2016
 Phone 239/283-2062
 Email: rrc@flmnh.ufl.edu

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,


William H. Marquardt
 Director
 Randell Research Center



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Photo by A. Bell



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The Plant World of the Calusa: A View from Pineland

written and illustrated by Martha Kendall, RRC Popular Series No. 1, softcover, full color, \$24.95

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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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The Archaeology of Pineland: A Coastal Southwest Florida Site Complex, A.D. 50-1710

edited by William Marquardt and Karen Walker, Monograph 4, hardcover, 935 pages, 408 figures, 231 tables, bibliographic references, \$125.00

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Discovering Florida: First-Contact Narratives from Spanish Expeditions along the Lower Gulf Coast

edited and translated by John E. Worth, U. Press of Florida, softcover, \$27.95

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The Florida Journals of Frank Hamilton Cushing

edited by Phyllis E. Kolianos and Brent W. Weisman, University Press of Florida, hardcover \$49.95

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Sharks and Shark Products in Prehistoric South Florida

by Laura Kozuch, Monograph 2, softcover, \$5.00

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The Archaeology of Useppa Island

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

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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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Edisonia Native Girl: The Life Story of Florence Keen Sansom

by Denége Patterson, Peppertree Press, 2010, softcover, \$39.95

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Missions to the Calusa

by John H. Hann, U. Press of Florida, hardcover, \$35.00

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Florida's Indians

by Jerald T. Milanich, U. Press of Florida, softcover, \$19.95

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Randy Wayne White's Ultimate Tarpon Book: The Birth of Big Game Fishing

edited by Randy Wayne White and Carlene Fredericka Brennen. U. Press of Florida, softcover, \$21.95

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Eyes of the Calusa

by Holly Moulder, a historical novel for young readers, winner of the silver medal in young adult fiction from the Florida Publisher's Association, White Pelican Press, \$8.95

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The Crafts of Florida's First People

by Robin Brown, a step-by-step guide to making Florida Indian tools and containers (for ages 10 and up), Pineapple Press, softcover, \$9.95

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Images from the Calusa Heritage Trail

Art by Merald Clark, 4" x 6" postcards, full-color, set of 11 cards, \$4.50

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RRC postcards

Art by Patricia Randell, 4" x 6" black and white, set of 5, \$2.50

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AWARD-WINNING DOCUMENTARIES

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

DVD video, \$12.95

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Expedition Florida: Three-Program Set (From Exploration to Exhibition, The Wild Heart of Florida, Wild Alachua)

DVD video, \$24.95

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RANDELL RESEARCH CENTER GEAR

RRC logo hat \$21.95

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Calusa Heritage Trail T-shirts designed by Merald Clark:

Specify size (S, M, L, XL)

- Seven Masks (black with white image, seven Calusa masks), \$18.95
- Pineland Crane Head (white with full color depiction), \$18.95

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