

2022 IMPORTANT DATES



Work/Fun Parties

MAY 14TH @

the [Ed Chapin Preserve](#)

Located at
5466 Royal Okley Drive
Bokeelia

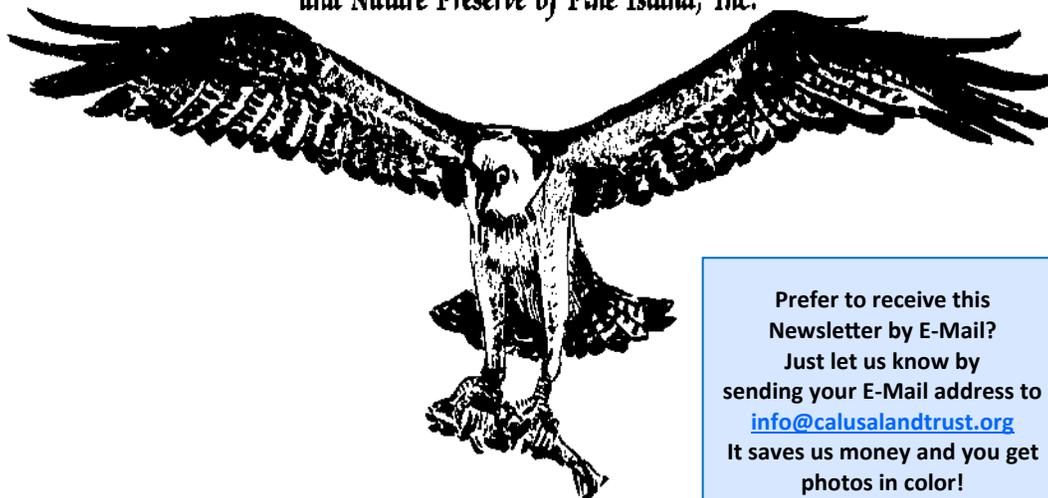
Enjoy your summer!!

Check your email, our
website or
the Pine Island Eagle



Calusa Land Trust

and Nature Preserve of Pine Island, Inc.



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It saves us money and you get
photos in color!

Newsletter #119

Founded 1976

May 2022

www.calusalandtrust.org

President's Report by Robert Ballard

We're winding down our 2021/2022 winter season of Work/Fun Parties, the last will be May 14th at the Chapin Preserve. We got off to a rocky start as the October storm flooded the Taylor/Willow Lake Preserve and we were limited to what we could do. But our faithful worked on the entrance strip until the rain came.

November we were at the Wigert/Barron Preserve where the ongoing battle with the invasive trees and plants continued and significant cleanup was done as well as the replanting of the Butterfly habitat. With more work needing to be done before our first "Featured Preserve Walk" was held we came back in late November to do some touch up. So, in early December we conducted 3 tours of the Wigert/Barron Preserve for about 18 people.

Then the December Work Fun Party was at the Dobbs preserve where work was focused on enhancing the trail through the mangroves along the spoil banks created by the adjacent mosquito control canal. Construction of dry walk ways between the spoil mounds were completed, while the path over the spoil mounds were improved.

January was our annual Fritts Park cleanup work party in preparation for the Annual Membership Meeting followed by the Annual Rummage Sale. A new pergola over the platform was constructed providing some shade to the area.



Dobb's Preserve with the
approximate trail route

In February we were back at the Dobbs preserve to finish the construction of the trail. March had us back at the Taylor/Willow Lake after again having to cancel the scheduled Work Party Day because of weather. We finally got rescheduled a couple of weeks later, and our hardy volunteers came out to do a tremendous amount of work cleaning up the trails and attacking the ever present invasive plant issue.

In April we met at the St James Creek Preserve/St Jude Trail, where the trail was cleaned up and the grounds around the Tiki Huts were groomed. Invasive trees on the east side of the mosquito canals were removed.

Thank you to all of the 62 volunteers that came out over the course of the year (some several times) to help do this important work. This represents over 420 hours of work this past season. **You make it happen!**

SUPER SUCCESSFUL 2022 CALUSA RUBBER DUCK RACE! **By Alice Trant Duck, Race Coordinator**

The Pine Island Community, snowbirds, and visitors turned out in droves to celebrate the CLT's 23rd Great Rubber Duck Race Saturday, March 5th. Over 60 volunteers worked tirelessly for months before rounding up donations from over 150 business and individual donors, who contributed so generously. Many, many thanks to those volunteers and donors for making this year's Great Calusa Rubber Duck Race the **GREATEST** Success of all time! Over **\$36,000** was raised to help the CLT acquire, manage, and preserve the lands on this island that have been entrusted to our care.

Thank you to all CLT supporters for buying Duck Race tickets (we sold out 10 days before the race), Super Duck tickets (sold out quickly day of the race), shirts, hats, and bidding on our many and varied items at the Silent Auction and Live Auction. And lets not forget our Spinning Wheels!

Laughter and camaraderie filled the entire afternoon with the many winners of prizes and home baked goods.

What a Race Day, Calusa Land Trust supporters!

Here's looking forward to seeing y'all again next year!



The Silent Auction



Ducks getting ready to race



Spinning the Wheel!

Rummage Sale Results by Alison Ackerman

Our annual Rummage Sale held on January 29 was a huge success. Since last year's sale was cancelled, we had an abundance of donations to organize and price, which helped us surpass our \$3,000 goal, reaching \$3,279.45 to be precise. That total is all the more remarkable because most items sold for less than \$5.00. And because we want to beat our record every year, we'll be shooting for at least \$3,300 next January!

To prepare for next year, I would like to extend an invitation to anyone who would like to add their name to our volunteer list. We have about 30 people who help in various capacities, from organizing and pricing items, preparing the tables for the Saturday sale, helping at the actual sale, and then packing up the leftovers. If you think you MAY be interested, I can add your name to my e-mail group list, and you will then get any notices I send out asking for help. Not everyone can lend a hand every time I ask, but that's fine. We plan on having a few days during the year when we meet at Fritts Park and price the items that have already been donated. In fact, we have done that once already this spring and it was amazing what we did in just a couple of hours. Please consider joining our team which to me is one of the most fun-loving groups I've ever had the pleasure of working with. Give me a call and leave a message at 239-851-3176, or e-mail me at alison@spikowski.com.



I also hope everyone out there is saving their unwanted items for our sale next year, but don't worry. You do not have to wait until next January to get them out of your garage! Just contact me, and I will be happy to arrange a pick-up or a place for you to drop things off.

Happy collecting!

LCEC Provides Environmental Funding Awards To Local Organizations By Frank Potter

Lee County Electric Cooperative (LCEC) announced on March 23 that it will provide Environmental Funding Awards to Calusa Land Trust and Preserve (CLT) of Pine Island, Inc., Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, Friends of Cape Coral Environment, Inc., Friends of Fakahatchee, and the Sanibel Sea School. Collectively, these five award winners are receiving nearly \$18,000. Since the inception of the LCEC Environmental Funding Award program in 2013, LCEC has bestowed nearly \$205,000 to local organizations to help aid them in their endeavors to protect and sustain the environment.

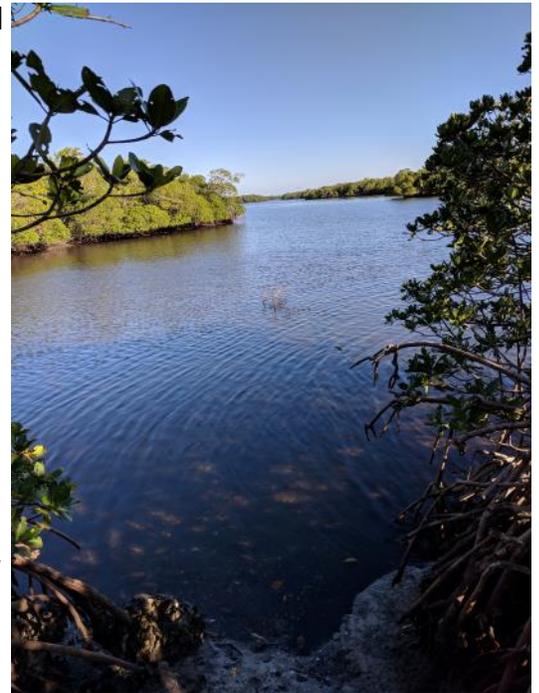
This Environmental Funding Award Program is just one of the many ways that LCEC positively impacts and supports wildlife and the environment. To learn more, visit the Environment page at www.lcec.net. CLT was awarded a grant of nearly \$3,000 for signage at CLT's Calusa Island Preserve at the northern tip of Pine Island. Previously, CLT was awarded a grant of \$6,000 in 2018 from LCEC for signage at CLT's 31-acre Wigert-Barron Preserve on Barrancas Avenue in Bokeelia. <https://calusalandtrust.org>.

GO TAKE A HIKE!

By: Marty Kendall

It is peaceful here as I enter the pathway to the Calusa Land Trust's St. Jude Nature Trail. The round trip walk on a well established path is approximately a one-mile round trip. This is Florida as it once was. It was initially slated to be a heavily populated boulevard lined with shopping centers, homes and restaurants, all leading to a cross-water bridge to Punta Russa. Fortunately, the permits were withdrawn before the destruction occurred. Today it is a quiet, dog leash friendly nature trail dutifully maintained by CLT volunteers. Left undisturbed, the mangroves and vegetation are flourishing and the native creatures are bountiful. There are several benches (for resting and gazing) and a tiki hut protected picnic table. Life is simple here.

As you proceed toward the end of the trail, there is a boardwalk which is constructed of wooden engraved planks that name friends and families who have contributed to the land trust's conservation efforts. Stand on the deck for a moment at the end of the trail and experience what the Calusa Indians would have seen over a millennium ago. No wonder we love it here!



Island Fest - Mullet Toss & Seafood Festival 2022 by Joan Rosenberg

On Saturday, April 23, the Pine Island Chamber of Commerce sponsored an Island Fest at Phillips Park – combining two long time events – the Mullet Toss and the Seafood Festival. The weather was sunny and warm but a steady breeze was very welcoming. The Calusa Land Trust set up a booth to sell a variety of our CLT Calusa Clothesline clothing with our logos. We sold tee shirts, fishing shirts and hats.

Our long time Merchandising leader, Gloria Andrews has recently retired and our board member, Nancy Weir, will lead the Calusa Clothesline project in the future. In addition to Nancy, we had many volunteers – Kelly and his friends Stan and Chuck, as well as Judy Ott and Brian Cotterill helped with setup. Karen Penman, Carol Mullin, Alice Trant, and Robert Ballard helped with sales, and Frank Potter and Judy Ott helped with breakdown. Almost \$1000 worth of merchandise was sold. Many brochures were handed out to inform our island residents about the Calusa Land Trust and we got very positive feedback. The general consensus was that residents want a place to live where they can enjoy nature and be assured our beautiful island green space will be protected.



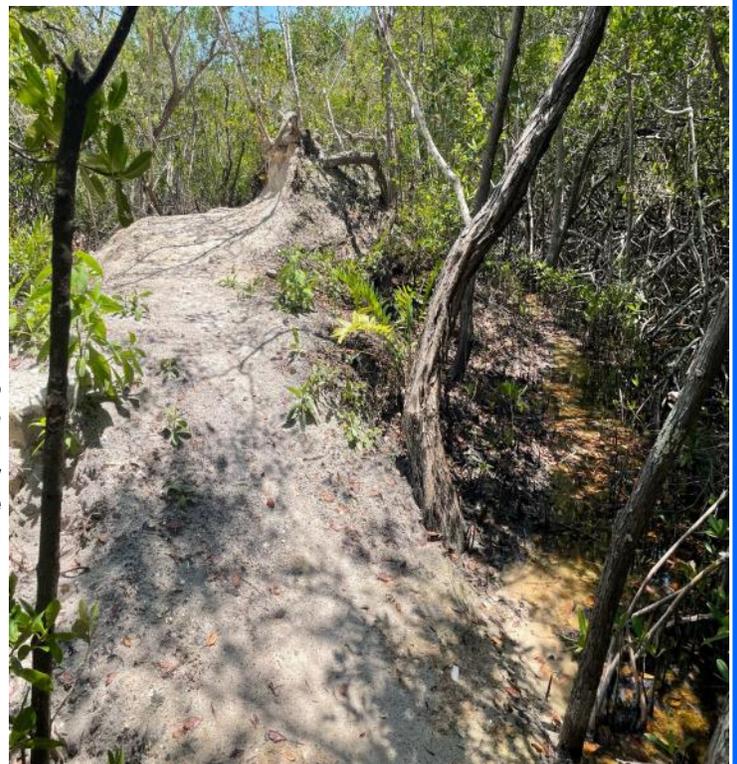
Robert Ballard, Judy Ott and Nancy Weir setting up for Island Fest at Phillips Park.

Dobbs Preserve redo - by Les Smith

Recent work by our Work/Fun Party and several dedicated CLT volunteers has greatly improved access at Dobb's Preserve as well as enhanced new mangrove growth. Wherever possible, we have migrated the trail from the low-lying wet path along the edge of the tidal creek to the higher sand hills and we have elevated the trail between existing sand hills. The old path area has begun to grow mangrove shoots as seen in the photos below.



To Left: trail under construction



To Right: existing path starting to become restored with new mangrove growth

Treasures of the Trails for April 2022

Quiet at Taylor Willow Lake Preserve

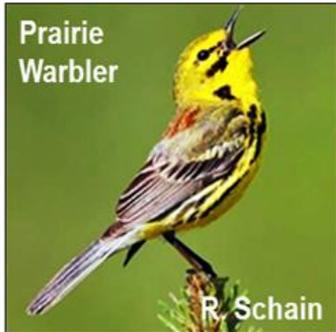
Text/Trail Photo by Judy Ott & Bird Photos from AllAboutBirds.org

How Do You Picture Quiet? Pine Island has an all-too-short quiet season between the frantic noise of snowbirds & mosquitos. My April treasure hunt led me to the quiet of our Taylor Willow Lake Preserve, where I settled into a camp chair by the mangroves & waited for the bird songs & colors to slide through sunset to twilight.



Where is Taylor Willow Lake Preserve? The preserve is near the Catholic Church, 2 miles north of PI Center at 11245 Alcorn St. Park at the designated lot on Alcorn, pick up a trail map at the kiosk & walk through the main gate, across a small field to a second gate into the trails. The trail gate is chained but not locked. Please re-chain the gate & be respectful of the neighbors.

What Sights & Sounds are at Taylor Willow Lake? The preserve has 37 acres of hardwood hammock, willow swamp, mangroves & salt flats, traversed by 3 well marked trails. At its heart is a thick hardwood hammock with tall, old growth pines & oaks dripping in Spanish moss. We don't know the age of these trees – most local pines were logged in the early 1900s & there was a sawmill near Pineland. So these giants could be over 100 years old. West of the hammock is a fringe of black & red mangroves leading onto a salt flat popular with wading birds. An old "skeeter ditch" along the south leads to a willow swamp at the east, also home to many birds. The dense woods dampen the noise from Stringfellow Road & the wind in the tall treetops accompanies bird songs, frog chirps & small animal rustling.



Prairie Warbler

R. Schain

What Birds Can You Hear at Taylor Willow Lake? During my April afternoon sit-down near the mangroves, I didn't see wading birds – the tide was too low. But I heard Prairie Warblers along the salt flats & a Great Crested Flycatcher in the pines. At dark, a Chuck-Wills-Widow called from deeper in the woods. Here's what I heard:

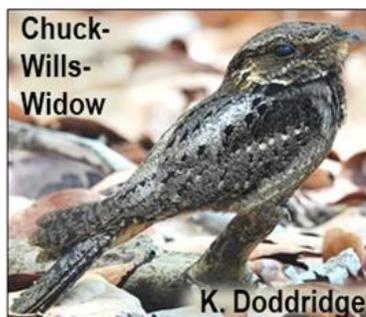
Prairie Warbler: A tiny bird with a big voice. It lives in FL shrubby forests, young pine stands & mangroves year round, but is found from Massachusetts to Cuba. The FL subspecies breeds in mangroves & is larger than its relatives. It has black streaks on its yellow face & tummy, constantly wags its tail & eats insects. Its call is a rising & accelerating **zee-zee-zee-zee-zee-zeeeee**.



Great Crested Flycatcher

S. Martin

Great Crested Flycatcher: An assertive flycatcher of the treetops. It lives in the canopies of open woodlands year round in south FL. It is large but inconspicuous, with an olive-brown crest, yellow belly & reddish wing markings. It nests in tree cavities often decorated with snakeskin & swoops down to catch insects, but also eats fruit. It calls to be heard not seen, hiding in the foliage, making a loud, penetrating, rising **whee-eeep**.



Chuck-Wills-Widow

K. Doddridge

Chuck-Wills-Widow: A large, boisterous nightjar. Often heard, but seldom seen, it is camouflaged mottled brown. It has a small beak & a large mouth with bristles used to help catch flying insects at dusk & on moonlight nights. It roosts & nests in leaf litter of pine & scrub woodland floors and its eggs are mottled pink, brown & lavender, but unfortunately their numbers are declining rapidly. The male calls to attract mates from April through June – a well recognized, incessant **chuck-wills-wed**.

How Can You Identify Bird Calls? A useful tool is the BirdNET mobile app from Cornell Ornithology Lab. You can use your phone to record bird calls near you & the app identifies the associated bird. It's great for treasure hunting in our preserves. Enjoy & good luck!

Annual Membership Form

_____ \$ 25 Basic Member
 _____ \$ 50 Donor
 _____ \$100 Contributor

_____ \$500 Patron
 _____ \$1000 Benefactor
 \$ _____ Other Amount

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 Calusa Land Trust
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 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.

May 2022

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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