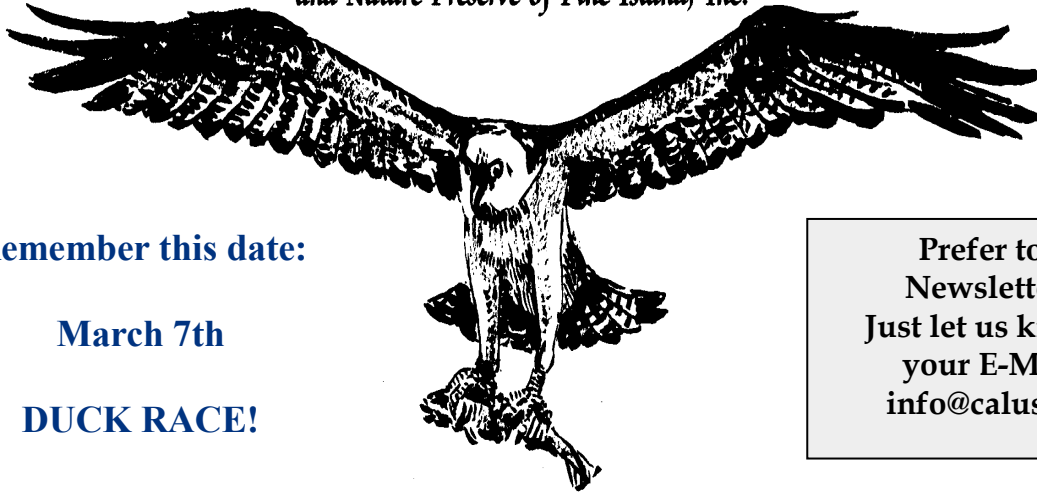


Calusa Land Trust

and Nature Preserve of Pine Island, Inc.



Remember this date:

March 7th

DUCK RACE!

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

Newsletter #91

Founded 1976

March 2015

www.calusalandtrust.org

The Ducks Are Coming !!

The Great Calusa Rubber Duck Race is now 17 years old. In March of 1998, 1000 yellow ducks assembled at the old Double Nichol Pub and raced down Monroe Canal as hundreds of people cheered them on. Since that time the flock has grown to 3000 while the race continues on Monroe Canal in front of Woody's Waterside Pub.



These ducks are now very experienced and ready for this year's race. They have been given a complete physical and are being fed high octane grain while getting ready to race their hearts out for their owners (which could be you!)

This year's race will be held on March 7 at Woody's Waterside in beautiful downtown St. James City. Festivities will start at noon and continue all afternoon with music, games, raffles, and auctions. At around 4:00 pm, 3000 numbered rubber ducks will race down the canal to the finish line. The first 20 ducks to cross the finish line will win an assortment of great prizes of artwork, gift certificates, and other interesting items valued at over \$100. The first duck to cross the finish line will win a full day historical view cruise on the sailboat *Alondra* for 6 people on Pine Island Sound. Also included will be lunch and Gift Certificate for beverages of your choice.

As always, there will be both silent and live auctions conducted throughout the afternoon. Some examples of the items to be auctioned are:

a 1993 Catalina 14' sailboat with a Honda outboard and trailer, a dinner and sunset cruise with our local author Bob Macomber, gift certificates for resorts, restaurants, fishing guides , etc. So bring your cash, checkbook, or credit card to make your treasured bids and purchases!

Duck tickets are \$5 each and we expect to sell out. Don't wait for race day, get your tickets now! Tickets are on sale at Woody's, from John Kendall, on the web site (calusalandtrust.org), and various locations around the island - - watch for the Calusa Land Trust Duck Sales Persons.

All proceeds from the race will go to the Calusa Land Trust of Pine Island to continue their programs of purchasing and maintaining environmentally sensitive land in the greater Pine Island area.

For tickets or information, call John Kendall at 283-8175.



And they're OFF!!!!



They are half way home!



The Lucky Ducks racing.

FROM THE BIRDS' NEST

John Kendall, President

WHY HAVE A DUCK RACE?

Yes, folks, all 3000 ducks have completed training and are chomping at the bit to race in this, our 17th Annual Great Calusa Rubber Duck Race. But why do we sponsor this competition?

The first reason is obvious...MONEY! This is CLT's premier fundraiser, the proceeds from which (\$20,000-30,000) are imperative for the reliable operation of this all-volunteer land conservancy.

Secondly, it is a popular social event for Pine Islanders and our visitors and solidifies local moral support for our mission to acquire, preserve and protect this precious piece of paradise.

Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, the efforts to sponsor the Race provides the mutual spirit and bond among CLT Board members and you, our loyal members/volunteers, plus our business supporters. We want to assure all that this common consciousness of conservation perseveres in perpetuity. We are not money managers, but rather a family striving together.

So, for whatever reason you wish to choose, please join us for the fun on March 7th.

Even if you didn't select a winning duck, you will still win a great time for an ever greater cause. See ya' there!

John



Land Stewardship Report

Ed Chapin, Chief Ranger

On Sunday February 15th a Ranger Pow-Wow was held to discuss ways to improve our volunteer efforts. Eight volunteers and myself attended. One idea is to try and get volunteers to “adopt” one of our 20 plus preserves. Not all of our CLT preserves require a lead ranger as many are mangroves that require little maintenance. But some of our preserves like our St. James Creek Preserve and St. Jude Trail require ongoing work to maintain trails and keep out exotic invasive plants. I am happy to report that John Kendall our current CLT President has agreed to be the Lead Ranger for these two preserves.

Other preserves that we need lead rangers for are: The Bud House Calusa Canal Preserve, Fritts Park, the Baxley preserve, the Kreie Preserve, the Dobbs Preserve, and our Big Jim Creek Preserve. If anyone is interested in helping us maintain and improve our Preserves, become a lead Ranger for one of these preserves. We are an All Volunteer organization and there isn’t anyone else to count on to do this but us.

Another idea we discussed was about the scheduling of our work parties. For many years, we have had our work parties on the second Saturday of the month from 9 AM to noon (with an August vacation break). During the winter months we have good a turn-out of volunteers, but in the summer months (April to October) the turn-out is much less. If we had several Lead Rangers we could better utilize the volunteers who do come out to help. We could have several work parties per month in the winter months when more helpers are here on the island. We could also have work parties during the week when some people are able to participate.

Also we talked about improving the email notifications by sending out earlier alerts of upcoming work parties. We will keep trying to improve our efforts. Consider taking the lead on a preserve and volunteer to be the Lead Ranger on one of our preserves.

Our last work party was on Feb 14th, at our Dobbs Preserve located near Tropical Point in St James City. The turn-out was great with 17 volunteers working for 3 hours. That’s 51 volunteer hours in a short time. We are coming along with improvements on this preserve; recently the Pine Island’s Boy Scout Troop 20 built two foot bridges to access the loop trail we are creating. Also we have received from the residents of the St. James Place Condos a donation of another wooden foot bridge that we will use to complete the loop trail. Thank you to all the volunteers who showed up on Volunteer Day to show their love of Pine Island.

On January 11th we had 22 volunteers working on Fritts Park, setting up for our annual meeting and the rummage sale that followed the next weekend. Again this was a great turn-out of volunteers and many thanks to all the workers who made short work of the task at hand. The Park looked great for the meeting and sale.

Coming up next month on the 14th of March we will be back at our new Barron Preserve on Barrancas Avenue and Aura Lane in Bokeelia. Please come out from 9 am to noon and help improve this newest Preserve, which could also use a Lead Ranger!

Other scheduled work parties include:

- April 11th at the Bud House Calusa Canal Preserve on Meadow Ln. off of Harbor Dr. in Bokeelia, (or N 26.660694 and W -82.132008 for geocachers),
- May 9th at the Baxley Preserve on 8950 Redwood Dr. in St James City,
- June 13th at the St. James Creek planting,
- July 11th at Big Jim Creek Preserve (meeting at Fritts Park).

Peter Ordway Mangrove Adventures

Our last paddle took us to our Kreie Preserve near Jug Creek and parts of our Big Jim Creek Preserve. We also visited the Peter Ordway Tropical Hammock on the Kreie Preserve which was named in memory of Peter who started our Mangrove Adventures many years ago. Peter also negotiated the purchase of the island from the Kreie family. There was a great turnout with 18 adventures attending, raising over three hundred dollars in donations for your Calusa Land Trust.



The next paddle will be on Sunday, Feb 22nd from noon to 3 PM which will explore our newly acquired Peterson Preserve near Tropical Point. On Sunday March 22nd we will be exploring our Big Jim Creek Preserve near Fritts Park. Come out and join us!

For more information call Ed Chapin at (230) 218-7531.

Finding an Old Friend

While walking the trails of a newer island preserve, I spotted an old friend blooming in the full sun of an open field. I had long admired this plant growing in the yards of several friends on Pine Island in the past, but I was always too busy to find out much about it. After spotting it once again, I was determined to find out more about it and was pleasantly surprised at what I found. The showy shrub has many common names as it has a wide distribution throughout the Caribbean and south to at least Brazil, the most interesting of which is Ramgoat Dashalong ¹! Its other synonyms include yellow alder, Cuban buttercup and yellow elder. Its Latin name, *Turnera ulmifolia* L. was given to it by none other than Linnaeus, one of the fathers of the universal system by which all living things are given scientific names, back in the late 1700's.



The plant is usually found as a low growing shrub with glossy toothed green leaves and bright showy yellow flowers. It is known to bloom almost yearlong which may explain its popularity with homeowners for their landscapes. One possible reason for its most interesting common name may come from the idea that the plant packs a powerful pharmacological punch, being used in the past for everything from back aches to colds, dysentery, hemorrhages, lumbago and vertigo and much more! More recently it was

investigated as a synergist for number of antibiotics against the methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* or MRSA bacteria ², and as a potential treatment for stomach ulcers ³.

Another interesting thing about Ramgoat Dashalong is its historical distribution. Depending on the author or group investigating, it is considered native by some (USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service) exotic by others (UF-IFAS, USF Plant Atlas, USDA-APHIS) and a class II invasive exotic by others (The Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health), at least in the Florida Keys. Everybody apparently has an opinion on whether this is native or not. Of course, the lands and preserves of the CLT and others on Pine Island are protected, so the taking of plants or specimens of plants is not desirable and most probably illegal. Many native plants may be purchased locally at native plant nurseries, leaving our lands so they may be shared by all.

Citations

1 - <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fp593>

2 - [BMC Complement Altern Med. 2009 May 8;9:13. doi: 10.1186/1472-6882-9-13.](https://doi.org/10.1186/1472-6882-9-13)

3 - [Biol Pharm Bull. 2002 Apr;25\(4\):487-91.](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10545-002-0000-0)

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<http://www.florida.plantatlas.usf.edu/Plant.aspx?id=1809>

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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.

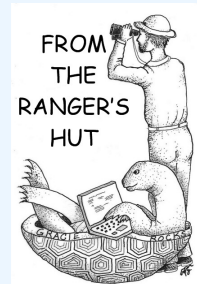
March 2015

Work Parties – Everyone Welcome

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

March 14, 2015 Barron Preserve - Barrancas Ave., Bokeelia
April 11, 2015 Bud House Calusa Canal Preserve., Meadow Ln, Bokeelia
May 8, 2015 Baxley Preserve, end of Redwood Dr., SJC
June 13, 2015 St James Creek Preserve, St. James City
July 11, 2015 Big Jim Creek, Beach Daisy Lane, Bokeelia

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

Remember this date:

March 7th

DUCK RACE!

**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.

