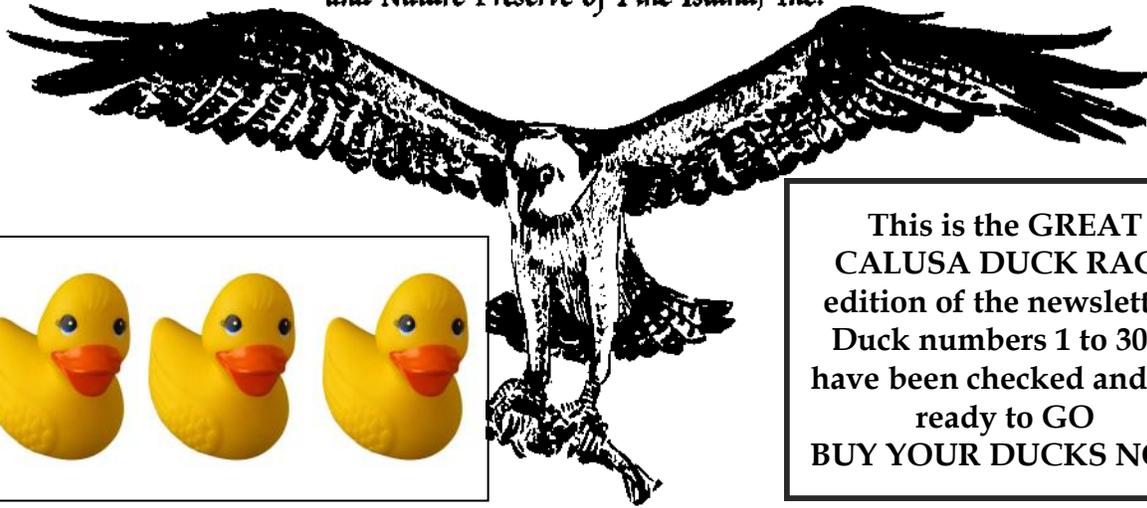


# Calusa Land Trust

and Nature Preserve of Pine Island, Inc.



This is the GREAT  
CALUSA DUCK RACE  
edition of the newsletter.  
Duck numbers 1 to 3000  
have been checked and are  
ready to GO  
BUY YOUR DUCKS NOW

Newsletter #86

Founded 1976

February 2014

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

## Mark Your Calendars - - It's Ducky Time !

The ducks are treading water getting ready for the "Great Calusa Rubber Duck Race." Be there on Saturday March 1<sup>st</sup> at Monroe Canal behind Woody's Waterside Pub in Saint James City.

Festivities will start at noon and continue all afternoon with music, games, raffles, and auctions. At around 4:00 in the afternoon 3000 numbered rubber ducks will race down the canal to the finish line. The first duck to cross the line will win the Grand Prize: a full-day offshore guided fishing trip for 4 people (value \$1,000). The next 19 ducks to cross the finish line will win an assortment of great prizes including artwork, gift certificates, and other interesting items valued at over \$100.

As always, there will be both silent and live auctions conducted throughout the afternoon. Some examples of the items to be auctioned are: wood carvings, paintings, fused glasswork, pottery, a day cruise for 35 people, guided fishing trips, cooking class, certificates for resorts and dinner, and much more. So, bring your cash, checkbooks, and credit cards 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 Pink Wesorick, and various locations around the island - - - watch for the Calusa Land Trust Duck sales persons.

All proceeds from the race benefit the Calusa Land Trust of Pine Island so they can continue their program of purchasing and maintaining environmentally sensitive land in the greater Pine Island area.

For tickets or information, call Pink Wesorick at 283-7249. After this year, we will need a new person to lead the committee for the Duck Race. After many years of leading this very successful event, Pink is going to step down and "pass the torch." The Great Calusa Rubber Duck Race is our major fund raiser and is the premier community social event. It is critical we find someone to step forward and keep the tradition going.

Anyone interested can talk to Pink or any CLT Director for more details.

**Great Calusa Rubber Duck Race**

**Saturday, March 1st, 2014**  
Woody's Waterside Pub  
St. James City  
Calusa Land Trust  
and Nature Preserve of Pine Island, Inc.

Games!  
Fun!  
Raffles!  
Auctions!

Festivities Start - Noon  
Duck Race between 3:00 and 4:00  
Prizes for the Fastest Ducks  
Tickets - \$5 per Duck

**ALL PROCEEDS TO THE CALUSA LAND TRUST**  
For Duck Tickets or more information contact:  
Pink Wesorick 283-7249  
Woody's Waterside Pub 283-5555  
on line sales at [www.calusalandtrust.org](http://www.calusalandtrust.org)

## 38th Annual Meeting Fritts Park Mark Laux

We held our annual meeting at Fritts Park on January 19th starting at 1:00, and the weather was perfect for an outdoor meeting. As always lunch, drinks and entertainment were provided free, with our donation jars out to help defray costs and hopefully to bring in monies dedicated for land acquisitions. A special thank you goes out to Frank Tuma of Island Music ([www.islandfrank.com](http://www.islandfrank.com)) who graciously donates the musical entertainment for our meeting. Sandwiches, salads, and soft drinks were provided by Winn Dixie of Pine Island along with assorted salads and vegetarian dishes. Fresh fruit and homemade cookies were provided by Sandy Laux, and for those who asked, cookie recipes can be found on her web site ([www.mangiabenepasta.com](http://www.mangiabenepasta.com)).

Elected as new Directors were Frank Potter and Rad Hazen.. The entire Board is listed on page 5. The annual financial report is on page 6.

Recognition plaques were presented to past Presidents Brian Cotterill (4 years) and Harold Bruner (3 years). A special presentation was made to Phil Buchanan (see right.)

Mel Meo and Fred Lodsin ([www.melmeostudio.com](http://www.melmeostudio.com)) provided their island famous mullet sandwiches and corn fritters. I would like to extend a sincere thanks to fellow board members and volunteers whose hard work and dedication made this a successful day. Like anything worthwhile it takes teamwork and a collective community spirit of all of us working together to make our Calusa Land Trust a continuing success.



Mel and Fred and their "Mullet Wagon."



CLT Secretary/Historian Rubye Woodhead selling the Nature Lovers Guide to Pine Island



Frank Tuma at the Keyboard.

## Phil Buchanan Recognized at Annual Meeting Harold Bruner

The last few years the CLT has recognized a person or organization for outstanding service as it relates to the CLT mission statement. This year we recognized long-time environmentalist Phil Buchanan. Phil was presented a framed certificate with the following inscription:



**FOR DEDICATED SERVICE AS A BOARD MEMBER, VICE-PRESIDENT AND PRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1998 THROUGH MARCH 2003**

**AND**

**FOR DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE CITIZENS OF LEE COUNTY, AND ESPECIALLY TO THE CITIZENS OF PINE ISLAND, AS AN ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCATE OF THE HIGHEST CALIBER.**



Phil speaks to the Annual Meeting



Gloria Andrews Selling CLT clothing.



New Board Member Rad Hazen



Members "sign in" with Sonny Koutsoutis, Pink Wesorick and John Kendall.

## New Signs For CLT Preserves

Harold Bruner

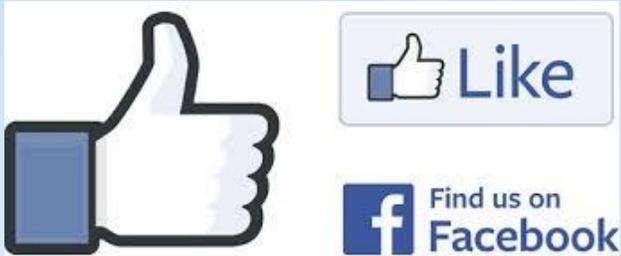
Watch for new aluminum signs to be mounted on green posts for our preserves with upland frontage. If you have any ideas on how we might mount the new signs in the mangroves to identify our wetland preserves, please let us know!



## Find us and Like Us on Facebook

Harold Bruner

239.464.2436



We are trying to reach more people with a presence on Facebook. We have used it to post photos and announce upcoming events. First, search for Calusa Land Trust. Then click the Like button. From then on you should receive our posts. If you're a Facebook pro and would like to suggest how we might better expand our presence, please let me know.

E-mail Harold at [hdbruner@gmail.com](mailto:hdbruner@gmail.com)

**CLT Wish List** Perhaps there is something on this list that you can contribute to the Calusa Land Trust.

A Shed for Fritts Park

Picnic Table for Fritts Park

Stihl Model MS 250 Chain Saw

Call Ranger Ed at 239.218.7531

It would certainly be appreciated.

## Treasures of the Trails

February 2014:

A Treasure Hunt at the  
Calusa Canal Preserve

**Who Lives Here?**

Text & Photos By Judy Ott



The Burrow



Scat Found nearby

**What do we know from what we see?** This is the home of an animal that is less than 14 inches across who digs burrows in sandy soils in longleaf and slash pine forests and eats plants, mostly grasses.

**What else do we know?** The home-owner, a reptile, spends most of its time in its burrow, which provides protection from heat and cold, predators, drought and fires. The burrow has a dome-shaped opening about 18 inches across and is about 30 feet long, fairly straight and shallower than the ground water table (less than 10 feet). Our resident has several connected burrows and needs about 4 acres to itself. The burrow, whether still in use or abandoned, is shared by over 300 different species, including skunks, opossums, armadillos, rabbits, burrowing owls, quail, mice, rattlesnakes, indigo snakes, gopher frogs, and other lizards, snakes, frogs and invertebrates. The scat found near the burrow tells us that the resident is an herbivore, with a diet consisting mostly of grasses and legumes, along with mushrooms, Spanish moss, palmetto berries, pawpaw, gopher apple and other fruits. This animal gets most of its water from its food. So the burrow architect is an essential supporter of both animal diversity and plant seed dispersal throughout our longleaf and slash pine flatwood habitats. Physically, our resident reptile must be about 1 foot in diameter to turn around in its burrow, dome shaped, less than 8 inches tall to fit in the opening and have strong front flippers to dig with.

**Find a picture of the Critter somewhere in this newsletter.**



## Annual CLT Yard Sale Raises over \$1000

A week after the Annual Meeting Fritts Park was the site of the CLT Yard Sale. Volunteers at the Park on Friday received lots of good saleable items. Ranger Ed camped out all night and awoke Saturday to a bright shiny day although a bit chilly.

Yard sale enthusiasts began arriving early and by mid afternoon more than \$1000 had been raised. These dollars all go toward land acquisition.



Alison Ackerman and Donna Venesky attend to the rummage sale.



Sorting through beads.



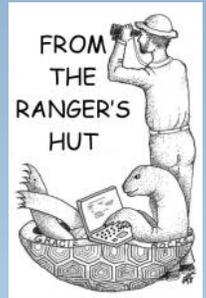
Happy shoppers and a Teddy Bear with a new home.

## Upcoming Work Parties Ed Chapin 239.218.7531

Work parties are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month excepting August. They start at 9:00am and end at noon.

Bring garden tools, water and bug spray. Usually we are clearing trails and removing invasive exotics.

March 8	Dobbs Preserve
April 12	St. James Creek Preserve
May 10	Baxley Preserve
June 14	St. James Creek Preserve
July 12	To Be Announced



## Peter Ordway Mangrove Adventures

Paddles on our preserves. Paddles are on Sundays from Noon till 3:00pm.

March 9	Big Jim Creek
April	To Be Announced



Call Ranger Ed  
for information or reservations for the paddles at  
**(239) 218.7531**

## From The Bird's Nest

The CLT's 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting was held on January 19<sup>th</sup>. See the article elsewhere in the newsletter. Mark Laux did a commendable job in planning the event. The munchies were delicious and Frank Tuma's Island Music provided the entertainment.

The meeting resulted in the election of Rad Hazen and Frank Potter as new board members to serve with the 13 incumbents. We are pleased with the enthusiasm and background experiences of our Board which is charged with enhancing and fulfilling the CLT's mission to preserve and protect the natural diversity and beauty of Pine Island.

At the meeting we reviewed our actions in acquisition, stewardship and conservation in 2013 and our prospects for 2014. In future newsletters I will endeavor to present these visions and discuss our warm and expanded cooperation with sister island organizations all working for mutual interests and goals.

In the same spirit as the Nature Conservancy, we strive to conserve our lands and waters on which all life depends.

## John Kendall, President

**CALUSA LAND TRUST AND NATURE PRESERVE  
OF PINE ISLAND, INC.  
2014 Board of Directors**

<b>Bear, Cindy</b> (2014-2015) <a href="mailto:cindy@calusalandtrust.org">cindy@calusalandtrust.org</a>	283-9616
<b>Chapin, Ed</b> (2013-2014) VP & Land Stewardship Chair <a href="mailto:ecalusaed@calusalandtrust.org">ecalusaed@calusalandtrust.org</a>	Cell: 218-7531
<b>Cotterill, Brian</b> (2014-2015) Newsletter Editor & Publicity Chair <a href="mailto:brian@calusalandtrust.org">brian@calusalandtrust.org</a>	283-1876
<b>Hazen, Rad</b> (2013-2014) <a href="mailto:radfordhazen@gmail.com">radfordhazen@gmail.com</a>	Cell: 898-6009
<b>House, Cathy</b> (2013-2014)	283-3090
<b>Kendall, John</b> (2014-2015) President <a href="mailto:martykendall@gmail.com">martykendall@gmail.com</a>	283-8175
<b>Koutsoutis, Sonja J. 'Sonny'</b> (2013-2014) <a href="mailto:sonny@calusalandtrust.org">sonny@calusalandtrust.org</a>	283-4980
<b>Laux, Mark</b> (2014-2015) Annual Meeting Chair <a href="mailto:mark@calusalandtrust.org">mark@calusalandtrust.org</a>	549-5848
<b>Ott, Judy</b> (2013-2014) <a href="mailto:judy@calusalandtrust.org">judy@calusalandtrust.org</a>	283-1876
<b>Potter, Frank</b> (2014-2015) <a href="mailto:fpotter56@gmail.com">fpotter56@gmail.com</a>	558-5956
<b>Rooney, James (Pat)</b> (2013-2014) <a href="mailto:janthina2002@yahoo.com">janthina2002@yahoo.com</a>	282-5811
<b>Rosenberg, Joan</b> (2014-2015) Treasurer <a href="mailto:mail@joanandphil.com">mail@joanandphil.com</a>	283-3871 Cell: 229-5589
<b>Simmons, Peter</b> (2014-2015) <a href="mailto:littleboarshead@comcast.net">littleboarshead@comcast.net</a>	558-8683
<b>Wesorick, Ron</b> (2013-2014) Fund Raising Chair <a href="mailto:ron@calusalandtrust.org">ron@calusalandtrust.org</a>	283-7249 Cell: 292-9788
<b>Woodhead, Rubye</b> (2014-2015) Secretary/Historian <a href="mailto:rubyew5@embarqmail.com">rubyew5@embarqmail.com</a>	283-1288
<b>Non-Board Chairs</b>	
Andrews, Gloria Merchandise Chair <a href="mailto:gand9053@aol.com">gand9053@aol.com</a>	283-5020
Duck Race Chair Vacant	
Bruner, Harold Acquisition Chair <a href="mailto:hdbruner@gmail.com">hdbruner@gmail.com</a>	Cell: 464-2436
Riordan, Barb Poker Run Chair <a href="mailto:briordan40@aol.com">briordan40@aol.com</a>	282-8622

# Annual Reports for Fiscal Year 2012 – 2013

## CALUSA LAND TRUST & NATURE PRESERVE OF PINE ISLAND, INC. STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2013

## CALUSA LAND TRUST & NATURE PRESERVE OF PINE ISLAND, INC. STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION SEPTEMBER 30, 2013

		\$
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash	\$ 169,702	\$ 90,840
Interest Bearing Accounts		220,000
<b>Property</b>		12,000
Preserved Land, at Cost if Purchased or Fair Market Value at Date of Donation	1,985,702	1,599 (66)
<b>Other Asset</b>		37,502
Mortgage Note Receivable, English Estate Donation	220,000	<u>361,875</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<u>\$ 2,375,404</u>	
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Credit Card Liability	\$ 322	
Mowing Liability	5,220	
Mortgage Note Payable, Martha P Peterson	45,450	
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<u>\$ 50,992</u>	6,581
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Donor Restricted - Calusa Canal Fund	3,605	
Property Fund - Preserved Land	<u>1,985,702</u>	
Board Designated:		
Land Acquisition Fund	(45,450)	
Land Acquisition Fund-English Estate Donation	220,000	
From Garden Club Designated for Land Acquisition	10,000	
Land Management Fund	3,567	
Boardwalk Maintenance Fund	4,773	
Easement Defense Fund	1,000	
Endowment Fund	107,261	
Total Board Designated	<u>301,151</u>	
Undesignated - General Fund	33,954	
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<u>\$ 2,324,412</u>	176,645
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>	<u>\$ 2,375,404</u>	<u>1,983,678</u> <u>164,089</u>
<b>REVENUES, GAINS &amp; OTHER SUPPORT</b>		
Memberships & Cash Donations		\$ 90,840
Donation, Mortgage Note Receivable, English Estate		220,000
Land Donations		12,000
Interest & Dividend Income		1,599
Unrealized Loss on Securities		(66)
Fundraising & Special Events:		
Revenues	\$ 46,528	
Less, Direct Expenses	<u>(9,026)</u>	
<b>Total Support &amp; Revenue</b>		<u>37,502</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Land Stewardship Expenses:		
Mowing	5,220	
Other Land Stewardship Expenses	<u>1,361</u>	
<b>Administrative Expenses:</b>		
Postage	1,352	
Printing	851	
Insurance	5,048	
Credit Card Fees	661	
Annual Meeting Expense	1,679	
Legal Expense	1,750	
Dues in Other Groups	475	
Other Administrative Expenses	<u>490</u>	
<b>Land Acquisition Costs:</b>		
Purchase Martha P Peterson Preserve	121,417	
Purchase Coker Trust	30,653	
Land Donation, Crestwell Court, Smith	12,019	
<b>Total Land Acquisitions</b>	<u>164,089</u>	
Property Taxes & Fees	2,254	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<u>185,230</u>	
<b>Increase in Net Assets</b>		176,645
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Net Assets, October 1, 2012		1,983,678
Capitalized Land Acquisition Costs		<u>164,089</u>
<b>Net Assets, September 30, 2013</b>		<u>\$ 2,324,412</u>

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 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 #:**                      **Visa or MasterCard only**

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**EXPIRES:** \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_      **Security Code** \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_                      Alt Phone \_\_\_\_\_

How do you want to receive your Newsletter? <input type="checkbox"/> US Mail <input type="checkbox"/> E-Mail
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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.

Feb 2014



### And the Critter is:

Our treasure is a Gopher Tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*), found in pine savannas throughout Florida and southern Georgia to South Carolina. They are fairly flat for tortoises and dark tan or gray with strong legs – broad, flat front legs for digging and round stout back legs for pushing. They can live to be 100 years old and reach reproductive age at 12 -15 years old. Following an elaborate spring

courtship, they lay about 4 - 7 ping pong ball sized eggs in the summer, which hatch 3 months later as small 2 inch brightly colored miniatures. Gopher Tortoises are the Florida State Tortoise and a keystone species critical for maintaining species diversity. They are listed as federal and state Threatened Species due to habitat loss from human development, human use for pets or meat, and relocation-related population disruption and diseases. Join the CLT in preserving their habitats and check with local and state agencies before disturbing their burrows or relocating them.





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 Presentations**

This year the Calusa Land Trust has made a presentation to the Museum of the Islands (MOTI) at their January meeting.

A presentation was also made to the Pine Island Boat Club at their February meeting. The presentation includes a discussion of the Mission of the CLT, how it raises funds and how it purchases land. The presentation includes a slide show featuring aerial views of many of the Land Trust properties.

To schedule a presentation for your group contact any Director or send an E-Mail to [info@calusalandtrust.org](mailto:info@calusalandtrust.org)

