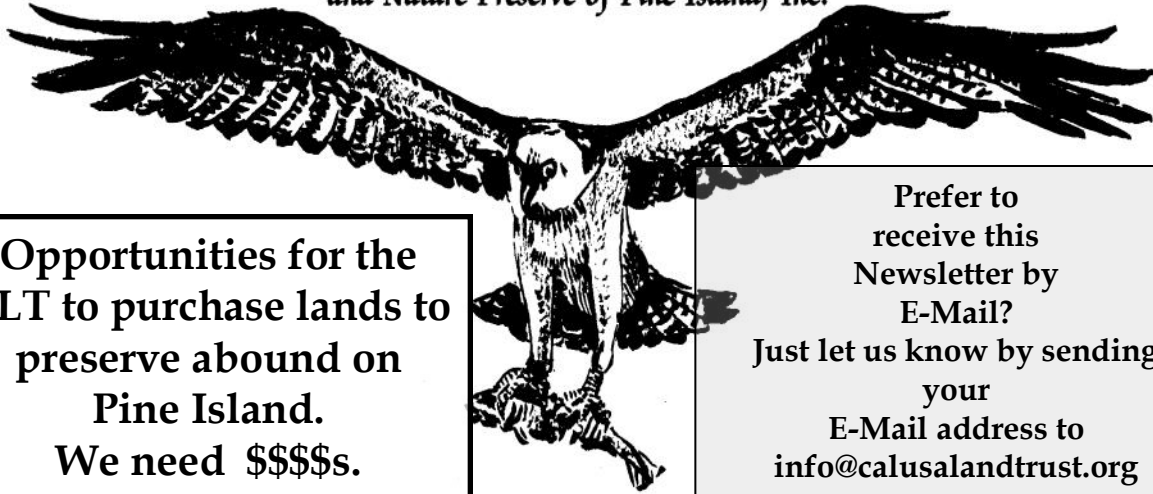


Calusa Land Trust

and Nature Preserve of Pine Island, Inc.



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

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Newsletter #74

Founded 1976

July 2011

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Acquisition News

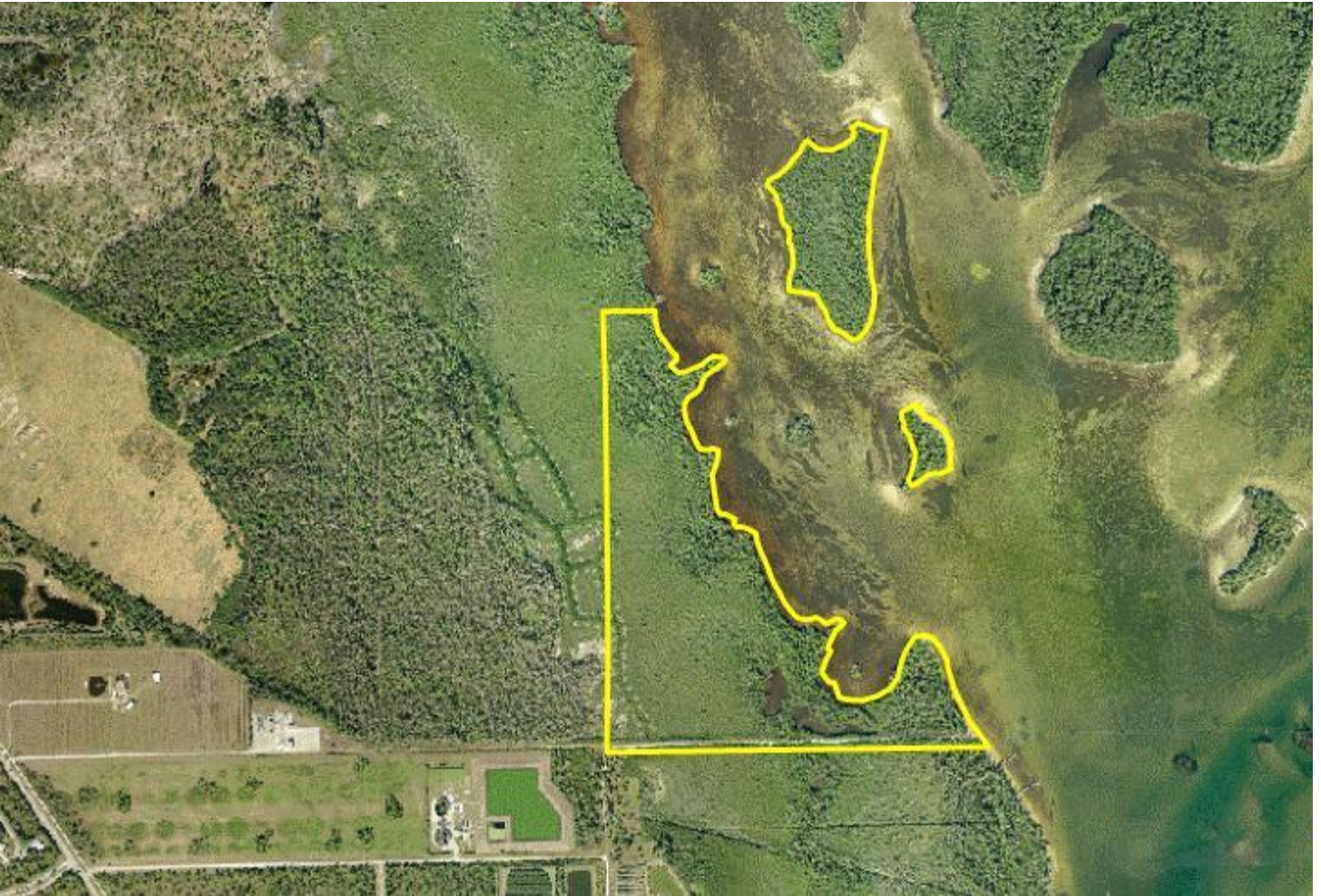
by Harold Bruner (464.2436)

Recent Purchase Fronts Matlacha Pass and Includes Two Islands

Since the last newsletter the really good news is that three new parcels have been purchased! Instead of covering them all in this issue we will explore each in the order they were bought. The largest of the three consists of 43.23 acres due east of the southeast tip of the cow pasture across the road from Pine Island Cove. Although there is no legal access, you can get there via Master's Landing Road past the free mulch pile. An easy way to find it by water is to locate the large power line that crosses Matlacha pass. The power line right-of-way is the south boundary of the preserve.

There are several interesting things about this new preserve. As shown on the aerial photo the property contains two islands in Matlacha pass. The northeast boundary of the inland portion is a meandering shoreline of more than 3,500 feet. You can paddle into the south end of the preserve from the pass and explore inland openings and mosquito ditches that border the south end and head northwest into adjacent properties. Roger Wood and I paddled all of this shortly after we closed. The waters are pristine since the preserve is located quite a distance from any developments.

Note that this new preserve has not been referenced by name. The five preserves purchased since October 2010 cost over \$166,000. At this point we are out of funds for new acquisitions. In fact, we borrowed \$25,000 in conjunction with our last purchase on June 1, 2011. You will soon hear about a major fundraising campaign for the purpose of replenishing our coffers. A part of that campaign will allow a donor to name this preserve in return for a contribution of some amount yet to be determined. Watch for more on this. (Aerial Photo Next Page)



Fund Raising

by Ron Wesorick

283.7249

Your Calusa Land Trust Needs Your Help

As mentioned in the article above we have had many opportunities presented to us in the last few months. We have turned several into purchases of excellent lands to preserve. That is the good news. The bad news is we have used up all of our funds designated for land purchases. So, we need your help.

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.

Treasures of the Trails for June 2011 Tarflower in Pine Flatwoods Preserve

Text and Photos
by
Judy Ott



One of the beautiful signs of early summer on Pine Island are blooming Tarflowers (*Befaria racemosa*). This time of year the showy, fragrant flowers can be found throughout the pine flatwoods in our preserves. These were found in the areas recently burned for prescribed fire in our Pine Island Flatwoods Preserve. The pinkish-white flowers are about 2" across and have 6-7 spoon shaped pedals. The flowers are sticky, giving them their common name, and nectar is excellent food for butterflies, bees and birds. Tarflowers have small, round red-dish fruit. The plant is an evergreen shrub with oval leaves that can grow to 7 feet tall and is common in the understory of pine flatwoods and scrub habitats throughout Florida, southern Georgia and Alabama. Tarflower is part of the Heath family and is drought tolerant. Many native plant nurseries carry Tarflower and it makes a great addition to the butterfly and bird plantings in your yard.



Our
Preserve
Signs





Ranger Ed gets an airplane ride.

Aerial Photography - On April 22, 2011, one of our most loyal Land Trust supporters, Charlie Moelter, offered to take me up in his plane to do an aerial reconnaissance of our Preserves. Donna Venesky, one of our Board Members, was brave enough to lend me a very good camera with a quick lesson in photography and threats of what would happen if the camera met with a disastrous fate. The day could not have been more perfect for this flight. Blue sky, little wind and adventurous spirits. Charlie piloted us around Caya Pelau, Upper Captiva, Charlotte Harbor, Calusa Island and of course Pine Island and Pine Island Sound. I have to say we may have showboated a bit flying low and enjoying close up views of the Preserves. But Charlie is a consummate pilot and it was a skilled aeronautic **reconnaissance**. After two hours of flying, we landed with wonderful memories and surprisingly fabulous photographs. These photos will be up on the Calusa Land Trust's website shortly offering a bird's eye view of all of our Preserves for all to enjoy. Thank you Charlie for significant contributions to the Land Trust and to Donna for trusting me with the camera.

Invasive and undesirable plant!

**Have you seen this plant
on your property?**

This is **Earleaf acacia**
(*Acacia auriculiformis*) and
it has recently been
identified as becoming
invasive and unmanageable
on Pine Island!



**If you see this plant, remove it! Call the Lee County Extension
Service at 239-461-7514 for information on how to get in-
volved in the Earleaf acacia control program on Pine Island.**

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Ranger Report
Cell 239-218-7531

Ed Chapin, Chief Ranger
ecalusaed@calusalandtrust.org



Completed Work Parties

Saturday, April 9th: We worked at both the Norm Gowan Trailhead Vista, and the Dobbs Preserve, both in St. James City. We had a great turnout for our April work party with 14 Volunteer Rangers, working on our old, favorite task of controlling invasive, exotic plants at both of these Preserves (Trailhead Vista, and/Dobbs Preserve). We are finding fewer and smaller invasive plants at the Trailhead Vista acreage. Six of us worked at the Trailhead Vista and we were able to cover about five acres of that acreage. We continue to see seedlings of Australian Pines, Malaleuca, Brazilian Pepper, Earleaf Acacia, and Carrotwood (*Cupaniopsis anacardioides*) at the Trailhead Vista- part of the St James Preserve. So, ongoing vigilance of removing seedlings is important and efficient.

Eight, equally fabulous, volunteers went to the Dobbs Preserve. The CLT recently acquired two additions to this Preserve, one eventually giving us access from Stringfellow Road, and the other being the Northern boundary of the westerly entrance channel from Matlacha Pass into the Manatee Canal. There will be opportunities for a trail and passive recreation. We had two volunteers working follow up at the Dobbs Preserve.

Saturday, May 14th, We worked at the Pine Island Flatwoods, and the Dobbs Preerve with six volunteer Rangers working again on invasive exotic plant control. Two volunteers worked follow-up at the Dobbs Preserve and four volunteers worked at the Pine Island Flatwoods Preserve that we co-manage with Lee County 20/20. At the Flatwoods, we worked around the new slash pines we planted last March and most are doing very well. We did find quite a few Brazilian Pepper, Australian Pines, and Malaleuca in that area so ongoing invasive removal is required. We also worked a seasonal wetland area that we have been working on for the last two years. It was nice to see our hard work is paying off as we found very few small Malaleuca. There were thousands when we started work on this Preserve.

Sat. June 11th. The new Flanagan Preserve. This is a new 11 acre Preserve on the South end of Upper Captive Island that was donated last year by the Flanagan family. Since it was a boat trip, I want to thank Al Eleinko for use of his boat. We had four volunteers this day with three volunteers new to the work parties. Thanks to Kitty Baker and her son Paul and to Mary Cordero for coming all the way from Placido to help out. We managed to cover the entire 11 acres doing the usual invasive exotic plant control. Most were Australian Pines, small enough to cut or pull by hand and some trees required chainsawing to remove. This is a wonderful new Preserve with almost 800 feet of Gulf beachfront. There is a narrow coastal ridge with some upland plants transitioning into mangroves bordering Pine Island Sound.

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 _____ \$ 25 Family Member _____ \$500 Patron
 _____ \$ 50 Donor _____ \$1000 Benefactor

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

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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.

July 2011

Work Parties – Everyone Welcome

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

August - Volunteer Vacations
 Stay Cool - Have Fun

Saturday September 10 St James Creek Preserve, St. James City

Saturday October 8 Back Bay Preserve, St. James City.

For information on any of these activities, to get on our e-mail lists or for any Ranger related issues, please contact Ed Chapin at ecalusaed@calusalandtrust.org or call him at **239-281-7531 - New Number!!**



June 11th Work Party at the new Flanagan Preserve



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

**YELLOW
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.