



Winter 2013

# Landmarks

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## IRLT is Pleased to Announce the Opening of the Lagoon Greenway

The Lagoon Greenway made its debut Friday, January 11 with a ribbon cutting ceremony. This officially opened the recreational and educational trail system located on the Indian River Lagoon.

This exciting 187-acre property is located at the corner of 8th Street and Indian River Boulevard. It boasts an ecologically diverse three-mile trail system for hiking, jogging or bicycling. Even four-legged creatures on leashes are welcome on the property (with careful clean-up by their two-legged companions).

This area is an example of a public - private partnership developed by the Land Trust, working with Indian River County Commissioners, the Indian River Mosquito Control District and F.I.N.D. (Florida Inland Navigation District).

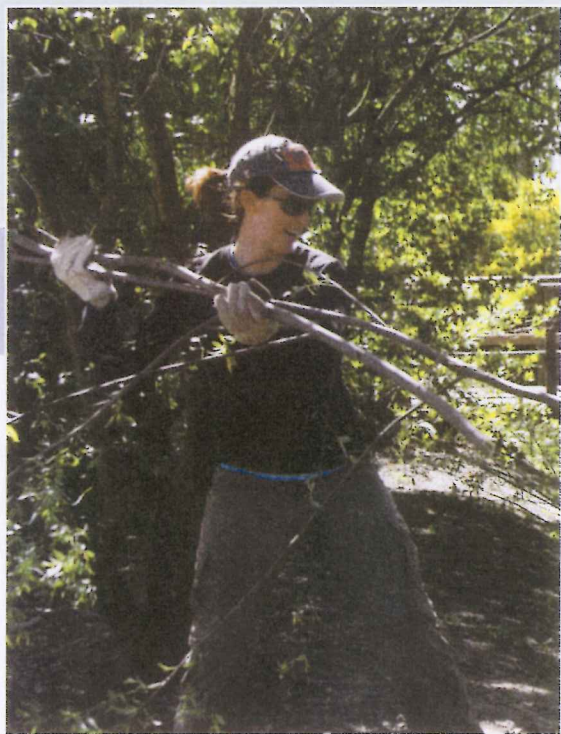
All of the partners were part of this great ribbon cutting ceremony. Bruce Barkett, Indian River F.I.N.D. Commissioner was on hand at the opening. In addition to owning a 53-acre parcel that makes up the Greenway, F.I.N.D. has been a financial partner providing 50% of the funding, \$18,000 for phase one of the project and \$156,000 for phase two.

Now that the Greenway is open, much of the daily stewardship (minor care and maintenance) is being completed by volunteers. Residents of River Park Place, the adjoining neighborhood, are volunteering and walking the trail every day. They report any issues or concerns and are an invaluable resource for keeping the property clean.

The Land Trust will host its spring Membership Event on March 16 at the Greenway. Members, stay tuned for your invitation to this exciting event!







## **The Land Trust Welcomes Julie Hanson**

### *Stewardship Outreach Specialist*

We are pleased to introduce the newest member of our staff, Julie Hanson. Julie is a Florida native and earned her Bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies from Rollins College. She worked five years as an environmental scientist in Florida specializing in protected species surveys, gopher tortoise relocations, environmental assessments, and wetland delineations. She also worked for two years with AmeriCorps, including a year with the California Department of Fish and Game conducting salmon surveys, invasive plant removal, and native plantings. In her 2nd year, Julie joined the Florida Park Service as a Team Leader. The nine-member team visited different state parks throughout Florida, working on projects such as boardwalk construction, wildlife surveys, outdoor education, and trail management.

## **What are Mosquito Impoundments?**

### **What do they have to do with the Indian River Land Trust?**

**To answer this question, we asked one of our land stewards to do some research —**

Through its efforts in acquiring over six miles of waterfront land on the Lagoon, the Indian River Land Trust now owns all, or a part of, six of 30 coastal impoundments managed by the Indian River Mosquito Control District (IRMCD), an independent taxing district of our county. These mosquito impoundments, earthen dikes around a known mosquito-producing salt marsh, were constructed between 1956-66 to suppress salt marsh mosquito populations that had been an extreme irritant to residents and visitors. Because salt marsh mosquitoes lay their eggs on moist soil, but not on standing water, enough water is pumped from the Indian River Lagoon onto the impounded marshes to form a shallow layer of water and prevent egg-laying.

Research beginning in the 1980s demonstrated the ecological importance of reconnecting the flow of water and associated aquatic life between the impoundments and the lagoon. To accomplish this while still allowing for mosquito control with a minimal amount of pesticides, culverts with flap gates are installed in impoundments to seasonally reconnect the impounded marsh with the lagoon. Culverts are closed from late spring to early fall and left open for the remainder of the year.

In marsh areas outside of impoundments, such as at the Land Trust's Winter Beach Salt Marsh, IRMCD inspectors visit mosquito-producing areas regularly to check for larvae.

Through the Land Trust's development of management plans for each of its waterfront properties, the IRLT will promote continued research in concert with the Mosquito Control District and local scientists to ensure the proper balance between maximizing critically important fish and wildlife habitat and providing for the needs of our residents along the shoreline of the Indian River Lagoon.

*Information provided by Doug Carlson, Director, Indian River Mosquito Control District. Written by Rody Johnson*





## IRLT Board Member Honored by the AFP

Edward Dayton, known to his friends as Ned, was honored by the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) Indian River County Chapter. In November, the AFP hosted National Philanthropy Day which honors outstanding Philanthropic achievement in Indian River County. Ned's thoughtful gentle leadership as Chair of the Land Trust's Campaign to Save Our Indian River Lagoon has enabled us to protect more than 625 acres and six miles of shoreline along the Lagoon.



Honoree Ned Dayton receives his award from Ken Grudens, Executive Director of the Land Trust

## The Land Trust's Annual Benefit *Starry Night on the Lagoon* a stellar success.

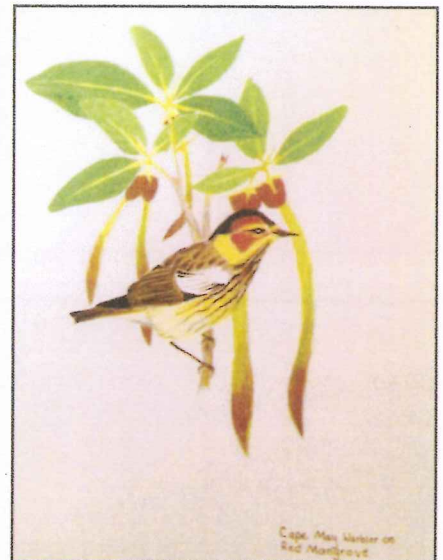
The evening began as a record number of guests, over 400, entered to a beautiful new location at Rock City Gardens and were welcomed by champagne and a roaring fire in an outdoor fireplace. Despite the cold evening, everyone seemed delighted to stroll the art tent displaying works from local artists who donated 50% of their profits to the Land Trust.

Catered by Elizabeth Kennedy, the menu followed the van Gogh theme with food that offered a European flair. Beef Bourguignon helped to take away the fall chill in the air. Desserts offered by Jennifer of Fillin 'n' Chillin were enjoyed by all!

To make certain of a truly Starry Night, guests were treated to a fireworks display specially underwritten by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Stifel.



Black-necked Stilt



Cape May Warbler

**Land Trust Guest Artist Will Johnson** is a volunteer, who regularly assists with tours of the Land Trust's property, Bee Gum Point. He is a passionate young environmentalist who is just 12 years old. Both Will's dad and grandfather are members of the Land Trust Advisory Board. Love of nature runs in the family. Here are two colored pencil drawings recently completed by Will.





## Indian River Land Trust

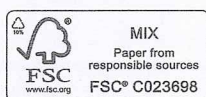
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**NPR's Floridays Janie Gould  
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and Board Member Toni Robinson.**



## *Special thanks to:*

John's Island Real Estate  
for sponsoring the opening  
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Kmetz, Nuttal, Elwell,  
Graham: Certified Public  
Accountants for sponsoring  
our monthly conservation  
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Complete Cleaning for  
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sparkling.

Kirchner Landscaping for  
assistance with maintenance  
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