

## 2023 IMPORTANT DATES



### Rubber Duck Raffle

March 4th at The Fine Swine. SJC

### Work/Fun Parties March 11th @

Taylor-Willow Preserve  
11254 Alcorn St, Bokeelia

### April 8th @

Ed Chapin Preserve  
5466 Royal Okley Lane

### Peter Ordway Paddles

Feb 24th,  
Calusa Island, 9am,  
Lavenders Landing  
(See page 5)

### For more Information

Check your email,

Our website

[Calusalandtrust.org](http://Calusalandtrust.org).

Our [Facebook page](#)

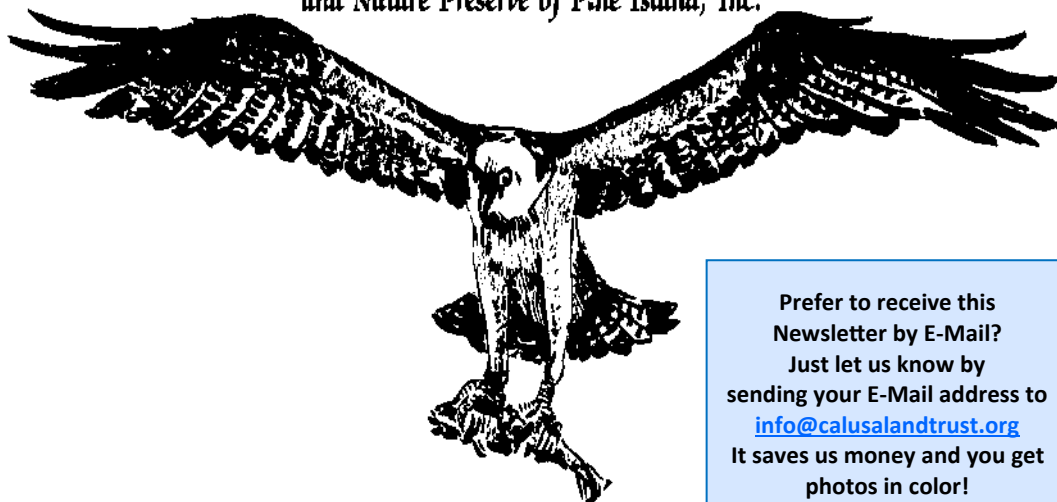
or

the Pine Island Eagle



# Calusa Land Trust

and Nature Preserve of Pine Island, Inc.



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Just let us know by sending your E-Mail address to [info@calusalandtrust.org](mailto:info@calusalandtrust.org)  
It saves us money and you get photos in color!

Newsletter #121  
Founded 1976

February 2023

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

## President's Report

Thank you, members for another successful Annual CLT Membership Meeting! We had over 60 participants on a beautiful, but a bit breezy, Sunday afternoon at Fritts Park. Your support continues to fuel our efforts as we move forward in this post- Hurricane Ian recovery period.

Thanks to the efforts of the Queen Duck, Alice Trant, the **Great Rubber Duck Raffle and White Elephant Sale** is off and running for the **March 4** event at the **Fine Swine Restaurant**. This is a scaled down version of our traditional Duck Race but restaurants and canal waters in St. James City are not quite ready yet for our usual event. That said, the prize money is larger than ever, \$2,000 for first place! Ticket sales have been brisk and we hope to pick up momentum realizing that this a shortened sales period this year. Tickets are being sold by Board members throughout Pine Island as well as on our website, <https://www.calusalandtrust.org/>.

Thanks to CLT member Jim Friedlander, the Peter Ordway Mangrove Adventure Paddling Tours are once again being offered. Jim has scheduled the first kayak tour of this season for February 24 to Calusa Island. Peter Ordway Mangrove Adventures are held in memory of

Peter Ordway, a popular and dynamic CLT Director who began these paddles to raise funds and explore our preserves some of which can only be visited in this manner. Read more about the upcoming paddle later in this newsletter.

And while we are talking about Calusa Island, Jim Blanchard ScD, has carried out a mapping project of the Hurricane Ian erosion damage to the island using his LASR drone technology. Jim is working in conjunction with several universities and local environmental agencies and CLT on this research project.

Work continues on debris removal from our Preserves and repair to damaged structures. The Dobbs Preserve and the Wigert-Barron Preserve trails are open and the St Jude Trail is open to the boardwalk. However, the boardwalk will need to be completely rebuilt which will require permitting and contracting. We hope to have the Taylor-Willow Lake Preserve open by April. We had a “cattle guard” built to help keep feral hogs out of the trails on Taylor-Willow Lake and plan to have it in place at the trail entrance later this month.

Thank you for your support and participation in the Calusa Land Trust! We hope to see everyone at the **Great Rubber Duck Raffle and White Elephant Sale on March 4 at the Fine Swine Restaurant.**

Robert Ballard, President  
Calusa Land Trust

## White Elephant Sale

This year the annual rummage sale normally held at Fritts Park in Bokeelia will morph into a White Elephant Sale to be held in conjunction with the Rubber Duck Raffle which is being held on March 4th. This years location will be the **Fine Swine restaurant**, which is located at 10251 Stringfellow Road, St James City. The White Elephant sale will feature fabulous jewelry, household items, clothes and books.



## CLT is Recipient of January Noisy Offering

The Fishers of Men Lutheran Church awarded the CLT their *Noisy Offering* for January. CLT President Robert Ballard accepted the check for \$525.82 from Barb Tripp and Pastor Tom Hafer. The *Noisy Offering* is a collection of loose change taken at every Sunday service and once a month the collection is given to an organization on the Island. This is the third year that the CLT has been the beneficiary of this generous offering.

Our thanks to the congregation at Fishers of Men for their continued support. That's a lot of loose change!



Barb Tripp, CLT President Robert Ballard & Pastor Tom Hafer

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## Local Businesses Commit to helping CLT Recover from Hurricane Destruction

Three local businesses have offered to sponsor prizes for the Great Rubber Duck Raffle at Fine Swine Restaurant on March 4. These prizes are \$2000 for First Place, and \$1000 for Second Place. **Honc Industries Diversified Construction Services** of Saint James City is family owned and operated with over 50 years of experience. They provide exceptional service in fill and grading projects, in septic services, and drainfield repairs. Strong leaders in the Pine Island community, Honc Industries exhibits strong leadership in the Pine Island community and is the sponsor of our \$1000 Second Place Prize.

John M. Richards of **Richards & Associates Orthodontics** is an enthusiastic supporter of the Calusa Land Trust and its mission of preserving and conserving environmentally sensitive lands in Pine Island. Richards & Associates Orthodontics provides orthodontics, braces, and Invisalign, with convenient locations in Fort Myers and Cape Coral. Dr. Richards is sponsoring half of our \$2000 First Place Prize.

**Team Shevlin** is sponsoring another portion of our First Place Prize. A long time resident of Pine Island, Mike Shevlin, broker manager of Century 21 Sunbelt Realty, Inc., appreciates the Calusa Land Trust's 47 year service in helping keep Pine Island green. He recognizes that the CLT will need a successful Great Rubber Duck Raffle in 2023 to repair hurricane damage in a timely manner.



# 2023 GREAT ROCK & ROLL DUCK RAFFLE

Each year the **Great Calusa Rubber Duck Race** is held (our biggest fundraiser of the year) in St. James City. In the past, hundreds of Pine Islanders and visitors enjoyed the day as we raised over \$30,000 for our land conservancy mission. But, this year since Hurricane Ian has left us all damaged; physically, mentally, and financially, we are ready to host a big party, Pine Island Strong! Our Preserves have sustained horrific damage to trees, plants, boardwalks, tikis, and benches. For these reasons, we will be conducting the **24th Annual Great Calusa Rubber Duck Raffle** on Saturday, March 4, 2023, at the **Fine Swine** Restaurant (10251 Stringfellow Rd, SJC) from 10am-3pm.



Queen Duck, Alice Trant with her freshly washed Rubber Ducks

The **2023 Great Rock & Roll Duck Raffle** will include Live Music, Prize Wheels, 50:50 drawings, a White Elephant Sale and good food. The rubber ducks are resting comfortably ready for next year. Duck Raffle tickets are \$10 each and on sale now at various island restaurants, during specific times and from CLT Board members as well as on our website

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

First prize is \$2,000 and second prize is \$1,000!

All net proceeds from the event go to the Calusa Land Trust to get our Preserves back open to the public. Our mission is to acquire and maintain environmentally sensitive or historically important lands in the Greater Pine Island area for perpetuity.

So, Please join us for a day of fun and prizes on Saturday, March 4, at the FINE SWINE for the **2023 Great Rock & Roll Duck Raffle**

Queen of Quack, Alice



Prize Wheel

## Mangrove Adventures return

Back by popular demand CLT announces the renewal of the Peter Ordway Mangrove Adventure Guided Canoe/Kayak Trips. The first one of this season will be held on Friday, February 24, starting at 9am from Lavender's Landing Boat Ramp on Barrancas Ave in Bokeelia. The paddle will be out the east end of Jug Creek to the CLT Calusa Island Preserve. Parking will be free at Lavender's Landing for the morning trip.

If you have any questions contact Trip Leader Jim Friedlander (860) 608-1158 or [jimfri29@gmail.com](mailto:jimfri29@gmail.com). If you need to rent a kayak they are available at Carmen's Kayaks at the end of Porto Bello St on Jug Creek (239) 333-7332.

There is a suggested donation of \$20 for nonmembers and \$10 for members for the trip. Hope to see you and "Happy Paddling"



Ed Chapin leading an early paddling tour

## February 2023 work parties

### At Wigert Baron Preserve

Meanwhile on Saturday the volunteer work crew, 27 strong, cleared the storm debris from areas of the Wigert-Barron Preserve. Workers got to view A Bald Eagle, Red Shouldered Hawk, and a black snake procuring a breakfast meal of field mouse.

By Robert Ballard

### Along the St James Creek Preserve

Calusa Land Trust south end work party at St Jude Trail had 20 of the finest volunteers we could ask for, lead by several CLT directors, picking up lan storm debris removing foam insulation, garbage & gas cans, dock pieces, plywood, shingles & much, much, more on wetlands and buffer zone along a stretch of about 1 mile of Roadway (Stabile Road and Cussell Drive) southward then east until cul-de-sac where Cussell Drive turns into private road.

- one volunteer - Bob Gosselin - took 9 loads of debris in private pickup to Government storm debris drop-off spot at center of Island because this light-weight debris was susceptible to blowing back into wetlands with upcoming high winds of greater than 20 mph.





# More February work party photos

Wigert Baron



St James Creek Preserve



# 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.

**February 2023**

## 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>Joan Rosenberg</b> Treasurer	<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> Land Steward



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