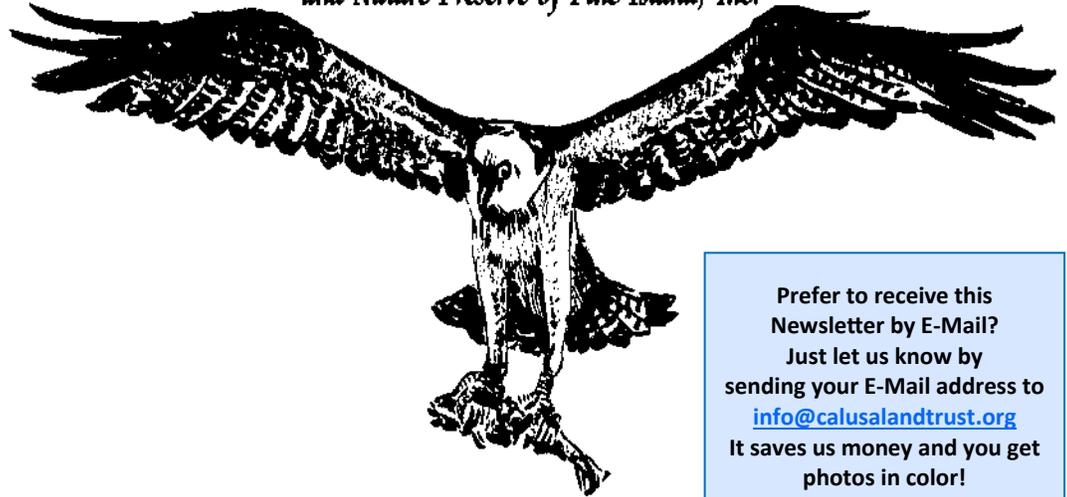


Calusa Land Trust

and Nature Preserve of Pine Island, Inc.



Prefer to receive this Newsletter by E-Mail?
Just let us know by sending your E-Mail address to info@calusalandtrust.org
It saves us money and you get photos in color!

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2023 – 2024



Work/Fun Parties

Saturday November 11th
Taylor Willow Preserve
6231 Alcorn St., Bokeelia

Saturday December 9th
Ed Chapin Preserve
5489 Royal Okley Ln.
Bokeelia

Duck Race

Date to be determined

Peter Ordway Memorial Paddles

To be determined

Annual Meeting

Sunday Jan 21st 2024

For more Information

Check your email or

Our website

Calusa land trust.org

Our [Facebook page](#)

or

the [Pine Island Eagle](#)

Newsletter #123

Founded 1976

November 2023

www.calusalandtrust.org

The Presidents Corner

Welcome back from the hot summer of 2023 and being thankful that it was not a year ago post Hurricane Ian. I hope everyone enjoyed your summer wherever that may have been. Even though we were technically adjourned for the summer, some of our members were still active in local events like Mango Mania. The Acquisition and Planning Team was busy evaluating some properties for potential addition to the CLT, our Chief Land Steward was busy seeking out contractors for the repair of the St Jude Trail Board Walk and dock, while the Board officers continued to engage with different agencies and answer inquiries into the CLT.

Now that October is here, we held our first full Acquisitions and Planning meeting to review the land parcels looked at over the summer and have prepared recommendations to the Board. On Saturday, October 14th, we had our first Work/Fun Party of the season at the Wigert Barron Preserve in Bokeelia. While a lot of our “regular” volunteers have not returned for the season yet, we had some new volunteers join the usual stalwart cadre to make up a group of about 20 to get us off and running. The Wigert Barron Preserve is now in good shape to start the season. So come out and take a leisurely walk through the preserve, sit a while on one of the benches by Rubye’s Pond while watching the many water birds and maybe catching a glimpse of the gator or otter.

On October 17th we held our first Board of Directors meeting of the season where we discussed the business at hand, opportunities presented and plans for the coming year. It is your CLT, I encourage you to get engaged as we try to protect more of the character of Pine Island!

Robert Ballard, President
Calusa Land Trust



October Work Party Kick off

Our Calusa Land Trust had the first Work/Fun Party of the season at our Wigert Barron Preserve in Bokeelia. This preserve is a 31.1 acre parcel consisting of 9.4 acres of land purchased from the Barron family in 2014 and later combined with 21.7 acres donated to the CLT by Jon and Annette Wigert in 2015. It consists of 3 types of habitat: Pine Flatwoods, Coastal Scrub, and Mangrove Forest. The preserve consists of a colony of gopher tortoises as well as many native and migrating birds and butterflies.

There are also many native plants and flowers, a resident alligator, turtles and otters and unfortunately some hogs occasionally root up food.

On this day we had a total of 22 workers consisting of CLT directors, members and other volunteers. Our work focused on working on Preserve Trails which weave through the different habitats from sand scrub to mangroves, with benches for sitting and enjoying the views and wildlife. Preserve Trails were improved focusing on the removal of invasive trees, bushes and vines using string trimmers, loppers, reciprocating saws, and chain saws.

Later we enjoyed pizza and cold drinks after our work to culminate a fun morning.



Carol Mullin & co-worker



Alice Trant, Joanna Anderson & Cheryl King



Joe Perry (Carmen's Kayaks)



Lisa Perry (Carmen's Kayaks)



Robert Ballard

Duck Race 2024 - Alice Trant

There **WILL** be a duck race next spring. The details have yet to be worked out, but we are searching for answers to the usual challenges that hosting an event like this entails. You can watch for our volunteer ticket sellers at local watering holes and more info in the Pine Island Eagle, or CLT social media.

Have no doubt, the ducks are getting ready to do their part!



2023 Fourth of July Parade

Photos by Cheryl King and Brian Cotterill

Some wondered after the devastation from Hurricane Ian when, if ever, a sense "normalcy" would ever return. The 2023 Annual Fourth of July Parade helped with that return to normal and the Land Trust was well represented at the event.

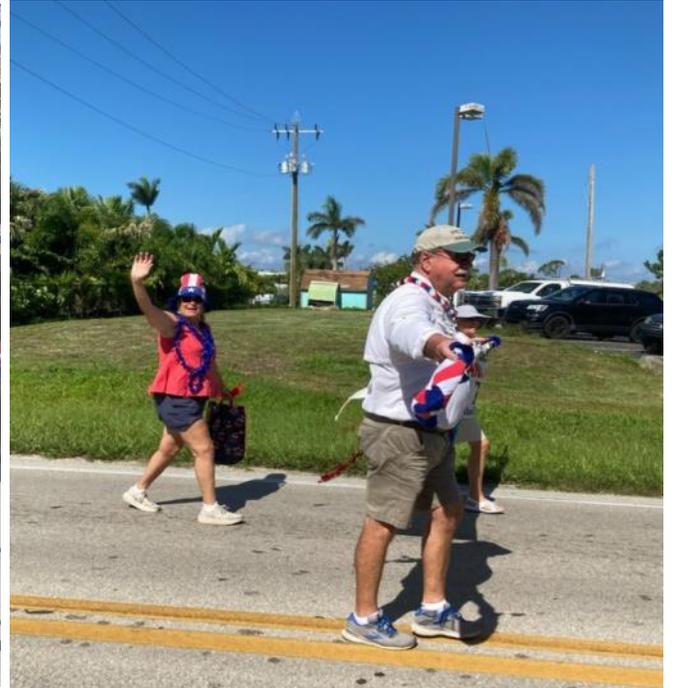
Marching the usual route from Winn-Dixie north to Pine Island road, the wind tossed Calusa Land Trust banner was carried by Frank Potter and Joan Rosenberg. Judy Ott followed passing out packets of native wild flower seeds. She was accompanied by fellow pedestrians Carol Mullin and Cheryl King, tossing candy to the kids. While the route seems only a short drive, walking in the intense July heat is not for the faint of heart!



Cheryl King, Frank Potter, Joan Rosenberg



Frank Potter, Judy Ott, Carol Mullin, Joan Rosenberg



Judy Ott, Frank Potter, Joan Rosenberg

St Jude Trail Update

Les Smith

In August, Land Steward, Les Smith and Cheryl King met with Jimmy Williamson to assess the damages and cost of repair for the boardwalks, fishing pier, and retrieving various sections which are scattered over in the mangroves to the north.

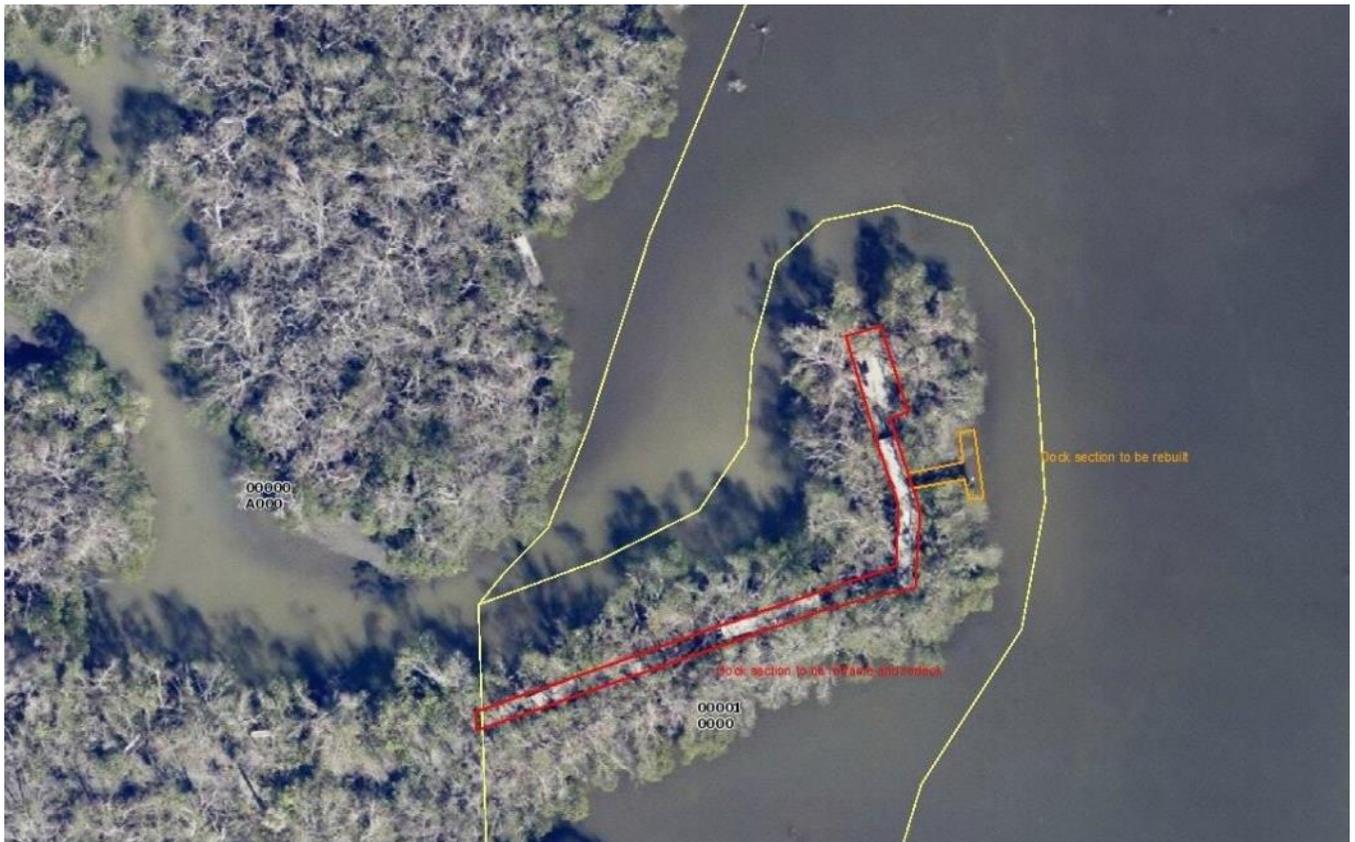
This is going to be a very costly endeavor. but Jimmy was so reasonable as to suggest they would reuse as much of the pilings and wood as possible!

We are on the road to recovering St. Jude Trail....

Pine Island Strong!



The start of the former boardwalk, post Hurricane Ian.



Drone picture of St Jude Boardwalk, by Williamson Brothers

The Calusa Clothesline - Nancy Weir

Hello from the Calusa Clothesline! The goods have been in storage since Mango Mania but we are getting ready to start setting up for the season. We will be at the Island Market at Fisher's of Men, Lutheran Church November 25 where we'll be bringing out the polar fleece zip-up jackets, the white long and short sleeve fishing shirts and the white gauze "Fuzzy Mango" tops and bottoms, as well as the T-shirts, hats, books and notecards. The weather should be lovely, see you there!!



Nancy Weir on duty



Calusa Clothesline

Another way to contribute to the Land Trust

As a reminder, qualified charitable distributions or QCDs, offer eligible older Americans a great way to easily give to charity such as CLT (a 501(c)3 charity) before the end of the year. Moreover, for those who are at least 72, QCDs count toward the IRA owner's required minimum distribution (RMD) for the year. Please contact your financial advisor for more details.

The Pine Island Experience interviews CLT President Robert Ballard

You can listen to a podcast featuring President Robert Ballard talking about his family history in the area and learn about the Calusa Land Trust by clicking on the link [Calusa Land Trust podcast](#). What's a podcast? It's akin to listening to a recorded radio show, streaming on your phone, tablet or computer. Thank you Tryg, Joanna and Giada Anderson for producing the Pine Island Experience, a weekly series of interviews with local Pine Islanders!



Treasures of the Trails for October 2023: Earth Stars for Volunteer Stars at Wigert Barron Preserve

Text by Judy Ott & Photo by Brian Cotterill



Earthstars at Wigert Barron Preserve, October 2023

Mother Nature rewarded the hardworking volunteers recently at our Wigert Barron Preserve with a subtle, low profile (literally & figuratively) display of Earth Stars.

Nestled snugly in the sand under pine straw, these small, tan earth stars are “blooming” after our recent rain showers. Nope – they’re not flowers. Earth stars are actually fungus related to puffball mushrooms. They are found throughout Florida, and worldwide in temperate and tropical regions.

Earth stars are in a family all their own, scientifically speaking. There are 64 species of true earth stars and 9 species of false earth stars. What’s the difference between true and false earth stars? Only your mycologist knows for sure...

During the dry season, earth stars look like small (1/3 – 1/2 inch) brown puff balls sitting on the soil. When it rains, the outer covering of the earth star spits into (4 – 12) rays that spread open, forming the star. Inside the star is a round globe of spores - which are released in a puff of “smoke”. In some species, the rays bend backwards enough to push the globe up into the path of passing insects and animals, who help carry the spores to new homes. When the rain stops, the rays close protectively back around the spore globe.

Like other fungi, earth stars play a vital role in converting decaying vegetation into forms of food and nutrients more easily used by other organisms. Different earth star species are associated with different types of plant groupings. Our Wigert Barron earth stars are found in the preserve’s seasonally wet pine and oak habitat. These sandy soils are low in nutrients and the earth stars help provide natural fertilizer for healthy trees\

Nowadays, we don’t eat earth stars because they are tough and bitter, but they aren’t poisonous. In the past, some species were used medicinally by indigenous cultures. According to legend, the Blackfoot called them ka-ka-toos, meaning “fallen stars” and they were an indication of supernatural events. So, during your next visit to one of our CLT preserves, keep an eye on the ground for these pretty “fallen stars”.

Annual Membership Form (Renewal due Jan !st)

_____ \$ 25 Basic Member
_____ \$ 50 Donor
_____ \$100 Contributor

_____ \$500 Patron
_____ \$1000 Benefactor
\$ _____ Other Amount

Mail to:
Calusa Land Trust
PO Box 216
Bokeelia, FL 33922

CREDIT CARD #: _____ **EXPIRES:** _____ / _____ **Sec. Code** _____

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Name: _____
E-Mail: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
State, Zip code : _____

<input type="checkbox"/> US Mail <input type="checkbox"/> E-Mail How do you want your newsletter delivered?

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Full financial details, including federal tax returns, can be obtained by contacting the Land Trust's Treasurer at (239) 283-3871 during working hours. Federal Employer Identification Number: **59-1782265**. The Calusa Land Trust is an exempt Organization under section **501(c)(3)** of the IRS code. Florida Dept of Agriculture & Consumer Services registration number **CH3439**. No portion of donations received by the Trust is paid to any professional solicitor. 100% of all donations are received by the Trust.
November 2023



Board of Directors

Robert Ballard
President

John Kendall
Director

Bill Hummer
Director

Frank Potter
Vice President

Joan Rosenberg
Treasurer

Carolyn Murphey
Director

Cheryl King
Director

Carol Mullin
Director

Judy Ott
Director

Marty Kendall
Secretary

Nancy Weir
Director

Les Smith
Land Steward

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



The Calusa Land Trust Mission Statement

“The purpose for which the corporation is organized is to own and hold real and personal property for the use and benefit of the general public; to perform all other matters and acts authorized pursuant to the laws of the State of Florida for corporations not for profit; to acquire, hold, and manage environmentally sensitive lands, archaeological and historic sites, and other natural lands; to encourage education and research in the fields of conservation and preservation; to establish nature preserves or other protected areas to be used for scientific, educational, aesthetic, or passive recreational purposes; to cooperate with other entities having similar or related objectives; and to engage in any other activity relating to the furtherance of the foregoing objectives”*.

The Calusa Land Trust represents people's willingness to put their money and time where their hearts are to make a difference.

*Calusa Land Trust Articles of Incorporation, Article II