

Warm holiday greetings to everyone! This brief newsletter is in anticipation of our 1996 annual meeting which will be held on Sunday, January 21st at 1:30 p.m., in the Elks Building (also known as the Greater Pine Island Civic Association building, right next to the fire station at Pine Island Center). Mark your calendars and attend if you can as we will update everyone on the past years' activities and then go with those interested on a guided nature hike on the St. Jude Trail immediately after the meeting.

Some of the noteworthy items to be discussed:

- ◆ a report on the recently acquired and dedicated Fritts Park in Bokeelia, and our current plans to expand it onto an adjoining parcel (certificates will be presented to the contributors to this exciting project)
- ◆ the final tally of our proceeds from the 3rd Annual Poker Run, plus all the details that made this event so much fun for so many
- ◆ an update on the construction of the planned boardwalk and observation deck for the St. Jude Trail (a little more on this below)
- ◆ the next chapter in the McCardle Island drama entitled "Who really owns me?"
- ◆ a report on the incredible efforts of our Land Management Committee who toiled unknown numbers of hours this year to clear exotics and plant natives, plus more....

On the St. Jude Trail boardwalk: The final drawings are done, permits are in hand, lumber lists are complete, and the first order has been placed. Guess what this means? It means we are ready to begin construction and need help from any of you who could spare some time. Chic Kennedy, at 283-7121, has been appointed construction superintendent and would like potential volunteers to call him any time, any day. Our goal is to get this project completed this winter or spring. Chic needs construction help and those who can support the nailers/haulers/sawyers etc.

If you haven't already heard about how we are funding this endeavor, read on. Over 200 planks in the boardwalk can be purchased for \$50 each; 53 have already been purchased. In recognition of this donation, Calusa Land Trust will carve your name or the name of anyone one you desire into the plank. We think it will look great and will recognize those who helped finance this important project.

The nominating committee has renominated the following directors whose terms are expiring (all terms are for two years): Alison Ackerman, Cindy Bear, Chic Kennedy and Bill Spikowski. Helen O'Rourke McClary resigned from the board earlier this year and Rick Moore has been serving out her term; the Committee has also renominated Rick to join the above slate. Don Shontz has asked to step down from his board seat; Richard Little has been nominated for Don's seat. Additional nominations will be taken from the floor during the annual meeting, followed by voting for these seats.

As usual, if there is an asterisk by your name on the mailing label, it has been one year since you renewed your membership. Hope to see many of you at the annual meeting!!!

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