Dear Members, Supporters, and Friends;

Thank you for your enthusiastic support and partnership as we work together on what may be our community’s greatest challenge - bringing back a healthy Lagoon. It is my honor to work with you on this goal and I am humbled and inspired by your efforts every day.

Too much pollution has been channeled to the coast through our waterways and it’s taking a tremendous toll on our environment and quality of life. We are fortunate to have outstanding individuals and groups who are taking the lead to solving this crisis by setting an example in Indian River Lagoon coastal communities. We are blessed to have open-minded and visionary political leaders like Senator Debbie Mayfield, Brevard County Commissioner Curt Smith, and Satellite Beach Mayor Frank Catino. Our Lagoon has committed and capable government personnel like Dianne Hughes in Martin County and Duane DeFreese of the IRL Council. Our estuary has dedicated and talented community stewards like Dennis Mayo, Mark Perry, Chuck Henry, and Rodney Smith who volunteer their time, energy, blood, sweat, & tears. We have leading, innovative projects like the C-1 canal re-diversion project, the MDC Shuck and Share program, and the IRL Health Update to help reverse the negative impact we have on our waters. We have individuals who have spent decades committed to the Lagoon like Mary Bowman, Stephen Chalmers, George Rosenfeld, and we have cutting edge groups like the River Kidz, who are making waves in the community for the well-being of the Lagoon. These heroes are just a few of the many, many lagoon heroes working cooperatively to bring our coastal estuary back to health. Tonight, by honoring them, we honor all of you. Rejoicing in past successes and inspiring hope for the future.

Warm wishes for an impactful year

~ Leesa Souto, Ph.D.,
Executive Director
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Joel Tummings
Chuck Van Riper
Charlie Venuto
Lolly Walton
Steve Whitlock Game Fish Art
Wingnut iHeart Radio

Volunteers
Annie Birch
Kirk Barnes
Dennis Mayo
Daniel Shurte
Joanie Regan
Mark Priebe
Jane Priebe
6:00  Cocktail Social, Live Music, & Silent Auction Begins  
(The event is open seating. Please find a good seat and place your food selection marker on your plate for the table server.)

6:45  Please be seated

6:50  Welcome from MRC Executive Director, Dr. Leesa Souto

7:00  Awards Ceremony and Dinner Service Begins

8:00  Live Auction Sponsored by iHeart Radio Begins with Auctioneers Wingnut & Sharkey

  *Silent Auction & 50/50 Raffle Concludes After Live Auction

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Marine Discovery Center's Shuck and Share Project

is a community-based oyster recycling program started at the Marine Discovery Center in 2014. The program was created to fulfill a need for a stable source of shell for upcoming restoration projects in the Indian River Lagoon. This program is the premier oyster recycling program in the state of Florida.

Co-Author, Applied Ecology, IRL Health Update

compiled over 20 years of Florida state water quality data into one easy to read report, establishing the first-ever baseline of health for the Indian River Lagoon to guide future restoration efforts. With the vision of uniting our coastal communities, this report was distributed throughout the 5 counties of the IRL estuary as an instrumental tool for implementing the necessary actions to reverse the negative impact we have had on our waters.

St. Johns River Water Management District’s C1 Canal Water Re-Diversion Project

is a major innovative project that re-diverted nutrient rich water from the Indian River Lagoon to the St. John’s by pumping 28 billion gallons of water to the St. John’s, more than 20,000 lbs. of nitrogen reduction and 20,000 lbs of phosphorus reduction have been achieved in the IRL.
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Mary Bowman, a born and raised Brevard resident, is a force to be reckoned with in our community! She has been an avid supporter of lagoon restoration, wildlife protection, and community development. She is the current Florida Wildlife Hospital Board of Directors President and is involved with many organizations including the Brevard Zoo, MRC, & LEAD Brevard.

Stephen E. Chalmers has been a volunteer member of the MRC Board of Directors for 20+ years. Steve has served as Chairman, Secretary, and Vice Chairman. He is active in several other conservation organizations and is a passionate ambassador for efforts to save the Indian River Lagoon.

George Rosenfield has lived in Brevard County since 1986. During his career in photogrammetry, he published 85 articles in various scientific journals. His work has supported countless conference proceedings and technical reports in his field. Since living in Brevard he has been a volunteer docent at the U.S Air Force Missile and Space Museum for 23 years, as well as a volunteer cartographer and remote sensing specialist with MRC for 10 years. He is a tremendous force within the Brevard environmental community!
Paul Kroegel Award for Outstanding Service to the Indian River Lagoon by a Government Employee

Presented by Dr. Anthony J. Catanese & Sponsored by Wesche Jewelers

Nominees

Duane De Freese has served as Executive Director of the IRL NEP since the major reorganization in September 2015. Under his leadership, the IRL NEP adopted the slogan embracing “One Lagoon, One Community, One Voice” and has worked diligently to make this a reality. While regional differences will always exist, Duane has reached out to build inclusive support for the Lagoon. He has also led the effort to revise the CCMP that provides a roadmap for the restoration of the IRL.

Dianne Hughes has been working for Florida’s water quality in state and local government for nearly 30 years. As Senior Ecosystem Specialist with Martin County, she coordinates and reports on water quality, manages projects to reduce pollutant loads to the Indian River Lagoon through the NPDES and TMDL programs, oversees the investigation of the harmful algal blooms, develops creative public education programs like the Water Ambassador Program and the multi-county Be Floridian Now campaign, and much more.
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SATURDAY April 13th 10 AM - 6 PM
Maggy Bowman Award for Outstanding Service to the Indian River Lagoon by an Elected Official
Presented by Courtney Barker & Sponsored by Boaters Exchange

Nominees

Brevard County Commissioner Curt Smith has been a champion of the Lagoon during his years as County Commissioner. He has taken the time to dig into the issues and educate himself on the different elements impacting the Lagoon. Commissioner Smith served on the NEP board and worked diligently to keep Brevard’s Lagoon restoration efforts on the right course.

City of Satellite Beach Mayor Frank Catino has led a Save the Lagoon effort that is a model for all communities to follow, executing definitive projects to benefit the Lagoon’s water quality, motivating initiatives for property owners and residents to achieve, creating the new Director of Sustainability position and consequently, positioning Satellite Beach at the forefront of effective Lagoon advocacy.

Florida State Senator Debbie Mayfield has consistently sought to bring resources and funding for restoration efforts to the Lagoon. She is available to constituents and groups with concerns and does not hesitate to support issues involving the IRL. Her hard work has now put her in a significant legislative role as Chair of the Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations committee where she will continue to support our notationally significant Lagoon.
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Community

maverickboats.com  hewes.com  pathfinderboats.com  cobiaboats.com
Charles Henry is well known for his spoil islands volunteer efforts. Chuck has spent countless hours on the islands maintaining trails, fixing tables, picking up trash, and removing toilets. He works with Eagle Scouts to help them accomplish Lagoon focused projects. He has served as a board member for Friends of the Spoil Islands & provides vessels to transport campers to and from the islands.

Dennis Mayo is a constant, friendly face at the MRC Ted Moorhead Lagoon House Learning Center. He volunteers countless hours toward MRC’s efforts to Save our Lagoon. Dennis is an outstanding public outreach educator and one of the Lagoon’s biggest advocates! He has been vital in distributing the 2018 IRL Health Update throughout the Lagoon, has helped deploy hundreds of rain barrels throughout our watershed, has cultivated hundreds of mangroves for shoreline restoration projects, and is always just a phone call away when needed.

Mark Perry has been the Executive Director of Florida Oceanographic Society since 1978. He has volunteered on multiple Boards of Directors including the Everglades Coalition, Rivers Coalition, and the Water Resource Advisory Commission. He has served as a panel member of the Florida Senate Select Committee on the Indian River Lagoon and Lake Okeechobee Basin.

Rodney Smith is a publisher, author, teacher/guide, conservation & recreational fishing advocate, and a long-time leader of efforts to protect and restore the IRL. Rodney is an outdoor photojournalist, providing content and images for recreational fishing management, conservation, social issues, gardening, nature, climate change, surfing, free-diving, and adventure.
Join MRC for a Lunchtime Learning Seminar
with Todd Pokrywa, President of The Viera Company

Location: MRC Ted Moorhead Lagoon House, Tuesday, 5/7/19, (12 p.m.).

The presentation examines Viera’s history from the 40’s, when it was agricultural land known as the Cocoa Ranch, to today’s master planned development of neighborhoods, commercial projects, and infrastructure. See Viera’s plans for the future as it grows beyond its current boundaries and incorporation of environmental stewardship practices. Please RSVP at SaveTheIRL.org.

Providing scientifically sound solutions using innovative technologies for challenging environmental problems.
The MRC WaveMaker Award is earned by groups or individuals that disrupt the social norms that allow the destruction of our environment and waterways. We are pleased to present the River Kidz with the 2018 WaveMaker Award for their outstanding efforts in education and advocacy for the well-being of the Indian River Lagoon.
MRC'S LAGOON CASTAWAY SUMMER CAMP!
5 days of fun under the sun for your kids! Science, nature and new friendships!

Open to ages 8-11
Location: Lagoon House in Palm Bay

Session 1: June 4-8 from 9 am to 1 pm
Session 2: June 18-22 from 9 am to 1 pm

The Lagoon Castaway Summer Camp is designed to immerse campers in a Lagoon experience that includes a variety of hands-on learning activities, including:

- Testing water quality
- Making recycled paper
- Planting mangroves along the shoreline of spoil islands
- Meeting some of the local wildlife
- Making a shelter and tools using Ais Indian techniques
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For full details and registration, visit: https://www.savetheeri.org/lagoon-castaway-camp/

Or email shannon@mrcir.org

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