



Calusa

Land Trust and Nature Preserve of Pine Island

P.O. Box 216, Bokeelia, FL 33922

A nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of natural lands.

Newsletter

Summer/Fall 1992

ST. JAMES CREEK PRESERVE

In our last newsletter, we described our latest project involving the purchase of 270 additional acres in the St. Jude Harbor area north of St. James City. Since then, over 270 donations have been made, including nearly 50 new memberships! Each acre costs \$100, and at least 60 individuals and families were able to purchase a full acre or more. Because of the enthusiasm we have had, the Calusa Land Trust has already been able to make the initial downpayment of \$4,000 and the first payment of \$6,333.

We want to recognize everyone who has been able to purchase an acre or more of land for preservation on Pine Island. The Big Jim Creek parcel encompasses over 300 acres and the St. James Creek Preserve will eventually include about 320 acres. In our next mailing, we hope to list the names of those who have helped make these projects so successful. (If you are one of these people and insist on remaining anonymous, please let us know and we will be happy to comply.)

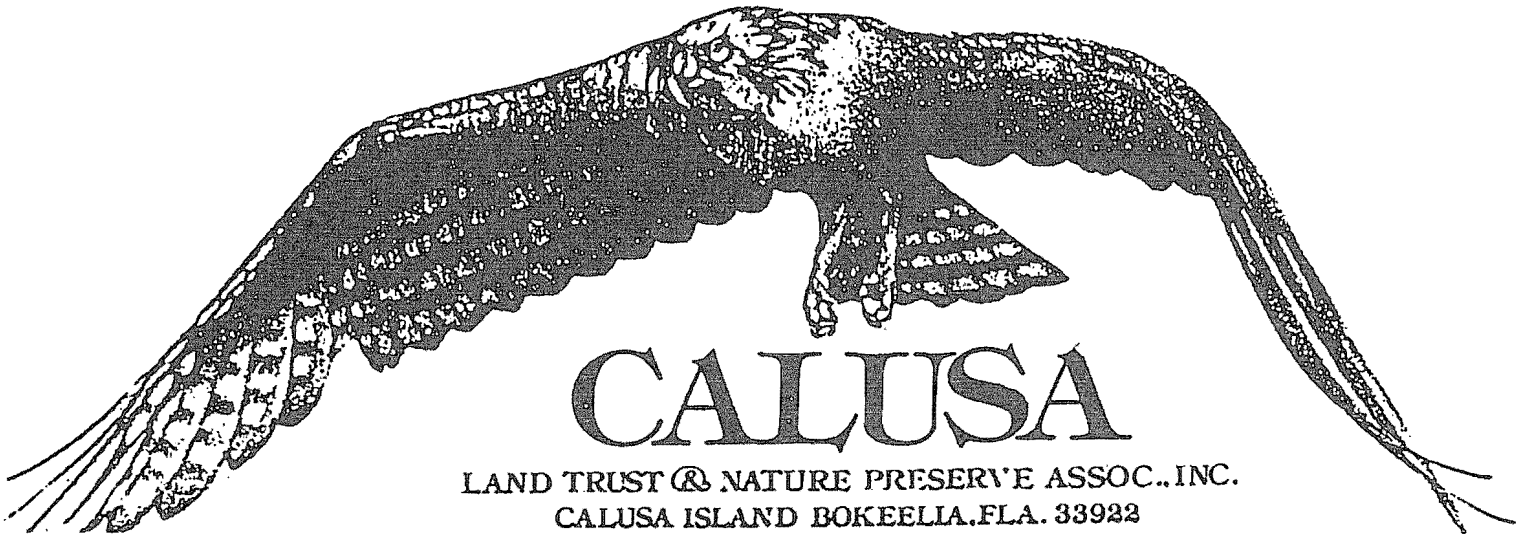
In the meantime, the December deadline for making our second major payment is quickly approaching. There are still many acres to buy; you can help by spreading the word to your friends and neighbors. A copy of a letter written to promote this project is included with this newsletter. Please pass it along to a friend who might be interested, or make copies and distribute them in any way you can. Remember, our continued success is dependent on our members spreading the news of what we are trying to do.

Raffles Raffles Raffles

Besides memberships and other cash donations, the Calusa Land Trust has received several donations of beautiful artwork. Ione Rooney gave a wonderful painting of two eagles in flight and the money given for a chance to win it bought 6 acres of land in the Big Jim Creek parcel. The winning ticket for her painting was held by Ann Friedman.

We would also like to thank Peg Schock for her lovely painting of American egrets which was won by Maurice Pennock. The money from this raffle was enough to buy 2 1/2 acres of the St. James Creek Preserve.

Fran Lever was the lucky winner for Jan Bailey's beautiful wooden carving of a redfish and one more acre was purchased with those funds. Many many thanks to these generous people.



Dear Neighbor,

You probably know about the Calusa Land Trust & Nature Preserve of Pine Island and our efforts to acquire natural lands. Did you know that we now own over 500 acres that is home to a variety of wildlife, including fish that is so vital to our lifestyle and economy? Did you know that this has been accomplished by volunteer work and the financial support of hundreds of individuals, businesses, and organizations? If you are one of those who has helped, you should feel proud to have participated in a project that will benefit fish, wildlife, and people for generations to come. If you have not yet contributed or become involved, please do so now. We live in one of the best places on Earth. Whether it remains so depends on YOU!

Calusa Land Trust is now buying over 270 acres surrounding St. James Creek, on southeast Pine Island. This is in addition to 50 acres that was donated by the St. Jude Harbor Corporation last year. This "St. James Creek Preserve" is the most exciting projects yet to be undertaken. Among the proposed uses is a nature trail that will allow people to enjoy the natural beauty of the area. We will work to enhance the habitat by ; removing exotic vegetation such as melaluca, Brazilian peppers, and Australian pines and replanting with native species, restoring water flow, and building nest boxes. Of course, detrimental activities such as littering, firearms and removing native plants must be prohibited. Fishing (subject to applicable laws) and a conoe launch (no motors or jet skis) is proposed. When the property has been paid off we will print copies of the deed, listing those who bought an acre of the preserve.

I would like to buy an acre for the St. James Creek Preserve
\$100. _____

I can't buy an acre at this time but would to join

Individual \$15. _____

Family \$25. _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

ZIP _____ PHONE# _____

Mail to: Calusa Land Trust

P.O. Box 216

Bokeelia, FL 33922

CANOE OUTING

Now that is almost fall, we are thinking about cool weather again and the joys of being outdoors. On Saturday, October 24, there will be a canoe outing in the Big Jim Creek Preserve. Drive north on Stringfellow from Pine Island Center (towards Bokeelia) and after about 5 miles watch for the Tropic Isles RV Park on your left. Follow the signs to the back area where Ed Chapin and others will be waiting. Give Ed a call at 283-1167 so he can coordinate canoe space for everybody. The trip will begin at 9:30 in the morning; bring any drinks or snacks you may want. Binoculars might be a good idea as well. Hope you can come!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

On November 14, the Greater Pine Island Civic Association will be holding its annual flea market and shrimp dinner. The Calusa Land Trust will have a booth there to sell T-shirts and memberships. We very much need volunteers to help out for an hour or more. Please call Rick Moore at 283-1206 if you can attend.

The following weekend, on November 21, there will be another fleamarket, this time sponsored by the St. James City Civic Association. Instead of shrimp, we can all enjoy a hearty breakfast. Again, the Calusa Land Trust will set up its booth and again, we very much need a few good people to help out. Rick would love to get some calls on both of these events!

These local events are not only important and worthwhile for the groups that put them together, but they are a wonderful way for all of us to find out what else is going on and to share what we are trying to do as well.

LAND MANAGEMENT

Our land management crew is in search of a few more nature lovers who would like to help plant some native shrubs and trees in the St. James Creek Preserve. If you feel fairly hearty, maybe you can assist in removing a few Brazilian peppers as well. Work that began in the spring was stopped over the summer because of the oppressive heat, of course. On November 7, however, the group wants to get started again.

The plan is to meet at the trail entrance at 8:00 and work for a couple of hours. Go south on Stringfellow from Pine Island Center, past the St. James City Post Office and the American Legion hall. Turn left on Laratonda and follow the road as it curves to the right. About a quarter of a mile past several houses, the trail entrance can be seen on the left. Any questions, please call Rick Moore who will be organizing the work crew.

DOCUMENTARY VIDEO COMPLETE!!

You may remember that the Board of Directors of the Calusa Land Trust authorized John Egan to film and produce a video documentary featuring the projects we have been pursuing. After untold hours, John and his crew have completed a marvelous 30-minute film about our organization. The narration and editing are superb. Not only has this video aired twice on WSFP-TV, but it has also won a Crystal Reel Award. All of us who have seen it are very impressed

The Board is now trying to decide how best to distribute this video. Norm Gowan is going to investigate the cost for massive reproduction and report back. In the meantime, Rick Moore has a copy he can loan out, if you would like to see it or show it to your organization. Again, his number is 283-1206.