



Institute for Regional Conservation

April 2025 Newsletter

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Conservation Note

Adaptation and leadership – surviving and thriving

Nonprofit organizations like IRC exist in an ecosystem, like plants and animals. Following ecological theory, we must adapt to survive. In some cases, the need to adapt is imminent, such as when faced with a severe weather event or a predator. In other cases, adaptation works on longer time frames, such as when plants change flowering times in response to climate change, or animals change migration patterns to respond to the availability of food. To be successful, adaptation is needed across these different time scales.

At present, IRC is working hard to adapt to the current political-economic-social change and instability. There is no question that we have our work cut out for us; there is an immediate crisis to which we must respond. Fortunately, IRC was already moving forward with longer-term processes allowing us to adapt and evolve as an organization. Central to that process is cultivating a community of support through numerous outreach activities and building our leadership capacity through board development and growth. We have targeted our Board of Directors to double from six in 2024 to twelve in 2025, but that growth will take place across key geographies, expertise, and social-cultural criteria. These new board members, with their collective experience, skills, and contexts, will vastly increase our ability to respond and adapt to change in a positive way, bolstering our chances to not only survive but thrive.



Alan R. Franck, Ph.D



Jorge Carlos Trejo Torres, Ph.D



Bill Petry

To this end, we are pleased to announce the addition of three new board members in 2025 to date; you can view the entire board [here](#). An IRC volunteer since 2018, Bill Petry of Delray Beach and New England brings a wealth of experience in business and conservation nonprofit management to our board. Long-term collaborator and IRC Associate Jorge Carlos Trejo Torres, who resides in Mérida, Mexico, joins the board to help us move forward our programs in the Yucatan and Puerto Rico. Alan Franck, a well-known expert in plant taxonomy and floristics based at the Florida Museum of Natural History at the University of Florida, will elevate our collaborative work in plant conservation and restoration. Please join us in welcoming our new board members to the IRC family - and stay connected as we adapt, grow and thrive together.

To help us adapt to the changing environment - especially the loss of federal funding from excellent partners like the US Fish and Wildlife Service - we will need additional community support. Please consider [a donation](#) in any amount.

George Gann
Founder & Executive Director

Upcoming Events



ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION
Volunteer Day

Help Needed
 Invasive Species
 Removal & Planting

MAY 10TH
 9AM - 11AM
RED REEF PARK
 1400 NORTH OCEAN BLVD
 BOCA RATON, FL

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Saturday, May 10th - Ecological Restoration Day

Join us for a volunteer day restoring Red Reef Park in Boca Raton. We need your help to remove nonnative plants from the natural area at the park and assist with a small native plant installation.

We look forward to continuing our restoration efforts at Red Reef Park with continued support from the City of Boca Raton. Check our [events page](#) periodically for updates and upcoming events.

[Click this link to register for this event.](#)

Monday, June 2nd - Ecological Restoration Day and BioBlitz

Join us for a volunteer day restoring Red Reef Park in Boca Raton. We need your help to install native plants at one of our new restoration sites and participate in citizen science and upload nature observations in our BioBlitz.

This event is part of the Society of Ecological Restoration's (SER) Make a Difference Week and we are thrilled to participate this year. Our event is part of a week long series of global restoration activities. To learn more [click here](#) and find out about events happening world wide.

We look forward to continuing our restoration



ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION
Volunteer Day

BIOBLITZ &
 Native Plant
 Installation

JUNE 2ND
 9AM - 11AM
RED REEF PARK
 1400 NORTH OCEAN BLVD
 BOCA RATON, FL

Institute for
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SER
 SOCIETY FOR
 ECOLOGICAL
 RESTORATION

CITY OF
Boca Raton
 OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY

efforts at Red Reef Park with continued support from the City of Boca Raton. Check our [events page](#) periodically for updates and upcoming events.

[Click this link to register for this event.](#)

Special Recognition



Patty Phares, IRC Board Member
Conservation Hero Award - TAS

Our board member Patty Phares received the Polly Redford Citizen Conservation Hero Award during the Tropical Audubon Society's Nature and Renewal Earth Day Celebration. Congratulations to Patty!



Steve Woodmansee, IRC Associate
Mentor Award - FNPS

IRC Associate Steve Woodmansee received the Mentor Award by the Florida Native Plant Society. It is the highest honor the Society can bestow. Congratulations to Steve!

Recent Events



Invasive Plant Removal Volunteer Day at Red Reef Park, Boca Raton

On Friday, April 11th, IRC facilitated a volunteer event at Red Reef Park in Boca Raton. With support from the City of Boca Raton and roughly 30 volunteers, we successfully performed habitat restoration with invasive species removal.

We removed invasive Beach Naupaka and cleared new areas for future native plant installations. We also cleaned up a bunch of debris from the dunes. Thank you to the City of Boca Raton, our field crew for assistance and the many volunteers who worked hard to make this restoration day a success!



Ann Norton Sculpture Garden Conservation Conversation

On April 10th, our Executive Director, George Gann, gave a presentation at Ann Norton Sculpture Garden as part of their Conservation Conversation series session four: Boots on the Ground; Getting it Done, One Neighborhood at a Time. The presentation title was Restoring Biodiversity One Neighborhood at A Time From the Keys to Palm Beach County.

Learn more about [Ann Norton's Conservation Conversation series here.](#)



Ecological Restoration Volunteer Event at Red Reef Park, Boca Raton

On Friday, April 18th, IRC held a native species planting event at Red Reef Park, Boca Raton to restore the dunes. With over 20 volunteers, we planted 339 plants of over 25 different species such as Beach jacquemontia, Sea-lavender, Beach verbena, Scorpiontail, and several different types of grasses. We installed these native plants in an area that was cleared a week earlier in order to stabilize the dune and add more diversity to the area.

Thank you to the City of Boca Raton and to our volunteers for making these restoration events possible.





Earth Day Event at Atlantic Dunes Park, Delray Beach

On Saturday, April 19th, IRC held its Earth Day event restoring Atlantic Dunes Park in Delray Beach. Our crew and volunteers performed invasive species removal in many areas of the Brazilian-pepper and habitat collapse.

We planted a variety of native species throughout the park trail, including Beach jacquemontia, Corkystem passionflower, Beach verbena, Spanish-bayonet, and many more.

Thank you to our volunteers for coming out and celebrating Earth Day with us and restoring the dune system! Special thanks to the City of Delray Beach for their continued support.



Natives For Your Neighborhood Sponsor Spotlight



The [Indian Trails Native Nursery](#) is a native nursery in the west Boyton Beach area providing a large selection of native plants, consultations and installations. They offer:

- Nursery and Contract Growing
- Pick up and Delivery Services
- Consultation, Estimating and Design Services
- Landscape Installation Services

We thank Indian Trails Native Nursery for being a proud sponsor of our Natives For Your Neighborhood program.

Interested in becoming a [Natives For Your Neighborhood](#) sponsor?
Please email our administrator, Stacy Brown at sbrown@regionalconservation.org for more information.



Thank you to all who have supported IRC's programs with a \$20 or larger donation in the last month: Ladonna White & Vicki Williams.

A special thanks to **New Monthly Sustainers** Gary Line & James Duncan and to **Lisa Mohan & [Raymond Jungles](#)** for their generous donations!

Thank you to our **Monthly Sustainers** who donate \$25 or more each month: John Campanola, Maria Rowley, Lindsay Boehner and Valerie Seasholtz.

While we get funding for some great

If you're interested in being a sponsor of Natives For Your Neighborhood, please reach out to [Stacy Brown](#).

IRC has an E-Trade account. Please contact us about giving gifts of stock.

projects, those funds rarely cover all of our costs, so we really do need your support to continue our important work.

Consider supporting our efforts which allow us to provide important conservation services such as improving our free online resources, increasing protection of rare plants and animals, restoring native ecosystems, and advocating for better public policy. Click the button below.



[Solidago sempervirens](#)
(Seaside goldenrod)

PLEASE DONATE

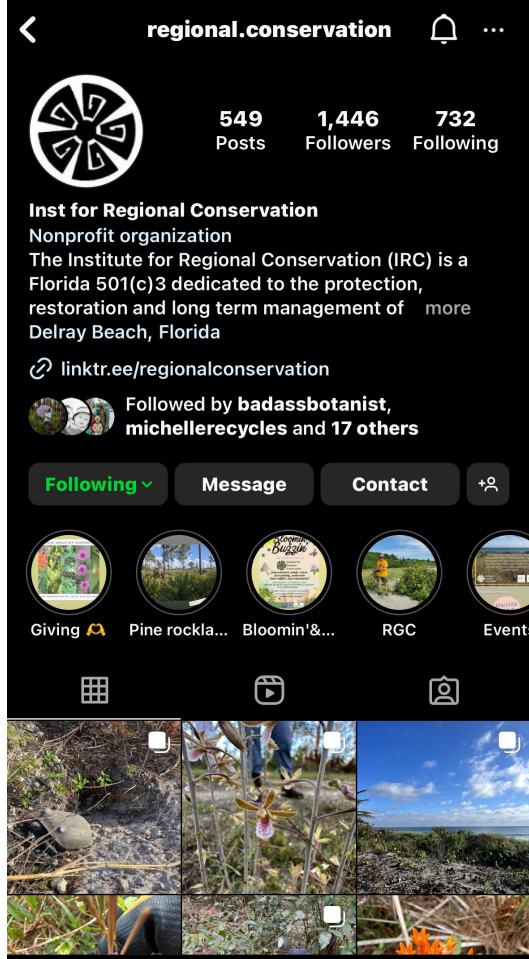
Your donations empower us to enhance our free online resources, safeguard rare plants and animals, restore native ecosystems, and champion more effective public policies for conservation.



Follow us on Social Media

The best way to stay up to date on all things IRC is to follow us on social media! Every week we spotlight native plants for "Wildflower Wednesday" and give a glimpse into one of our many unique projects from our "From the Field Friday" posts. You can also follow our socials where we share our event photos and lots of relevant information about the environment and beyond.

So, if you haven't already, follow us on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#)!



We are a nonprofit conservation organization exempt from taxes under the U.S. Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)3.

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 Newsletter Editor: Liz Dutra



The Institute for Regional Conservation | 100 E Linton Blvd Suite 302B | Delray Beach, FL 33483 US

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