

CHAMBER *Continued from Page 48*

Hat
Sunglasses
Sunscreen
Insect repellent
Water

Gift Shop

The Randell Research Center (RRC) maintains a book and gift shop with an assortment of books and other gifts of interest to its visitors. Open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Mondays through Saturdays, and during special events, this store is provided as a convenient source of published information about Calusa archaeology and other related subjects, and also as a fund-raiser for RRC programs and services.

About the Randells

The Randell Research Center was made possible through a generous donation of land by Donald and Patricia Randell. Donald and Patricia Randell retired to Pineland in 1968, buying several properties. In 1994 they donated 53 acres so that a permanent place of discovery and learning could be established. The Randell Research Center conducts research in archaeology, history, and ecology, operates the Calusa Heritage Trail, and preserves nearly 70 acres of historically and environmentally important land. Results of RRC research are shared through school tours, public tours, a quarterly newsletter, events, and programs.

Pat Randell was born in Miami, Florida in 1920. Her father, Charles H. Crandon, was the driving force behind the creation of the 800-acre Crandon Park in Miami. In her twenties she was a model in New York City. She enjoyed bird watching and was an artist, writer, and poet. The gumbo limbo trees here inspired her, as did the wading birds on the mudflats.

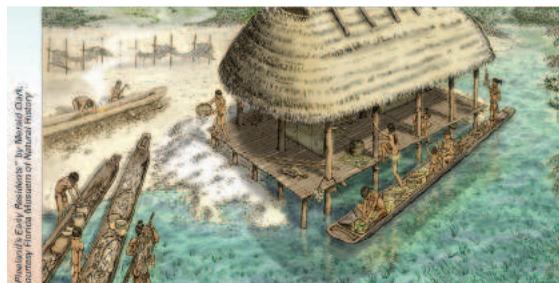
Don Randell was born in 1909. He grew up in New Jersey and from an early age enjoyed the outdoors. He attended Princeton University, where he studied geology, served in the army in WWII, and became a successful financial advisor on Wall Street. Pineland's importance to the prosperous Calusa people inspired him to learn more about them through archaeology.

Don and Pat shared an environmental ethic. In 1983, Don and Pat were introduced to archaeologist Dr. Bill Marquardt of the Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida, by their friend Dr. Michael Hansinger. In 1983, Bill completed a study of Josslyn Island, then owned by Don and Pat. In 1988, Bill Marquardt and Karen Walker directed preliminary excavations at Pineland, followed by more detailed research in 1990 and 1992. Many volunteers took part and hundreds of school children and their teachers visited the site. In 1994, Don and Pat decided to donate their land.

Don died in 1995 and Pat in 2002. Bill Marquardt continues to serve as Director for the RRC. A team of three local staff members operates the Center on a daily basis.

A Commitment to Education

The motto of the Randell Research Center is "As We Learn,



We Teach". The RRC is committed to education at the broadest level, from elementary school children to University of Florida graduate students, from hands-on educational opportunities for local citizens to the Internet. During excavations at the Pineland site in 1990 and 1992, an ambitious complementary education program provided teacher training, classroom exercises, and hands-on environmental educational opportunities for over 5,000 school children and 600 teachers. Some of the children were from underprivileged backgrounds. The RRC staff was astonished to learn that many of them had never seen the coast, in spite of living in a coastal county. For many - including a number of middle-class children - our archaeological walking tour was also their first close look at a woodpecker, a strangler-fig tree, or a fishing net. Learning about one's surroundings and history is not just for children - the excitement extends to adults of all ages. Many newcomers are fascinated by Florida's environment and history and are eager to learn about them. Thus, the RRC at Pineland has become a destination for "eco-tourists" and "heritage tourists," offering exciting programs for the visitors.

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The Randell Research Center is a program of the Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida

Art by Merald Clark, courtesy Florida Museum of Natural History.

