

2020 IMPORTANT DATES



Work/Fun Parties

- Taylor—Willow Preserve March 14th
- Baxley Preserve April 11th

Peter Ordway Memorial Mangrove Adventures Paddles

- Smokehouse Bay via the Ed Chapin Preserve March 21st 9am—Noon Reservations required

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 #112

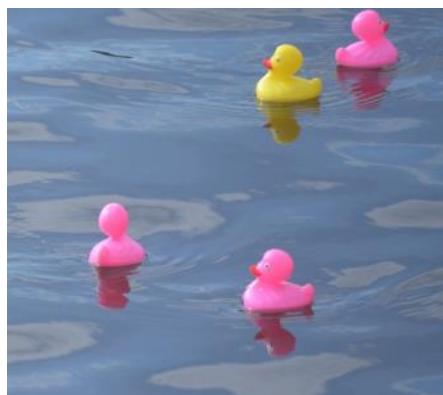
Founded 1976

March 2020

www.calusalandtrust.org

GREAT CALUSA RUBBER DUCK RACE - MARCH 7 FIRST PLACE DUCK WINS \$1,000

Get Ready for the Swimming of the Ducks! The Calusa Land Trust's 22nd Annual Great Rubber Duck Race is scheduled for March 7th at LOW KEY TIKI in St. James City. The festivities will begin at noon & for your listening pleasure there will be entertainment by the Pine Island Sound (featuring Alan & Cindy Bickford and Darryl Tison), Hourly 50/50 Raffles, and an extensive array of Plants at the Plant Table with expert growing & care advice from CLT members. A much larger and diverse Silent Auction (12-2pm), that includes prizes and Gift Certificates donated by local businesses and individuals.



This year there are again 2 (yes, 2) Spinning Wheels, where "You Spin, You Win"! Featuring Cash prizes as well as Gift Baskets, Home Baked Treats, and prizes & Gift Certificates donated by local businesses. The event also includes a Energetic Live Auction (featuring the spirited chant of Johnny Grisson) highlighted by ½ Day Fishing Charters, ½ Day Tree Service, Resort stays, Glass Art Work and More, as



donations are still pouring in) Thank you Local Businesses! Low Key Tiki will also be offering a luncheon special and a convenient beer tent for happy celebrants. And This Year, by Special Request, CW Fudge will again be selling their Delicious and Various Popcorn & treats! The entertaining emcee, Craig "the Snook Cowboy" Jennings, will return by Popular demand.



The big event will be the Duck Races occurring between 3 and 4 pm (wind and tide are factors). The Super Duck Race is first with 200 Baby Ducks (\$20 each, sold only on race day) competing for 50/50 cash winnings. 2 Winners will be announced immediately after the Super Duck Race! The Major Attraction will thereafter be the Adult Yellow Rubber Ducks consisting of 3000 numbered ducks (\$5 each and almost sold out) racing for cash and gifts. The Winning Duck will earn \$1,000 cash, 2nd scoops in \$500, 3rd place \$250 plus five runners-up each waddling home with a bag of goodies worth at least \$200. Buy Early and Buy Often, since tickets are likely sold out by race time.

After resting in the off season all ducks have been in training and are just itching and quacking in anticipation of race day. Even if you are not the owner of a winning duck, you can be proud of your support of the Calusa Land Trust, Pine Island's all-volunteer land conservancy, with its mission to acquire, preserve and protect this special place called Pine Island.

Rubber Duck Race Tickets are now available from member volunteers, certain times at Ragged Ass Saloon and Low Key Tiki or on our website (calusalandtrust.org).



Land Stewardship Ranger Report by Ed Chapin

Work Parties – Past:

On January 11, 2020 we worked on our St James Creek Preserve from 9:00 am to noon. We had a great turn out, as usual, and got a lot of work done. We worked on invasive plant control on the perimeter of the Preserve and removed many Brazilian peppers and some ear-leaf acacia.

Our most recent work party was held on Saturday February 8, 2020. We worked on our Ed Chapin Preserve, located at the end of Royal Okley, which is at the end of Mannheim Road, off Harbor Drive in Bokeelia. Again, we had a great turn out of 28 volunteers. We got a lot of trimming and invasive plant control accomplished.

Work Parties – Future:

On Saturday March 14, 2020 from 9:00 am to noon we will be working at our Taylor-Willow Lake Preserve. This Preserve is located on Alcorn Street, just south of the Catholic Church.

And, on Saturday April 11, 2020 we will be working from 9:00 am to noon at our Baxley Preserve, which is located at the end of Redwood Drive, off Woodstock Road, south of Pine Island Center on the east side of Pine Island. Come on out and join us. Hand tools are handy, so bring some if you can.

Peter Ordway Mangrove Adventures of Pine Island Paddling tours

Past Paddles:

On Sunday January 20, 2020 we paddled through the St. James Creek Preserve. We had 6 paddlers and great weather. And, on Saturday February 15, 2020 we were going to paddle from Tropical Point across Matlacha Pass, but due to high winds from the north, we paddled south, again to our St. James Creek Preserve. We had 6 paddlers and a good day despite the gusty winds!



Future paddles:

Our last paddle of this season will be paddling from the Ed Chapin Preserve to Smokehouse Bay on northeast Pine Island. This is an easy paddle through mangrove lined mosquito ditches. Meet-up is at 9:00 am at the Chapin Preserve and we will be back around noon.

For more information about work parties and paddling tours, please call Ed Chapin at (239) 218-7531. You may leave voice messages, but no text messages please

Smile.Amazon.com

This has been mentioned before but it bears repeating yet again.

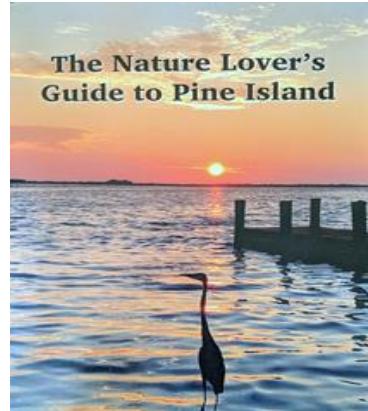
If you shop at Amazon, you can support a charity, like the Calusa Land Trust, by choosing us as your favorite charity. To shop at AmazonSmile you can type smile.amazon.com in your computer or mobile device's web browser.

Once designating a charity, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your purchase. It may not sound like much, but it can add up to become a substantial gift.

Calusa Land Trust and Nature Preserve Of Pine Island Inc has received \$1,343.02 as of November 2019

Nature Lover's Guide to Pine Island

The **Nature Lover's Guide to Pine Island** has been updated for 2019. In addition, it is printed in full color and the thickness has been reduced by 60%. The price is still the same- \$20 if you pick up at one of our events or \$25 if ordered by mail. You can get your copy at our booth at one of the local events or by request to WWW.CalusaLandTrust.org



Treasures of the Trails for February 2020:

Stalking Wild Zebras at the Ed Chapin Preserve Text by Judy Ott



Judy Ott

Zebras were recently seen gracefully foraging in the CLT Ed Chapin Preserve and the adjacent Kel Kellerman Vista. The preserve is located at 5466 Royal Okley Lane in Bokeelia. There is a small parking area, picnic shelter and rough kayak launch, all of which will be improved this coming year.

Zebra Longwing butterflies can be found throughout south Florida year-round. Their looks are distinctive so they can't be confused with other butterflies. They have 4 elongated black wings with pale-yellow stripes and are about 3" to 4" long. Their coloring signals distaste to predators.

These butterflies feed on both nectar and pollen from a variety of flowers, including passionflowers, firebush, tropical sage, and porterweed. As they gather

pollen, they mix it with digestive enzymes to create a protein-rich supplement which contributes to their long life and plentiful offspring – by butterfly standards. They can live up to 6 months (compared to other species) lifespans of less than 1 month).

They produce multiple generations each year and if the weather is good, they can go from egg to butterfly in 3 weeks. The eggs are laid on passionflower leaves which have toxins and are consumed by the caterpillars, making the adults poisonous to predators. The caterpillars are white with black dots, black spikes and yellow heads.

Zebra Longwing chrysalises (cocoons) look like dead leaves. While inside the chrysalis, the female pupae produce a distinctive scent that attracts suitors even before

they emerge from the cocoon.

After mating, the male reciprocates by applying a scent that repels future suitors.

Zebra Longwings fly slowly and gracefully and make an unusual creaking sound when disturbed. They roost in a group of up to sixty each evening, returning to the same perch each night. They live in a variety of habitats from Florida and Texas to northern South America. They frequent forests, subtropical hammocks, forest edges, and adjacent open areas.

Zebra Longwings are the official State Butterfly of Florida, designated in 1996. Let these special butterflies lead you on a spring walk in one of the CLT preserves.



Tony Hisgette



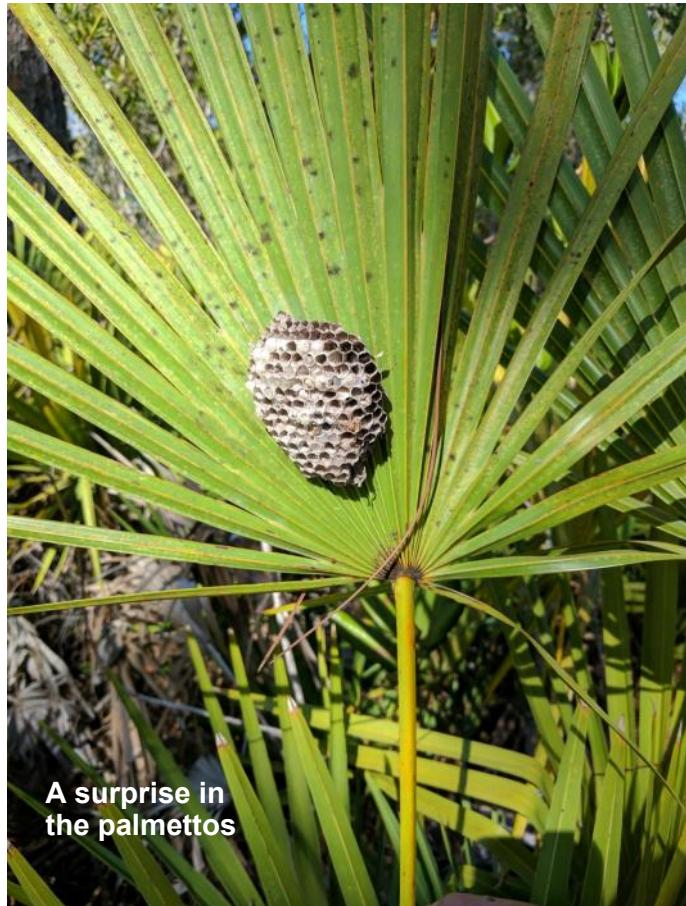
Rummage Sale action at Fritts Park, January 25, 2020. The weather this year was perfect and with the help of 258 volunteer-hours, a little over \$2,000 were raised to help protect Pine Island.



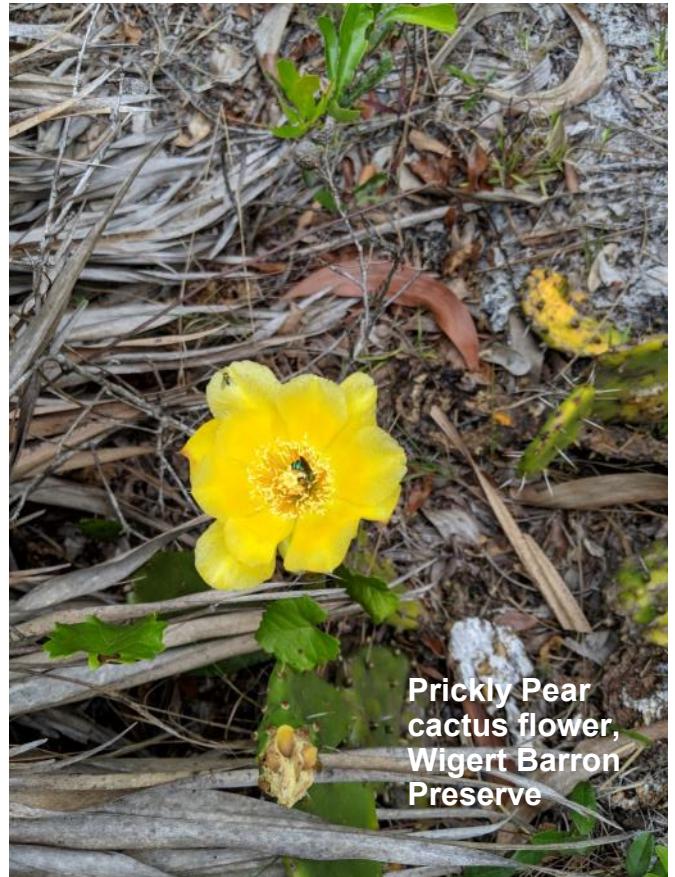
Fish Eating Creek paddle in the past, this years trip was cancelled for weather conditions



Working on the bridge at Dobbs preserve



A surprise in the palmettos



Prickly Pear cactus flower, Wigert Barron Preserve

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

\$500 Patron
 \$1000 Benefactor
 Other Amount

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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.

March 2020



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TO RENEW !**

