

2021 IMPORTANT DATES



Work/Fun Parties

Jan 9th at Fritts Park
Jan 24th Annual Meeting
@ Fritts Park

Peter Ordway Memorial Mangrove Adventures Paddles

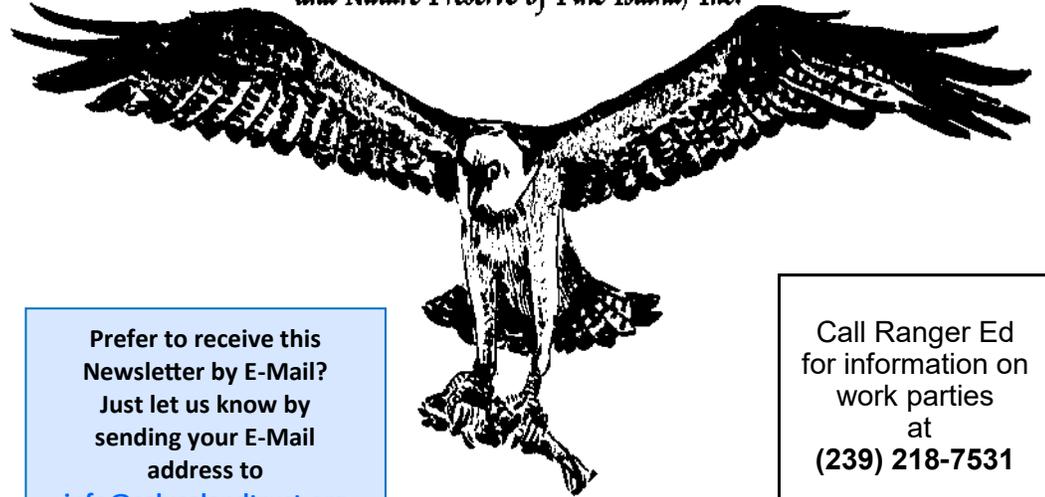
Later in the coming
Spring



American Beauty Berry

Calusa Land Trust

and Nature Preserve of Pine Island, Inc.



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for information on
work parties
at
(239) 218-7531

Newsletter #114
Founded 1976

December 2020
www.calusalandtrust.org

President's Report- December 2020

Just after last year's Annual Meeting, we had our most successful CLT Annual Yard Sale to date. This was followed in March by our most successful Rubber Duck Race at St. James City's Low Key Tikki and we were feeling good! -Yet not long after the Duck Race, with news reports of a rapidly spreading virus throughout the world including the USA, health experts suggested limiting the size of gatherings and wearing face masks to reduce the risk of virus transmission. The COVID 19 pandemic was upon us. The April Board of Directors meeting was cancelled to protect our members from potential exposure. Three Board meetings were held via Zoom teleconference and our last two Board meetings were held at a member's garage where we wear face masks and spread out. Our regular meeting location remains closed to the public.

Our Work/Fun Parties continued since we can spread out while we work to maintain our Preserve properties. A hand washing station is provided for the workers at the end of the morning when the pizza arrives and members are requested to social distance while eating their lunch.

We did accomplish some of what was on our agenda for 2020, despite COVID 19. Our preserve work continued:

- **Wigert-Barron Preserve** - Clearing of invasive shrubs and trees from the east side of the Preserve was completed. A new gate was added for entrance to the new East Trail that connects to the original loop trail on the west side. Two picnic tables were also added and a new mangrove forest interpretative sign was purchased with grant money received

from the Cape Coral Community Foundation. In early October we planted 100 long leaf pine seedlings on the preserve where the invasive plants were removed. There are plans for creating a butterfly habitat area in the east side of the preserve in 2021.

- **Ed Chapin Preserve** - we added 2 lots on the west side that were donated by long time member Kell Kellerman. The invasive underbrush was removed and a sign created for the newly named Kell Kellerman Vista. In July, a Royal Poinciana was planted there in Kell's memory.
- **Taylor-Willow Lake Preserve** - will have walking trails cut by the time of the Annual Meeting. The trail has been flagged and is ready for the grinding machine. We hope to have it open for visitors by spring of 2021.
- **St. James Creek Preserve** – Major clearing of invasive exotics along preserve border with Stabile and Franzone Road.
- **Bud House Preserve** – effects from Hurricane Eta had workers wading through water to clear trails and lot lines and to remove invasive plants such as Brazilian Pepper and Smilax vines.

We were instrumental in aiding Lee Conservation 20/20 on the purchase of two major properties at Pine Island Center. The first was a 90+ acre parcel on the west side of Pine Island adjacent to the County Fisherman's CoOp property. The second parcel was 50+ acres on the south side of the Winn Dixie shopping center that abuts the 20/20 Buttonwood Preserve. In June CLT members joined with Conservation 20/20 personnel in planting 200 Long Leaf Pine Seedlings at the Pine Island Flatwoods Preserve in SJC. The seedlings were propagated from pinecones collected at CLT preserves on Pine Island.

We are working with owners of a 50-acre parcel to preserve this mostly pine flatwoods that is almost pristine.

Robert Ballard, President

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

45th Annual Meeting of the Calusa Land Trust & Nature Preserve of Pine Island, Inc.

Please join us for the 45th Annual Meeting to be held on Sunday, January 24, 2021, beginning at 1 pm. The location will be at the Land Trust's Fritts Park, which is located off Beach Daisy Lane in Bokeelia, the entrance to which is just south of the Palms of Pine Island trailer park.

Unlike past meetings, with a deli buffet, entertainment and a social emphasis, the pandemic will force a one-hour business only meeting, incorporating open air social distancing seating. Inclement weather will defer the event to the following Sunday, January 31st. The meeting's agenda will include a review of our progress in 2020 and plans for 2021 and beyond, plus election of six members who will serve a two-year term on the Board of Directors. Les Smith, Terry Neumann and incumbents Robert Ballard, Ed Chapin, Bill Hummer, Carol Mullin and Nancy Weir have been proposed with nominations also open from the floor.



A flash back to the Annual Meeting at Fritts Park - 2013

Hope to see you there!

Calusa Board of Directors Candidate Bios

Terry Neuman

I grew up and was educated in Silicon Valley, Calif where I studied electronics and photography in college. I had the privilege of studying with Ansel Adams during my photo education and after graduation, I headed up the photography program at Tahoe College. Unfortunately due to the college closing, I was forced into several other careers.

In the late 70's I ended up in Willits, Calif where I had a mechanical services company and got interested in solar technology and along with an architect friend, designed and constructed the first code approved passive solar home in Calif. Shortly after that due to life changes, I ended up in Kona, Hawaii where I got back into the mechanical trades and when I met my current wife, we started a bed and breakfast. We were very successful there and when my wife's Dad came down with Alzheimer's, we decided it was time to move back to the mainland so we could be closer to family.

We had a retirement business in New Hampshire but I wanted warm weather so we sold and bought an inn and restaurant in Minnesota as we somehow didn't realize the temps they were talking about were minus numbers and after 8 years, my wife was diagnosed with Alzheimer's so as a last ditch effort, we sold the business and moved to Pine Island which is quite similar to rural Hawaii. We bought a fixer upper home here and managed to get it ship shape before she really went down hill. As she has been in a nursing home now for 4 years, I have looked for a way to offer ideas and give back to the island community I love.

Thanks,
Terry Neumann

Les Smith

Les and his wife, Stacy, built a house in the Manatee Bay area of Pine Island 5-6 years ago and moved here full time about 1 year ago.

He is an environmental scientist with a specialization in coastal geology.

His education includes an undergrad degree in Geology from Syracuse University and graduate degree in Oceanography from Texas A&M University, and additional graduate studies in Coastal Studies at Rutgers University.

He is a founding Principal of the 50+ person environmental consulting firm - Epsilon Associates and he has managed environmental science departments and groups over the years at several other prominent environmental consulting firms in Massachusetts.

His broad range of consulting experience includes coastal permitting projects, erosion/coastal change analysis, coastal wetland delineation, dredging/disposal analysis, coastal science/management studies, utility permitting, permitting large commercial and government projects, and expert witness testimony.

He has also served as project manager of several large projects for federal/state agencies including National Park Service field studies on ORV impact analysis, Army Corps of Engineers workshops on permitting, and Mass. Coastal Zone Management on statewide barrier beach mapping. He has unique regulatory experience as early in his career he directed the scientific & engineering staff at the Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Office where he co-authored the Massachusetts Coastal Wetlands.

His experience includes serving in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Commissioned Officer Corps conducting marine surveys off the California Coast on the NOAA Ship Surveyor and research at the NOAA Great Lakes Research Center.

He has also served as an Adjunct Professor in Marine Science at Suffolk University teaching courses in Coastal Marine Science and Coastal Field Studies at their Boston campus and at their field lab in Cobscook Bay, Maine.

He has served on several advisory boards including the Massachusetts CZM statewide Coastal Advisory Board, Duxbury Beach Reservation and Lake Shirley citizen advisory board.

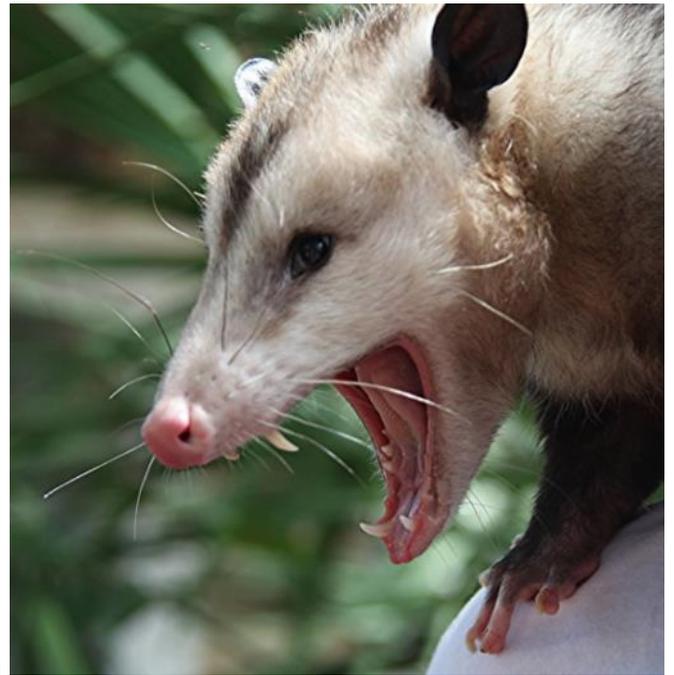
WHAT BIG TEETH YOU HAVE MY DEAR

By Marty Kendall

Ah, the poor opossum, so feared my many, but your hesitance is unwarranted. She is a good critter. Okay, her 50 teeth can be a bit overwhelming. If afraid, she may bare them, but she will not bite unless handled roughly. She is not a rodent, but instead a marsupial. Much like a kangaroo she carries her Joeys in a pouch. She mates twice a year between January and July. The average litter size is 5-9. They are ½ inch newborns. Whiskers appear at 36 days and body hair at 45 days. All that time they are nursing in the pouch, but at 75-85 days they forage for themselves.

Good news. They eat dead animals, lizards, mice, rats, slugs, cockroaches and 5,000 ticks a season. They are immune to snake venom and scientists are studying the proteins they have that neutralize their toxins to help treatments for humans. They do not carry rabies, but they drool, so many people think they may be rabid. Due to their low body temperature, rabies has not been documented in South Florida.

You should not try to relocate an opossum from your yard as it is not dangerous to you or your cat or dog. If you find an injured opossum, put it in a box by putting a towel over its head and lifting it while supporting its back legs. They have a lifespan of about 2 years so always check the pouch for babies as they can survive 24 hours after the death of the mother. If in doubt, call C.R.O.W. At 472-3644. Don't you love the diversity on Pine Island?



All smiles or just letting you know it's having a bad day??

(Image by MyFWC)



Dendrophylax porrectus, aka Jingle Bell Orchid, a native leafless epiphyte, Lee Co. whose "seed pods" hang like ...Jingle bells!



Who are you looking at ??

Donations Accepted in January but Rummage Sale Postponed

by Alison Ackerman

After conferring with all the members who work on this event each year, the consensus is to postpone the sale until at least March. Of course, if the virus is still not under control then, or people do not feel comfortable, we will put off the event once again.

I still hope you and your fiends have been collecting treasures to donate, and in light of that, I plan to be at Fritts Park, on Friday, January ____ at our storage unit from 10:00 until 2:00 (with a mask on!), so you can drop off your boxes. I am sorry, but I cannot accept huge items at that time, just boxes and things that would fit on a shelf. However, if it is something that can be stored outside, we may be able to accommodate you. Call me at 239 851-3176, if that day or time doesn't work for you, or if you have any questions.. Alison

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Once designating a charity, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price. **The Calusa Land Trust and Nature Preserve Of Pine Island** has received \$1,250 as of November 2020.

LAND STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Ed Chapin, Chief Ranger

November Work/Fun Party: Our first work/fun party of the season was on November 14th at the Bud House Calusa Canal Preserve. Fifteen volunteers chipped in to help with the never ending invasive plant removal. Due to the late fall rainfall, the Calusa Canal was full and navigable. This preserve stands in excellent condition with kudos to the hard working volunteers.

Upcoming work/fun parties: The December 12th work/fun party is set at the Wigert/Barron Preserve in Bokeelia. The January 9th event will be at Fritts Park in Bokeelia with the mission to clean and prepare the site for the January 24th Annual Meeting and the January 30th annual Alison Ackerman Rummage Sale.

Peter Ordway Paddling Tours: These popular guided tours, named in honor of its founder, were scheduled to commence in December. However, I have indefinitely postponed this activity until the pandemic matter is resolved. Hopefully, the tours can begin this spring.

Treasures of the Trails for December 2020: Coyote Secret Christmas Presence in the CLT Preserves

Text by Judy Ott



Have you seen or heard coyotes on Pine Island lately? They are found throughout the 28 CLT preserves. The most accessible CLT trails are in Wigert Barron Preserve in Bokeelia & St James Creek Preserve in St James City. More information is available at: www.calusalandtrust.org.

Coyotes are not new to Pine Island, but they are increasing. So when your windows are open at night, you may hear them calling. To understand our shy neighbors better, below are some basic questions & answers.

Are coyotes & dogs related? Coyotes, dogs & wolves are all the same Genus (*Canis*) but different species – *latrans*, *familiaris* & *lupus*, respectively. The species may intermix, but their pups can't have offspring.

How big are coyotes? They are less than ½ the size of a German Shepherd – weighing 25 to 40 pounds, standing 2 feet tall at the shoulders & measuring 4 feet long nose to tail tips. Their paw prints are also smaller than a German Shepherd's – about 2 ½ inches across, with oval toes & long nails.

How long do coyotes live? In the wild, they live about 7 years – limited by parasites & diseases like ticks, heartworm, distemper, mange, rabies (infrequently) & humans (frequently).

What is coyote family life like? A coyote family pack includes an alpha male & female, pups from this & last year & a few adopted coyotes,

depending on how much food is available. They are monogamous & mate in winter, with 4-6 pups born in spring & cared for by parents & pack.

Where do coyotes live? Native of western states, coyotes now live throughout the US. In FL they expanded from the panhandle to all counties since the 1970s. They are very adaptable & live in woods, farms, suburbs & cities. Each family pack has a home range & territory they defend & mark with urine (like dogs) & scat (unlike dogs). City territories are smaller (3 mi²) than rural territories (15 mi²) because urban food is subsidized by human activities.

What do coyotes eat? Everything. They are omnivores & eat whatever is available – mammals (30%), plants (22%), insects (15%), seeds (10%) & human food (9%). Their scat reflects their diet – look for palmetto seeds in scat in pine palmetto flatwoods. The seeds germinate faster having been through the coyote digestive system.

Why do coyotes call? They are very communicative – especially about family matters – & use eye contact, facial expression, body language & vocals. They have individual voices & emote day & night through yips, howls & barks that travel long distances (3 mi).

Are coyotes dangerous? No – even ones used to humans – more shy than aggressive, they are opportunists. When coyotes are around, keep: cats indoors, dogs supervised & leashed, garbage & pet food securely stored. If you see a coyote, especially if walking a dog, avoid instead of confront – calmly walk away. Some suggest using horns, whistles & motion detectors.

Are coyotes good or bad? They add aesthetic values to our natural world & play important roles in our habitats, especially controlling small predators. But they are opportunists about pets & livestock. Like humans, they are here to stay & we can choose to live together harmoniously. www.coyoteyipps.com & <https://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/profiles/mammals/land/coyote/>



Membership form

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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.
December 2020



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Calusa Land Trust & Nature Preserve
of Pine Island, Inc.
P.O. Box 216
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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.

