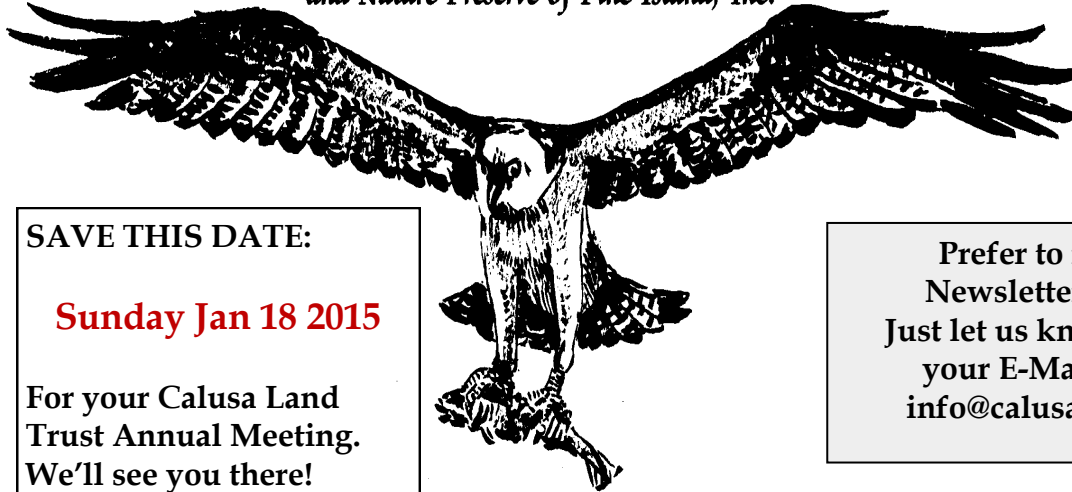


Calusa Land Trust

and Nature Preserve of Pine Island, Inc.



SAVE THIS DATE:

Sunday Jan 18 2015

For your Calusa Land Trust Annual Meeting. We'll see you there!

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

Newsletter #89

Founded 1976

November 2014

www.calusalandtrust.org

From The Birds Nest

The Birds' Nest article in the last newsletter chronicled our acquisition policies and procedures. This article concentrates on recent acquisition efforts and accomplishments.

Acquisition successes tend to follow the sine curve of land market values directly affected by the moods of the economy. Until just a few years ago CLT did not possess the resources to make purchases let alone the ability to face skyrocketing island prices. Under the years of direction by former Acquisition chairman, Harold Bruner, and present chair, Rad Hazen, we have been blessed by land obtained by gifts or bargain sales, revenues from the Great Calusa Rubber Duck Race (March 7th in 2015), increased membership and the benevolence of multiple donors and bequests.

Here are a few of CLT's recent efforts:

- The Smith/Dewane extension to the St. James Creek Preserve has spurred two recognized local clubs to action. Both

John Kendall, President

the Pine Island Garden Club and the Matlacha Hookers have pledged/ written checks designated to finance the construction of a gazebo-like gathering and parking area on this Gateway to bear their names. CLT is now soliciting bids for exotics removal with engineering and building to follow, thus linking access to the St. Jude Nature Trail.

- Adjacent to our small 3-acre Willow Lake Preserve (a gift) we are finalizing the donation of a contiguous 5-acre site consisting of classic native pine uplands lacking invasives but sporting an active bald eagle nest and accessible by a paved road. There will be more information to be released in the future.
- We are hoping to close on a donated 40+acre (predominately mangroves) parcel from the descendants of a family purchase in the 1930s. The land is situated west of an existing CLT preserve and south of a County 20/20 preserve in the central island area. We hope to close on this before this year's end.

Your CLT Board of Directors has authorized the Acquisition Committee to pursue the purchase of two properties: (a) a scrub uplands/transition to mangrove 9-acre site in Bokeelia mentioned in our last newsletter and (b) pine uplands/transitioning to mangroves acreage located in the Pine Island Center environs; this latter proposal is a cumulative bargain sale on land which otherwise would be suitable for development. Both of these possibilities remain viable, but only at the discussion stage.

The Acquisition Committee has been meeting several times a month to research an inventory of parcels for suitable gift to or purchase by CLT. The Evaluation Worksheet is employed with recommendations to the entire Board for decision. Without your support of membership and our fundraising none of this would be possible. Thank you again!

Ranger Report

by Ed Chapin

CLT WORK PARTIES

Here is a list of our upcoming work parties (All work parties are 9 AM to noon).

Sat. 13 December 2014 Back Bay Preserve in SJC

Sat. 10 January 2015 Fritts Park is located at the end of Beach Daisy Lane, Bokeelia

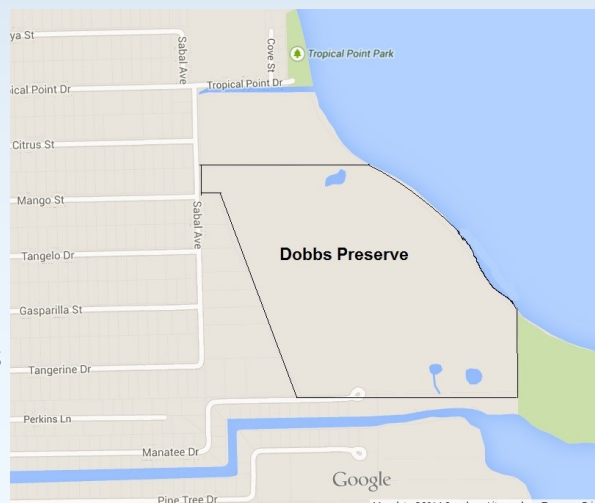
Make sure to bring plenty of drinking water, sunscreen, bug repellent and proper work clothes for the occasion (boots, hat, gloves etc.).

Treasures of the Trails

by Judy Ott

Are Those Coffee Beans along the soggy Dobbs Preserve Trails?

Where is Dobbs and what are these "beans"? Our Dobbs Preserve is located just south of Tropical Point Drive on Sabal Avenue and includes the mangrove forest and small uplands between the adjoining Tropical Homesite neighborhood and Matlacha Pass. During this time of the year the trails are partly wet and are a great home for Coffee Bean snails (*Melampus coffeus*). Coffee Bean snails live among the mangrove roots and leaf litter between high and low tides and are prolific along the Dobbs trails as the water recedes.



The snails are about ½" to 1" long and are brown or gray with light tan horizontal stripes. They are closely related to similar snails that live in salt marshes and both species are found throughout coastal southern Florida and the Caribbean. Coffee bean snails eat fallen mangrove leaves and prefer the yellow and brown leaves over the fresh green leaves because they are easier to eat after the waxy coating starts to break down.

According to scientists, Coffee Bean snails are one of the few direct consumers of this dropped mangrove detritus in southwest Florida. That makes these snails an important part of the energy pathway in our coastal forests between the decaying mangrove vegetation and higher level consumers.



Predators of the Coffee Bean snails include birds, mammals and fish such as Ibis, raccoons, and killifish. Coffee Bean snails are single shelled Mollusks (shellfish) called Gastropods (Greek for "stomach foot") with a well-developed head, stalked eyes and a large muscular foot along the underside which is used to crawl along in search of food.

Unlike many Gastropods, Coffee Beans snails don't have a trap door (operculum) to close over their shell opening when threatened from predators or drying out. Also unlike many other snails, Coffee Bean snails don't have gills, but breathe with a simple lung under the shell.

Not much is known about how long Coffee Bean snails live, but they reproduce by laying gelatinous egg masses under decaying leaves and wood. One snail can produce over 33,000 eggs each year. At high tide the eggs are carried into the estuary and develop into floating larvae (called veligers). After about 6 weeks, the planktonic veligers float back onto the shore with the high tide, settle on the mangrove roots and metamorphose into juvenile snails.

So next time you're out walking along the tidal edge of a mangrove forest, keep an eye out for this inconspicuous but important link between land and water, producers and consumers.

Volunteer, we need YOU !!!

Our organization has grown and our holdings have increased and activities we have many. Some Board Members have retired and our volunteer group has dwindled. You can help. The Calusa Land Trust is an all-volunteer organization. We have no paid staff and use outside service for only very large projects.

You as a contributor are welcome to help. Perhaps you can volunteer to work at one of our preserves. This might involve cutting back invasive plants, picking up trash and keeping a walking trail clear. You could do this on your own schedule. Our Chief Ranger Ed Chapin can get you started soon. Ed's phone is 239.218.7531.

Our Land Acquisition Committee under Rad Hazen can use help to search out and investigate potential properties to add to our preserves. Rad's phone is 239.898.6009.

Of course we always need help fund raising. Fund raising can be fun. New ideas? Help us with our Poker Run and Duck Race. It takes a lot of work to put on these events but there are big benefits to the Land Trust. Want to help call John Kendall the CLT President. John's phone is 239.283.8175.

All activities are guided by a Board of Directors. All board meetings are open meetings so if you just want to sit in and get a



firsthand look, come on out. Call any of us for the time and place of our next meeting or you E-Mail info@calusalandtrust.org . We'd love to have you partici-

Peter Ordway Mangrove Adventures

Ed Chapin

I guide about six paddling trips to our more aquatic CLT preserves every season running from October to March. We named these trips after the late Peter Ordway who started these paddle trips in the 1990's as a way to raise funds and show off our preserves to those who may not visit them by themselves.



I am honored to continue this tradition and there is only one paddle left before the start of a new year. More trips will be scheduled at a later date.

Sunday December 28, 2014

St. James Creek Preserve



If you have any questions, want to double check dates and times or for more information call Ed Chapin at (239) 218-7531.



It takes a lot of volunteer effort for every event, like parades. But effort doesn't necessarily mean work, as it's fun to contribute along side fellow volunteers.



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

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

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

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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 2014**

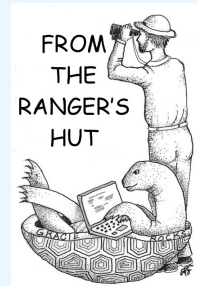


Work Parties – Everyone Welcome

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

Dec. 13, 2014 Back Bay Preserve, St. James City
Jan. 10, 2015 Fritts Park, Beach Daisy Lane, Bokeelia, FL

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

**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.

