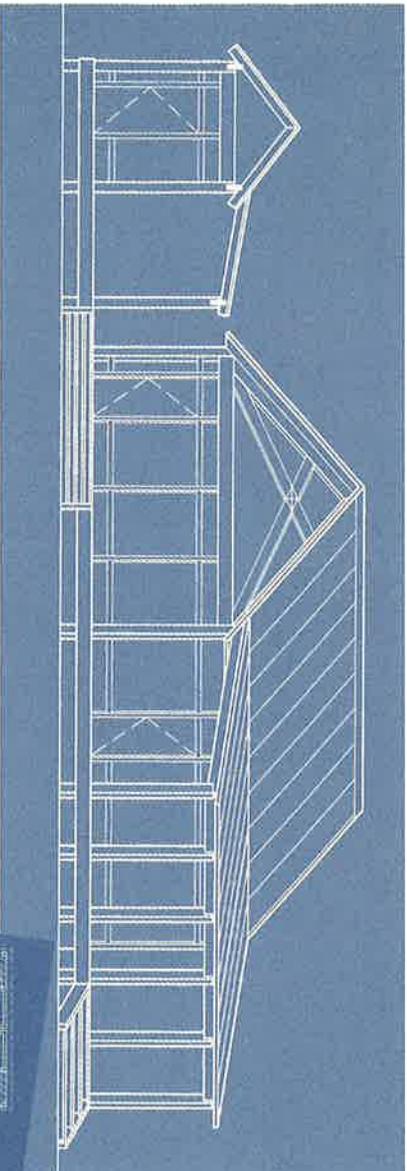


CALLUSA NEWSYS

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHWEST FLORIDA PROJECT
RANDELL RESEARCH CENTER
FLORIDA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

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Teaching Pavilion to be Built at Pineland

Stans Foundation Grant Paves Way for New Development Phase

by *William Marguardt*

THE STANS FOUNDATION has taken the lead in helping the Randell Research Center develop its teaching and research facilities. A grant of \$105,000 from the Stans Foundation, plus \$25,000 from the Maple Hill Foundation, \$10,000 from Michael Hansinger, and \$1,000 from Bill Marguardt added up to \$141,000. This was matched by the State of Florida, for a total building fund of \$282,000. Construction begins in winter, 2002.

Our teaching pavilion will provide a covered, open-air learning space for up to 50 people, with storage space for teaching and research equipment, public rest rooms, a parking area, water, and electricity. In the pavilion, we will be able to teach formal classes, give public programs, demonstrate artifact replication, show videos, and even have

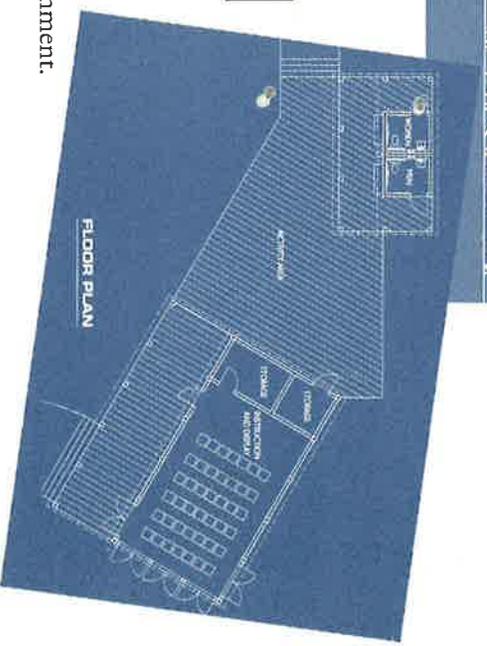
receptions and musical entertainment.

A walking trail will also be constructed. Attractive signs along the trail will explain various aspects of Pineland's 2000-year human past.

The pavilion will be a major step forward for the Randell Center. Up to now, there has been no place for visiting school children to go in case of inclement weather except back to their bus.

Nor have we been able to offer our guests a cool drink of water or a comfortable place to watch a video or a lecture. We have had a chemical toilet on site for three years, but our new facility will provide more pleasant and convenient, handicap-accessible rest rooms.

In March, 2001, archaeological test excavations began in the areas of the site to be impacted by our planned construc-



Top: Architect's preliminary concept drawing of open-air teaching pavilion for the RRC. (Drawing by Jeff Madgett.)

Bottom: Plan view of pavilion, activity area, and restrooms. (Drawing by Jeff Madgett.)

tion. The testing project was continued by our second annual summer archaeological field school, in cooperation with Florida Gulf Coast University, and extended through fall, 2001 with the help of a grant from the Wentworth Foundation. New information from this research will add more pieces to the puzzle of the Pineland Site Complex and help us interpret the site for our visitors. ☉

From the Director

New Coordinator Hired

As this issue of *Calusa News* goes to press, Dr. John E. Worth has been hired to manage research and public programs at the Randell Research Center. A native of Georgia, John completed his Ph.D. at the University of Florida in 1992, and has written three books and many articles on the Indians of Florida and Georgia. He has published more than a dozen articles for the general public, and has a decade of experience in public archaeology and education at the Fernbank Museum in Atlanta and Coosawattee Foundation. In the past year alone, more than 3,000 students participated in his field and classroom programs in northwest Georgia. In addition to being an active field archaeologist, John also is an expert in translating Spanish documents from the time of early contact with the Americas. His duties will involve managing and coordinating the development of the Center's public-education programs and facilities, which will include a teaching pavilion and walking trails. He will operate from a new RRC office and headquarters in the historic Gill house located next to the Pineland post office.

Archaeology

Continues at Pineland

Although hampered by frequent rains, archaeological research at Pineland is proceeding this fall under the direction of Corbett Torrence and Theresa Schober. The work is taking place where the pavilion is to be situated, in order to investigate parts of the site that may be impacted by construction. Corbett and Theresa have accepted teaching jobs with Florida Gulf Coast University for the 2001-2002 academic year, and will wrap up the Pineland archaeological field work by December.

The Last Calusa News

This tenth issue of *Calusa News* is being mailed free to nearly 5,000 people. Another 2,000 will be given away to students, site visitors, and correspondents. With this issue, we retire the occasional newsletter known as "*Calusa News*." Since its beginning in January, 1987, it has brought the findings of our Southwest Florida Project to a wide audience. It has also served as a way to thank our volunteers and donors, without whom we could not have survived and prospered. I hasten to say that we are not getting out of the business of communicating our findings to all of you who care about southwest Florida's heritage and environment. *Calusa News* will be replaced by a more frequent and more regular newsletter that will be sent to members of our new support society, "Friends of the Randell Research Center."

An Invitation to Join Us

We cordially invite you to become a "Friend of the Randell Research Center." This group will actively promote archaeological and environmental research and education in southwest Florida through volunteer and financial support of the Randell Research Center. Support levels range from \$30 to \$1000 per year, and there is a special rate of \$15 for students. All supporters will receive a regular newsletter (at least two per year) as well as discounts on our publications and recognition in the newsletter. All funds raised by the Friends organization will be put to work locally in southwest Florida. ☺



CALUSA NEWS

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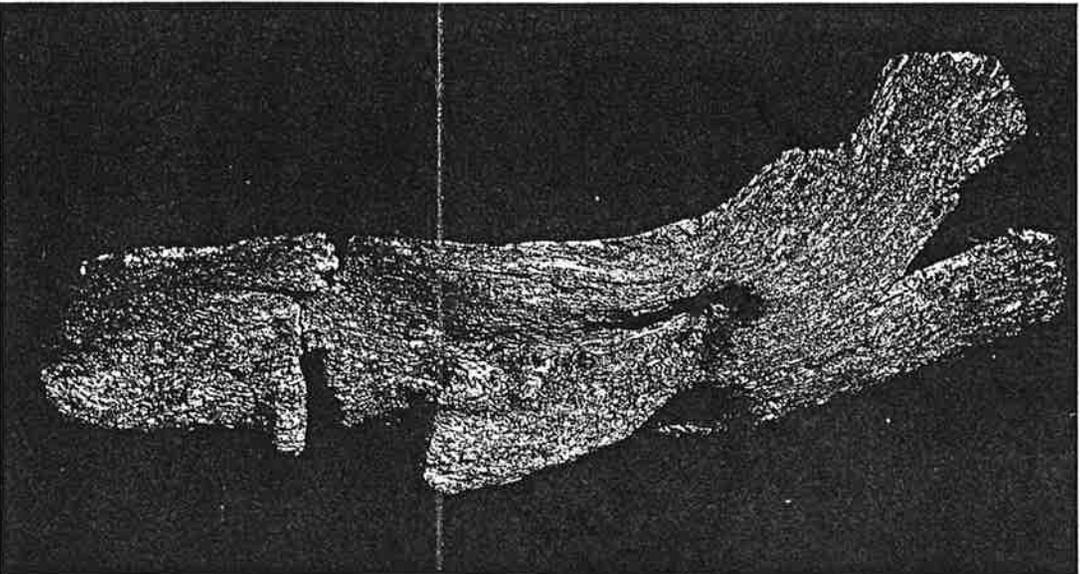
University of Florida, May/June 1974, volume 3, number 3

Key Marco Artifacts Tell the Story of Calusa Indians

Artifacts made from organic materials such as wood, leather, and textiles are rarely found in archeologica¹ sites in the warm, humid climate of the Southeast. At the Key Marco site (now Marco Island, Florida), objects of this kind were buried in a thick muck that prevented oxidation and limited bacterial action. The adze handle and mask, illustrated in this issue of the *FSM Newsletter* are two of many Key Marco wood, shell, and bone artifacts at the FSM.

The first artifacts were accidentally discovered in the early 1890's when the area was being developed for citrus groves. Frank Hamilton Cushing of the Bureau of American Ethnology in Washington, D.C. excavated the site in 1895-96.

The site, unique in southeastern archeology, dates from about A.D. 1400-1500, or just prior to the arrival of the European explorers. Its inhabitants were the Calusa Indians, an advanced tribe that controlled a large tribute-paying empire in South Florida. They were sea-oriented—the early explorers' accounts tell us of the large dugout canoes, lashed together catamaran style and the expert use of nets, spears, and hooks in catching fish. There is evidence that they caught everything from mullet to small whales. Men wore deerskin breechcloths and the women, Spanish moss skirts. They decorated themselves with ear spools, an occasional lip labret, gorgets, pendants, and beads strung on very fine cord made from plant fibers.



Distorted by drying since it was excavated, this wooden mask still shows remarkable artistry

(Cont. on next page)