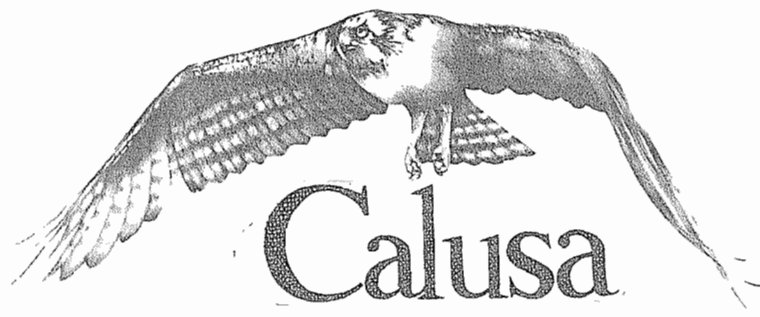


#1a



Calusa Land Trust and Nature Preserve of Pine Island

P.O. Box 216, Bokeelia, FL 33922

A nonprofit tax-deductible organization
dedicated to the preservation of natural lands.

Newsletter

Summer 1990

AT LAST !!! Here is our long-awaited first newsletter! There is much to report, but first a brief look at where we have been.

The Calusa Land Trust was formed in 1976. After acquiring two significant parcels of land near Pine Island, the Trust became relatively inactive for many years. In March of 1989, St. James City resident Rick Moore began the effort to get it going again.

By January of 1990, we had grown to over 50 members and had our first annual meeting. We elected a Board of Directors and approved revised Articles of Incorporation and new By-laws. Since then, in the span of just a few months, we have been able to fulfill one of our most treasured goals: to acquire environmentally sensitive land for preservation purposes. Our membership is now over 150 and we are continuing to grow; with a response such as this, who knows what can happen?

B I G J I M C R E E K L A N D A C Q U I S I T I O N !!!

As most of you know, the option-to-buy that Calusa Land Trust received was on about 325 acres surrounding Big Jim Creek near Bokeelia. This is a great accomplishment and one for which we should all be proud. Funds for the first of the three tracts have been raised and were paid out in June; and we have just received the deed. The land now belongs to Calusa Land Trust and can never be developed!

The second and third tracts must be purchased no later than February 1991 and August 1991 respectively, for almost \$7,000 each. If we do not raise the needed funds by those dates, we will lose the chance to purchase this land at the exceptionally good price in our option contract. Our main fundraising efforts will focus on the "Buy an Acre for an Eagle" campaign which was so successful for the first tract. However, the fundraising committee needs other ideas and help mailing out notices. Please keep this in mind if you have any time to spare.

BIG JIM CREEK CELEBRATION PLANS

In order to celebrate this land purchase and continue to generate interest in the project, several events have been planned. The first will involve letting the media know what has happened and perhaps even taking a television crew out onto the creek for a firsthand look at the preserve. Watch for articles in the papers, announcements on the radio or a story on Channel 26 or 11. The publicity committee is now being formed to arrange the details - call Rick (283-1206) if you can help.

Second, a canoe trip for all the members and other interested parties is scheduled for Saturday, September 8. Bring a picnic lunch and when we reach a peaceful spot where there are wading birds to enjoy, we can all have lunch. If you would like to come, whether or not you have a canoe, call Ed Chapin at 283-1167 or Debi Holden at 283-0989. They will be coordinating everything and will soon know the best time for us to begin. If the weather is poor on that day, we will simply go on Sunday. Any questions, just call Ed or Debi.

Then, in mid-October, there will be a gala outdoor picnic, with the media there to hopefully publicize the purchase and help spearhead a campaign for the second tract. It will be at Matlacha Park, perhaps with volleyball and other activities. Rick will present the special "I Bought an Acre for an Eagle" T-shirts, beautifully handpainted by a Matlacha artist, to all those who ordered one and have not yet received theirs. Copies of the deed will also be handed out to all those who bought an "Acre for an Eagle". Final arrangements for this event will be sent out in the fall newsletter or in a short notice. At any rate, we will keep you posted.

CALUSA LAND TRUST ORIGINS

Lifetime Memberships Awarded to Original Founders

In 1976, the Calusa Land Trust was created by a small group of Pine Islanders who wanted to preserve part of a mangrove island in its natural state forever. They knew about various types of land trusts but learned that no such organization existed in this area. After much research and even a trip to Pennsylvania to meet with other land trusts organizers from around the nation, they finally sent off applications to Tallahassee and Washington for approval.

It all started when Fred and Diane Johnson bought a mangrove island with some high ground, on Charlotte Harbor near Bokeelia. They wanted to live there with other people who shared their interests in alternative sources of energy and land preservation. Soon, Bill Spikowski and Alison Ackerman joined their efforts and together they embarked upon many adventures, not the least of which was the creation of Calusa Land Trust. When the application was approved, they immediately donated their entire interest in about 40 acres of the island to the Trust. So began the organization to which we all belong.

Fred and Diane have since moved away from Bokeelia but the Board of Directors recently voted to award them lifetime memberships as a small way of saying a big thank you for all their foresight and hard work.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

During the annual meeting held on January 29, 1990, the following Board of Directors was elected by the general membership (for 1-year terms except as noted):

Rick Moore* President
 Alison Ackerman* Vice-Pres.
 Kate Fitzgerald* Secretary
 Bill Spikowski* Treasurer

Jim Beever*
 Ellie Boyd
 Ed Chapin
 Dick Holmes
 Rich Larkin
 Virginia Miller
 Bobbie Shanks

* 2-year terms

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

As of July 15, 1990, Calusa Land Trust consists of the following number of memberships:

Individuals	28
Families	28
Donors	48
Businesses & Organizations	11
Contributors	38
Patrons	1
Benefactors	2
TOTAL	156

COMMITTEES

During this past year, several committees have been formed and a few have been active. We asked many of you if you would like to serve on one of these committees. For those who said yes, but have not been called, do not despair. We have not forgotten you. Many of the things we have done this past year have been new to us and we have had to figure things out on the spur of the moment. Hopefully, we have become more organized and can now plan ahead a little better.

Please feel free to call the committee chairmen if you can contribute any time at all. All help is much appreciated.

FUNDRAISING	Rick Moore	283-1206
LAND ACQUISITION	Rich Larkin	283-4871
MEMBERSHIP	Alison Ackerman	338-0096 (after 7:00PM only)
NEWSLETTER	Alison Ackerman	
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS	Jim Beever	283-2929
PUBLICITY	(Your name could be here!)	

MANY THANKS MANY THANKS MANY THANKS MANY THANKS MANY THANKS

We would like to give special recognition to some of those members and community citizens who have given their time, ideas, and know-how to the various projects and activities which have made our success possible. Since last May, when we started having a few meetings at the library, gaining new members and interest, to July 4th, when we had a booth at Matlacha selling T-shirts, many similar efforts have been invaluable along the way. Here are some of those special contributors, and to you we say, "Many thanks!!"...

To those who helped at the Seafood Festival: Ed Chapin, Dick Holmes, Debbie Holden, Silvia Godin Moore, Virginia Miller, Jim Beever, and Lisa Dodd. Special thanks to Rick Moore for building the booth and setting it up on both days, not to mention taking it down as well. Also to Alison for putting together the large topographical map of Pine Island. (Dick Holmes later mounted it on a fantastic wooden frame.) A great banner with our name on it was made by Stan Kreber. And last but not least, thanks to the local OFF chapter for allowing us to participate their festival for no fee.

To Mike Shevlin of Islands Realty who negotiated the contract between Calusa Land Trust and the sellers of the Big Jim Creek area and donated his time as well. We are indebted to him for this contribution.

To Gloria Sajgo who wrote up and sent out we don't know how many press releases and letters to "Buy an Acre for an Eagle." Her effort alone has brought in thousands of dollars in donations. She even arranged to have several organizations put similar notices in their newsletters, including the Native Plant Society, the Fort Myers Historical Society, Audubon, Sierra Club and the Museum of the Islands.

To Jim Beever for writing a biological assessment of the Big Jim Creek site; it has been used over and over promoting this project.

To Ione Rooney who has painted and donated a beautiful picture of 2 eagles in flight entitled, "Save an Acre for an Eagle", which is being raffled off. One chance for \$1 and 6 chances for \$5. The winner will be picked in November so there is plenty of time for everyone to get their tickets. Call Rick if you are interested, or come to the Celebration Picnic and see it for yourself.

To Linda Ballou who did such a terrific job covering our meetings and activities in the Pine Island Eagle -- above and beyond the call of duty.

To Stan Tracy who designed a beautiful cover for our brochure and to all those who helped write and put it all together: Silvia Godin Moore, Kate Fitzgerald, Rick, Alison and Bill Spikowski. We now have something "official" and artistic too, to help our cause.

To Mike Epstein, who donated his airplane, fuel and time to take Rick and Linda Ballou up for a birds' eye view of the Big Jim Creek area. Linda took some wonderful pictures and you can see them at the picnic.

To Charlie Hagan and Chris McEwan for looking over our legal papers and using their expertise to give us advice.

As you can see, even this short list is extensive. In the next issue of this newsletter we hope to have room to list more of those special people who have helped make this organization possible.

Membership Information

"BUY AN ACRE FOR AN EAGLE" !!!!!!!!!!!!!

_____ \$15	Individual	_____ \$70	Buys one acre of the Big Jim Creek wetlands.
_____ \$25	Family		
_____ \$50	Donor		
_____ \$50	Business/ Organization	_____ \$85	Buys one acre and entitles you to a handpainted T-shirt.*
_____ \$100	Contributor		
_____ \$500	Patron		
_____ \$500	Bus. Patron	_____ Other	_____
_____ \$1000	Benefactor		

* The T-shirts are being made right now and as they are ready, we will be contacting those who bought one, and will either deliver it, send it or present to you at the Celebration Picnic.

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