

## 2017-18 IMPORTANT DATES

November 11  
Saturday  
Dobbs Work Party

November 18  
Saturday  
Charlotte Harbor  
Nature Festival  
10-3pm

November 25,  
Saturday  
Fisheating Creek- Only  
Off Island Paddle

December 9, Saturday  
The Chapin Preserve  
Work Party

December 17  
Sunday  
St. James Creek  
Preserve Paddle

January 13, 2018  
Saturday  
Fritts Park Work Party

January 21, 2018  
Sunday  
Annual Meeting

January 27, 2018  
Saturday  
Rummage Sale

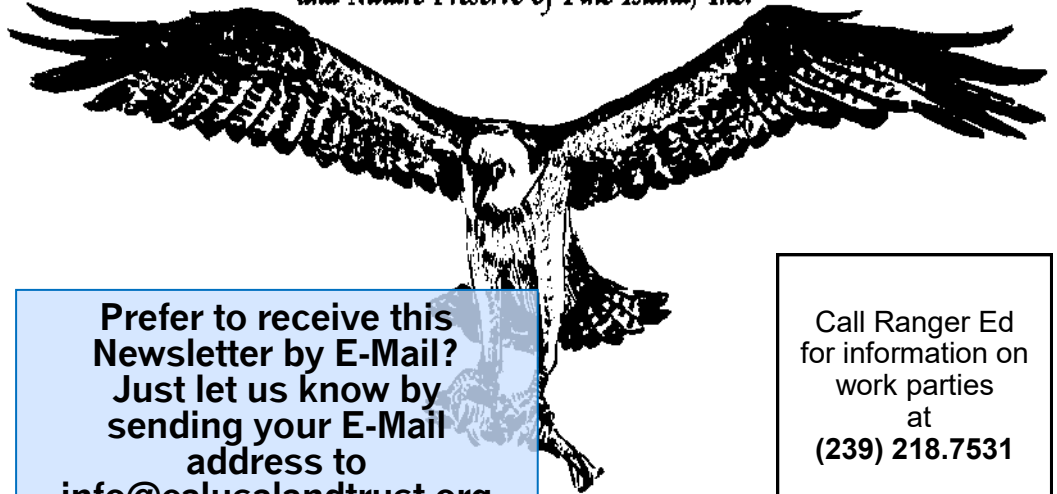
2nd Saturday  
Of each Month Means  
A Work Party at a  
CLT property

Mark your  
calendar the 2018  
Great Calusa  
Duck Race is set  
for Saturday  
March 3rd



# 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](mailto:info@calusalandtrust.org)

Call Ranger Ed  
for information on  
work parties  
at  
(239) 218.7531

Newsletter #102  
Founded 1976

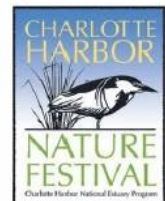
November 2017  
[www.calusalandtrust.org](http://www.calusalandtrust.org)

## CHARLOTTE HARBOR *nature festival*



Saturday November 18th  
10:00am to 3:00pm

Charlotte County  
Sports Complex  
2300 El Jobean Rd.  
SR 776 in  
Port Charlotte,  
2.5 miles  
west of US 41



Admission and  
parking are **FREE**.

Enjoy the day exploring and learning about the natural environment of southwest Florida. The festival will once again be filled with activities and exhibits for people of all ages to enjoy, including numerous nature exhibits, local artists and the Refreshments and lunch will be available for purchase.

The festival is organized and supported by a dedicated group of volunteers representing a diverse number of organizations, associations, businesses and agencies. It has remained free to the public due to the generous support of sponsors and proceeds from a raffle held at the festival.



Go to [www.CHNEP.org](http://www.CHNEP.org) for more details, including field trips to other locations.



Thanks to sponsors, admission is free.

## **“Flirting with Irma and Other Updates” John Kendall, President**

Whew! Pine Islanders (and its fauna) luckily dodged the worst of Irma's wrath. There were no personal injuries and structures were left largely unscathed. However, the high winds caused significant tree damage and also the secondary effect of spreading invasive species seeds throughout the area (as was the case of the dreaded ear leaf acacia after Charley blew through in 2004).

When CLT concentrated almost exclusively on mangrove forests and wetlands, post hurricane debris removal was not a major issue. However, as its emphasis now includes uplands (with its accompanying goals of public use, education and appreciation), we are confronted with the additional labor hours and expenses of restoring storm ravaged preserves. CLT is an all volunteer organization, however, it is not practical or safe to rely upon local supporters to attack an 80 feet tall downed ficus tree with a pruning saw; professionals with their expertise and large equipment are engaged. These now necessary costs detract from our intended use of funds for land acquisition and improvements. Please bear with us as we navigate through the use of these dollars.

The Calusa Land Trust is not in the “Parks and Recreation” business. We do not choose to compete with Lee County in this regard, but rather support it, as recently evidenced by our \$43,000 donation which transformed a planned residential development into the 265 acres Galt Preserve (complete with a kayak pond, restroom facilities, picnic areas, trails and even an active bald eagle nest) which Lee County opened in St. James City in 2014.

In future editions we intend to share with you our progress in developing (with non storm related funds) our projects at the Wigert/Barron Preserve (nature trails, access to Jug Creek and use of the discovered fresh water pond), Chapin Preserve (kayak trail leading to Matlacha Pass), St. Jude Nature Trail (Ward Memorial pedestrian bridge, tiki huts and picnic area) and the Taylor/Willow Lake Preserve (observation trail with eagle nest). Without your support none of this would be possible! Again, my thanks. John

### **Corporate Gift Matching Programs**

Many larger corporations have programs where they will match employee donations to eligible charities. The Calusa Land Trust qualifies for these matching contributions. If you are an employee or retiree of one of these corporations, remember to follow up and ask for the matching gifts for your recent and future donations. This is a great way to augment your charitable giving and make a significant impact on CLT funds.

**Mark your calendar  
Calusa Land Trust  
Annual Meeting is set  
for Sunday January  
21st**





## Treasures of the Trails for October 2017: Lots of Hot Air - Plants - at Wigert Barron Preserve

Photo by Brian Cotterill and Text by Judy Ott

Did you know that air plants, Spanish moss and pineapples are all related? Did you know they shelter fascinating communities of organisms? Did you know a good place to find air plants is the Wigert Barron Preserve?

The Wigert Barron Preserve is located on Barrancas Road, east of Stringfellow, with a small parking area just past Aura Lane. CLT recently started a large habitat restoration project in the preserve. Acres of non-native, aggressive Brazilian peppers and Australian pines were removed to restore the diversity of the native habitats in the preserve.

The primary habitat of the preserve is very rare Florida scrub. Watch for sandy soils, scrub oaks, prickly pear cactus, gopher tortoise dens and assorted sizes of air plants. Note that the mulch is the remains of the invasive exotic plants.

The different sized air plants of the Wigert Barron Preserve all belong to the *Tillandsia* genus of the pineapple – or Bromeliad – family. *Tillandsias* include 16 species of Florida native air plants, as well as those air plants sold in souvenir shops nestled in shells. Ten of Florida's native species are threatened or endangered due to over collecting, habitat loss and advancing foreign pests.

Like other Bromeliads, the leaves of the *Tillandsia* grow in rosette spirals, with water-catching cups at base of each leaf. And, like other plants, *Tillandsias* make their own food through photosynthesis, but they draw nutrients from rainwater instead of soil. *Tillandsias* are epiphytes, relying on their partner trees and shrubs solely for structural support, without harming them. So, contrary to popular belief, Florida air plants aren't parasitic on their host plants.

The recesses of the *Tillandsia* plants collect both rainwater and windblown detritus and make cozy homes for several hundred species of cohabitating insects, arachnids, crustaceans and amphibians, including mosquitos, scorpions, crabs, frogs, and snakes. These unique aerial communities also include algae and decomposers such as fungus and bacteria. Air plants and their inhabitants play essential roles in Florida's upland and wetland food webs. So, as aesthetic as air plants are, it is far better to leave them in their native habitat than to bring them home for your kitchen counter.

*Tillandsias* are home to many species of mosquito larvae in Florida, 3 of which are capable of carrying human diseases. It's recommended that you flush any Bromeliads in your yard with fresh water weekly to wash away mosquito larvae. *Tillandsias* are also attractive to the invasive Mexican bromeliad weevil. This weevil is rapidly spreading into Florida from the south and the larvae kill the host *Tillandsia* plant. Researchers are currently investigating solutions to this significant threat to air plants and their communities. Please enjoy your stroll searching for these hidden treasures, but remember to leave them in place so they continue to fulfill their essential ecological niches.



# Rad Hazen

## Chairman, Acquisition and Planning Committee

As many of you are aware, CLT has been fortunate in receiving a considerable gift of mangrove wetlands with well developed mosquito ditches leading to the Indian Fields area on the east side of Pine Island. We subsequently purchased three upland lots adjacent to this parcel in order to provide access to the wetlands. This combined area has been designated the Ed Chapin Preserve in honor of our much heralded Chief Ranger and founding member.

One of our goals for this property is to create a launch site at the end of Royal Okley Lane with parking and a picnic area. This work is partially completed but the major undertaking will be our primary endeavor for fiscal 2018 which is to open the mosquito ditches which have been closed by the ravages of several hurricanes including Charley and Irma. This project will be done by Mikes Lawn Service and will be a real logistical challenge for Mike and his intrepid crew. When completed, this canoe/kayak trail will take paddlers through a mangrove wonderland, out to Indian Fields and back by a separate route to the launch site. Look for Mangrove Cuckoos, Mangrove Snakes (harmless), Otters and lots of other unique wildlife on these trails. This project is part of the Calusa Land Trust's goal of creating access to our preserves so that Pine Islanders and visitors can enjoy our natural treasures, learn about nature and contributes to our reputation as an eco tourism destination which is good for our economy.

Projects like this are expensive and we need community and member support to carry them through. Please keep us in mind when making charitable contributions or estate planning. We thank you and so does the natural world you are helping protect.



Clockwise from upper left:  
Cuban Tree Frog, *O. septentrionalis*  
(non native)  
Giant Bromeliad, *T. utriculata*  
Mangrove Skipper, *P. pigmalion*  
( unique to mangrove environment)  
Northern Needleleaf, *T. balbisiana*



# Great Calusa Land Trust Annual Rubber Duck Race



Mark Your Calendars!  
The Ducks Are Coming!  
The Ducks Are Coming! Great Calusa Rubber  
Duck Race - Saturday, March 3, 2018 at  
LOW KEY TIKI in Saint James City.



After a summer of hibernation, the 3,000 Bright  
Yellow Ducks are in their Winter Nesting grounds.  
Soon they will start their rigorous exercises and  
training in preparation for 2018's Best Duck Race  
on the Island!

A fun filled day awaits with Live and Silent Auctions,  
Entertainment, Food, Beverages and Games for  
All Ages. Duck Race Tickets will go on sale before  
the holidays - so Buy Early and Buy Often!

First Place Duck WINS \$1,000!

See you at Pine Island's Premier Event -  
Great Calusa Rubber Duck Race - Saturday March 3, 2018!!



**amazon**



Do you shop online at Amazon?

If you do, next time go to

[www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com)

Then select the Calusa Land Trust as your  
charity of choice.

Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchases  
to the Calusa Land Trust.

## Work Parties—Everyone Welcome

**Preserve work parties are on the second Saturday of each month from 9:00am to Noon. None in August. We need your help. Check the Pine Island Eagle or our web site: [www.calusalandtrust.org](http://www.calusalandtrust.org) for the current month's location.**

### Past Work Parties Report:

On Saturday, September 23, we had nine hard working volunteers, a good turn-out for September. We re-opened the St. Jude Trail which had been blocked by downed trees and limbs from Hurricane Irma. It was a very worth-while effort. The Trail is now open again.

On Saturday, October 14, we had a really good turn-out with sixteen volunteer rangers. We worked on our new Taylor/Willow Lake Preserve located on Alcorn Street, south of Miraculous Medal Catholic Church. We reopened a maintenance trail and extended it. We also did some invasive exotic plant control. Much more will need to be done on this Preserve. Our thanks to Greg and Cindy Lignelli who sponsored lunch from Little Lilly's Island Deli after the work party.

### Work Parties in the Future:

**Saturday, November 11, 2017 Dobbs Preserve 9am to noon.** Come out and help. Pizza and refreshments will be available for our volunteers. We are creating a loop trail at this Preserve. Take Tropical Point Drive east and turn right on Sabal Avenue.

**Saturday, December 9, 2017 The Chapin Preserve.** We will be working on follow-up invasive exotic plant control. Also we are creating access for the Peter Ordway Paddling Trail which is in this Preserve. Again 9am to Noon. At the end of Royal Okley Lane, Bokeelia.

**Saturday, January 13, 2018 Fritts Park.** This will be sprucing up the Park for our Annual Meeting the following week, Sunday, January 21, 2018. West end of Beach Daisy Lane in Bokeelia.



### Peter Ordway Mangrove Adventures

Saturday, November 25 – On this paddle we hope to paddle Fisheating Creek at Palmdale. This is our only off-island paddle – a day trip.

Sunday, December 17, 2017 – we will explore our St. James Creek Preserve in St. James City. This is an easy paddle through a well-protected mangrove creek. This will be an afternoon trip Noon to 3pm.

More Paddles – There will be three more paddles next year – January, February, and March. They will be announced in the next newsletter.

For more information: Call Ed Chapin (239) 218-7531



\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 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 #:**

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**EXPIRES:** \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ **Sec. Code** \_\_\_\_\_

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

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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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 2017**

**Work Parties—Everyone Welcome**

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**Saturday, January 13, 2018 Fritts Park.** At the west end of Beach Daisy Lane.

For more details, check with Ranger Ed 239.218.7531  
Beverages and Snacks provided to show appreciation for our super volunteers.

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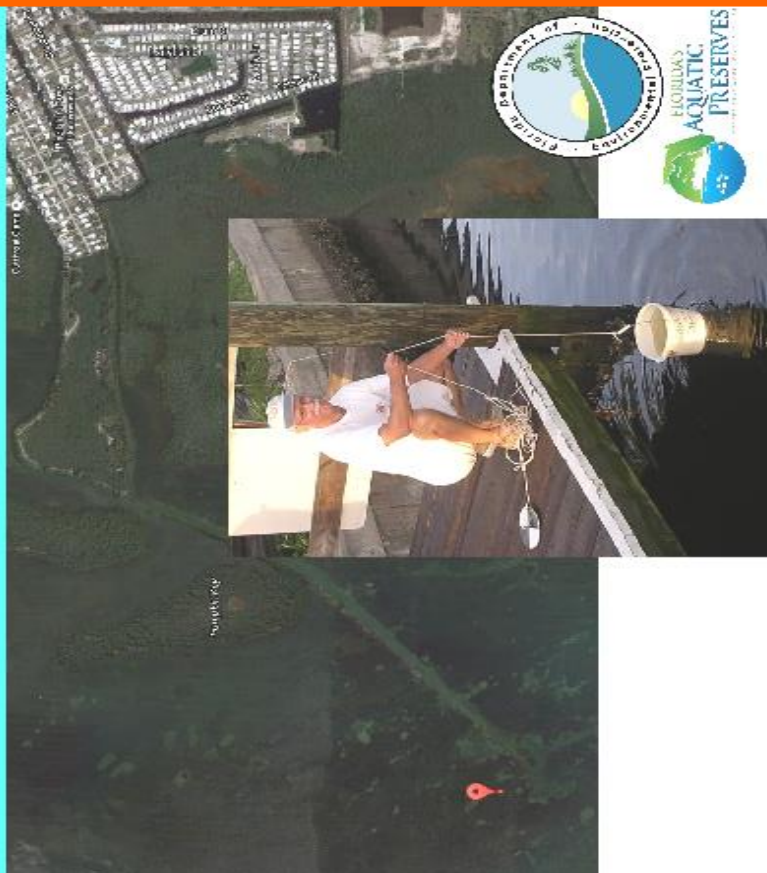
**Judy Ott**  
Director

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



PINK  
ADDRESS  
LABEL? TIME  
TO RENEW.

## Boaters and Water Quality Volunteers Needed!



Volunteers are needed the first Monday of every month to collect water quality samples at two sites near St. James City.

Both sites are only accessible by boat. One is near Matlacha Pass and one is near south Pine Island Sound.

Call 941-575-5861 if you are interested. Training and equipment are provided. (Ask for Arielle)