

2017 IMPORTANT DATES

January 7, Saturday
Paddle Chapin Preserve
into Smokehouse Bay
12—3pm

January 12, Thursday
*"Naturally Twisted: A
Wild Look At The Wild"*
Presentation by
Mark Renz
6:30 Pine Island Elks

January 14, Saturday
The Poker Run at Low
Key Tiki, new fun location

January 14, Saturday
Work party at Fritts Park
Setup for Annual Meeting
9-12

January 15, Sunday
Phil Buchanan
Celebration of Life at
SJC Civic Association
4-6pm

January 21, Saturday
Post Poker Run Party
sponsored by
the Harringtons
to benefit CLT
2-7pm

January 22, Sunday
The Calusa Land Trust
41st Annual Meeting at
Fritts Park
1:00pm

January 28, Saturday
The Calusa Land Trust
Annual Rummage Sale at
Fritts Park
all day

February 11, Saturday
Work party at Fritts Park
Cleanup from
Rummage Sale
9-12

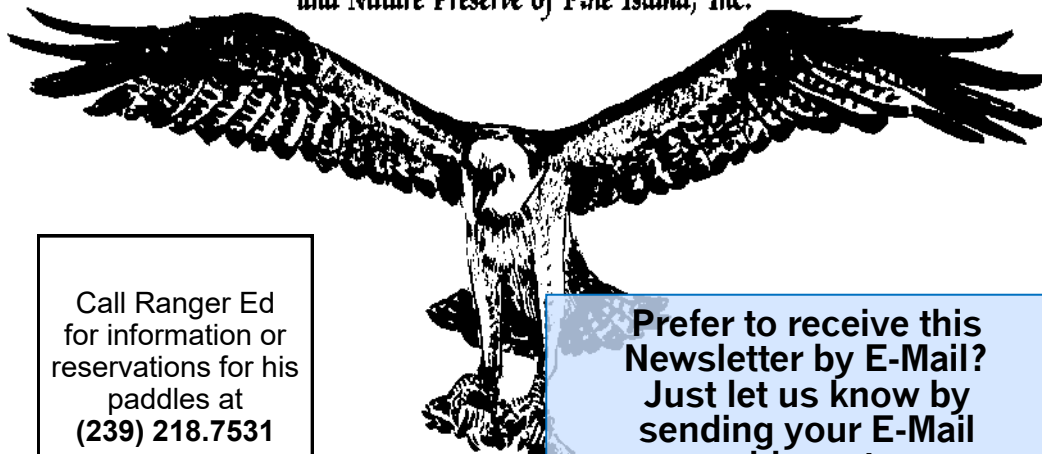
February 18, Saturday
Annual Garden Club
Garden Gala at
Phillips Park

March 4, Saturday
The Great Calusa Duck
Race at Low Key Tiki,
a new fun location

2nd Saturday
Of each Month Means
A Work Party at a
CLT property

Calusa Land Trust

and Nature Preserve of Pine Island, Inc.



Call Ranger Ed
for information or
reservations for his
paddles at
(239) 218.7531

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Newsletter #98
Founded 1976

January 2017
www.calusalandtrust.org

Annual Meeting Notice

41st Annual Meeting of the Calusa Land Trust and Nature Preserve of Pine Island, Inc.

- ◆ Sunday, January 22, 2017, 1:00 pm at Fritts Park
- ◆ Located at West end of Beach Daisy Lane, Bokeelia
- ◆ Meeting includes review of 2016 and plans for 2017
- ◆ Election of one new board member
- ◆ Reelection of Board Members Ed Chapin, Joan Rosenberg, Rad Hazen, Cathy House, Sonny Koutsoutis and Bill Hummer
- ◆ New Candidate Robert Ballard (Bio on page 2)
- ◆ Luncheon offers deli and veggie sandwiches, fruits, salad, cookies, pop and bottled water
- ◆ Socialize with friends and perhaps win at the raffle
- ◆ Enjoy Frank Tuma's Island Music
- ◆ Bring friends and neighbors
- ◆ All are Welcome See ya' there!
- ◆ In case of inclement weather we will meet at Fishers of Men Lutheran Church



WORKING WITH FRIENDS

John Kendall, President

It is likely that you support the Calusa Land Trust, since you believe in its mission to acquire, preserve and protect Pine Island lands. In accomplishing this mission your Board of Directors has not become fixated on who holds fee title to these properties. Our belief is preserved land is preserved land. This Birds' Nest article will review our relationships with several friends sharing comparable ideals.

Lee County 20/20. This Program, initiated by public referendum (first in 1996 and just recently in 2016 and today receiving finances from general tax revenues), purchases lands from willing sellers, in order to create public nature preserves and park settings. One may ask why would CLT give money to a government which already has sufficient funds. Answer: 20/20 acquisitions are determined based on several factors, the deciding one being "local financial support". When CLT contributes (sometimes only \$5,000) it tips the scale to purchase a Pine Island parcel as opposed to some offering elsewhere in the County. Thus, the reason why a disproportionate inventory of 20/20 lands are here on Pine Island.

To date CLT has donated \$170,000 to the County 20/20 Program, the most prominent of which is the 265-acre (intended as a housing development) Galt Preserve. Spearheaded by the late Phil Buchanan, your land trust kicked in the first \$43,000 to lead what has become a \$5 million jewel.

Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation. CLT has enjoyed a long and favorable rapport with SCCF, the highlight being co-ownership of the Long Cut, Coconut and York Islands off the coast from St. James City. This foundation performs a comparable mission for these sister islands.

University of Florida Foundation. In 2015 CLT contributed an "emergency" gift of \$50,000 towards the purchase price of the Smith Mound at the Randell Research Center at Pineland. Upon this 5-acre plot rests an ancient sacred Calusa burial ground. RRC has used its funds to recently clear the land of invasive plants with plans for infrastructure for passive public use and education.

Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast. This Sarasota based group holds title to the "cow pasture" across from Flamingo Bay. It has cleared the land of invasives and has funds slotted to restore hydrology and create a park with picnic areas and nature trails. This is adjacent to CLT's Matlacha Pass Preserve and 20/20 properties and, thus, we have coordinated with CFGC and Lee County on a master plan for the area.

In summary your Calusa Land Trust has fostered friendships with like-minded entities such that your support (sweat, money and land) is consonant with our mission to preserve the Pine Island lifestyle (for both humans and creatures) in perpetuity. Thank you again.

Candidate for Board of Directors

Robert Ballard is a 5th generation Florida native born in Fort Myers and raised in Bokeelia and on Pine Island Road. He spent his teenage years working as a ranch hand and a commercial fisherman before starting his "working" career as a Draftsman at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft in West Palm Beach. Robert left Florida in 1969 to see what the outside world looked like, moving to New England and working for a Medical Products company and then 35 years in the Plasma Cutting Industry as a salesman. He returned to Fort Myers in 2000 as Vice President of Sales and then Vice President of Operations for a Robotic Software Company. Robert retired in 2013. His career in the Plasma Cutting industry took him all over Europe and South America.

Over the years he has served as Chairman of the Master Plan Update Committee, member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment and VT/NH Solid Waste District Committee and elected to the Board of Selectmen in the Town of Cornish, NH. He lives in Fort Myers when not out at his house in Bokeelia. He is a member of the Calusa Land Trust, member of the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program Citizens Advisory Committee representing the CLT, member of the Board of Directors of the Pioneer Club of Lee County, and a member of the Southwest Florida Historical Society.

He is a graduate of Fort Myers Senior High School and holds a B.S. degree from the University Systems of New Hampshire.

The Great Calusa Poker Run is Coming in January

The Calusa Land Trust invites everyone to participate in the 20th Annual Poker Run on Saturday January 14, 2017. Draw your lucky poker hands at seven stations accessible by boat or land. Everyone young or old can boat, drive, kayak, walk, run, or take golf carts to enjoy the day and have a chance to win cash prizes. This year the home location has moved to the Low Key Tiki where we will finish, listen to music, eat, drink, and socialize while waiting for the winning poker hand to be determined.

In addition to all participants having an enjoyable day on the water and on Pine Island, all proceeds will be donated to the Calusa Land Trust and Nature Preserve of Pine Island to help procure and preserve environmentally sensitive land. This year, the Poker Run is dedicated to Phil Buchanan in recognition of all his efforts in support of The Calusa Land Trust and Pine Island.

The goal of The Great Calusa Poker Run is to enjoy the day and collect poker hands at various locations - - - speed of completion is not important as long as you draw the 7th card at the Low Key Tiki before 3:30. Each ticket (you can buy as many as you wish) is carried to 6 dealer locations around Pine Island Sound and St James City where a card is drawn and entered on your ticket(s). The 7th and final card is drawn at the Low Key Tiki. If you can't participate in the Run, your tickets may be carried by someone else. You do not have to be present to win. Best Poker hands will win cash prizes of \$1000 (first), \$350(second), \$150 (third). There will also be a losers drawing for \$100 (however you must be present to win). The Calusa Land Trust appreciates the volunteers and support of Pine Island Boat Club and St James City Boat Club in helping to conduct this popular event.

Tickets are \$5 each and will be available at the Low Key Tiki in St. James City, and at the Pine Island Chamber of Commerce in Matlacha. Also, there will be various sellers that you will see around Pine Island. The Map showing dealer stations is on the next page and will be available on Race Day.

For more information, or to purchase tickets call Mike Mendelson at 570-764-1191 or e-mail "mikemens@earthlink.net"

Harrington Party Saturday January 21 2498 Carambola Street Saint James City 2-7pm

Brian and Marsha Harrington will be hosting a Poker Run Celebration and Thank You Party at their home. There will be continuous music, food and drink - all for only a \$50 donation. Come and Celebrate Phil Buchanan's life, the Calusa Land Trust and thank those volunteers who manned the Poker Run stations. For more information or to purchase a ticket call Mike Mendelson at 570-764-1191

Calusa Land Trust Alison Ackerman Annual Rummage Sale Saturday January 28

Each year the Calusa Land Trust puts on a rummage sale to raise funds for purchases of land on Pine Island. Here is another way for you to help your Land Trust— bring items that can be resold to our Fritts Park at the West end of Beach Daisy Lane in Bokeelia. Volunteers will be there on Friday January 27 after noon to accept your items.



The sale will be the next day, If you wish to help stop by the Park on Friday or Saturday.

Great Calusa Rubber Duck Race

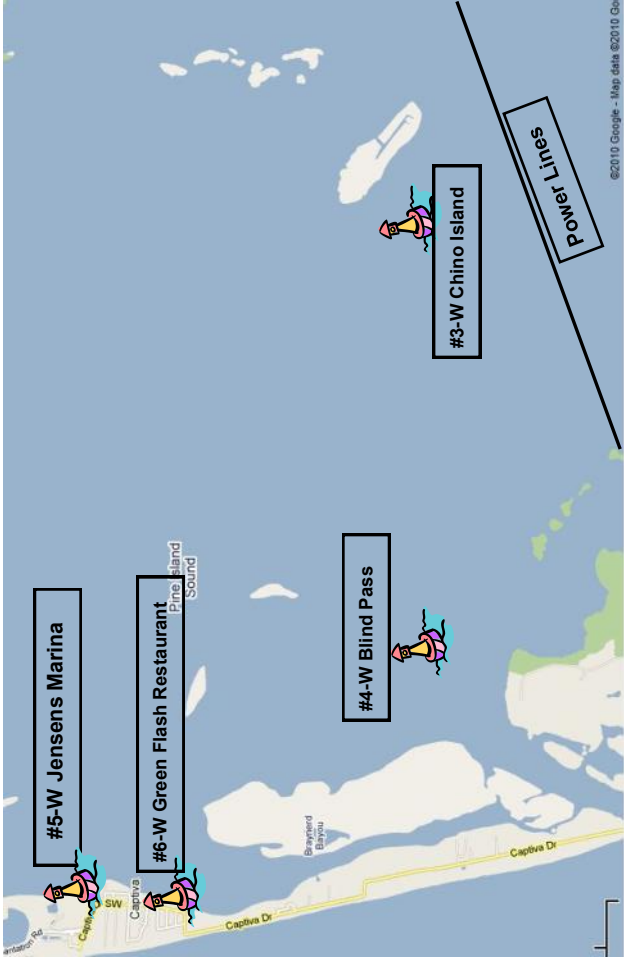


Mark your Calendar Duck Race Saturday March 4 Low Key Tiki

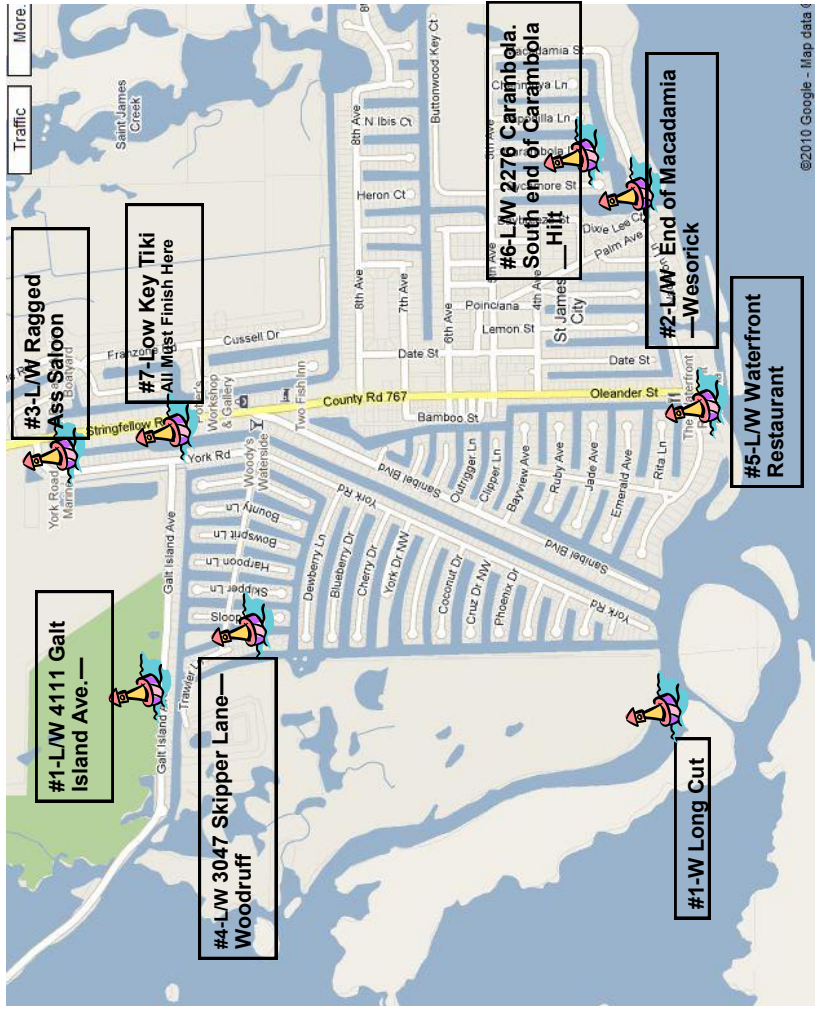
2017 Poker Run Dealer Stations

All Players must go to one of each numbered station (i.e. #4-W or #4-L/W, but not both number 4's). You may mix Water and Land/Land stations, but must stop at only one number. Stations do not have to be done in order.



- Boat to these stops.
- #1-W Long Cut—Water
 - #2-W/L Pine Island Shores—2063 Macadamia Ln—Pink & Ron Wesorick—Water/Land
 - #3-W Chino Island—Water
 - #4-W Blind Pass—Water
 - #5-W Jensen's Marina, Captiva Island—Water
 - #6-W Green Flash Restaurant, Captiva Island—Water
 - #7 Low Key Tiki 3135 Stringfellow Rd—Monroe Canal—LAST STOP FOR ALL
- L=Land W=Water



- Bike, Walk, Drive or Boat to these stops.
- #1-L/W 4111 Galt Island Ave.—Airport Canal—Bob & Bonnie Kellen—Land/Water
 - #2-L/W Pine Island Shores—2063 Macadamia Ln—Pink & Ron Wesorick—Land/Water
 - #3-L/W Ragged Ass Saloon—3421 Stringfellow—Monroe Canal—Land/Water
 - #4-L/W 3047 Skipper Lane—Judy & Woody Woodruff—Land/Water
 - #5-L/W Waterfront Restaurant—2131 Oleander—Henley Canal—Land/Water
 - #6-L/W 2276 Carambola Milt & Sandra Hilt—Land/Water
 - #7 Low Key Tiki 3135 Stringfellow Rd—Monroe Canal—LAST STOP FOR ALL
- L=Land W=Water

The Calusa Land Trust thanks you for your participation.

Treasures of the Trails for January 2017

Hoping for Snow? See Saltbush Flurries Fly at Pine Island Flatwoods Preserve

Text and Photo by Judy Ott

Who says it doesn't snow on Pine Island? Take a walk along the trails in at the Pine Island Flatwoods Preserve on a blustery day and look for the white seeds of the Saltbush flying through the air.

Saltbush, sometimes called groundsel, is a common inconspicuous evergreen shrub found throughout Pine Island much of the year. But this time of year, Saltbush turns on its holiday charm by producing abundant small flowers – which are snow white on the female plants and pale yellow on the male plants. The plentiful white, wind-born seeds are produced in November and December by the female saltbush. Saltbush is related to daisies and sunflowers and its genus (*Baccharis*) is named after the Roman god of harvest and drink - Bacchus. Saltbush is the only member of the aster



family that grows into a shrub and the plants can reach 12 feet tall. Saltbush is salt tolerant and prefers wet soils. It is found along the edges of fresh and saltwater marshes, pine flatwoods, sloughs, and ditches. It grows as far north as Massachusetts, where it sometimes follows road salt into road ditches. Saltbush makes great wildlife cover and provides nectar popular with butterflies, especially monarchs, and seeds used by many bird species. It makes a good landscaping addition for wildlife, and can be trimmed into a hedge row or small tree. And, it's tolerant of Pine Island's salty breezes, moist sandy soils, sun and partial shade.

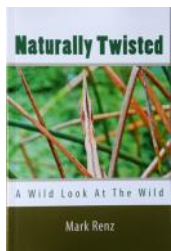
As far as Saltbush folklore goes, some say Saltbush was used in the past to treat coughs, consumption, bronchitis and the flu, but all the written references say that the leaves, flowers and seeds of Saltbush are poisonous to humans – don't try this at home. So, when you need a break from the holiday hustle and bustle and visitors, take a leisurely stroll through the Pine Island Flatwoods Preserve and enjoy the quiet, and perhaps a glimpse of the white stuff – and appreciate the winter beauty around us here on Pine Island.

FRIENDS OF PINE ISLAND LIBRARY PROGRAM

"Naturally Twisted: A Wild Look At The Wild," is the subject of Fort Myers' native Mark Renz' PowerPoint presentation beginning at 6:30 pm January 12 at the Pine Island Elks Lodge, 5630 Pine Island Road. Renz has released the first of three new books featuring off-beat, ecology-based photography and prose. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Pine Island Library and is targeted to adults and to older school children. A \$5 per person, \$10 per family donation at the door is requested.



Sarasota Herald Tribune reporter Billy Cox writes in the book's foreword, "Renz's gift is helping us to see Florida for the first time, as if it were conceived in the realms of fantasy, intimacy, mysticism and exhilaration."



Renz is the founding president of the Paleontological Society of Lee County. He operates Fossil Expeditions guide service with his artist wife Marisa. Renz has written many books about fossil hunting in Florida and South America. He will have autographed books for sale after the program.

Renz has also started a "Living Room Series", for small group read-alouds in the comfort of people's living room. He can be reached at fossilix@earthlink.net <mailto:fossilix@earthlink.net>, FossilExpeditions.com or by phone at [239-368-3252](tel:239-368-3252).

Ranger Report

Ed Chapin

Past Work Parties: On Saturday, August 20, music teacher Kimberly Ellison and her students planted 11 good sized native slash pines at Fritts Park in Bokeelia. These trees are now well established and are growing well – a nice addition to our Fritts Park. Kimberly also raised the money to buy the trees. Our thanks go out to Kimberly and her students.

On Saturday, September 10, our volunteers were at our new Wigert/Barron Preserve located on the east end of Barrancas Lane in Bokeelia. We had 9 volunteer rangers and worked on invasive exotic plant control. This preserve is also getting a major invasive plant removal by Forestry Resources Inc. very soon. Forestry Resources Inc. is going to remove Australian Pines, melaleuca, and Brazilian Pepper. This is an ongoing project that will require lots of follow-up work.

On Saturday, October 8, our work party was at the Dobbs Preserve located near Tropical Point in St. James City. We had 9 volunteers again working on invasive exotic plant control. (IEPC) We also worked on creating a loop trail in this Preserve.

On Saturday, November 12, our work party was at the new Chapin Preserve located on the south end of Smokehouse Bay. You reach it by going north on Harbor Drive to Manheim and follow our preserve signs to the east end of Royal Oakley. This Preserve is almost 90 acres, and most of it is mangrove forest with extensive mosquito ditches. We also have about 4 acres of adjacent uplands for a park and eventually a paddling trail for canoes and kayaking. We are naming the Paddling Trail after Peter Ordway who discovered this area back in the 90's. This Preserve also has an active Bald Eagle nest that is on a private lot that is in the Preserve. Because of nearby nesting eagles, we had to work without chainsaws so we didn't disturb them. We had a record turnout this work day with 16 volunteers again working on IEPC. Most of our work was Brazilian Pepper and some Melaleuca. After a lot of hard work, we had pizza and soda as a reward.

On Saturday December 10, we worked at the Wigert Barron Preserve doing follow-up IEPC. We had a great turnout of 14 volunteers, and the pizzas and sodas were much appreciated.

Work Parties in the Future: On Saturday January 14, 2017, we will be at Fritts Park getting ready for the Calusa Land Trust Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 22, 2017. On the following Saturday, January 28, Alison Ackerman will be leading our annual rummage sale at Fritts Park. We will be at Fritts Park on Friday, January 27 to accept quality items for the sale on Saturday.

On the second Saturday, February 11, 2017, we will be back at Fritts Park cleaning up from the Annual Meeting.

Peter Ordway Mangrove Adventures:

On Sunday, October 30, 2016, our first paddle was off island to Fish Eating Creek near Palmdale. This is one of Peter's and my favorite paddles. It is a primitive cypress black water creek with lots of alligators, birds, and fish. I had 14 paddlers and raised \$240 for the Calusa Land Trust. It was a good time for all and no one got eaten by an alligator.



On Saturday, November 26th, we had 14 paddlers exploring our first Preserve, Calusa Island, established in 1976. This Preserve is about 50 acres, mostly mangrove forest with an ancient shell midden That has been recently dated to about 800 B.C. by geologists and archeologists. Again, we had a fine paddle and tour of the midden which is about 9 acres. We raised \$285 for the CLT. On Sunday, December 18, 2016, we hosted a paddle to our own St. James Creek Preserve.

Coming Paddles:

Saturday January 17, 2017 Noon to 3 Chapin Preserve into Smokehouse Bay.

Sunday, February (date to be announced) Big Jim Creek Preserve

Saturday, March (date to be announced) Underhill Creek Preserve

Call for Reservations 239.218.7531



_____ \$ 25 Basic Member
_____ \$ 50 Donor
_____ \$100 Contributor

_____ \$500 Patron
_____ \$1000 Benefactor
\$ _____ Other Amount

Mail to:
Calusa Land Trust
PO Box 216
Bokeelia, FL 33922

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Full financial details, including federal tax returns, can be obtained by contacting the Land Trust's Treasurer at (239) 283-3871 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.

January 2017

Work Parties—Everyone Welcome

Preserve work parties are on the second Saturday of each month from 9:00am to Noon. None in August. We need your help. Check the Pine Island Eagle or our web site: www.calusalandtrust.org for the current month's location.

Saturday January 14 Fritts Park setup for Annual Meeting 9-12
Saturday February 11 Fritts Park cleanup after Rummage Sale 9-12
Future work parties, check with Ranger Ed 239.218.7531

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



ANNUAL
MEETING
SUNDAY
JANUARY 22

PINK
ADDRESS
LABEL? TIME
TO RENEW.

PHIL BUCHANAN CELEBRATION of LIFE

A celebration of the Life of Phil Buchanan will be held on Sunday, January 15, at the Saint James City Civic Association, 3300 Fourth Avenue, Saint James City. Time 4-6 pm.

There will be a short 20-25 minute opening program, including a 5 minute. "Eagle Feather ceremony" and "wand" to pass. Speakers will only be from organizations Phil served and loved, and they will have a time limit of 2 minutes each.

The balance of time will be for people to mingle and celebrate the life of Phil. There will be finger foods and beverages set up around the perimeter of room. The beverages will be of the type that Phil would approve.

A box will be provided for "Memory Letters" to Phil. There will be a table with a CLT banner to collect donations for the stewardship of a Calusa Land Trust Memorial Preserve to be named in honor of Phil Buchanan.

Participating groups include CLT, GPICA, CROW, Garden Club, MCA, SJCCA.

If you plan to attend attend the Celebration of the Life of Phil Buchanan please RSVP via email to Roger Wood at: rogerGPICA@gmail.com so the proper amount of snacks and beverages can be provided.