

Friends of the Randell Research Center

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Music Festival Planned for January 30

All-day event will raise funds, awareness


by D. L. Havlin and Bill Marquardt

MUSIC AT THE MOUNDS! Come and enjoy a whole day's buffet of music, see the past year's site improvements (including the new butterfly garden), and visit with archaeologists Bill Marquardt, Karen Walker, and Donna Ruhl. **MUSIC AT THE MOUNDS** will be held in Pineland on the grounds of the Randell Research Center. Bring your lawn chair, settle in, and enjoy the day.

This exciting one-day music festival on January 30, 2010 will benefit the Randell Research Center and its Calusa Heritage Trail, voted Pine Island's "best tourist attraction" for the past three years. Professional groups will play a wide spectrum of musical offerings. Dixieland jazz will be provided by the popular PALM CITY DIXIELAND BAND. Bluegrass fans will tap their toes to TOMORROW'S NEWS. The versatile and crowd-pleasing SUZANNE LANSFORD will entertain with her violin stylings. As an additional treat, young musicians from two local high schools will showcase their talents. The mix is certain to provide a taste for every musical palate.

MC for the event is the charismatic Jim Syoen, co-star of television's morning "FOX 4 RISING." The program will start at 10:00 A.M. and end at 5:30 P.M. Food vendors and representatives of community organizations will be in attendance.

Randell Research Center archaeologists will be on hand to explain volunteer-assisted work being performed by scientists of the Florida Museum of Natural History, and the archaeological dig at Mound 5 will be open for inspection.

The price for the entire day's entertainment is only \$20 per person. Advance tickets will be available from service clubs and retail establishments and at the RRC gift shop at the Calusa Heritage Trail. For further information, call D.L. Havlin, Chairman, Music at the Mounds, at 239-994-0366, or the Randell Research Center at 239-283-2157. 



The popular bluegrass band Tomorrow's News will play two sets at the festival. Cool jazz, Dixieland, and violin stylings will also be featured.

QUICK FACTS:

- Gates open at 9 AM. Music starts at 10 AM.
- Bring your own lawn chairs or picnic blankets. Seating is open-air, so folks may want to wear hats and consider using sunscreen.
- Coolers are allowed, but food consumption is restricted to designated areas so as not to infringe on the pleasure of others.
- No alcohol is allowed on site, but the Tarpon Lodge across the street offers alcoholic beverages. Once admitted, patrons will be issued wristbands, and may come and go as they wish.
- Food and drink vendors will be on site.
- All safety, health, and traffic concerns will be addressed. Adequate restroom facilities will be assured.
- Beyond the expense for entertainment and other direct costs that cannot be obtained through donation, ALL monies go to NON-PROFIT groups: the Randell Research Center and the music departments of participating high schools. A portion of your ticket purchase price is tax deductible.
- A map to the site can be downloaded at www.flmnh.ufl.edu/rrc/images/2004rrcmap.jpg or you can call the Center at 239-283-2157.
- Need overnight lodging? The historic Tarpon Lodge, located right across the street from the event, is offering a 15% discount to those who mention Music at the Mounds. Call the Lodge at 239-283-3999 or visit www.tarponlodge.com/home/. Other lodging may be located by calling the Greater Pine Island Chamber of Commerce at 239-283-0888 or by visiting www.pineislandchamber.org/.



Recent History of the Pineland Community

Part 2 in a series

by Bill Marquardt

A recent inquiry to our web site asked for more information on the history of the Pineland community. Here is the second installment.

In the September issue, I discussed removal of parts of Pineland's waterfront midden-mounds for road-building, a practice that continued into the 1920s. Another significant disturbance occurred ca. 1916-1917 when the western portion of Smith Mound was taken down by Harro Harrsen. At least half of the volume of this burial mound was removed, and eyewitness Ted Smith estimated in a 1992 interview that "about two-thirds" was taken away, describing the original mound as "almost round; it was circular." The dirt was used to fill in low areas described by Cushing a decade earlier as a lake encircling the burial mound and an additional four-acre lake.

By the time R. D. Wainwright visited Pineland in July 1917, the western portion of the burial mound had already been removed. Wainwright observed disturbed human bones at the top of the mound. Excavating briefly near the base of the exposed mound sediments, he discovered sections of a plain pottery bowl. On

the ground in the area that had been removed, he discovered a check-stamped pottery sherd (likely St. Johns Check Stamped, a marker for the Caloosahatchee III period, A.D. 1200-1350).

A decade later, in 1926, the remaining eastern portion was slated for destruction on the order of Graham Wilson, but this action was halted by John Smith, Ted Smith's father, who then owned the eastern portion of the mound.

In 1925, Wilson had bought several of the Pineland properties, and added two more in 1928 and 1930, the last one probably being the Randell Complex Mound 1 (RCM1) parcel. In her 1982 book, Elaine Jordan states that "on April 28 [1925], Wilson hired a man named A. B. Moon to build a winter vacation retreat along the water's edge at Pineland. Shell was brought in by the truck loads from the Calusa mounds on other property that Wilson owned there and the low swampy area was filled in to provide higher ground to build the house on." Ted Smith remembered that the wetland on which the home was to be located was filled in from sediments derived from the entirety of the mound that we call Brown's

Brown's Complex Mound 1, today the largest and highest of Pineland's midden-mounds, was once higher, wider, and longer (photo by M. Clark).

Complex Mound 6 (BCM6), and probably a significant portion of BCM1, creating the steep slope on its northeastern side (see photo). On top of the loose, shelly sediments from the mounds, Wilson and Moon placed sediments dredged from the bottom just off shore. The borrow area is clearly visible on a 1944 aerial photograph. Filling the wetlands had the effect of extending the shoreline out, creating land where the Tarpon Lodge and American Bible College stand today.

The Wilson winter home was still unfinished when a severe hurricane struck southwest Florida on September 18, 1926. The storm surge was significant enough that the floors of the Wilson home were damaged, and many Pineland residents took refuge in the Adams home, situated high on top of the Adams Mound. The storm also destroyed a windmill, which had pumped water for grove irrigation.

The Wilsons' house was ultimately completed and named "GraMar Villa" after a combination of the names



Graham and Mary. The main entrance was on the south, and two large brick fireplaces graced the interior on the east and west walls of the main floor. GraMar Villa still stands on Waterfront Drive, across from Brown's Complex Mound 5, and today is known as the Tarpon Lodge. (Only one of the twin fireplaces remains, and the main entrance is now where the eastern fireplace was located.) The Wilsons built twin, cypress-wood boat houses at the shore line near their home. Across the street on BCM5 they built a cottage and three-car garage for Mary's sister. This cottage, locally known as the Harris Cottage, is occupied today; the garage has been converted into a studio.

Wilson also built a house for his foreman, as well as a citrus packing barn and a 100-foot-long residence for

the farm workers. Wilson's activities extended to the court we call Brown's Complex Court 1. Ted Smith remembered that, like today, BCC1 always appeared as a depression. He also noted that Wilson filled it with 3 or 4 feet of "marl-rich dirt and stuff," making a rose garden there. He also kept there a mule and a shed. Both the rose garden and the mule shed suggest that BCC1 was open to the sun, unlike today. In the 1920s and 1930s, muck for enriching the flower garden's soil in BCC1 was dug from a 3-acre, 3-foot-deep pond, which we believe is the "four to four-and-a-half-acre" lake described by Cushing in his 1895 notes.

At about the same time, Graham Wilson hired a crew to dig a channel out from Pineland into Pine Island Sound. This is now the entrance to the intra-

coastal waterway, and is still listed on maps and referred to locally as "Wilson's Cut." Ted Smith remembered working on the project: "We dug nine feet of solid rock out of that channel, to make the channel thirty feet wide. Under that nine-foot layer of rock we dug up pine trees that big around [indicating about three feet], with bark on them."

At the western foot of RCM2 today, with a view of Pine Island Sound, sits a house that was said to have been built by Wilson for his two unmarried sisters. We do not know the construction date, but we estimate 1926. The history of an associated garage building behind it is unknown but it appears in the 1944 aerial photo, along with the house, so it is at least that old. As mentioned earlier, Harrsen's house on the top of RCM1 burned down in 1927. *(To be continued.)*



Updates

by Bill Marquardt

Pineland Curation Project Represented at Regional Conference

Several staff and students participated in the 66th annual Southeastern Archaeological Conference held in Mobile, Alabama, November 5-7. We presented two posters at the meetings and talked to several dozen interested people about our Pineland curation work. A poster presentation entitled, "Rehabilitation of the Florida Museum of Natural History's Pineland Collections," was created by Bill Marquardt, Karen Walker, Melissa Ayvaz, Austin Bell, Ann Cordell, Elise LeCompte, Gypsy Price, Donna Ruhl, and Ryan VanDyke. A second poster, "Rehabilitation of Pineland's Archaeobotanical Collections," was created by Donna Ruhl and Melissa Ayvaz. Bill, Melissa, and Karen traveled to the meeting to present the posters and answer questions.

The collections result from public-oriented excavation projects that took



Karen Walker explains curation process to interested students (photo by W. Marquardt).

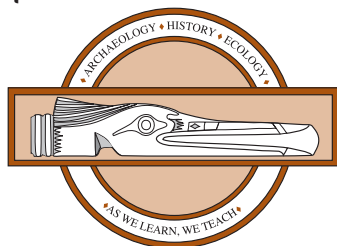
place at the Pineland Site Complex from 1988 to 1995. Those projects focused on the A.D. 50 to 1710 cultural and environmental histories of the complex. The collections consist of an estimated 126,500 artifacts, 10,785 bags of human-environmental specimens and samples, and 18 linear shelf feet of associated records and documents. Over the past two decades, the collections were heavily used for both research and exhibit purposes, and it was not until 2005 that all components again existed under the same roof. The disorganized state of the collections

threatened their long-term integrity for future research and education purposes. A three-year grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities awarded in 2007 to the Florida Museum of Natural History is supporting comprehensive curation of the collections (see *Friends* newsletter for December 2007). Our methods and results follow national standards and may be applicable to other projects, hence our interest in sharing information about our work. The curation project has greatly improved the long-term stability and accessibility of Pineland's collections.



Melissa Ayvaz (right) discusses curation of Pineland archaeobotanical specimens with professional archaeologists (photo by W. Marquardt).





Randell Research Center

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Updates *continued*

Excavations Resume — Volunteers Welcome

Excavations are in full swing at Mound 5 under the direction of Michael Wylde. Excavations are taking place each Wednesday and Saturday morning through April. Volunteers are welcome, and no previous experience is necessary. To participate in the dig, you must call in advance of your visit to register (239-283-2157). This will help us plan the work and guarantee that we have room for everyone to participate. For more on the dig, see *Friends* newsletter for September 2009.



Music at the Mounds:
All-Day Music Festival
for the Whole Family
January 30, 2010

**Fifth Annual
Calusa Heritage Day
at Pineland**
March 13, 2010

New and Renewing Friends of the RRC

August 16 through November 10, 2009

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

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