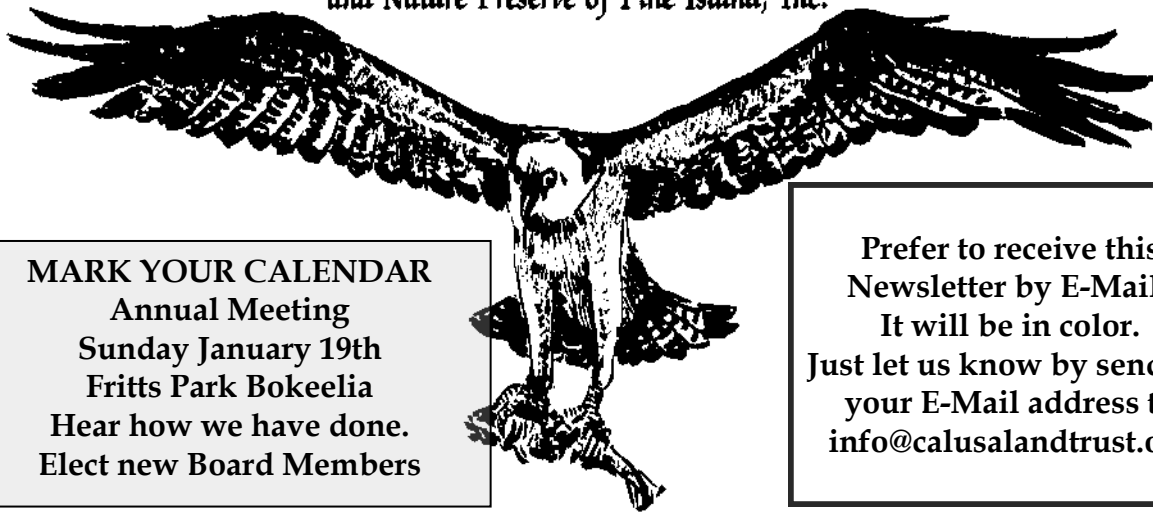


Calusa Land Trust

and Nature Preserve of Pine Island, Inc.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR
Annual Meeting
Sunday January 19th
Fritts Park Bokeelia
Hear how we have done.
Elect new Board Members

Prefer to receive this
Newsletter by E-Mail?
It will be in color.
Just let us know by sending
your E-Mail address to
info@calusalandtrust.org

Newsletter #85

Founded 1976

January 2014

www.calusalandtrust.org

Annual Meeting Y'all Come by Mark Laux

The 38th Annual Calusa Land Trust Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 19th at 1:00pm at our beautiful Fritts Park in Bokeelia. At the conclusion of our annual business meeting a delicious lunch will be served with the donation jars out. Sandwiches, salads, fruit and vegetarian dishes will be available with assorted homemade cookies as the dessert. Mel Meo's Mullet Wagon will also be providing her famous fish sandwiches and fritters. Soft drinks and bottled water will be the beverages of the day.

Frank Tuma will provide Island Music. Lunch time at our picnic tables is a good time to meet new members and get re-acquainted with old friends. Fritts Park is located five miles north of the Pine Island center, turn left onto Beach Daisy Lane which is just south of the Pink Citrus Trailer Park. We can always use help at our annual meetings as we are all volunteers who work to preserve Pine Island's natural environment. Please contact Mark Laux (549-5848) if you would like to assist in any way. In case of rain we will meet at the Fisher's of Men Lutheran Church. So come out and bring a friend or neighbor. Hope to see you there.

Great Calusa Poker Run \$ 4000 Raised

The Pine Island Boat Club conducted the Annual Poker Run on Sunday December 8th. This popular event is held annually by the Boat Club to provide funds for The Calusa Land Trust.

For this year's Poker Run, 12 dealer stations were located around St James City and up the Sound to Jenson's Marina. To enable more people to participate, stations were available for access by either boat or land (bike, motorcycle, walking).

Final cards were drawn at Woody's Waterside in Saint James City where winners were determined. During the social hours, while waiting for poker hands to be drawn, food & drinks were available, 50/50 raffles were held, and a "loser" poker hand was drawn as a consolation prize.

Preliminary results indicate that approximately \$4,010 was raised to benefit the Land Trust. A big thanks to Barb Riordan and The Pine Island Boat Club for coordinating the event.

Great Calusa Duck Race by Ron Wesorick

3000 new rubber ducks just flew in to start training for the Annual Rubber Duck Race which will be held at Woody's Waterside on Saturday March 1, 2014. Last year's race was a fantastic success with all 3000 ducks in the race. Once again, this year we hope to have all 3000 racing down the canal.

Although the big race is a few months away, we need everyone's help. 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 donated for both the auction and for 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 boat cruise, cook a dinner, etc. If you have contacts with businesses, ask them to donate, or contact the Race Committee and we will call on the business.

This year Pink will be the leader of the Duck Race Committee. You can call her at 283-7249 or 292-9789 or E-mail Pink at pink@calusalandtrust.org

After this year, we will need to find a new "Duck Herder" to lead the committee as Pink will retire from this demanding task. Someone new must takeover this important fund raiser and community social event. Anyone interested can talk to Pink or any CLT Director for more details.



They're off and paddling

Ranger Report by Ed Chapin

A quick summary of our last few work parties. On Saturday September 13 we worked at Fritts Park in Bokeelia and on the canoe trail running out to our Big Jim Creek Preserve. We had seven hard working volunteers sprucing up the Park and we were able to reopen the canoe trail leading to Big Jim Creek.

On Saturday November 9 our volunteers were back at the Pine Island Flatwoods Preserve doing an annual invasive plant control. This went well with seven dedicated workers and we covered a lot of ground. Many Brazilian Pepper, Earleaf Acacia, Melalueca and Australian Pines were found and eradicated.

On Saturday November 17 the Bokeelia Boat Club worked on our Calusa Island Preserve. They showed up in force with 18 volunteers working from 9am to noon and ending with a picnic lunch. The Bokeelia Boat Club has been helping maintain the Calusa Island site for many years and we thank them for their good work.



On Saturday December 14 we were at Saint James Creek Preserve and the St. Jude Trail. We again had 7 workers and we managed to find many Brazilian peppers and a few ear leaf acacias. We also tangled with some coin vines which are very aggressive. Once again, many thanks to our volunteers for their efforts.

Upcoming Work Parties

Saturday January 11 we will be at Fritts Park to set up for the Annual Meeting on Sunday January 19. The annual rummage sale will be on the following Saturday January 25.

We will need volunteers for these events and also any quality used items for the rummage sale. We ask that you hold items until Friday January 24 then bring them to Fritts Park for sorting and tagging.

Again on February 8 we will be back at Fritts Park to break down the tent and other equipment.

On the second Saturday in March, the 8th we will be working at the Dobbs Preserve on Sabal Avenue near Tropical Point.

An aerial view of our Dobbs Preserve.

Peter Ordway Mangrove Adventures

So far we've had a slow start to the paddling adventures. The trip to Fish Eating Creek had to be cancelled due to a lack of interest. It is usually one of the most popular trips.

The Calusa Island trip was a small group of four paddlers, but it was a pretty windy day. By the time this newsletter comes out we will have paddled the Masters Landing area.

On Sunday January 26th the plan is to go paddling on our Big Jim Creek Preserve from 9am to noon. The February and March paddles will be announced in the next newsletter.

If you would like to be notified of upcoming work parties or paddles send me an E-Mail at ECalusaEd@CalusaLandTrust.org and your name will be added to the list. Call me anytime for more information or paddling reservations. My cell is 239.218.7531.



The Nominating Committee has proposed two candidates to fill empty seats on the Board of Directors. Biographical sketches of the candidates to be voted upon at the January Annual Meeting follow.

Rad Hazen

Rad was born in 1946 and is a 3rd Generation Floridian (both sides). He grew up in Gainesville Florida and graduated from University of Florida with an English Major. He is a Pine Island resident of 20+ years arriving on Pine Island with life partner Betsy Haesemeyer, and son Jeff on a yearlong sailing adventure.

Business Background - worked as a Health Care Administrator in Colorado and Florida. He was the Director of Housing-King Faisal Hospital, Saudi Arabia, and Marketing Director in the Florida Citrus Industry, and later at Palmco here on Pine Island. Rad was also the General Manager/Partner at Soaring Eagle Nursery and Pine Island Growers. He is currently retired and volunteers at the Beacon of Hope.

Hobbies/ Interests include hiking, canoeing, sailing and photography. He is a long term supporter of Nature Conservancy, Calusa Land Trust and the Pine island Plan.



Slash Pines near St. Jude Trail.

Frank Potter

is originally from Long Island (New York) and a long-time visitor to SW Florida. He has been a permanent resident of Pineland since 2011. Since 1979, he and his wife have vacationed on Captiva Island and started to visit Pine Island in the '90s. They purchased land in Bokeelia in 2003 to build on, then found the small palm nursery and mango farm in Pineland in 2010 and completed their move there in April 2011.

Frank has a PhD in Biostatistics from the School of Public Health at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and received his MS in Statistics from Florida State University. He continues to telecommute to Mathematica Policy Research in Princeton NJ, where he is a Senior Fellow and develops and implements health-related studies sponsored by federal and state governments and private foundations. Prior to working at Mathematica, he was at the Research Triangle Institute in NC for 16 years, where his work included studies for the US EPA on pesticides and toxic substances.

While in NC and NJ, he was an avid freshwater fly fisherman and this stimulated his interest in the issues of water quality, land conservation, and land use planning. He was a volunteer with the StreamWatch water quality monitoring program of the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association

(<http://www.thewatershed.org/>) in NJ from 1997 until 2011, when he moved to Pine Island. When in NC, he was a member of Small Area Planning Work Group, charged with developing land use plans for agricultural areas and woodlands surrounding Carrboro (a town adjacent to Chapel Hill).





Scenes from our 2013
Annual Meeting

Invasive and undesirable plant!

**Have you seen this plant
on your property?**

This is Earleaf acacia
 (*Acacia auriculiformis*) and
 it has recently been
 identified as becoming
 invasive and unmanageable
 on Pine Island!



**If you see this plant, remove it! Call the Lee County Extension
 Service at 239-461-7514 for information on how to get in-
 volved in the Earleaf acacia control program on Pine Island.**

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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.
Jan 2014

Work Parties – Everyone Welcome

They are on the second Saturday of each month except August.
9:00am to Noon We need your help.

January 11, 2014	Fritts Park, Beach Daisy Lane, Bokeelia
February 8th 2014	Fritts Park, Beach Daisy Lane, Bokeelia
March 8th 2014	Dobbs Preserve Sabal Ave near Citrus St, SJC

Future work parties, check with Ranger Ed 239.218.7531



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.



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

**BIG AND BEIGE
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.

