

FIFTH ANNUAL PINE ISLAND POKER RUN — DECEMBER 7TH

The Pine Island Boat Club has hosted this fun event for the past four years and we are happy to announce they are sponsoring another one on December 7th. It is open to everyone, with the proceeds (after prizes and expenses) going to the Calusa Land Trust. Tickets are \$5.00 for each poker hand played; they will be on sale at the Pine Island Elks Lodge on Friday evening (12/5), at the Waterfront Restaurant on Saturday afternoon (12/6), at the Double Nichol Pub on Saturday afternoon (12/6), and again at the Waterfront Restaurant on Sunday morning from 8 to 10 A.M. at the start of the run. You need not be on a boat to participate; just have someone else on a boat carry your tickets. As a special incentive: any person donating \$100 to the land trust during the ticket sales will receive **FIVE FREE TICKETS** from the Boat Club. If your hand is the lucky winner, you could win as much as \$1,200, last year's lucky take, or even more! Make plans to join in on the fun, or just come down to the Waterfront Restaurant Sunday morning. Remember, you need not have a boat or even go on the boat ride to win.

BOARD MEETING

All members are invited to attend meetings of the Board of Directors, and guests are always welcome. The next meeting will be held on December 8 at 6:00 P.M. This meeting will be held at the Pine Island Public Library, which is located at 10700 Russell Road, just north of the public tennis courts at Pine Island Center. Final plans will be made that evening for our annual membership meeting, which will be held in January.

MEMORIALS

Few tributes are so lasting as a memorial that helps preserve our island's natural heritage for future generations. We in the Calusa Land Trust are privileged to carry on our work in the memory of individuals so honored:

Johan C. F. Andersen *
Melvin Atkin *
Vesta Bailey *
Marge Borton *
Ralph Brimacombe *
Jack Campbell
John M Campbell *
Arnold S. Celmalnieks *
Ben Counselman *
George Darnell
Jon Davison *
Nellwyn de Funiak
Louis Del Signore *
Woodie Dillon *
Dr. Ambrose C. Estes *
Joyce Gasow *
Jack Gates *
Nancy Gilmore
Loren "POP" Gowan *
Anne Grace *
Robert "Bob" Greist *
Alfred Woodhull Guibord *
Joe Hanson *
Minnie & A.B. Hoover *
Joe Hanson *
Earl Hord *
Allen Hougland *
E.S. (Red) Ingram *
Lezlee Jean Ingram *
Hinda & J.B. Johnson *
Walter R. Kaune *

Jack Kirmer *
Edward J. & Amanda Lever
Hector Magnuson *
Lewis W. McAllister *
Ethel McDonough *
M. Kathleen Mellon *
Donald Meng *
John Moran
Arthur & Ida Newberg
Edward Newton
Mildred V. O'Brien *
Earl Ott *
Fred Patterson *
Donald R. Peterson
Frank Polaski *
Yolanda Mae Reppa *
Gertie Rudd *
Dorothy Seeling
William Sherwood
Dan Shockley *
Agnes Jane Snyder
Frank Taugner, Sr. *
Kay Taugner *
Leonore M. Vondervor *
William Webster *
Dorothy Welch
Edith Williams *
"Fishin" Bud Williams *
Margaret L. Wilson, M.D.
Walt Woodhead *
Bruno & Theresa *

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

COUNSELMAN BEQUEST

We are gratified that a long-time land trust member, Benjamin F. Counselman, has honored the Calusa Land Trust by leaving a portion of his estate to the organization. Mr. Counselman, a resident of Tice, passed away in 1996.

LAND MANAGEMENT REPORT

Ed Chapin (283-1167)

Our land management volunteers have continued working hard over the summer. We planted 15 large cabbage palms plus some small pine trees and spider lilies at the St. Jude Nature Trail. We also established a loop trail on the Lee County portion of the St. James Creek Preserve. At Fritts Park, volunteers have continued weeding and trimming as well as working to keep the canoe trail open all the way to Big Jim Creek.

I would like to update our volunteer list and increase the number of folks who can help us out this winter. Participants must love the fresh smells and calm beauty of the outdoors, and be willing to a little bending, snipping, raking, pulling, and digging on the side. Our regular work day is the first Saturday of each month.

I would also like to get our “volunteer ranger” program off the ground. So please consider volunteering. Remember, even a couple of hours a month really helps. For more information, call me at the above number between 10 A.M. and 6 P.M. weekdays, or call Rick Moore at 283-1206.

PLUNK-A-PLANK CAMPAIGN

This campaign has been a tremendous success as a fundraiser for the land trust. It has also given people an opportunity to preserve, in a unique and beautiful way, the names of family and friends in one of the still-natural environments left on Pine Island. Even though 332 planks have been sold, with many names going on the handrails, there is room for a few more. Rumors that we have run out of space are unfounded! We are, in fact, getting ready to expand the boardwalk 30 additional feet. So there is still time for everyone to be “immortalized” in wood. Have your name or someone else’s carved in a plank by long-time trust member Jan Bailey! When construction begins again, probably in January, former Construction Superintendent Chic Kennedy will be the new Project Manager, and member Phil Buchanan will become Construction Superintendent.

This campaign has already more than paid for the cost of construction. We are using the extra funds to endow a permanent maintenance fund for the boardwalk and for further land acquisition and management. So besides renewing your membership for another year, plunk another plank!

CALUSA LAND TRUST HISTORY

Our new historian, Rubye Woodhead, has begun assembling past newsletters and updating our collection of Calusa Land Trust news articles. We are delighted that Rubye has agreed to carry on the tradition and get us organized and up-to-date once again.

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (283-8203)

Norm Gowan

Calusa Land Trust continues to grow steadily. Since January, we have acquired 56 new members which brings our total to a new high of 577. This is an amazing testament to the dedication of all of you who have made this organization a success. Since we do not send out reminders of renewal dates, we do have to rely on our newsletters to let everyone know when a year has passed. Just check the mailing label; an asterisk by your name indicates that a year has passed. As of now, 233 of our members are current in their dues. We appreciate your continuing support.

Besides being a regular member, another way to keep Calusa Land Trust strong is for everyone to sponsor a new member. Forty-two of us have sponsored 128 new members since the inception of this program, including 32 new members so far this year. Let's keep this tradition going. Here is our "Honor Roll" to date:

Jan & Kate Bailey (1)	Bob & Cindy Mann (1)
Ralph Baker (1)	Rick & Silvia Moore (3)
Cindy Bear (1)	Carol B. Newman (1)
Phil Buchanan (2)	Peter & Patricia Ordway (11)
Ed Chapin (4)	Larry & Kathleen Osgood (1)
Susan Edwards et al (3)	Robert F. Owens (2)
Joe & Jimmie Eisenberg (1)	Barney & Betty Provoncha (1)
Al & Connie Eleinko (1)	James & Virginia Richey (1)
Phil & Nancy Freeman (3)	Betty Robey (1)
Margaret (Peg) Fritts (1)	Mary Shaw (1)
Norm & Marie Gowan (29)	Don & Mary Shontz (13)
Paul & Andrae Gruber (1)	Bob & Jean Speckman (1)
Mike & Ida Herbert (1)	Bill Spikowski & Alison Ackerman (5)
Nancy Holabird (1)	Brant & Jane Stanford (1)
Wayne & Shirley House (11)	Sandra VanCleaf (1)
Harvey & Maxine Ingelse (3)	Bruce Van Slyke (1)
Island Hardware (2)	Pat Waite (1)
Chic & Clara Kennedy (9)	Al & Margie Walker (1)
Don & Dottie Kernaghan (1)	Karen Walker (1)
Bob & Kay Kessler (1)	Waterfront Restaurant (1)
Leroy & Lene Lippmann (1)	Joseph & Josephine Williams (1)

Add your name to the Honor Roll. Sign up a friend or relative or give a membership as a gift.

VOLUNTEER WATER QUALITY MONITORING PROGRAM

Many members have volunteered to help the D.E.P Aquatic Preserve staff in assessing the condition of the estuaries surrounding Pine Island. This program began in northern Charlotte Harbor and will soon be active around Pine Island. Volunteer monitors will work in teams of two or three, and each team will collect and analyze water samples at an assigned site within one hour of dawn each month. The Pine Island group will be responsible for monitoring 10-15 sites in the Pine Island Sound and Matlacha Pass estuaries. Some of the sites are accessible by car or on foot, but others will require use of a boat to reach the site. Equipment is now being acquired and training will begin soon. Volunteers will be contacted by D.E.P. staff. Additional volunteers may contact Judy Ott or Carla Kappmeyer at the Aquatic Preserve Office, 283-2424, or Peter Ordway (283-5918) who is acting as Calusa Land Trust liaison with the Aquatic Preserve staff.

YOUTH PROGRAM

Joe and Jimmie Eisenberg have made a substantial donation to the Calusa Land Trust to be used to benefit the kids on the Island. We have chosen to spend this money on 400 "Cheeseburger Gift Certificates" for the Matlacha Burger Hut owned by "Burger Jim Cummings" who has devoted a great deal of his own time and money to sponsor youth activities. The certificates are being distributed at the Pine Island Elementary School as incentives for completing certain assignments. This is the start of a campaign to build a pavilion at Fritts Park which will be available for various youth organizations such as the Boy Scouts. There will be more on this as plans are developed.

COMING EVENTS

The following events are planned for 1998 to raise money for more land acquisition; all will be announced in more detail in future newsletters:

January ??? – ***Beer tasting party*** at Jimmie and Joe Eisenberg's Jungle Garden. Many of you will remember this as the delightful site of last December's "Back Bay Party."

March 17th – ***St. Patrick's Day*** corned beef and cabbage dinner, music, and party at the Pine Island Elks Lodge. This was a great success this year and will be even better in 1998.

March 21st – Land Trust ***rummage sale*** at the Pine Island Elks Lodge. Please start putting those unwanted treasures aside with this event in mind.

For more information or to volunteer to help out on fund raising events, call fund raising chairman, Norm Gowan at 283-8203.

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. FULL FINANCIAL DETAILS, INCLUDING FEDERAL TAX RETURNS, CAN BE OBTAINED BY CONTACTING THE LAND TRUST'S TREASURER AT 941-334-8866 DURING WORKING HOURS.

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