

## 2022 IMPORTANT DATES



### Work/Fun Parties

Jan 8th @ Fritts Park  
Feb 12th @ Dobbs Preserve, SJC

Check your email, our website or the Pine Island Eagle

### Annual Meeting

January 23rd  
Fritts Park, Bok.

### Rummage Sale

January 29th  
Fritts Park, Bok.

### Duck Race

March 5th  
Low Key Tiki, SJC

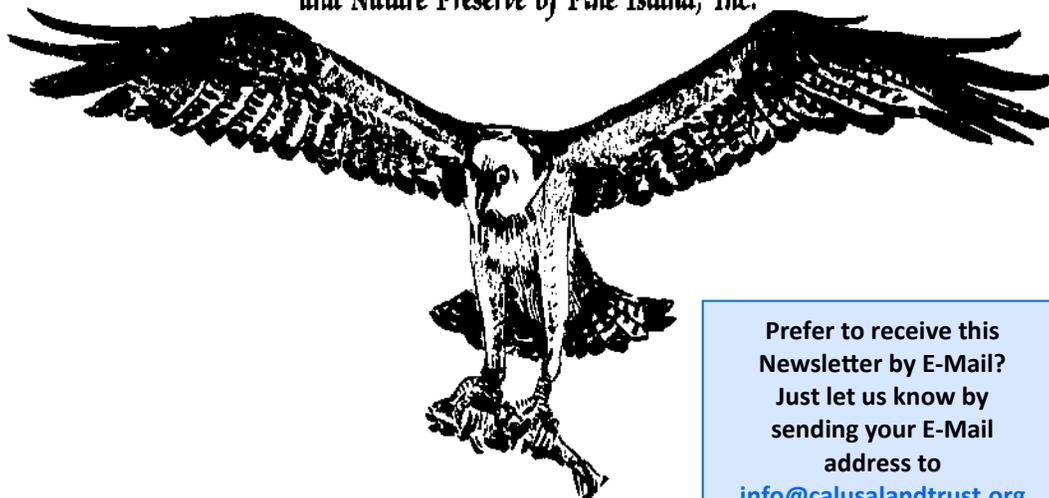
### Peter Ordway Memorial Mangrove Adventures Paddles

Coming later in the Spring



# Calusa Land Trust

and Nature Preserve of Pine Island, Inc.



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[info@calusalandtrust.org](mailto:info@calusalandtrust.org)

Newsletter #118  
Founded 1976

January 2022  
[www.calusalandtrust.org](http://www.calusalandtrust.org)

## President's Report 2022

CHALLENGES! What would our lives be like without challenges? We certainly had our share this past year with the challenges of the pandemic. The Board lost its meeting location and met in my garage, socially distanced and wearing face masks. We canceled the Rubber Duck



Race and the Rummage Sale and creatively found an alternative to partially fill the fundraising gap. Great job Alice Trant on the Duck Waddle Raffle!

This year we took a hard look at our old, existing membership list of over 2,000 names and using a new database program, we reached out to those people on the list for a response. The return was alarming. The reality is from that list we only have about 250 active members/donors

from the past two years. Our challenge this year is to improve on this number substantially. The new membership drive has started and a membership year now runs from January to December each year. This will enable us to track membership renewals more efficiently than in the past when renewals were all over the calendar year. Challenges! Please act promptly when you receive the upcoming membership outreach.

I can't help but think back to 1976 and the challenges encountered by the four landowners on Calusa Island. Alison Ackerman, Bill Spikowski, Fred Johnson, and Diane Johnson tried to find a local land preservation organization where they could donate and protect part of the island. Finding none, these four people took on the challenge of forming the Calusa Land Trust and Nature Preserve Association, Inc. to protect the western portion of Calusa Island. Development pressure continued on Pine Island (and beyond) and there was a need for a land trust with an expanded mission beyond Calusa Island and land preservation and the Association transformed into the Calusa Land Trust and Nature Preserve of Pine Island Inc. (CLT), forming in 1989 with a mission "to acquire, hold and manage environmentally sensitive lands, archeological and historical sites, and other natural lands". CLT's first big challenge was the three-stage purchase of 325 acres, now called the Big Jim Creek Preserve. What a monumental task that must have looked like! (For the full history of CLT and its evolution, check out the brand new, 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the *Nature Lover's Guide to Pine Island*, available for purchase on our website.)

Today, the Calusa Land Trust owns 2,400 acres of mostly mangroves and most of our coastline is pretty well protected. We now would like to purchase rare, undeveloped, large tracts of forested uplands that represent old Pine Island. Our challenge is now the high real estate market with landowners looking for maximum financial return on their land and, unfortunately, we are not competitive for these last pieces of native Pine Island. This land may soon be cleared to become houses or palm farms. Of course, any land donated would likely be tax deductible.

For the past 46 years we have met and overcome challenges. We will continue our efforts with the help of our members and of the Pine Island community. Join us at the Annual Meeting at Fritts Park on Sunday January 23 with a catered lunch (weather permitting). The following Saturday (January 29) will be the annual Rummage Sale at Fritts Park. And, on March 5<sup>th</sup>, we will gather for the Great Rubber Duck Race at Low Key Tiki in St. James City.

Thank you for your continued support and we hope to see you at one of the upcoming events.

Robert Ballard, President

# GREAT CALUSA RUBBER DUCK RACE SET FOR MARCH 5, 2022

## FIRST PLACE DUCK WINS \$1,000

By: Alice Trant, Head Duck Coordinator

Mark Your Calendars!  
The Ducks Are Coming!

The Ducks Are Coming! Great Calusa Rubber  
Duck Race - Saturday, March 5, 2022 at  
LOW KEY TIKI in Saint James City.

After a lonngggg 1-1/2 years of quiet hibernation, the 3,000 Bright Yellow Ducks are in their Winter Nesting grounds. Soon they will start their rigorous exercises and training in preparation for 2022's Best Duck Race on the Island!

A fun filled day awaits with Live and Silent Auctions, Entertainment, Food, Beverages and Games for all ages.

Your support of the Calusa Land Trust, Pine Island's all-volunteer conservancy, is greatly appreciated. We could not fulfill our mission to acquire, preserve and protect this special place we call home, without our Island of volunteers and donors. If you have recently moved to the island and/or have a new business on the island and would like to donate an item for the Silent Auction, Live Auction, Plant Table, Lucky Duck Wheels or Money, to the Duck Race AND/OR volunteer to work the day of the race, please call or text me (Alice Trant), Head Duck Coordinator, at 239 243-6381 or or you can email [atrant1661@comcast.net](mailto:atrant1661@comcast.net) and we can Make it Happen!

Duck Race Tickets will be on sale this month from CLT volunteers and at Island restaurants & eateries beginning in January - so Buy Early and Buy Often!

First Place Duck WINS \$1,000!

See you at Pine Island's Premier Event -  
Great Calusa Rubber Duck Race - Saturday March 5, 2022!!



# ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

## 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Calusa Land Trust and Nature Preserve of Pine Island, Inc.

Please join us for the 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Calusa Land Trust to be held Sunday, January 23, 2022, 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, progress in 2021 and plans for 2022 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 five continuing directors the membership will choose to reelect seven incumbent directors (Carolyn Murphey, Judy Ott, Frank Potter, Joan Rosenberg, Cheryl King, Marty Kendall and John Kendall) with other nominations open from the floor. For any questions one may contact Robert Ballard at (239)770-0070.

### Bio of Board of Director-elect Cheryl Stetson King

Cheryl is a native Rhode Islander who received her bachelors degree in special education from Lesley University and worked in the education profession as a teacher and athletic coach for nearly 30 years in the Broward County (FL) School District, retiring in 2016. She is outdoors motivated and enjoys fishing, kayaking, hunting and bicycle riding. Active in the Pine Island Garden Club, she is also a member of the American Legion and several environmental emphasis organizations. She and her husband, Jim, live in St. James City.

### The Friends of the Pine Island Library Speaker Series Presents!

**John Connelly** - Jan 10th @ 7:30 pm @ SJCCA: Author & outdoor sportsman John Connelly will talk about his 1500 mile, 75 day solo canoe and kayak adventure. His book, *Dying Out Here Is Not An Option* is available on Amazon. Program is free, registration on Eventbrite is requested.

**Charlie Sobczak**—Mar 9th @ 6:30 pm @ PI United Methodist Church: Sanibel author Charlie Sobczak will present an overview of the many Florida invasives, "The Great Florida Invasion - From Pepper to Pythons". His many books are available for purchase on Amazon, or to borrow for free from the LCLS. Program is free, registration on Eventbrite is requested.

## Treasures of the Trails for December 2021: Christmas Eve Sunrise Dolphin Cruising Along St Jude Nature Trail Photos & Text by Judy Ott



**What's Your Christmas Eve Tradition?** This dolphin's tradition is cruising Matlacha Pass along the St Jude Nature Trail at sunrise searching for a tasty holiday breakfast.

**Where is the CLT St Jude Nature Trail?** The Nature Trail is part of our St James Creek Preserve, located north of St James City. From Pine Island Center, take Stringfellow Rd south 7 miles & turn left (east) into St Jude Harbor. Follow Laratonda and Stabile Rd 1/2 mile & watch for the preserve & trailhead signs on the left. Park on Stabile Rd or Crestwell Ct.

**How Long is the Nature Trail?** The trail is 1/2 mile long through native mangroves & wetlands to a deck overlooking Matlacha Pass. This preserve was originally acquired by CLT in 1992 & has grown from the original 140 acres to the current 420 acres.

**Are there Always Dolphins at St Jude Trail?** No – they cruise Matlacha Pass & Pine Island Sound continually looking for fish – depending on season, tide, time of day & fish species & locations.

**Are these Dolphins, Porpoises or Fish?** In our local estuaries we have Bottlenose Dolphins – marine mammals related to porpoises & whales. They're not fish. They breathe air & bear live young, which the mothers nurse. Dolphins have longer noses, bigger mouths, more curved dorsal fins, & longer, leaner bodies than porpoises.

**What Kind of Prey Fish do Dolphins Eat?** Our dolphins eat mullet, sheepshead, pinfish & marine invertebrates – up to 20 pounds a day! They hunt using a very precise “sonar” echo-location system & can “herd” fish by splashing & thrashing or creating bubble nets.

**How Big Do Our Dolphins Get?** Adults grow to 12 feet long & 1,200 pounds, while new borns are 3 feet long & 30 pounds. Female dolphins have 1 calf every 2 or 3 years.

**How Long Do Dolphins Live?** They can live up to 50 years. They don't mate for life, but form strong bonds within pods – for companionship, caregiving & protecting their sick or injured pod members.

**How Fast do Dolphins Swim & How Long Can they Stay Submerged?** Dolphins cruise at 15 mph & sprint at 30 mph. They can stay submerged for 15 minutes, but usually stay down about 5 minutes. They breathe through a “blow hole” on top of their heads & can empty & refill their lungs in less than 1/2 second!

**How Many Dolphins Live Around Pine Island?** Most of our local dolphins are long-time, year round residents with strong loyalties to their home region. From Charlotte Harbor to San Carlos Bay, we have more than 300 resident dolphins, 3/4 of which visit Pine Island regularly. Pods can have up to 30 dolphins. Please help sustain our local dolphin populations by not feeding them!

# I TAWT I TAW A PUDDY TAT

By: Marty Kendall (Photos courtesy of Rad Hazen)

The **Florida bobcat** is twice the size of a domestic cat with the male weighing 20 to 30 pounds and the female 15 to 20 pounds. It has a “bobbed” tail measuring only one to seven inches long. They sport tufted, triangular ears and a spotted coat. Their claws are retractable and its tracks are carved by placing its rear feet in the footsteps of its front feet.



Bobcats mark their territory with urine, feces and by scratching trees. We have an example of this at the Wigert/Barron Preserve.

The male can travel an area of some 30 square miles, but can locate a mate to breed annually in February and March. The gestation period of 50 to 60 days usually yields a litter of one to four kits. At about 11 months of age the mother abandon the kits, which by then are capable of breeding themselves.

The cats sleep two to three hours per session, but are basically nocturnal hunting for rats, rabbits, raccoons, opossums and squirrels. During the winter they also add migrating birds like Sand Hill Cranes to their diet. In Florida (everywhere except the Keys) their lifetime spans about 14 years. They are reclusive by nature and create their dens in thick patches of saw palmetto and dense shrubs. Rarely observed by humans, it is a special treat to view them in their wild kingdom.

## CALUSA LAND TRUST ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE

**Donate on Friday – Buy on Saturday**

The Calusa Land Trust, Pine Island's all volunteer land conservancy, will hold its annual rummage sale on **Saturday, January 29<sup>th</sup>**, beginning at 8 am at Fritts Park (located just south of the trailer park in Bokeelia). Overseen by charter member Alison Ackerman, this is a major fundraiser for the Land Trust with income used to support its land acquisition and stewardship missions. Crews will be available the day previous, **Friday, January 28<sup>th</sup>**, beginning at 12 noon, to accept quality goods for donations. Please join us to enjoy a premier sale the proceeds from which go to a great cause. For more information or to become a volunteer one may contact Alison at (239) 851-3176.



# 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: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
State, Zip code : \_\_\_\_\_

<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.  
**January 2022**



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Board of Directors		
<b>Robert Ballard</b> President	<b>John Kendall</b> Director	<b>Bill Hummer</b> Director
<b>Frank Potter</b> Vice President	<b>Ed Chapin</b> Land Steward	<b>Carolyn Murphey</b> Director
<b>Cheryl King</b> Director	<b>Carol Mullin</b> Director	<b>Judy Ott</b> Director
<b>Marty Kendall</b> Secretary	<b>Nancy Weir</b> Director	<b>Les Smith</b> Director
<b>Joan Rosenberg</b> Treasurer		

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.

\*Calusa Land Trust Articles of Incorporation, Article II