

2017 IMPORTANT DATES

August  
Vacation Month  
No Work Party

September 9, Saturday  
Work Party  
St. Jude Trail

October 14, Saturday  
Work Party  
Taylor/Willow Lake

October 22, Sunday  
Ordway Paddle  
Fish Eating Creek  
Palmdale, FL

November 25,  
Saturday  
Calusa Island

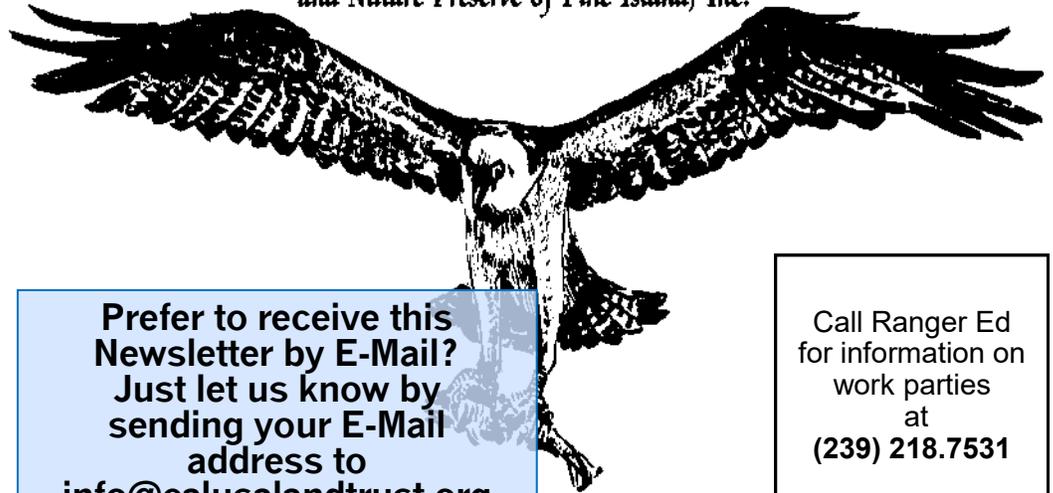
2nd Saturday  
Of each Month Means  
A Work Party at a  
CLT property

**Boaters and  
Water Quality  
Volunteers  
Needed!**  
Call Arielle  
941.575.5861



# 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 #101  
Founded 1976

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

## Fun at the Pine Island 4th of July Parade



Our 2 Giant Ducks  
waiting for the parade  
to start.

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



President  
John  
Kendall  
on the left  
with his  
wife,  
Marty in  
the  
center.  
The front  
duck is  
ridden by  
Chief  
Ranger  
Ed  
Chapin.

**FROM THE BIRDS' NEST**  
**“A Most Positive Sibling Relationship”**  
**John Kendall, President**

Competition is natural, usually healthy and common in our personal contacts, businesses, churches, non-profits...you name it. The Calusa Land Trust, however, has bucked this persistent trend. Perhaps you will recollect an earlier article, “Working with Friends” (January, 2017), wherein we reviewed CLT's bonds with Lee County 20/20, the State of Florida and other land conservancies. This pattern of cooperation recently repeated itself in a transaction with our barrier islands sister, The Sanibel Captiva Conservation Foundation [SCCF].

SCCF and CLT have cooperated in the past with co-ownership of the York and Coconut Islands (1998, 90-10%) and the contiguous Longcut Preserve (2000, 50-50%) both of which most directly benefit Pine Island, being located off the southwest tip of Saint James City.

In 2010 the Eric Flanagan Family donated to CLT 7.75 acres of beach and bay front property on Upper Captiva Island. Considering its location it was deemed a valuable parcel and otherwise suitable for residential development. The deed to CLT contained a “conservation easement” which requires the land remain in a natural state. Although outside our usual target territory, the gift was accepted in the spirit of conservation. A few months ago SCCF decided to extend its preserves beyond the Sanibel and Captiva Islands by accepting a land donation just north of the Flanagan Preserve. Since both CLT and SCCF have comparable missions and the latter's stewardship of its new parcel would be merely a jog down the beach, CLT's Board of Directors concluded that a donation of the Flanagan Preserve would best serve this land jewel. SCCF's governing board concurred. The completion of the gift was celebrated on June 26<sup>th</sup>, as noted by the photograph printed simultaneously by the *Pine Island Eagle* and the *Sanibel Captiva Islander*. Sometimes siblings can get along in a most positive fashion.



**Left to right: Rae Ann Wessel (SCCF Natural Resource Policy Director), Erick Lindblad (SCCF Executive Director) and John Kendall CLT president). The Calusa Land Trust, in the spirit of conservation, turned over 7.75 acres of land on Upper Captiva Island to the Sanibel Captiva Conservation Foundation.**



# Treasures of the Trails for July 2017

## Observations from a Lazy Summer Paddle along the Martha Peterson Preserve

Text and photos by Judy Ott



A rewarding summer escape is a leisurely paddle to the Martha Peterson Preserve. This CLT preserve includes the mangrove shoreline and islands just south of Little Pine Island. After launching at Tropical Point Drive, it's a pleasant 45 minute paddle to the preserve islands. From the launch site, head left (north) toward the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> power poles from the left (west). This will take you over shallow oyster bars, under the power poles, and past a small island to the mangrove islands of the preserve.

Along the way, hone your "search image" skills for seeing through the brown water, which is clear even if it is dark. Summer rains bring the "mangrove tea" into the estuary from the watershed. Like other estuaries, Matlacha Pass is a complicated mix of salt water from the ocean and freshwater from the rivers. This back-and-forth of salty Gulf water with fresh tributary water changes daily with tides and seasonally with rain. Our estuaries are productive for fisheries, crabs and shellfish because different critters move in and out of the transient habitats created as salinity changes inundate different types of vegetation along the shorelines at different times.

During my recent paddle along the Martha Peterson Preserve, I encountered many estuary creatures that were faster than my camera shutter. These elusive critters including dolphins splashing, pinfish eyeing the kayak, sheepshead headed for hiding, mosquito fish scattering in the shallows, a young shark fishing along the shoreline, mangrove tree

crabs skittering along prop roots, ospreys calling from the tree tops and Great Egrets and Great Blue Herons silently winging over the water's surface.

Slower than my camera were oysters and Mangrove Periwinkles. Mangrove Periwinkles are common Littorina snails that live in the mangrove roots and leaves, moving up and down just above the tide. Eastern oysters are found on mangrove roots and in shallow bars. Many organizations are restoring oyster habitats locally because only a small fraction of historic oysters remain (some estimate < 20%) and there is still heavy harvesting pressure on those left. To help with restoring these essential shellfish, contact the Sanibel Captiva Conservation Foundation, Nature Conservancy, Charlotte Harbor Natural Estuary Program, Lee County Natural Resources or Charlotte County Sea Grant.

This great diversity of animal life is supported by mangroves and seagrasses – the foundations of the estuary food webs. Common local mangroves include reds, whites and blacks and seagrasses include shoal, turtle and manatee grass. These photosynthetic strongholds help both animals and humans by providing refuge, shelter, food, roosting, storm protection and sediment stabilization. A rhyme to remember mangroves goes "Red, red - pointy head. Black, black - lick the back. White, white - screwed on tight"; meaning: red mangroves have pointed bright green waxy leaves, black mangroves have salt sparkled gray green leaves and white mangroves have round leaves with "Frankenstein" knobs at the base. A trick to remember seagrasses is: shoal grass is flat and skinny like a sand shoal, turtle grass is flat and wide like a sea turtle, and manatee grass is round like a manatee.

The many rewards of a summer paddle remind us why we are lucky to be living, visiting and preserving Pine Island's natural wonders.



**Littorina Snail**

# Rad Hazen

## Chairman, Acquisition and Planning Committee



**Before Clearing**

As most of our members are aware, upland properties on Pine Island are often overgrown with non-native species such as Australian Pine, Melaleuca, Brazilian Pepper and Ear Leaf Acacia. Unfortunately lands acquired by CLT are no exception. Our Mangrove properties are the only ones for which this is not an issue.

When we acquire an upland property, we budget exotic plant removal into the over all cost of the purchase along with replanting if required. Returning our preserves to their natural state is an important part of our commitment to the ecology of our island.

To accomplish this goal we recently completed a project to remove exotic trees and plants from approximately eight acres of our Wigert/Barron Preserve. This Preserve is located at the juncture of Aura Lane and Barrancas Ave. on the north end of the island. The transition zone between the coastal scrub uplands and mangrove wetlands had probably been disturbed in the past and consisted almost completely of exotic plants. Since this project was more than we could ask volunteers to undertake, we turned to Mikes Lawn Service located in Bokeelia. Mike and his crew did a great job of removing the exotics while protecting the native plants on the site.

We had to curtail access to the preserve while the work was going on but have reopened it now that the heavy equipment is no longer on site. You will be amazed how quickly the native plants will take over this area now that the exotics are gone although some replanting may be required. Our chief ranger, Ed Chapin and Carolyn Murphey who is the ranger for this preserve, will monitor and continue exotic removal with our hard working volunteers for years to insure native plants thrive.



**Ed Chapin and Carolyn Murphey on left with Mike Jendrusiak, of Mike's Lawn Service.**

We have several more projects for Mike and his crew including work at the Ed Chapin Preserve and the Taylor/Willow Lake Preserve. These properties will be real jewels for the people of Pine Island to enjoy and will add greatly to our island's reputation as an eco tourism destination. Please remember to donate what you can to help the Calusa Land

Trust continue to protect and enhance our bit of Paradise.



**After Clearing**



**Gopher Tortoise Home**

More Photos after Wigert/Barron Preserve  
Clearing Project  
Photos by Rad Hazen



**Cleared in Foreground  
Native growth in back**



**An endangered  
Tillandsia Bromeliad**



**Sand Live Oak  
Unique to scrub environment**



**Myrtle Oak**



**Native Persimmon**



**Opuntia Cactus**

## 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, May 13, we had 10 volunteer rangers working at the new Taylor Willow Lake Preserve. This Preserve is located south of the Catholic Church on Alcorn Street. It consists of about 40 acres and has an active bald eagle nest. We worked on the usual IEPC (invasive, exotic plant control). We found the usual exotics such as Brazilian Pepper, Australian Pine, Earleaf Acacia, Carrotwood, and Melaleuca. We will have to do a lot of follow-up to this Preserve and are working on a management plan. We are also going to fence the east side of this Preserve which is bordered by a mango grove.

On Saturday, June 17, we had 11 volunteer rangers working at the new Chapin Preserve. We worked on removing exotics from the road easement at the end of Royal Oakley. Again, a lot of follow-up will have to be done there. This Preserve is about 90 acres and is about 85 acres of mangroves. We are working on opening the Peter Ordway Paddling Trail on this Preserve. It will be about a 3 mile loop paddling trail which will go out to Little Smokehouse Bay and return from behind Indian Field Island through mosquito ditches. We recently received an exemption from the Department of Environmental Protection to trim mangroves in the mosquito ditches and have contracted with Mike's Lawn Service to open these ditches which have been closed off since Hurricane Charley in 2004. We hope to have this paddling trail open by this Fall.



On Sunday June 2, we had 11 volunteers building our annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July float at Brian Cotterill and Judy Ott's house. We had Long's Paint and Body Shop paint our utility trailer a patriotic color scheme of red, white, and blue and they did an excellent job. We added lots of decorative red, white and blue bunting, a large flag, and 2 large inflatable ducks to remind everyone of our 2018 Duck Race on March 3. Our President John Kendall and his wife Marty and I rode on the ducks and gave out candy. It was a lot of fun.

On Saturday, July 8, we had 4 volunteers working at the Wigert/Barron Preserve. This 32 acre Preserve is located on the east end of Barrancas Ave. and is about half mangroves and half rare scrub habitat with unusual scrub oaks and lots of air plants including unusual giant tillandsias, ground lichen, and wildflowers. We recently had Mike's Lawn Service remove about 8 acres of invasive exotics from this Preserve. Being off-season, we only had four hard-core volunteers. We mainly collected trash that was uncovered during the restoration work which took about six weeks. Again follow-up will be on-going here.

August is our vacation so no work party.

### Up Coming work parties:

Saturday September 9, 9am to noon  
St. Jude Trail in St. James City.

Saturday October 14 9am to noon  
Taylor Willow Lake Preserve on Alcorn Street.

### Peter Ordway Mangrove Adventures

Our last paddle of the season was on Saturday, March 25 at the Chapin Preserve. We had 12 paddlers and were able to get out to Smokehouse Bay and paddled around Indian Field Island. It was a fun paddle and we hope to have this loop trail open for next season.

#### Future Paddles:

Sunday October 22 – Going off island to Fisheating Creek which is near Palmdale about a 1 hour drive from Pine Island.

Saturday November 25, we will be exploring our Calusa Island Preserve at the north end of Pine Island

For more info, call Ed Chapin at (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: \_\_\_\_\_

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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. **august 2017**

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August—is our vacation time—no work party in August  
September 9, Saturday St. Jude Trail  
October 14, Saturday Taylor/Willow Lake  
For more details, check with Ranger Ed 239.218.7531  
Beverages and Snacks provided to show appreciation for our super volunteers.

### Board of Directors

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**Rad Hazen**  
Vice President

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Director

**Frank Potter**  
Director

**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.**

## **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.

