

# Open Space Committee



*Open Space is the Soul of the Community.*

## New Bench on Lot 1, Five Oaks Circle

*With placement of a new bench on Five Oaks Circle, we now have installed 6 benches throughout the community, including:*

1. Islands Ave & Cotton Island Bridge
2. Magnolia Footpath, near Plough Point & De La Gaye
3. De La Gaye Community Dock
4. Jeff Gresham Park vicinity
5. Five Oaks Circle, Lot 1
6. Magnolia & Oak footpath intersection



*Kurt & Amy Herkert with their dogs Oliver & Beau on Five Oaks Circle Bench*

## Coming Soon

### *Footpath Signs in Belle Grove Community*

At the last annual meeting we asked IOB members for suggestions on names for the walkways in the open space of the Belle Grove community. Final selections were **Oak, Palmetto and Magnolia** paths. We will soon install footpath signs for these walkways and directional reflective posts. (The latter thanks to Alan Dechovitz who has adapted old property markers for this purpose.)

There is a revised Footpaths and Parks map on the Open Space section on our website [islandsofbeaufort.com](http://islandsofbeaufort.com). Go to the Homeowners page and look for the Open Space Committee tile, there you will find the revised pathway map and other related information.

### *Landmark Sign for Sunset Point*

We're also putting in a sign to mark Sunset Point (Formerly Lot 17 on Cotton Island). We're finalizing plans to install a pathway and picnic table foundation pad which will further enhance the amenities at Sunset Point.

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## Turn Your Yard into a Native Wildlife Habitat!

### *Attract birds, bees, butterflies and beneficial insects & obtain Wildlife Habitat Certification*

Your yard or garden can become a habitat for birds, butterflies and other local wildlife to enjoy. If you provide the four components of habitat – food, water, cover and places to raise young – and maintain your garden in a natural, sustainable way, the National Wildlife Federation will recognize it as a [Certified Wildlife Habitat](#) through the Garden for Wildlife program. It's an easy and fun way to do something good for wildlife in your neighborhood, and you will definitely see the impact when the birds, bees and butterflies show up to eat, drink, take shelter or build a nest.

Our voracious deer eat many plants, including native, so you may want to try one or two plant ideas first, or create your native garden in your fenced backyard. Native grasses also bring multiple benefits to insects, birds, and other native wildlife... and deer do not eat them.



See links below for how to certify your yard and Keystone Plant Guide for our zip code.

<https://www.nwf.org/Native-Plant-Habitats/Create-and-Certify/At-Home>

<https://nativeplantfinder.nwf.org/>

*Monarch Butterfly and caterpillars on a Milkweed plant. Milkweed native to our area is the best choice for monarchs; such as Common Milkweed and Swamp Milkweed*

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## Future Projects

### *Next focus: Belle Grove Park*

Belle Grove is a perfect space to focus on when we consider gathering areas and places to appreciate the natural beauty of the IOB. When the lots were purchased, a landscape plan was created that included pathways and other amenities. We will look into the landscape plan and use it as a guide for footpaths and some seating in the park, maintaining this area as a peaceful, natural habitat. This ties in with our goal of keeping our open spaces natural and accessible to wildlife. We will continue to improve and enhance the place we all call home.

While we're in the planning stages we would welcome any other ideas you might have to preserve this space. Please contact the committee at [iobopenspace@gmail.com](mailto:iobopenspace@gmail.com)