

## 2018 IMPORTANT DATES

**Saturday, January 6,  
2018** Paddle to  
Underhill Creek  
Preserve

**Saturday, January 13,  
2018, Fritts Park.  
Work Party** (at the  
west end of  
Beach Daisy Road)

**January 21, 2018  
Sunday  
Annual Meeting**  
1:00pm  
Fishers of Men  
Lutheran Church

**January 27, 2018  
Saturday  
Rummage Sale**  
Fritts Park  
Drop Off  
Friday the 26th

**Saturday, February 10,  
2018, Work Party**  
Kreie Preserve

**Saturday, March 10,  
2018, Work Party**  
Bud House Calusa  
Canal Preserve

**Saturday, April 14,  
2018, Work Party**  
Taylor-Willow Lake  
Preserve

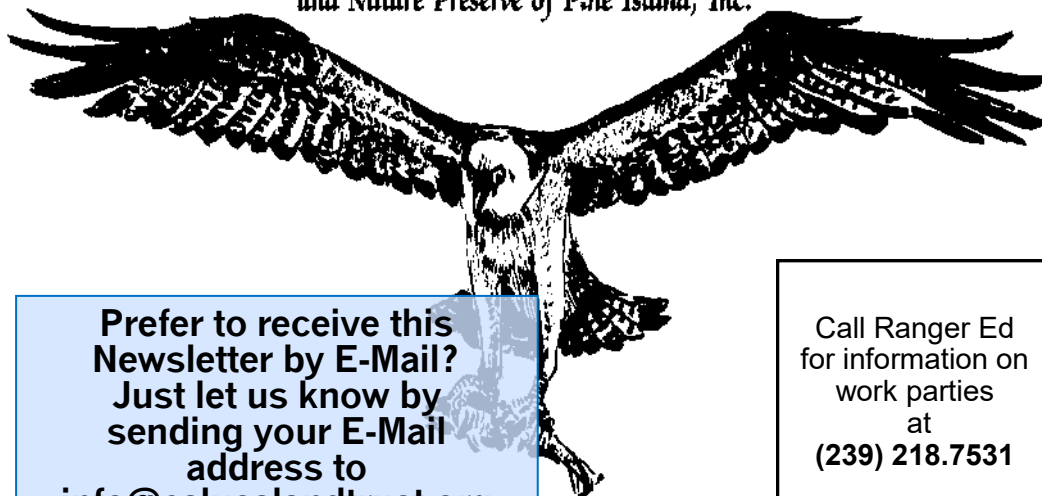
**2nd Saturday**  
Of each Month Means  
A Work Party at a  
CLT property

**Mark your  
calendar the 2018  
Great Calusa  
Duck Race is set  
for Saturday  
March 3rd**



# Calusa Land Trust

and Nature Preserve of Pine Island, Inc.



**Prefer to receive this  
Newsletter by E-Mail?  
Just let us know by  
sending your E-Mail  
address to  
[info@calusalandtrust.org](mailto:info@calusalandtrust.org)**

Call Ranger Ed  
for information on  
work parties  
at  
**(239) 218.7531**

**Newsletter #103**  
Founded 1976

**January 2018**  
[www.calusalandtrust.org](http://www.calusalandtrust.org)

## Twenty Year Board Member Retires



**Ruby Woodhead** volunteered to be the CLT Historian in 1996 and then joined the Board and became Secretary in 1998. For twenty years she has collected articles about the Land Trust and placed them in albums for display at every public event. She recorded and transcribed Board meeting minutes for more than 209 monthly meetings.

She has sold duck race tickets and poker run tickets and helped with the Calusa Clothesline. She has kept an exceptional record of all of the happenings that involved the Calusa Land Trust. And always with a twinkle in her eyes, a smile on her lips and a friendly chuckle. As is often said about some but must be said about Ruby she will be missed "BIG TIME."

## “A Time for Reflection” John Kendall, President

In reflection, the Calusa Land Trust is a great organization! And, remember, we manage this corporation and steward its over 2400 acres with all volunteers. The upcoming 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the CLT on January 21<sup>st</sup> provides an opportunity for you to review our successes (and challenges) over the past year and to envision our plans for the near and distant future. You have the responsibility of electing members to the Board of Directors plus the fun of mingling and socializing with like-minded members.

Most service clubs and non-profits schedule monthly (or even weekly) membership meetings to review their business activities. Not so with CLT, wherein the Board exclusively “runs” the Land Trust, organizes on a committee structure, meets monthly and relies on its officers to handle the day-to-day operations. By the wonder of email all Board members are pre-advised of any committee meetings or proposed officer decisions. All in all, your Board, during my term as president, exemplifies a cooperative spirit and employs diversified backgrounds/opinions to promote our common goal to preserve and protect this special place we call Pine Island.

The Board's support of noteworthy improvements (designed for the general public pleasure and education) at the Wigert/Barron, Chapin, Taylor/Willow Lake and St. James Creek Preserve have been major accomplishments without ignoring our vast mangrove inventory. Cooperation with sister organizations and Lee County has been most positive. Also, the Land Trust has been blessed with a solid financial position, some assets are the result of bequests or major gifts and others by our grant application and fundraising efforts. Raising money has been soft sell by design.

After four years it is time for “new blood”. Rad Hazen will succeed me as president after the annual meeting and deserves our enthusiastic support. This Cracker has the knowledge and drive to lead CLT to new heights. In reflection, the Calusa Land Trust is a great organization...because of YOU! Thank you for the honor of serving.

John



**Mark your calendar  
Calusa Land Trust Annual  
Meeting is set for Sunday  
January 21st  
1:00pm  
Fishers of Men  
Lutheran Church**

### Calusa Land Trust Alison Ackerman Annual Rummage Sale Saturday January 27

Each year the Calusa Land Trust puts on a rummage sale to raise funds for purchases of land on Pine Island. Here is another way for you to help your Land Trust— bring items that can be resold to our Fritts Park at the West end of Beach Daisy Lane in Bokeelia. Volunteers will be there on Friday January 26 after noon to accept your items.

The sale will be the next day, If you wish to help stop by the Park on Friday or Saturday.

## Annual Meeting Notification

The Calusa Land Trust will have its 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual meeting on Sunday January 21<sup>st</sup> 2018 at Fishers of Men Lutheran Church, 10360 Stringfellow Road, St. James City, FL 33956. Meeting will start at 1:00pm.

### The Nominating Committee Report

Once again it is time to reshape the Board just little. Directors that will continue for one more year are Robert Ballard, Jaren Cernicky, Ed Chapin, Rad Hazen, Cathy House, Bill Hummer and Sonny Koutsoutis. Board members up for re-election are Brian Cotterill, John Kendall, Carolyn Murphy, Judy Ott, Frank Potter and Joan Rosenberg. Retiring from the Board is 20 year member Rubye Woodhead.

The Nominating Committee has recommended the following two candidates for election to the vacant two year term Director positions

Russell Costa and Marty Kendall. A short bio for each is included here. Nominations can be accepted from the floor on the day of the meeting.

#### **Russell Costa:**

Russell Costa, 69, was born just outside Boston, Massachusetts. He loves hiking in the forest, fishing and being in the outdoors. With various detours into the construction business, he completed his education in several Massachusetts schools. He volunteered many years on the Whitman Conservation Commission, in the town of Whitman, Massachusetts, most of it as Chairperson, working to enhance local nature areas while balancing the politics of development.

Seeking a position that used his Biology expertise, in 1995 he headed south – all the way to the island of Big Pine Key in the Florida Keys. He spent 18 years employed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He became an ISA Certified Arborist and obtained a license for Herbicide Applicators for Right of Way and Natural Areas. He directed crews and contractors who removed invasive exotic species as well as re-establishing mangrove areas.

In 2015, he discovered Pine Island, and shortly thereafter purchased a home here. He has many areas of experience to help the Calusa Land Trust as the plants and animals in Big Pine Key are very similar to Pine Island – except for his friends, the Key Deer. Russell is an Army veteran who saw service in Vietnam (1967-1968). He has an Associate of Arts degree from Cape Cod Community College in 1971. He graduated in 1975 from Fitchburg State College with a degree in Biology. Along with graduate courses at Bridgewater State College and Montana State, he completed his Master's Degree in Management at Cambridge College, in Boston.

#### **Martha Kendall:**

Martha "Marty" Kendall is a native Midwesterner, born and raised in the small town of Granville, Ohio. She received her bachelors degree from the Ohio State University and a PhD from Catholic University. She began her career as a clinical psychologist in the D.C. area. However, she moved to and opened a private practice in Marshall, Michigan in the early 1980s. Marty was active in community affairs, including service on the local school board.

She and her husband, John, purchased their present home in St. James City in 1990 and retired as full time residents in 2000. As a Florida Master Gardener and Master Naturalist, she possesses a passion of care for the earth and its creatures. A member of CLT for over 25 years she presently serves as the president of the Pine Island Garden Club and acts as a rescue volunteer for CROW.



# Rad Hazen

## Chairman, Acquisition and Planning Committee

I took a short walk this week at one of our wonderful preserves and sat for a little while on a bench ( I find I love benches now that I'm getting long of tooth). A man and his wife came walking briskly down the trail and engaged me in a conversation that I seem to have often when out in Nature. Had I seen anything? This question always surprises me because I couldn't walk more than a few feet on this trail without stopping to examine some interesting plant or insect or distant bird but I knew what they meant. Had I seen something large and exciting like a bear or alligator or bobcat? No, Nature doesn't guarantee these kinds of sightings on every hike which is why we need to appreciate that much of the wonder surrounding us is small. The world is just a backdrop of green with little grey birds and bugs flying about until we begin to realize that plants and bugs alone are fascinating and often quite beautiful. The Pine Island Flatwoods environment is said to be one of the richest and most varied in Florida but until I learned how to see it, it seemed almost a monoculture. I would advise anyone who spends time hiking to acquire some field guides to insects, Including butterflies, and local birds and plants. The world will suddenly seem much richer and more interesting. Also, slow down. "Nature is slow" wrote Jim Harrison, a writer with a real love of the outdoors. Hiking in nature shouldn't be thought of as just a form of exercise. If you speed through your trail walk you will see and experience little of the wonders that are right under your nose. Please enjoy some photos of small things I've seen in our preserves. See how many you can name. Don't feel bad if you can't name them all. I can't either...yet.



# Great Calusa Land Trust Annual Rubber Duck Race



Mark Your Calendars!  
The Ducks Are Coming!  
The Ducks Are Coming! Great Calusa Rubber  
Duck Race - Saturday, March 3, 2018 at  
LOW KEY TIKI in Saint James City.



After a summer of 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 2018'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. Duck Race Tickets will go on sale before  
the holidays - 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 3, 2018!!



**amazon**



Do you shop online at Amazon?

If you do, next time go to

[www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com)

Then select the Calusa Land Trust as your  
charity of choice.

Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchases  
to the Calusa Land Trust.



## Work Parties—Everyone Welcome

**Preserve work parties are on the second Saturday of each month from 9:00am to Noon. None in August. We need your help. Check the Pine Island Eagle or our web site: [www.calusalandtrust.org](http://www.calusalandtrust.org) for the current month's location.**

### Past Work Parties Report:

On Saturday, November 11, we had 24 volunteers working at our Dobbs Preserve near Tropical Point Drive. We have removed most of the invasive exotic plants and have almost completed a loop trail. To complete the loop, we plan to install a bridge on the south end. More on this later.

In December, we had to cancel the work party at the Chapin Preserve due to rain. From December 9, the work party was rescheduled to December 16. Thanks to good publicity, by The Eagle and by email, the word got out and we had an almost record turnout of 23 volunteer rangers. We got a lot of work done cleaning up this site after Mark from IDG ground up invasives and exotics



Jim Friedlander Photo

### .Work Parties in the Future:

Here are our future work parties. Work parties are normally on the second Saturday of the month, 9am to noon. Water, soft drinks and pizza are provided.

**Saturday, January 13, 2018**, Fritts Park. (at the west end of Beach Daisy Road)

**Saturday, February 10, 2018**, Kreie Preserve

**Saturday, March 10, 2018**, Bud House Calusa Canal Preserve

**Saturday, April 14, 2018**, Taylor-Willow Lake Preserve



### Hammerheads Committee

I am trying to form a new committee called The Hammerheads to do some carpentry projects for the Calusa Land Trust. The number one project on my list is the installation of a bridge on the south end of our Dobbs Preserve. So if you have this kind of skill and time to help, contact me: Ed Chapin (239) 218-7531

### Peter Ordway Mangrove Adventures

In November, 2017, we traveled off Pine Island to Fisheating Creek at Palmdale. This was a small group of three paddlers. This is a beautiful cypress creek teeming with birds, fish, alligators and more. I will do this paddle again next season.

My last paddle was to our St. James Creek Preserve on Sunday, December 17. We had eight paddlers and explored this picturesque creek with beautiful weather.

Future Paddles:

Saturday, January 6, 2018 – Underhill Creek Preserve

Sunday, February 2018 – TBA – Big Jim Preserve

Saturday, March 2018 – TBA – Chapin Preserve

Call Ed Chapin (239) 218-7531



\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 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 #:**

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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 2018**

## St Jude's Trail Tiki Huts Completed

Last Thursday morning, members of the Calusa Land Trust, Pine Island Garden Club, and Matlacha Hookers gathered at the new tiki huts at St. Jude's Trail. The tiki huts have been a work in progress for more than a year and were built by Southern Cross Tikis.

St Jude Trail is a Calusa Land Trust preserve located at the end of Laratonda (which becomes Stabile Road) in St. James City. The Calusa Land Trust described the preserve as "the jewel of the St. James Creek Preserve.

The trail begins in flatlands and winds through a mangrove forest and ends at a spectacular view of St. James Creek. Along the half-mile trail, visitors pass memorial benches. The benches, boardwalk, and memorial overlook are all the brainchild of Norm Gowan and named in his honor. The Matlacha Hookers donated money raised from a Seven Seas and Tackle Barge party in 2014. The Hookers spent the day on the water kayaking and paddle boarding to each boat for donations.

"In all the barge party and Matlacha Hookers raised more than \$4000," Hooker Madam Julie Simpson said. "Out of those funds, we donated \$1000 for these tiki huts."

"We also received a donation from the Pine Island Garden Club," CLT President John Kendall said.

The Calusa Land Trust is Pine Island's all-volunteer land conservancy with the purpose of protecting 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.



From left, Rad Hazen (VP CLT), Marty Kendall (President PIGC), John Kendall (President CLT), Julie Simpson (Madam Matlacha Hookers), Helen Andrews (VP Hookers) and Bill Hummer (Secretary CLT). Absent: Jake Kibbe (Representative of Southern Cross Tikis).



PINK  
ADDRESS  
LABEL? TIME  
TO RENEW.

*Pine Island Garden Club's 17<sup>th</sup> Annual*

# Garden

## *Gardening in Paradise*

Saturday

February 17, 2018  
9 to 2

Garden Park  
Pine Island Center

***Free Parking and Admission***

Raffle • Baked Goods  
Demonstrations and Lectures  
Native and Tropical Plants • Food  
Music • Children's Potting Table  
Art • Silent Auction

*All this and more . . .*

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

