

Friends of the Randell Research Center

December 2010 • Vol. 9, No. 4

Randell Center Looks Forward to Active Year

Site and Buildings Spruced Up, Ready to Welcome Visitors

by Cindy Bear and Bill Marquardt

Getting Ready for the Season

Staff and volunteers have been active in recent weeks with vegetation clearing, mulching, and repairs to buildings and walkways in anticipation of the many hundreds of visitors who visit Pineland each year, especially from January to April. School tours have already begun, and visitors are increasingly seen at the Calusa Heritage Trail, or dropping in to tour the newly rehabilitated Ruby Gill House.

A number of exciting special events are planned, including a Winter Solstice Celebration Cruise on the evening of December 21st, a lecture on sharks by Dr. Charles O'Connor on January 19th, and — of course — our annual Calusa Heritage Day, this year scheduled for Saturday, March 12th.

In addition to the special events, Debbie Zwetsch offers her popular yoga class at 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday at the Ruby Gill House, and we will soon resume guided tours of the Calusa Heritage Trail every Wednesday and Saturday from January through April, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

New books and clothing have been added to the book and gift shop at the Calusa Heritage Trail, so consider doing some of your holiday shopping early when you next decide you are ready for a walk along the Trail on a crisp fall day. There are always birds and other animals to see, and the views of Pine Island Sound from the top of a 30-foot-high mound are spectacular.

September 4: Spruce Up Day at the Trail

Sweltering morning heat was no match for hardworking volunteers who came out on Saturday, September 4 to Spruce Up at the Calusa Heritage Trail. Many thanks go to Forestry Resources, Inc. for the donation of mulch, and to over twenty volunteers who beautified the parking lot, tackled exotic vegetation, cleaned the classroom



A spreading strangler fig receives a trim courtesy of Dan England. (Photo by C. O'Connor.)

and restrooms, and made repairs to the Smith Mound boardwalk. Perhaps it was the homemade cookies provided by staff member Linda Heffner, or perhaps it was the good company, that kept these folks smiling, singing, and having a good time all while making a significant contribution and improving the Trail experience for our visitors.

Volunteers are needed on a daily basis to keep the butterfly garden lush, vegetation on the mounds tamed, our signage looking spiffy, our bookstore open, and our visitors informed. Interested? Call Cindy at 239-283-2157, she will put you to work and be sure you have good time too!

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Time is taking a toll on the Smith Mound Boardwalk. Lee Tapager, Patrick Rennert, Charles O'Connor (not pictured), and Mark Chargois completed a temporary repair; however, a complete replacement will be required in the near future. Sponsorship of the boardwalk repair is available by contacting Cindy Bear or Bill Marquardt. (Photo by C. O'Connor.)

Ode to Pat: A Biography of Patricia Crandon Randell

by Cindy Bear

A recent inquiry to our web site asked for information on the Pineland community. In newsletters Volume 8, No. 3 through Volume 9, No. 3, Bill Marquardt chronicled our site history from the 1900s to present. We follow now with a series of biographies of people who have made a particularly significant impact on our recent history, beginning with Patricia (Pat) Crandon Randell. Pat and her husband, Colonel Donald (Don) Randell, donated approximately 56 acres of their Pineland property to the University of Florida Foundation in 1994, setting the stage for the development of the Calusa Heritage Trail and the continuation of archaeological studies at the Pineland site complex.

Patricia (Pat) Crandon was born in Miami, Florida, at the start of the "Roaring Twenties" on February 12, 1920. Her father, Charles Henry Crandon, a Dade County, Florida, Commissioner from 1929 to 1949, was admired for negotiating, prior to WWII, the gift of over 800 acres of land on Biscayne Key, Miami, to the county for preservation. A key piece of the negotiation was Commissioner Crandon's



Pat Randell in 1958, modeling for a Dr. Pepper soft drink advertisement.

agreement that the county would build a causeway to the island. To finance the causeway Crandon persuaded the DuPont family advisor and financier Ed Ball to purchase \$6 million of bonds. The Rickenbacker Causeway to this day connects Miami to Crandon Park and Key Biscayne. Pat's mother, Agnes Conoly Crandon, was born in Valdosta, Georgia and was both college-educated and a concert pianist.

Pat grew up in Coral Gables, Florida, with one brother, Philip Howland Crandon, thirteen years her junior. She attended Converse College in South Carolina. In 1940, at the age of 20, Pat moved to New York City and became a successful fashion model working with the prestigious Conover Agency. The "Conover Cover Girls," as they were known, included the likes of Jane Adams and Eileen Ford. While working in New York, Pat lived in a women's hotel where men were not permitted above the first floor and so gathered in the greeting room awaiting their dates. It was in this greeting room that Pat met thirty-two-year-old Donald Randell, a 1932 graduate of Princeton University in Economic Geology and an army artillery officer. The couple married in 1941 and moved to New Jersey in 1946 following Don's combat tour of duty with Patton's army in Europe. Don then worked on Wall Street as an investment analyst.

The Randells' son, Crandon, was born just prior to Pearl Harbor, followed two years later by daughter Deborah and Frederick (Ricky) in 1948. The family spent twenty-two years in New Jersey and often visited Patricia's family in Coral Gables, Florida. In September, 1967, Pat and Don drove from New Jersey with their youngest son, Frederick, to Pineland, Florida, and later chose the area as their retirement spot. Ricky, now 62, remembers the land being grown over, with tall weeds covering the mounds and the old house being without running water. The Randells worked the land, transforming it into the "Rocking R Ranch," with an orange grove, cattle, garden, and a compost pile for



Patricia Crandon in the early 1940s. Reprinted with permission from Pine Island, Mary Kay Stevens. Available from the publisher online at www.arcadiapublishing.com, by calling 888-313-2665, or at the Calusa Heritage Trail.

kitchen waste. They moved out of the small house into an adjacent stilt house in 1980.

Pine Island resident Phyllis Davis, a neighbor and friend, fondly recalls Pat as a "gracious and kind" woman with a "sense of history, of ecology, of taking care of a special place, and of learning from that place." With affection, she notes that Pat's Pineland wardrobe consisted of "Levi slacks, canvas shoes and a straw hat," and can still picture Pat tending the vegetable garden and picking fruit from trees and then sharing the bounty with friends and neighbors. Phyllis also recalls Pat's love and affection for her pets, especially her beloved Labrador retrievers.

An artist, writer, and poet at heart, Pat was inspired by the natural landscape and created many written works, needle points, paintings, and ink drawings in tribute to the area. Her "Original Cracker Postcards," designed in the late 1980s, were created to share the special nature of Florida's environment, and to evoke in others the captivation she felt for its inhabitants. Sets of the cards were donated to the Pine Island library for sale in a successful fund-raising project. Family and friends still cherish hand-drawn cards created by Pat for holidays and birthdays, including





Pat and Don Randell were guests of honor at the opening of the Historical Museum on Useppa Island, April, 1994. In this photo, island owner Garfield Beckstead (center) welcomes the Randells. (Photo by W. Marquardt.)

those Pat sent "from the animals" to her grandchildren.

By the 1970s, Pat and Don had pieced together properties that included some of the best preserved and most significant archaeological resources in southwest Florida, including major portions of the Pineland complex and Josslyn Island. Their first donation of land honoring the importance of the area came when they

donated land, now known as the Pineland Historic Marker, to Lee County in the 1970s. Although she cherished the tranquility of Pineland, Pat joined with her husband in welcoming archaeologists to their property, and funding excavations both at Josslyn Island and Pineland. It was during the "Year of the Indian" events in 1990 and 1992 that they hosted thousands of visitors,

including 5,400 schoolchildren, at excavations taking place literally in their backyard.

Patricia Randell passed away in 2002. She will be remembered for her role in preserving Pineland and the spirit of giving that she embodied. In her honor, the next time you find yourself walking at Pineland, pause for a moment, remember her love for the place, and craft your own verses to her poem "Ode to Pineland" which began, "There once was a place known to me, a fairy-tale spot by the sea ..." A fitting tribute it would be, one that would likely bring her a smile. And, if you choose, send your verses to us and we'll publish them here in future newsletters in her honor.

Thanks to Ricky Randell, Crandon Randell, Debbie Randell, Phyllis Davis, and Michaela Valenti, who helped put this article together. 🙏



Don't Miss These Special Events!

Winter Solstice Full Moon Cruise with Performance by Flutist Kat Epple

**December 21, 2010, departing at
7:30 p.m. from Captiva Island**
(Proceeds benefit the Randell
Research Center!)

Flute music will fill the air while the moon and stars paint the night sky during a Captiva Cruises voyage, to benefit the RRC, on Tuesday, December 21, 2010, the winter solstice.

Interpretive narratives about the solstice, planets, and stars will be interspersed with a performance by Kat Epple, Emmy Award winning and Grammy nominated flutist and composer. Kat has amassed a unique collection of flutes from cultures around the world, which she features in her performances. Her music has been

described as celestial, yet earthly, primeval, and innovative. Kat created the music for the Calusa documentary "The Domain of the Calusa," and for the dance performance "Calusa" with the David Parsons Dance Company. Complementing Kat's performance will be information about the solstice, celestial facts, and identification of night sky features, provided by Richard Finkle, Environmental Educator for Captiva Cruises.

Guests will depart aboard the *Lady Chadwick* from McCarthy's Marina on Captiva at 7:30 p.m., cruise the waters of Pine Island Sound, and return to the dock at 9:30 p.m. The cost of \$65/person includes light hors d'oeuvres, complimentary wine, and a full-service cash bar. Reservations are required and may be obtained by calling Captiva Cruises at 239-472-5300. Please join us for what will surely be a magical evening.

***Shark!* : A Presentation by Charles O'Connor**

**January 19, 2011, 6:30 to 8:00 PM at
the Classroom, Calusa Heritage
Trail, Pineland**
Admission \$5 per person.

"**Shark!**" will explore the natural history of sharks, human and shark interactions, and fossilized teeth, with a special focus on (Carcharocles) Megalodon sharks. Diet, dimensions, tooth structure, evolution, and demise will be explored in this lively and colorful presentation.

Megalodon was arguably the formidable carnivore ever to have existed. It was a super-predator and probably reached lengths of 70 feet, with teeth that surpassed 7 inches in length. It indisputably had the greatest bite force

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Volunteers load wheelbarrows with mulch destined for native plants at the RRC parking lot. RRC provided beverages and refreshments. Many thanks go to Forestry Resources, Inc. for the donation of a truckload of beautiful mulch that transformed our parking lot islands into a showcase for our native plantings. (Photo by C. O'Connor.)

October 15: Calusa Heritage Trail filmed for Lonely Planet Guide Project

The Lee County Visitor and Convention Bureau (VCB) has announced a new partnership with Lonely Planet, the world's largest travel publisher, to create a "customized destination guidebook, a digital online version of

the guide, a mobile application of the guide, and other digital solutions" in order to expand the reach of the VCB around the world. According to VCB Executive Director Tamara Pigott, "Lonely Planet is the perfect global marketing partner for Lee County because of its commitment to sustainability and responsible, respective travel, and shared philosophies in protecting and preserving beaches and natural resources."

The Calusa Heritage Trail, Randell Research Center, will be among the visitor sites featured in part because of our commitment to teach as we learn. We were visited by a Lonely Planet film crew on October 15. Francisco Aliwalas, Lonely Planet TV Producer, and his crew, hiked the trails filming the vistas and signage while remarking about how much they learned during their brief visit. We appreciate the support of the VCB and look forward to more visitors to the trail as a result of this partnership.



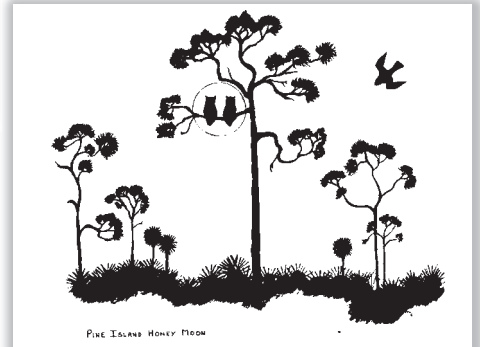
Francisco Aliwalas, Lonely Planet TV producer, interviews Cindy Bear at the Calusa Heritage Trail while Camera Assistant Ritsuko Yamaguchi keeps notes. (Photo by A. Paquet.)

New Cards and Books in the Calusa Heritage Trail Store

(All proceeds benefit programs of the Randell Research Center.)

Pat Randell's Original Cracker Cards

With images provided by her daughter, Deborah Randell, we've recreated four of Pat Randell's "Original Cracker Postcards." The images are touching in their depiction of the beauty and spirit of Pine Island.



Guy LaBree: Barefoot Artist of the Florida Seminoles, by Carol Mahler, University Press of Florida

Carol Mahler's eye-catching new book showcases 42 paintings by Guy LaBree which are all from the Seminole point-of-view. She describes her accompanying essays as "biographies of the images because they explain the in-depth research necessary for authentic details." Currently a resident of Arcadia, LaBree grew up near the Dania (Hollywood) Seminole reservation where his friendship with Seminole tribe members nurtured his interest in Seminole tradition, especially the legends and mythology. Two of LaBree's works hang in the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian, and former Chief James Billie is among his most prolific



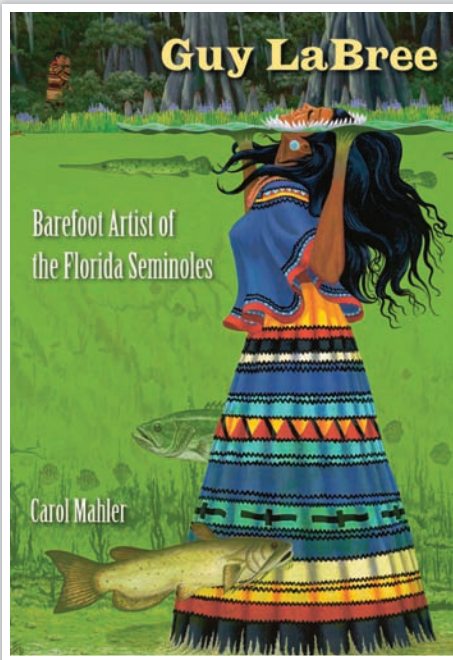


Image reprinted with permission of the University Press of Florida.

collectors. This book provides a remarkable opportunity to see his work and explore the Seminole with the intimacy of an artist. Author Carol Mahler will be on hand at Calusa Heritage Day on March 12 to sign copies of her book and to share essays from her work.


Randy Wayne White's Ultimate Tarpon Book: The Birth of Big Game Fishing, edited by Randy Wayne White and Carlene Fredericka Brennen, University Press of Florida

Anyone who has seen a tarpon roll can catch tarpon fever and understand

how this collection of essays will have wide appeal to a variety of readers. Over 100 essays are presented by the editors and include some of the best nature writers and observers of the natural world ever assembled in one book. The essays trace the origins of tarpon fishing from 1885 and have been collected by the editors for decades. While the big fish is the focus, book reviewer John Fitch, a contributor to the highly regarded *Southwest Florida's Wetland Wilderness*, writes, "A book that anyone with an interest in Florida's history, natural history, literary history, love of nature, love of fishing, sense of adventure, or interest in the 'real Florida' should purchase and read."

Trail of Florida's Indian Heritage Website Updated

If you've wondered how to find the Miami Circle, thought about visiting the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum but weren't sure of the hours, or would simply like to add to your understanding of Florida's past, then the updated website of the Trail of Florida's Indian Heritage should be among your bookmarks. Found at www.trailoffloridasindianheritage.org, the site highlights 36 visitor sites, including the Calusa Heritage Trail at Randell Research Center. From the trail map, the virtual tourist links directly to the website of the organization, making it the most comprehensive directory to Florida cultural heritage visitor sites. Seven

"Featured Sites" allow one to learn about the flora and fauna of the area, about the Indian people emphasized at the site, and to hear interviews with archaeologists, historians, and educators. Stunning illustrations depicting Florida's earliest inhabitants provide background on each page and the crisp, exciting photographs are the next best thing to being there. Teachers in particular will find the site useful for lesson plans, student computer time, and virtual field trips. 

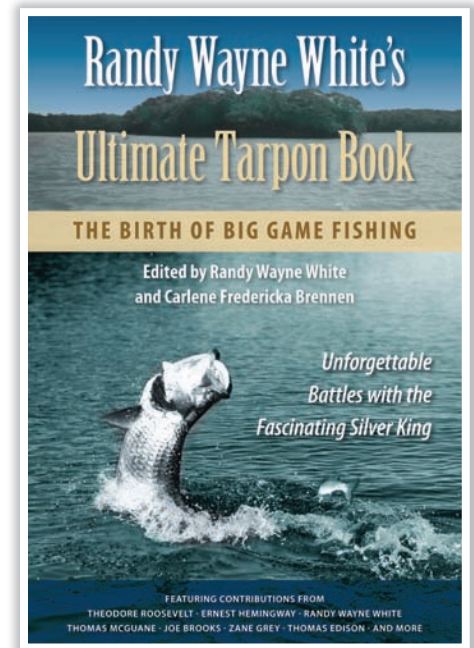


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New and Renewing Friends of the RRC

August 1 through October 31, 2010

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

Supporting Members (\$1,000-\$4,999)

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Friends of the Randell Research Center

Pineland, Florida • December 2010
 Phone 239/283-2062
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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,


William H. Marquardt
 Director
 Randell Research Center



Please check the membership level you prefer, and send this form with your check payable to U. F. Foundation, to:

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

- Individual (\$30) and Student (\$15):** quarterly Newsletter and free admission to Calusa Heritage Trail
- Family (\$50):** The above + advance notice and 10% discount on children's programs
- 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.

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Use my seasonal address from _____ to _____
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Photo by A. Bell



Books, Videos, Cards, and RRC Gear

BOOKS ON SOUTHWEST FLORIDA'S ARCHAEOLOGY & HISTORY

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

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

Fisherfolk of Charlotte Harbor, Florida
by Robert F. Edic, hardcover, \$35.00

Florida's First People
by Robin Brown, Pineapple Press, hardcover, \$29.95

Missions to the Calusa
by John H. Hann, U. Press of Florida, hardcover, \$35.00

Florida's Indians
by Jerald T. Milanich, U. Press of Florida, softcover, \$19.95

Archaeology of Precolumbian Florida
by Jerald T. Milanich, U. Press of Florida, softcover, \$27.95

Guy LaBree — Barefoot Artist of the Florida Seminoles
by Carol Mahler, U. Press of Florida, hardcover, \$34.95

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, hardcover, \$34.95

I-Land: At the Edge of Civilization
by Roothee Gabay, a part-fantasy, part-historical novel based in the Calusa domain, PublishAmerica Books, \$14.95

Song of the Tides
by Tom Joseph, a historical novel about the Calusa, U. of Alabama Press, \$19.95

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

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

CALUSA POSTCARDS

Images from the Calusa Heritage Trail
Art by Merald Clark, 4"-x-6" postcards, full-color, set of 11 cards, \$4.50

AWARD-WINNING DOCUMENTARIES

The Domain of the Calusa: Archaeology and Adventure in the Discovery of South Florida's Past
DVD video, \$12.95

Expedition Florida: Three-Program Set (From Exploration to Exhibition, The Wild Heart of Florida, Wild Alachua)
DVD video, \$24.95

RANDELL RESEARCH CENTER GEAR

RRC logo hat \$20.00

RRC logo short-sleeve cotton staff shirt
Specify size (S, M, L, XL) and color (cream or blue-denim) \$35.00

RRC logo short-sleeve cotton T-shirt
Specify Adult size (S, M, L, XL) \$15.00 / Specify Child size (XS, S, M) \$12.00

RRC logo tote bag \$10.00

RRC logo coffee mug \$10.00

Total for items ordered: _____
Friends of the RRC who give at the \$100 level or above may deduct 20% Discount: —
Florida residents add sales tax: +
Shipping: Add \$3.50 for first item, \$0.50 for each additional item: +
TOTAL: _____

To place order, make check payable to
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Pineland, FL 33945.
Questions? 239-283-2157
E-mail: randellcenter2@rancercenter.comcastbiz.net

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Where Has Your Hat Traveled?

RRC staff member Cindy Bear visited Ecuador this summer and found her RRC hat, and its logo, to be a bridge between herself and the many people she encountered. Wearing the hat in this picture is Natalie Gualinga. Natalie's father, Don Orlando Gualinga, is credited with the vision and negotiations that made the Sani Lodge the first in the Ecuadorian Amazon Basin to be owned and operated by the Santa Isla communa whose members are part of the indigenous ethnic group, the Kichwa. Don Orlando is also shaman of the Sani Isla

communa. His wisdom is evident in Natalie, who Cindy describes as "gleefully pointing out wildlife, climbing cocoa trees to share fruit, and proudly reciting the English alphabet after showing off her Spanish and Quechuan language knowledge."

If you've got a photo of your hat traveling the world, please send it, and your travel story to us. We would like to feature them in upcoming newsletters. You can email your information to Cindy at cbear@ufl.edu. 🇺🇸

Special Events *continued from page 3*

of any known animal, up to 18 tons. Megalodon was most likely homeothermic (erroneously termed "warm blooded"), preyed on other large fish and marine mammals, and populated ancient oceans across the globe.

The shallow seas covering prehistoric Florida most likely provided a birthing/nursery area, because mostly small-to medium-sized teeth are discovered here. Larger teeth are found on the coastlines of the Carolinas and Georgia and elsewhere in the world. A nutrient-rich upwelling ocean current may have nourished the dense prey food web needed to support Megalodon's dietary needs.

Dr. Charles O'Connor is a native Floridian, an amateur paleontologist, and was an assistant in the Vertebrate Paleontology Laboratory at the Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville, one of the nation's premier Pleistocene fossil collections. He received the Southwest Florida Audubon Educator of the Year award, was a Golden Apple Teaching Award finalist, 2009 Environmental Teacher of the Year, and has presented hundreds of fossil talks to schools, fossil clubs, and community groups for over 13 years. He is currently vice president of the Southwest Florida Fossil Club and Education Chair for the Friends of Six Mile Slough Preserve. 🇺🇸

RRC News

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