



INDIAN RIVER LAND TRUST

Conserving Land and Water

Summer 2009

LANDMARKS

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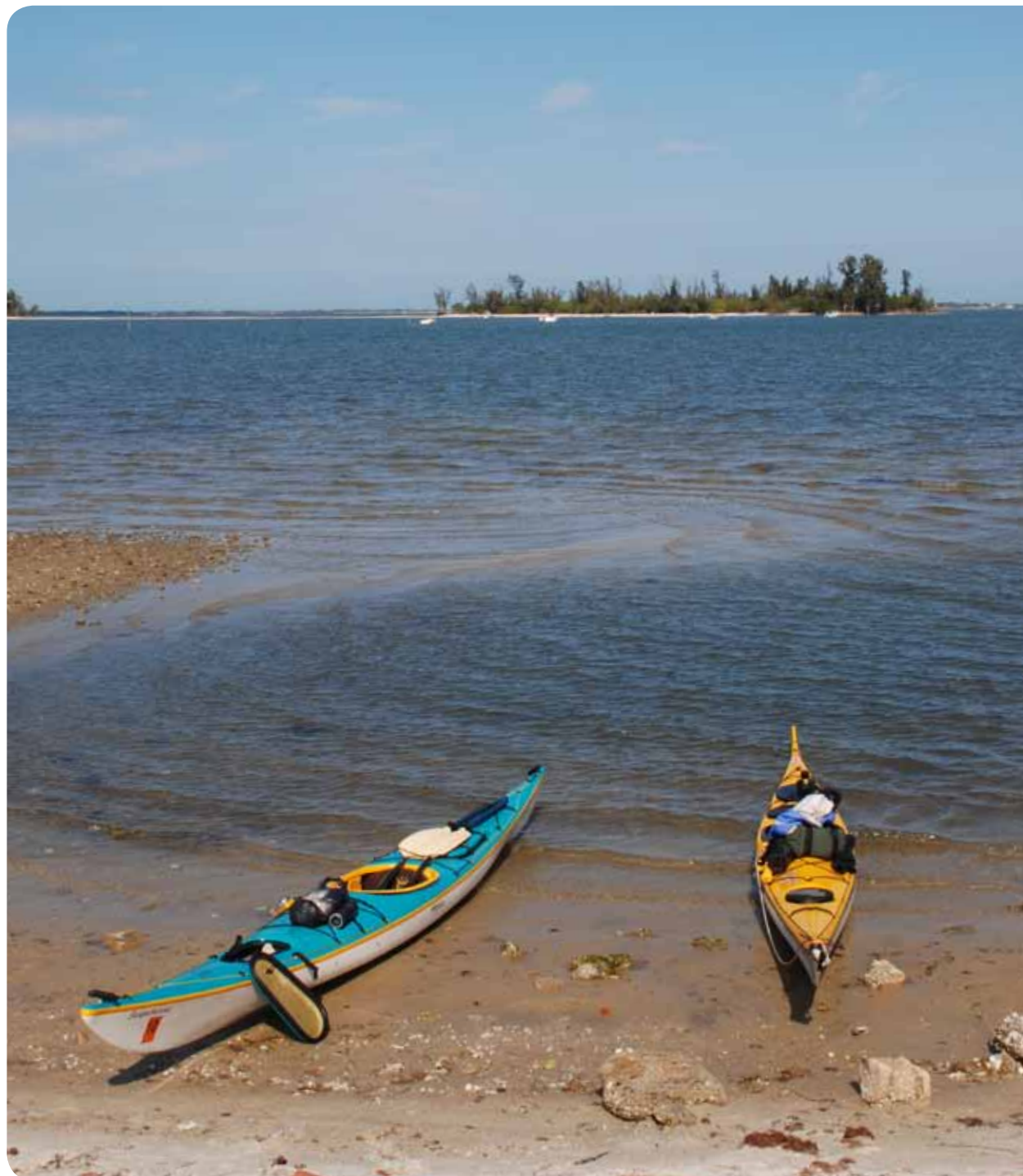
Fall Benefit Preview

...and more!



*In Loving Memory
of our dear friend,*

*Carol Ordway Webb
1932-2009*



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On the cover:

Our Indian River Lagoon

From the Director



Opportunities for conservation almost unimaginable only two years ago are quickly emerging for the Indian River Land Trust. While we have been busy establishing ourselves as the go-to conservation organization in Indian River County and have been receiving increased support from our dedicated membership, the slowing economy and cuts in government funding for conservation have dominated the headlines. These realities, underscored by a decline in land values, have converged to create the "perfect storm" for IRLT.

The time is upon us to proactively acquire and protect precious natural resources on properties not previously available, and nowhere is this more evident than along the Indian River Lagoon.

As we prepare to meet these opportunities, IRLT has commenced a strategic land protection mapping project to pinpoint the most vulnerable lands along the Indian River Lagoon. Through this process, we plan to establish a Lagoon Waterfront Initiative that will be spearheaded by the Lagoon Greenway partnership project we have spoken of extensively in the past months and which is soon to come to fruition.

The window of opportunity to act is open, but I expect it will not remain open for long. It is my hope to move forward quickly in the months ahead to secure important conservation lands and protect the quality of life that goes hand in hand with the natural resources we all enjoy. Our board and staff are invigorated and enthusiastic and will look to you for support in making this initiative a reality. Thank you for your dedication, interest and active participation.

— Ken Grudens
Executive Director

Endicott and Dunn Grants Fund Important Mapping Initiative

Mapping is a critical component of conservation planning. Whether outlining the details of a specific project, as shown in the photo at right, or providing strategic overlays of criteria for purposes of identification of important parcels in a given landscape, mapping initiatives allow organizations like the Indian River Land Trust to present visual reinforcement of their conservation initiatives.

Thanks to generous funding through The Bradford M. Endicott Charitable Lead Trust and The Elizabeth Ordway Dunn Foundation, the Indian River Land Trust has the financial means with which to launch our strategic mapping initiative for Indian River County. The initiative will allow us to establish a comprehensive GIS mapping



Executive Director Ken Grudens shares details of the Lagoon Greenway plan.

inventory of environmentally sensitive lands in our county, providing us with one of the most valuable modern building blocks for an environmentally-rich plan for the future.

Once complete, the mapping inventory will be used as a reference tool for our land protection team when assessing individual properties for protection. It will provide significant information that will allow us to make more timely and scientific decisions about how to move forward with conservation initiatives throughout the community. We extend our sincere thanks to Dorothea and Brad Endicott and the Dunn Foundation for their commitment to conservation and to the Indian River Land Trust.

Land and Water: Striking a Natural Balance through Land Preservation

by Ralph Monticello, IRLT Land Protection Manager

Though many of us cross over the Indian River Lagoon daily, what may come as a surprise is that the Indian River Lagoon is not, in fact, a river. It is a diverse estuary in which salt water from the Atlantic Ocean mixes with fresh water from several sources to become a unique water body. It is fed with ocean water through a handful of inlets such as the Sebastian Inlet north of Wabasso, and receives freshwater from a variety of natural sources such as rainfall and runoff that flows into the lagoon from creeks, rivers, canals, and ditches.

The unique hydrology of the Indian River Lagoon is dependent on a complex mixing process between saline (salty) water from the ocean and freshwater runoff. The water circulation is primarily influenced by the distance to ocean inlets. Additional mixing occurs through freshwater runoff, wind-generated currents, and evaporation processes. In the vicinity of ocean inlets, tidal currents dominate and control mixing and circulation. Where runoff and canals discharge to the Lagoon, freshwater flows drive these processes. In other areas, wind-driven currents provide the primary energy for circulation or mixing, which can be affected by such factors as climatic seasons, alterations to the shoreline and by dredging and filling.

One of the fundamentals of water quality is a healthy and productive sea grass ecosystem which provides food and habitat for a large variety of wildlife, including sea turtles, manatee and several native fish species. Sea grasses are submerged aquatic plants that require relatively high levels of light. They flourish in shallow areas with sufficient clear water to allow light penetration.



Photo © Gail Cohen

Areas with good sea grass coverage are generally located adjacent to relatively undeveloped watersheds or in close proximity to ocean inlets. Areas with extensive sea grass losses are typically adjacent to highly developed land and improved shorelines. Loss of habitat, directly or indirectly as a result of development and population growth in the lagoon region, is the primary threat to the lagoon and its watershed.

The Indian River Land Trust is committed to protecting waterfront properties along the Indian River Lagoon to maintain the natural state of the land, water and wildlife encompassing this beautiful estuary. In the months ahead, we will be unveiling more about our strategic plans to protect this important natural resource, based in large part on the strategic mapping program that has been initiated thanks to invaluable funding from The Bradford M. Endicott Charitable Lead Trust and The Elizabeth Ordway Dunn Foundation.

Ralph Monticello is the Land Protection Manager for the Indian River Land Trust, a private non-profit conservation organization the purpose of which is to protect the land and water in our community. Since its inception in the 1990s, IRLT has remained focused on the protection of the Indian River Lagoon.

Important Note: Technical information included in this column sourced from the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program published by St. Johns River Water Management District. A copy of the full report is available by calling IRLT directly.



2009-2010 OUTINGS AND EVENTS

A Partial Schedule for the Season Ahead with IRLT

The Indian River Land Trust welcomes you to join us for our site visits and activities around the community this year. Following is a preview of activities we have planned. Others will

be added as they are confirmed. RSVPs will be required for all outings. Space is limited in order to provide the optimum experience for participants. All outings are free and open to



Photo © Paul Mansy

Padgett Creek Ranches:

Alight on one of the Padgett Creek buggies for a tour of the 1,600-acre Florida ranchland property, accompanied by guides who will provide an overview of the easements and their importance to conservation efforts in our community. Guests will hike along the creek itself, enjoying the beauty surrounding this important fresh water feeder system to Blue Cypress Lake. Expect bird watching and other native wildlife observation.

Thursday, October 29
9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Buggy Tour Of
PADGETT CREEK RANCHES

Thursday, November 12
6:00 – 8:00 p.m

LAND WATER WILDLIFE:
Along the Greenway Trail

LAND WATER WILDLIFE: Along the Greenway Trail

Join us for the single benefit event of the season for the Indian River Land Trust. See the full article about this year's festivities on page seven of this newsletter. All proceeds from the event will support ongoing programs and projects of the organization.



Lagoon Greenway:

Immediately following our annual benefit, visit the site of our Lagoon Greenway project which inspired this year's event theme. View the 187-acre conservation site just south of 17th Street Bridge along Indian River Boulevard prior to the addition of planned site improvements. Our Executive Director, Ken Grudens, will discuss the project and the roles of its partners in more detail.

Wednesday, November 18
9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Walking tour of
LAGOON GREENWAY site



the public. Note that IRLT members will receive priority registration. To confirm dates, times, and locations, please contact our office at 772.794.0701.

Photo © Paul Mansy



Photo © Paul Mansy

North Sebastian Conservation Area:

Visit Indian River County's 407-acre scrub property with an experienced conservation guide for a guided tour of its extensive system of boardwalks and multi-segment trails. Binoculars and cameras are encouraged as birdlife is abundant in this special area of Sebastian.

**Thursday, December 3
9:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

Walking tour of
**TREASURE HAMMOCK
RANCH**

Treasure Hammock Ranch:

Enjoy an easy but somewhat extensive walk along sandy farm roads and cattle fields, accompanied by naturalists who will describe the area, its conservation value, and its importance to the Indian River Land Trust. Guests will observe birds and other native wildlife within this 500-acre ranch property just east of I-95.

**Wednesday, January 6
9:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

Walking tour of
**NORTH SEBASTIAN
CONSERVATION AREA**

**Thursday, March 4
9:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

Grove tour of
SCHACHT GROVES

Schacht Groves:

The Schacht family welcomes our guests for an informative grove and packing house tour, accompanied by experts in the fields of land management, water quality, agriculture and the history of citrus in our community. At the end of the tour, enjoy a taste of their fresh squeezed juice and a sample of their delicious hand-picked fruit.



Photo © Bill Menzies



IRLT Major Donors are Celebrated at Windsor

On Monday, March 30, 2009, the major donor circle and friends of the Indian River Land Trust joined board members and staff for a reception in their honor at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Thrower at Windsor. Guests were offered the opportunity to learn about upcoming projects and efforts of the organization while enjoying the company of fellow conservation-minded philanthropists. Many thanks to our hostess, Boots Thrower, for organizing a wonderful event. Here are just a handful of photos from the beautiful evening at Windsor. More can be viewed online at www.irlt.org.



Annual Appeal Exceeds Expectations

All of us at the Indian River Land Trust would like to thank those of you who contributed recently to our 2009 Annual Appeal for your commitment to our mission. Through your generosity, we exceeded our goal for our fiscal year ending June 30. The annual appeal is an important component to the ongoing operations of the Indian River Land Trust, providing additional operating support to supplement membership contributions. By making a gift through the annual appeal, you are ensuring the continued health of our organization and the continuing outreach and education programs we are able to offer our community.

...and our membership continues to thrive...

Much like our annual appeal success, we are grateful for the continued membership support we have received during this challenging economic time. To all of you who have been able to maintain your financial commitment to our organization this year, we thank you for your support. For those of you who have been unable to maintain membership but who have continued to provide us with your volunteer support, in kind contributions, and ambassadorial outreach, thank you for your valuable contributions to the success of the Indian River Land Trust. As the tide of our economy turns, we hope our lapsed members will return to the fold. In the meantime, we look forward to seeing all of our members and friends in the months ahead!

LAND WATER WILDLIFE: Along the Greenway Trail

the 2009 benefit of the Indian River Land Trust



When: Thursday, November 12, 2009
6:00 – 10:00 p.m.



Where: Rock City Gardens
9080 US Highway 1, Wabasso, FL



Tickets: \$125 per person
Sponsorships begin at \$500

Invitations will be mailed in late September. For updates and more information, please contact the IRLT office directly at 772.794.0701 or visit www.irlt.org.

The 2009 LAND WATER WILDLIFE event committee is hard at work to create yet another outstanding benefit event in support of the Indian River Land Trust. With many of the elements from last year's event incorporated again this year, we anticipate another unique and festive evening...with new surprises in store!

This year's event celebrates the Lagoon Greenway initiative being spearheaded by the Indian River Land Trust with construction scheduled to begin in 2010. Located just south of the 17th Street bridge along the coast of the Indian River Lagoon, the Lagoon Greenway will provide over three miles of recreational trails, elevated boardwalks, picnic areas and observation stations. Free and open to the public, it will be a welcome addition to our community's recreational offerings while providing an important educational resource at the same time.

A Farmer's Market will highlight the first stop along the trail - the Land Pavilion - featuring the growers and farmers who have provided locally grown foods for our menu. Guests will have a chance to learn about the wares of each grower and their process of farming in our community while enjoying their produce, seafood and poultry in the culinary delights of Elizabeth D. Kennedy & Co.

For those who wish to enjoy the night sky and camaraderie of friends in our relaxing



setting, we will offer a variety of buffets incorporating locally grown products, open bars, and seating areas in each of the event pavilions. The event itself will not require a significant amount of physical exertion.

Our three event pavilions – Land, Water and Wildlife – will be connected by a Greenway Trail along which a variety of natural wonders and wildlife surprises await. Guests will be directed through the event by a series of interpretive signs much like those that will be found along the actual Lagoon Greenway trail system. Along our event trail, Busch Wildlife Sanctuary will present a myriad of wildlife friends for guests to enjoy, with handlers to tell the stories of their rescue.

Please join us in this special celebration of conservation and support the important work of the Indian River Land Trust. Thank you in advance for your participation!

Thanks to our lead sponsors for their support:

Rock City Gardens
Peter W. Busch Family
Padgett Creek, LLC
Windsor Properties
BNY Mellon Wealth Management
Pineapples
Taurian Florida Properties
Norris & Company, Schacht Groves

IN MEMORY

The 2009 LAND WATER WILDLIFE: *Along the Greenway Trail* event committee would like to recognize the incredible talents and vibrancy of our dear friend, Carol Ordway Webb, who passed away peacefully in her home on July 23.

Her close friend and fellow IRLT board member, Karen Abell, wrote the following: *"Carol was involved in all aspects of the Indian River Land Trust since her move to Vero Beach in the early 1990s. She poured her many talents into the mission of preserving the special places in Vero Beach for future generations. Among these talents were her endless and contagious creativity, optimism, enthusiasm and spot-on good judgment. Perhaps her greatest gift was her recruitment of others to the causes she cared about."*

She will be missed by us all and we pay tribute to her memory with this year's event. Thanks to all who have made contributions to the Indian River Land Trust in Carol's name. She was a very special woman.



2008 Land Water Wildlife committee members
(front) Ann Smith, Char Higgins and Carol Webb
(back) Britain Hogan, Catherine Stevens, Nancy Heinrich,
Kathleen Schulke



1904 12th Court
Vero Beach, FL 32960

Phone: 772.794.0701

Fax: 772.794.0795

Info@IRLT.org

www.IRLT.org

Our mission:

To promote the preservation, conservation and improvement of Indian River County's natural resources and special places for the benefit of the general public and future generations.



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