

Pine Island Sound

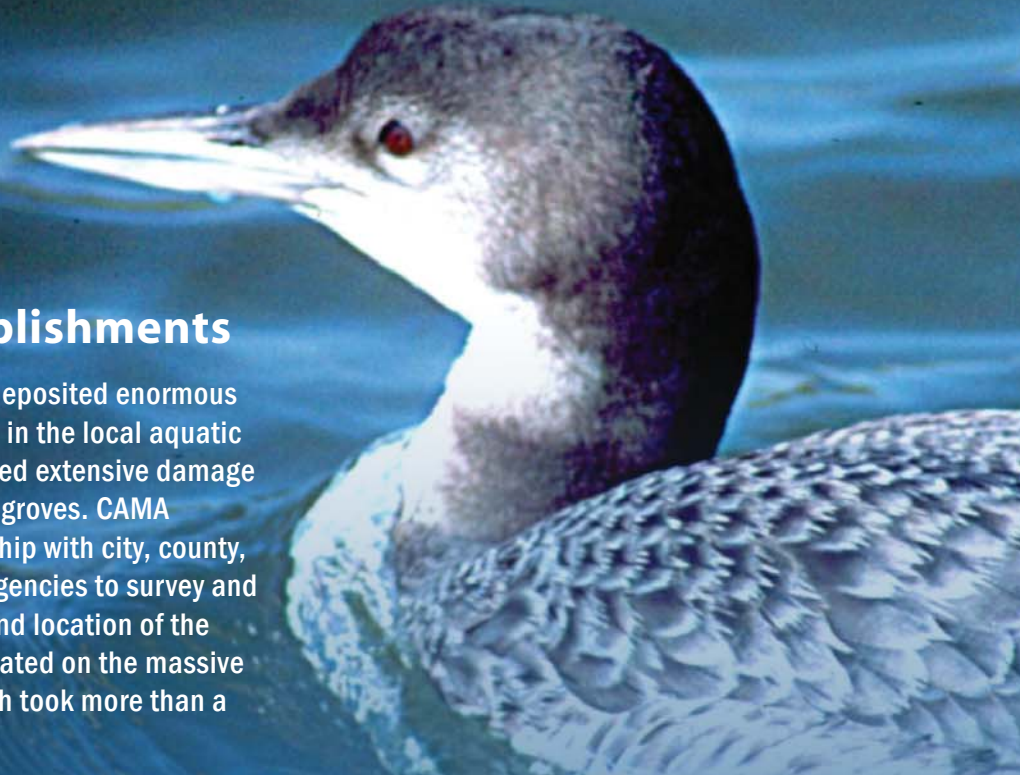
# AQUATIC PRESERVE

*"Very rarely can you be on the water or stand at the water's edge and see a shoreline as protected as Pine Island Sound. It is rimmed with mangroves and other vegetation that protect both the surrounding land and the water within."*

*Erick Lindblad, Executive Director  
Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation*

## Key Accomplishments

- Hurricane Charley deposited enormous quantities of debris in the local aquatic preserves and caused extensive damage to surrounding mangroves. CAMA initiated a partnership with city, county, state and federal agencies to survey and assess the extent and location of the debris and collaborated on the massive cleanup effort which took more than a year to complete.
- A significant, multi-agency agreement has been achieved which now identifies locations and dredge depths for boat navigation channels and seagrass protection.
- On-going water quality testing through citizen-agency partnerships, continues to provide a basis for understanding long-term changes in estuary health.
- Seagrass habitat monitoring shows adverse effects caused by stormwater runoff and discharges from the Caloosahatchee River.



Typical sunset across the sound

## Project Spotlight

### Wading Trips

Each year, 4 wading trips are offered to the general public to "muck about", exploring the near shore treasures of the Aquatic Preserve.

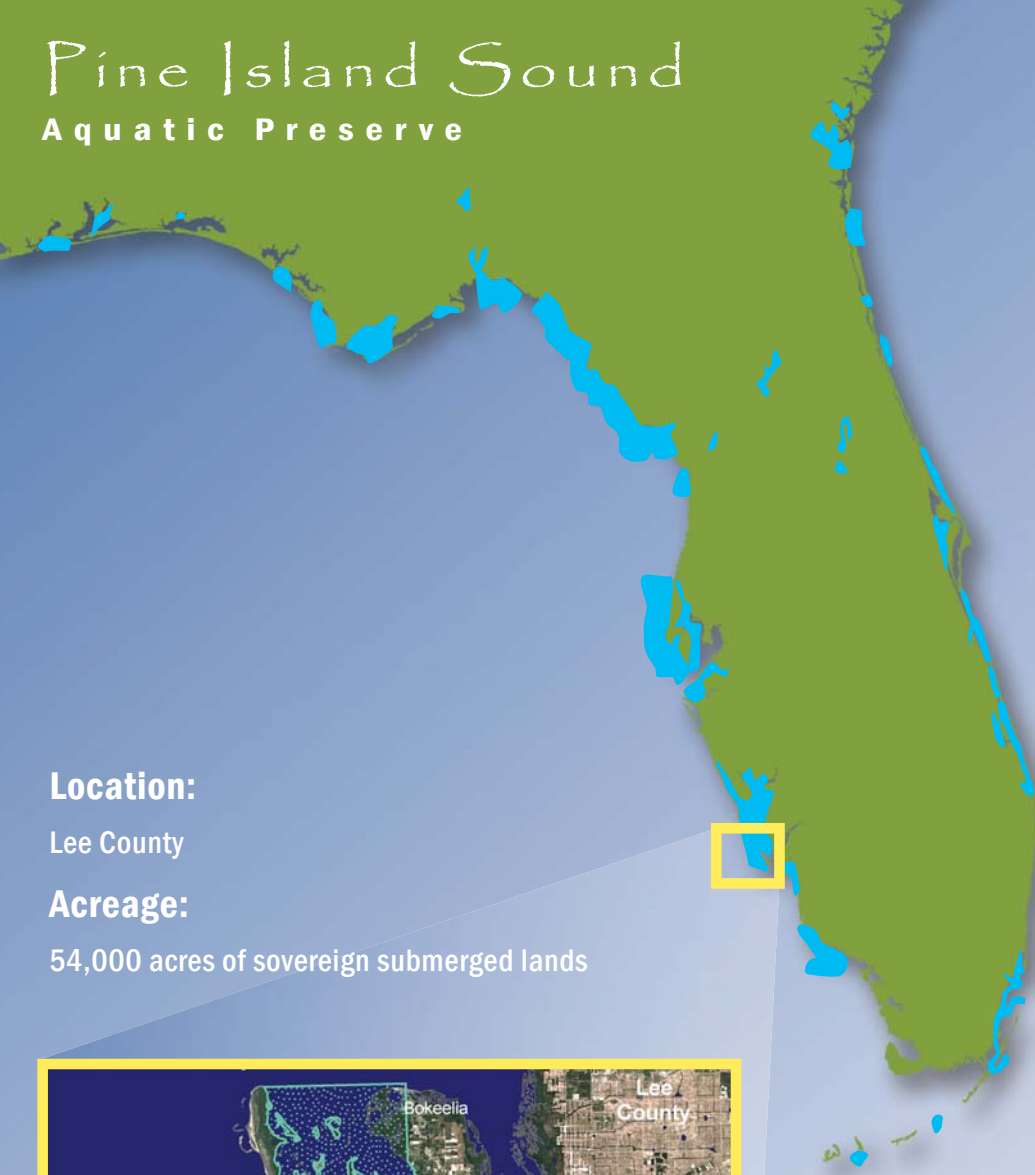


Waders find a horseshoe crab in the sound

Through this unique environmental education and outreach program, citizens of all ages are given a rare opportunity to observe and learn about the local estuarine

habitats and its diverse flora and fauna. Dip nets are provided, cast and seine netting are demonstrated, collected "critters" are identified and the role of each treasure within the estuary is discussed. The goal of the wading trips is to broaden residents' and visitors' appreciation and support of our diverse aquatic preserves.

# Pine Island Sound Aquatic Preserve



## Location:

Lee County

## Acreage:

54,000 acres of sovereign submerged lands



## Local Contact:

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## Aquatic Preserve Facts:

- Designated as an aquatic preserve in 1970, this is the second largest of the five Charlotte Harbor aquatic preserves.
- In Pine Island Sound, waters from Charlotte Harbor, San Carlos Bay and the Caloosahatchee River mix with water from four passes to the Gulf of Mexico.
- Supports extensive seagrass habitats.
- Mangroves fringe many barrier islands and smaller islands found throughout the preserve.
- Home to over 100 invertebrate, 200 fish, many shark and over 150 bird species.
- Nature-based recreation includes fishing, kayaking, birding, wading and beach combing at Cayo Costa State Park, Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge, Sanibel Island, Cabbage Key and Pine Island.



Moon jellyfish



Lightning whelk and egg casings



Horseshoe crabs



Scallop



A publication funded in part by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Coastal Management Program, pursuant to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Award No. NA04NOS4190035. The views expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the view of the State of Florida, NOAA, or any of its sub-agencies.