

ST. JUDE NATURE TRAIL INTERPRETIVE GUIDE *by Richard Little*

How often I find myself wandering along in places of natural beauty, my mind a zillion miles away, occupied with everyday concerns. Mentally chattering along listing chores to do, rehashing past conversations. Oblivious to the natural beauty and flow of life around me. I trudge on, preoccupied, while Nature whispers to me “Quiet, my son; listen and look. All about you life ebbs and flows. It is in the rustle of cabbage palm fronds. It is in the crackle and pop of crustaceans at the tides’ ebb. It is in the mystery of a spider patiently weaving her net at twilight. It is in the transcendent magic of a butterfly poised on the tip of a flower stamen, sipping syrupy nectar to store as glucose energy for her upcoming 1000 mile over-water migration flight.” Under the sun and moon, in the windsong of the pines, in the darkened crannies of the mangroves’ roots, in the tangled green of the gumbo limbo canopy, nature seeks me out.

We have prepared a St. Jude Nature Trail Interpretive Guide, which is available at the trail as a simple tool for those who visit this special place. Its purpose is to help shift our attention from the everyday into the extraordinary that innocently occurs in nature all around us; a play in which we share a part, along with the sand-dwelling fiddler crab, the flitting dragonfly, the stinging mosquito, the probing white ibis. . . .

And is our spirit not renewed as that child within us awakens to the sense of wonder that it feels in nature’s presence?

CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE REPORT

by Chic Kennedy

With pride and pleasure I can report that the St. Jude Trail boardwalk, ramp, and observation deck have been inspected and approved by Lee County. Only a few finishing touches remain. I give sincere thanks to the membership for their marvelous support and purchase of named planks, which completely funded this project, including an 8 x 16 Indian chickee hut for shelter at midpoint (its construction is imminent). In all, 288 planks were sold, with 264 planks laid on the boardwalk. The remaining 24 names will be carved onto the handrails as soon as Jan Bailey's generator is repaired. He is our carver and has done a wonderful job. We are no longer soliciting contributions for planks, but if you would like a name preserved here, do let us know, and we will see if it may still fit in.

I would like to directly thank many of the volunteers who came and worked so many Saturday mornings. In part, they are Norm Gowan (co-chairman), Rich Larkin, Rick Moore, Phil Buchanan, Earl Scott, Bud House, Peter Ordway, Wyatt Hooks, Mike Gowan, Phil Rosenberg, Ed Chapin, Dennis, Gail and Dennis Jr. Makowski (who set 22 poles in minutes), Hank Wojdak, Bob Kessler, Dick Jephson, and Bill Workman. Also, a special thank you to Rick Moore for his truck and to Gordon Havey for his trailer for the trip into Fort Myers to haul 28 pilings, many stringers, and boxloads of heavy steel hardware! And I can't forget Wally Ulrich for his tremendous help in hauling materials to the end of the road and later grading the road. For the loan of their generators that we desperately needed, thank you to Del Mergen and Joe Eisenberg. I am sure I have missed some, but thanks to you all who helped so much and so well. This project will be enjoyed by countless numbers for years to come.

FRITTS PARK BEAUTIFICATION WEEKEND AND CANOE RALLY November 16 & 17

On Saturday November 16, at 10:00 A.M. come on down to Fritts Park and bring your rake, shovel, pruners, hand saw, and work gloves. On land, we will pick up branches and limb pieces that were mixed into the ground when the exotic trees were removed. Also, we will plant some native species and generally groom and beautify the park. We will prune branches and trim root wads that are clogging the drainage ditch leading to the canoe trail. After all that work, everyone will be treated to a bonfire and complimentary wiener roast.

On Sunday, we plan a canoe trip into the Big Jim Creek Preserve. Come around 10:00 and bring your canoe, if you have one; we'll have some extras if you don't. If desired, pack up a few refreshments for yourself as well.

Call sub-committee chairman Richard Little at 283- 4974 or Rich Larkin at 283-4871 for more information. Fritts Park is located on Beach Daisy Lane just south of Pink Citrus (near Bokeelia).

FOURTH ANNUAL PINE ISLAND POKER RUN

December 1, 1996

This event has been a very successful fundraiser for the Land Trust for the past three years. It is hosted by the Pine Island Boat Club and open to everyone, with all the proceeds (after prizes and expenses) donated to the Land Trust. All members are urged to participate in this event which is always loads of fun (and could even be profitable)! Tickets are \$5.00 for each hand played; they will be on sale at the Pine Island Elks Lodge on Friday evening (11/29), at the Waterfront Restaurant on Saturday afternoon (11/30), and again at the Waterfront on Sunday morning from 8 to 10 AM at the start of the run. You need not be on a boat to participate; just have someone else on a boat carry your tickets. Here is a special incentive: anyone donating \$100 to the Land Trust during the ticket sales will receive five **FREE** tickets from the Boat Club.

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

by Norm Gowan

The Trust's current membership stands at 515, with 334 up-to-date in their dues. That is 65% of the membership and still rising. This number continues to improve, thanks to all of you who steadily support the organization. Membership is considered as current for one full year from a previous donation. Not everyone is going to keep track of that date, so we help out by printing a signal on the mailing label of each newsletter. Take a look now and if an asterisk(*) appears after your name, believe it or not, another year has passed!

Sponsor a new member! Our membership is our greatest treasure; the greater the membership, the more lands we can put into preservation. Thirty-two members have sponsored 86 new members since the inception of this program; the "Honor Roll" follows:

Norm & Marie Gowan (23)	Leroy & Lene Lippmann (1)
Wayne & Shirley House (10)	Carol B. Newman (1)
Peter & Patricia Ordway (6)	Larry & Kathleen Osgood (1)
Chic & Clara Kennedy (4)	James & Virginia Richey (1)
Don & Mary Shontz (4)	Brant & Jane Stanford (1)
Ed Chapin (3)	Pat Waite (1)
Phil & Nancy Freeman (3)	Joseph & Josephine Williams (1)
Harvey & Maxine Ingelse (3)	Margaret (Peg) Fritts (1)
Rick & Silvia Moore (3)	Bob & Cindy Mann (1)
Susan Edwards et al (3)	Phil Buchanan (1)
Bill & Alison Spikowski (2)	Betty Robey (1)
Island Hardware (2)	Don & Dottie Kernaghan (1)
Ralph Baker (1)	Karen Walker (1)
Gulf Coast Kayak (1)	Waterfront Restaurant (1)
Mike & Ida Herbert (1)	Al & Margie Walker (1)
Nancy Holabird (1)	Sandra VanCleaf (1)

Add your name to the Honor Roll. Sign up a friend or relative or give a membership gift!

MEMORIALS

Few tributes are so lasting as a memorial gift that helps preserve our Island's 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 *	Vesta Bailey *
Marge Borton *	Ralph Brimacombe *
Jack Campbell	John M. Campbell *
Arnold S. Celmalnieks *	Ben Counselman *
George Darnell	Louis Del Signore *
Woodie Dillon *	Dr. Ambrose C. Estes *
Joyce Gasow *	Jack Gates
Nancy Gilmore	Loren "POP" Gowan *
Anne Grace *	Joe Hanson *
Earl Hord *	Allen Hougland *
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 *
Dorothy Seeling	William Sherwood
Dan Shockley *	Agnes Jane Snyder
William Webster *	Dorothy Welch
Edith Williams *	Margaret L. Wilson, M.D.
Walt Woodhead *	

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

CELEBRATION PARTY FOR OUR NEW BACK BAY PRESERVE
December 8

Joe and Jimmie Eisenberg have graciously offered to host our December 8th Celebration Party in the *Tiki Jungle* besides their home at 3544 Emerald Avenue, St. James City, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m..

For all those who contributed \$100 to help purchase this tract, a complimentary meal will be served beginning at 2:00, with cold soda, beer, and a party cake as well. For everyone else, tickets will be available by mail or at the door for \$15 per person. If you missed the chance to help buy this incredible tract, you can still give \$100 and receive two "Guest of Honor" name badges, an "Honorary Certificate of Ownership," and a not-to-be-forgotten pontoon boat ride for two into our new preserve during the party! A great value for a donation to a very worthwhile project. The current donor list is shown on the back side of this page.

So, if you can, come and join over 50 families who have already donated at least \$100. Or send in \$15 per person and join the fun. We hope to see you there! For information or directions, call Rich Larkin at 283-4871 or Norm Gowan at 283-8203.

(Return form and use envelope.)

____ Yes! I want to donate \$100 to reimburse the funds used to purchase our new "Back Bay Preserve." Please create an "Honorary Certificate of Ownership" and place my name(s) on the Guest of Honor list for the December 8th Celebration Party and pontoon ride.

____ Yes! I want to Join the Fun for \$15 per person. Send ____ tickets.

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

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

BACK BAY HONOR ROLL:

Brenda Anderson	Al & Alice Lappin
Diann Atkin	Dick Lewis & Family
Jan & Kate Bailey	Leroy & Lene Lippmann
Don & Mary Ellen Beatty	Mary G. Magnuson
Mr. & Mrs. Arnold Bertelsen	Bob & Cindy Mann
James & Cynthia Bower	Betty Robey & Robert McMahan
George L. & Twila M. Carey	Kevin & Sara McAuley
Jack & Johanna Carver	Karl & Dawn Marie Ochadleus
Ray & Demetra Cherry	John & Sheila Orrell
Jacqueline Del Signore	Yvonne & Jan Petersen
Ernest & Julia Denny	Ellen Peterson
George & Ruth Elliott	John A. Quiroga
Arthur F. Ferguson	Stuart Reynolds
Fred & Shirley Gebhard	Gunther & Virginia Schwartz
Norm & Marie Gowan	Robert & Jean Speckman
William & Susan Grace	Brant & Jane Stanford
Mike & Ida Herbert	Ruth & Lee Stanley
Ken & Suzanne Houpt	Donald Streit
Cathy House	Clancy Sughroue
William & Joan Hoye	Robert & Gail Tingley
Harvey & Maxine Ingelse	Joseph C. Tooke
Bill & Mar Lou Jericha	Dennis & Ruth Ward
Bill & Dottie Johnson	Roy J. Welch
Jo Johnson	Doris Waller & Elizabeth Whalen
Ken & Martha Keller	Rubye Woodhead
David & Annamary Klumb	Jack & Lisa Worthington
Frances Kurpiel	Walter & Letitia Wszolek

CALUSA LAND TRUST MEMBERSHIPS AND DONATIONS:

____ \$15 Individual Member ____ \$100 Contributor
____ \$25 Family Member ____ \$500 Patron or Business Patron
____ \$50 Donor or Organization ____ \$____ for _____
____ \$100 Back Bay Land Purchase Sponsor's Name (optional): _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Second Address? _____

Second City, State, Zip? _____

Phone _____ Today's Date _____

~~A COPY OF THE CALUSA LAND TRUST'S OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE STATE OF FLORIDA'S DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING 1-800-435-7352 (TOLL-FREE FROM WITHIN FLORIDA). REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE OF FLORIDA.~~

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