

Mark Your Calendars Today!

for the event of the season this fall...



Land, Water, Wildlife: A Celebration of Conservation
the annual benefit event of the Indian River Land Trust

Thursday, November 12, 2009

6:00 p.m.

at the exquisite Rock City Gardens

More information to follow this summer.
Surprises are in store!



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Vero Beach, FL 32960

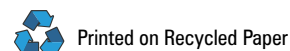
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Supplement 2009

LANDMARKS

2009 Annual
Members' Event



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- Strategic Land Conservation Planning

...and more!

In mid-March, the Indian River Land Trust (IRLT) together with the Lagoon Greenway Advisory Committee completed a draft plan for a three-mile public access recreational greenway trail system along the Indian River Lagoon. Included in the plan is a detailed map of the area, made possible through the donated services of David Knight of Knight, McGuire & Associates and Ryan Morrell of CivaTerra. The proposed project, located just south of 17th Street Bridge in Vero Beach, should move forward quickly once adopted by the Indian River Mosquito Control District, the Indian River County Environmental Lands Program, and the Florida Inland Navigation District - all partner agencies involved with this exceptional collaboration.

During the 1990s, properties along the Indian River Lagoon south of 17th Street Bridge were protected through a combination of outright purchases and development mitigation easements to conserve the native wetland habitat and buffer shoreline of the lagoon. The properties are primarily mangrove swamps ringed by impoundment roads managed by the Indian River Mosquito Control District.

The mangrove swamps along the Indian River Lagoon are vital wetlands for a variety of rea-

sons. They are an important nursery for spawning and growth of native fish species. They provide an important natural protection during tropical storms to prevent erosion and destruction of shoreline and nearby structures. And they harbor a large variety of native plants and wildlife important for maintaining a healthy ecosystem.

Establishing a system of public access to this area will provide public recreational benefit while promoting the importance of conservation. Among the goals set forth in the plan are:

- connected pathways for non-motorized use along the Indian River Lagoon;
- a diversity of recreational and educational opportunities including: bicycling, jogging, walking, lagoon viewing, canoe/kayak access, and wildlife observation;
- enhanced conservation efforts of the natural resources of the lagoon and adjoining habitats;
- educational facilities and programs for informing the public about the significance of the natural and historic resources of the greenway, as well as the importance of their management.

For additional information on the plan or to support the project, please contact IRLT Executive Director, Ken Grudens directly.



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From the Director



The Indian River Land Trust is making great progress on two specific strategic initiatives that will serve our community's conservation efforts both in the near term and as future opportunities arise.

First, through the steadfast support of our membership, we are facilitating a partnership among several local and state agencies to establish the Lagoon Greenway trail system across nearly 200 acres of critical wetlands and uplands in Vero Beach. This is an unprecedented project with many benefits both to

conservation and to the general public.

Next, we are implementing a Strategic Land Conservation Planning process that will include a detailed mapping project allowing us to look closely at the opportunities for protecting our county's remaining wildlife habitat and open space together with our water quality and shoreline. Using state-of-the-art computer tools and scientific data from a variety of qualified agencies and sources, we will identify and prioritize the most critically important environmental lands to conserve.

These two projects could not have begun - nor will they reach their full potential - without the unwavering financial support we receive from our donors and friends. In just a few weeks, you will receive a request to make a contribution through our Spring Appeal. We hope you will consider a gift to support these important projects.

On behalf of the entire team at IRLT, thank you again for your interest, dedication, and support.

— Ken Grudens
Executive Director

RBC Bank Sponsors Excursion Series

IRLT is grateful to RBC Bank for their generous sponsorship of the 2009 Excursion Series, a schedule of site visits that launched in January as a means of providing members and guests with first hand experience of the local landscapes that we seek to protect. The upcoming excursions include a walking tour of Treasure Hammock Ranch with rancher, Sean Sexton; a sunset boating tour along the Indian River lagoon; and a morning pontoon visit to Blue Cypress Lake.

RBC Bank, a wholly owned subsidiary of Royal Bank of Canada, has 13 offices on the Treasure and Space Coast and nearly 100 offices in Florida. RBC Bank is committed to making a positive difference in the lives of its clients and the communities it serves. *For more information or to register for any of the RBC Bank Excursion Series outings, please call the IRLT office at 772.794.0701. Space is limited and requests will be honored on a first come/first served basis.*

RBC Excursion Series Outings



RBC Bank™

April 22 Treasure Hammock Ranch
9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

May 9 Sunset Boat Tour of Indian
River Waterways 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

June 13 Blue Cypress Lake 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

There is no charge to participate, but space is limited.

Planning for the Land

by Ralph Monticello, IRLT Land Protection Manager

If you were to design a comprehensive natural resource conservation plan – to include sustainable growth, accessible services, cultural activities, green space, and a philosophy of caring for the natural environment – where would you begin?



comprehensive GIS (geographic information system) mapping inventory of environmentally sensitive lands in this county.

Throughout the country, land trusts seek the capability to identify, qualify and prioritize lands with the greatest need for protection in specific target areas. In our technology-rich

You would begin with a mission to preserve and conserve the natural resources and special places of the area. You would establish an identity and a clear direction. You would require measurable criteria to help define the process for selecting conservation acquisition or easement projects within a defined service area. In Indian River County, you would begin with the Indian River Land Trust.

world, the tools are readily available to achieve this task. The Indian River Land Trust will focus immediately on the precious landscape of the Indian River Lagoon. After areas to be protected are identified, land protection staff will determine the additional information needed before making suggestions about conservation alternatives.

While the economic downturn keeps intense development away from our community's doorstep, we are taking the opportunity to set forth on a strategic conservation plan for Indian River County. The results will be one of the most valuable modern building-blocks needed for an environmentally-rich, sustainable future – a

This mapping process will allow the Indian River Land Trust to more efficiently achieve our mission, engage the public, identify sources of funding, and preserve our open communication with landowners. Good planning will have a tremendous impact on our success and we look forward to sharing the results of this work with you later this year.



2009 Annual Members' Event Orange You Glad You Joined?!

The 2009 Annual Members' Event at Schacht Groves was an engaging day for members and friends to immerse themselves in the work of the Indian River Land Trust...complete with fresh citrus juice tastings and grove tours featuring discussions on water quality issues, agricultural sustainability, land conservation, and the mechanics of the citrus business. With a citrus-themed brunch under the oaks provided by Elizabeth D. Kennedy & Co. featuring the fruit and juices of Schacht Groves, hayrides from Carousel Party Acres, music by David Potter, and delicious café drinks from Bean Me Up, the activities were ample for an enjoyable

day at the grove. Many thanks to all who attended, and to all who made it possible – first and foremost Louis Schacht and the entire Schacht family, Bob Adair, Elwood Holzworth, Ralph Monticello, and all of the tremendous volunteers who made the day seamless. The event would not have been possible, however, without the generous support of our sponsors. Please join us in extending special thanks to:

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