

Special Places ON THE TRAIL & LAGOON



2 BARKER'S BLUFF 3 TWO DOLLAR BLUFF

Barker's Bluff was reportedly as large as a football field and many feet high. Two Dollar Bluff is the location of a famous midden dating back to the early Ais Indians who discarded their broken pottery, bones and oyster shells in great mounds. The Ais' region stretched the entire length of the Indian River Lagoon and was named by the Spanish the "River of Ais". The Ais made friends with the Spanish in the early 16th Century. Jonathan Dickinson journaled his interactions with the Ais noting that their diet consisted of fish from the Lagoon, berries and shellfish. Midden material was frequently used to fill low areas for roads, the railroad and bridgeheads.

7 HISTORIC JONES' PIER

Richard Milton Jones grew up in a small two bedroom home on the shores of the Indian River Lagoon. The Jones family settled in the area in the late 1890's along a scattering of other settlers like the Kroegels, Forsters, and Michaels. The Jones family was known for the first commercial dock located on Jungle Trail (previously called the Orchid/Narrows Road). Mr. Jones grew citrus so famous that boaters would make a special stop at the historic dock to purchase the fresh fruit.

8 BRIDGE TENDER'S SITE & 9 OLD WINTER BEACH RD

Until 1920 there were only two ways to cross the Indian River Lagoon in what is now known as Indian River County. The first bridge connecting the mainland to the barrier island was located in Vero Beach and opened in 1920. The Winter Beach Bridge was opened in 1924 and provided access to the Jungle Trail (which was then Highway A1A). The Bridge Tender, his wife and children lived in a small house on the island next to the Winter Beach Bridge. His job was to hand-crank open the bridge to let cars over, or boats sail by. There was a local dispute as to who had the first car - either Doctor David Rose or Paul Kroegel, and it remains a mystery as to who ran the first car over the bridge. The Winter Beach Bridge crossed from North Winter Beach Bridge Road (now 69th Street) to Winter Beach Road (now Old Winter Beach Road). The County Road (now Jungle Trail) originally went from the County line with Brevard County to Vero Beach. When the State built A1A, much of the private land along the Lagoon was exchanged for right-of-way along the ocean.

1 ARCHIE SMITH FISH HOUSE

The Archie Smith Fish House, located on the western shore of the Indian River Lagoon, was built in 1926. The Fish House and associated structures including the Ice House (originally the old Roseland Railroad Depot) were in operation until the 2004 Hurricanes Frances & Jeanne caused significant damage to the site.

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1994, the Archie Smith Fish House was a part of a vital and thriving fisheries community in Sebastian which brought in fresh fish from the Atlantic Ocean and Indian River Lagoon. Families like the Semblers, Judahs and Smiths made their livelihood through the healthy, diverse and rich fishing trade supported by the nearby Inlet and healthy Lagoon waters.

2 KROEGEL HOMESTEAD & 4 PELICAN ISLAND NWR

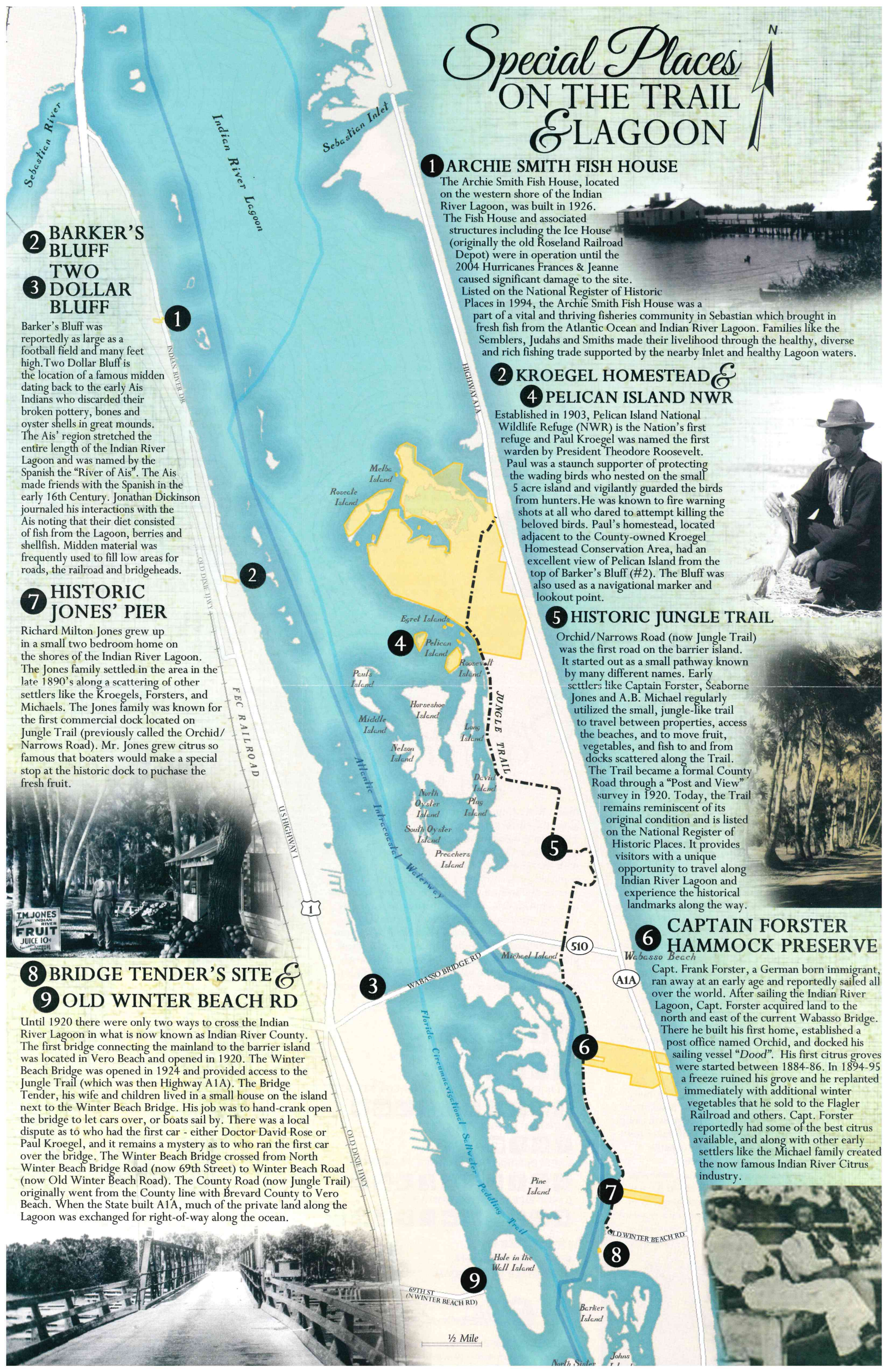
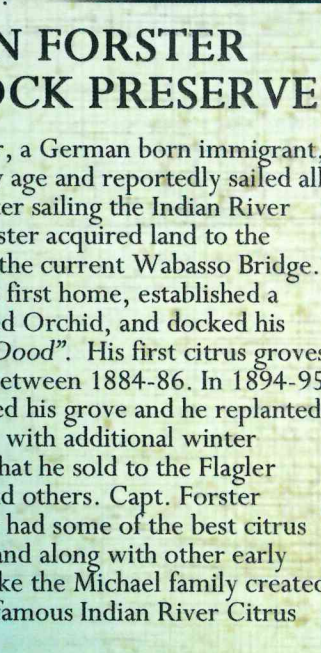
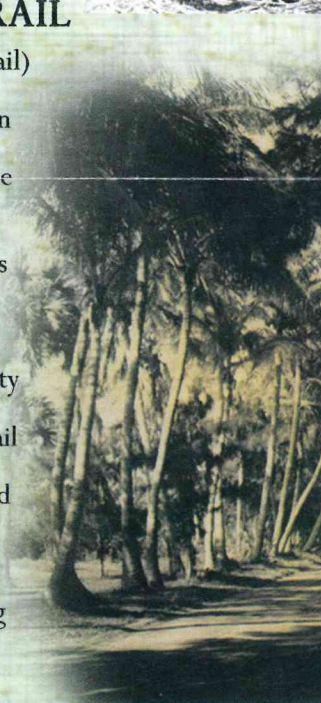
Established in 1903, Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) is the Nation's first refuge and Paul Kroegel was named the first warden by President Theodore Roosevelt. Paul was a staunch supporter of protecting the wading birds who nested on the small 5 acre island and vigilantly guarded the birds from hunters. He was known to fire warning shots at all who dared to attempt killing the beloved birds. Paul's homestead, located adjacent to the County-owned Kroegel Homestead Conservation Area, had an excellent view of Pelican Island from the top of Barker's Bluff (#2). The Bluff was also used as a navigational marker and lookout point.

5 HISTORIC JUNGLE TRAIL

Orchid/Narrows Road (now Jungle Trail) was the first road on the barrier island. It started out as a small pathway known by many different names. Early settlers like Captain Forster, Seaborne Jones and A.B. Michael regularly utilized the small, jungle-like trail to travel between properties, access the beaches, and to move fruit, vegetables, and fish to and from docks scattered along the Trail. The Trail became a formal County Road through a "Post and View" survey in 1920. Today, the Trail remains reminiscent of its original condition and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It provides visitors with a unique opportunity to travel along Indian River Lagoon and experience the historical landmarks along the way.

6 CAPTAIN FORSTER HAMMOCK PRESERVE

Capt. Frank Forster, a German born immigrant, ran away at an early age and reportedly sailed all over the world. After sailing the Indian River Lagoon, Capt. Forster acquired land to the north and east of the current Wabasso Bridge. There he built his first home, established a post office named Orchid, and docked his sailing vessel "Dood". His first citrus groves were started between 1884-86. In 1894-95 a freeze ruined his grove and he replanted immediately with additional winter vegetables that he sold to the Flagler Railroad and others. Capt. Forster reportedly had some of the best citrus available, and along with other early settlers like the Michael family created the now famous Indian River Citrus industry.





The historic and scenic Jungle Trail is a seven-mile corridor that functions as a sensitive spinal column joining today with yesteryear. This lovely trail brings the traveler into personal contact with history unspoiled. The spectator may observe the sensitive mangrove system, abundance of birds and wildlife, natural foliage and landscape that includes dense mangroves, pristine oaks, wild orchids, citrus groves, Australian pines, exotic palms, ferns, meadow grasses, and wildflowers. As in yesteryear, it connects residents and visitors along the barrier island and allows tourists to appreciate Florida as it was. In 1920, St. Lucie County declared a County Road (which includes what is now Jungle Trail) from the northern County line to the one bridge that existed in Vero Beach. This County road opened up the whole of the barrier island for farming, production and marketing of its world-famous citrus, tourism, commercial fisheries, and sport fishing. The road also provided a way to reach the Sebastian Inlet, a popular recreation area. By 1928, three bridges connected the county road to the mainland, providing a link with the railroad for the fast growing tourist and citrus-based economy. In 1941, the county road was given the designation of Peninsula Road by the State of Florida. Because of the jungle-like growth along the road through tropical hammocks, windbreaker rows of tall Australian pines, thick assortments of native understock, climbing vines, and introduced "ornamentals", the local name, Jungle Trail, came into being. In the mid-1960's, when State Road A1A opened to the Sebastian Inlet, the only segment of Jungle Trail still in its original alignment was the seven-mile segment from the Winter Beach Bridge Road to the intersection with State Road A1A. Today, that segment still follows its original alignment.



Adapted from the
JUNGLE TRAIL SCENIC & HISTORIC CORRIDOR
CONCEPTUAL PLAN DATED 1989

Special Places ON THE TRAIL & LAGOON

Indian River County has protected special places along the Historic Jungle Trail Greenway/Blueway. These parcels collectively honor the rich history of Indian River County's early natural history beginning with the Ais Indians, early Spanish explorers, and pioneering efforts of early European settlers. Surrounded by lush vegetation, a thriving lagoon teeming with fish, oysters and clams, and a warm climate, many early settlers found themselves developing what later became Orchid Island, Vero Beach, Sebastian and Fellsmere. As you visit these places, it is hoped that you will dive into this rich history and enjoy the natural and historical places that have been preserved in perpetuity for all citizens to enjoy.

ARCHIE SMITH FISH HOUSE



KROEGEL HOMESTEAD



PELICAN ISLAND NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE



HISTORIC JUNGLETRAIL



CAPTAIN FORSTER HAMMOCK PRESERVE



JONES' PIER CONSERVATION AREA



TWO-DOLLAR BLUFF

BRIDGE TENDER'S SITE



OLD WINTER BEACH ROAD

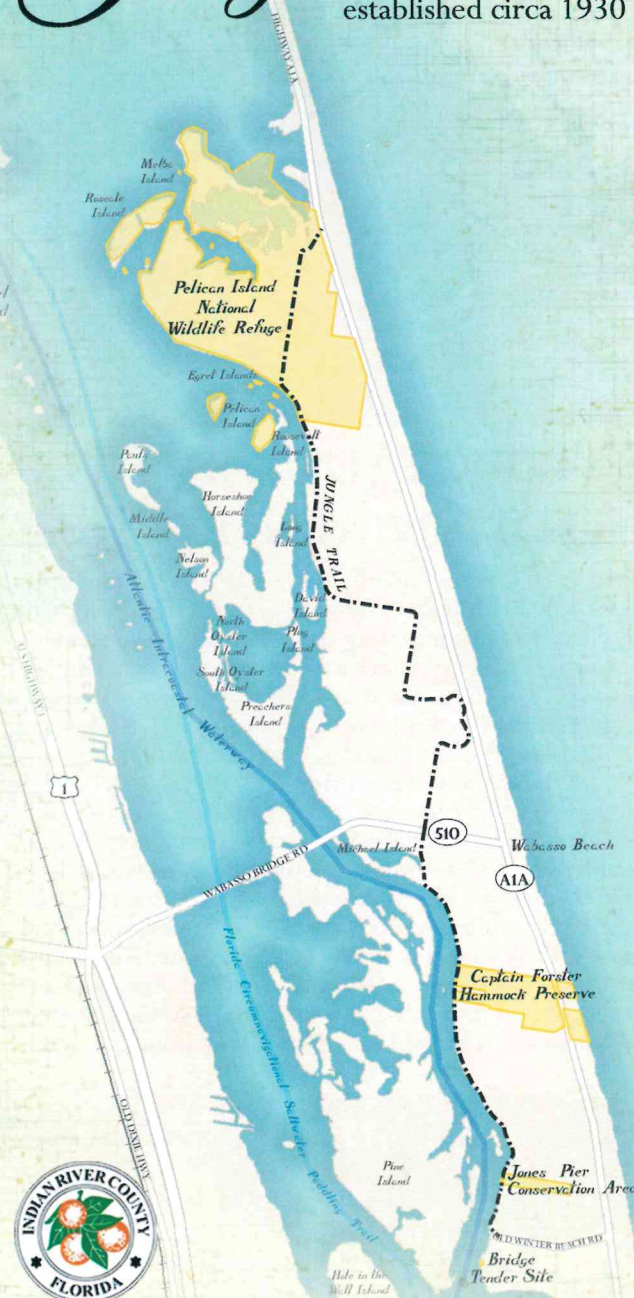


FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF
Historical Resources

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HISTORIC Jungle Trail

established circa 1930



Listed on the National Register
of Historic Places August 1, 2003

When was Indian River County established?

Indian River County was formed on June 29, 1925. It was once a part of Mosquito, Brevard & St. Lucie Counties.

How did Orchid Island get its name?

Orchid Island was named by Captain Frank Forster because of the beautiful butterfly orchids (*Encyclia tampensis*) that draped the large Live Oak trees. These orchids can still be found on the trees today.

What are "the Narrows"?

The "Narrows" was (and still is) an area in the Indian River Lagoon beginning in southern Brevard County at Goat Creek and winding down to Vero Beach. It is called the Narrows because the Lagoon is much wider in comparison to other areas such as Titusville and the Village of St. Lucie. In 1884 Lewis Dawson established a post office on the northern tip of what was called Gem Isle (now Barker Island). Mail would be delivered to and from this little post office by boat.

How did Pelican Island get its name?

Pelican Island was named for the many pelicans and other wading birds that would return each year to this small 5 acre island to nest and raise their young. The island was ravaged by hunters and poachers until Paul Kroegel took an interest in the birds and began to protect them in his role as the Nation's first Refuge Warden. Paul Kroegel's salary was \$12 per year.

How did Indian River Citrus become famous?

In the late 1880's Captain Frank Forster began early citrus cultivation on the barrier island. He received his stock from the Dummitt Groves in Merrit Island. The freeze of 1894-95 ruined his grove, but he quickly replanted. Other early settlers who homesteaded and farmed on the barrier island would obtain stock from each other thus expanding the Indian River citrus legacy. It's said that these early families developed some of the finest citrus around, and the secret, according to local legend, was to cut off the tap root so that the plant was not affected by the salt water. Citrus was sold to merchants traveling the Lagoon and also to the Flagler Rail Cars. Citrus was easy to store and stayed fresh during travels.

HISTORIC Jungle Trail & Special Places DID YOU KNOW...

What are Barker's Bluff & Two Dollar Bluff?

Bluffs refer to midden areas where Native American tribes like the Ais would discard items no longer usable like oyster shells, animal bones, and broken pottery. Middens could be many feet high, sometimes the highest land around. The Kroegel Homestead was located on Barker's Bluff which was one of the larger bluffs and was used as a navigational marker. Paul Kroegel would stand on the tall bluff to monitor Pelican Island for plume hunters. The Two Dollar Bluff was located on the mainland across the river from the Michael family home on Orchid Island. These two middens were so significant that they were utilized as triangulation points in the 1881 geodetic survey. Unfortunately, these middens were not considered valuable at the time, and were scattered or hauled off and used or sold as fill material for bridgeheads, roads and the railroad. Even though the remains have long ago been utilized for modern convenience, the sites are considered valuable historical locations worthy of preservation.



What kinds of crops were grown and sold by early settlers?

Crops grown and sold by early settlers included beans, potatoes, tomatoes, citrus, strawberries, and bananas. Other local items like honey, turtles, fish, and oysters were also sold or traded.



Historic Jungle Trail

! FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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772•589•9223

ircgov.com/conservation
Find Us On Facebook:

Indian River County Conservation Lands

Videos & more info can be found at:

**Indian River County
Historical Society**

irchistorical.org • 772•778•3435

Special Thanks

to the Indian River County
Historical Society for their assistance
and photographs provided.

What is the Indian River Lagoon?

The Indian River Lagoon is a 156 mile estuary that spans from Volusia County to the southern border of Martin County. It is one of the most ecologically diverse estuaries in the Northern Hemisphere. The Indian River Lagoon encompasses the Mosquito Lagoon, the Banana River and the Indian River. The Lagoon contains four wildlife refuges, a national seashore and five State parks. Prior to the creation of the Sebastian Inlet, the Indian River County section of the Lagoon would have been primarily a fresh water system that supported oysters, clams, and fresh water fish. Prior to the construction of the Inlet, the relatively low salinity in the Lagoon was only interrupted by localized salt intrusion during major storms.

Are all the islands in the Lagoon natural?

No! Many of the islands in the Lagoon today were created in the 1950's when the Intracoastal Waterway was created by the Florida Inland Navigation District and the Army Corps of Engineers. These islands are called "spoil" islands because they were formed from the dredged soil. The spoil islands were colonized by exotic vegetation such as Brazilian pepper and Australian pine. However, some islands are natural including Pelican Island, Preacher's Island, and Paul's Island.

What is the Sebastian Working Waterfront?

With the construction of the Sebastian Inlet, the commercial fishing industry in Sebastian was born. An ice plant was opened in Sebastian which created the ability for fishermen to preserve their daily catch. On their way in from the water, they would signal to the ice plant their catch; one long blast for each 100 lbs. The fish would then be packed and shipped via railroad to Daytona, then re-iced and shipped to northern destinations. The Working Waterfront on Indian River Drive preserves Sebastian's early commercial fishing industry along the western shore of the Indian River Lagoon. Visitors can experience early docks and fish houses, a restaurant serving locally caught fish, and an exhibit center that is dedicated to the preservation of Sebastian's early fishing history.