

2019 IMPORTANT DATES

Saturday January 19
Fritts Park (end of
Beach Daisy Lane)
9am to noon

January 20, 2019
Sunday
Annual Meeting
1:00pm
Fishers of Men
Lutheran Church

January 26, 2019
Saturday
Rummage Sale
Fritts Park
Drop off Friday 25th

Saturday February 9
Saint James Creek
Preserve (east of
Stabile)
9am to noon

Great Calusa
Duck Race
Saturday March 2
Low Key Tiki

Saturday March 9
Taylor Willow Lake
Preserve
9am to noon

Upcoming Paddles

Saturday January 5,
2019
Chapin Preserve
Time to be Announced

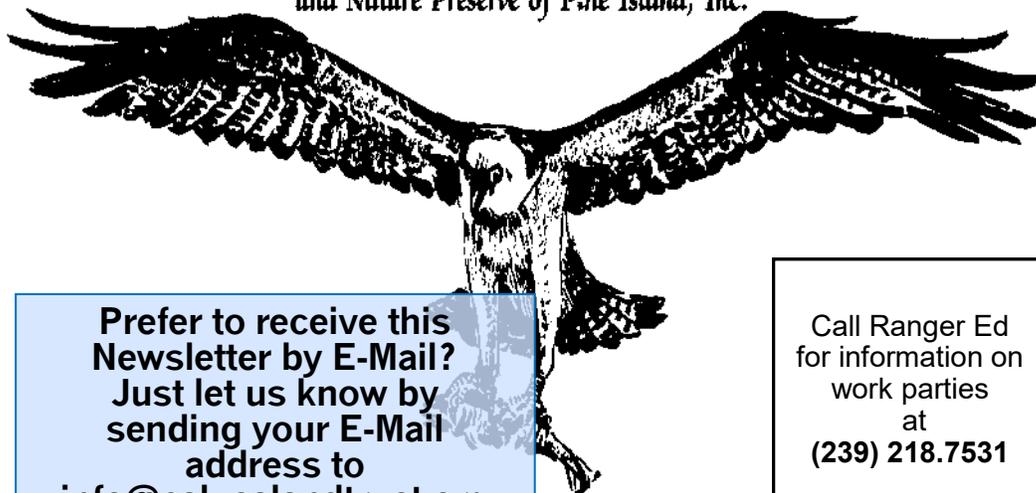
Sunday, Feb 19, 2019
Big Jim Creek Preserve
Time to be Announced

Sunday March 19, 2019
Underhill Creek
Preserve
9 to noon



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

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

Newsletter #107
Founded 1976

January 2019
www.calusalandtrust.org

Annual Meeting Sunday January 20

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE 43rd Annual Meeting of the Calusa Land Trust & Nature Preserve of Pine Island, Inc.

Please join us for the 43rd Annual Meeting to be held on Sunday, January 20, 2019 at 1:00 pm at the Fishers of Men Lutheran Church, 10360 Stringfellow Road.

The meeting's agenda will include a review of our progress in 2018 and plans for 2019 and beyond, the proposed reelection of three members of the Board of Directors (Robert Ballard, Ed Chapin and Cathy House) and two new members (Carol Mullin and Nancy Weir) recommended by the Board to fill two vacancies created by the retirement of Rad Hazen and Sonny Koutsoutis, the latter having served diligently for 10 years. Thanks, Rad and Sonny!

However, this day is not intended to be all "business". There are raffles, Calusa Clothesline (to buy needed CLT stuff), socializing with old and new friends, enjoying a fabulous buffet spread (concocted by Winn-Dixie's deli chefs), soft beverages (you're on your own for something harder) all with Frank Tuma's great island music.

Hope to see you there!

Proposed New Board Members' Profiles

The Nominating Committee has recommended the following two candidates for election to the vacant two year term Director positions. They are Carol Mullin and Nancy Weir. Here are a short bio for each candidate. Nominations can likewise be accepted from the floor on the date of the meeting.

Carol Mullin

A member of CLT since 2015, Carol was born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri, and received her bachelor of science degree from Washington University majoring in systems analysis. For over three decades she enjoyed a career within the life and health insurance industry in Missouri laboring in financial reporting, management and consulting. She and her husband, Jeff, retired to Pine Island in 2013. She is also active in the Pine Island United Methodist Church, Cayo Costa State Park, PI Food Pantry and the Pine Island Garden Club.

Nancy Weir

A new member of CLT, Nancy was born in Colorado, however, was raised and spent most of her early adult years in California. She lived on Sanibel for most of the 1970s and 80s before meeting her husband, Kelly. For some 20+ years they lived in the horse country of Kentucky engaged in the thoroughbred breeding and training business. They retired to Pine Island in 2015. Nancy is presently proprietor of a house keeping business. Her passion is the removal of invasive species and protection of natural habitats.

Jaren Peter Cernicky CLT Board Member

Nature and friends lost a compatriot with the death of Jaren Peter Cernicky on September 18, 2018, at Hope Hospice in Cape Coral, Florida. He was born March 19, 1946, in Charleroi, Pennsylvania, as the only child of Jaroslav "Yudd" Cernicky and Dorothy Elizabeth (Weinman) Cernicky.

Jaren was raised in Jennings, Missouri, and graduated from Jennings High School, where he was active in sports and lettered in track and field. He received his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration at the University of Missouri at St. Louis in 1968. While in college he met his future wife, Geraldine "Jerry" Newnom. They were married on September 12, 1970, at Faith Salem United Church of Christ in Jennings and she survives him after 48 years of marriage.

Jaren and Jerry made their home in the St. Louis area. Jaren retired from Boeing Military Aircraft in April, 2001, and they moved to their Pine Island home in St. James City. Their retirement years encompassed travel through all 48 contiguous states in their roving motor home. Jaren just loved the national parks.

Jaren was active in the Pine Island community, having served several terms as president of the St. Jude Harbors POA and was a member of the Board of Directors of the Calusa Land Trust at the time of his death.

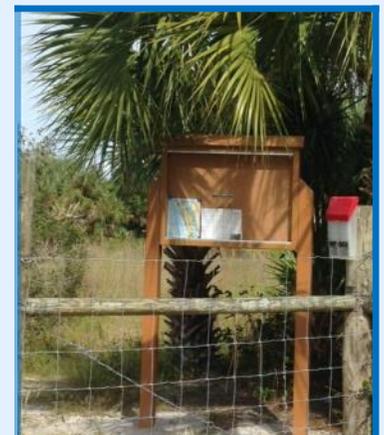
A family Celebration of Life is planned for the near future. The family requests any contributions be honored to either the Calusa Land Trust (PO Box 216, Bokeelia, FL 33922) or to Hope Hospice (2430 Diplomat Pkwy, Cape Coral, FL 33909).

Hammerheads Committee

We have a new committee called The Hammerheads to help do some carpentry projects for the Calusa Land Trust.

We are planning a shelf building carpentry project. These shelves will be installed in our new storage container in Fritts Park. So if you have this kind of skill and time to help, contact me:

Ed Chapin (239) 218-7531



New Kiosk at Entrance of Wigert Barron Preserve

Year of the Bird- Bird Bingo Game Results

The Friends of the Pine Island Library in partnership with the Calusa Land Trust (CLT) celebrated the Year of the Bird and the 100th anniversary of the Migratory Bird Act Treaty.

The Friends created a game called "Bird Bingo" to encourage residents and visitors to get out on some of the Island's Nature Preserves and identify as many species of birds as they can.

Four of the CLT Preserves had squares on the bingo board and required walking the listed Preserves. In addition, there were 2 of the Lee County 20/20 preserves along with the Randall Research Center.

Other squares required identifying particular birds native to Pine Island and seen on the Island during the month. A total of 42 different species were recorded with the Galt Preserve (21 species) and the Wigert/Barron Preserve (14 species) generating the most sightings. Three birds rare to this area were also sighted: a Merlin, a Summer Tanager and a Prairie Warbler.

CLT provided Land Trust Tee-shirts to participants who completed at least 2 rows on the Bingo Sheet.

BALD EAGLES ON PINE ISLAND By: Marty Kendall



November is a very important time of year on Pine Island as the American bald eagles once again begin to nest. The typical nest, which most often rests in a pine tree, is roughly five to nine feet in diameter and can weigh as much as two tons. Eagles often use the same nest year after year and can be very territorial during nesting season, as they protect an area of one to two miles.

Eagles become officially "bald" (a middle English term meaning "white") when they are four to five years of age. It is then they reach sexual maturity and will mate for life, if possible. Often you will see a pair rotating high in the air with talons locked. This is merely a courtship dance as mating occurs on a branch or on the ground. Eagles in the wild can live to be thirty years old and usually produce two offspring per year. Within five to ten days of mating eggs will be laid in the order they were

conceived.

The thirty five days of incubation are shared by both parents with the female being the primary brooder. The male will hunt and "spell" her on the nest. While in the nest they walk carefully with their talons tucked into a fist, in order to protect the eggs. After the eaglet hatches it will be able to hold up its head in about two weeks. By three weeks they are one foot tall and their beaks and feet are nearly adult sized. At six weeks they are as large as the parents and at eight weeks they begin to flap their wings, ever so slightly lifting off the nest. They will take their first flight in ten to thirteen weeks after hatching.

Once they are fledged they remain around the nest for another four to five weeks, taking short flights while their primary feathers grow and muscles strengthen. They must learn to hunt from their parents before the end of summer and by then they are on their own. If they are reluctant to leave, the parents will prod them or even dismantle the nest! Unfortunately, about 40% of young eagles fail to survive their first flight. For those who have successfully made it through the rigors of birth and growth, they will begin to age and beaks and eyes will become yellow. At four years white tail and head feathers will emerge and the cycle begins again.

On Pine Island there are nineteen viable nests, several of which are located on the following Calusa Land Trust Preserves: Galt (Lee County 20/20), Saint James Creek, Taylor/Willow Lake and possibly Wigert/Barron. Feel free to venture, watch and learn about these magnificent birds, but only do so quietly! They are the symbol of Pine Island and our nation. If one observes an injured eagle, you are encouraged to call CROW at 472-3644.

**Treasures of the Trails for January 2019:
Reindeer Lichen in Wigert Barron Preserve**
Photo & Text by Judy Ott

How do Santa's reindeer keep up their energy during their strenuous flight on Christmas Eve? They snack on reindeer moss – or more accurately, reindeer *lichen*.



Fortunately, we have small patches of reindeer lichen along the Nancy Rogers Nature Trail in the Wigert Barron Preserve.

This 32 acre CLT preserve is east of the Bokeelia post office on Barrancas and there is a small parking area at the trail head, just past Aura Lane. The nature trail is well marked and passes through 3 distinct habitats: the rare coastal scrub, pine flatwoods and mangrove forests. Along the trail you'll see a wide variety of nature: pines, oaks, , mangroves, ferns, wildflowers and birds – many of which have interesting and informative name signs.

Near the beginning of the nature trail, on the left, look down at the low growing, round clusters of this grayish green, lacy "plant". Contrary to its common name, Reindeer Moss isn't really a moss, which is a simple true plant with stems, roots and leaves. It is a lichen, which is an intriguing partnership of 2 different organisms – a fungus and an algae – which mutually benefit each other. In this symbiotic relationship, the fungus receives nutrients provided by the algal photosynthesis and the algae receives protection and structure from the fungus.

Lichens don't look like either their partner fungus or the algae, but appear as a single organism because the components are so interwoven. They grow in many distinctive shapes, but in general can be crusty, leafy or shrubby in appearance. Reindeer lichens are shrubby and low (less than 4 inches high). They grow very slowly (less than 0.25 inches per year) but can live very long (up to 4,000 years). It can take decades for them to recover if they are overgrazed, trampled or burned.

In Florida, reindeer lichens are found in coastal scrub habitats as ground cover. But some species grow as far north as the tundra forests in the arctic, where they are a staple in reindeer, caribou and musk oxen diets. They prefer sandy, well-drained, partially shady environments but can thrive in inhospitable conditions because of the symbiotic partnership of algae and fungus.

Reindeer lichens have many historical human uses, including: natural dyes, litmus paper, a type of Scandinavian alcohol, and folk remedies for kidney stones, diarrhea and antibiotics. They also serve as natural indicators of air quality because they very sensitive to air pollution, especially sulfur and nitrogen. Because of their slow growth rate, loss of scrub habitat and declining air quality, reindeer lichen numbers are decreasing. So it is fortunate that we have the Wigert Baron preserve to help restore our local populations of reindeer lichen – especially to help sustain any reindeer that might be flying by.

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 2, 2019 at
LOW KEY TIKI in Saint James City.

After a summer of quiet 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 2019'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 2, 2019!!



Ducks Stranded—Need Your Help

3000 Yellow Rubber Ducks are Stranded and
NEED YOUR PONTOON BOAT! The Great
Calusa Rubber Duck Race is slated for March
2, 2019, but we don't have a Pontoon Boat and
Captain to Dump the Ducks into Monroe Canal!
Haven't you always yearned to be a DUCK
DUMPER CAPTAIN? No special skills required,
on the job training provided on Duck Day, boat
will only be in use for 24 hours and you'll get
your 15 minutes of Everlasting Fame! This is
your Big Chance...just call or text 239 243-
6381) or email Alice Trant at
atrant1661@comcast.net and we can Make It
Happen!

Mark your calendar

Calusa Land Trust Annual
Meeting is set for Sunday,
January 20, 2019.

1:00 pm

Fishers of Men Lutheran
Church

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 for the current month's location.

Past Work Parties Report

On Saturday, October 13, We had a good turnout of 15 volunteers at the Dobbs Preserve. We installed the bridge on the southern end of the loop trail. This completes the Loop Trail. It is an up and down hills trail because the trail goes over spoil piles next to the mosquito ditch that it follows. Come check it out!

On Saturday, November 10th, we had a record turnout of 27 volunteers working at our new Taylor Willow Lake Preserve. We worked on the observation/nature trail and extended this trail farther into this preserve. We will be working more on this in the future.

By the time this newsletter comes out, we will have completed the Saturday, December 8th work party at the Wigert Barron Preserve. During that work party, we had another record turnout of 25 volunteers.

Work Parties in the Future:

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

Saturday, January 19 – Fritts Park (end of Beach Daisy Lane)
Saturday, February 9, - Saint James Creek Preserve (east of Stabile)
Saturday, March 9 – Taylor Willow Lake Preserve (south of Alcorn)

Peter Ordway Mangrove Adventures

Every year from October to March Ed Chapin, our Chief Ranger, guides monthly paddles in memory of Peter Ordway who started these paddle trips back in the 1990s.

Saturday January 5 - Time to be announced Chapin Preserve

Sunday February 19 Time to be announced Big Jim Creek Preserve

Sunday 16 March – 9 to noon. Underhill Creek Preserve

Reservations are required and a suggested \$20 per person donation goes to the CLT. For more information or to make a reservation, please call Ed Chapin at 239.218.7531



On November 24, 23 traveled to Calusa Island. We had 9 canoes/kayaks. It was a beautiful day for exploring Calusa Island, the Calusa Land Trust's original Preserve.

_____ \$ 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 2019

Calusa Land Trust Alison Ackerman Annual Rummage Sale Saturday January 26, 2019

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 Land in Bokeelia. Volunteers will be there on Friday, January 25 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.

Help Wanted

The Calusa Land Trust needs a volunteer with computer skills to help manage our organization. We especially need a database expert to help update our Access Database on a regular basis, create labels, etc. We would really like a volunteer who loves to be creative and design flyers and mailing materials too. This is a chance to really help your Land Trust keep Pine Island green.

Calusa Land Trust Benefits from Fundraiser

On Saturday, October 27, a "Clean Water" fundraiser was held at the Ragged Ass Saloon. The event raised over \$2500 for the Calusa Land Trust.

Olde Florida Outpost and Pine Island's Greater Rolling Clean Water Gallery sponsored this island event.

Entertainment was provided by Bobby B. Mann who offered his unique style of karaoke followed by Hester Prynn. The Clean Water team from the Olde Florida includes Julie Hayford, Don Hayford, Heather Schwartz, Dean Schwartz and also Rachi Farrow.

The fundraiser included a Chinese auction, raffles, silent auction and jewelry sales.

The Calusa Land Trust appreciates this support of our island organization.

Calusa Land Trust & Nature Preserve
of Pine Island, Inc.
P.O. Box 216
Bokeelia, Florida 33922



PINK
ADDRESS
LABEL? TIME
TO RENEW.



Pine Island Garden Club's 18th Annual

Garden

Go Native

Saturday
February 23, 2019
9 to 2

Garden Park, Pine Island Center
Free Parking and Admission

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

All this and more . . .

www.pineislandgardenclub.org

