



Summer 2015

# Landmarks

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Toni Robinson

## Land Trust Members enjoy a morning full of Nature at Toni Robinson Waterfront Trail

On a warm Saturday in March, over 125 Land Trust members gathered at the Toni Robinson Waterfront Trail to enjoy the morning at this beautiful property while listening to the sounds of the Blue Cypress Bluegrass Band, drinking fresh orange juice from Schacht Groves and eating goodies from Einstein Bros Bagels. The event featured guided hikes led by staff and volunteers along the trail out to the pier, oyster mat making sponsored by the Vero Beach Power Squadron, and a variety of wildlife presented by Busch Wildlife Sanctuary. Additionally, along the trail, hikers had an opportunity to experience a beekeeping demonstration by Jeremy Crew of the Indian River Bee Company.

Everyone enjoyed the activities offered during the event and had a chance to relax in the shade of the oaks. It doesn't get any better than that, and was a wonderful way to end the Land Trust's 25th Anniversary Year.



Staff & Volunteers welcome members.



Learning about beekeeping.



Making oyster mats with Vero Beach Power Squadron.



Checking out an owl.

**Stewardship** is an ethic that embodies the responsible planning and management of resources. The concepts of stewardship can be applied across multiple disciplines including health, real property and the environment.

A major focus of the Indian River Land Trust is the development, funding, and execution of our land stewardship program. In the last newsletter, it was reported that management plans had been completed for the properties owned by the Land Trust. The purpose of these plans is to incorporate, evaluate and prioritize all relevant information about each site into a cohesive stewardship strategy, allowing for appropriate access to the managed areas while protecting the long-term health of the ecosystems and their resources.

The four long-term stewardship goals of the Indian River Land Trust are to: 1) protect and enhance the ecological integrity of our conservation areas; 2) restore areas to their natural condition; 3) encourage sustainable use and foster active stewardship by engaging local communities in the protection of our conservation lands; and 4) improve stewardship effectiveness through a process based on sound science, consistent evaluation, and continual reassessment.

Active stewardship of conservation areas owned by the Land Trust is critical to improving water quality in the IRL, hosting a diversity of wildlife and habitats (including economically and ecologically valuable nursery areas), and supporting a treasured quality of life for all.

## Thank You for Helping Celebrate the Land Trust's 25th Anniversary.

The Land Trust celebrated its 25th Anniversary this year by giving back to our community! And the Board and staff could not have done this without the generosity of our members.

There were so many ways IRLT could enhance our already wonderful community, but the Land Trust narrowed it down to activities and improvements that would impact different generations, and things we hoped would last a lifetime.

After listening to IRLT members and the residents of our county, we started with the installation of benches on our preserves to allow folks to rest and enjoy a view of the Lagoon in the midst of their walk. IRLT now has five benches on four of its properties for people to enjoy. Additionally, with the support of our members, we were able to beautify the entrances to three nature preserves, perform clean-ups of several properties, not to mention help to bring the

Lagoon to life during an upcoming exhibit at the Vero Beach Museum of Art.

Perhaps most importantly though, the Land Trust was able to conduct several after-school programs with two dozen children aged 8 to 15 from the Gifford Youth Achievement Center. These programs, held in our nature preserves, included treasure hunting with hand-held GPS devices, bicycling the Lagoon Greenway, and a tour of the Toni Robinson Waterfront Trail, including an up close experience with some wild birds and mammals courtesy of the Busch Wildlife Sanctuary. The kids were very enthusiastic about these nature-based visits on the shoreline of the Indian River Lagoon. For many, this was a first and the experience will last a lifetime in their minds. Giving back to the community was a most fulfilling way to celebrate our silver anniversary. Thanks to everyone who supported this effort.



Our mascot 'Cookie'.



Board and Staff welcome the newest Land Trust member - Alfie.



Toni Robinson and her daughter, Lee Moore, enjoy the bench installation in Toni's honor — Part of 25 Ways to Give Back to the Community.



Busch Wildlife shares valuable information.



## Land Trust Hosts Volunteer Luncheon

Land Trust Volunteers enjoyed a great afternoon and lunch along the Lagoon at the Moorings Club.

### *Did you know?*

- Volunteers spent more than 770 hours on Land Trust properties
  - 200 hours on Exotic Plant Removal
  - More than 145 hours inspecting trails including: maintenance and trash removal
  - 425 hours on biological property surveys, property tours and fun explorations such as geo-caching

## Volunteers Clean-up Property

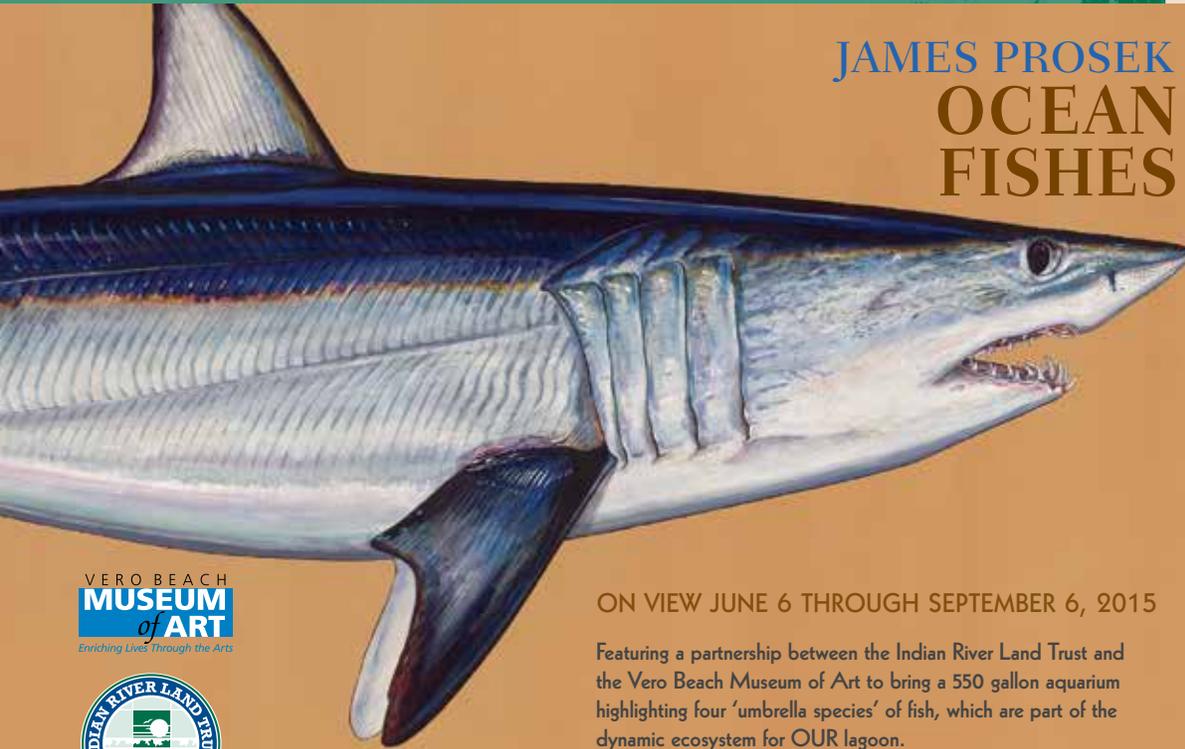
Volunteers and staff of the Land Trust gathered on a Friday morning in March to provide the 11.6 acres of property with tender loving care. This property a buffer to the Lagoon, is situated along US1. The property, one of the IRLT's latest acquisitions and part of the Toni Robinson Waterfront Trail had a much needed trash removal. Once trash was removed, the team worked to remove exotic invasive plants (species that do not belong and are not helpful to natural habitats). Finally, the area was cut back using bush hogs. Days like this bring out the best in our volunteers, and the property was ready for the Annual Membership event!

**If you are interested in volunteering, there are many opportunities both in the office and on the land. Look on our Website or Contact us 772.794.0701.**

## Tag a Tail

*The Ladies of the Lagoon* came through and met the challenge that was given to them by Georgia Welles to raise an additional \$25,000. Fish tagging has begun and we are happy to report 150 fish tagged to date. Named fish: Fred, Icky and Fin (Snook), Sebastian and Lucy, (Redfish) and Rody and Gus - (Tarpon) are all happily swimming and growing within Bee Gum Point. They are looking forward to a new experience in the Lagoon once the connection of the culverts is made. There are still many fish that can be named, your donation of \$1,000 allows you to follow your fish through the habitats in Vero Beach. Call the Land Trust and ask for Ann to name your fish!





# JAMES PROSEK OCEAN FISHES

## Special thanks to:

- Adventure Kayaking
- Complete Cleaning
- Clements Pest Control
- Einstein Bros Bagels
- Schacht Groves
- Vero Marine Center
- The Fish Store

VERO BEACH  
**MUSEUM  
of ART**  
Enriching Lives Through the Arts



ON VIEW JUNE 6 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 6, 2015

Featuring a partnership between the Indian River Land Trust and the Vero Beach Museum of Art to bring a 550 gallon aquarium highlighting four 'umbrella species' of fish, which are part of the dynamic ecosystem for OUR lagoon.

*James Prosek, (detail) Mako Shark, 2012, mixed media on tea-stained paper, 54 3/4 x 98 inches, Collection of the artist*

Hours: Memorial Day—Labor Day: Closed Mondays; Tues. to Sat. 10 am - 4:30 pm; Sun. 1 pm - 4:30 pm Cost: Summer admission fees apply.



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