



# Calusa

## Land Trust and Nature Preserve of Pine Island

P.O. Box 216, Bokeelia, Florida 33922

A nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of natural lands

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Newsletter

Summer/Fall 1991

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### BIG JIM CREEK - WE DID IT!!!!

In August, thanks to so many of you who donated funds after our last newsletter, we were able to close on the third and final 108-acre tract of the Big Jim Creek wetlands area near Bokeelia. The total cost for the entire 325 acres was about \$15,000, not counting closing costs and back taxes. Much of the closing costs were donated back to the Land Trust by Mike Shevlin and Islands Realty.

This was truly a remarkable project. About 130 individuals, families, and businesses purchased at least one acre. Rick Moore has been sending every acre donor a copy of the deed. He is working now on the list of donors for the last tract and should be done soon. We can all be proud of this major project, which not only was highly successful, but made a name for Calusa Land Trust & Nature Preserve, here on Pine Island, in Lee County and around the state.

### FINAL CELEBRATION AND DEDICATION

There will be a canoe trip and picnic on Sunday, December 8, in the Big Jim Creek tract. Mark your calendars and make a note to call Ed Chapin (283-1167) to sign up. He will be arranging canoe space and can also let you know where and when we will meet. This event will begin with the official dedication of the 325 acres, and will hopefully be attended by the press, to publicize our accomplishment and let everyone know that the public can use the waterways for recreation and appreciation of the beautiful natural habitat.

### COMMEMORATIVE T-SHIRTS

A note about the special "I Bought an Acre for an Eagle" T-shirts which were beautifully designed and painted by Jennifer Holloway at Loco T'z in Matlacha. I'm sure everyone will join me in thanking her for doing a wonderful job and helping to make our campaign to raise funds so successful. In all, there were close to 90 of these shirts distributed! Now that the project is complete, however, we are left with a few shirts of varying sizes. We will hopefully have them available soon to sell to anyone who bought an acre and would like to go another \$16 for a shirt. If you are interested, you can call Rick at 283-1206 or Alison at 997-5442.

### HOEDOWN FOR HABITAT

The fundraising and publicity committees have organized an event which should not only be fun but will help to let more people know what we are trying to do. It will be held at Matlacha Park at the Community Building on Saturday, November 23, beginning at noon. Complete fish dinners will be provided by OFF, the Organized Fishermen of Florida, and there will be folksingers to entertain us throughout the afternoon. Tickets will be soon available to purchase for \$6.00 at various places around the island, or you can buy them at the door. We are pursuing another idea for that day, to arrange for boat tours out to McCardle Island, which Calusa Land Trust acquired this summer. If anyone knows a boat captain who would like to do this and charge a nominal fee to split with us, please call Rick.

We definitely need help to help make this day a real success. Do you have any items which might be suitable to raffle off? Can you volunteer some time that day to help with the food, or the boat tours, or T-Shirt sales? We also need a few people to sell tickets. If can spare some time, Rick would be thrilled to hear from you. See you there!!!!

### ST. JAMES CITY CIVIC ASSOCIATION ANNUAL BREAKFAST AND FLEA-MARKET

Calusa Land Trust has been given free booth space by the St. James City Civic Association so that we can participate in this yearly event! It will be held on November 16. We greatly appreciate this opportunity but so far we have no one who will be available to set up our display and sell T-shirts and memberships and talk about our land acquisition goals. Is there someone out there who could spare that morning? The booth is already made and everything ready to go. Please call Rick at 283-1206.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

\*\*\*\* Boy Scout Troup #20 (Pine Island) is in need of volunteers to help lead these enthusiastic young boys. If any of you can donate a few hours a month, please call Alice Burke at 458-4993.

\*\*\*\* Calusa Land Trust was invited by Charlotte County to serve on their Environmental Lands Acquisition Advisory Council. Their purpose is to make recommendations to the County Commission on what lands would be suitable for buying under the Florida Communities Trust. Barbara Rennick is our representative and Rick Moore our alternate. An area east of the Myakka River called Tippecanoe Scrub is under consideration.

\*\*\*\* A statewide public meeting will be held in Palm Beach, November 12 at 10:00, to discuss all the current and proposed CARL (Conservation and Recreation Lands) projects. Jim Beever, who heads up our committee on Environmental Issues, has written a comprehensive description of one project area in particular (see below for a slightly shortened version), in hopes that our members will read about it and help get it placed onto the final CARL list. Letters of support are greatly needed. A complete list of important names and addresses we can use is included with this newsletter. You can also help by attending the meeting described above. Call Rick for details. Remember, one of the main purposes of Calusa Land Trust, as set out in our Articles of Incorporation, is to not only acquire land ourselves, but also to support other efforts to preserve what natural lands are left. Use the information below in your letters and statements to help convince the committee members of its worthiness.

\*\*\*\* Special thanks to MOTI, the Museum of the Islands, for being a regular supporter of Calusa Land Trust and for allowing us to use their building for our meetings. We share the same goals of preservation, be it for artifacts or natural vegetation. You too can enjoy what MOTI has to offer by visiting the museum or volunteering some time. Betty Katz is the contact person; she can be reached at 283-4795.

## The Flatwoods Project

The Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods C.A.R.L. Project Area is a unique matrix of reticulated pine flatwood uplands and freshwater wetlands. It is the last large intact tract of coastal hydric pine flatwoods, a wetland/upland system unique to southwest Florida, that is not currently platted or approved for development. The current project boundaries encompass approximately 9,920 acres in Charlotte and Lee Counties, located between U.S. 41 and Burnt Store Road and north of the Cape Coral city limits.

Hydric pine flatwoods are dominated by a slash-pine upper story with a wetland plant understory. They provide recharge to our underground aquifers, wildlife habitat, and contribute to adjoining fisheries. This habitat has typically been unrecognized as a valuable habitat for many reasons. The lack of recognition of this habitat has resulted in conflicting regulatory and resource management, with subsequent disproportionate loss of this habitat. The South Florida Water Management district recently identified the pine flatwoods and associated freshwater wetlands as the habitats with the greatest proportionate loss in south Florida.

To date biologists have identified 29 mammal, 123 bird, 38 reptile, 14 amphibian, and 21 fresh water and brackish water fish species from the Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods. These species include 5 endangered species, 5 threatened species, 10 species of special concern, 2 USFWS candidate species, and 4 CITES species.

Documented eagle nests and red-cockaded woodpecker colonies are present within and southwardly adjacent to the project boundaries. The project area functions as a wildlife corridor and critical foraging habitat for Florida black bear, Florida panther, long-tailed weasel, bobcat, and river otter which travel between the Cecil M. Webb Wildlife Management Area and the Charlotte Harbor State Reserve lands.

If the project site is not protected, it can be expected to be developed in one or more DRI's within a relatively short time. Since the site is dominated by pine flatwood forests (which are not within the jurisdiction of the Florida Department of Environmental Regulation), protection by wetland permitting agencies will be minimal. Two existing DRI's, Caliente Springs and Fairway Woodlands, adjacent to this site, demonstrate the potential fate of this unique example of the native Florida sheet flow reticulated mosaic of upland and wetland habitats.

The C.A.R.L. committee will be ranking the projects this fall. Typically, if a project is not ranked within one of the top 30 spots, it will not be purchased. To express your support for this project, write to the C.A.R.L. Committee, c/o Dept. of Natural Resources, Marjorie Stoneman Douglas Building, Room 953A, 3900 Commonwealth Blvd., M.S.45, Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000. Please send a copy of your letters to other addresses on the list in this newsletter. Please also mention that you would like the committee to complete its ongoing purchases on Cayo Costa Island and the mangrove wetlands surrounding Charlotte Harbor.

LAND ACQUISITION ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS  
AND LIAISON STAFF MEMBERS

LAND ACQUISITION ADVISORY  
COUNCIL MEMBERS

LIAISON STAFF MEMBERS

Chair 1991 Evaluation Cycle

Ms. Carol M. Browner, Secretary  
Department of Environmental Regulation  
Twin Towers Office Building, Room 626  
2600 Blair Stone Road  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2400  
Phone: (904)488-4805

Mr. Ruark L. Cleary  
Department of Environmental Regulation  
Twin Towers Office Building, Room 524F  
2600 Blair Stone Road  
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Phone: (904)488-0130 FAX: 488-6579

Mr. Tom Gardner, Executive Director  
Mr. Don Duden, Assistant Executive Director, designee  
Department of Natural Resources  
Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building, Room 1009A  
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, M.S. 45  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000  
Phone: (904)488-1554

Dr. O. Greg Brock  
Environmental Administrator  
Department of Natural Resources  
Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building, Room 953A  
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, M.S. 45  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000  
Phone: (904)487-1750 FAX: 922-5380

Director, Division of Forestry - position vacant  
Craig Meyer, Deputy Commissioner, designee  
Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services  
The Capitol, Plaza Level 10  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0810  
Phone: (904)488-3022

Mr. Jim Grubbs  
Division of Forestry  
Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services  
Administration Building, Room 269  
3125 Conner Boulevard  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1650  
Phone: (904)488-8180 FAX: 488-0863

Colonel Robert M. Brantly, Executive Director  
Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission  
Farris Bryant Building, Room 101  
620 South Meridian  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1600  
Phone: (904)488-2975

Mr. Doug Bailey  
Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission  
Farris Bryant Building, Room 235  
620 South Meridian  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1600  
Phone: (904)488-6661 FAX: 488-6988

Mr. George Percy, Director  
Division of Historical Resources  
Department of State  
R.A. Gray Building, Room 305  
500 South Bronough Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250  
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Ms. Susan M. Herring  
Division of Historical Resources  
Department of State  
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Phone: (904)487-2333 FAX: 488-3353

Mr. William E. Sadowski, Secretary  
Department of Community Affairs  
The Rhyne Building, Room 106  
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Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2100  
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Mr. James Farr  
Department of Community Affairs  
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Additional CARL Staff Members

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Mr. Erik Johnson  
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Ms. Valerie Jones  
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Mr. David Buchanan  
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Department of Natural Resources  
Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building, Room 506B  
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Phone: (904)488-1416 FAX: 487-3939

COMMITTEE REPORT: Land Management

Now that we have acquired several tracts of land, we are left with a deep feeling of satisfaction but also with the need to decide how best to preserve and manage these precious tracts so that they thrive for years and even centuries to come. Owning is simply not enough. All of us at Calusa Land Trust have assumed a special responsibility to keep these lands as natural as possible. But how do we do this? Should we arrange for all exotic trees to be cut down? And what about planting other natural trees and shrubs to replenish various areas? How much should we spend on this? Can we get volunteers to do this work?

Basically, we need our land management committee to work on these questions and make proposals to the Board and to the general membership. There are a couple of people who have said they would do this, but we need more. We especially need people who might be able to actually go out and clear the exotics and clean up some of the litter. Rick is putting a list of interested people together so give him a call if any of this sounds interesting to you.

MEMBERSHIPS

_____ \$15 Individual	_____ \$100 Contributor
_____ \$25 Family	_____ \$500 Patron or Business Patron
_____ \$50 Donor	_____ \$1000 Benefactor
_____ \$50 Business/ Organization	_____ \$_____ Other

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Calusa Land Trust & Nature Preserve of Pine Island, Inc.  
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