



April 5, 2006
For immediate release

Barbara Jean's voluntary guest check add-on to benefit Land Trust

Barbara Jean's Restaurant this month becomes the first restaurant to join the St. Simons Land Trust's Community Partnership Program. The Pier Village restaurant will invite guests to add a \$1 contribution onto their checks to support the Land Trust's work in preserving the island's natural and scenic character.

Barbara Jean's owner Jim Barta says he hopes that "other St. Simons Island restaurants will pick up on this idea, which will help preserve the island for the enjoyment of tourists and locals alike."

Jamie Kendall, Land Trust Director of Development and Operations, says that the Land Trust is "excited that Barbara Jean's is taking this initiative. They are a big supporter of our mission, and we can always count on them to donate food to our annual Oyster Roast and our Land Trust neighborhood meetings. It's called 'doing the right thing.'"

She says that the Barbara Jean's effort fits in nicely with the Land Trust's Community Partnership Program, which includes a similar voluntary lodging fee added to guests' bills at Sea Island Company properties and at the Village Inn & Pub. That program has added almost half a million dollars to the Land Trust since its kick-off more than three years ago.

The St. Simons Land Trust's mission is to preserve the island's natural and scenic character and to enhance the quality of life of the island community for present and future generations. The Land Trust currently protects 74 acres of property on St. Simons Island. One of its most recent accomplishments is the purchase and landscaping of the old Chevron station property at the corner of Frederica and Demere roads.



Caption: Barbara Jean's customer County Commissioner Uli Keller makes the first guest check donation to benefit the St. Simons Land Trust. From left: restaurant owner Jim Barta, Keller, Barbara Jean Barta, Land Trust Executive Fred Freyer.

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