

Calusa Land Trust

and Nature Preserve of Pine Island, Inc.



Newsletter

www.calusalandtrust.org

February 2002

Annual Meeting

by Alison Ackerman (337-5586)

About 80 Calusa Land Trust members and friends attended our annual meeting on January 20 at the Fishers of Men Lutheran Church near Pine Island Center. A wonderful turnout on a beautiful day at an ideal facility! This first newsletter of 2002 will highlight all that was reported about our activities this year and also describe upcoming events and projects.

But first, I would like to thank again four board members who decided to step down this year. Richard Little, our President extraordinaire for two years, has done more than anyone to recognize our members for their hard work. He is the one who nominated Phil Buchanan for the Linda Pederson Award as the Outstanding Land Trust Volunteer for 2001, and he also described our programs to the Land Trust Alliance for the Allen Morgan Award for Membership Development. Richard has also been very active with our land acquisition, land management, and canoe trail programs, so fortunately for us he has agreed to stay involved. Jim Gray had to move to Orlando and could not finish out his term; his energy and enthusiasm contributed much to our meetings and committees. A long-time board member, George "Chic" Kennedy, served several years as our construction superintendent on various projects like the St. Jude Trail boardwalk. We will miss his steady commonsense approach to various issues during our meetings. Pat Williams has agreed to continue to be our "Sales Rep" for all our T-shirts, hats, and other merchandise, but because of her full-time teaching obligations, she can no longer serve on the board. Thank you, Pat for your willingness to continue doing such an important job.

President Richard Little



Our nominating committee proposed members Harold Bruner and Anna Riehm to fill two of the vacancies. Brian Cotterill was nominated from the floor by Ed Chapin, and all three were elected unanimously to serve two-year terms. Some background about each new director will be found later in this newsletter; we look forward to working with them for many years to come. The following board members were re-elected for another two-year term: Alison Ackerman, Phil Buchanan, Bill Spikowski, and Rubye Woodhead.

If you were unable to attend this meeting, you missed a fabulous slide presentation depicting beautiful aerial photographs of all our preserves across the Pine Island area. Board member Bud House took the pictures on a perfect sunny day last fall while member Bill Dubin piloted his plane. What a wonderful way to spend the day, and now we have an invaluable record of all our lands. On behalf of everyone, I would like to thank them both for their time, resources, and skills. Phil Buchanan presented the slides describing each one clearly with interesting tidbits of how we acquired them and what other nearby lands we still hope to acquire. It was thrilling to clearly see the extent and beauty of the natural lands we are protecting.

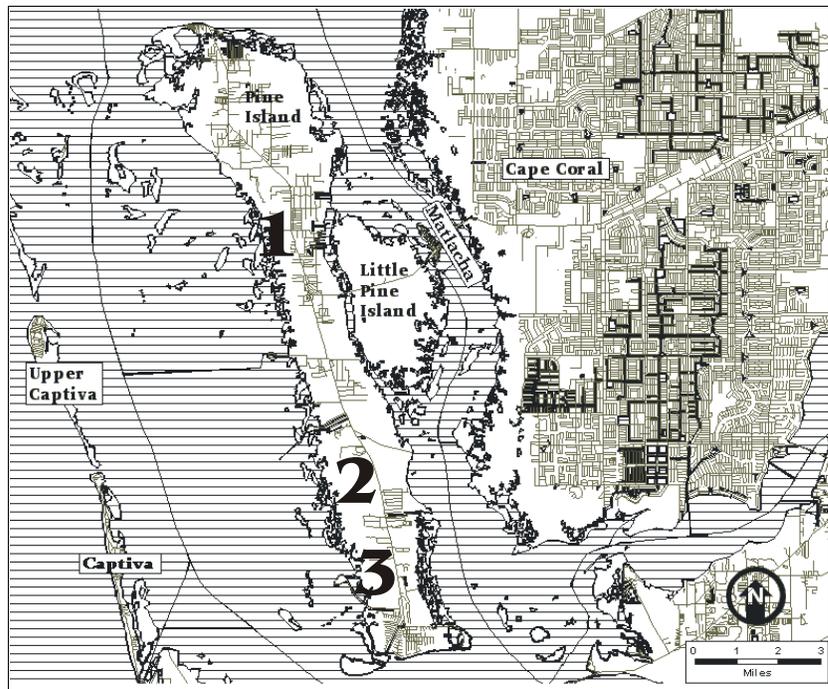
Land Acquisition News

by Phil Buchanan (283-4067)

During the past year we have established three new nature preserves, and we hope to expand the acreage of all three within the coming year:

1. Willow Lake Preserve:

This one is located on the south side of the Catholic Church (west of Stringfellow). It includes Willow Lake, a seasonal fresh water marsh with nine distinct environmental habitats. We purchased three acres on the north side to get our feet in the door, and we nominated the 27 acres south of that for Conservation 2020 purchase by Lee County (price negotiations now in progress). We also nominated the 86 acres further south for Conservation 2020 purchase, which was approved by the County Commission but the price negotiations were not successful.



2. Pine Island Flatwoods Preserve. That is now Lee County's officially-approved name for the former Thompkins property on the west side of Stringfellow at the sharp curve north of Tropical Homesites. It consists of 60 acres of quality Pine Island slash pine and palmetto flatwood uplands complete with old logging trails, which make for great hiking. There's a row of Australian pines along the road, which obscures the view of the preserve, but they will soon be removed. The Calusa Land Trust contributed \$10,000 towards the preserve, and the Conservation 2020 program contributed \$619,500. We are also working for a 2020 purchase of the 32 acres on the north side of the property.

3. Indian Lake Preserve. This name is not official yet, but we have a Conservation 2020 contract to purchase 110 acres south and east of the lake, which is located west of Stringfellow just south of the American Legion. Closing is expected in February or March; Calusa Land Trust will pay \$10,000 and Lee County will pay \$480,000. The Lee County Commissioners have also approved buying the 105 acres to the north, which includes the southern one-quarter mile of the mile long lake, and the 52 acres to the south (price negotiations on both also now in progress).

During the past year, we also helped arrange a Conservation 2020 purchase of the last remaining unprotected portion of the Cape Coral mangrove fringe. This mangrove fringe serves as a filter for runoff from the streets and canals of Cape Coral before it flows into the waters of Matlacha Pass.

In other news, we continue to attempt to arrange other purchases of environmentally sensitive habitats (mainly mangrove forest), as well as conservation easements and other joint conservation undertakings with private, county, state, and federal authorities. We also have a surprisingly large number of local landowners who are discussing donating either mangrove areas or easements in order to get income tax deductions. In addition, we are about to launch a farm conservation easement program on Pine Island — details are forthcoming.

President's Message

by Richard M. Little (283-4974)

The Calusa Land Trust is a collection of individuals, diverse in life experience, opinions, interests, and goals, but like-minded in preserving the natural and historical environs around and on Pine Island. I like to think this combined unity of purpose gives CLT its breath of life, nurturing the dreams and needs of Pine Island dwellers, both humans and wild denizens.

Over this past year we have seen our preserved lands increase by nearly 10%, now including significant acres of pine flatwood upland habitat as well as mangrove forest along the waterfront. By leveraging our limited funds through the Lee County 2020 program, our land acquisition committee has found ways to preserve environmentally sensitive Pine Island uplands that previously had been beyond CLT's financial reach. These new acquisitions are anchors from which to expand in the future. We are indeed fortunate to have the skills and commitment of our acquisition committee, and especially its chairman, Phil Buchanan, to shepherd these adventures. His outstanding contributions won his selection as Outstanding Land Trust Volunteer for 2001 by the Florida Land Trust Network.

Our various fund-raising projects continue to provide a fountain of funds, fun, and new memberships. Our membership fluctuates between 700 and 800 but is significantly larger if you count all the family members. We have become the largest organization on Pine Island. We do things that everyone can get behind – this is something we all can be proud of. Our membership and fundraising efforts gained national attention this year with the outstanding efforts of Norm Gowan and others in the Membership and Fund Raising Committee which earned us the annual award for membership development from the Land Trust Alliance.

As an entity, we have wept in the wake of events beyond our control this past year. While the events around 9/11 occurred 1500 miles away, our hearts were broken on Pine Island as they were everywhere around the globe. These tragedies inspire us to continue doing that which cherishes, which sustains, which reveres life.

As an entity, as personal friends and acquaintances, we also mourned the loss of our stalwart and enthusiastic member, Peter Ordway, who passed on this autumn to a higher calling. We will miss

you, Peter. Thankfully, the Peter Ordway Tropical Hammock on the Kreie Preserve will be around for generations to enjoy and your guided kayak/canoe tours now carry your name in remembrance. And you will always be in our thoughts during our pleasurable afternoon meanderings, paddling around our back bay water trails and wishing you were there with us to help our find our way back.

And so, as with any entity, the CLT experiences the peaks and valleys of living, trying new things, learning, making mistakes, experiencing loss. It has been a privilege and a pleasure to have served as president of the Calusa Land Trust these past two years. But it is now time for me to move on, to let another bring a new mix of skills, dedication, and humor to this office — and to take a stab at trying to end Board of Directors' meetings on time!

Request for volunteers: As you know, we are an *all*-volunteer organization: all of our income goes toward acquiring, maintaining, educating, and promoting the Calusa Land Trust mission to preserve and conserve environmentally sensitive lands on and around Pine Island. To accomplish this, we need a continuing supply of people willing to commit their skills, ideas, and muscles a few hours each month. A number of you signed up as volunteers at the annual meeting in January; we wholeheartedly welcome you aboard and look forward to working with you on our projects. We are still short a few good people, however, to help out with land management, computer art/design, and a few other key jobs described below.

One of our top priorities is to find someone just like Norm Gowan to start learning our fundraising and membership-tracking techniques and lessen the load that Norm has so willingly and ably taken on for many years. Please contact Norm at 283-8203 or goldenpond@calusalandtrust.org.

The passing of Peter Ordway has left us desperately needing someone to learn the computerized mapping and geographical information system (GIS). You have all seen the fine maps that Peter produced for us. We own the ArcView software and are ready to pass it over to a computer-oriented person with the hardware and time to learn the system. Interested parties can contact Phil Buchanan at 283-4067 or Bill Spikowski at 334-8866.

Valuable equipment donated but more still needed: The Sony Corporation has donated a computer-driven LCD projector to the Calusa Land Trust. This projector has been at the top of our wish list for several years for slide presentations. Thank you Sony! To complete the system, we are looking for a laptop computer to use with it. It need not be the latest model as we only have enough memory and processor capability to run Microsoft Powerpoint. If any members can help us out here or even loan us one on occasion, please contact Phil Buchanan at 283-4067.

Ranger Report

By Ed Chapin

Land Management Report: Since our last newsletter, land trust volunteers have put in over 200 hours of work. On November 3, 12 hardy souls worked on melaleuca control at the Peter Ordway Tropical Hammock and on December 1, 15 volunteers removed more melaleuca at our Calusa Canal Preserve. I want to thank Joe Peloso for bringing his backhoe to assist us in moving large amounts of the bigger melaleuca at the canal site; we absolutely could not have done this without his help. About 50 long-leaf pine trees have sprouted up since we removed the melaleuca, a fantastic reward for our work. The trees we cut down have been stacked and are available for firewood to anyone. Just beep me (392-0090) and I can direct you to the pile.

Fund Raising Projects

By Norm Gowan (283-8203)

Merchandise Sales: Pat Williams (merchandise sales chairperson) had a fantastic year by setting up our booth at nearly every gathering on the island. She not only sold innumerable shirts, hats, totes, and *Nature Guides*, but also signed up many new members.

Nature Guide to Pine Island: Phil Buchanan's *Nature Guide* continues to be a best seller. At \$20 (plus \$3 postage for mail orders), a better buy can't be had. Do you have yours?

Roast Beef Dinner: On March 3, 145 guests were treated to a baron of beef dinner and a boat tour in our St. James Creek Preserve. The dinner was donated by the Eleinko family and the Trust received \$1,084 from guest donations.

Plunk-A-Plank: This project continues to prosper with 567 plank names purchased so far, providing \$28,562 gross income to the Calusa Land Trust. Is your name out there yet?

Rubber Duck Race: Last year's race on April 2nd netted \$5,576 for the Trust as 1300 ducks swam valiantly for the finish line. The next race is scheduled for March 30th and the number of ducks has been increased to 2000! Come out for a day of fun at the Double Nichol Pub in St. James City and a chance to win great prizes at only \$5/duck. Winners need not be present to win.

Poker Run: The 9th annual Poker Run by water, sponsored by the Pine Island Boat Club last December, was a great success with CLT receiving \$3,600 after all the prizes were awarded. The top winner walked away with \$1,600 after competing against 843 other hands. An interesting side note is that like last year, the three best hands were all held by Calusa Land Trust members.

Rummage Sale: The annual rummage sale on December 8th was super in spite of a sudden rain at Fritt's Park the night before. Shirley and Bud House do wonders at organizing and running this event (more details below).

Calusa Canal, Phase III

by Bud House (283-3493)

We have been continuing to eradicate the melaleucas on the two Calusa Indian canal lots we own on Meadow Lane and are nurturing the baby pine trees which have miraculously sprouted up. No successes to report yet on negotiations with the owners of the remaining four lots, but we remain vigilant and still hopeful.

Rummage Sale

By Shirley House (283-3493)

The Rummage Sale was held as planned on December 8 at Fritts Park and we raised over \$500. We had expected to do a little better but there were many other sales going on around the island that day and many of them also had a lower-than-expected turnout. I would like to thank all the volunteers, donors, and purchasers for helping to make this event fun as well as worthwhile. I am sure no one who was there on Friday will forget the rain shower and how we had to scramble around to keep things dry. Thank you again, everyone.

Membership Report

by Norm Gowan (283-8203)

We finished the year with 787 members. Since we count an entire member family as one member, we have probably reached an old goal set by Richard Little of 10% of Pine Island's population!

On the down side, only 61% of our members have made a donation in the past twelve months. Please look at the mailing label on your newsletter while it is still in your hand and see if it has an asterisk "*" after your name as a reminder that you may wish to donate again. Overall, the year 2001 was very good for the Trust, with 551 donations totaling \$44,373 received during the calendar year.

Getting to Know Your CLT Directors by Richard M. Little (283-4974)

This newsletter will introduce our three new members of the board of directors:

- **Harold Bruner.** Harold and his wife Deb visited Pine Island in 1999 and it was love at first sight; they moved here in 2001. A Purdue graduate and professional forester for many years, Harold estimates he has planted a million trees for private landowners. He has been a regular at our monthly Board meetings and stewardship work parties, showing a real flair with a chain saw! We are happy to have him bring his skills in real estate and forest management and his commitment to "free market" land preservation to our Board. Harold can be reached at hbruner@sellstatepineisland.com. Welcome aboard, Harold!
- **Brian Cotterill.** Brian, along with Judy Ott, have been CLT Rangers and helping out on the sweaty stewardship Saturdays for a number of years. Brian is a botanist/entomologist by professional training from the University of South Florida, University of Florida, and Clemson University, hailing from Rochester, N.Y. Since 1989, Brian has been a biologist with the Lee County Mosquito Control. He is highly motivated to nurture and support native plant and animal diversity on Pine Island – our specialty! We are honored to have you with us, Brian. He can be e-mailed at briancotterill@earthlink.net.
- **Anna Riehm.** Anna grew up in New York City, moving to Florida in 1970. After living in various locations, she settled on Pine Island with her husband Harald and raised 5 kids in this healthy environment. A natural with plants, she and Harald have run several nurseries here. Currently, Anna is in the real estate business, working out of Realty World in Matlacha. She will happily bring these skills to CLT projects. Anna loves working and nurturing plant life and is a strong supporter of the Calusa Land Trust preservation intentions, with a lifetime investment in keeping the native Pine Island environment as a quality place for her kids to grow up in. Happy to have you with us, Anna! She can be reached at annabug650@aol.com.

Election of New Officers

At the Board of Director's meeting held on February 19, the following officers were elected for one-year terms: Phil Buchanan, president; Jim "Alex" Alexander, vice-president; Rubye Woodhead, secretary; and Bill Spikowski, treasurer.

The next board meeting will be held on March 19 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 to listen as well as share ideas.

MEMORIALS: Few tributes are so lasting as a memorial gift that helps preserve our Island's heritage for future generations. We in the Land Trust are privileged to carry on our work in the memory of individuals so honored. Memorials may consist of cash donations in the name of a departed loved one, a memorial carving on the St. Jude Trail in a handrail or bench, or even a memorial planting of a tree in one of our preserves.

Martin Adamaszek *	Alfred Woodhull Guibord *	Peter Ordway *
Johan C. F. Andersen *	Kate Guthrie *	Earl Ott *
Josephine Anderson *	Betty Gutowski *	Fred Patterson *
Melvin Atkin *	Richard J. Haberle Sr. *	Mary Grace Peloso *
Vesta Bailey *	Robert Hallen *	Donald R. Peterson *
"Tootsie" Barnes **	Ash Hallett *	Mabel Phillipson *
Larry Behrens *	Joe Hanson *	Frank Polaski *
James G. Beriault	Bill Harmon *	Pete Polverari *
Lyall Beving *	Steven Patrick Hart *	Yolanda Mae Reppa *
Frank Bopp	Raymond W. Heidorn *	Gertie Rudd *
Marge Borton *	Pamela Marie Heimann *	Doc Salisbury
Barbara Bosley *	Charles J. Heimann II *	Mr & Mrs Sherwood Sampier *
Betty B. Bouwes *	Mike Herbert *	Reese Sarda *
Ralph Brimacombe *	R.E. "Pap-Pap" Hohing *	Chevy Schutz *
Don Burr *	Jo Holmes *	Dorothy Seeling
Margaret L. Burman *	Bennie R. Hook *	Murray & Edith Seyler *
Richard R. & Ruth Callahan *	Wyatt Hooks *	Phil Shaw *
Jack Campbell	Minnie & A.B. Hoover *	William Sherwood
John M Campbell *	Earl Hord *	Dan Shockley *
Rev. Cam & Helen Carmichel *	Allen Hougland *	Carl H. Shupert *
"Hanni" Carver *	Jack Houis *	Agnes Jane Snyder
Terez "Terri" Carver *	Ken Houpt *	Florence Stark
Arnold S. Celmalnieks *	E.S. (Red) Ingram *	David A. Stevig *
Antonette Cerny	Lezlee Jean Ingram *	Raymond W. Stober *
Tony Cerny *	Dotty Jennings *	Francis Sullivan
C. F. "Chuck" Clark *	Hinda & J.B. Johnson *	Barry Swanson *
Jack Clyburn	Belmont Kappmeyer *	Don Szuminski *
John B. Cook *	Walt Karkut *	Frank Taugner, Sr. *
Ben Counselman *	Walter R. Kaune *	Kay Taugner *
George Darnell	Janette King *	Jim Thomas *
Doyle Davison *	Jack Kirmer *	Robert Tutza *
Jon Davison *	Edward J. & Amanda Lever	Glenn P. Twigg *
C. Frank Estelle *	Russell Little *	Doris C. Twigg *
Nellwyn de Funiak *	Hector Magnuson *	Dan Tynan *
Louis Del Signore *	James W. Mahaffey *	Leonore M. Vondorvor *
Woodie Dillon *	Dorothy M. Maloney *	Patricia Ann "Pat" Waite *
George M. Elliott *	Earl J. Maloney Sr. *	Hazel Ward *
Dorothy R. English *	Lewis W. McAllister *	Harriet L. Watson *
W.L. English Sr. *	Marie Maraviglia *	William Webster *
Dr. Ambrose C. Estes *	Ethel McDonough *	Wayne Weeks *
Linwood T. Ford III *	M. Kathleen Mellon *	Dorothy Welch
Linwood T. Ford IV *	Donald Meng *	Bert & Mildred Wildman *
Margaret Foster	Helene Mierendorf	Edith Williams *
Phil Freeman *	Robert H. Miller *	"Fishin" Bud Williams *
Carl H. Frost *	John Moran	Bernard Willoughby *
Joyce Gasow *	Thelma Mufich *	Margaret L. Wilson, M.D.
Jack Gates *	Robert Musgrave	Walt Woodhead *
Nancy Gilmore	Arthur & Ida Newberg	Bruno & Theresa *
Loren "POP" Gowan *	Edward Newton	"Grandma Dot" *
Anne Grace *	Mildred V. O'Brien *	
Robert "Bob" Griest *	Paul Olding *	

**Indicates name on the St. Jude Trail Memorial Observation Deck or Memorial Bench or in Fritts Park Memorial.*

CALUSA LAND TRUST TREASURER'S REPORT
SUMMARY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2001
(October 1, 2000 through September 30, 2001)

FUNDS ON HAND AS OF 10/1/00:

General Fund:	\$20,497.80
Emergency Fund:	\$25,000.00
Land Management Fund:	\$38,035.59
GPIWA Mitigation Fund:	\$26,996.44
Boardwalk Maintenance Fund:	\$4,784.70
Conservation 2020 Matching Fund:	\$90,000.00
Project "X" Fund:	\$4,614.00
Calusa Canal Fund:	\$446.89
TOTAL:	\$210,375.42

INCOME SINCE 10/1/00:

Junior Ranger Grant:	\$1,300.33
Memberships and Donations:	\$23,343.00
Art Sale Proceeds:	\$30.00
Rubber Duck Race Income:	\$6,816.00
Poker Run Net Proceeds:	\$3,084.30
Roast Beef Dinner Net Proceeds:	\$2,525.00
Rummage Sale Income:	\$1,030.71
Interest and Dividends from Investments:	\$11,333.12
Unrealized Gains (Losses) on securities:	\$2,537.11
Gains (Losses) on securities:	\$11.68
Nature Guide Sales:	\$4,421.00
T-Shirt/Cap/Merchandise Sales:	\$2,956.00
TOTAL:	\$59,388.25

LAND MANAGEMENT & OTHER EXPENSES SINCE 10/1/00:

Junior Ranger Expenses:	\$1,300.33
Dues in Other Organizations:	\$375.00
Boardwalk Expenses:	\$873.45
Rubber Duck Race Expenses:	\$613.80
MangoMania Expenses:	\$65.00
Rummage Sale Expenses:	\$74.20
Fritts Park Improvement Expenses:	\$7,214.11
Other Land Stewardship Expenses:	\$2,772.12
Nature Guide Expenses:	\$103.47
T-Shirt Purchases:	\$1,065.62
Administrative Expenses:	\$7,721.98
Transportation Expenses:	\$525.00
TOTAL:	\$22,704.08

LAND ACQUISITION COSTS SINCE 10/1/00:

Merwin Key Preserve:	\$4,939.00
Thompkins Preserve (CLT contribution toward Lee County purchase):	\$10,000.00
Willow Lake Preserve (Moses purchase):	\$2,101.70
Willow Lake Preserve (Rossman purchase):	\$4,313.50
TOTAL:	\$21,354.20

FUNDS ON HAND AS OF 9/30/01:

General Fund:	\$53,496.94
Emergency Fund:	\$25,000.00
Land Management Fund:	\$38,529.49
GPIWA Mitigation Fund:	\$26,558.29
Boardwalk Maintenance Fund:	\$4,310.47
Conservation 2020 Matching Fund:	\$55,000.00
Project X Fund:	\$19,419.60
Calusa Canal Fund:	\$2,890.60
Easement Defense Fund:	\$500.00
TOTAL:	\$225,705.39

CALUSA LAND TRUST MEMBERSHIPS AND DONATIONS:

_____ \$ 15	Individual Member	_____ \$	Next Calusa Canal purchase
_____ \$ 25	Family Member	_____ \$ 23 @	<i>Nature Lover's Guide to P.I.</i>
_____ \$ 50	Donor or Organization	_____ \$	_____
_____ \$100	Contributor	_____ \$ 50	Plunk-a-Plank <i>(fill in lettering below)</i>
_____ \$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 941-334-8866 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
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