

# Calusa Land Trust

and Nature Preserve of Pine Island, Inc.



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**Newsletter**

[www.calusalandtrust.org](http://www.calusalandtrust.org)

**March 2003**

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## **Pine Island Flatwoods Preserve Expanded!**

by Phil Buchanan

It is with extreme pleasure that we announce the establishment of the largest nature preserve on mainland Pine Island. The Pine Island Flatwoods Preserve across from Tropical Homesites has now been expanded to 537 acres. On January 7, the Lee County Board of County Commissioners approved a 365-acre addition to the preserve, which now includes 372 acres of uplands and 165 acres of wetlands. Total cost of the four separate purchases of this land over the last two years has been \$3,823,500. The price to be paid for the \$2.8 million addition comes entirely from Conservation 20/20 funds. The Calusa Land Trust proposed and strongly supported the addition to the preserve but we were not asked to provide funding.



*365-acre addition (left center, directly across Stringfellow from Tropical Homesites) connects two existing nature preserves*

The main features of the preserve are the pristine pine flatwoods (slash pine and palmetto with some longleaf pine) and the salt flats (extremely shallow tidal silt lagoons with heavy salt concentrations). The salt flats extend over a mile north to south and at least ¼ mile east to west; I believe these are among the most extensive subtropical salt flats in the United States. Salt flats have tidal waters only a few inches deep at high tide, creating a productive yet secluded habitat that regularly attracts an incredible variety of migratory and other birds. On my first visit there some five years ago I saw a flock of some 15 to 20 roseate spoonbills, the largest such flock I have ever seen.

This preserve will be very interesting to visit; we anticipate some really nice hiking trails through the uplands with overlooks along the salt flats. It will take time to establish good marked hiking trails, but the property is relatively easy to hike even in its present state. It will be open to the public immediately upon transfer of title, which is expected in April.

This purchase is the most important preservation success in the history of mainland Pine Island. It became clear a few days before Christmas that the purchase would be a success; in the view of this old conservationist, it's the best Christmas present we could possibly get!

The Calusa Land Trust's participation in the Lee County Conservation 20/20 Program has been the most successful partnership in our history. The 20/20 program has spent over \$5 million acquiring and maintaining nature preserves on Pine Island in the last few years. Although the 20/20 program is set to expire in 2004, it may be extended, and if it is, the Calusa Land Trust will of course continue to work with this most valuable partner.



*Aerial view of Pine Island Flatwoods Preserve looking west (Tropical Homesites at bottom of photo)*

## Record Turnout at Annual Meeting by Phil Buchanan (283-4067)

Our annual meeting was held on Sunday, January 19, 2003, at the Fishers of Men Lutheran Church at Pine Island Center. Some 100 members gathered, which is a record for attendance. Our new computer-driven projector helped keep things organized and interesting. This equipment gives us the capability to vividly display both photographs and text.

All of the officers and committee chairs reported to the membership on their respective activities. The members approved Secretary Rubye Woodhead's minutes from last year and Treasurer Bill Spikowski's financial report for the past fiscal year (a copy is included later in this newsletter).

In addition, the Bylaws Committee recommended the following change to the quorum requirements in Article V, Section (4):

"One-half of the members A simple majority of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of business except during the months of July, August, and September, when only one-third of the members shall be required for a quorum."

This change was proposed because the Board of Directors has on occasion had difficulty during the late summer months putting together a quorum to conduct business. Not only are the "snowbird" directors gone, but many of the year-round resident directors also travel during that period. The proposal was approved by a majority of the members present.

Membership and Fundraising Committee Chair Norm Gowan, Stewardship/Ranger Chair Ed Chapin, and Music on Pine Island Chair Jack Worthington reported on their varied activities over the past year. Norm, who also heads our Finance Committee, outlined a new initiative to finance long-term stewardship of our preserves (see details and forms later in this newsletter).

The membership accepted the Nominating Committee's recommendation that current directors Jim Alexander, Ed Chapin, Joan Culver, Norm Gowan, Bud House, and Jack Worthington be re-elected to the board for another two-year term, and that Ron Wesorick be elected for an initial two-year term. Judy Ott was nominated from the floor to fill our only vacant seat. All were elected unanimously.

Acquisition Committee Chair Phil Buchanan showed aerial photographs of the nine new nature preserves on and around Pine Island that have been established in the last two years. They are the Pine Island Flatwoods Preserve (see previous item), the Long Cut and the Galt Preserves (both in southwest St. James City), the Pine Island Center Preserve (across from the Methodist Church), Merwin Key (off St. James City), Picnic Island (more a boaters' park than a nature preserve), the Dean Preserve (conservation easement in Bokeelia), and the Boring property and the Edison Community College property (both mangrove areas purchased by the Lee County Conservation 20/20 program).

These nine new preserves reduce the "Wish List" established by the Board of Directors two years ago from 38 separate environmentally sensitive areas to 29 areas. Unfortunately, one area on the list (Crescent Island) has been developed and must also be removed from the list, which leaves us with a "Wish List" at the present time of 28 environmentally-endangered habitats on Pine Island. (For a listing, see Appendix 6 of *The Nature Lover's Guide to Pine Island*.) The Acquisition Committee also announced the purchase of an addition to the Calusa Island Preserve and the purchase of three acres that we hope will be the beginnings of a preserve in the Willow Lake area south of the Catholic Church.

Bud House, Archeology Committee Chair, reported on his successes in the past year (see separate item below), and the Brochure Committee Chair Jim Alexander distributed first-time copies of his color brochure on the Trust. Website Committee Chair Ken Keller outlined the most recent additions to our website ([www.calusalandtrust.org](http://www.calusalandtrust.org)), which, thanks to Phil and Joan Rosenberg of Island Computers, now has beautiful aerial photographs of our preserves.

Phil Buchanan announced tentative plans to establish a "Master Naturalist" program on Pine Island (more on this program in later issues).

Pat Williams, Merchandise Sales Chair, had her booth set up at the meeting and was selling hats, shirts, and many other items including new "duck quackers," which we expect to be a big sales item at the duck race.

The meeting ended with the announcement that the Trust is nominating Ed Chapin for the National Wetlands Award Program for 2003 (see details below). About 50 members then adjourned to celebrate at a picnic at Fritts Park; it was so much fun that we plan to make it a permanent feature after our annual meetings.

Our thanks to Lynne Smith for the door prize, a beautiful glass artwork, and congratulations to Bill Spikowski, the lucky winner.

## **Upcoming Board of Director's Meetings**

The next two board meetings will be held on April 15 and May 20 at the Elks Lodge at Pine Island Center. These meetings, scheduled for the third Tuesday of each month, begin at 6:30 and usually run no longer than 8:00. Anyone is welcome to attend and listen as well as share ideas.

## **Ranger/Stewardship Report**

by Ed Chapin

As our preserves continue to grow, so do the number of hours required to keep them clean, trimmed, and healthy, not to mention improve the areas that need exotic plant removal, controlled burns, and new plantings. It is strenuous work at times, but always satisfying. Our rangers have worked hard all year on many projects and it clearly shows.

If you visit Fritts Park, for example, you will see several improvements. In anticipation of the Music on Pine Island series being held there this winter, we have added water lines and a sprinkler to the Tootsie Barnes Memorial and put in a new flagpole (donated by the American Legion). This is in addition to the usual hours and hours of trimming, planting, and mowing required to keep it looking shipshape.

At the Eagle Preserve just south of the St. James Post Office, the Lee County Parks and Recreation, Florida Division of Forestry, and the Pine Island Fire Department conducted a "prescribed burn" last July. This was done with care and precision and was very successful. Controlled burns can enhance the native habitat for plants and animals by burning out the underbrush and giving them more room to live and grow.

On some of our other preserves, namely Calusa Island, Baxley, Dobbs, Calusa Canal, St. James Creek, the Peter Ordway Tropical Hammock, Long Cut and York/Coconut, the main emphasis has been the constant struggle of trying to control invasive plants.

Other Ranger events this last year include working with Keep Lee County Beautiful on the March Trash Bash and September Coastal Clean-up. Also, we took the Pine Island 5th graders on field trips last May. Led by our Volunteer Rangers, the students got to explore some of our preserves and learn the importance of conservation.

We continue to offer our Peter Ordway Water tours, which start every year in November and end in April. Our first three trips were very well attended. Check below for the particulars of the last two, then come along and explore our preserves with us. Make your reservations early as we like to keep the total participants to no more than 25. If you do not have a boat, don't worry, we usually have extra space. Just contact me at the number below and I will reserve a spot for you.



*Feathery friend at Calusa Island Preserve*

Remember that our work parties are on the first Saturday of each month (check below), but we have also started Sunday Brunch Work Parties. We will meet every Sunday (weather permitting) at Fritts Park from 11 AM to 1 PM to tackle whatever job needs doing. Bring some coffee and donuts and let's see what we can do.

Over the past year we have worked on ten of our preserves and put in about 700 total volunteer hours. I want to thank all of you who have made this possible and encourage you to keep coming out and lending a hand. If you have never joined us, won't you please consider volunteering some time soon and help us keep Pine Island the island paradise that it is?

A great way to start would be to come to our next Ranger Council Meeting on Monday April 7 at 6:30 PM at Fritts Park, weather permitting. We will discuss our preserves, what is needed, and how to best organize our work parties. For more information, beep me at 392-0090. See you there.

<b><u>WORK PARTIES</u></b>		
Saturday, April 5	9 to 12	Long Cut Preserve & York/Coconut Island Preserves
Every Sunday	11 to 1	Meet at Fritts Park
<b><u>PETER ORDWAY MANGROVE WATER TOURS</u></b>		
Saturday, March 15	1 to 4	St. James Creek Preserve
Sunday, April 6	9 to 12	Underhill Creek Preserve
<i>Trips last between 3 and 4 hours. \$15 donation per canoe/kayak is suggested.</i>		
<b><u>RANGER COUNCIL MEETING</u></b>		
Monday, April 7	6:30	Ranger council meeting at Fritts Park



## Calusa Canal, Phase III

by Bud House (283-3493)

As previously reported, the Calusa Canal-Phase III has been in progress since June 11, 2002. On that date the Archaeological Conservancy purchased a canal parcel located at 6360 Meadow Lane. Through a contract with that organization, Calusa Land Trust needs to transfer funds to the Conservancy, in the original purchase amount of \$15,000, by June 11, 2003. We are getting very close to this total and are gaining confidence that we will be able to complete this purchase as scheduled.

This Phase III parcel is adjacent to the Phase II parcel purchased in 2001. If you would like to visit this new acquisition, Meadow Lane is the second street to the right off of Harbor Drive, after traveling north on Stringfellow Road. Thanks to the Saturday volunteer work crew for removing exotic vegetation and preserving the baby pine trees; the property is looking better and better all the time.

Please consider helping us making our third purchase a reality. For a donation of \$50 or more, you can receive a beautiful Calusa Canal T-Shirt, showing that you supported this important project. Be sure to mark your check "Calusa Canal" and specify the desired size (S, M, L, XL). Thanks to all who attended the dinner sponsored the Pine Island Moose Club and participated in our annual rummage sale; the profits from both events went toward the Calusa Canal purchase.

## National Wetlands Award

by Phil Buchanan (283-4067)

The Calusa Land Trust Board of Directors voted in December to nominate Ed Chapin for the National Wetlands Award Program for 2003. Ed has been the land stewardship manager for the Calusa Land Trust for 26 years and has managed the vast wetland preserves of the Trust during that period entirely with volunteer labor. He has also forged management agreements and divisions of responsibility for land stewardship with other land trusts as well as county, state, and federal governmental organizations. His organization skills and knowledge of subtropical habitats are legendary.



*Ed Chapin receives plaque from Phil Buchanan*

The National Wetlands Awards Program is sponsored jointly by the Environmental Law Institute, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, USDA Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, and National Resources Conservation Service. This is an extremely prestigious award with competitors chosen from the entire United States. Selection of the national winners will be conducted in late March.

### **PURPOSE OF THE CALUSA LAND TRUST:**

"... to acquire, hold, and manage environmentally sensitive lands, archaeological and historic sites, and other natural lands; to encourage education and research in the fields of conservation and preservation; to establish nature preserves or other protected areas to be used for scientific, educational, aesthetic, or passive recreational purposes; to cooperate with other entities having similar or related objectives; and to engage in any other activity relating to the furtherance of the foregoing objectives."

— *From the articles of incorporation of the Calusa Land Trust (Article II)*

**CALUSA LAND TRUST TREASURER'S REPORT**  
**SUMMARY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2002**  
*(October 1, 2001 through September 30, 2002)*

**FUNDS ON HAND AS OF 10/1/01:**

General Fund:	\$60,790.15
Emergency Fund:	\$25,000.00
Land Management Fund:	\$38,529.49
GPIWA Mitigation Fund:	\$26,558.29
Boardwalk Maintenance Fund:	\$3,397.88
Conservation 2020 Matching Fund:	\$55,000.00
Project X Fund:	\$19,419.60
Calusa Canal Fund:	\$2,890.60
Easement Defense Fund:	\$500.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$232,086.01</b>

**INCOME SINCE 10/1/01:**

Memberships and Donations:	\$89,130.91
Rubber Duck Race Net Proceeds:	\$7,269.35
Poker Run Net Proceeds:	\$3,595.37
Rummage Sale Income:	\$844.05
Interest and Dividends from Investments:	\$10,849.16
Unrealized Gains (Losses) on securities:	\$3,310.57
Gains (Losses) on securities:	\$2,883.30
Nature Guide Sales:	\$2,442.00
T-Shirt/Cap/Merchandise Sales:	\$4,064.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$124,388.71</b>

**LAND MANAGEMENT & OTHER EXPENSES SINCE 10/1/01:**

Junior Ranger Expenses:	\$350.00
Boardwalk Expenses:	\$1,670.44
MangoMania Expenses:	\$130.00
Rummage Sale Expenses:	\$74.20
Miscellaneous Equipment:	\$137.73
Fritts Park Improvement Expenses:	\$3,096.99
Mowing of Parks and Trails:	\$1,970.00
Other Land Stewardship Expenses:	\$1,166.12
Nature Guide Expenses:	\$1,806.41
T-Shirt Purchases:	\$3,704.07
Administrative Expenses:	\$6,276.30
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$20,382.26</b>

**LAND ACQUISITION COSTS SINCE 10/1/01:**

Calusa Canal (Meadow Lane Lot 5) deposit:	\$500.00
Calusa Island Preserve (Lot 4):	\$31,815.50
Flatwoods Preserve (CLT contribution toward Lee County purchase):	\$10,000.00
Galt Nature Preserve (CLT contribution toward Lee County purchase):	\$55,000.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$97,315.50</b>

**FUNDS ON HAND AS OF 9/30/02:**

General Fund:	\$110,156.89
Emergency Fund:	\$11,550.00
Land Management Fund:	\$38,529.49
GPIWA Mitigation Fund:	\$26,308.29
Boardwalk Maintenance Fund:	\$3,415.75
Conservation 2020 Matching Fund:	\$10,000.00
Project X Fund:	\$31,599.46
Calusa Canal Fund:	\$6,717.08
Easement Defense Fund:	\$500.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$238,776.96</b>

## Membership Report

by Norm Gowan (283-8203)

We continue to have a membership of about 800 with 58% current in their dues. We do a lot to raise money for our projects, but the bulk of our income is from the generous donations of our members, 528 in 2002! Please stop now and take a look at the address label on this newsletter. If there is an asterisk “ \* “ following your name, it has been more than a year since your last donation. We would love to hear from you. You, the members, are the reason we are still here.

## Fund Raising Projects

by Norm Gowan (283-8203)

**Plunk-A-Plank:** In the seven years since its inception, 618 names have been carved on the boardwalk or benches on the St. Jude Trail, resulting in a gross income of over \$31,000 to the Land Trust. Is your name preserved in wood on our nature trail? During the next year, we plan to create a directory to make it easier for donors to locate names on the trail.

**Rubber Duck Race:** Our 5th annual Rubber Duck Race was held on February 22nd at the Double Nichol Pub in St. James City. This is always a fun event that raises a good deal of money for the Land Trust (this year alone, \$5,300).

**Poker Run:** December 8th marked the 10th annual poker run on the water sponsored by the Pine Island Boat Club to benefit the Trust. 80 boats participated playing 858 hands of poker. The lucky winner took home over \$1,700 while the Trust received more than \$3,800!

**Benefit Lunch:** A chicken dinner to benefit the Calusa Canal purchases was hosted by the Pine Island Moose on February 8th. There was a “reverse raffle,” with the first ticket drawn winning only \$50 but the last (7th) winning the \$1,000 grand prize. Only 500 tickets were be sold and the event was great fun and yielded \$2,700 toward the Calusa Canal purchase.

**Rummage Sale:** This annual event was held on February 15th hosted by the House Family and held at their house; the proceeds are also being used to benefit the Calusa Canal purchases.

## Endowment

by Norm Gowan (283-8203)

As the amount of land being held by the Trust in permanent protection continues to grow, our responsibility for maintenance of that land also grows. So far in our existence, we have been able to provide such maintenance with volunteer labor and with a minimum cash outlay.

We must consider that at some point in the future, volunteer help alone will not be adequate to the task. Our lands must be maintained in perpetuity (forever or as near to that as our society permits), so a continuing source of income is required. We believe that an endowment fund should eventually generate income to satisfy this continuing need. We are starting now to build such a fund using contributions dedicated to that purpose. It is a small start but a start nonetheless.

The Calusa Land Trust Board of Directors has launched this board-designated fund with \$10,000 from the Trust's General Fund. An additional donation will be made in each year hereafter as determined by the Board of Directors depending on the financial status of the Trust.

This plan was formally announced and pledges solicited at the annual meeting in January 2003. This newsletter contains a pledge form that we hope our members will carefully consider.



**CALUSA LAND TRUST AND NATURE PRESERVE  
OF PINE ISLAND, INC.**

**LAND STEWARDSHIP ENDOWMENT DONATION APPLICATION**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

The Trust is a charitable 501(c)(3) organization and donations are tax deductible.

Please accept my pledge for:

- \$50/year for 10 years
- \$100/year for 10 years
- \$200/year for 10 years
- \_\_\_\_\_ other for 10 years

My initial donation is enclosed.

- Enclosed is my one-time donation of:
  - \$25
  - \$50
  - \$100
  - Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to the Calusa Land Trust.

*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. Full financial details, including federal tax returns, can be obtained by contacting the Calusa Land Trust's treasurer at (239) 334-8866 during working hours.*

*Ref. IRS Regulations Section 170(f)(8) & 6115: No goods or services of substantial value are returned to donors in return for donations in excess of \$75. Federal Employer Identification Number: 59-1782265.*

*Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services registration number SC-03439. No portion of donations received by the Trust is paid to any professional solicitor. 100% of all donations are received by the Trust.*

# **CALUSA LAND TRUST AND NATURE PRESERVE OF PINE ISLAND, INC.**

## **LAND STEWARDSHIP ENDOWMENT FUND POLICY**

The basic policies for operating the fund are:

- # Contributions and pledges for this fund are being solicited expressly for the long-term stewardship of preserved lands.
- # Contributions are solicited as one-time donations or as ten-year pledges (e.g. a pledge of \$5,000 to be paid at the rate of \$500 a year, \$1,000 at \$100 a year, \$500 at \$50 a year, etc.).
- # These donations will be tracked separately from all other donations and the necessary paperwork accomplished as a part of the normal duties of the Membership Chairman.
- # These donations do not constitute membership dues. The entire amount becomes the fund's principal.
- # No money will be expended from the fund as long as the Calusa Land Trust can continue to maintain the preserves as it has to date. The principal will not be expended at any time except by express approval of the Board of Directors.
- # The Land Trust Treasurer will maintain independent records of this board-designated fund's principal and accrued interest/dividends. Until needed, accrued interest/dividends will be periodically added to the fund's principal.

The Calusa Land Trust Board of Directors has initiated this fund with \$10,000 from the General Fund. An additional donation will be made in each year hereafter as determined by the Board of Directors depending on the financial status of the Trust at that time.

# Florida's Native American Canals

by Lawrence Page

*(Reprinted from the American Canal Society newsletter, with permission of the author)*

Those of us who have come upon a trace of the Pennsylvania Main Line canal crossing a field along the Juanita River or the ruins of a lock along the James know the feeling of momentarily transcending time. Imagine the thrill of discovering a canal built more than a thousand years ago that is still watered in places. We can find such treasures in China but few of us realized that they exist in America.

American Indians built a number of canals in Florida for their most common transport vehicle, the canoe. Their best preserved relic of ancient engineering is in southwest Florida on Pine Island, 15 miles west of Fort Myers. Here, American Indians built a 2.5-mile canal crossing the island to bypass the exposed north end. On its west end in the village of Pineland the canal connected to the beautiful Pine Island Sound and passed between the ancient Indian mounds as a sea level canal. These mounds became the elevated platforms for homes in modern times just like they had in aboriginal times, so they were somewhat preserved. The canal, which was still navigable for 100 yards by boat in 1883, became restricted by development at its entrance but still appears as a flowing creek. In aerial photographs of Pine Island in the 1950s (after the trees and stumps were removed), the canal is shown as clearly as the roadways. Unfortunately development of the land has changed the landscape drastically since then. Bud House of the Calusa Land Trust showed me two lots that the Trust has recently purchased to preserve the canal prism on the summit level.

Just to the east of the Pineland site the canal prism was preserved for agricultural uses and it is here one can see today the watered level which crosses a field and disappears into the woods. The land here has been obtained by the Florida Museum of Natural History and a research center has been opened at the Randell Center. The grassy field and sea side has a delightful ambiance that retains some of the aura of this thousand-year-old canal community. From the top of a mound one looks out over the sound which was the food source for this Indian fishing people and it is easy to visualize the many dugout canoes that plied these shallow waters and entered the canal.

In several articles in the *Florida Anthropologist*, George Luer, an archaeologist with an interest in site preservation, has described the canal and demonstrated its antiquity using several methods including ceramics from shell mounds at each end of the canal. The canal was built by 900 A.D. and possibly even several hundred years before.

He outlines in a 1997 article, co-authored with archaeologist Ryan Wheeler, that this canal prism was 30 feet wide and three to five feet deep. It rose from sea level to cross several terrace-like natural landforms on Pine Island, the summit of which is 12-13 feet above sea level. The builders did this by making a series of stepped impoundments; eight of them are hypothesized. It is further hypothesized that they were separated by some sort of fixed water control structures, since the Indians lacked locks. Perhaps they were log dams around which canoes were transferred from level to level. The amazing part of the canal is that the water was maintained by ground water. Those of us who live on Florida's sandy soil know the water table lurks just under the grass roots for a good portion of the year. The Indians exploited that reality, and since there were no locks the levels were maintained in the manner of an inclined plane canal.

Why would these people with only sticks, baskets, and shell tools have built such a grand canal for canoes just to shorten the trip by eight miles? A canoe trip around the northern end of Pine Island is mostly sheltered by small islands so why did they invest such an effort. George's careful archaeolo-

gist perspective considers the political, economic, and ceremonial possibilities, but as yet no factor has taken precedence. Their ceremonial sites, burial sites, and temple mounds are other examples of extensive earth works that reveal complex religious and political organization.

At the time of the first European contact with Florida in the early 1500s this area was dominated by the Calusa coastal people who were an aggressive kingship that dominated their neighbors with war canoes from villages with seaside mounds. Since the Pine Island Canal has mound villages at both ends, and given the warlike nature of the Calusa whose major weapon was the canoe, it is my amateur opinion that a major reason for the canal was for rapidly moving canoes for strategic military purposes. The rapid assembly of 20 canoes to oppose Ponce de Leon in 1513 supports this possibility.

Another canal in Florida, the Ortona Canal, skirts a rapids on the Caloosahatchee River and appears to be a classic river improvement canal similar in function to the Great Falls Canal on the Potomac River. The modern Corps of Engineers' Ortona lock is just downstream from the inlet to this other ancient canal but modern development has erased most of the surface evidence of the Indian route. The Ortona Canal is located inland from Fort Myers about 40 miles and has a public Indian Mound Park on Route 78 northeast of LaBelle. There is an excellent display and map of that canal in a park gazebo.

To visit the Pine Island Canal you take the only road from North Fort Myers (also Route 78) to Pine Island Center. Turn right and go north on Stringfellow Road 3.25 miles, then turn left on Pineland Road. The roadway winds to the bay shore. On your right you will pass the Research Center where you can park or continue to the waterfront parking place.

The prism on the summit level has been preserved by the Calusa Land Trust on several lots along Meadow Lane on the other side of Stringfellow Road. To visit, turn right from Stringfellow (instead of left at Pineland Road) and go due north several hundred yards and then turn right on Meadow Lane.

Viewing the beautiful site of Indian Field, the island mound village that was the eastern terminus, requires a boat which can be launched in Matlacha at the entrance point to Pine Island. Indian Field is privately owned and posted, but from your boat you can see the mound with its modern house built on top. The eastern entrance to the canal itself was retaken by the mangroves, but a canoe trip around the island recaptures the essence of their world.

## **References:**

*Luer, George M., 1989, Calusa Canals in Southern Florida: Routes of Tribute and Exchange, The Florida Anthropologist 42:89-130*

*Luer, George M., 1989, Further Research on the Pine Island Canal, The Florida Anthropologist 42:241-247*

*Luer, George M. and Wayne "Bud" House, 2001, Further Loss of the Pine Island Canal, with Comments on Segment 3, The Florida Anthropologist 54:55-56*

*Luer, George M. and Ryan J. Wheeler, 1997, How the Pine Island Canal Worked: Topography, Hydraulics, and Engineering, The Florida Anthropologist 50:115-131*

**CALUSA LAND TRUST MEMBERSHIPS AND DONATIONS:**

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

Sponsor's Name (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_

Second Address? \_\_\_\_\_

Second City, State, Zip? \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

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). OUR REGISTRATION NUMBER IS SC-03439. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE OF FLORIDA. FULL FINANCIAL DETAILS, INCLUDING FEDERAL TAX RETURNS, CAN BE OBTAINED BY CONTACTING THE LAND TRUST'S TREASURER AT 239-334-8866 DURING WORKING HOURS. THE CALUSA LAND TRUST NEVER EMPLOYS PROFESSIONAL FUNDRAISERS; 100% OF YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS ARE RETAINED BY THE CALUSA LAND TRUST.

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