

At the Pineland site, massive royal poinciana trees were deposited on top of the walkway to the top of Brown's Mound. (Photo by J. Worth)

Floodwaters begin to recede, August 14. Pictured: John Worth; background: Brown's Mound at Pineland site. (Photo by Concha Worth)

to secure the roof. With this task we were ably assisted by David Harlos, Scott Mitchell, Jon Fajans, and John Worth. Florida Museum colleagues George Hecht, Elise LeCompte, Paul Ramey, Donna Ruhl, and Al Woods also spent several days with us, working through the heat of the day and "camping" in the darkened house at night.

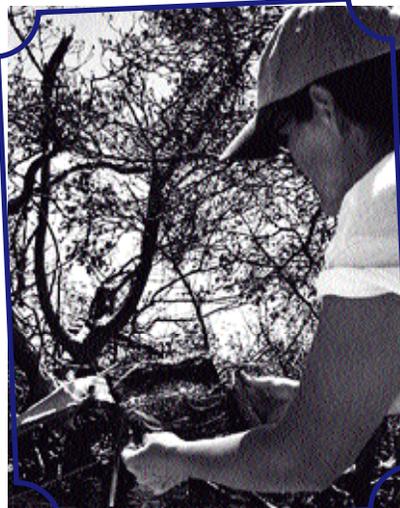
Telephone and water services were back on by the 18th, but power was not restored until August 28. By week 2, RRC staff had secured their own houses and returned enthusiastically to work. Much vegetation was down in our yard and at the site. Together we managed to clear much of the yard and finished cleaning the house. Then, with help from students and staff of Florida Gulf Coast University coordinated by Carol Newcomb-Jones, on August 27 we began the formidable task of clearing the Pineland site and restoring the native plant landscaping.

The Pineland site looks very different. Because so many trees are down and the remaining ones are temporarily bare, one can now see all the mounds and out to the waterfront when standing on Brown's Mound. None of our new Calusa Heritage Trail signs was badly hurt, though numerous heavy tree limbs fell all about them. One wayfinding sign was missing, but then later found, unharmed except for being caked with mud.

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"How did it get here?" Donna Ruhl, John Worth, and Elise LeCompte discover the RRC's canoe where it had landed, unharmed, in a thicket of Brazilian pepper trees. (Photo by K. Walker)



"They're here!" RRC scientist Karen Walker was very pleased to discover on August 28 that the water-temperature data recorders (called "tidbits") were still intact and functioning after the passage of Hurricane Charley. Water temperature fluctuations are being monitored as part of the National Science Foundation-sponsored paleoclimate study by Walker and University of North Carolina geochemist Donna Surge (see RRC newsletter, vol. 2, no. 3). (Photo by W. Marquardt)



Staff and students from Florida Gulf Coast University joined RRC staff on August 27 to begin the task of vegetation clean-up at the Pineland site. (Photo by W. Marquardt)

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On August 30, workers began to repair the roof damage from Charley but on Labor Day weekend, slow-moving and ponderous Hurricane Frances paid an unwelcome visit. The RRC was further damaged, with flooding of the offices/labs due to leakage where the roofers had put down only a single layer of tarpaper. Now three rooms will need new ceilings and carpets instead of just one. Again, there was no damage to equipment. However, the landscaping that we had restored in late August was again disturbed and flooded by Frances. Clean-up efforts have resumed yet again as this newsletter goes to press. Volunteers are welcome at any time, and should call 239-283-2062 to be informed of current needs.



Paul Ramey pulls wet insulation from the ceiling in the RRC headquarters house, August 20. (Photo by K. Walker)

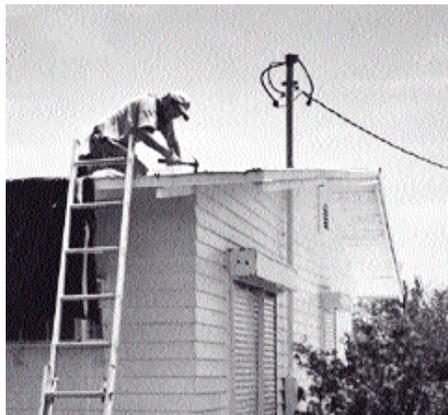


David Harlos, Bill Marquardt, and Scott Mitchell work to secure the damaged roof at RRC headquarters against further storm winds and rain, August 15. (Photo by K. Walker)



Pineland postmaster Gina Poppell opened the Pineland post office for business on Monday, August 16 – the only post office functioning on all of Pine Island. (Photo by W. Marquardt)

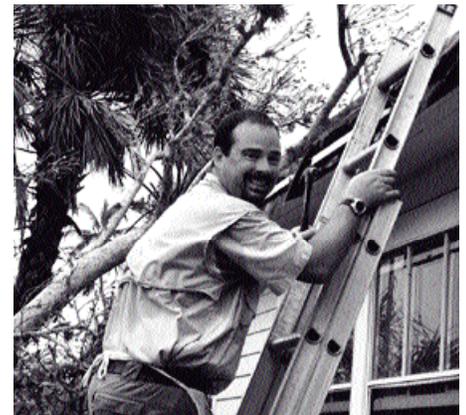
Using the RRC tractor, John Worth clears debris from the lot between the RRC headquarters and the Pineland post office (background, right). (Photo by W. Marquardt)



Bill Marquardt got a new appreciation of the phrase “hot tin roof” as he re-nailed metal sheeting on top of the Pineland post office, August 16. (Photo by K. Walker)

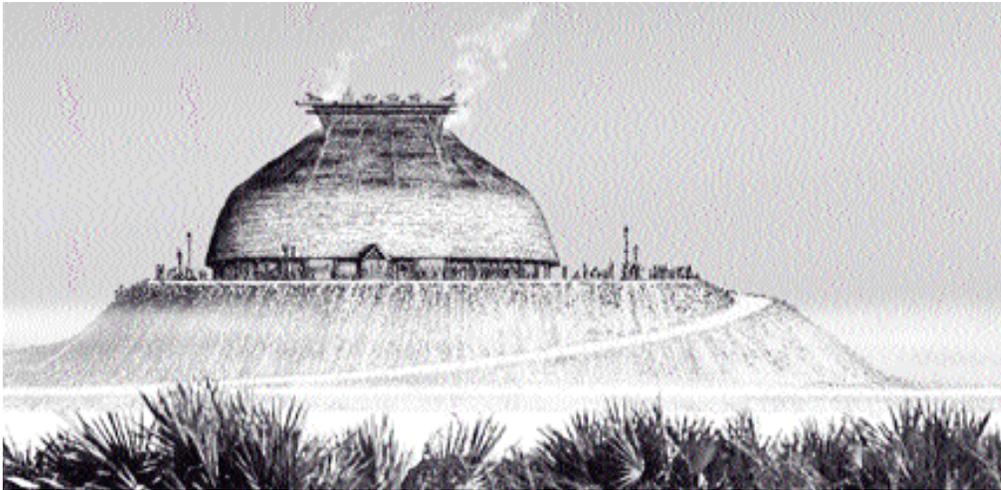


Making progress: RRC staff members Craig Timbes, Jennifer Jennings, and John Paeno pause from stacking brush in the RRC headquarters’ back yard. (Photo by K. Walker)



Jon Fajans (UF Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences) lends a hand with roof repair, August 17. (Photo by W. Marquardt)

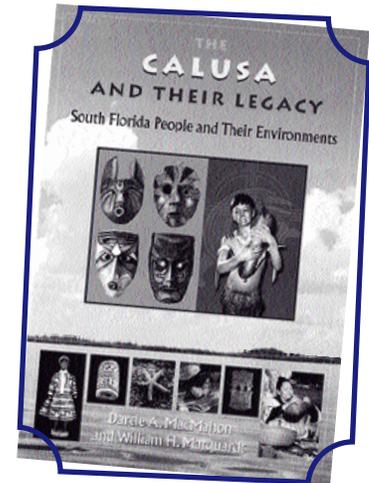
# New Calusa Book Available in November



Artist's conception of the Calusa leader's house, in which 2,000 people could gather. (Drawing by Merald Clark; from page 92 of the forthcoming book, *The Calusa and Their Legacy*)

*The Calusa and Their Legacy*, by Darcie MacMahon and Bill Marquardt, will be published in November by the University Press of Florida. The book tells the story of the Calusa people and the coastal environment that sustained them. It is illustrated with drawings created by artists for the Florida Museum of Natural History's award-winning Hall of South Florida People and Environments and includes dozens of photographs, many in color. The book is non-technical and is intended for all ages.

The book sells for \$39.95 and can be purchased from your local bookseller, directly from the University Press of Florida, [www.upf.com](http://www.upf.com), or from the Randell Research Center at 7450 Pineland Road, Pineland.



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# Staff Spotlight: Rona Stage

by John Worth

In this issue, we at the RRC are pleased to focus on Rona Stage, RRC store manager. Rona was raised in Florida, and after having managed a national microfilm operation for Bell & Howell in Chicago, she returned to Florida and to Pine Island in 1986. Since then she was a Vice President of Research for a company in Fort Myers, and started and operated (with the help of her father) a records management company, while simultaneously implementing a records management department for a Canon dealership in Tampa. She previously owned a gift shop, "Stages," in Matlacha, featuring one-of-a-kind artwork and created hand-painted clothing, mostly of Calusa design. She still creates and wholesales hand-painted and silkscreen clothing.

Rona has been with the RRC since the fall of 2001, starting as the business manager handling the daily operations for the new headquarters. Currently she is the store manager, responsible for purchasing and managing merchandise sales for the RRC.

She also works as Business and Operations Director for the Useppa Island Historical Society and Barbara Sumwalt Museum on Useppa Island.



Rona Stage (background, center) with RRC volunteers Rena Brown (left) and Andrea Perisho at the RRC booth, Mangomania 2004. (Photo by J. Worth)

She lives on a Calusa mound at Pineland with her husband Pat Hagle, a charter captain who operates his own business from Four Winds Marina, and their cat Mickey. Unfortunately, they experienced Hurricane Charley firsthand when their home was severely damaged.



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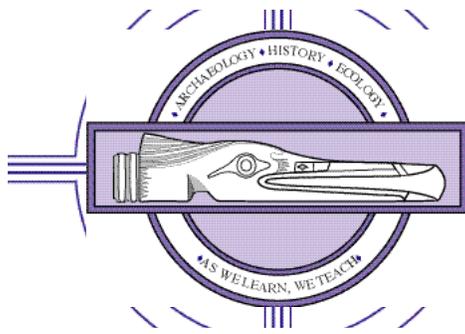
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Pineland, Florida • September, 2004  
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Sincerely,

John E. Worth, Ph.D.  
Coordinator of Research Programs and Services  
Randell Research Center

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