

# Calusa Land Trust

and Nature Preserve of Pine Island, Inc.



**2010 Annual  
Membership Meeting  
Sunday January 31<sup>st</sup>  
Fritts Park in Bokeelia  
Meeting at 1:00pm  
Lunch to follow**

**12th Annual  
Rubber Duck Race  
Saturday March 6th 2010  
Woody's Waterside**



**Newsletter #66  
Founded 1976**

**January 2010  
[www.calusalandtrust.org](http://www.calusalandtrust.org)**

## 2010 Annual Meeting

by Joan Culver 995.1615

**M**ark your calendar. The Calusa Land Trust's Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010 at Fritts Park at 1:00 PM. The park is located five miles north of Pine Island Center. Turn left onto Beach Daisy Lane just south of the Pink Citrus Trailer Park. Bring a neighbor or friend. Hope to see you there.

In addition to committee reports we will hold elections for the Board of Directors. Standing for reelection to two year terms are Alison Ackerman, Brenda J. Anderson, Harold Bruner, Brian Cotterill, Bill Spikowski and Rubye Woodhead. Liz Donley has decided not to run for reelection. A special thanks to Liz for her years of service to the CLT.

Peter Simmons has been nominated to fill the position vacated by Liz. Peter is a resident of both New Hampshire and Pine Island. He has attended the last two board meetings and has shown a lot of interest in our activities. Peter has experience with Land Trusts in New England.

A lunch of fried chicken, baked beans and coleslaw will be served and donations will be accepted and appreciated. This is a great time to meet new members and say hi to those you know.

In case of rain look for signs at the Center and Fritts Park directing you to Fishers of Men Lutheran Church. The Church is located just south of the 4-way stop on the east side of Stringfellow Rd..

## Fund Raising

by Ron Wesorick 283.7249

### 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Rubber Duck Race

3000 new rubber ducks just flew in to start training for the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Rubber Duck Race which will be held at Woody's Waterside on Saturday March 6, 2010. Last year's race was a fantastic success with 2700 ducks in the race. This year we will have 3000 racing down the canal.



Although the big race is a couple months away, we need everyone's help now. Mark your calendar and start encouraging all your friends and neighbors to buy tickets and attend the race. In addition to ticket sales, our proceeds come from the live and silent auctions. To accomplish our goals, we need items to be donated for both the auction and duck race

prizes. If you are a craftsman or artist, consider donating some of your work. You can also donate your time or services such as providing boat rides or cooking a dinner. If you have contacts with businesses ask them to donate or contact the Race Committee and we will call on the business.

Once again, Pink Wesorick will lead the Duck Race Committee. You can call her at 283-7249 or 292-9789 or E-mail pink@calusalandtrust.org .

### Plunk-a-Plank

As we proceed with improving the Norm Gowan Trailhead Vista and St. Jude trail, there are now more opportunities to install planks along the trail. For a \$50 donation, we will carve your requested name on a plank which will be permanently installed along the trail. The application is included on the last page of this newsletter.

We are in the process of developing a complete database of memorial names and their location along the trail. When complete, you will be able to go to the Calusa Land Trust website and view the complete list. Hopefully everyone can make a trip out to the trail for an enjoyable walk and view their Plank.

## Great Calusa Blueway Paddling Festival 2009

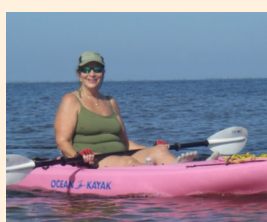
by Brenda Anderson 283.1878

Once again this year's Great Calusa Blueway Paddling Festival was a huge success.

On Saturday, October 24 we set up our booth at the Mound House on Fort Myers Beach. Brian Cotterill and Judy Ott took over at noon and Alison Ackerman arrived in the afternoon to help out as well. We distributed our brochures and copies of our latest newsletter as well as displaying trail maps and a preserve map. Thank you Brian, Judy, and Alison for all of your work.



Ron and Pink Wesorick



The next Saturday, October 31, Ed Chapin led a paddle trip to Calusa Island from Jug Creek Cottages. We had a whopping 23 paddlers. Ed gave his interesting and informative tour of the Island that everyone enjoys. Our thanks to Tropic Star for waiving their launch ramp fee for all of us at Jug Creek Cottages and thanks Ed, for another notable trip.

Also on that same Saturday morning Brian Cotterill helped set up the CLT booth at The Randall Research Center in Pineland. When I left to help Ed on his trip Liz Donley joined Brian and together they distributed our information and sold T-shirts and caps all day. Thanks Brian and Liz for ensuring the CLT was represented at this important event on the Island and for spreading the word.



The next day, Sunday, November 1, I led a tour of about a half-dozen paddlers, filling in for Liz Donley who showed up with a nasty-looking head injury

suffered that morning while loading boats. Thank goodness her husband, Dan, insisted on hauling her off for stitches. I took the group from Tropical Point, through Saint James Creek to the overlook of our Saint Jude Trail, where we stopped for a break and a nice walk on the trail. We had a surprisingly close-up encounter with a group of dolphins in the shallow water and spotted a bald eagle overhead on the way back. Thanks Liz & Dan for providing some boats for the trip and going beyond the call of duty to drop them off at the launch before getting medical treatment for Liz.

We took in a grand total of \$738 including \$588 in donations and \$150 in T-shirt sales for the events.



Thanks again for all of the help from our volunteers who made this event such a success.

Ranger Ed pointing out some interesting scenery.

## Membership

by Phil Rosenberg

283.3871

### Brochure Included

This month we have included in the newsletter a Calusa Land Trust brochure. Please pass the brochure along to a friend or neighbor. Ask your friend or neighbor to join with you in supporting the Calusa Land Trust and include an invitation to our Annual Meeting on Sunday January 31st.

### E-Mail Newsletter Available

If you prefer to receive the Newsletter by E-mail just send an E-mail to [clt@calusalandtrust.org](mailto:clt@calusalandtrust.org) and include the e-mail address you want us to use. Please also include your name and mailing address or your member number located on the address label of this newsletter.

We currently have 990 members receiving this newsletter and some have a PINK address label. The pink label means it has been more than a year since you have made a contribution to the Land Trust. Take a look at the inside back cover and there you will find a renewal form and there is a return envelope tucked in the newsletter also.

## Ranger's Report

by Ed Chapin - Beeper 392.0090



If you would like to be placed on the Ranger's E-mail distribution list for work party notifications and information, send an E-mail, with your contact information to Ed Chapin at [ecaluaed@calusalandtrust.org](mailto:ecaluaed@calusalandtrust.org)

Ed is enjoying his new smart phone and is actually reading and answering e-mails these days, so this is your big chance to get on the Ranger Distribution List or update your E-mail information.

Saturday October 10th - Pine Island Flatwoods - Lee county 20/20 Preserve - Seven volunteers showed up to work on invasive exotics control and worked on a seasonal wetland area, removing thousands of malaleucas by hand. Worked about 1 acre. This area is also being worked on by Lee County and they are conducting prescribed burns which helps to keep the



Preserve in balance. There have been sightings of coyotes here as well as in other areas of St. James City and Little Pine Island.

Saturday November 14th - Cayo Pelau - We planned on going to Cayo Pelau but because of bad weather and boat problems we turned the boats back and went to Calusa Island instead. Half the group worked on re-opening the Beach Trail that runs East from Shell Cut. Another group, led by Alison Ackerman and Bill Spikowski worked mid-island, keeping an upland tropical hammock area in good shape. The groups worked really hard and the results showed.

Tuesday November 17th - The Bokeelia Boat Club came out to Calusa Island in force, maybe 20 volunteers, working on trail maintenance and weeding. We appreciate their ongoing efforts to support Calusa Island.

Sat December 12th - Work Party at the Back Bay Preserve, St. James City. Ten volunteers showed up to work on trail maintenance along the costal ridge that borders San Carlos Bay along with beating back some of the dreaded Grey Knickerbean wanting to invade the ridge. We found a couple of bags of trash (not too bad) and removed some invasive exotic plant materials. And we enjoyed the shade of the large gumbo-limbos. Thanks to Ron Wesorick and his neighbors for allowing us access to the bay from Macadamia Street.

## Upcoming Work Parties

Saturday January 9th - Work Party at Fritts Park in Bokeelia. We'll be preparing the Park for our upcoming Annual Meeting scheduled for Sunday, January 31, 2010. Watch your e-mails for details.

Saturday January 16th - Ranger Council at Fritts Park. Come at 10:00am and share your thoughts on stewardship.

Saturday January 30th - Work Party at Fritts Park for final setup for the Annual Meeting - 10:00am.

Sunday January 31st - Annual Meeting. Come early (11:00 or 12:00am) and help set up for the 1:00pm festivities.

Friday February 5th - Rummage Sale Dropoff day from noon until 5:00pm. We will be accepting donations at Fritts Park for the Rummage Sale. Volunteers and donations are needed.

Saturday February 6th - The Rummage Sale Beginning at 8:00am - until around 1:00pm. All proceeds from this sale go directly into the CLT treasury. This is a fun way to help us preserve more of Pine Island.

Saturday February 13th - Fritts Park - 9:00am to Noon - Tent breakdown and straightening up after events. If enough volunteers show up we can have one group go to the Bud House Calusa Canal Preserve in Bokeelia for invasive exotic control and a general inspection.

Saturday March 13th - Work Party St. James Creek Preserve, St James City. 9:00am till Noon There will be trail work, invasive exotic control and restoration evaluation. There will also be a "potluck" picnic held after the Work Party so pack a picnic lunch and extra drinks.

## Peter Ordway Mangrove Adventures

Saturday October 31st - As part of the Calusa Blueway Festival, we led a large group of paddlers out to Calusa Island. Thanks to Brenda Anderson for organizing the paddle. We all had

a fabulous time and the event raised \$400.

Saturday December 5th - We were scheduled to paddle Fish Eating Creek but got rained out by 4-6 inches of rain. This trip was rescheduled for Sunday December 13th and on this day we had a small group of 5 Paddlers enjoy this adventure. The water level in the creek was low but there was just enough water for us to happily navigate (except for that alleged push-the-kayak over the log incident ) about three miles up the creek launching from the Palmdale Campground. We saw monster catfish, a lot of alligators, water birds and the magnificent cypress trees of Fish Eating Creek . Hopefully next year we will plan this trip earlier, have more paddlers (and more water) and enjoy ourselves even more.

## Upcoming

Sunday January 24th - A Paddle of Long Cut, Coconut and York Island Preserves. Noon to 3:00pm.

Sunday February 21st - Paddle scheduled for the Kreie Preserve and the Peter Ordway Tropical Hammock in Bokeelia. Noon to 3:00pm.

More trips will be scheduled in March and April. Details to be announced .

## Rummage Sale

Alison Ackerman 337.5586

The Calusa Land Trust's annual rummage sale is set for Saturday February 6th. As in the past the sale will be at Fritts Park and will begin at 8:00am. All proceeds from this sale help us preserve more land on Pine Island.

Bring items that can be sold to the Park on Friday. Volunteers will be at the Park from Noon until 5:00pm. And speaking of volunteers here is a chance for anyone to help out the CLT. You can help on Friday or Saturday.

To volunteer or for more information call Alison at 337.5586 or Ed at 392.0090.



## The Calusa Land Trust Mission Statement

The purpose of the Calusa Land Trust is to protect the natural diversity and beauty of the Pine Island region by acquiring, managing and preserving in perpetuity environmentally sensitive or historically important land and to foster appreciation for and understanding of the environment and our past. The Land Trust is a broad coalition of individuals, families, and businesses who agree that the acquisition and protection of natural land is important if we are to retain the quality of life which makes the Pine Island region so attractive to people and to wildlife. The Land Trust is supported entirely by people who donate their time, talent, and financial support to protect irreplaceable natural resources. The Land Trust does not engage in political activity or lobbying and takes no position on zoning or regulatory matters. The Calusa Land Trust represents people's willingness to put their money and time where their hearts are to make a difference.

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 15 Individual Member  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 25 Family Member  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 50 Donor  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 100 Contributor  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$500 Patron  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$1000 Benefactor  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 50 Plunk-a-Plank  
(fill in lettering) \_\_\_\_\_

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**CREDIT CARD #:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Visa or MasterCard only**

**EXPIRES:** \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Alt Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Second Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Second City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

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). OUR REGISTRATION NUMBER IS SC-03439. 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 239-334-8866 DURING WORKING HOURS. THE CALUSA LAND TRUST NEVER EMPLOYS PROFESSIONAL FUNDRAISERS; 100% OF YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS ARE RETAINED BY THE CALUSA LAND TRUST.

## Upcoming Work Parties – 2010

### Mark your Calendars – Plan to Attend

Saturday Jan 9	9 am - 12 noon	Fritts Park Setup for Annual Meeting
Saturday Jan 16	10 am -	Fritts Park Ranger Council – Share your thoughts
Saturday Jan 30	9 am - 12 noon	Fritts Park Final Setup for Annual Meeting
Sunday Jan 31	11am	Fritts Park Annual Meeting Setup
Saturday Feb 13	9 am – 12 noon	Fritts Park teardown tent and cleanup
Saturday Mar 13	9 am – 12 noon	St. James Preserve – exotics cleanup

For more information including where to meet  
contact Ranger Ed Chapin by calling his pager 392-0090 or  
check the Web Site [www.calusalandtrust.org](http://www.calusalandtrust.org)

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

***Annual Meeting***  
***Sunday January 31st***

Included in this Newsletter you will  
find a Calusa Land Trust brochure.  
Please pass it along to a friend or  
neighbor and ask them to join. There is  
more land on Pine Island to preserve.