

Calusa Land Trust

and Nature Preserve of Pine Island, Inc.



Newsletter

www.calusalandtrust.org

June 2001

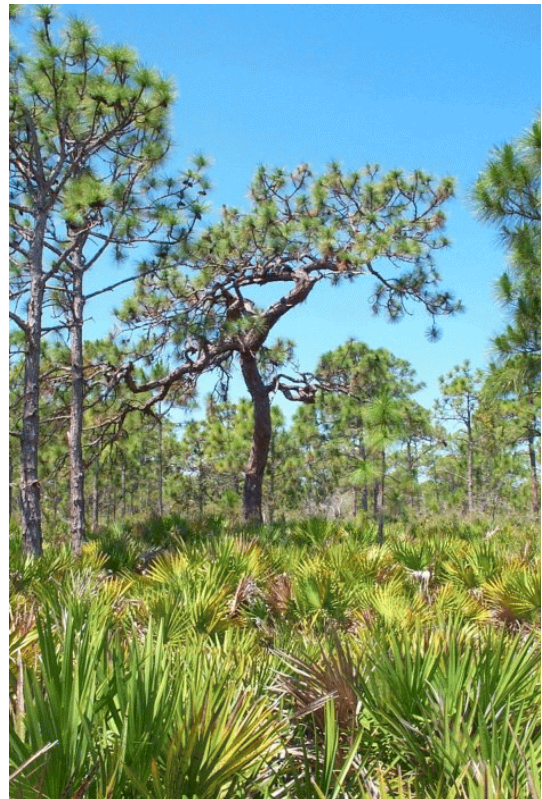
New Native Uplands Preserve

by Phil Buchanan

It is with great pride and tremendous excitement that we announce our first successful Conservation 2020 purchase of a native uplands parcel on Pine Island. We now have a place where we can view Pine Island uplands in their natural and native condition.

The purchase covers a beautiful 60-acre parcel located on what some people call Dead Man's Curve—a big curve in Stringfellow Road centered between Pine Island Village and Mango Tango Nursery. Look on the west side of Stringfellow for the for-sale sign put up by its former owner, Richard Thompkins.

From the road the property looks like a mess of Australian pines, but looks from the road are deceiving. Behind this narrow strip of pines (plus another small area of melaleuca—all of which will soon be removed), is some very fine Pine Island uplands habitat. Most of the property is free of exotics and consists of pristine slash pine and palmetto, generously sprinkled with beautiful longleaf



pine. Despite the current drought, native wildflowers abound, including incredible displays of tarflower, hatpins, various lilies, and others we have yet to identify. When the rains come, the wildflowers will multiply even further. Look for them, as well as the numerous gopher tortoises, marsh rabbits, and hawks, in the old logging roads, which make perfect hiking trails.

This is the third Lee County Conservation 2020 purchase on Pine Island and by far the most important. (The other two were a 158-acre mangrove area in northeast Pine Island and an 80-acre mangrove area in southwest Pine Island.) The 2020 program paid \$629,500 for the Thompkins property. The Calusa Land Trust supported the initial nomination, documented the fauna and flora of the property, testified before both the 2020 advisory committee and the county commission as to the importance of the purchase to the Pine Island environment, contributed \$10,000 of our funds to the effort, and promised co-management of the property if the purchase was successful. Lee County, the new property owner and our management partner, has agreed to use our \$10,000 contribution to pay for removal of the Australian pines, which are a hazard during high winds and currently block public view of this beautiful property.

This purchase constitutes a successful conclusion of a portion of acquisition priority #5 on the "CLT Wish List" (see Pages 22-4 and Appendix 6, page 1, of the February 2001 Edition of the *Nature Lover's Guide to Pine Island* for further details). The Miller property to the north (south of the old Bounty Road) and the Kelly property to the south (across from Tropical Homesites) constitute the remaining portions of acquisition priority #5, and are being very actively pursued.



New upland preserve outlined in white; Tropical Homesites in lower right corner on east side of Stringfellow Road

Other Land Acquisition News

by Phil Buchanan

The Board of Directors has authorized the Land Acquisition Committee to attempt to negotiate several other purchases, and we continue to dicker prices with several Pine Island landowners. We don't have any successful conclusions to announce since our last newsletter, but we will continue our efforts. Lee County Conservation 2020 nominations both by the Trust and by land owners continue hot and heavy—we have 14 nominations in various stages of the process. Most of them probably will not work out, but a few most likely will and thus make all our efforts worthwhile. Our partnership with the Lee County Conservation 2020 program has been and undoubtedly will continue to be very fruitful.

We have also tried hard to partner with the state of Florida in conservation efforts, but Florida Forever and the other state programs are difficult to match to either Pine Island or even Lee County needs. Nonetheless, our efforts will continue. We are also exploring possible conservation partnership arrangements with federal government entities as well as other nonprofit land trust organizations, but the probability of success is as yet unclear.

President's Message

by Richard M. Little

One of the great privileges of being president of the Calusa Land Trust is calling attention to the many members whose volunteer work helps to transform our group vision into reality. These workers, past and present, and their hours and ideas freely offered, have helped to bring us to the present state of over 2000 Pine Island acres jointly preserved! For example, Alison Ackerman and Bill Spikowski give at least four weekends a year preparing and publishing this newsletter. They hand the printed product off to Norm and Marie Gowan and their “gang” - Al and Connie Eleinko, Jim and Jan Alexander, and others who slave away for about 25 hours each issue, happily sipping good wine while folding, stamping, and stuffing envelopes so you can hear “the latest stuff.”

Many of our volunteer workers are unsung heroes. Each month you can see them battling voracious mosquitoes and no-see-ums, sweating in the relentless heat, and wielding machetes, nippers, chain saws, and herbicides while restoring native habitats, building access trails, and creating simple amenities for visitors. Others contribute by helping at fundraisers or our merchandise table. We salute folks like Al and Barbara-Ann Moxon, Jim and Paulette Sullivan, Bob and Jan Bristol, Bob and Jackie Kish, Ken and Martha Keller, Dianna and Gordon Willman, Frank and Cathy Valenti, Pat Williams and many others who have set aside their busy lives to be stewards and boosters for our growing preserves, tallying up well over 500+ hours per year.

It takes more than a mission statement to make preservation, conservation, and environmental education happen. We dream, then set our minds and backs and wallets to the task, and voilà! a St. Jude Trail! a Fritts Park! a Long Cut Preserve! a Junior Ranger program! And so on, as our combined efforts gather in the unspoiled lands of our beloved island together with its wild finny, furry, feathery, and scaly residents. Protecting these lands and its denizens' habitats is sacred work, preserving for future generations a glimpse of native Florida as it was in the beginning. Setting aside space for our native and migratory wild animal species honors our connection to them and to this earth from which all life here springs and is nurtured.

We welcome all who join us in these efforts!

Nature Lover's Guide to Pine Island

by Alison Ackerman

Be sure to get your copy of the 2001 second edition of the *Nature Lover's Guide to Pine Island*, written and edited by CLT Vice President Phil Buchanan. Phil has updated the book with new maps, descriptions, and details, including our new preserves and various kayak/canoe trails. He has also included our current preservation prospects on and around Pine Island. It's still only \$20 (+\$3 for copies that have to be mailed). You can review a copy at the public library, or purchase one at:

Greater Pine Island Chamber of Commerce, Matlacha
Island Shells and Gifts, Matlacha
Wild Child Gallery, Matlacha
Island Mail, Pine Island Center
Dr. Watson's Liquors, Pine Island Center
Museum of the Islands, Pine Island Center
Island Hardware and Marina, St James City
Tropic Star Cruises, Bokeelia
Useppa Museum, Useppa

Calusa Canal, Phase III (?)

by Bud House

Now that we have successfully purchased two parcels of land on Meadow Lane which used to be part of the ancient Calusa Indian canal across Pine Island, we are actively working on Phase III and looking for our third parcel. The Board has expressed hope that one day we would own all six parcels. Unfortunately our attempts to find another willing seller have thus far been unsuccessful, but we remain determined. In the meantime, maintenance efforts have been ongoing for the lots we do own. All of the large exotics have been eliminated and the smaller ones are being dealt with slowly but steadily. Twelve baby pine trees, some longleaf and some slash pines, have been discovered in the Phase II parcel, and we have every intention nurturing their growth. If you have any thoughts, suggestions, or questions, please give me a call at 283-3493.

FUND RAISING EVENTS

by Norm Gowan (283-8203)

ROAST BEEF DINNER — MARCH 3RD — This year's dinner was again a big success and fun too! A baron of beef luncheon was served to 145 members and guests at the Double Nichol Pub in St. James City. Six boats provided by the Pine Island Boat Club ran tours up St. James Creek to our memorial deck on the St. Jude Nature Trail, a favorite destination. An income of \$1,084 went to the Trust for PROJECT "X," which is our next land acquisition, not yet determined (but stay tuned for forthcoming announcements!).

PLUNK-A-PLANK — The boardwalk on the St. Jude Nature Trail now has 542 names carved in planks, which has provided an income of over \$27,000 to the Trust. For only \$50, you can have your name preserved in wood or perhaps have a loved one memorialized. We now have four "Memorial Benches" on the trail. We can't keep adding names forever so get yours while you can.

GREAT PINE ISLAND RUBBER DUCK RACE — MARCH 24TH — This year's duck race was even more successful than last year's race. 1300 sleek and powerful swimmers were sold before one o'clock for a race that couldn't start until after four and even then had to run in the wrong direction due to adverse winds. Fifteen great prizes were awarded to the lucky winners and still

the party went on. The pub eventually had to close after the race since they were running out of everything! In the end, another \$6,500 went into PROJECT "X" coffers from this event. Our ducks continue to be prolific; dare we project 2000 little swimmers for the 2002 race?

PINE ISLAND ELEMENTARY DOES IT AGAIN!— Pine Island Elementary School celebrated Earth Week and collected over \$500 for the Calusa Land Trust by donating their pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters. Five very heavy boxes were delivered to Calusa Land Trust and we are very grateful. Thank you administrators, teachers, and kids!

T-Shirt Committee

by Pat Williams

This year we had several "duck" items for sale at the big race, like "ducky" necklaces and earrings. They were a huge hit. We also had a large stuffed duck given to the winner. Next year we hope to have even more items for sale as we look forward to an even bigger race! Now we are getting ready for our next event: Mangomania. When you come, be sure to stop by our canopy and check out our newest items: tribal men necklaces and shell candles. See you there!

Fritts Park Maintenance Committee

By Jack Worthington

CLT members who are interested in native plant gardening and other outdoor activities are invited to join the Fritts Park Maintenance Committee. We will be working with members of Music on Pine Island to prepare Fritts Park for next season's concert program and for other park activities as well. Much has already been done, like the improvement of Beach Daisy Lane by adding shell and having the whole road graded. We have also had power lines installed so we now have electricity. The next steps involve planting more native plants and possibly working on a shelter. Those interested should call me at 283-3448 (after 6:00 PM) or Ed Chapin (277-6807).

Music on Pine Island (MOPI) was formed in 1992 to bring quality music programs to Pine Island. MOPI's success through nine seasons has allowed it to fund an endowed scholarship for performing arts students at Edison Community College. The popular concerts, which for many years have been held in the garden of the Crossed Palms Gallery in Bokeelia, will now be held at Fritts Park. Free concert tickets will be provided to active Maintenance Committee members.

Florida Land Trust Conference

by Alison Ackerman

On June 9th and 10th, the 2001 Florida Land Trust Conference is being held in Naples, almost in our own back yard. This is a super opportunity to find out what other trusts are doing around the state, ask important questions, and share some of our own successes. Workshops and keynote speakers will make it an exciting event. Luckily we have five of our board members attending so we will be well informed when they return. Watch for articles about what they learned in future newsletters.

Rummage Sale – December 8

By Shirley House

Plans are proceeding for the next Calusa Land Trust rummage sale, presently scheduled for Saturday, December 8, 2001. It is again planned to be held from 8 AM till 12 PM at Fritts Park just south of Pink Citrus Trailer Park. Members are requested to gather materials to be sold; if there are larger items to be donated, please call Shirley House, at 283-3493. Items for the sale should be dropped off at Fritts Park from 8 AM to 5 PM on Friday, December 7. The recent improvements at Fritts Park will allow for more items to be displayed and will allow the volunteers to display the sale items more conveniently. Remember, volunteers and sale items will be needed to make the sale a success!

Memorial Dedication for Tootsie Barnes

by Ed Chapin

You are cordially invited to join the family and friends of Tootsie Barnes at noon on Saturday, June 16, at Fritts Park to dedicate a special memorial to Tootsie who died last June. For those of you who did not have the honor of knowing Tootsie personally, he was a life-long commercial fisherman who believed in protecting our natural resources. Tootsie and the Lee County Conservation Association worked to stop dredge-and-fill permits in south Florida in the early 60s, before “environmentalist” became a common word. We need to remember Tootsie (who got his name for playing the trumpet in high school) as someone who really cared for his beloved Pine Island and all of Florida. At the ceremony we will be dedicating a massive river bolder with the following memorial carved into it:

“Tootsie” Floyd Barnes (1926 – 2000) was a much beloved commercial fisherman, story teller, WW II veteran and environmentalist. Look out onto these islands, and you will see the world that Tootsie treasured. Come to know these islands, and you will come to know Tootsie. His knowledge of our waters was legendary; his fierce devotion to the area’s fish and wildlife was never doubted even by this political opponents. Tootsie brought dignity, wit, and intelligence to his profession. He was loved by most, respected by all. Tootsie Barnes was not just a great Florida voice, he was a great American voice. Look out onto these islands. Tootsie’s strong spirit lives here.

This will be a picnic celebration so bring drinks and food and Tootsie stories to share.

Membership Report

by Norm Gowan (283-8203)

Land Trust membership currently stands at 760. As past members leave us, new ones have joined. 526 (69%) have made donations in the past twelve months. If an asterisk (*) appears after your name on this newsletter’s mailing label, you are among the 31% who have not contacted us lately. Remember that it is you, our members, who keep us going since our fund-raising projects are only a fraction of our annual income.

LAND STEWARDSHIP REPORT

by Ed Chapin

JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM — Our Junior Ranger Program is starting its second year. Pine Island elementary students learned about this program during a new Conservation Day instituted the school. On April 27, Cathy Valenti and I were able to talk to almost all of the students there about Calusa Land Trust and our Junior Ranger program. If you have not heard about this program as yet, it was spearheaded by Cathy through a grant from the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program and teaches children about our native plant and animals and also about the exotic invasive plants. On that day, we handed out over 150 of our Junior Ranger training booklets. Then on May 9, Calusa Land Trust Rangers took all the 5th grade Pine Island students on a field trip to our St. Jude Trail and to the Randell Research Center at Pineland. They had their official Junior Ranger books in hand, with volunteer Rangers Bob and Pam Bristol assisting me. The students asked many excellent questions and were eager to fill out the booklets. After watching some educational videos, we invited them to come along on a regular ranger work day to have some real hands-on experiences. Once they complete this phase two of the program, we can officially award them their Junior Ranger Badges plus a one-year membership in the Calusa Land Trust. It has been exciting watching Pine Island youngsters learn how to care for the environment. If you know any children who would be interested in this program, please call me or Cathy Valenti.

RANGER COUNCIL REPORT — On April 16, the CLT Ranger Council met at Fritts Park. We discussed our Junior Ranger Program, the Pine Island Trash Bash, and future volunteer work days at our preserves. We set the following dates and times for work parties:

May 5	8:00 AM	Calusa Island
June 2	8:00 AM	St. James Creek eagle preserve
July 7	8:00 AM	Calusa Island
September 1	8:00 AM	St. Jude Trail
October 6	8:00 AM	Long Cut
November 3	9:00 AM	Big Jim Creek canoe trail

Our work day at Calusa Island on May 5 went well with seven rangers working for three hours on Australian pine removal and trash pick-up. On April 21, we worked with Keep Lee County Beautiful on the annual Earth Day Trash Bash. This was a very well-planned event this year with music, food, and prizes afterwards. The weather was good, and although the turn-out could have been better, we still managed to pick up plenty of trash!

I want to thank all of our volunteer rangers for their valuable time in helping to make Pine Island a better place. I hope to see all of you and some new faces as well at our next work day, on June 2. Come to the St. James City Post Office at 8:00 AM and we will go from there into the Eagle Preserve. For more info you can page me at (941) 277-6807 or e-mail me at ecalusaed@aol.com

CANOE/KAYAK TRIPS — We have just completed our annual canoe/kayak series with a trip to our Back Bay Preserve on the southeastern tip of Pine Island. We had a great turnout. In all, over 125 people have paddled with us this year; in fact, our trips have been so well attended that we have had to stop advertising in the local newspaper. We plan to do more again next season starting in December. Watch for the new schedule in our fall newsletter.

Getting to Know Your CLT Directors

by Richard Little

This newsletter will introduce four more of the directors who serve our members:

- **Jim Gray:** Jim and Sharon are of that rare species, native Floridians. They moved from central Florida to join our Pine Island community and CLT in 1998. Jim brings his many executive skills garnered from 36 years in industry where he served as VP of Information Services (computer systems stuff). Jim joined the Board last year and is on the Land Acquisition Committee and is a fount of new ideas. Thanks for joining us, Jim!
- **Frank Valenti:** Frank, Cathy and their 2 lovely daughters moved in 1996 to Pine Island and the CLT roster of boosters from Boston. Frank is a licensed psychologist, PhD., and works full time for a large insurance company. Frank is grateful for the trust's accomplishments and is happy to be helping. He loves the land stewardship work and is a CLT Ranger and a regular at the monthly stewardship work parties. Thanks, Frank, it's great having you aboard!
- **Pat Williams:** Pat has been a career elementary school teacher for 21 years, hailing from Indiana. For the past 16 years she has taught first grade at Pine Island Elementary. She loves kayaking and is a regular on the our kayak tours. Pat has always had a yen for running a small business and she enjoys managing the CLT T-shirt and merchandise booths, logging many hours under the hot sun at fund-raisers and celebrations. Pat and her helpers are always dreaming up great new wearable art to boost the CLT. Salutes to you and your helpers, Pat! May your CLT "business" continue to prosper!
- **John ("Jack") Worthington:** Jack has done it all: an ex-Marine, multi-engine airplane pilot, schooled in mechanical engineering, and after a 30-year career in the banking business he retired and moved to Pine Island in 1991. With five others he founded "Music On Pine Island" in 1991, and as director/treasurer has helped shepherd nine seasons of very successful concerts. Besides working on CLT and MOPI issues, John builds beautiful wood strip sea kayaks. It's a pleasure having you aboard, Jack!

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 plank, handrail, or bench, or even a memorial planting of a tree in one of our preserves.

Martin Adamaszek *	Anne Grace *	Mildred V. O'Brien *
Johan C. F. Andersen *	Robert "Bob" Greist *	Paul Olding *
Josephine Anderson *	Alfred Woodhull Guibord *	Earl Ott *
Melvin Atkin *	Kate Guthrie *	Fred Patterson *
Vesta Bailey *	Betty Gutowski *	Donald R. Peterson *
Larry Behrens *	Richard J. Haberline Sr.	Mabel Phillipson *
James G. Beriault	Robert Hallen *	Frank Polaski *
Lyall Beving *	Ash Hallett *	Pete Polverari *
Frank Bopp	Joe Hanson *	Yolanda Mae Reppa *
Marge Borton *	Bill Harmon *	Gertie Rudd *
Barbara Bosley *	Steven Patrick Hart *	Doc Salisbury
Betty B. Bouwes *	Raymond W. Heidorn *	Mr & Mrs Sherwood Sampier *
Ralph Brimacombe *	Charles J. Heimann II *	Reese Sarda *
Don Burr *	R.E. "Pap-Pap" Hohing *	Chevy Schutz *
Margaret L. Burman *	Wyatt Hooks *	Dorothy Seeling
Jack Campbell	Minnie & A.B. Hoover *	Murray & Edith Seyler *
John M Campbell *	Earl Hord *	Phil Shaw *
Rev. Cam & Helen Carmichel *	Allen Hougland *	William Sherwood
"Hanni" Carver *	Jack Houis *	Dan Shockley *
Terez "Terri" Carver *	Ken Houpt *	Carl H. Shupert *
Arnold S. Celmalnieks *	E.S. (Red) Ingram *	Agnes Jane Snyder
Antonette Cerny	Lezlee Jean Ingram *	Florence Stark
Tony Cerny *	Dotty Jennings *	David A. Stevig *
C. F. "Chuck" Clark *	Hinda & J.B. Johnson *	Raymond W. Stober *
Jack Clyburn	Belmont Kappmeyer *	Francis Sullivan
John B. Cook *	Walt Karkut *	Barry Swanson *
Ben Counselman *	Walter R. Kaune *	Don Szuminski *
George Darnell	Janette King *	Frank Taugner, Sr. *
Doyle Davison *	Jack Kirmer *	Kay Taugner *
Jon Davison *	Edward J. & Amanda Lever	Jim Thomas *
C. Frank Estelle *	Russell Little *	Robert Tutza *
Nellwyn de Funiak *	Hector Magnuson *	Dan Tynan *
Louis Del Signore *	James W. Mahaffey *	Leonore M. Vondervor *
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" *

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

CALUSA LAND TRUST MEMBERSHIPS AND DONATIONS:

_____ \$ 15	Individual Member	_____ \$__	Next 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 _____

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