

## 2023 IMPORTANT DATES



### Work/Fun Parties

January 14 2023  
@

**Fritts Park**  
Located at  
The end of Beach Daisy  
Lane. Bokeelia

### Annual Meeting

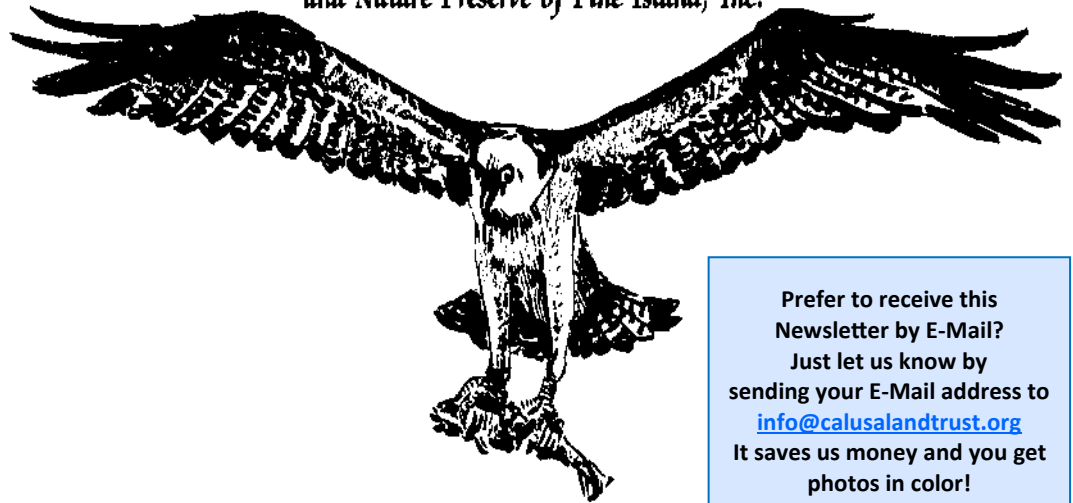
January 22, 2023  
1 PM @ **Fritts Park**

Check your email, our  
website or  
the Pine Island Eagle for  
more opportunities to  
help Pine Island!



# Calusa Land Trust

and Nature Preserve of Pine Island, Inc.



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photos in color!

Newsletter #120  
Founded 1976

December 2022

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

## President's Report by Robert Ballard

Hurricane Ian hit Pine Island on September 28 and the Calusa Land Trust ended its fiscal year on September 30. What a way to close out a year! Ian brought the worst devastation to Pine Island in my lifetime. Many of our members and fellow Pine Islanders lost their homes or suffered major damage while some were lucky to escape with minor repairs. Our Preserves were hit hard with major damage to trees as well as some damage to structures such as tiki huts. Walking trails were blocked and impassable with downed trees and storm debris. Hardest hit is the St. Jude Trail, Taylor-Willow Lake, Chapin and Dobbs Preserves. Cleanup will take months and will require the aid of contractors in addition to our volunteer workers. We received a much appreciated hurricane relief donation from LCEC to aid in this cleanup and additional grant applications are underway. We will get it done!



We cannot let Hurricane Ian overshadow the otherwise great year we had. In December 2021, we welcomed 18 people to a tour at the Wigert-Barron Preserve in Bokeelia. In January 2022, the annual Allison Ackerman Yard Sale at Fritts Park reached a new record in sales. In

March, we held the largest Great Calusa Rubber Duck Race yet. Bill Spikowski and Allison Ackerman have been working to develop trails on Calusa Island. Signage for the Calusa Island Preserve using a grant from LCEC for plant and trail markers are underway.

We had many successful monthly Preserve Work/Fun Parties over the year until our summer recess in June. Our member volunteers, ranging from 18-30 at a time, showed up and worked hard to keep our preserves in shape and to control the invasive plants and trees. In May at the Chapin Preserve, we also welcomed the able assistance of several employees from the survey crew of Morris Depew Associates. Together, we make it happen!

This year will be a different year for the CLT in many ways. Longtime CLT Board Member and Chief Land Steward Ed Chapin retired and is living with family in the Chicago area post Hurricane Ian. Ed will be greatly missed by many as chief steward and friend, and will be hard to replace. Many of our members and volunteers will be dealing with getting their homes back in order. The same goes for several sponsors and volunteers for the Duck Race. And yet as an organization with over 2,400 acres to steward, we also must push forward to maintain and preserve the properties entrusted to us. The CLT Board recognizes the needs of our members and of our Pine Island community and will adapt to meet the needs of this organization as we plan for the future.

Robert Ballard, President

Calusa Land Trust

## **Welcome to our 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Calusa Land Trust and Nature Preserve of Pine Island, Inc.**

Please join us for the 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Calusa Land Trust to be held Sunday, January 22, 2023, beginning at 1 pm. The location will be at the land trust's Fritts Park on Beach Daisy Lane in Bokeelia, the entrance to which is just north of the fire station and south of the Palms of Pine Island trailer park. The meeting is open to all CLT members, guests and interested individuals. Attendees will be briefed on the care of its 2,400 + acres of preserved land, Hurricane Ian struggles in 2022 and restoration plans for 2023 and beyond. Also available will be the Calusa Clothesline (to buy needed CLT stuff) plus an opportunity to acquire the newly published 7<sup>th</sup> edition of *The Nature Lover's Guide to Pine Island*.



There will be raffles, socializing with old and new friends and a deli spread buffet feast all to the background entertainment of Frank Tuma's Island Music. To join seven continuing directors (Carolyn Murphey, Judy Ott, Frank Potter, Joan Rosenberg, Cheryl King, Marty Kendall and John Kendall) the membership will choose to elect five incumbent directors (Robert Ballard, Bill Hummer, Carol Mullin, Les Smith and Nancy Weir) with other nominations open from the floor. For any questions one may contact Robert Ballard at (239)770-0070. - By John Kendall



# Vintage Treasures of the Trails – from December 2014

## Rudolph Was Seen at St. Jude Nature Trail!

Don't Worry – He'll be Back Again Next Year – After We Fix Our Trails Together!

By Judy Ott

Perhaps enjoying some pre-flight tranquility, Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer was recently seen resting quietly in the underbrush along the St. Jude Nature Trail. White tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) are very rare on Pine Island and haven't been recorded for several decades, probably due to over hunting during the Great Depression. Pine Island has plenty of food deer like (young plants, shrub tips, acorns and grasses) but not enough freshwater to drink.

Our Rudolph's antlers and face are made from the fallen boot of a Cabbage Palm (*Sabal palmetto*). Cabbage Palms are common on Pine Island and provide many benefits, such as: fruit enjoyed by birds, squirrels, raccoons, deer and bears, habitat for frogs and bats, nesting material for birds, flowers for bees and butterflies, and "heart of palm" for people. The fronds are used to make thatch, and in the past the trees were used for nets, baskets, paddles, arrows, ball sticks and house poles.



Rudolph's eyes are made from the Buttonwood (*Conocarpus erectus*) cone-like fruits. Buttonwoods are often found with red, white and black mangroves at the upper edge of the tideline, but aren't "true" mangroves because they have different types of root and reproductive systems than the other mangroves.

Rudolph's red nose is a fresh new Cocoplum leaf just opening up at the tip of a branch. Cocoplum fruit ripens in the fall and are a favorite food of gopher tortoise, raccoons, birds and some people who make jams from them – by adding a lot of sugar and cinnamon. Native Americans used parts of the Cocoplum for food, arrows, medicine, teas, dyes and candles. The "glue" used to hold our Rudolph's face together is mangrove mud from water's edge. St. Jude Trail is the jewel of the CLT *Norm Gowan Trailhead Vista Preserve* just north of St. James City, east of Stringfellow Road in St. Jude Harbor on Stabile Road. So when you're in search of a peaceful time-out from the holiday bustle, take a walk along St. Jude Trail, listen to the quiet and watch for Rudolph.





# Preserve Cleanup Updates

## Smith-Dewane Preserve



## Wigert-Baron Preserve

At the Wigert-Barron Preserve in Bokeelia another of the Dec 10 Preserve Work/Fun Parties was held here and 13 volunteers (6 first timers) were able to clear the walking trails and reset the trail markers. The areas around the two entrances were cleared as well as the area around the two benches at Rubye's Pond. There are some sections of the northern part of the trail that are pretty rough still due to the feral hog damage. We will look at having a contractor come in and smooth out these spots.





## St Jude Trail Complex

Our flagship preserve in St James City was really hammered by winds and storm surge. Large trees were toppled as elsewhere, but the raging waters destroyed large sections of the boardwalk at the trails terminus, making it unsafe for visitors or residents to use. It's going to take a lot of effort to rebuild this little piece of paradise. Twenty-two volunteers, including some LCEC staff, showed up on December 10th clearing out vegetation, even standing up and staking fallen trees whenever possible. Memorial benches and planks on the boardwalk were devastated. At least one bench was found hanging 3-4 feet up in a nearby tree!





At **Fritts Park**, Mike Jendrusiak's crew at Mike's Lawn Service came into Fritts Park with their machine and cleared all of the heavy branches and will be getting the Park back in shape for the annual meeting in January. The damage to the storage shed has been repaired. New covering for the pergola still needs to be replaced.



A work party is tentatively scheduled for January 14th, the weekend before the annual meeting for any necessary cleanup. Please keep an eye out for more information on CLT social media and / or published in the Pine Island Eagle.

## Duck Race 2023

**2023 Duck Race or No Duck Race?** Stay tuned! Answer to be revealed in January newsletter!! We are searching for answers to the many issues that hosting an event like the duck race demands. Watch our social media or the Pine Island Eagle for more information.



## Rummage Sale 2023

As with the duck race, there is a bit of uncertainty of when to hold the event remains post Hurricane Ian. Traditionally the rummage sale takes place the weekend after the annual meeting. Its currently planned for February or early March 2023 at its usual location. Fritts Park in Bokeelia.



# Annual Membership Form

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 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** \_\_\_\_\_

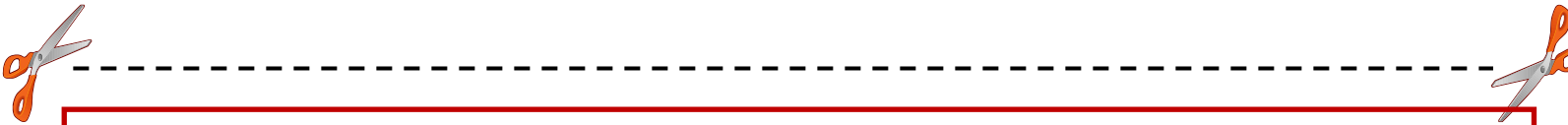
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
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<input type="checkbox"/> US Mail <input type="checkbox"/> E-Mail How do you want your newsletter delivered?
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Full 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.  
**December 2022**



## Board of Directors

**Robert Ballard**  
President

**Joan Rosenberg**  
Treasurer

**Bill Hummer**  
Director

**Frank Potter**  
Vice President

**John Kendall**  
Director

**Carolyn Murphey**  
Director

**Cheryl King**  
Director

**Carol Mullin**  
Director

**Judy Ott**  
Director

**Marty Kendall**  
Secretary

**Nancy Weir**  
Director

**Les Smith**  
Director

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. Please remember the CLT in your annual giving and estate planning.

\*Calusa Land Trust Articles of Incorporation, Article II