

Warm holiday greetings to everyone! This brief newsletter is in anticipation of our 1997 annual meeting, which will be held on Saturday, January 25th at 1:00 p.m., in the KOA recreation building at 5120 Stringfellow Boulevard, just north of St. James City. Some of the subjects to be discussed:

- ◆ a report on our recent improvements to the St. Jude Trail;
- ◆ the final tally of our proceeds from the Fourth Annual Poker Run, plus all the details that make this event so much fun every year;
- ◆ our progress in replenishing our depleted land acquisition funds after the acquisition of our new Back Bay Preserve;
- ◆ election for the Board of Directors and a vote on some organizational changes (details below);
- ◆ a report on the continuing efforts of our Land Management Committee which toils countless hours each year to manage our preserves, plus more....

Mark your calendars and attend if you can, as we will update everyone on the past year's activities and then after the meeting go with those interested on a short hike on the St. Jude Trail.

LAND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE: The Land Management Committee needs volunteer rangers to work on our land. The regular work date is the first Saturday of every month. Currently we need volunteers to work on canoe trails. To volunteer or get more information, call Ed Chapin (283-1167), Richard Little (283-4974), or Rick Moore (283-1206).

NEW CITIZEN SUPPORT ORGANIZATION: A new organization is being formed to support our local state-owned aquatic and buffer preserves; it will be organized similar to Friends of Rookery Bay in Collier County. Volunteers will be needed to assist with habitat restoration, resource monitoring, and patrols around Pine Island Sound, Matlacha Pass, and Charlotte Harbor. Further information will be provided in our next newsletter, or contact Carla Kappmeyer at (941) 283-2424 for more details.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: The nominating committee has re-nominated the following directors whose terms are expiring (all terms are for two years): Rich Larkin, Norm Gowan, Peter Ordway, Ed Chapin, and Wayne (Bud) House. Additional nominations for these seats will be taken from the floor during the annual meeting, followed by voting for the five vacant seats.

PROPOSED BY-LAW CHANGES: The Board of Directors has proposed several minor changes to the articles of incorporation and by-laws to allow more people to serve on the Board and to “clean up” several minor matters. Due to our tax-exempt status, the changes to the articles of incorporation must be approved by the federal government, so they would not take effect until the end of 1997. Please review these changes, because a vote of the membership will be taken at the annual meeting. Underlined words would be added; words that are ~~struck through~~ would be deleted.

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION — ARTICLE VII

The number of persons constituting the Board of Directors shall be any number not exceeding fifteen (15) ~~eleven (11)~~ directors as established by the By-Laws of the corporation

BY-LAWS ARTICLE V — BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(2) The Board of Directors shall be made up of eleven to fifteen Directors. Vacant or expiring seats shall be filled ~~Eleven Directors shall be elected~~ at the annual meeting of the members by a majority of the members voting in person; new directors ~~and~~ shall take office immediately upon election for terms of ~~one or~~ two years. ~~A simple majority of the seats on the Board shall be elected for one-year terms, and the other seats shall be elected for two-year terms.~~ All Directors must be current members of the Calusa Land Trust.

BY-LAWS ARTICLE VI — OFFICERS

(1) The officers of the Calusa Land Trust shall include a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and such other officers as may be approved by the Board of Directors. Officers shall be elected for terms of one year from among the membership of the Board at the next ~~a~~ meeting of the Board ~~immediately~~ following the annual meeting of the members. The officers shall serve until their successors have been elected.

BY-LAWS ARTICLE VII — COMMITTEES

(1)(c) This committee [*Nominating Committee*] shall also propose a slate of officers to the Board for consideration at its next meeting ~~immediately~~ following the annual meeting of the members.

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!

CALUSA LAND TRUST MEMBERSHIPS AND DONATIONS:

_____ \$15 Individual Member _____ \$100 Contributor
_____ \$25 Family Member _____ \$500 Patron or Business Patron
_____ \$50 Donor or Organization _____ \$_____ for _____
_____ \$100 Back Bay Land Purchase Sponsor's Name (*optional*): _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Second Address? _____

Second City, State, Zip? _____

Phone _____

Today's Date _____

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). REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE OF FLORIDA.

Calusa Land Trust & Nature Preserve
of Pine Island, Inc.
P.O. Box 216
Bokeelia, Florida 33922