



Landmarks

Winter 2020

PROTECTING THE LAND THAT PROTECTS THE LAGOON

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New Land Acquisitions Expand Shoreline Protection

This winter, the Indian River Land Trust permanently protected **three new parcels** containing critically important habitat along a mile of Lagoon shoreline. First and foremost, IRLT acquired the 65-acre renowned Hoffmann property along Indian River Blvd near the hospital. The acquisition of this highly developable land creates a continuous stretch of conservation property along the Lagoon from the Barber Bridge, north to Grand Harbor. Executive Director, Ken Grudens, who worked closely with the Hoffmann family on this transaction, summed up the magnitude of this purchase. "This is probably the most highly visible property in the county, and keeping it in conservation will help keep Vero Beach, Vero Beach." A two-mile stretch of protected, natural coastline is rare, if not impossible, to find in any city along the length of the Lagoon's 156 miles.

Additionally, the Land Trust completed the acquisition of a 30-acre

undeveloped parcel of land in Winter Beach on the Lagoon. The property is situated east of US Highway 1, a half mile south of the 50-acre Toni Robinson Waterfront Trail. IRLT also acquired a 35-acre property that adjoins the Lagoon Greenway, a possible expansion property for the popular trail.

If developed, the Hoffmann property alone could have accommodated dozens of homes and commercial development, all visible from the Barber Bridge. Development pressure has increased significantly in recent years, and these properties are some of remaining parcels the Land Trust has been working to permanently protect.

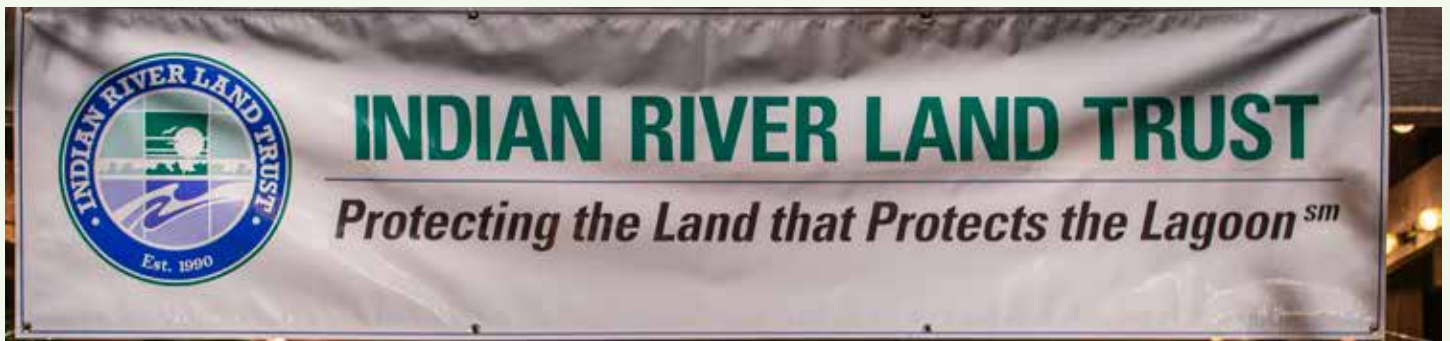
The Land Trust's Board Chairman, Chuck Cramb noted, "These acquisitions embody the Land Trust's goals of preserving habitats that protect scenic waterfront." They have increased the total land protected by IRLT to 1,200 acres.



Land Wat



ter Wildlife 2019





The Indian R

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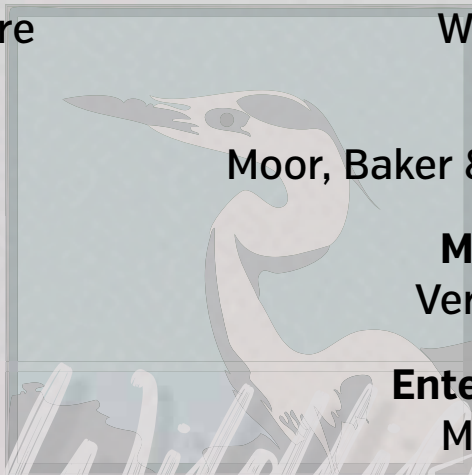
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Keeping Our Members Informed:

The Land Trust is taking action to encourage local elected officials and state lawmakers to fund and support key water quality initiatives for our region and the entire state.

2020 Clean Water Priorities – IRLT is reaching out to our local officials and state legislators on three specific water quality initiatives that impact our county. These initiatives tie directly into the Land Trust's mission and efforts to preserve wildlife habitat, protect the scenic waterfront and provide safe public access to the Indian River Lagoon.

1. Conversion of septic to sewer along the lagoon

Research institutions across the region have identified septic systems as a major source of pollution for the Lagoon. State funding is needed for matching grants so local governments can provide incentives to homeowners to convert individual septic systems to existing municipal sewer systems. IRLT staff has met with our state legislators to discuss the need to eliminate septic systems on the Lagoon.

2. Ban the spreading of biosolids in our county

In 2018, treated sewage sludge (biosolids) trucked from south Florida were spread on a ranch that caused an algae bloom in Blue Cypress Lake. Local scientific organizations brought the problem to light and the Land Trust stood by these groups at a County Commission meeting to ask the County to ban the spreading. The Commission responded with a moratorium, currently effective until July 2020. A ban needs to be made permanent and should be extended across the state.

3. Reduction and/or filtering of storm water runoff into the lagoon

Sedimentation and runoff of chemicals and nutrients from roads into the lagoon can be greatly reduced with properly-designed storm water ponds to collect and filter runoff from highways such as US 1 and Indian River Blvd. The Land Trust is exploring a partnership with the Florida Dept. of Transportation to enhance an existing retention pond and to create new ones on some IRLT properties.

What you can do: To personally support these efforts, reach out to our County officials and local State legislators. For County Commissioners' contact information, go to www.ircgov.com/Boards/BCC/. To contact State Representative Erin Grall, go to www.myfloridahouse.gov/Representatives; for Senator Debbie Mayfield, go to www.flsenate.gov/Senators. Our elected officials put a lot of weight on calls or letters from individuals.



Coastal Oaks Preserve

Restoration transformation



Aerial photo of the re-created wetlands courtesy of West Winds Contracting

Have you noticed all the bulldozing as you ride along U.S. 1 south of Oslo Road? Are you expecting yet another housing development and more cars to congest our roads? Fear not! This land is part of the Land Trust's Coastal Oaks Preserve, and the bulldozers have been removing former citrus groves and dense thickets of non-native Brazilian pepper and Australian pine. This 220-acre Preserve contains a mile of Indian River Lagoon shoreline, extensive mangrove forests, majestic oak hammocks and spectacular pine flatwoods. Ultimately, it will become IRLT's marquee property, with plans for elevated boardwalks and a pavilion that will provide unparalleled opportunities for outdoor education and scientific research for our youth.

The portion of the Coastal Oaks Preserve along U.S. 1 is undergoing a dramatic transformation courtesy of a wetlands restoration project funded and managed by the St. Johns River Water Management District. Approximately 35 acres of former citrus groves have been cleared of the non-native vegetation and will be replaced with freshwater wetlands and upland forest. Thousands of native herbaceous plants and trees will be planted and monitored over the next several years before entrusting these special habitats to the perpetual care of the Land Trust. Look for more exciting updates in future newsletters!



Indian River Land Trust's

Gator Gallop - 5K Trail Run/Walk Saturday, February 22, 2020 Race Begins at 7:30 AM rain or shine

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 - <https://runsignup.com/Race/FL/VeroBeach/GatorGallop>

Custom awards will be given 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 21) 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 Birthday: ____ 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 Run Vero 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

Land Trust Welcomes new Advisors.

IRLT is pleased to announce the addition of seven new Advisors: Scott Alexander, Bill Broadbent, Dennis Hanisak, Lee Jennings, Barry MacTaggart, Sandy Rolf, and Chris Ryan.

IRLT Chairman, Chuck Cramb, and the Board welcomed them at the January Board meeting. We look forward to having them more involved in the Land Trust.

Engage Participate and Learn!

Upcoming Land Trust Tours Available Free of Charge:

*There is no need to RSVP
Please check our website for weather
cancellations prior to the event.
Questions? Call the office: 772-794-0701*

Conservation Tour - Lagoon Greenway

March 10, 2020 9:00 am

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

Birding - Bee Gum Point

March 4, April 11 and May 9, 2020 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

March 18, 2020 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.

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



Saturday February 22, 2020

Race Begins at 7:30 a.m.

Lagoon Greenway

Fifth Annual, and Only Trail Run in Vero Beach
Proceeds to benefit the Indian River Land Trust

- Course Begins and Ends at 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 and to REGISTER

Stop by Runner's Depot or visit Runvero.com or visit IRLT.org

For additional information call or email Leslie 772-794-0701 / Leslie@irlt.org



No Man is an Island

The Land Trust was recently the proud recipient of a small mangrove island in the Indian River Lagoon just north of the Vero Beach Marina. O'Haire Island, aptly named after Vero native, attorney and long-time supporter of the Land Trust, Michael O'Haire marks the entrance to Bethel Creek near Cache Cay. The Land Trust greatly appreciates Michael's generous donation.



Michael O'Haire



Ladies of the Lagoon



Ladies

OF THE LAGOON

The Indian River Land Trust's Ladies of the Lagoon enjoyed camaraderie and dinner at Michael's on 7th.

Over 60 ladies enjoyed a three course meal prepared by Michael Lander of Michael's on 7th. The wine, paired to each course was courtesy of Alimentari Gourmet Market. Sponsors of the evening included founders, Stephanie Smith and Kathleen Schulke as well as Gena Grove and Catherine Walker.

The Ladies of the Lagoon is a group of women who support the Land Trust to provide for a cleaner Lagoon. The Ladies support fisheries research, helping the Land Trust preserve their nurseries and improve connectivity of our wetlands to the Lagoon.

To join the Ladies of the Lagoon visit irlt.org or call Ann Taylor: 772.794.0701.



Shellabration
Dinner



Shellabration
Dinner



This Evening's Menu

Passed Hors D'oeuvres:

- Warm Blue Cheese Baguettes with Local Honey
- Beef Tenderloin Toast with Roast Tomatoes
- Chicken Liver Mousse
- Pimento Cheese Cones with Bacon Jam

Dinner:

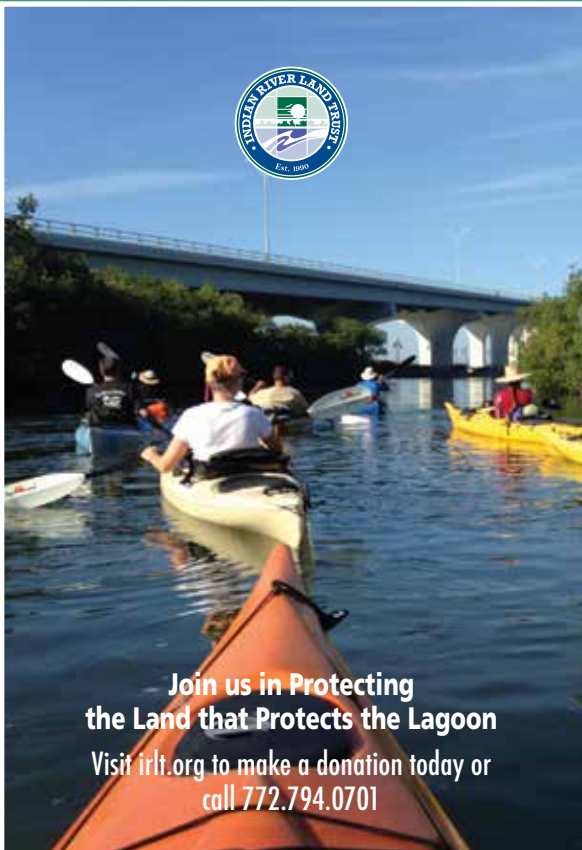
- Local Greens with Schacht Grove Citrus
- Local Fish and Pan Roast
- Power Vegetable Medley

Dessert:

- Buttermilk Citrus Honey Pie



Ladies
OF THE LAGOON



Join us in Protecting
the Land that Protects the Lagoon
Visit irlt.org to make a donation today or
call 772.794.0701

"ONCE DESTROYED, NATURE'S BEAUTY CANNOT BE REPURCHASED
AT ANY PRICE." — ANSEL ADAMS

Special thanks to:

Complete Cleaning

Clements Pest Control

Einstein Bros. Bagels

Alimentari

Michaels's on 7th

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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Visit us at irlt.org

To learn more about our FREE tours!