



Winter 2017

Landmarks

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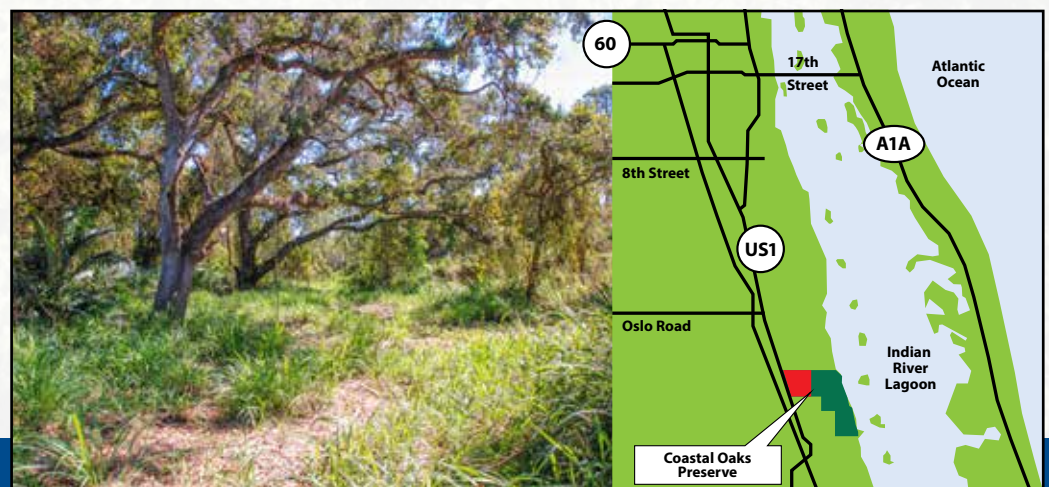
IRLT Protects 1,000 ACRES

This fall the Land Trust acquired a key conservation property located on U.S. Highway 1 near the St. Lucie County line, saving the land from being developed with more than 100 homes. This 29-acre parcel contains important wetlands that will be made a part of our Coastal Oaks Preserve located on the Indian River Lagoon. The forested wetlands found on the new parcel will be restored, thereby improving the water quality of the adjacent Lagoon.

With help from The Conservation Fund and its low interest revolving loan program designed to assist land trusts in making timely purchases of important conservation land, this acquisition allowed IRLT to surpass

the 1,000-acre mark. The Coastal Oaks Preserve has now grown to a 220-acre block of diverse habitats containing ancient oaks, native pines, wetlands, freshwater ponds and mangrove forests, making it the Land Trust's largest and most ecologically diverse property. It also encompasses an exceptional trail network. The purchase of this keystone parcel will allow for IRLT to better care for the wetlands and wildlife habitat and to provide public access to these trails in the future.

Future generations will always be able to enjoy this marvelous preserved habitat thanks to YOUR SUPPORT!



Your support of the Land Trust has made this possible. Future generations will always be able to enjoy this marvelous preserved habitat thanks to YOU!



Land Water Wildlife: Annual Benefit a Wonderful Success



The lights were twinkling at beautiful Rock City Gardens just a few weeks after Hurricane Matthew threatened our community. Rock City once again did not disappoint the party goers. The gardens were lovely, just the perfect setting.



Celebrating our roots and working to preserve the beauty we call home, Presenting Sponsor Stephanie and Orin Smith, and Lagoon Sponsor Emily and Ned Sherwood made the evening possible.



Dace and King Stubbs were the honorary Chairs of the celebration. The Event was Co-Chaired by Mary Juckiewicz and Lee Moore - with their committee, they worked hard in preparation for the opening event of the season. Monti of Monti's Flower Market and her husband, George, generously supported the Land Trust's benefit, giving time and talent to create table arrangements fitting with the theme of the evening.

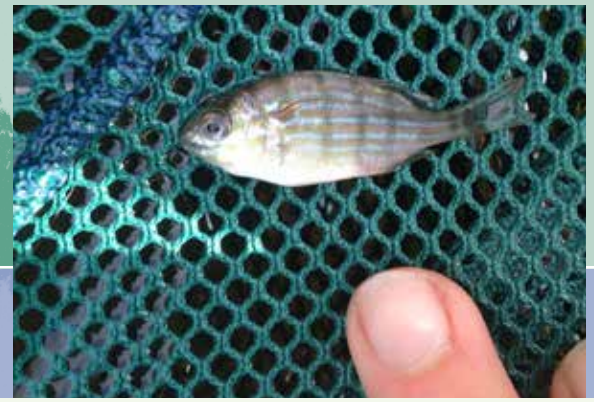


In celebration of our roots, the evening began with a wine and beer bar stocked with a selection of beers from local Orchid Island and Walking Tree Breweries, replete with music by the Vero Beach High School: Standards. After enjoying scrumptious hors d'oeuvres and cocktails, guests were treated to a buffet dinner followed by pies made in Vero Beach by Smokehouse Grill's Holly Turnmanour.



Later, guests enjoyed toasting marshmallows for s'mores, as lively bluegrass from the Penny Creek Band filled the air.





The Fish Need Our Help

The fish are disappearing from our Indian River Lagoon and the Land Trust is working to help reverse this terrible trend. In the 1950s, the need for better mosquito control along the Lagoon cut off the natural flow of water between the land and the Lagoon, resulting in the removal of over 2,600 acres of valuable fish nursery habitats from productivity in this county. In the 1990s, a new strategy which employs culvert pipes to make a hydrological connection enable fish to move between the different habitats during the fall and winter. The increased water flow led to the assumption that the nursery function of the coastal wetlands adjoining the Lagoon had been restored. However, new assessments at our Bee Gum Point Nature Preserve indicate that these systems actually trap fish, preventing them from joining their larger populations in the Lagoon.

It is critical for scientists to determine what actions, structures or other improvements will be needed to restore the water quality, and also recreate the habitats needed for fish to complete their natural life cycles in the Lagoon and the Atlantic Ocean. This will allow for an increase in the populations of these dwindling fish species which are an integral part of one of the world's most diverse estuaries.

The Land Trust is working with fisheries scientists Dr. Aaron Adams and Dr. Jonathan Shenker with Florida Tech and the Bonefish and Tarpon Trust to continue the second year of a study at Bee Gum Point, monitoring the migration of juvenile fish. At the same time, we are conducting a fish tagging and monitoring study at a nearby unmanaged coastal marsh that will allow us to

determine how juvenile fishes recruit, grow and migrate in an area where access is not seasonally restricted. The results of these studies will be of great significance for designing habitat restoration and management projects to increase the productivity of mangrove marshes as fish nurseries in the Lagoon.



Students Learn Firsthand

For the fourth year running, students from three Indian River County high schools came together to study key environmental issues on the Land Trust's Coastal Oaks Preserve. A group of 14 students from Vero Beach, Indian River Charter and Sebastian high schools meet after school every Monday throughout the school year under the guidance of scientists and educators from the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute. They study the environmental effects of the Preserve on water quality, fish life, crab populations and sea grass beds. These studies are a great help to the Land Trust for better understanding the natural resources found on the property and how we can best care for them.



The Board and Staff of the Land Trust

Would like to thank the sponsors of the annual benefit
Land Water Wildlife: Preserving OUR Roots

Presenting Sponsor – Stephanie and Orin Smith

Lagoon Sponsor

Emily & Ned Sherwood

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Indian River Land Trust's

Gator Gallop - 5K Trail Run/Walk Saturday, February 25, 2017 Race Begins at 7:30 AM Lagoon Greenway

Course: Begins and ends at IRLT Lagoon Greenway with one water station.
Professionally timed by Run Vero

Proceeds to Benefit Indian River Land Trust

Entry Fee: \$25 in advance
\$35 on race day
T-Shirts guaranteed to the first 125 registered
Race Day Entries will begin at 6:15 AM ending 7:15 AM
Register online at gatorgallop5k2017.eventbrite.com

Custom Medals will be awarded to top Overall male/female finishers and Overall Masters: male/female, and top 3 males/females in the following categories:

Runners: (14 & Under)(15-19)(20-29)(30-39)(40-49)(50-59)(60-69)(70 & over).

Packet Pickup: Friday (Feb 24) 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM at Runner's Depot – 436 21st Street, Vero Beach

Entry Form

Please Print Legibly: Make Checks payable to **Indian River Land Trust** Please add phone number to check

Cash or Check only accepted on day of Race

No Pets or rollerblades permitted

Forms may be mailed or returned to Runner's Depot

Name: _____ Sex: M F Race Day Age: ____ T-Shirt Size: S M L XL

Address: _____ Email: _____ Runner Walker

City & State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Phone: (____) _____

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

By signing of this application, I, for myself, my executors, administrators and assigns, do hereby discharge and release Indian River Land Trust and Runner's Depot of Vero Beach, and all cooperating businesses and organizations from all claims of damages, actions and whatsoever, in any manner arising or growing out of my participation or that of my child in this event. I also give my full permission to use my name and photograph in connection with this event.

Signature X _____ Date: _____

(Parent or guardian signature is mandatory if participant is under 18)

For more information:

Visit: irlt.org or Run Vero: runvero.com or email info@runvero.com, or call : 772-643-7010

Engage Participate and Learn!

Upcoming Land Trust Events –

Available Free of Charge:

There is no need to RSVP

(except as noted)

Please check our website for weather cancellations prior to the event.

Questions? Call the office: 772-794-0701

If you are interested in volunteering, there are many opportunities both in the office and on the land. Look on our Website or Contact

www.irlt.org
772.794.0701.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Meet at 8:30 am on various properties

Join friends for a couple of hours and volunteer to help eliminate invasive plants, pick-up trash and help our properties stay pristine. Check our website irlt.org

CONSERVATION TOUR

Bee Gum Point: January 25 and 28, 2017 9:00 am

Situated on the Atlantic Flyway, this 111-acre property is part of an important block of conservation lands acquired by the Land Trust along the Indian River Lagoon in 2011.

CONSERVATION TOUR

Toni Robinson Waterfront Trail:

February 3, 2017 8:30 am

This 50-acre block of conservation lands contains oak trees, scrub forest, mangroves, and beautiful views of the Indian River Lagoon.

BIRDING

Bee Gum Point: February 11, 2017 7:00 am

Amateurs and experienced birders are invited to grab a cup of coffee and head to the Land Trust's conservation land for a morning walk.

CONSERVATION TOUR

Bee Gum Point: February 15, 2017 9:00 am

Situated on the Atlantic Flyway, this 111-acre property is part of an important block of conservation lands acquired by the Land Trust along the Indian River Lagoon in 2011.

CONSERVATION TOUR

Lagoon Greenway: February 17, 2017 9:00 am

This exciting property boasts an ecologically diverse three-mile trail system for hiking, jogging or bike riding.

KAYAKING WITH ADVENTURE KAYAKS

McWilliams Park: February 22, 2017 9:00 am

All equipment is provided. This special tour is limited to 15 participants Please RSVP, reservation required.



Check our website www.irlt.org
for more great events!



Saturday February 25, 2017

Race Begins at 7:30 a.m.

Lagoon Greenway

Only Trail Run in Vero Beach

Proceeds to benefit the Indian River Land Trust

- Course begins and ends at IRLT Lagoon Greenway
- Professionally timed by Run Vero

Entry Fee: \$25 in advance
\$35 on race day
T-Shirts guaranteed to the first 125 registered

FOR INFORMATION visit
www.irlt.org



**The Future Of
The Lagoon Is In Your Hands...**

The Indian River Land Trust has protected 1,000 undeveloped acres, including ten miles of shoreline along the Indian River Lagoon. More work is needed to restore the fish and wildlife habitats of the Lagoon – the Cradle of the Ocean.

Be a part of the Solution – Become a steward of land and water – donate today! Join us in our efforts to save the Indian River Lagoon.

Visit: www.irlt.org | Call 772.794.0701

Special thanks to:

Adventure Kayaking

Aiello Landscape, Inc.

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Clements Pest Control

Kirkland Harvesting, Inc.

Pinson Contractor Service, Inc.

Newsletter sponsored by:

Mr. and Mrs. Paul D. Kaneb

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



Indian River Land Trust

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For more information visit www.irlt.org