



# Indian River Land Trust

Protect the Land that Protects the Lagoon



Winter 2022

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## Recent Acquisition Completes Green Conservation Corridor

In the fall of 2021, the Indian River Land Trust strategically expanded one of its premier sanctuaries, the 220-acre Coastal Oaks Preserve. Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, IRLT was able to purchase two commercial properties totaling six acres on the west side of US Highway 1 across from IRLT's Preserve. This purchase conserves a half-mile long green corridor along both sides of the federal highway, an uncommon occurrence today that will surely be a rare and unusual circumstance in the decades to come.

Both properties were slated for the development of a storage unit complex, but the owner of one property, Jack Harty, instead offered to sell to the Land Trust for less than he was offered by the development company. This allowed IRLT to purchase both properties and link Coastal Oaks Preserve and a 90-acre County conservation area to the west. The contiguous protected natural area of more than 330 acres represents a significant portion of the original Hallstrom farm in which the historic Hallstrom house, built in 1909, is preserved by the Indian River County Historical Society.

Great things sometimes happen in small packages, and this acquisition project fit the bill! Projects like this would not be possible without our loyal supporters. We thank you for your continued support as we strive to focus on our mission to promote the preservation, conservation and improvement of natural resources and special places in Indian River County.



**Indian River Land Trust**

*Thanks all*

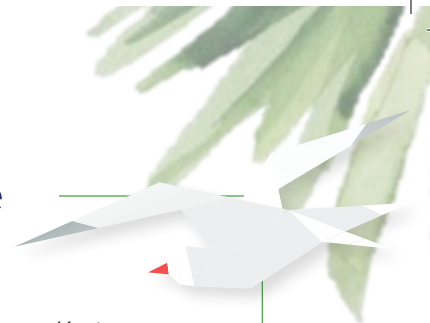
**who sponsored our Picnic  
to Protect the Lagoon on**

**November 11, 2021.**





# Benefit Sponsors / Committee



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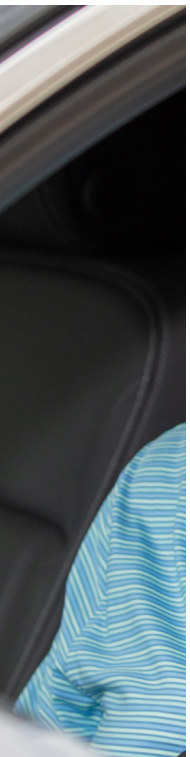
## Picnic Committee

Co-Chairs – Med Steiner, Sandy Rolf  
Janet Alford  
Francie Cramb  
Sheila Marshall  
Lee Moore  
Sheila Rockwell

## -Special Thanks-

Wine from Alimentari Gourmet Market  
Potted plants by Rock City Gardens











# Welcoming New Staff



Melissa DePriest

**The Land Trust is pleased to announce the addition of two new staff members.**

Melissa DePriest joined the Land Trust as the Director of Philanthropy and Marketing in November 2021.



Cindy Hatfield

Cindy Hatfield joined the Land Trust as the Database Coordinator in June 2021.

Both Melissa and Cindy share a love of the natural world, and both have local extensive non-profit experience. They are each excited to be part of the Land Trust team.

## IRLT Remembers Two of its Own

**The Land Trust lost two outstanding Board members last year. William J. Kirby passed away on June 30th, and William S. Broadbent passed away just three months later on September 27th.**

Both men were passionate about protecting our natural world. Jay Kirby first became involved as an IRLT Advisor in 2012 and later joined the Board of Directors. Bill Broadbent joined as an IRLT Advisor in 2019 shortly after moving to Vero Beach. He had recently joined the Board of Directors in January 2021. The Board and staff held a long moment of silence at its fall Board meeting in memory of Jay and Bill. They will be sorely missed. Our thoughts and prayers go out to their family and friends.



# Engage, Participate, Learn

**The New Year of 2022 brings many wonderful ways to connect with the Land Trust through nature.**

We are thrilled to have our Bird and Conservation Tours back! To learn more and view tour dates, we invite you to visit our website for the most up-to-date information. There is no need to RSVP. Tours are free and open to the public. Please check our website for weather cancellations prior to the event.

**Questions? Call the office: 772-794-0701 or visit [www.irlt.org](http://www.irlt.org) for more info.**

## Tour Schedule



Sat, Feb 12	Birding Tour	Bee Gum Point	7:00 AM
Wed, Feb 16	Conservation Tour	Lagoon Greenway	10:00 AM
Wed, Feb 23	Conservation Tour	Bee Gum Point	10:00 AM
Sat, Mar 12	Birding Tour	Bee Gum Point	7:00 AM
Wed, March 16	Conservation Tour	Toni Robinson Waterfront Trail	10:00 AM
Wed, March 30	Conservation Tour	Bee Gum Point	10:00 AM
Sat, Apr 16	Birding Tour	Bee Gum Point	7:00 AM
Sat, May 14	Birding Tour	Bee Gum Point	7:00 AM



Protect the lagoon, support a local business and treat yourself or someone you love to a night off of cooking!



Chelsea's Stay at Home

## Fundraiser

Beginning February 1, 2022

IRLT is excited to continue our partnership with Chelsea's on Cardinal for our annual Stay at Home Fundraiser.

Please send us \_\_\_\_\_ certificates at \$100.00 each. Certificates are valid until June 15, 2022.

**Each certificate includes the following from Chelsea's daily selection:**

- Two dinner-sized entrees
- Two desserts
- Two side-dishes
- One bottle of wine from the IRLT collection

Add \_\_\_\_\_ 12" pizza(s) for our children (\$9.00 each) \_\_\_\_\_ Cheese \_\_\_\_\_ Pepperoni.

Payment information:

- ☐ By check payable to Indian River Land Trust
- ☐ By credit card as follows:

Total Amount \$: \_\_\_\_\_ Card #: \_\_\_\_\_  
Expires: \_\_\_\_\_ Billing Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you! You will receive your certificates and donation receipt by mail.**

Reserve your certificate by April 30, 2022.





# Sip and Shop

**March 17, 2022**

**at J. McLaughlin in the  
Village Shops, 6210 FL-A1A**

A portion of every purchase made at this J. McLaughlin location on March 17 will go back to support Indian River Land Trust.

Special thanks to J. McLaughlin and all of you for the many ways you help Protect the Land that Protects the Lagoon.



**Check out our web site  
at [www.irlt.org](http://www.irlt.org) for more  
opportunities to connect.**

## Junior Scientist Fellows Program Resumes

For nearly a decade, the Land Trust has partnered with FAU's Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute to provide local high school students with a unique opportunity to engage in scientific research.

The research conducted by the student fellows provides critically needed information for the Land Trust to manage its shoreline properties and maximize the preservation of their native wildlife habitats and the Lagoon.

In the past, team projects have included researching water quality in drainage canals and small tidal creeks, studying animal species and recommending actions for better protection of these species, and identifying areas of invasive plants to determine priorities for eradication based on impacts to native habitat. After a one year hiatus during the pandemic, we are pleased to have more wonderful students and researchers back in the field.





# Keeping Our Members Informed

## Campaign Update: Protecting the Land that Protects the Lagoon

We continue to be amazed at the generous response to our Protect the Land Campaign. **To date, more than 160 supporters have collectively donated more than \$12 million.** In the spring of 2021, Meg and Donald Steiner stepped forward with a challenge gift of \$1 million. This winter, we hope to raise the remaining \$300,000 needed to fulfill the amazing 1:1 challenge.

Campaign support has allowed the Land Trust to protect the 66-acre Barber Bridge property, design plans for a living classroom at Coastal Oaks Preserve, secure important parcels to connect wildlife corridors, and continue critical research on snook and tarpon habitats. By completing our campaign challenge, we will be able to open a new public trail on the barrier island, grow our land stewardship endowment, acquire strategic property that protects the Lagoon, and break ground on the living classroom at Coastal Oaks Preserve.

### **Your support is greatly appreciated.**

We look forward to updating you more as these projects continue to unfold. Together with our community, we are working towards a common goal of a healthy Lagoon and a better environment for future generations.

**To help us answer the Campaign Challenge, please make a donation today using the enclosed envelope.**





# Tracking Diamondback Terrapins at Bee Gum Point Preserve

The Indian River Land Trust prides itself on the use of scientific research to increase understanding of the natural world and to improve management of Land Trust preserves. In this spirit, Bee Gum Point Preserve has been serving as a study site for a research team from FAU's Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute led by Dr. Jon Moore. The cutting-edge research involves cooperation with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Graduate student Jeff Herr spent the last several years tracking the movements and diet of diamondback terrapins and another graduate student will continue the work in the coming years.

Terrapins naturally occur throughout the Indian River Lagoon and as far as Texas and Massachusetts, but have become rare due to historic over-harvesting, coastal development and habitat loss. Little is known about these charismatic creatures which spend much of their lives in salt marshes and mangrove swamps eating mollusks and other aquatic organisms with their strong jaws. The study involves the capture, tagging, and tracking of terrapins at Bee Gum Point Preserve, as well as analysis of their blood and diet. Signals from acoustic transmitters attached to a terrapin's shell are detected by acoustic receivers throughout the lagoon. The Land Trust recently provided funding for additional acoustic transmitter tags to boost the reach of the study.

Results from the research indicate that Bee Gum Point Preserve may be one of only a few breeding sites in the Indian River Lagoon south of Cocoa Beach. There is little doubt that more fascinating discoveries lie ahead!







☎ 772-794-0701  
✉ [info@irilt.org](mailto:info@irilt.org)  
🌐 [www.irilt.org](http://www.irilt.org)

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