

Calusa Land Trust

and Nature Preserve of Pine Island, Inc.



Newsletter

Summer 1998

YORK ISLAND UPDATE

by Alison Ackerman

In our last newsletter we outlined how the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation and the Calusa Land Trust are working to acquire beautiful York Island (and part of Coconut Island as well) through a joint project. We agreed to contribute 10% of the \$220,000 purchase price and acquire a 10% interest in the land. Since then, the SCCF has raised 90% of the price and we have received donations of \$8,900 from 56 members, a great start on our part (but we do have a ways to go).

If you have not had a chance to see these islands, they are located just off the southern tip of Pine Island (see map on the next page). Local boaters are familiar with York as the long island north and east of the "old mail boat route." They encompass 200+ acres of red mangroves with a black mangrove basin forest and some uplands (a narrow sand and shell ridge with tropical hammock species such as gumbo limbo, sea grape, and Jamaica dogwood). The islands support at least 35 species of native plants. Fortunately, exotic vegetation is not a huge problem here.

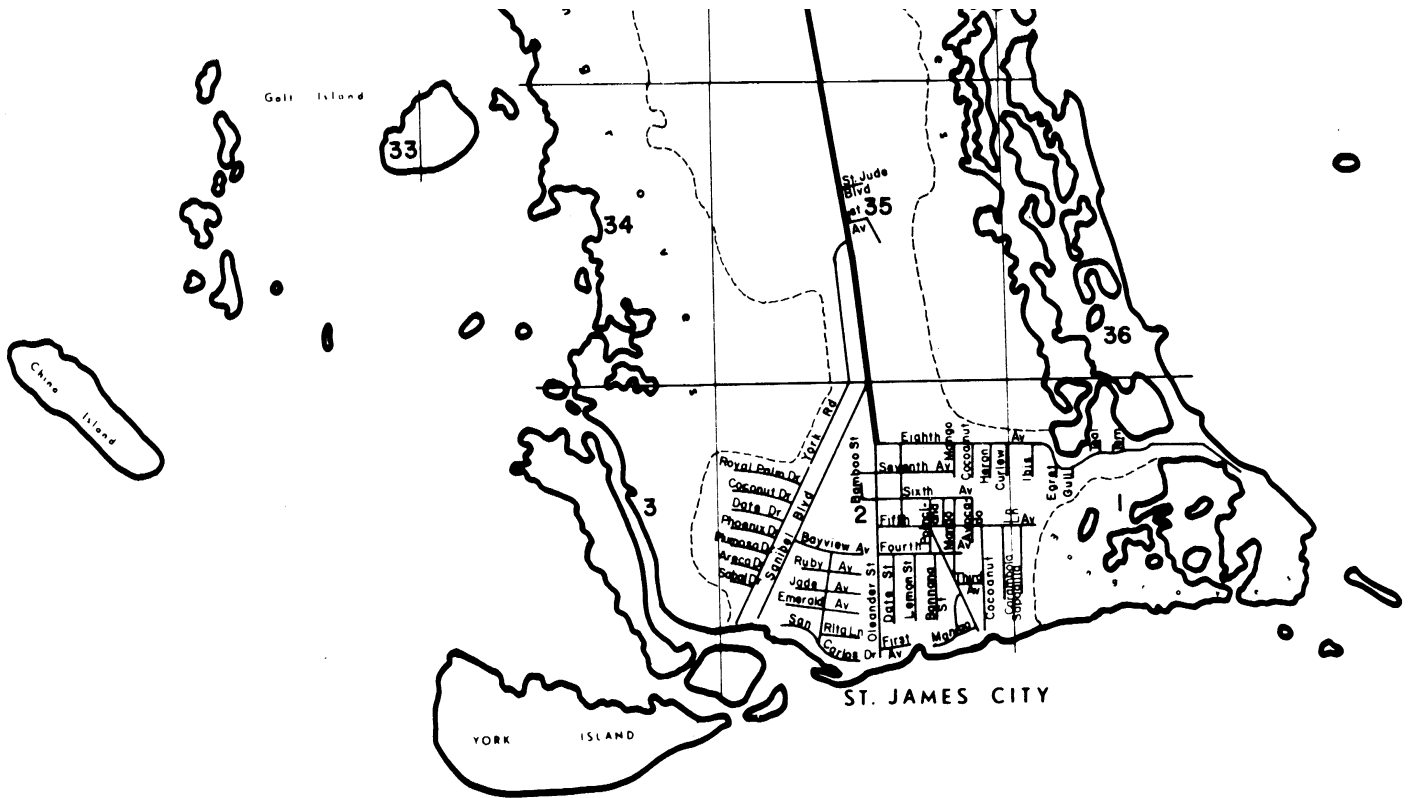
With building permits recently granted for nearby Crescent Island, buying these properties for preservation is most assuredly a timely and most worthwhile accomplishment. Will you join the first 56 members and help us complete this exciting purchase?

Donald Jorgensen, a Trust member who lives within sight of York Island, has donated a beautiful handmade strip wooden canoe that we are going to raffle off to help raise money for this project. We are showing it off at various places around the island and are selling raffle tickets, so keep a lookout. Raffle tickets cost \$2 each or \$5 for three and are currently available at SunTrust bank at 10290 Stringfellow Road. Or you may contact Norm Gowan at 283-8203. The drawing will be held at our annual meeting.

We hope that the preservation of York Island will be the first in a series of joint acquisitions of land adjoining Pine Island Sound in cooperation with the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation.

The closing date for this purchase has not been set due to some title problems that are now being resolved.

Stay tuned for an announcement of a “closing” celebration for York Island. We hope to hold the ceremony afloat just off York Island with a squadron of land trust members and local residents attending by boat.



St. James City, also showing York Island, Chino Island, and Galt Island

LATEST ACQUISITIONS NEAR BOKEELIA by Bill Spikowski

Adding to the good news in this newsletter is another major donation. Fred Johnson, the original president of the Calusa Land Trust, is donating additional land on Calusa Island to the Trust. Boaters who use Shell Cut to travel between Charlotte Harbor and Jug Creek will be familiar with this tract, which lies immediately on the east side of Shell Cut. It has been the only privately owned land on the western end of Calusa Island.

This land was subdivided into homesites in 1908 and could support five waterfront homes. It now joins the Land Trust's extensive holdings on Calusa Island, most of which have been donated by Mr. Johnson. This tract has about 400 feet of frontage on Charlotte Harbor and a shifting "beachfront" along Jug Creek, and is frequently used by picnickers. It is shown in black on the map on the following page. We would like to thank Fred Johnson for his continued generosity, which assures the long-term preservation of this land.

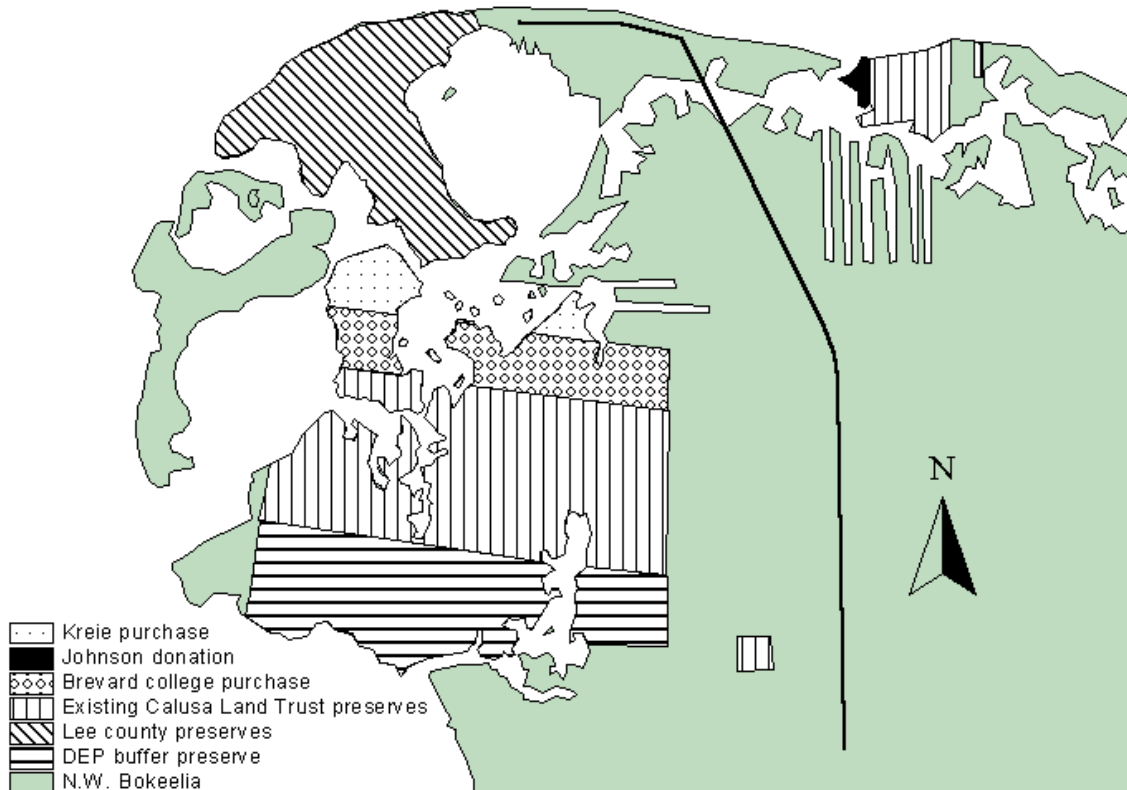
In our last newsletter we announced the acquisition of a valuable 47-acre parcel from Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Kreie, Jr. of Fort Myers (also shown on this map). This parcel adjoins Jug Creek and Burgess Bay and greatly expands our Big Jim Creek Preserve. It includes a rapidly disappearing habitat called "tropical hardwood hammock." This hammock is a 3-acre "island" surrounded by a larger mangrove island, with vegetation very similar to the southerly ridge on York Island.

This acquisition was made possible through a bargain (below-market) sale from the Kreie family and a bequest from Benjamin Counselman, supplemented by the \$10,000 entire emergency fund plus general operating revenues of the Calusa Land Trust. We are actively seeking donations so that the emergency fund can again be used for timely purchases of other parcels that become available on short notice. We would like to thank those who have already contributed for this purpose.

Just to the south of the Kreie parcel lies an additional 95 acres currently owned by the Brevard Community College Foundation. The Calusa Land Trust is currently negotiating to add this parcel to our Big Jim Creek Preserve.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The board of directors of the Calusa Land Trust will hold a regular business meeting on Tuesday September 8th at 6:30 P.M. This meeting will be held at the Pine Island Elks Lodge at Pine Island Center, and all members are welcome to attend.



Bokeelia, with preserved lands identified

COASTAL CLEANUP

by Bill Spikowski

Coming up soon will be the annual Coastal Cleanup, sponsored in our area by Keep Lee County Beautiful. The main cleanup will be held this year on Saturday morning, September 19. Calusa Land Trust president Ed Chapin will be the Pine Island coordinator this year, and is looking for helpers to coordinate activities and assist in the actual cleanup. Cathy Valenti will also be helping organize this event. If you can help, please contact Ed at 277-6807 (this is a pager number, after the tone just punch in your phone number and Ed will call you back) or call Cathy at 283-6027.

PINE ISLAND EAGLE

We would like to thank our local newspaper, the Pine Island Eagle, for the great coverage they have provided through the years to land trust activities. The paper has had a series of great writers and editors, the latest being Dave Holmes. This coverage has kept local residents apprised of our activities between newsletters, and enabled the land trust to continually increase the scope of activities.

WANTED: A FEW GOOD RANGERS/STEWARDS by Richard Little

Our properties now exceed 1100 acres in 10 separate locations. These preserves are mostly pristine wetlands and some uplands that protect native vegetation and shelter native wildlife and water creatures, including some endangered species. Our holdings are now so extensive as to require a program to oversee each individual preserve. One or two rangers (or stewards) would be “in charge” in each preserve. The duties would be to watch out for problems like excess trash and exotic vegetation, and also help give guided tours. A professional naturalist will be available to train all rangers in local ecology and resident plants and animals. Each ranger position would require about four hours per month. Typical activities might include:

- ▶ To walk/paddle periodically through the preserve, assessing trail conditions, litter problems, exotic plants, etc.
- ▶ To supervise a work party (as needed) and to contact volunteer helpers to plant native specimens, remove exotic vegetation, clear trails, remove litter, etc.
- ▶ To assist and/or lead occasional public tours of the preserve.
- ▶ To report to CLT Board of Directors as to the status of the preserve.

This is an opportunity to learn about Pine Island’s native species and help preserve them. And it’s a great excuse to periodically get into the wild and recuperate, leaving our busy lives behind for a little while. About a dozen land trust members have already expressed an interest in this project and attended a preliminary meeting in July.

Applicants for positions of volunteer rangers/stewards must be 18 years of age and be members of Calusa Land Trust. Please call Richard Little at 283-4974 for more information.

— RECENT ACTIVITIES —

SAINT PATRICK’S DAY DINNER AND PARTY (3/17/98)

With 160 pounds of corned beef cooked and completely sold out, it’s no wonder this event netted \$1,200 in proceeds for the Trust this year. It was a fun time all around as everyone enjoyed great music provided by Jimmie Eisenberg, Hank Wojdak and friends. A big thank you to the Pine Island Elks Lodge #2781 for hosting this event again this year in the facility they share with the Greater Pine Island Civic Association. The Trust hopes to make this a tradition.

RUMMAGE SALE (3/21/98)

This year's rummage sale by the House, Ingelse and Jephson families brought in over \$500. Now also an annual event, it is a great benefit to the Trust thanks to these hard working families, very much appreciated by all.

BEER TASTING PARTY - (3/21/98)

This was a new event this year, held at the "Jungle Garden" of members Joe and Jimmie Eisenberg. Actually intended to be more of a "reward" party for York Island donors rather than a fund-raiser, it ended up producing an income of \$260 after expenses. The crowning touch was a wonderful boat ride around York Island. Many thanks to the Pine Island Boat Club for letting us use their pontoon boats, and to Dave Yaros of Miller Brands for providing a most enjoyable "tasting."

We are considering converting this theme to a wine tasting next year and emphasizing the boat rides to some of our preserves. Let us hear from you if you have any thoughts along these lines.

EARTH DAY - (4/25/98)

We would like to commend Cathy Valenti for the countless hours she spent coordinating the numerous events of Earth Day 1998. People of all ages and walks of life joined together to honor and clean up Pine Island, a true tribute to community involvement. We had a beautiful day for cleaning up trash from roadways and Calusa Island, as well as for exploring the St. Jude Nature Trail. The March for Parks included 100+ Brownies, Girl Scouts, and students from all over Lee County.

Music, food, education exhibits and environmental products helped raise money and teach about activities that avoid damaging our environment. There were trolley rides, food, prizes galore donated by scores of local businesses, nature tours, entertainment, tree plantings, and exhibits. Many participants joined the Calusa Land Trust or made donations. Ten percent of all sales of Lifetime Solutions products were donated to the land trust (including future sales).

Everyone involved shared the wonderful learning experience and a chance to help to make Pine Island an even more beautiful place to live, and raising funds for the Calusa Land Trust at the same time. Cathy wrote a long letter which appeared in the Pine Island Eagle on May 20, thanking the individuals and businesses that helped

make it all possible. It was an impressive list. But now it is your turn to be thanked, Cathy. You are truly to be commended.

As proof of that day's success and of Cathy's infectious enthusiasm, plans are already in the works for next year's Earth Day. She will be joined by Rick Moore in organizing all the events (except for the trolleys which were not used enough this year). Bernadette Jenks will coordinate the Trash Bash and recycling effort, Cari Caudil will work on the Silent Auction, Sandy & Bill Workman will be in charge of the Earth Day Market (vendors and educators), with Kip Lawrence in charge of music. The date is already set for March 27, 1999, earlier than this year so more people can participate. Of course, more volunteers are needed to put it all together and make Pine Island Earth Day another success. Contact Cathy at 283-6027 or Rick Moore at 283-1206 if you can help. Thank you again to everyone who participated.

SAILBOAT SALES

John and Gretchen Coyle of Useppa Island were kind enough to give the Trust two 14-foot Sunfish sailboats. The two boats were sold for \$500, with proceeds going toward further land acquisition on and around Pine Island.

PLUNK-A-PLANK CAMPAIGN

We are excited to announce that the boardwalk on the St. Jude Nature Trail has been expanded by adding a 10-foot ramp in the front and 20 more feet in the middle to join the two original sections, making one continuous walkway. At the end of the preserve, on Calusa Point, a large bench has also been constructed. It is designated as the "Wyatt Hooks Memorial Bench" in recognition of Wyatt's many contributions to the Trust. It also provides more room to add names just in case anyone has been holding back. 393 planks have been sold for \$50 each, for an income to date of \$19,350. So besides renewing your membership for another year, plunk down a(nother) plank! It's a great gift for a loved one.

SOUVENIR SALES

We are seeking a member (or two) to take charge of selling T-shirts, prints, etc. at local events, and also to distribute Calusa Land Trust literature. Don and Mary Shontz handled this in great style for many years, but they are now preparing to move from the area. Since this is mainly a seasonal job, “snowbirds” are certainly welcome. For more information, or to volunteer to help out on fund-raising events, call fund-raising chairman Norm Gowan at 283-8203.

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 *	Betty Gutowski *	Fred Patterson *
Melvin Atkin *	Ash Hallett *	Donald R. Peterson
Vesta Bailey *	Joe Hanson *	Frank Polaski *
Marge Borton *	Wyatt Hooks *	Pete Polverari *
Ralph Brimacombe *	Minnie & A.B. Hoover *	Yolanda Mae Reppa *
Margaret L. Burman *	Earl Hord *	Gertie Rudd *
Jack Campbell	Allen Hougland *	Reese Sarda *
John M Campbell *	Jack Houis *	Dorothy Seeling
Terez “Terri” Carver *	E.S. (Red) Ingram *	Phil Shaw *
Arnold S. Celmalnieks *	Lezlee Jean Ingram *	William Sherwood
Ben Counselman *	Hinda & J.B. Johnson *	Dan Shockley *
George Darnell	Walter R. Kaune *	Agnes Jane Snyder
Jon Davison *	Jack Kirmer *	Raymond W. Stober *
Margaret Foster	Russell Little *	Frank Taugner, Sr. *
Nellwyn de Funiak	Edward J. & Amanda Lever	Kay Taugner *
Louis Del Signore *	Hector Magnuson *	Leonore M. Vondervor *
Woodie Dillon *	James W. Mahaffey *	William Webster *
Dr. Ambrose C. Estes *	Lewis W. McAllister *	Dorothy Welch
Phil Freeman *	Ethel McDonough *	Edith Williams *
Joyce Gasow *	M. Kathleen Mellon *	“Fishin” Bud Williams *
Jack Gates *	Donald Meng *	Bernard Willoughby *
Nancy Gilmore	John Moran	Margaret L. Wilson, M.D.
Loren “POP” Gowan *	Arthur & Ida Newberg	Walt Woodhead *
Anne Grace *	Edward Newton	Bruno & Theresa *
Robert “Bob” Greist *	Mildred V. O’Brien *	“Grandma Dot” *
Alfred Woodhull Guibord *	Earl Ott *	

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

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (283-8203)

Norm Gowan

Since January, 85 new families, individuals, and businesses have joined the Calusa Land Trust. Thank you all and welcome aboard! We now have 364 active members and 307 inactive members. We understand there are many worthy organizations out there asking for help. If you are one of the 307 inactive members and are no longer interested in belonging to the Trust, drop us a line and let us know. This will help minimize our mailing expenses and keep us from adding to the load in your mailbox. Just check for the asterisk by your name to see if a year or more has slipped by since your last donation. If so, we urge you to take a moment to renew or cancel your membership. Of course we sincerely hope you decide to stay with us. Our members' continuing support makes this organization possible.

Besides being a regular member, another way to keep Calusa Land Trust strong is to sponsor a new member. Sign up a friend or relative or give a membership as a gift, as many of our members have done. Fifty-one of us have sponsored 165 new members since the inception of this program, including 28 new members so far this year. Let's keep this tradition going. Here is our "Honor Roll" to date:

Alison Ackerman (5)	Mr & Mrs Greenbaum (1)	Robert F. Owens (2)
Gloria Andrews (1)	Paul & Andrae Gruber (1)	Barney & Betty Provoncha (1)
Jan & Kate Bailey (1)	Mike & Ida Herbert (1)	James & Virginia Richey (1)
Ralph Baker (1)	Nancy Holabird (1)	Betty Robey (1)
Cindy Bear (1)	Wayne & Shirley House (13)	Mary Shaw (1)
Phil Buchanan (3)	Harvey & Maxine Ingelse (3)	Don & Mary Shontz (13)
Cari Caudill (1)	Island Hardware (2)	Joe & Joyce Siegley (1)
Ed Chapin (7)	Chic & Clara Kennedy (9)	Bob & Jean Speckman (1)
Mark Clarke (1)	Don & Dottie Kernaghan (1)	Brant & Jane Stanford (1)
Susan Edwards et al (4)	Bob & Kay Kessler (1)	Frank & Catherine Valenti (8)
Joe & Jimmie Eisenberg (1)	Leroy & Lene Lippmann (1)	Sandra VanCleaf (1)
Al & Connie Eleinko (1)	Richard & Claudia Little (1)	Bruce Van Slyke (1)
Den & Diana Ewers (3)	Bob & Cindy Mann (1)	Pat Waite (1)
Phil & Nancy Freeman (3)	Rick & Silvia Moore (7)	Al & Margie Walker (1)
Margaret (Peg) Fritts (1)	Carol B. Newman (1)	Karen Walker (1)
Jack & Ann Gaddy (1)	Peter & Patricia Ordway (15)	Waterfront Restaurant (1)
Norm & Marie Gowan (33)	Larry & Kathleen Osgood (1)	Joseph & Josephine Williams (1)

CALUSA LAND TRUST MEMBERSHIPS AND DONATIONS:

_____ \$15 Individual Member	_____ \$100 Kreie Land Purchase
_____ \$25 Family Member	_____ \$100 York Island Purchase
_____ \$50 Donor or Organization	_____ \$_____ for _____
_____ \$100 Contributor	_____ \$50 Plunk—a—Plank (fill in lettering below)

Sponsor's Name (optional): _____

Your Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Second Address? _____

Second City, State, Zip? _____

Phone _____ Today's Date _____

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