Calusa Land Trust
and Nature Preserve of Pine Island, Inc.

Newsletter *www.calusalandtrust.org* **January 2001**

President's Message

by Richard M. Little

This first newsletter of 2001 highlights what you and your board of directors have accomplished over the past year. If you were able to attend this year's annual meeting on January 21, you will know that in terms of preserving environmentally sensitive land, this was one of our most successful years. Broadening our acquisition strategies has brought fruitful collaboration with the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation, Lee County's Conservation 2020 acquisition program, and Pine Island property owners. In addition, we have increased our community outreach through the popular Junior Ranger program. Now, in 2001, we pledge to you, our members, that we will do our best to continue to find ways to acquire and preserve environmentally sensitive Pine Island and its environs.

President Richard Little

On behalf of all the members of Calusa Land Trust, I would like to thank four of our directors who have decided to retire from the board. Peter Ordway has brought us into the 21st century by acquiring and refining the invaluable computer system that can create maps and track our properties. He also has managed our popular canoe trip program. If you have not seen his canoe trail brochure, be sure to pick one up at our next meeting; it's wonderful and a must for anyone venturing out with a canoe paddle in hand.

Cathy Valenti put together our Junior Ranger Program, obtaining a grant and creating an entire activity program so that our children can learn all about our environment. As she said at the

meeting, it is essential we reach out to the children so they too can appreciate our beautiful island and continue our preservation efforts.

We are also sorry to see Bill Workman retire but he had to step down for health reasons — we will miss his wisdom and calm demeanor and wish him our very best. Gloria Andrews has a thriving business up north which takes up a lot of her time and energy. Unfortunately for us, this commitment is forcing her to resign as well. She has helped us think through many a real estate deal, looking for each and every peculiarity. It is my hope that our four retiring directors will be able to continue helping out whenever they can; they will be sorely missed.

Our nominating committee proposed three members to fill the vacancies that existed at the time: Joan Culver of Matlacha, John (Jack) Worthington of Bokeelia, and Jim Alexander of St. James City. Frank Valenti was nominated from the floor, and all four were elected unanimously to serve two-year terms. Needless to say, we welcome them with open arms and cannot wait to begin the new year.

Jim Alexander was the lucky winner of our door prize, a beautifully carved bird, originally bought in Mexico by Frank and Helen Holfelner of St. James City. Frank was an enthusiastic member of the CLT who passed away this past September.

Lastly, on behalf of everyone, I would like to thank the KOA Campground at St. James City for the use of their clubhouse for this annual meeting; this same group a few years ago funded the chickee hut on our St. Jude Nature Trail, which has added such a special touch to the entire preserve.

Calusa Land Trust Annual Meeting

Land Acquisition Committee

by Phil Buchanan, 283-4067
coolcherokee@hotmail.com

During the year 2000, the Calusa Land Trust and our partners successfully completed the purchase and preservation of five new nature preserves on and around Pine Island. We have two more which will be completed within the next month or so, and we have five more in various stages of negotiation.

The Fundraising Committee under Norm Gowan raised the necessary $65,000 and we were able to close on the new Long Cut Preserve in September. The Long Cut Preserve is those mangroves islands, some 243 acres in all, which make up the entire western side of St James City. The purchase was made jointly with the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation, which also put up $65,000. We purchased that area from a developer who had every intention of building residences there.

In October, we closed on Merwin Key, which was one of the last remaining islands in Matlacha Pass still in private hands and subject to development. Merwin Key is the largest of the islands off the southeast corner of St James City—just north of Picnic Island and the intracoastal waterway.

We also purchased another Calusa Canal lot, which Bud House, who ran that effort, will describe below.

The Lee County Conservation 2020 Program, with CLT assistance, made two purchases of mangroves areas on Pine Island in the year 2000. They are the 158-acre Edison Community College property in northeast Bokeelia and the 80-acre Boring property just southwest of Jim Ryan's Mango Tango nursery.

Two more 2020 purchases will go to closing in a few weeks. The Thompkins Property, 60 acres of beautiful slash pine and palmetto uplands located on the west side of Stringfellow just north of Tropical Homesites, will become our first 2020 native uplands preserve. The County is paying a little over $600,000 for the property, and the CLT is spending $10,000 to bring the property up to preserve standards. It will be jointly managed by Lee County Parks and Recreation and the CLT.

In a few weeks, we will also see the closing for the 2020 purchase of the last of the gaps in the Cape Coral mangrove fringe — the buffer that protects Matlacha Pass from polluted storm water runoff via the Cape Coral canal system. As you may, recall, last year the CLT closed the next to the last gap in the system by purchasing the Underhill Creek property.

We completed a lot of very important deals in the year 2000 and hope and expect to do even better in the year 2001. We have three very, very large transactions underway for establishment of major uplands preserves on Pine Island — one in Bokeelia, one in St James City, and one in Pine Island Center. For two of them we have high hopes and reasonable expectations that they will be successful. Unfortunately, the proposed Pine Island Center Preserve across from the Winn-Dixie probably will not happen. The County Commissioners approved the purchase, and the County is willing to pay market value, but the negotiations with the seller have broken down.

The proposed Indian Lake Preserve, also called the Galt Preserve, north of Galt Island Avenue in St. James City, has been approved for purchase by the County Commissioners and is now in price negotiations. The prognosis is good. The proposed Willow Lake Preserve, just south of the Catholic Church, will (we hope) be approved by the County Commissioners in February. Again,

the prognosis is good. The two proposed preserves will be funded in the main by the 2020 Program, but the CLT will invest a total of $45,000.

We are very actively working on preserving the mangrove area west of the Nestling Subdivision, as well as the uplands area on Stringfellow just south of Pine Island Village. We are also in the early stages of negotiations for several other mangrove areas.

We completed our first conservation easement this year. Edd and Deana Dean signed an easement preserving the eastern tip of Bocilla Island. Their foresight ensures that the scenic view from much of downtown Bokeelia will never be changed. We hope others follow their leadership, and indeed, we already have two more conservation easements in preparation.

It has been a great year!

Calusa Canal, Phase II

by Bud House

The Calusa Canal acquisitions are a continuing project. In 1997, the CLT Board of Directors voted to acquire at least one (and up to six) parcels that contain evidence of the old Indian Canal, which stretched from the Pineland archaeological site, across Pine Island, and ended at Indian Field Island in Matlacha Pass. The first parcel, 6450 Meadow Lane, was acquired in July 1999; the second parcel, 6330 Meadow Lane, was acquired in July 2000. These acquisitions were made possible by the donations from many dedicated CLT members and friends.

Bud House Shows Route of Calusa Canal

Continuing efforts have failed to disclose willing sellers of additional parcels, but our efforts are continuing. We arranged a small archaeological dig in January 2001, with the hopes of being able to time-date the excavating of the canal; as soon as we get the results of the dig tests, we will publish them in future newsletters, so stay tuned. Besides keeping the non-native plants out of the canal area this year, we also put up a Calusa Land Trust sign plus small signs identifying plants and animal sites, which should be of interest to future visitors. If you would like to see the sites, please give me a call at 283-3493 and I would be happy to show you around.

FUND RAISING EVENTS by Norm Gowan (283-8203)

PROJECT "X" — As you probably remember, it has been our custom for the last few years to designate contributions of $100 or more (not otherwise designated) to Project "X", defined as whatever our next land acquisition will be. It gives us a real "leg up" on a project without starting from scratch on a new fundraising campaign. Please continue with your generous donations while we search for our next parcel to preserve.

PROJECT "X" ROAST BEEF DINNER — MARCH 3RD — Speaking of which, we have depleted our land acquisition treasury once again with the Long Cut Preserve and Merwin Key purchases, so we are again seeking money for Project "X." To this end, the Land Trust is hosting an afternoon outing and dinner on March 3, 2001 from 1 – 6 PM for members and their guests at the Double Nichol Pub in St. James City.

A complete baron of beef will be provided along with all the trimmings, beer, wine, and soft drinks. Free boat tours will be provided into our St. James Creek Preserve; those wishing to take the tour will be chauffeured to a nearby dock for boarding and ride up the creek to the memorial deck at the end of the St. Jude Nature Trail boardwalk. Boat tours will start at 1:00 PM with the last boat leaving at 3:00 PM. Dinner will be served at about 4:00 PM. To top off this special day, there will a door prize drawing for a hand-carved fish donated by island artisan Jan Bailey.

A donation of $25 per person, or more, entitles the buyer to dinner, drinks, boat tour, and the door prize drawing. Donations will be acknowledged with a thank you letter for tax deduction purposes. Last year's dinner was a huge success and everyone really enjoyed the boat tours through Long Cut Preserve. Please RSVP to Al & Connie Eleinko at 283-9323 or Norm & Marie Gowan at 283-8203 to help us in our planning. Or just send in your donation in advance with the form at the end of this newsletter.

PLUNK-A-PLANK — The boardwalk on the St. Jude Nature Trail now has 527 names carved in the planks. For $50, you can have your name carved in wood, or perhaps have a loved one memorialized. We now have three "Memorial Benches" on the trail with a fourth about to be erected. It is a beautiful time of the year to visit this trail!

GREAT PINE ISLAND RUBBER DUCK RACE — MARCH 24TH — There is a new duck in town! 300 new ducks have joined last year's flock of 1000 to make this and even bigger extravaganza. The new ducks are easily recognizable: because of our wonderful Florida climate, they are all wearing sunglasses!

This is an all-day event at the Double Nichol Pub in beautiful downtown St. James City, with a car show in the morning, a hog roast in the afternoon, and many great prizes to give away both in drawings and to race winners. The actual race will take place in late afternoon depending on tidal conditions over which race management has little or no control. Duck tickets may be purchased for $5 each, as many as you like. They have been sold out early on the last two years, so get them as soon as you can. They will be on sale continuously at the Pub.

What could you win? How about three days/two nights at South Seas Plantation, a color TV, CD stereo boom box, one of several baskets full of gift certificates, a beautiful painting by a local prize winning artist, or a flower garden in a wheel barrow (complete with a shovel for planting)? Winners need not be present at the race's finish for these prizes, but for those participants present, many more awards will be given whose ducks just happen to be a little too slow for the main prizes. See you there!

Membership Report

by Norm Gowan (283-8203)

LAND TRUST MEMBERSHIP PASSES 800 — As some members leave us, others join. 545 (67%) have made donations in the past year. If an asterisk (*****) appears after your name on this letter's mailing label, you are among the 33% we have not heard from recently. Remember, it is you, the members, who keep us going since our fund-raising projects are only a fraction of our annual income.

Memorials

Few tributes are so lasting as a memorial gift that helps preserve our island's heritage for future generations. We are privileged to carry on our work in the memory of individuals so honored. Memorials may consist of cash donations in the name of a departed loved one, a memorial carving on the St. Jude Trail in a plank, handrail or bench or even a memorial planting of a tree in one of our preserves.

Martin Adamaszek *
Johan C. F. Andersen *
Josephine Anderson *
Melvin Atkin *
Vesta Bailey *
Larry Behrens *
James G. Beriault
Lyall Beving *
Frank Bopp
Marge Borton *
Betty B. Bouwes *
Ralph Brimacombe *
Don Burr *
Margaret L. Burman *
Jack Campbell
John M Campbell *
Terez "Terri" Carver *
Arnold S. Celmalnieks *
Tony Cerny *
Jack Clyburn
Ben Counselman *
George Darnell
Doyle Davison *
Jon Davison *
C. Frank Estelle
Nellwyn de Funiak
Louis Del Signore *
Woodie Dillon *
George M. Elliott *
Dr. Ambrose C. Estes *
Margaret Foster
Phil Freeman *
Joyce Gasow *
Jack Gates *
Nancy Gilmore
Loren "POP" Gowan *
Anne Grace *
Robert "Bob" Greist *
Alfred Woodhull Guibord *
Kate Guthrie *
Betty Gutowski *
Robert Hallen *
Ash Hallett *
Joe Hanson *
Steven Patrick Hart *
Raymond W. Heidorn *
Charles J. Heimann II *
Wyatt Hooks *
Minnie & A.B. Hoover *
Earl Hord *
Allen Hougland *
Jack Houis *
Ken Houpt
E.S. (Red) Ingram *
Lezlee Jean Ingram *
Hinda & J.B. Johnson *
Walt Karkut *
Walter R. Kaune *
Jack Kirmer *
Edward J. & Amanda Lever
Russell Little *
Hector Magnuson *
James W. Mahaffey *
Lewis W. McAllister *
Marie Maraviglia *
Ethel McDonough *
M. Kathleen Mellon *
Donald Meng *
Helene Mierendorf
John Moran
Thelma Mufich *
Robert Musgrave
Arthur & Ida Newberg
Edward Newton
Mildred V. O'Brien *
Earl Ott *
Fred Patterson *
Donald R. Peterson
Mabel Phillipson *
Frank Polaski *
Pete Polverari *
Yolanda Mae Reppa *
Gertie Rudd *
Doc Salisbury
Reese Sarda *
Chevy Schutz *
Dorothy Seeling
Phil Shaw *
Murray & Edith Seyler *
William Sherwood
Dan Shockley *
Agnes Jane Snyder
Raymond W. Stober *
Francis Sullivan
Don Szuminski *
Frank Taugner, Sr. *
Kay Taugner *
Jim Thomas *
Robert Tutza *
Dan Tynan *
Leonore M. Vondervor *
Patricia Ann "Pat" Waite *
William Webster *
Wayne Weeks *
Dorothy Welch
Bert & Mildred Wildman *
Edith Williams *
"Fishin" Bud Williams *
Bernard Willoughby *
Margaret L. Wilson, M.D.
Walt Woodhead *
Bruno & Theresa *
"Grandma Dot" *

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

Rummage Sale, November 2000 By Bud House

The Calusa Land Trust held a rummage sale at Fritts Park on November 25, with receipts of $1030.70. While the weather was a little damp, a good time was had by all. CLT volunteers, serving the various duties at the sale, include: Al Elinko, Art Bartlewski, Annette Everling, Barbara Dubin, Bill Mantis, Bud House, Cathy House, Chris Trost, Clarence Bredhold, Dianna Willman, Ed Chapin, Fran Lever, Gordon Willman, Jim Brewer, Joan Culver, Ken Keller, Luella Bredhold, Lynn Tracy, Maxine Ingelse, Naomi Brewery, Norm Gowan, Peter Ordway, Phil Buchanan, Ray Everling, Ray Lever, Shirley House, Wanda Nesler. We may have missed some, but none intentionally. Thanks to everyone who helped! We will be doing this again next winter, so start putting away those unwanted treasures.

Land Stewardship Report by Ed Chapin

Our volunteer rangers have been working steadily to keep our preserves in good order. Since our last newsletter we have had several work days at Fritts Park, trimming and improving the park for the Music of Pine Island series, which moves to this venue in March. Thank you to John Cauthen for his generous donation of 32 cubic yards of mulch for the picnic table area, and also to Bud House and Harvey Inglese for building a roof over our Calusa Land Trust sign. Soon, Fritts Park will be further enhanced with water and electric hookups.

On January 6 and February 3 we worked at our Kreie Island Preserve, removing melaleuca trees. We had super turnouts with 15 hardworking volunteers. This was our third and fourth work days at this preserve since we bought it a few years ago. Our goal for this year has been to get rid of *all* the melaleucas once and for all.

The Ranger Council will be meeting on Tuesday, February 13 at 7 PM at the Blue Crab Key Recreation Center to discuss our plans for the upcoming year. These will include scheduling six months of work days plus looking at any special problems for each preserve that may need our attention. We are *always* in need of more volunteers. Please consider joining us at this important meeting and on any future work day. Feel free to beep me at 277-6807; punch in your phone number and I will call you back.

February 13	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
March 3	9:00 AM	Baxley Preserve

Getting to Know Your CLT Directors by Richard Little

This newsletter will introduce five more of the directors who serve our members:

- Phil Buchanan is Vice President, chair of the Land Acquisition committee, editor and primary author of the CLT book *Nature Lovers Guide to Pine Island* and *The Calusa Land Trust Environmental Overview of Pine Island* and an indefatigable advocate for our environment. He is the CLT liaison to the Lee County Conservation Land Acquisition and Stewardship Program (otherwise known as the Conservation 2020 program) and to the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation. He and ex-Director Peter Ordway have worked

hard and long, targeting and facilitating the purchase of many of the magnificent CLT Preserves around Pine Island. Phil was a lawyer in U.S. government for many years and gladly contributes his many skills and energy to the CLT cause. Thanks, Phil!

€ Wayne (Bud) House is chair of the Archaeology committee. Bud is a fervent advocate of preserving the historical past of the indigenous people, the Calusa, who originally thrived in Southwest Florida. Bud is the CLT liaison to the Randall Research Center and has led the way in our Bokeelia purchases that help preserve the ancient Calusa canal sites across Pine Island. Bud and his spouse Shirley run the annual CLT rummage sale. They are active volunteers in the Southwest Florida Archeological Society, Habitat for Humanity, Greater Pine Island Civic Association, and more. They never tire! Bud worked for many years in management positions of the telecommunication industry. We love ya, Bud!

€ Rubye Woodhead is our forgiving Secretary who magically captures the long and sometimes weaving and boisterous pathways of our Board meeting dialogs and decisions and transforms them into a concise, orderly, and accurate record. Rubye is also our CLT historian collecting the record of the CLT's accomplishments in photographs and press articles. Rubye has a science and physics background, working for many years in an industrial "think tank" as research analyst and as Assistant Program Director. Thanks Rubye, for being so patient and keeping an accurate record of what we do.

€ Peter Ordway retired this year as Director, but I'm including him here to let members know how he has helped the Trust in the past six years as member and Director. Through a $12,000 value grant, in 1996 he obtained for us a computerized Geographic Information System (GIS). Peter initiated the computerized mapping system that we have used to target environmentally sensitive lands for purchase. He mapped our current Preserves, creating systems of land and water trails used today by visitors. Peter and Phil Buchanan collaborated to develop an environmental resources overlay map of Pine Island that is used by Lee County as well as the CLT in conservation decision-making. Last year Peter and Ken Keller took on the task of creating our CLT internet web site. This year, it was finished with the professional help of members Joan and Phil Rosenberg (check it out at *www.calusalandtrust.org*). Peter and Ed Chapin originated and lead the Canoe/Kayak tours of our preserves, guiding half-day paddles through the trailways of our magnificent mangrove forested preserves. Peter is a native Floridian, born in Naples. He is a retired educator, spending the hot half of the year with his talented wife Pat in their New Hampshire home. Thanks for your continued invaluable help, Peter!

€ George (Chic) Kennedy is our construction foreman when we have projects like the beautiful St. Jude Trail Boardwalk to build. Chic came to us with a diverse background: Merchant Marine officer in WW2, owner of a heavy equipment business up north for many years, and prior to retirement in '85 he was the operator of a fishing/shelling guide business in southwest Florida. A man of many skills. Thanks, Chic!

T-Shirt Committee

by Pat Williams

This year the CLT has two T-shirt designs. The first has the Calusa Canal on the front and a map showing where the canal used to reach on the back. The second has Pine Island wildlife on the front and a map of all the CLT preserves on the back. In addition we have khaki and gray caps with the CLT logo. We are also selling pamphlets that show canoe / kayaking routes throughout our preserves, and, of course, we are selling our *Nature Lovers Guide to Pine Island*!

T-Shirts	–	$15.00
Caps	–	$10.00
Pamphlets	–	$3.00
Nature Guide	–	$20.00

These make wonderful gifts. All proceeds go toward CLT activities including the purchase and care of additional preserves. You may get any of these at most CLT events, or call Pat Williams at 283-8589.

Website Update

by Peter Ordway

With the generous help of Phil and Joan Rosenberg and Ken Keller, I am excited to report that our web site *(www.calusalandtrust.org*) has been refined and very much improved. All the new maps are now there, along with an index and a list of the upcoming events. Take a moment to visit the site and send me any suggestions or observations you may have. My address is pordway1@coconet.com.

Also, we are putting together an e-mail bank of Calusa Land Trust members, just in case we have some important news or perhaps a scheduling change for an event. It would be great to be able to e-mail most of our members when we do not have time for a newsletter. We have made this easy through our website — all you have to do is click on the spot that asks if you want to send us an e-mail, then type us your address.

Treasurer's Report

by Bill Spikowski

We are reprinting here the treasurer's report for last fiscal year, which ended on September 30, 2000. Anyone can contact me at 334-8866 to review copies of all financial records of the Calusa Land Trust.

CALUSA LAND TRUST TREASURER'S REPORT
SUMMARY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2000

(October 1, 1999 through September 30, 2000)

FUNDS ON HAND AS OF 10/1/99:	
Unrestricted Accounts:	$54,325.66
Emergency Fund:	$10,200.00
Land Management Fund:	$35,038.98
GPIWA Mitigation Fund:	$29,346.09
Boardwalk Maintenance Fund:	$4,072.27
Long Cut Fund:	$25,434.00
Calusa Canal Fund:	$736.30
TOTAL:	**$159,153.30**
INCOME SINCE 10/1/99:	
Junior Ranger Grant:	$1,088.44
Memberships and Donations:	$117,702.92
Art Sale Proceeds:	$30.00
Rubber Duck Race:	$4,974.33
Poker Run:	$3,975.29
Roast Beef Dinner:	$3,845.00
Rummage Sale Income:	$1,011.03
St. Patrick's Party Proceeds:	$1,500.00
Painting Raffle:	$158.00
Sale of Donated Boat:	$1,500.00
Interest and Dividends from Investments:	$9,870.78
Unrealized Gains (Losses) on securities:	$1,008.07
Gains (Losses) on securities:	$-326.66
Nature Guide Sales:	$3,778.03
T-Shirt Sales:	$4,207.00
TOTAL:	**$154,322.23**
LAND MANAGEMENT & OTHER EXPENSES SINCE 10/1/99:	
Junior Ranger Expenses:	$1,094.36
Dues in Other Groups:	$375.00
Boardwalk Expenses:	$753.57
Duck Race Expenses:	$2,487.00
MangoMania Expenses:	$120.80
Taste of Pine Island Expenses:	$75.00
Fundraising Equipment Expenses:	$158.87
Land Stewardship Expenses:	$6,613.53
Nature Guide Expenses:	$1,387.98
T-Shirt Purchases:	$4,658.30
Administrative Expenses:	$7,335.36
Transportation Expenses:	$266.96
TOTAL:	**$25,326.73**
LAND ACQUISITION COSTS SINCE 10/1/99:	
Calusa Canal Purchase (Doerfler Parcel):	$15,352.99
Long Cut Purchase:	$62,420.39
TOTAL:	**$77,773.38**
FUNDS ON HAND AS OF 9/30/00:	
General Fund:	$20,497.80
Emergency Fund:	$25,000.00
Land Management Fund:	$38,035.59
GPIWA Mitigation Fund:	$26,996.44
Boardwalk Maintenance Fund:	$4,784.70
Conservation 2020 Match Fund:	$90,000.00
Project X Fund:	$4,614.00
Calusa Canal Fund:	$446.89
TOTAL:	**$210,375.42**

CALUSA LAND TRUST MEMBERSHIPS AND DONATIONS:

_____	$ 15	Individual Member	_____	$___	Next Calusa Canal purchase
_____	$ 25	Family Member	_____	$ 23 @	*Nature Lover's Guide to P.I.*
_____	$ 50	Donor or Organization	_____	$ 25 @	for roast beef dinner, ___ people
_____	$100	Contributor	_____	$ 50	Plunk–a–Plank *(fill in lettering below)*
_____	$250	Angel			_____

Sponsor's Name *(optional)*:_____

Your Name_____

Address_____

City, State, Zip _____ Today's Date _____

*Second Address?*_____

Second City, State, Zip? _____

Phone _____ E-mail address _____

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