

WONDERFUL NEW PRESERVE PURCHASED

We are extremely pleased and excited to announce that the Calusa Land Trust has just completed the purchase of a major new preserve in St. James City. It encompasses about 186 acres, bordered by 8th Avenue on the north, San Carlos Bay on the south and east, and Macadamia Street to the west. This sensitive and pristine estuarine environment (about half of which is bay bottoms) is home to wading birds, dolphins, manatees, fish, and countless marine organisms. Locally known as the "8th Avenue Back Bay," we will be researching whether there is any "official" title for this area before naming it. Historically, this area was the southernmost portion of St. James Creek, and although somewhat altered, there is still a hydrologic connection at high tide. Only 8th Avenue separates this piece from our St. James Creek Preserve (490 acres); being also bordered by San Carlos Bay, we consider this to be an important addition to our existing preserve. This is indeed a major step forward in our efforts to set aside natural areas for fish, wildlife, AND people.

The purchase price was \$20,000, only slightly above \$100 per acre. Unlike most of our acquisitions, however, the seller insisted on a quick settlement. How could we finance such a large parcel so quickly? Fortunately we had money in our treasury expressly set aside for such emergencies. But needless to say, these funds have now been significantly depleted. If a similar opportunity came along, we would not be able to take advantage of it so easily. So in the spirit of keeping our balances healthy, we are initiating an immediate fundraising campaign. If you can help by contributing \$100 or more towards this purchase, you will be invited as our guest at a celebration party to be held on December 8, and you will be given a not-to-be-forgotten pontoon ride through your new preserve! To remember your trip, you will also be awarded an Honorary Certificate of Ownership, suitable for framing.

Yes! I want to donate \$100 to reimburse the funds used to purchase our new “Back Bay Preserve”! Please send my Honorary Certificate of Ownership and place my name(s) on the Guest of Honor list for the December 8th Celebration Party and Pontoon Ride.

Name(s) _____
(Maximum of 2 names per \$100 donation, please)

Address _____

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT (By Norm Gowan)

Our mailing list is now up to 515 members, a wonderful increase of 56 new members (12%) since our last newsletter. Not all of the 515 are current with their dues, but a whopping 304 (59%) of them are, which is also a significant increase. Your membership is considered as current for one full year from the date of your previous donation. We know that not everyone is going to remember that date, so you can count on us to help out. Take a moment to look at your name on the address label; if an asterisk (*) appears, it means that a year has passed, and we hope you will renew your membership.

We are still asking everyone to try to sponsor at least one new member. The larger our membership, the greater our treasury will grow, and we will be able to continue to manage our preserves and purchase new ones. Twenty-two of you have sponsored 59 new members since we started this campaign:

Norm and Marie Gowan (11)	Ralph Baker (1)
Wayne and Shirley House (10)	Peg Fritts (1)
Peter and Patricia Ordway (6)	Gulf Coast Kayak (1)
Ed Chapin (3)	Mike and Ida Herbert (1)
Susan Edwards (3)	Leroy and Lene Lippmann (1)
Phil and Nancy Freeman (3)	Bob and Cindy Mann (1)
Karen Walker (1)	Chic & Clara Kennedy (3)
Larry and Kathleen Osgood (1)	Rick and Silvia Moore (3)
James and Virginia Richey (1)	Harvey and Maxine Ingelse (2)
Bill and Alison Spikowski (1)	Island Hardware (2)
Brant and Jane Stanford (1)	Don and Mary Shontz (2)

Recruit a friend or give a gift of a membership to a friend neighbor or relative. Put your name on the HONOR ROLL!

PLUNK-A-PLANK CAMPAIGN

Construction of the boardwalk and memorial observation deck on the St. Jude Trail is well underway, under the direction of construction foreman Chic Kennedy. The first boardwalk section (about 65 feet) is complete except for hand rails and end ramps. The second section, of about 20 feet, is also done except for about six more planks to be laid. The last section is the 16-foot ramp to the observation deck, requiring about 35 planks which have not yet been sold. The deck structure, out in scenic tranquil St. James Creek, is complete but not planked, although nearly all of the planks are ready.

The fund-raising campaign to pay for construction costs has been very successful, but a few more planks are needed. Here's how this works, if you are unfamiliar with this campaign: For a \$50 donation, a plank will be laid on the boardwalk with your name (or whatever) beautifully carved in it for all to see for many years to come. Take the time to walk out on the trail and see how spectacular it looks! 223 planks have been donated so far, with 30 of these for the memorial observation deck. If more donations are received than the available planks, names will be carved on the hand rails or even on benches in the area. If you haven't already done so, donate a plank and leave your name on the St. Jude Trail!

MEMORIALS

Few tributes are so lasting as a gift that helps preserve our island's natural heritage for future generations. We in the Calusa Land Trust are privileged to carry on our work in the memory of individuals so honored.

Melvin Atkin *	Marge Borton *	Ralph Brimacombe *
Jack Campbell	John M. Campbell *	Arnold Ceimalnieks *
George Darnell	Woodie Dillon *	Dr. Ambrose C. Estes
Joyce Gasow *	Jack Gates	Nancy Gilmore
Loren "POP" Gowan *	Anne Grace *	Joe Hanson *
Earl Hord *	E.S. (Red) Ingram *	Lezlee Jean Ingram *
Jack Kirmer *	Edward J. & Amanda Lever	Hector Magnuson *
Lewis W. McAllister *	John Moran	Arthur & Ida Newberg
Edward Newton	Mildred V. O'Brien	Earl Ott *
Fred Patterson *	Frank Polaski *	Gertie Rudd *
Dan Shockley *	Dorothy Seeling	William Sherwood
Dorothy Welch	Agnes Jane Snyder	William Webster *
Margaret L. Wilson, M.D.	Walt Woodhead *	

* Indicates name on the St. Jude Trail Memorial Observation Deck

RANDELL RESEARCH CENTER

We are including a brochure for the Randell Research Center, being created on ancient Calusa Indian ruins at Pineland. Please support this worthy enterprise if you can!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(By Rich Larkin)

It is truly a pleasure to serve as President of the Calusa Land Trust this year. The Board of Directors are wonderful people to work with. Some of the new goals we set for 1996 include:

- Purchase at least 100 acres of new preserves (accomplished)
- Clear the exotics from the new acre acquired at Fritts Park (accomplished)
- Clear the obstacles in the canoe trail to Big Jim Creek (in planning)
- Complete the boardwalk and observation deck at St. James Creek Preserve (almost complete)
- Develop, print, and distribute an interpretive trail guide for the St. Jude Trail (in development)
- Complete landscaping and plantings on St. Jude Trail for a fall 1996 grand opening (in progress)
- Create detailed maps of our preserves (using our GIS software).

All of our directors (and many of our members) are involved in one or more of these projects. If you would like to help out, give any of us a call. You can reach me at 283-4871. Thanks to you it's working!

LAND MANAGEMENT REPORT

(By Ed Chapin)

Our land management volunteers continue to be very active. We have worked many Saturdays on the St. Jude Trail. Although lots of hard work has gone into the removal of exotics (melaleuca, Brazilian pepper, and Australian pine), seedlings continue to sprout and will have to be controlled for some time. Our program to plant native bushes and trees has been coming along nicely and has greatly enhanced the beauty of the trail. We are planning more work days this summer, so any volunteers who would like to help will be appreciated. As always, we work the first Saturday of each month (weather permitting).

We also have been working on our expanded Bill Fritts Park (now 2 1/2 acres). We have cleaned around trees after Swenson Enterprises cleared the exotics. A nice sign at the entrance is almost complete, and we have added a shell parking area.

Rick Moore and Ed Chapin are working with Roger Clark from Lee County Parks and Recreation to develop a trail through the pine flatwoods on the St. James Creek Preserve off Castile Road. We hope to have this new trail underway by fall.

As always, we could not have accomplished so much without everyone's help! For more information or to get involved, call Ed Chapin at 283-1167 (9 to 5) or Rick Moore at 283-1206.

GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS)

Work on our GIS project has slowed during the "off" season with the seasonal absence of Project Chairman Peter Ordway, but another major contribution has been received for this effort. Trimble Navigation Limited of Sunnyvale, California, has donated a complete Geo Explorer Mapping System whose primary component is a very high grade, hand-held Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver. This system is capable of accurately determining a location from a network of NAVSTAR satellites operated by the federal government. This will be used by the Trust to map areas in our preserves.

CALUSA LAND TRUST MEMBERSHIPS AND DONATIONS:

_____ \$15 Individual Member _____ \$100 Contributor
_____ \$25 Family Member _____ \$500 Patron or Business Patron
_____ \$50 Donor or Organization _____ \$_____ for _____
_____ \$50 Plunk—a—Plank (*fill in below*) Sponsor's Name (*optional*): _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ Today's Date _____ Lettering on

Plank: _____

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