



Landmarks

Spring 2013

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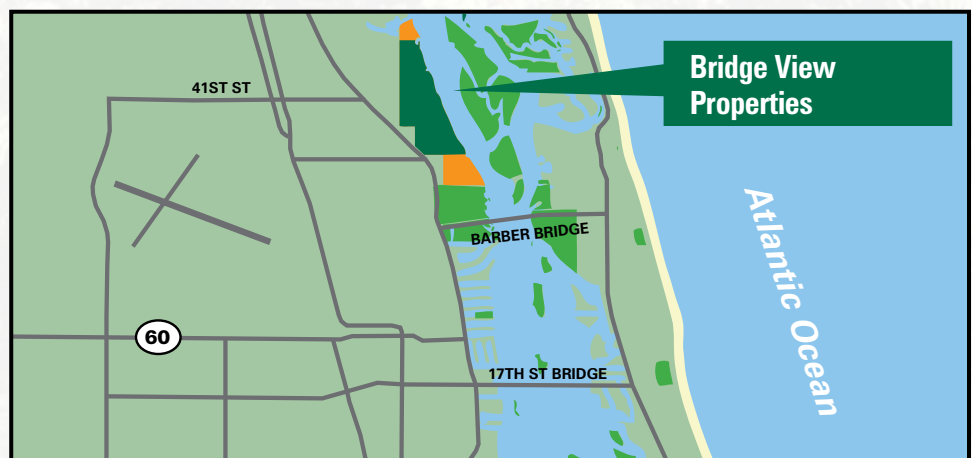
Toni Robinson

IRLT Protects Bridge View Properties

In an effort to forever protect the view of our pristine Lagoon shoreline looking north from the Barber Bridge, the Indian River Land Trust acquired another 200+ acres and more than a mile of shoreline property this spring on the west side of the Indian River Lagoon. In two independent transactions, IRLT acquired a 56-acre property, which contains frontage on both the Lagoon and on Indian River Blvd. near 37th Street, and a 150-acre property immediately adjoining the 56 acres to the north. These two properties are a critical part of a two-mile stretch of green shoreline in full view from the Barber Bridge. IRLT Board Chairman Louis Schacht commented, "There aren't many places you can go along the east coast of Florida where you can drive over a waterway such as the Lagoon and look out on a long stretch of protected, green shoreline. The Land Trust's vision is to preserve this remaining undeveloped shoreline just as you see it today."

The 56-acre conservation land purchase was made possible thanks to donations from two long-time supporters of the Land Trust, Dace and King Stubbs and Sally and Dick Brickman. The acquisition of this property will reduce development on Indian River Blvd., while forever preserving an intact high salt marsh. Local ecologist, Dr. David Cox, who conducted an environmental assessment of the property for IRLT, was impressed with the quality of the habitat. Cox noted, "High marshes and their unique array of salt tolerant plants along the Lagoon are now quite rare – but they represent critical nursery and refuge areas for a diverse assemblage of fish and wildlife species in the Lagoon."

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IRLT Protects Bridge View Properties

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The 150-acre property was part of a long-term wildlife habitat restoration project conducted by private investors and overseen by the St. Johns River Water Management District. IRLT's Executive Director, Ken Grudens explained, "Many habitat restoration efforts across the state are initiated by companies for selling development credits, but when the projects are complete, the newly restored properties often have no one to care for the property into the future. Thanks to the donation of the property, along with the gifting of a \$268,000 stewardship fund for managing the shoreline habitat, the Land Trust will be able to maintain the property in its pristine state in perpetuity." The property and nearly half the stewardship fund was donated by private investor, Craig Chown. A total of \$150,000 of the stewardship fund was anonymously gifted to the Land Trust by a generous member. The Land Trust's Director of Land Protection, Ralph Monticello and IRLT attorney, Micheal O'Haire and his staff worked tirelessly on both of these important acquisition projects to ensure these two highly visible shoreline properties will forever remain green.

There is still more work to be done to complete the protection of our County's shoreline, but IRLT has now preserved more than 830 acres and eight miles of shoreline on the Indian River Lagoon in order to preserve our wildlife habitat, protect the scenic shoreline, and provide public access to the Lagoon.

IRLT Expands Winter Beach Salt Marsh

In May, IRLT acquired another small, but important property on the Lagoon. In an effort to fully protect the Winter Beach Salt Marsh IRLT acquired in 2010, we have added 5 acres and ¼ mile of shoreline, expanding the Salt Marsh property to 52 acres. IRLT's salt marsh properties and the County's adjoining Spoonbill Marsh north of Grand Harbor now make up a nearly 100-acre block of contiguous conservation lands with a half-mile of protected shoreline.





The Land Trust's 2013 Annual Membership Event:

Celebrate the Lagoon

The Land Trust hosted 155 of its members at its sixth annual membership event, Saturday, March 16 along the Lagoon Greenway. After enjoying breakfast sponsored by Einstein Bros Bagels and Schacht Groves, members were invited by Executive Director, Ken Grudens to enjoy walking, bicycling or geo-caching along the trails of the Greenway.

The 187-acre Lagoon Greenway contains three miles of trails for hiking, jogging or bicycling through oak hammocks, over wetlands, around the perimeter of a mangrove forest, and along the edge of the Indian River Lagoon. The natural refuge of the Lagoon Greenway harbors rich animal and plant biodiversity which offers opportunities for bird watching and other wildlife observation.

The property is a public private partnership between the Indian River Land Trust, Indian River County and Florida Inland Navigation District made possible by grants and with private donations for the boardwalks and benches.

Generous sponsors of the membership event included:

Mr. and Mrs. Henry G. Stifel | Toni Robinson | Einstein Bros Bagels | Gould Cooksey Fennell P.A. | Orchid Island Bikes and Kayaks | Schacht Groves | Smith Heating and Air Conditioning | Vero Marine Center.





Land Trust Guest Author Will Johnson is a Land Trust volunteer, who regularly assists with tours of the Land Trust properties. Will, just 12 years old, has been researching various features of mangroves to provide factual information on his tours. The following summarizes his research.

Mangroves — How do they Grow, What is their importance?

Mangroves live throughout tropical and subtropical coastlines worldwide. They are plants with many unique features, including the production of propagules. These seed-like objects are, in fact, not seeds but plants themselves and are an important part of the mangrove life cycle. There are three species of mangroves that inhabit the Indian River Lagoon: the red mangrove, the black mangrove, and the white mangrove. A fourth mangrove species, the buttonwood, is also indigenous to our area but is not usually referred to as a mangrove.

The red mangrove lives close to, or in, the water. Red mangroves have distinctive prop roots that protrude from the tree's trunk. Their leaves are glossy and a dark green. The red mangroves propagules are pencil shaped. They fall from the parent tree, float in the current, and then start growing once they have found a suitable location to grow.

The black mangrove lives further inland, but still near the water. Black mangroves have snorkel roots (pneumatophores) that stick out of the ground. The snorkels grow just above high tide line so that they can breathe. The

black mangrove has pale leaves that secrete excess salt on the undersides of leaves. Black mangrove propagules are heart shaped and look somewhat like rolled up leaves that have a root sticking out.

White mangroves typically grow farthest from the water, but they also may grow close to, or even in, the water.

White mangroves have no visible roots. The white mangroves have light green leaves that are ovate. At the stem of the leaves there are two nectaries that secrete sugary fluids that many herbivorous insects crave. White mangrove propagules are small and almond-shaped.

Mangroves have an important environmental and economic impact on the world. Like most plants, they are an important source of carbon dioxide consumption and oxygen production. Additionally, they provide essential habitat for many organisms: nurseries for fish and crustaceans, rookeries for some bird species, as well as a food source for some insects and crustaceans. Finally, they play a critical role in the prevention of shoreline erosion.



Photos above are Red Mangroves

We endorse the proposed Florida Water and Land Conservation Amendment!

The Indian River Land Trust has endorsed this proposed amendment to the Florida State Constitution. This important amendment creates stable and long-term funding for conservation programs, ensuring that we safeguard our most treasured waters and lands for future generations.



We encourage our members to learn more about this amendment by visiting the website for the Florida Water and Land Legacy Campaign at: www.FloridaWaterLandLegacy.org. The amendment will appear on the November 2014 general election ballot if enough signed petitions have been collected by November of this year. Petitions can be obtained by calling the campaign headquarters directly at 850-629-4656

The Land Trust has a Wish List:

Do you have gently used items you really don't use anymore? Would you like them to go to good use? Well the Land Trust Stewardship Department is looking for equipment in good condition.

Please call us at 772-794-0701 if you have any of the following items you can donate.

- Loppers
- Machete/sharpener
- Broom (wide)
- Trash pickers
- Weedeater
- Hacksaw
- Chainsaw and accessories such as chaps, hard hat, tools to maintain
- Steel chains (about 20 ft)
- Small digital camera
- GPS unit
- Wildlife/Plant identification books
- First aid kit
- Hand held herbicide sprayers
- Indoor storage cabinet (for tool storage in our office)
- Kayaks and accessories

Land Trust Directors and Advisors join with neighbors and friends from Hobart Landing to celebrate the opening of the Toni Robinson Waterfront Trail



Special thanks to:

Complete Cleaning for helping to keep the office sparkling.

Kirchner Landscaping for assistance with maintenance of Land Trust properties.

Audio House for spectacular audio/video services.



Visit our website! For more information on the projects and events described in this newsletter, visit us at www.irlt.org.

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events www.irlt.org

