

Calusa Land Trust

and Nature Preserve of Pine Island, Inc.



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Newsletter #84
Founded 1976

September 2013
www.calusalandtrust.org

Acquisition News

by Harold Bruner

464.2436

Matlacha Pass Islands Purchased with No Interest, 18 month contract

Martha Peterson, who resides in Matlacha for part of the year, approached me at this past winter's annual meeting and said that she owned two parcels of land that might be of interest to the CLT. Later when I looked them up, she was certainly correct. Shown below are two islands and part of a third that total 120.45 acres.

In my acquisition comments at the annual

meeting I stated that we could not pursue the purchase of additional lands in the near future because of a lack of funding. When Mrs. Peterson realized that, she agreed to sell us the islands for a down payment, and three more payments spaced at 6-month intervals - and with no interest on the unpaid balance! Another member came forward at the annual meeting to say that he was going to make a substantial cash gift



soon. With the cash donation for a down payment, with the favorable terms from Mrs. Peterson, and with a very fair purchase price of \$1,000 per acre, the board voted to acquire the land. We closed on March 9 and now own these islands.

Note the location of the islands due east of Flamingo Bay. West of the islands are a significant amount of preserved lands owned by us, Lee County 20/20, and the Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast. The nearby TITF lands are owned by the State of Florida. This purchase means that all of the islands in Matlacha Pass south of the new bridge and all the way to the LCEC power line are now preserved! And, a huge chunk of land, including all of the old cow pasture, is preserved all the way from Stringfellow Road east to Matlacha Pass.

This latest purchase of just over 120 acres is all mangroves. Mangroves provide excellent habitat for fish and a variety of marine organisms, and they help filter sediment and pollutants from the water. There has been a lot of recent concern about the decline in the water quality of the local estuaries, due primarily to polluted discharges from Lake Okeechobee. The CLT has put a high priority on acquiring mangroves in the last few years because of their critical role in our marine ecosystems, and because they are affordable. We owe many thanks to Mrs. Peterson for offering these islands to us, and to the anonymous donor who provided the down payment that made this purchase possible.



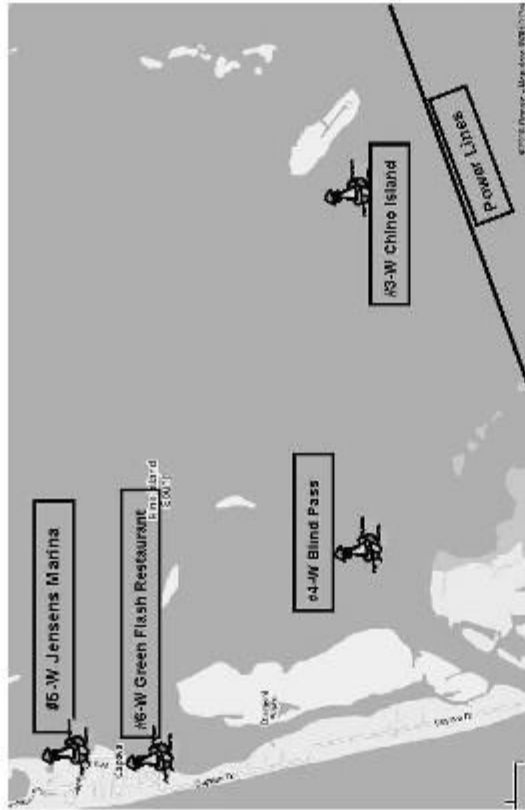
Great Calusa Poker Run Is Right Around The Corner.

The Calusa Land Trust and Pine Island Boat Club invite everyone to participate in the annual Poker Run on Sunday December 8th. Following previous year's format, you can 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. As before, we will finish up at Woody's Waterside to 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.

The goal of The Great 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 Woody's before 3:00. Each ticket (you can buy as many as you wish) is carried to six 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 Woody's. 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). (Continued on page 4)

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 Water/Land stations, but must stop at only one number. Stations do not have to be done in order.



2013 Poker Run Dealer Stations



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
- Jensens Marina, Captiva Island—Water
- #5-W Green Flash Restaurant, Captiva Island—Water
- #7 Woody's Waterside 3051 Stringfellow—Monroe Canal—LAST STOP FOR ALL

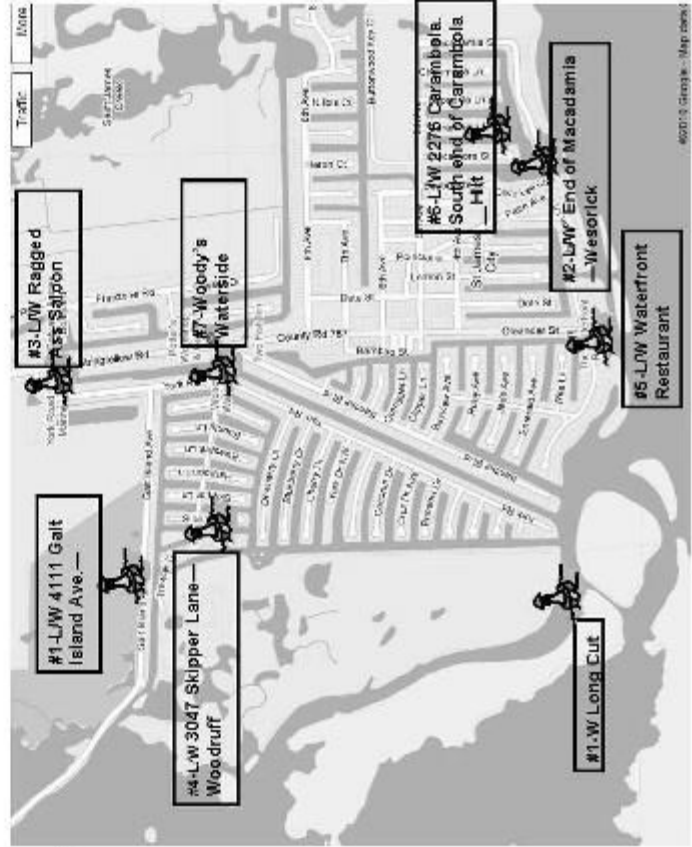
L=Land W=Water

Bike, Walk, Drive or Boat to these stops.

- #1-L,W 4111 Galt Island Ave.—
- #3-L,W Ragged Ass Saloon
- #4-L,W 3047 Skipper Lane—
- #5-L,W Waterfront Restaurant—2131 Oleander—Henley Canal—Land/Water
- #6-L,W 2276 Carambola Milt & Sandra Hilt—
- #7 Woody's Waterside 3051 Stringfellow—Monroe Canal—LAST STOP FOR ALL

L=Land W=Water

The Calusa Land Trust and The Pine Island Boat Club thank you for your participation.



(Poker Run continued)

There will also be a losers drawing for \$ 100 (however you must be present to win).

Tickets will be available at Woody's and from various sellers starting in October.

Maps showing dealer stations will be established and distributed next month.

For more information or to purchase tickets call Barb Riordan at 283-5643, or Pink Wesorick at 283-7249.

Ranger Report September 2013

by Ed Chapin

Summer work parties

On Saturday June 8th we planted around 80 native plants at Fritts Park on Beach Daisy Lane in Bokeelia. We had a good turn out of 14 volunteer rangers and as of now, all the newly planted natives are doing well.

On Saturday July 13th we worked on our Back Bay Preserve in St, James City. We had 6 volunteer rangers working on maintaining the trail that borders San Carlos Bay. This trail I call the Nickerbean Trail after the seemingly impenetrable and thorny nickerbean plant, *Caesalpinia bonduc* that we encounter along this trail. We are making head way here but will have more follow up work to do in the future. .

August was our vacation month!

On Saturday September 14th we worked at Fritts Park and the canoe trail that leads to our Big Jim Creek Preserve. We had 6 volunteer rangers and we able to reopen the canoe trail which needs almost continuous work to keep open for paddle craft. There was also some weeding and trimming in the park.

On Sunday, November 3rd we will be paddling out to our Calusa Island Preserve near Bokeelia. This paddle is also part of the Great Calusa Blueway paddling trail celebration that takes place on that weekend along with many other events.

On Sunday December 22rd we will paddle to our new Masters Landing Preserve and or the Underhill Creek Preserve.

On a date and time to be determined, a trip will be scheduled out to the recently cleared paddling trail to Big Jim Creek Preserve leaving from Fritts Park.

That's all for now, so if you have any questions call Ed at (239) 218-7531 or send an email to ECalusaEd@CalusaLandTrust.org .

(Ranger Report continued)

Up Coming work parties

Work Parties are commonly scheduled on the 2nd Saturday of the month from 9 AM to Noon.

12 October 2013	Dobbs Preserve, Sabal Ave near Citrus St, St James City
9 November 2013	Pine Island Flatwoods Preserve, 6351 Stringfellow Rd, St James City
10 December 2013	St James Creek Preserve, 4344 Stringfellow Road, St. James City
11 January 2014	Fritts Park on Beach Daisy Lane, Bokeelia

If you are not already a Calusa Land Trust Volunteer Ranger and would like to participate, call Ed Chapin at (239) 218-7531 or send an email to ECalusaEd@CalusaLandTrust.org.

Peter Ordway Mangrove Adventures

Our Mangrove Adventure paddling tours start in late October and run until April 2014. Our first paddle of the season is off island, to Fisheating Creek in Glades County. This was one of Peter Ordway's favorite paddles that winds through majestic cypress and oak trees. It's a full day trip requiring reservations. If you are interesting call Ed at (239) 218-7531

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Ed Chapin addressing a paddling tour.

Treasures of the Trails for Sept 2013

Judy Ott

Fire Bush at Fritts Park

Where do you go to view fall colors on Pine Island? Our own Fritts Park is a good place to start - with the fresh crop of native flora recently planted by CLT volunteers. The new natives include several colorful Firebushes (*Hamelia patens*). Firebush is a showy shrub with bright orange-red flowers, purple and green mottled leaves, and small glossy black fruit. The flashy flowers bloom year round and attract humming birds and butterflies, including zebra longwings, and the berries draw song birds. Firebush is related to coffee and makes a beautiful addition to your yard landscaping. The shrub grows relatively rapidly and can reach a height of about 10 feet. The tubular flowers are about 1 ½ inches long, the berries are about ½ inch in diameter and the leaves are about 6" long. The plants grow best in partial sun and shade, and can tolerate occasionally wet sand, loam and clay soils, but aren't very tolerant of draught or salt. Firebush is commonly available at native plant nurseries and you can propagate it from fresh seeds or cuttings. Some cultures have used Firebush sap and berries in folk medicine to treat a variety of ailments, including rashes. However, it's most enjoyed by watching the butterflies and birds attracted to the bright colors as you look forward to cooler weather on Pine Island.



Volunteers Needed to Help Monitor Pine Island Sound Water Quality

New volunteers are needed to help collect water quality samples on the first Monday morning of each month at any of 3 sites in Pine Island Sound – including



Redfish Pass, Blind Pass and Flamingo Bay. Training and equipment are provided, but you must have your own boat. This is an opportunity to enjoy the beautifully early morning quiet on the water and join the comradery of the nationally recognized Charlotte Harbor Estuaries Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Network. For more information, please contact Judy Ott at jott@swfrpc.org or (239) 229-6899.

_____ \$ 25 Basic Annual Member _____ \$500 Patron
 _____ \$ 50 Donor _____ \$1000 Benefactor
 _____ \$100 Contributor \$ _____ Other Amount

_____ \$ 50 Plunk-a-Plank
 (fill in lettering) _____

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

Your Name: _____

E-Mail: _____

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Phone: _____ Alt Phone _____

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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.

September 2013

Work Parties – Everyone Welcome

They are on the second Saturday of each month except August.
 9:00am to Noon We need your help.

October 12th	Dobbs Preserve Sabal Ave near Citrus St, SJC
November 9th	Pine Island Flatwoods, 6351 Stringfellow Rd, SJC
December 10th	St James Creek Preserve, 4244 Stringfellow Rd, SJC
January 11, 2014	Fritts Park, Beach Daisy Lane, Bokeelia

Future work parties, check with Ranger Ed 239.218.7531



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.



**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.

