

Calusa Land Trust

and Nature Preserve of Pine Island, Inc.



Newsletter

December 1999

President's Message

by Ed Chapin

And so we come to the end of another successful year for the Calusa Land Trust. I am very proud to have served as president for these past two years and am very grateful and appreciative of everyone's help in making CLT the organization it has become. Let's continue preserving Pine Island's natural heritage in the new millennium!

The nominating committee met in November to propose a slate of candidates for the board of directors in preparation for the election at our annual meeting. The committee consisted of 3 board members, Phil Buchanan, Rick Moore and myself, plus 2 members-at-large, Harald and Anna Riehm. All seven board members whose terms are expiring in January have agreed to serve another two-year term, if elected by the general membership. They are Alison Ackerman, Phil Buchanan, Chic Kennedy, Richard Little, Rick Moore, Bill Spikowski, and Rubye Woodhead. The committee has also nominated member Jim Gray of Bokeelia as a new board member. This would fill out our board at its maximum size of fifteen members. Additional nominations will be taken from the floor. Current board members who will begin serving the second year of their term are Gloria Andrews, Ed Chapin, Norm Gowan, Bud House, Peter Ordway, Cathy Valenti, and Bill Workman.

In closing, I want to wish you all a happy and safe holiday season and look forward to seeing many of you at our annual meeting on January 23.

Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting has been set for Sunday, January 23, 2000, at 1:00 P.M. at the Elks Lodge at Pine Island Center (in the former Greater Pine Island Civic Association building next to the fire station). As usual there will be many notable events and activities to discuss. Come and help us celebrate what Calusa Land Trust has accomplished this year and begin our planning for the new year.

Long Cut Preserve

As detailed in our previous newsletter, the Calusa Land Trust and the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation have acquired an option to buy 130 acres of wetlands from the Jones Trust. This property is bordered by York and Coconut Islands (which we already own) on the south, Pine Island Sound on the west, "Jungle Cut" and the DEP Aquatic Preserve on the north, and Cherry Estates Canal on the east. It contains "Long Cut" as well as all waterways that Cherry Estates boaters use as their gateway to Pine Island Sound.

The purchase price is \$130,000 and CLT is responsible for 50%, or \$65,000. We must raise these funds by July of next year or the option will expire.

A plea of support has been mailed to all Cherry Estates and Trailerhaven area residents who do not currently belong to the Trust, as they will benefit most directly from this purchase. Already 28 have responded with donations totaling over \$2,500. This is a great help, but obviously more is needed. Please share the news of this project with your friends and neighbors so they can join in to support this wonderful opportunity.

Land Management

by Richard Little

On October 25, sixteen Ranger/Stewards met to review our recent land management activities and also to discuss future projects for the year 2000. Here is a brief synopsis of our news:

€ Cathy Valenti proposed that Calusa Land Trust begin a Junior Ranger program that will provide an environmental awareness and field contact educational experience to students. It would be based on models developed for the National Park System but will focus specifically on native Florida flora and fauna. Cathy volunteered to apply for a grant to finance resource materials, and several others including Mary Sims, Pam Bristol, and Alison Ackerman, have offered to help.

- € Fifteen attractive signs have been made to be placed in strategic locations at certain CLT preserves to identify them to the public. The signs all have our soaring osprey logo, with the admonition to “Please Respect this Preserve. Take nothing but pictures. Leave nothing but footprints.” A few signs have already been installed and the rest will go up over the next few months.
- € Joan Culver offered to compile the total number of hours that volunteers worked on our preserves this year. Since our meeting, she has added up *hundreds* of hours! Specifically, 132 hours were spent organizing and planning for projects, and 660 hours were spent actually working in the field. That brings the total to 792 hours and there may still be more yet to be accounted for. Our thanks to all of you!
- € Dates for most of the ranger/stewardship work parties for the next year have been tentatively scheduled as follows:

January 8	9:00 A.M.	Calusa Island
January 29	9:00 A.M.	Calusa Canal
February 5	9:00 A.M.	Baxley Preserve
March 4	9:00 A.M.	St. Jude Trail
April 1 (no foolin')	9:00 A.M.	Big Jim Creek
May 6	8:00 A.M.	Dobbs Preserve
June 3	8:00 A.M.	Eagle Preserve
August 5	8:00 A.M.	Dobbs Preserve (planting)

- € The next Ranger/Steward Council meeting will be held on February 21 at the Blue Crab Key clubhouse. Everyone is invited. Any questions, comments or suggestions, please give me a call at 283-4974.

T-Shirt Committee News

Pat Williams chairs our T-Shirt Committee and she recently enlisted the artistic creativity of Dianna Willman to design tote bags and a new Calusa Land Trust T-shirt for fund-raising. Claudia Little and Pat also put their heads together and came up with designer bill cap and visor offerings. Pat has had all these fabricated by ScreenPrint Plus of Cape Coral and they will be on sale at future fund raising events and also at our annual meeting. They are great for the gift-giving season with prices ranging from \$9 to \$15. If you are interested in purchasing any of these items for the holiday season, you can contact Pat at 283-8589.

Eagle Monitoring

Dianna and Gordon Willman have volunteered to be the “Eagle Couple” for the Ranger Council. At periodic intervals they will monitor the various nests on Pine Island and will watch each site for eagle activity, the condition of the nests, a fledgling count (if possible), and any encroachment or other activity that might be of concern. They will report their findings periodically to the Ranger Council and also to the Land Acquisition Committee, which might want to target an eagle nesting site for future acquisition.

St. James City Rummage Sale

The Calusa Land Trust had a booth at the St. James City Outdoor Rummage Sale on November 13. We sold the newly-designed T-shirts etc. mentioned above, many copies of the *Nature Lovers' Guide to Pine Island*, and several memberships. We also raffled a beautiful painting donated by Gerry Phillips, bringing the total income for the day to \$495.

Fritts Park Rummage Sale

by Cari Caudill and Shirley House

On November 27, the Calusa Land Trust was at it again, selling all sorts of donated items and the usual array of T-shirts, caps, and tote bags. Receipts from the sale totaled \$985 for the used treasures plus \$316 for T-shirts. We would like to thank all of the volunteers, contributors, and purchasers who made this such a successful event. We would also like to thank the Pine Island KOA who donated several used picnic tables. They held all of the goods at the sale and will now be moved to other sites as needed.

New Lecture Series

Beginning on January 8, the Calusa Land Trust will present a series of lectures to be held monthly, concluding in May with a special workshop. The intent is to make available the expertise and insight of recognized authorities in a variety of fields dealing with nature. The lectures will be held every 2nd Tuesday of the month, at 7:30, at the Fishers of Men Lutheran Church on Pine Island. The first lecture will be given by CLT board members Phil Buchanan and Peter Ordway.

Ray and Fran Lever have assumed overall responsibility for the series. What they need now are your suggestions for additional speakers and for the kind of workshop that might be held. Please respond to Ray and Fran at 283-7178, by mail at 2179 Lemon St., St. James City, or by e-mail at rlever1@Juno.com. (Following “rlever” is the number one, not the letter “l”.)

Membership Report

by Norm Gowan

Land Trust membership passes the 800 mark! We now have 806 members with 515 (64%) current in annual donations. Much of this growth is due to the new members who have joined in support of our commitment to purchase the new “Long Cut Preserve.” If you haven’t contributed to this project, please consider doing so, perhaps along with your membership dues which are due if your mailing label has an asterisk by it, indicating it’s been a year since your last contribution.

FUND-RAISING EVENTS

by Norm Gowan (283-8203)

If you haven’t already marked your calendars for the following events, now is the time. Call me anytime for more information. See you there!

ROAST BEEF DINNER — On February 26, a delicious dinner will be cooked by Dave and Nichole Nichols and served at the beautiful home of Jimmie and Joe Eisenberg. Beer, wine and soft drinks are all included, and pontoon boat tours around Long Cut Preserve will be provided before the dinner. You can enjoy all this for a minimum donation of \$50 per couple to help pay for Long Cut Preserve. Boat tours start at 12:00 P.M. and dinner will be served at 3:00. This is open to Land Trust members and their guests only, so it will not be advertised.

ST. PATRICK’S DAY — On March 17, we will host our 4th annual corned beef and cabbage dinner at the Greater Pine Island Elks Lodge. The festivities will begin at 1:00 P.M. You can’t miss this delicious dinner, not to mention the live music and fun going on all afternoon and into the evening.

RUBBER DUCK RACE — Remember last year’s race? If you weren’t there, just imagine 1000 little rubber ducks streaking down a canal toward the finish line, with hundreds of people watching and hoping to win such prizes as a weekend at the South Seas Resort, a 27" color TV, or a CD player. Next year, the race will take place on Monroe Canal at the Double Nichol Pub on Saturday, April 8. Watch for more news in the papers.

Internal Accounting

Brenda Anderson, a member of Calusa Land Trust and an accountant by profession, has volunteered to review our records to ensure compliance with accounting requirements and to assist our treasurer, Bill Spikowski, with filing our tax returns. She will be reporting to the board prior to our annual meeting.

Calusa Canal Fence Completed

We have constructed a split-rail fence around our newly-acquired Calusa Canal property to prevent farm vehicles from further damaging the remnants of the canal. Also, a small identification sign has been placed there. This property is located on Meadow Lane, the second street north of Stringfellow off of Harbor Drive.



The fencer crew, from left to right: Geoffrey Rogers (Rustic Fence Co.), Don Taggart, Bud House, and Gordon Willman



The sign crew, Bud House and Harvey Ingelse

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

<u>DATE:</u>	<u>TIME:</u>	<u>EVENT:</u>	<u>LOCATION:</u>	<u>CONTACT:</u>
December 18	9:00 A.M.	Canoe trip to Smokehouse Bay	Meet at end of Sandal Lane	Peter Ordway, 283-5918
December 21	6:30 P.M.	Board meeting	Elks Club, Pine Island Center	Ed Chapin, 277-6807
January 8	7:30 P.M.	Lecture by Buchanan and Ordway	Fishers of Men Lutheran Church	Ray & Fran Lever, 283
January 15	9:00 A.M.	Canoe trip through St. James Creek	Meet at head of St. Jude Trail	Peter Ordway, 283-5918
January 23	1 P.M.	Annual meeting	Elks Club, Pine Island Center	Ed Chapin, 277-6807
February 12	9:00 A.M.	Canoe trip through Back Bay	Meet at Hopkins Point	Peter Ordway, 283-5918
February 26	noon	Roast beef dinner	Eisenberg home	Norm Gowan, 283-8203
March 11	9:00 A.M.	Canoe trip to Calusa Island	Meet at end of Aura Lane	Peter Ordway, 283-5918
March 17	1 P.M.	St. Patrick's Day	Elks Club, Pine Island Center	Norm Gowan, 283-8203
April 8		Rubber duck race	Double Nichol Pub	Norm Gowan, 283-8203
April 15	9:00 A.M.	Canoe trip to Underhill Creek	Meet at Tropical Point	Peter Ordway, 283-5918

CALUSA LAND TRUST MEMBERSHIPS AND DONATIONS:

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|-----------------------------------|--|
| _____ \$ 15 Individual Member | _____ \$___ Calusa canal purchase |
| _____ \$ 25 Family Member | _____ \$ 23 Nature Lover's Guide to P.I. |
| _____ \$ 50 Donor or Organization | _____ \$___ for _____ |
| _____ \$100 Contributor | _____ \$ 50 Plunk-a-Plank |
| _____ \$250 Angel | _____ (fill in lettering below) |

Sponsor's Name (optional): _____

Your Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Second Address? _____

Second City, State, Zip? _____

Phone _____ E-mail address _____ Today's Date _____

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