

2020 IMPORTANT DATES



Work/Fun Parties

Sumer Off

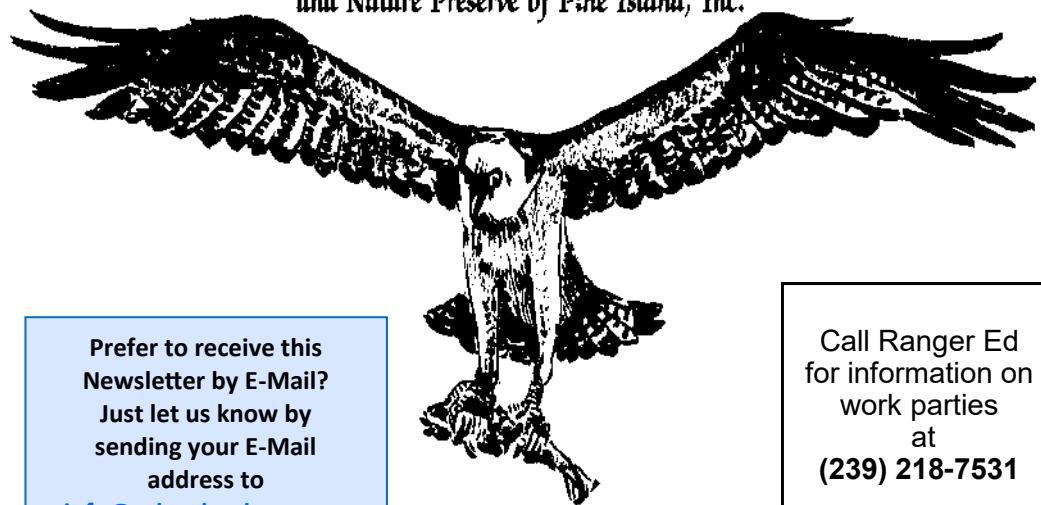
**Peter Ordway
Memorial Mangrove
Adventures Paddles**

Later in the coming Fall



Calusa Land Trust

and Nature Preserve of Pine Island, Inc.



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Newsletter by E-Mail?
Just let us know by
sending your E-Mail
address to
info@calusalandtrust.org

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

Newsletter #113

Founded 1976

August 2020

www.calusalandtrust.org

Presidents Corner

CLT Keeps Preserves Open During COVID-19

Like all of our neighbors in the Pine Island area, the Calusa Land Trust had to chart a new course through these troubled waters called COVID-19. We took some precautionary measures to keep our members safe while trying to ensure that the public still had access to our preserves. As a relief from being cooped up for days inside our homes, we kept our preserves open to the public with cautions, advising keeping safe distances and avoiding groups of more than four family members on visits. We thank all who have visited and followed these simple guidelines.

We cancelled our regular April meeting and held the May and June meetings via ZOOM (remote internet conferencing) to protect members of the Board of Directors from possible exposures. We also held two Acquisition and Planning Committee meetings via ZOOM. This has allowed us to continue some important reviews of potential land acquisitions and the sale of one "orphaned" ½ acre parcel to a private party. On May 30th we completed the purchase of an additional 1-acre lot on Calusa Island. This lot is a significant archeological site as well as an environmentally sensitive property and will provide to the public a walking trail around the CLT Calusa Island Preserve..

We also cancelled our monthly Work/Fun Parties for April and May to protect our volunteers from group exposure and instead held a couple of "small" (5 volunteers) work parties to take care of some maintenance items that needed to be addressed. We held one last Work/Fun Party before summer recess on Saturday June 13th.

The Work Party covered four of our Preserves: the Dobbs Preserve and St Jude Trail in St James City, Fritts Park and the Wigert-Barron Preserve in Bokeelia. Hopefully we will be able to resume a more normal Work/Fun Party schedule when we start up again in October.

Through all of this uncertainty we have continued with some Preserve maintenance and improvements using private contractors. At the Wigert-Barron Preserve in Bokeelia we had the west section bush-hogged mowed to prevent the invasive Caesar weed from going to seed. On the eastern parcel we had the invasive trees and plants ground up and a new entrance gate installed off of Barrancas Ave. Spot cleanup in a few areas was completed during the June 13 Work Party. In addition, a new “east” loop trail has been laid out and marked. This trail will connect with the “west” loop trail at Rubeye’s Pond. Two picnic tables have also been installed at the Wigert-Barron Preserve.

New picnic tables were purchased and painted and placed at the CLT Smith-Dewane Vista chickee huts in SJC, replacing the old deteriorated tables. Also, a Mahogany tree was planted at the vista in memory of A.J. Watson who was a long time member, friend, and surveyor for the CLT.

As we continue to navigate through this virus crisis, we strive to continue to meet the goals of the Calusa Land Trust while keeping our members and friends safe.

Robert Ballard, President
Calusa Land Trust

Land Stewardship Ranger Report by Ed Chapin

Work Parties Past:

On Saturday May 9, we worked at the Chapin Preserve, which is located at the southern end of Royal Okley Lane, off Harbor Drive in Bokeelia. The preserve is mostly mangroves and we created a paddling trail that goes out to Smoke House Bay. The preserve is about 300 acres and there is a park with a covered picnic table and parking. During the work party we worked on improving the launch area for canoes and kayaks and removed invasive Australian pines, melaleuca, and Brazilian pepper. We had a good turnout, with about 15 CLT Volunteer Rangers. It was a job well done – thanks to all.



Work Parties Future:

Our summer work parties are on hiatus because COVID-19 as well as the heat. With any luck we will have our first fall work party on Saturday October 10 from 9:00 am to noon, with pizza served afterwards, at the St James Creek Preserve and St Jude Trail. Please bring hand tools and gloves are always a good idea. We hope to see many of you then. For information call Ed at (239) 218-7531

Peter Ordway Paddling Tours Future:

Paddling tours will hopefully start back up coming later this Fall!



Stinkhorn fungus

Work clearing at Wigert Barron

Preserve our Island's Beauty – Stash Your Trash

Story and Photos by Ellen Ballard

Trash, trash, more trash. Litter on Pine Island Road, litter on Stringfellow Road, litter on all our roads blowing against fences, blowing into the mangroves and blowing into the water. Where does it all come from and whose responsibility is it to pick it all up? Why should we care?

Where does it come from? The sources of trash appear to be the following: blowing out of the backs of boats and trucks, construction sites, uncovered trash cans, and careless behavior by people that live, work, or visit Pine Island. Empty plastic water bottles are a frequent source of litter as well as empty ice bags, fast food and snack wrappers, Styrofoam beverage containers, and tobacco products. Dog waste, or plastic bags of dog waste are a “pet peeve”. The most recent additions to roadway litter since COVID19 are disposable masks, gloves and sani-wipes. Sadly, Wigert-Barron Preserve parking area appears to be a frequent gathering spot for people to drink beer and toss the bottles on the ground.



Ellen Ballard



Carolyn
Murphey

Whose responsibility is it to pick up litter & trash? Reduction of trash and prevention of litter is everyone's responsibility. Our tax dollars pay for Waste Pro to pick up trash, recycling, and yard waste on a weekly basis at residences and businesses on Pine Island. Lee County Road Operations picks up trash gathered by Adopt a Road volunteers. The businesses & groups have Adopted a Road on Matlacha and Little Pine Island: The Matlacha Hookers, Saltwater Smokehouse and Pine Island Auto Repair. Turning south on Stringfellow, Adopt a Road is sponsored by Cap'n Jack's. The St. James City Boat Club monitors the area around Froggy's and KOA. EJ Pavesek and his neighbors staked out a section on Stringfellow north of Barrancas. CLT thanks these businesses and organizations for helping to keep Pine Island beautiful. If you or your group can help, sign up with Lee County, www.leegov.com/dot/adoptaroad.

[Keep America Beautiful®](http://KeepAmericaBeautiful.org), is the national nonprofit committed to improving and beautifying our communities. [Keep Lee County Beautiful](http://KeepLeeCountyBeautiful.org), based in

Fort Myers, is an affiliate of this national group. Both organizations are 501(c)3 nonprofits. Big cleanup plans for the 50th anniversary of Earth Day this past April were canceled because of COVID but upcoming events includes a September 19th Coastal Cleanup.

CLT members Carolyn Murphey, Ellen Ballard and Chris Buntin have been doing litter patrol on the north end of Bokeelia along Stringfellow Rd and on Barrancas. Ellen estimates that she picked up over 200 pounds of litter in six weeks, noting the regular accumulations along Stringfellow and a huge mess under and around the Jug Creek Bridge. CLT member Beth Smith is a trash picker upper in St. James City from the post office to St. Jude Harbor. All volunteers note the frustration of picking up the same stretch of road weekly, or more often, and coming back home with four grocery bags of litter. The Pine Island Eagle profiled some of this effort in May: <http://www.pineisland-eagle.com/page/content.detail/id/559355/Making-an-effort-to-keep-the-island-beautiful.html>.

Why should we care about litter along our roads and waterways? Besides the fact that it looks awful, litter ends up in the waters that surround Pine Island. “Plastic waste kills up to a million seabirds a year. As with sea turtles, when seabirds ingest plastic, it takes up room in their



stomachs, sometimes causing starvation. Many seabirds are found dead with their stomachs full of this waste. Scientists estimate that 60 percent of all seabird species have eaten pieces of plastic, a figure they predict will rise to 99 percent by 2050.” (<https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2018/09/24/plastic-pollution-affects-sea-life-throughout-the-ocean> 6/28/20)

Litter cleanup is also costly. “Litter cleanup costs more

than \$11.5 billion each year. Today, there are more than 50 billion pieces of litter on our nation's roadways with 4.6 billion pieces larger than four inches in size. Tobacco products continue to be the most prevalent aggregate litter item, comprising more than 35 percent of all litter."

(<https://kab.org/goals/end-littering/>)

Let's all do our part to reduce trash and litter on Pine Island. Let's **Preserve our Island's Beauty – Stash Your Trash!**



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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 \$1,542 as of May 2020.

'KELL' KELLERMANN 1947-2020

The Calusa Land Trust lost a good friend and supporter with the passing of Clarence "Kell" Kellermann in May of this year. He was truly a "character" in the most positive sense. Born and raised in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, he was an Army veteran, recipient of a business degree, father of four children and successful entrepreneur of the "Marine Trading Post" businesses throughout southwest Florida. His childhood love of nature persevered with his Northwoods UP cabin, East Tennessee farm, his Pine Island home and his enduring support of the Smoky Mountains Peace Pagoda and the Calusa Land Trust. Always a fixture at work/fun parties, just prior to his death he donated to CLT several lots to serve as a needed vista to the Chapin/Smokehouse Bay Preserve. We will forever miss him with his shaggy beard in his standard attire of straw hat, plow shoes and cut off overalls. Without a doubt he is busy making friends and displaying affection on nature on his next journey.



Treasures of the Trails

Text by Judy Ott

Following Sunbeams and Moonshadows through the St Jude Nature Trail

Need to get away? How about a trip to the stars? At least the closest star – our sun? And maybe the moon? The lookout deck at the end of the CLT St Jude Nature Trail is a great place to watch the sun and moon rise over Matlacha Pass.

Where's the St Jude Nature Trail? In the CLT St James Creek Preserve, just north of St James City. From Pine Island Center, take Stringfellow Road south 7 miles, turn left into St Jude Harbors on Laratonda Road, and follow Laratonda and Stabile Roads 0.5 miles to Crestwell Court. The preserve entrances and parking are accessible from both Stabile Road and Crestwell Court.



Photo: Judy Ott

What's the St James Creek Preserve? This preserve includes the St Jude Nature Trail and Norm Gowan and Smith-DeWayne Vistas. It has grown from the original 50 acres donated to CLT by the St Jude Harbor Corporation in 1991 to over 480 acres with the recent 2 acre Smith donation. The preserve includes many upland and wetland habitats, diverse plants and animals, informational signs, a boardwalk, lookout deck, small bridge and picnic tables. There is always something new to observe along the nature trail if you look, listen, smell and feel quietly, just remember to wear long sleeves, pants and insect repellent this time of year.

When is sunrise and sunset? According to www.weatherforyou.com (under the “Solunar” tab), upcoming sun and moon rise and set times for Pine island are:

Date	Sun Rise	Sun Set	Moon Rise	Moon Set	Moon Phase
July 27	6:51 am	8:19 pm	1:55 pm	12:51 am	1st Quarter
Aug 3	6:54 am	8:14 pm	8:38 pm	6:42 am	Full
Aug 11	6:58 am	8:08 pm	12:31 am	1:50 pm	3rd Quarter
Aug 19	7:02 am	8:01 pm	7:27 am	8:52 pm	New
Aug 25	7:05 am	7:55 pm	1:56 pm	12:11 am	1st Quarter
Sep 2	7:08 am	7:47 pm	8:27 pm	7:23 am	Full

As a rough estimate, the sun rises about 1 minute later and sets about 1 minute earlier each day this time of year. The moon rises and sets about 1 hour later each day – year round.

Does the moon always come up when the sun goes down? Nope – only once a month on the day of the full moon. On its full phase day, the moon rises in the east about the same time the sun sets in the west. So, on August 3 this year, about 8:00 pm, if you want to impress your kids and sweethearts, take a trip by car or kayak to the Bokeelia fishing pier and watch the simultaneously setting sun and rising full moon over Charlotte Harbor.

Why don't we get a lunar eclipse every full moon? For the answer to this and other curious moony questions, visit the NASA Space Place at: www.spaceplace.nasa.gov .

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.

August 2020



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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 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.