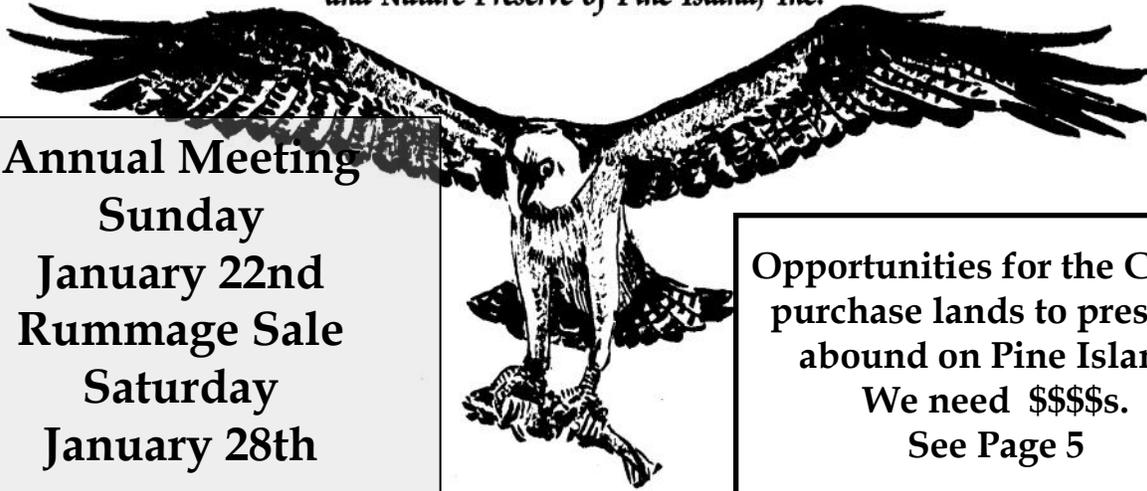


Calusa Land Trust

and Nature Preserve of Pine Island, Inc.



Annual Meeting
Sunday
January 22nd
Rummage Sale
Saturday
January 28th

Opportunities for the CLT to
purchase lands to preserve
abound on Pine Island.
We need \$\$\$\$.
See Page 5

Newsletter #76
Founded 1976

December 2011
www.calusalandtrust.org

2012 Annual Meeting by Joan Rosenberg 283.3871

Mark your calendar. The Calusa Land Trust's Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 22nd 2012 at Fritts Park at 1:00 PM. Fritts Park is located five miles north of Pine Island Center. Turn left onto Beach Daisy Lane just south of the Pink Citrus Trailer Park. Bring a neighbor or friend. Hope to see you there.

In addition to committee reports, we will hold elections for the Board of Directors. Standing for reelection to two year terms are: **Harold Bruner, Brian Cotterill, Peter Simmons, and Rubye Woodhead.**

Bill Spikowski, Alison Ackerman, Donna Venesky and Brenda J. Anderson have decided not to run for reelection. A special thanks to these Board Members for their many many years of service to the CLT.

The CLT Nominating Committee is pleased to present a slate of four members for election to the Calusa Land Trust Board of Directors.

John Kendall is a resident of St. James City, treasurer of the St. Jude Homeowner Association, is an active participant in CLT workdays and a supporter of the St. James Creek Preserve, as well as being a retired lawyer from the Midwest.

Mark Laux is a resident of Cape Coral, active participant in CLT workdays and a retired police officer from New Jersey.

Cathy House is a resident of St. James City, long time CLT member and supportive of both natural habitats and archeology on Pine Island and most recently is a retired Lee County librarian. Cathy moved to Pine Island permanently over 15 years ago to be near her family, Bud and Shirley House who were active CLT members for many, many years.

continued page 2

Mark your Calendar
2012 Calusa Land Trust Annual Meeting is Sunday January 22.
and
on the following Saturday, January 28 the Annual Rummage Sale.

Cindy Bear is a resident of central Pine Island, a former CLT Board member and is currently working at the Randall Research Center at Pineland organizing resource management and education activities. In her past work for the Lee County Environmental Education Program and her current work, Cindy actively tries to educate everyone about the values of conserving lands and species for future generations.

A great lunch will be served. It will be catered by Robin and Chris of Little Lilly’s Deli with help from several of our members. We will have the great soup, salad and cookies that we had last year! Be prepared to add some dollars to our lunch donation jar – donations will be accepted and appreciated. Lunchtime on our picnic tables is a good time to meet new members and say hi to those you know.

In case of rain, look for signs at the Center and Fritts Park directing you to Fishers of Men Lutheran Church. The Church is located just south of the 4-way stop on the east side of Stringfellow Road.

Acquisition News

by Harold Bruner

464.2436

10+ Acres East of Woodstock Road bought for less than appraised value

The lingering effects of a tough real estate market resulted in an opportunity for the CLT to purchase another preserve at a bargain price. Early in June we closed on 10.44 acres east of the end of Woodstock Road on the south end of Pine Island. When the offer was negotiated the current (2010) assessed value was \$20,790. The 2011 assessment that was made public around Nov. 1 dropped to \$19,410. We were able to purchase the property for \$16,630 or 20% below the assessed value at the time of the purchase.

The Lee County Property Appraiser estimates 9.06 acres of mangrove wetlands and 1.38 acres of uplands. A mosquito ditch running at an angle shows clearly on the aerial photo. This, of course, separates the mangroves in the upper right portion of the photo from the uplands in the lower left. The mosquito ditch runs in a southeasterly direction and empties into St. James Creek, which connects then to Matlacha Pass. The small bridge on Pine Island Road just east of Pine Island crosses St. James Creek which is the boundary separating Pine Island from Little Pine Island.

continued page 3



Aerial view of a recent purchase east of the intersection of Woodstock & Redwood.

Although the new purchase has no road frontage it can be accessed by walking a drainage easement that runs east/west from Redwood just north of Woodstock. Following that easement due east will bring you to the uplands portion of the preserve near the southwest corner of the property.

The north and east boundaries of this new preserve border the wetlands of a large privately held property of over 230 acres. With less than a single acre of uplands, the hope is that this large adjoining wetlands will someday be preserved.

Since October 2010 we have purchased eight properties totaling over 116 acres for just over \$167,000. The success of buying so many new preserves means that funds for new purchases are depleted. We do have a contract with an option to purchase four more properties totaling 113 acres for \$113,000. However, the only way we can do that is to have a successful fundraising drive as you will see described elsewhere in this newsletter. Please help us raise these needed funds so we can continue to preserve Pine Island.

Corporate Gift Matching Programs

Many larger corporations have programs where they will match employee donations to eligible charities. The Calusa Land Trust qualifies for these matching contributions. If you are an employee or retiree of one of these corporations, remember to follow up and ask for the matching gifts for your recent and future donations. This is a great way to augment your charitable giving and make a significant impact on CLT funds.



Our Preserve Signs

Wish List

Your Land Trust has grown and so has our need to store historical documents. We need a fireproof /waterproof safe or file cabinet. Check your attic, basement and closets to see if you have an extra safe lying around that you can donate.

The Calusa Land Trust Mission Statement

The purpose of the Calusa Land Trust is to protect the natural diversity and beauty of the Pine Island region by acquiring, managing and preserving in perpetuity environmentally sensitive or historically important land and to foster appreciation for and understanding of the environment and our past. The Land Trust is a broad coalition of individuals, families, and businesses who agree that the acquisition and protection of natural land is important if we are to retain the quality of life which makes the Pine Island region so attractive to people and to wildlife. The Land Trust is supported entirely by people who donate their time, talent, and financial support to protect irreplaceable natural resources. The Land Trust does not engage in political activity or lobbying and takes no position on zoning or regulatory matters. The Calusa Land Trust represents people's willingness to put their money and time where their hearts are to make a difference.

Great Calusa Annual Poker Run

The Pine Island Boat Club conducted the Annual Poker Run on December 4th. This popular event presented annually by the Pine Island Boat Club benefits the Calusa Land Trust. The weather was terrific and boaters, bikers and walkers enjoyed collecting cards and ending up at Woody’s Waterside. Phil and Ginny Schaller walked off with the first prize and the CLT gained \$4177 compared to last year’s \$3342. Good job Pine Island Boat Club and Woody’s.

Great Calusa Rubber Duck Race

FLASH! 3000 rubber ducks just flew in to start training for the Annual Rubber Duck Race which will be held at Woody’s Waterside on Saturday March 3, 2012. Last year’s race was a fantastic success. Once again, we hope to sell all 3000 as they race down Monroe canal. Your opportunity to buy a duck will begin soon.

Although the big race is a few months away, we need everyone’s help now. Mark your own calendar now and start encouraging all your friends and neighbors to buy tickets and attend the race. In addition to ticket sales, our proceeds come from the live and silent auctions. To accomplish our goals, we need items to be donated for both the auction and duck race prizes. If you are a craftsman or artist, consider donating some of your work. You can also donate your time or services such as boat rides, cook a dinner, or use your imagination. If you have friends with businesses, ask them to donate, or contact the Race Committee and we will call on the business.

Once again, Pink Wesorick will lead the Duck Race Committee. You can call her at 283-7249 or 292-9789 or Email pink@calusalandtrust.org It takes a lot of volunteers to put on the Duck Race so if you wish to help let Pink know.

Preserve Pine Island Fund Drive 2012

In the last Newsletter’s Fund Raising article we discussed properties we have an option agreement to buy as funds become available. The entire purchase is for \$113,000 with \$40,000 due on March 1, 2012.

See the next page for the complete letter mailed to many Pine Island Property Owners in the last few weeks.

If you did not receive the letter perhaps it will convince you to make an extra contribution to your Land Trust. If you did receive the letter thanks for giving it some consideration.

Hot Off the Press

The newly revised and updated version of the ever popular “The Nature Lover’s Guide to Pine Island” is now available from the Calusa Land Trust.

Calusa Land Trust’s past President, Phil Buchanan spent the summer updating all sections of the Nature Guide and it is better than ever. You can own your own copy of the Guide for \$20.00 and \$5.00 of each purchase stays at the CLT. Call our Secretary Rubye Woodhead at 239-283-1288 or Email nfo@calusalandtrust.org to get your copy.

Available at the Annual Meeting



“Preserve Pine Island Fund Drive-2012”

The purpose of the Calusa Land Trust is to protect the natural diversity and beauty of the Pine Island region by acquiring, managing, and preserving in perpetuity environmentally sensitive lands. For detailed information about our mission and our unique area, go to our website www.calusalandtrust.org which includes a link to an interesting video about the Trust. You may also enjoy reading the recently published book “The Nature Lover’s Guide to Pine Island” by Dr. Phil Buchanan.

In the past two years, the Calusa Land Trust has been extremely successful in acquiring properties for preservation. In this period, we have acquired five preserves consisting of 116 acres with an assessed value of \$252,000. In total, the Calusa Land Trust now owns 1186 acres with a value of \$2,286,000. In addition, during this same time, we have partnered with Lee County 20/20 to preserve another 2400 acres.

There is more good news. We have recently entered into an option contract for four more properties from a single seller. The four parcels are 40, 38, 20, and 15 acres for a total of 113 acres. A key feature of two of these is that they adjoin preserves we currently own. With a purchase price of \$1,000 an acre, the total cost is \$113,000. We have two years to finalize the purchase of these four parcels, but we must close at least one every six months. Our first deadline is for the purchase of the 40 acre parcel for \$40,000 with a closing date of March 1, 2012.

The current economic situation has led many landowners to consider selling properties that were not previously available to us. This means that in the near future, the Calusa Land Trust may have many more opportunities to buy and preserve parcels of land. However, some of these sales must be acted upon quickly and therefore we must rebuild our reserve of acquisition funds.

Along with all the successes and good news, there is a downside. We have exhausted all of our acquisition funds. In fact, we had to borrow \$25,000 to purchase one of the five parcels described earlier. To keep our acquisition program active we are initiating a critical fundraising program which we have named “Preserve Pine Island” with a goal of raising \$250,000.

We are asking supporters of the Calusa Land Trust and every person who understands the importance of preserving our environmentally sensitive land on and around Pine Island to lend a helping hand and make an extra donation at this time.

Please use the enclosed form to make your donation or pledge. Cash, check, or credit cards are all appreciated. Where it applies, don’t forget your company gift matching programs.

For those who can donate \$5,000 or more, we would be pleased to discuss the potential for naming one of our preserves and having a designated sign installed and maintained there. For more details and a list of potential preserves, contact Ron Wesorick at 239-283-7249.

Brian Cotterill

Ron Wesorick

Brian

Ron

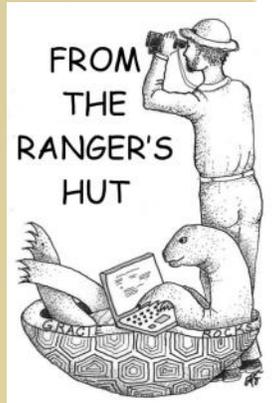
President, Calusa Land Trust

Fundraising Chairman

RANGER'S REPORT

Ed Chapin

218.7531



List of Scrooge's Past Work Parties

Saturday October 8th. – Back Bay Preserve – We had 4 hardy volunteers battling the dreaded grey knickerbean tree/vine and removed trash, and exotic invasive plants. Phil Rosenberg wins, hands-down, the award for best battle with an invasive exotic plant for 2011.

Saturday November 12th. – Canceled Cayo Peleu trip because of windy weather. Re-scheduled to the next Saturday and ended up being a small party working on Calusa Island.

Tuesday November 29th. – Calusa Island Preserve. The Bokeelia Boat Club brought a work party of 19 hard working volunteers. We did lots of trimming, and burned debris. The Club did a good job and we look forward to continuing to work together.

Saturday December 10th. – Dobbs Preserve in St. James City. We had eight hard working volunteers putting in a new rough layout of a loop trail through the Preserve. And we removed invasive exotics. Thanks to Joe Conner for taking on project of marking the new trail. As with all the Preserves this is an on-going project. Lots of new ideas coming down the road.

List of Scrooge's Future Work Parties

Saturday January 14th – Fritts Park, Bokeelia. We will be setting up for the CLT Annual Meeting which will be held on Sunday January 22nd. Also, the Shirley House Annual Rummage Sale is scheduled for Saturday January 28th at Fritts Park. 9 to Noon.

Saturday February 11th. – Fritts Park, Bokeelia. We will take down the tent and clean up the grounds. 9 to Noon

Saturday March 10th. – Dobbs and Baxley Preserves.

The Calusa Land Trust holds its Work Parties on the second Saturday of each Month except August from 9am until Noon. We can always use more help. Call or Email for more information. Ed Chapin, Chief Ranger 239.218.7531 or ecalusaed@calusalandtrust.org or visit our website at www.calusalandtrust.org

Rummage Sale

by Alison Ackerman

851.3176

Hang on to your hats and anything else you no longer need. Our annual rummage sale is coming soon and we would love your donations. The date has been set for Saturday, January 28 the weekend after our annual meeting. As before, please bring your bags and boxes to Fritts Park after 12:00 noon, on Friday, the 21st, and CLT volunteers will be there to receive them. We would also love some help on Friday and or Saturday to sort, tag, and sell. Give Alison Ackerman a call 851.3176, so she can organize this event. Whether you donate a few items or a couple of hours, thank you in advance for helping out. It's always a profitable, not to mention fun, couple of days.

_____ \$ 15 Individual Member _____ \$100 Contributor
 _____ \$ 25 Family Member _____ \$500 Patron
 _____ \$ 50 Donor _____ \$1000 Benefactor
 _____ \$ 50 Plunk-a-Plunk
 (fill in lettering) _____

CREDIT CARD #: _____ **Visa or MasterCard only**
EXPIRES: _____ / _____

How do you want to receive your Newsletter?
 US Mail
 E-Mail

Your Name: _____
 Sponsor: _____
 Address: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____
 Phone: _____ Alt Phone _____
 Second Address: _____
 Second City, State, Zip: _____
 E-mail address _____

"A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING 800-435-7352 TOLL-FREE WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE."

Full financial details, including federal tax returns, can be obtained by contacting the Land Trust's Treasurer at (239) 334-8866 during working hours. Federal Employer Identification Number: **59-1782265**. The Calusa Land Trust is an exempt Organization under section **501(c)(3)** of the IRS code. Florida Dept of Agriculture & Consumer Services registration number **CH3439**. No portion of donations received by the Trust is paid to any professional solicitor. 100% of all donations are received by the Trust.

Dec. 2011



Photo by Donna Venesky on Fish Eating Creek

THE CALUSA LAND TRUST'S PETER ORDWAY MANGROVE ADVENTURES

2012 Upcoming Peter Ordway Mangrove Adventures January through March

- Sunday January 8th** Big Jim Creek Preserve
Bokeelia 1pm to 4
- Saturday February 25th** Long Cut, York &, Coconut Island St. James City 1 pm to 4
- Sunday March 25th** Underhill Creek Preserve
Cape Coral 1pm to 4

Please note that 2012's Paddles will be in the afternoon because of tides and Ed not wanting to get up early.

Gracie, the Ghostwriting Gopher Tortoise, wishes everyone a wonderful New Year and appreciates all of your efforts to take care of our natural home.

The Peter Ordway Mangrove Adventures were started by Peter many years ago as a way to explore our waterfront Pine Island Preserves and to raise money for the Calusa Land Trust. It has been an honor to carry on these paddling adventures in memory of Peter. There are six trips every season starting in October and running through March.



Calusa Land Trust & Nature Preserve
 of Pine Island, Inc.
 P.O. Box 216
 Bokeelia, Florida 33922

2012 ANNUAL MEETING
SUNDAY JANUARY 22
1:00PM FRITTS PARK

This is **Earleaf Acacia**
 and it has been identified
 as **invasive and**
unmanageable
 on Pine Island.



**YELLOW
 ADDRESS
 LABEL? TIME
 TO RENEW.**

Prefer to receive this
 Newsletter by E-Mail?

Just let us know by
 sending your E-Mail
 address to
info@calusalandtrust.org



If you see it on your property remove it.