



## April/May 2021 Newsletter

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### Monthly Conservation Note

#### **The United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration: Optimism and Caution**

In 2008, I flew to Bonn, Germany, to attend the 9th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). My task, on behalf of IRC partner the Society for Ecological Restoration, was to meet with the Secretary General of the CBD to discuss the importance of ecological restoration in meeting biodiversity conservation targets in the 2011-2020 decade. While the meeting was not frosty, it was not particularly receptive either. I was a lone delegate (among thousands) promoting this message: without restoration, we cannot prevent most species from going extinct.

What a difference 13 years make. The 2011-2020 UN Decade on Biodiversity and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets have been soundly critiqued as failing to deliver. Sadly, biodiversity losses have continued to accelerate since 2008, with no end in sight. What has changed is the widespread realization that business as usual will not work, tied with the global political will to elevate all kinds of environmental repair work in a coordinated effort to turn the tide. But words and ideas alone will not

Saturday the 5th of June, 2021 is the official launch date of the 2021-2030 UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. To participate in the launch, IRC will hold a symbolic restoration event at Atlantic Dunes Park, where we have been working continuously for the past 5 years (see article below).

While we want to be excited and celebrate the launch of the Decade, we must reflect on the risks - that we will assume someone else is taking care of this problem. Nothing could be further from the truth. No matter whether you are reading this newsletter in Florida, Puerto Rico, Mexico, or elsewhere, make a commitment to contribute to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. Get your calendars out - a decade is a long time. And we will need every minute of it.

The stakes have never been higher. In order for the Decade on Ecosystem Restoration to be a success, we need everyone to pitch in, in their own way. Keep reading IRC newsletters for opportunities with IRC and check the News and Calendar. Look for ways to help through other organizations. Plant more natives in your own garden. And donate to organizations specifically to purchase and restore native habitats. Thank you in advance!

restore ecosystems and recover threatened species, or face the specter of global climate change. Only the individual and collective actions of billions of people can do that.

**George Gann**  
*Founder and Executive Director*



UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON  
**ECOSYSTEM  
RESTORATION**  
2021-2030



**Thank you** to all who have supported IRC's programs in the last two months.

Raymond Jungles, Linda Beaty, Ruth Brooks, Kip Fisher, Margaret Gonzales, & Carol Thomas.

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

Donations 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.

While we get funding for some great projects, those funds rarely cover all of our costs, so we really do need your support to continue our important work.

**DONATE**

## **Atlantic Dunes Park: A Restoration Success Story in Progress**

As we prepare for our event on June 5th to celebrate the launch of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, we want to reflect on the progression of our work at Atlantic Dunes Park (ADP), in Delray Beach, Florida. Since 2016, IRC has worked to



Atlantic Dunes Park planting following removal of [Brazilian-pepper](#) (*Schinus terebithifolius*).



January 18th, 2020 Restoring the Gold Coast volunteer event at Atlantic Dunes Park



George Gann (left) & John Campanola (Right) IRC received a \$1,000 Grant from New York Life Foundation in recognition of John Campanola.

restore coastal biodiversity at ADP. This work has included floristic research and restoration planning, invasive plant removal, native plant installations, trash pick-up, and photo monitoring. Our focus has been on the restoration of the critically rare coastal strand community, which has been nearly obliterated in southeastern Florida south of northern Palm Beach County. We have been able to augment or reintroduce many native species that were previously documented at the park, were missing, or are very rare in dunes in southern Palm Beach County. [Click here](#) for a list of plants at ADP.

Restoration at ADP has been part of our Green Delray and [Restoring the Gold Coast program](#) (RGC) which was the 2019 Environmental Award winner from [Impact 100 Palm Beach County](#) (Impact PBC). We have been able to make a lot of progress removing invasive plants and adding biodiversity while including the local community. This has provided many opportunities over the years for volunteers to be part of the restoration process and to learn why it is important to protect and restore coastal ecosystems. Many volunteers have returned multiple times, becoming key volunteer crew members and team leaders. These volunteers are key to us making a difference.

[Read More...](#)



## "Meet Our Team" Spotlight IRC Board Member

### Kingsley Dixon

Raised in Perth Australia, Kingsley Dixon developed a love for native plants at a

Some of Kingsley's current projects include working with First Nations in Australia on developing the 'restoration economy' where Indigenous people own and operate

young age and now has over 30 years of experience with Australian native plants and ecosystems.

His personal research is focused on rare and threatened species, restoration of damaged landscapes, conservation of indigenous Australian plants, and orchid biology and conservation. Kingsley's passion for orchids has resulted in publications in Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society, Journal of Evolutionary Biology, Annals of Botany, and Biological Conservation in the year 2015 alone; he has over 300 publications in total throughout his career. Kingsley's work has been highly recognized with awards including the Linnean Medal in Botany, the Australian Minerals Energy Environment Foundations Awards of Environmental Excellence in 1992 and 1996, Golden Gecko Awards for Environmental Excellence in 1997 and 2000, and the Western Australian Scientist of the Year for 2016.

native seed farms, and nurseries, and contribute to the restoration of tribal lands for the carbon economy, reflecting native ecosystems present before European arrival. He contributes to a large laboratory devoted to developing restoration technologies including smart seeding methods, seed banking, microbial benefits, and using restoration to save threatened species. Kingsley joined the IRC Board in 2015.



## IRC Hiring New Crew Member

Our Pine Rockland Initiative is growing! IRC is accepting applications for team member (field technician) positions for 2021. Responsibilities include using hand tools and mechanical tools, such as chainsaws and brush cutters, and applying herbicides in a safe and appropriate manner.

For inquiries or to submit your resume and cover letter, email [Michelle Smith](mailto:Michelle.Smith@irc.org). [Click here](#) for more information.

## Upcoming Events

- **Friday, June 4th, 2021** - Key Concepts for Creating and Implementing a Shared Vision of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. A virtual panel as part of the UN Decade and World Environment Day. [Click here](#) for more information.
- **Saturday, June 5th, 2021** - Atlantic Dunes Park Restoration Event. Limited registration event sponsored by the New York Life Foundation and Tina Pugliese Public Relations. [Click here](#) for more information.
- **Saturday, June 12th, 2021** - Florida City Pineland Field Trip and BioBlitz, as part of the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) Make a Difference Week. [Click here](#) for more information.

## Recent Events & News

- Volunteer day at George N. Avery Pineland. [Link](#) to photos.
- City of Boynton Beach Earth Day Kick-Off event. [Link](#) to photos.



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