

Calusa Land Trust

and Nature Preserve of Pine Island, Inc.



2018 IMPORTANT DATES

WORK PARTIES

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

If you would like to receive
Work / Fun Party email noti-
fication, send us an email
at
info@calusalandtrust.org

Saturday, March 10, 2018,
Work Party
Bud House Calusa
Canal Preserve

Saturday, April 14, 2018,
Work Party
Taylor-Willow Lake Pre-
serve

PADDLES

Saturday March 24
9—12 am
Chapin Preserve
Call (239) 218-7531
For Reservations

Prefer to receive this Newsletter
in color by E-Mail?
Just let us know by sending your
name & E-Mail address to
info@calusalandtrust.org

Call Ranger Ed
for information on
work parties
at
(239) 218.7531

Newsletter #104

Founded 1976

March 2018

www.calusalandtrust.org

GREAT CALUSA RUBBER DUCK RACE SET FOR MARCH 3 FIRST PLACE DUCK WINS \$1,000

The Calusa Land Trust's 20th Annual Great Rubber Duck Race is scheduled for March 3rd at the LOW KEY TIKI in St. James City. The festivities will begin at noon, comprising live entertainment performances by the Pine Island Sound (featuring Al Bickford and Darryl Tison), Hot Flashz Dance Team, games, raffles, artists/authors, vendors and a much larger and diverse silent auction of prizes and gift certificates donated by local businesses and individuals.



Hurricane Deck Boat for Live Auction

The event also includes a live auction (featuring the spirited chant of Johnny Grisson) highlighted by a 24' Hurricane deck boat (Yamaha 115 HP) presently on display at the Old Pine Island Marine and Tackle. Low Key Tiki will also be offering a luncheon special and a convenient beer tent for happy celebrants. The entertaining emcee, Craig "The Snook Cowboy" Jennings, will return by popular demand.

The big event will be the duck races occurring between 3 and 4pm (wind and tide are factors). The Super Duck Race is first with 100 baby ducks (\$20 each, sold only on race day) competing for 50/50 cash winnings. The major attraction will thereafter be the adult rubber ducks consisting of 3000 numbered ducks (\$5 each and already on sale) racing for cash and gifts. The winning duck will earn \$1,000 cash, 2nd scoops in \$500, 3rd place \$250 plus five runners-up each waddling home with a bag of goodies worth at least \$200. Buy early since tickets are likely sold out by race time.

After resting in the off season all ducks have been in training and are just itching and quacking in anticipation of race day. Even if you are not the owner of a winning duck, you can be proud of your support of the Calusa Land Trust, Pine Island's all-volunteer land conservancy, with its mission to acquire, preserve and protect this special place called Pine Island.

Rubber duck race tickets are now available from member volunteers, certain times at Winn Dixie, Low Key Tiki or on website (calusalandtrust.org). One may also contact CLT's past President, John Kendall, at (239) 283-8175 or new President Rad Hazen at (239) 898-6009.

DUCK RACE

Mark your
calendar for the
2018

GREAT CALUSA
DUCK RACE

SUPER DUCK
Only available on
Race Day!

At the
Low Key Tiki



Message from the newly elected President - Rad Hazen

I am very honored to introduce myself as the new president of the Calusa Land Trust. As a thirty plus year member and a board member for the last three years, I can say, without hesitation, that this organization means a great deal to me.

I intend to do my best to continue to advance its interests with the same zeal and effectiveness as my predecessor, John Kendall, who held this post for the last four years and did a fantastic job of promoting the Land Trust to the Pine Island community. During his tenure, our organization added greatly to the number of acres under preservation and increased its financial resources considerably. I intend to use all my skills to continue John's work with the support of Vice President Robert Ballard.

As Chairman of the Acquisition and Planning Committee I commit to continue to bring ecologically significant and threatened properties under the protection of CLT. We will also have the advantage of John remaining on the Board and continuing his efforts in public relations. The Calusa Land Trust is a vibrant and effective organization with over two thousand four hundred and forty acres preserved.

We could not have achieved this level of success without you, our members, our volunteers and our Board. In committing to acquiring more upland acres we have taken on more expenses involving removal of exotics, replanting, trail development and various infrastructure projects. As a result, our need for your financial support is greater than ever. Please give generously to your all volunteer Calusa Land Trust and we promise to keep preserving this lovely place we all call home.

Rad Hazen

Rad Hazen President	<u>2018 Board of Directors</u>	
Robert Ballard Vice President	Jaren Cernicky Director	Sonja Koutsoutis Director
John Kendall Assistant Treasurer	Russell Costa Director	Bill Hummer Director
Ed Chapin Land Steward	Cathy House Director	Carolyn Murphey Director
Martha Kendall Secretary	Brian Cotterill Director	Judy Ott Director
Joan Rosenberg Treasurer		Frank Potter Director

The Ward Memorial Bridge to the St Jude Nature Trail

Thanks to the families of Dennis and Ruth Ward, it has become much easier to access the Calusa Land Trust's St Jude Nature Trail. A new picnic area, parking, boulder/plaque, and a bridge were paid for by funds donated by the Ward Family in memory of their parents. Over 50 friends, Ward family members, and CLT Board Members attended the dedication ceremony on January 27th.



Photo courtesy of the Pine Island Eagle

Dennis and Ruth Ward moved to Pine Island in 1989. They both loved Pine Island and were active in the St. James City Civic Association, Greater Pine Island Water Association, and were active with the local Habitat for Humanity and other civic associations on Pine Island. Ruth passed away on Dec. 28, 2012. Dennis passed away on Aug. 10, 2014.

Both were avid bridge players and thus the idea for a memorial bridge developed. The Wards five children contributed the funds to build the bridge.

The new path to the St. Jude Nature Trail access is designed to afford the public with a low impact gathering area leading to a convenient pathway to our popular St Jude Nature Trail within the 413-acre St. James Creek Preserve.

This preserve also boasts the Smith/Dewane Vista consisting of new native plantings and two small new picnic tiki huts, with a view of the freshwater canal, and parking. The cost of the tiki huts was borne by donations from the Pine Island Garden Club and the Matlacha Hookers.

The site also includes an osprey nest constructed by BSA Troop 20 Scout Justin Chura (completing his requirements for Eagle Scout) with installation courtesy of our electric cooperative, LCEC.

From the Past—22 Years Ago in 1996 when the St Jude Nature Trail first opened



Ralph Waldo Emerson said:
"Nature is loved by what is best in us."

What about nature do you love?? Is it the sunsets, the play of light on water, the flash and splash of a mullet leaping... What is best in you that is defined in that love - your spirituality, your awareness of beauty, your...???



Fiddler Crabs: These colorful critters have one mighty claw they use to threaten and dig with. They're quite shy and scoot to their holes at beach tides edge if anything threatens them. Best seen at night with flashlight!



Herons abound here, like this Great Blue Heron. Also here are the Little Blue, Green Back, Night Herons and others of their cousins, patient waiting waders all. Listen for their loud...SQUAWK! as they fly away!!



Other waders frequent these waters. The red rose-tinted Roseate Spoonbill, and the White Ibis (with a curved orange beak) can sometimes be found feeding on the flats at low tide.



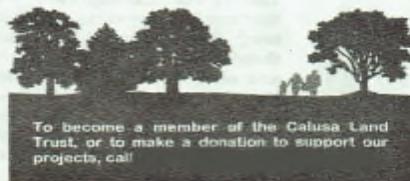
Look for hand-like footprints of this furry night-roamer. The raccoon thrive in great numbers on the oysters, frogs, crabs, berries ...anything they can catch or pick and eat.

As you leave this place to go about your day, consider this Navajo Indian prayer:

With Beauty before me
May I walk
With Beauty behind me
May I walk
With Beauty above me
May I walk
With Beauty below me
May I walk
With Beauty all around me
May I walk
Wandering on a trail of
Beauty

The Calusa Land Trust & Nature Preserve of Pine Island is dedicated to preserving environmentally sensitive lands on Pine Island and maintaining them for future generations of wild life and people. The St. Jude Nature Trail is just one of many such projects in progress.

We invite you to join us in our vision of a place where Nature and human needs co-exist in a sensitive balance.



To become a member of the Calusa Land Trust, or to make a donation to support our projects, call



1996 St. Jude Nature Trail Interpretive Guide

Welcome!

Seek the Beauty of our trail.
Look at the clouds, sky or sunset.
Search the prop roots of mangroves for clinging critters and colorful lichens.

Look for footprints and imagine the creatures journey.

Walk lively.

Listen to the Wind.

Walk in Peace.

Walk with this Guide to help you walk with Nature's beauty.

You, too, are Nature's Child.

Rejoice!

The Calusa Land Trust
& Nature Preserve of Pine Island, Inc.

News Bits



Photo courtesy of Jim Friedlander

Work/Fun Party Fritts Park January 13, 2018

The Alison Ackerman Annual Rummage Sale

at Fritts Park brought in a contribution of \$1823 to the Calusa Land Trust.

Lots of hard work in preparation, lots of buyers, and escaped the rain later in the evening!



Peter Ordway Mangrove Adventures

Our last paddle was to our St. James Creek Preserve on Sunday, December 17. We had eight paddlers and explored this picturesque creek with beautiful weather.

Future Paddles:
Saturday March 24
9-12 pm
Chapin Preserve
Call Ed Chapin
(239) 218-7531



This will be the last paddle of the Spring 2018 paddles.

Hammerheads Committee



I am trying to form a new committee called The Hammerheads to do some carpentry projects for the Calusa Land Trust.

The number one project on my list is the installation of a bridge on the south end of our Dobbs Preserve. So if you have this kind of skill and time to help, contact me:

Ed Chapin (239) 218-7531

On Saturday, February 10, we had 11 volunteers go by boat to the Kreie Preserve. That was a great turnout for an island preserve cleanup. We haven't visited Kreie Preserve for several years but cleaned up almost all of the debris and exotics.

In December and January large wading birds enjoy the bounty to be found in the "Borrow Pits" in the Saint James Creek Preserve, along side of the St Jude Nature Trail. It's not unusual to find a mixed flock, like this one that includes endangered Wood Starks, Great White Egrets, Snowy Egrets and White Ibis.



Great Calusa Land Trust Annual Rubber Duck Race Saturday, March 03, 2018



Mark Your Calendars!
The Ducks Are Coming!
The Ducks Are Coming! Great Calusa Rubber
Duck Race - Saturday, March 3, 2018 at
LOW KEY TIKI in Saint James City.



After a summer of hibernation, the 3,000 Bright Yellow Ducks are in their Winter Nesting grounds. Soon they will start their rigorous exercises and training in preparation for 2018's Best Duck Race on the Island!

A fun filled day awaits with Live and Silent Auctions, Entertainment, Food, Beverages and Games for All Ages. Duck Race Tickets will go on sale before the holidays - so Buy Early and Buy Often!

First Place Duck WINS \$1,000!

See you at Pine Island's Premier Event Great Calusa Rubber Duck Race -
Saturday March 3, 2018!!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We still need volunteers to work 2 hour shifts
the day of the Duck Race.
E-mail Betsy at Senrad@comcast.net for details.



amazon



Do you shop online at Amazon?

If you do, next time go to
www.smile.amazon.com

Then select the Calusa Land Trust as your
charity of choice.

Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchases
to the Calusa Land Trust.

THE GREAT CALUSA GOPHER TORTOISE

By Martha Kendall

The gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*, for those interested) thrives in many of our CLT preserves (particularly Wigert/Barron) and is known as a keystone species. "Keystone" since it digs burrows that provide shelter for scores of other interdependent native creatures. It is the state tortoise of Florida and is protected by both state and federal legislation.

While turtles live in the water, tortoises live on land in relatively well drained, sandy soils generally associated with long leaf pine and dry oak hills. They also survive on scrub dry hammock, pine flatwoods and mixed hardwood/pine communities. Most of our uplands preserves are perfect habitats and you will find them in abundance.



These animals are born to burrow. With scaled front legs they build tunnels about 9 feet deep and up to 48 feet in length. There they are protected from summer heat, winter chill, fire and predators. They are very solitary except for the mating season (April through June) where they travel over 4 acres of needed living space. The creatures achieve maturity at about 10 years of age (approximately 9 inches in shell diameter). They often build more than one tunnel. Do NOT step on the sand in front of the tunnel,

since that is where the females lay 1 to 25 ping-pong sized eggs to incubate for some 70 to 90 days. The gender of the eggs is determined by the temperature of the sand. If over 86 degrees, it is female; if under, it produces males. Amazingly, specimens have been recorded to age 80 years in the wild and 120 years in captivity.

These tortoises are herbivores and thrive on grasses, flowers, fruits, leaves and particularly palmetto berries, prickly pear cactus and pine needles. Rather than directly drink water they achieve their moisture from plants and dew. They also serve as distributors of native seeds by their droppings.

Habitat destruction by urban sprawl, pollution and roadway kill endanger the survival of this special animal. The Calusa Land Trust, by its preserves, provides a hope for these animals. You also can help. When visiting its preserves please walk carefully, avoid invading the tunnels' aprons and protect the adjacent fauna upon which they survive. The gopher tortoise is yet another beneficiary of the efforts of the Calusa Land Trust, Pine Island's all volunteer land conservancy.

WARNING



PROTECTED BY LAW!

The protected Gopher Tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) exists on this site.

Photography and Video imaging have been used to Document this Protected Species!

It is a Violation of Florida Statute 372.0725 to intentionally take, harass, wound, or kill any species designated as endangered, threatened, or of special concern; Any person who violates this provision with regard to an endangered, threatened, or of special concern species is Guilty of a Felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s.775.082, s.775.083, or s.775.084, by \$10,000 fine, or both.

You may not touch or disturb a Gopher Tortoise or Gopher Tortoise burrow (Active or Inactive) except by permit issued by the director of the Florida Wildlife Conservation Commission!

Protected Species Violations will be Prosecuted!

For more information contact the FWC at (863) 648-3205

www.GopherTortoise.org

If you encounter either a turtle or a tortoise, DO NOT PLACE IT IN WATER. This will promptly drown a tortoise. If you see an injured tortoise, please call CROW (238) 472-3644 for rehabilitation

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

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

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

CREDIT CARD #:

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EXPIRES: _____ / _____ **Sec. Code** _____

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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.

March 2018

Great Clothing Items from the "Calusa Clothesline"

You have all been waiting patiently for UV protected Fishing Shirts, and I finally found what I think you all will like:

1. Men's and Ladies White, Long Sleeve Poly Cool shirts with our embroidered Logo on the chest! I am sorry to say they can not sell at previous prices as the cotton shirts. These will be \$45.
2. Unisex, Hunter Green Fleece Jackets with zippered pockets & adjustable waist. \$35
3. All New "Take A Hike" Tiki Hut T's with delicately sized design on V neck in Neon Yellow & Neon Orange this year. Wow! \$15
4. Men's "Take A Hike" T's with pocket are Beige/Tan with print on back. \$15
5. Ladies White V neck T's with "Flora & Fauna" print on front & PI map on back \$15
6. Ladies Scoop neck Tank Tops with Pineapple/Dolphin print in white on Neon Orange or Mint. \$15
7. Ladies Scoop neck "Eagle Preserve" print with Eagle on front in black on multitude of colors. \$15
8. Men's "Eagle Preserve" T Shirts with pocket in Tan, Blue or Grey with Eagle on back
9. Unisex, White Calusa Island T Shirts with Aerial photo of Island & Shell Cut on front
10. Unisex, White Calusa Canal T Shirts with Indian in Dugout on front, map on back
11. This year's colors for the Hats with CLT Logo and adjustable, leather buckle \$15
 - a. Pink
 - b. Denim
 - c. Hunter Green
 - d. Khaki with Blue bill

Available at the Duck Race!
\$15
\$15

All of these items are sold at all of our events and at various events on (& off) Pine Island.

If you miss us at one of the events, call 283-5020 and you may arrange a time to come and view this merchandise at our "little workshop" in Bokeelia. If you are out of town or out of state there is a possibility for shipping, but shipping & handling charges will be extra and this can only be done up to April 15th. In the near future you will be able to view this merchandise on our website, www.calusalandtrust.org.

Submitted by Gloria Andrews, Merchandise Chairperson (239)283-5020 gand9053@aol.com

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



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



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.