

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Calusa Heritage Trail to open at
Randell Research Center**

Pineland, Florida - December 1, 2004 - The Randell Research Center at Pineland will officially inaugurate its new interpretive public walking trail, called the Calusa Heritage Trail, on Friday, December 10, 2004, during a ceremony to take place at 10:00 a.m. at the site's main gate at 13810 Waterfront Drive in Pineland.

The Calusa Heritage Trail is a new self-guided walking trail that will lead visitors among the prehistoric Calusa mounds at the Pineland archaeological site. The trail, which has been in development since 2001, features museum-quality interpretive signs, paved walkways, observation platforms, a boardwalk, and a footbridge over the 1000-year-old Pine Island Canal. The Calusa Heritage Trail will supplement other new visitor facilities surrounding the Randell Research Center teaching pavilion complex, which includes a parking area, picnic grounds, restrooms, and an activity deck.

Major funding for the Calusa Heritage Trail has been made possible by a Special Category Grant from the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, and through in-kind services and the efforts of many volunteers.

The Randell Research Center is a program of the Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida. The Randell Research Center's mission is to learn and teach the archaeology, history, and ecology of Southwest Florida.

Directions: From Exit 143 on Interstate 75, follow Pine Island Road (Hwy. 78) west through Matlacha to its end at Stringfellow Rd. Turn right and go 3.1 miles to intersection of Pineland Rd. on left. Turn left and go 1.2 miles (go past the RRC headquarters next to Pineland Post Office) to end of Pineland Road at waterfront. Continue right along Waterfront Drive 0.2 miles, just past Tarpon Lodge to Randell Research Center sign and gate on right. Overflow parking at Tarpon Lodge.

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