



Institute for
Regional
Conservation

April 2019 Newsletter

The Power of Ecological Restoration



Monthly Conservation Notes

Join us for our monthly Conservation Notes, where we discuss topics important to our work. If you have ideas about topics you would like to see covered, please [send us a note!](#) Above, IRC volunteer John Miller smiles as he hacks away at the invading Brazilian-pepper to make way for native plant and animal diversity at Atlantic Dunes Park in Delray Beach.

In the past, the environmental movement focused almost exclusively on stopping the wanton destruction of the natural world. And that was both urgently needed and appropriate to the times. And while the need for this work has unfortunately not diminished, we now know that we must do more. The point where nature can restore itself, unassisted, has long passed. Thus, we enter an age where ecological restoration and other forms of ecological repair are center stage in conservation tactics and strategy. But ecological restoration is not only needed for the planet, it is good for us as individuals and as communities. This fact, that participating in ecological restoration can also be restorative to the human spirit has long been recognized. And faced with an endless stream of bad news, it is critical that we participate as planetary healers, not just helpless bystanders. The benefits are many and accrue to people of all ages and types. So next time you want to throw your hands up in frustration, or need to find something constructive for your kids to do, find a restoration project. Getting your hands dirty healing nature will make you smile. I promise! George Gann

This year marks The Institute for Regional Conservation's
35th anniversary!

Save The Date!

IRC's 35th Anniversary celebration on Thursday, November 7th!
Location and times to be announced, so be on the look out.

Pine Rockland Initiative Restoration Event!



Join IRC and [Miami-Dade Environmentally Endangered Lands Program \(EEL\)](#) for a fun opportunity to participate in an ecological restoration project at Pine Shore Pineland Preserve. We will start the morning with a short tour of the site, highlighting rare plants and traits unique to pine rocklands. Volunteers will then hand pull invasive species to help restore native biodiversity.

We will provide all tools and gloves as well as light refreshments. Please come dressed for walking through the pineland - with closed toed shoes and long pants.

Restoration Event:

- **Pine Shore Pineland Preserve:** On Saturday, May 4th from 9:00am to 12:00pm. Click [here](#) for more information.

Space is limited! Please RSVP to Michelle Smith at msmith@regionalconservation.org or 305-304-6275.



Thank you to Lindsay Boehner, John Miller, Bill Petry, Sarah Solomon and Ian Wilkinson for being crew leaders at our Atlantic Dunes Park volunteer day! You all made the event go smoothly and we really appreciate your continued support at both Lake Ida and Atlantic Dunes Park.

Thank you to NFYN donor - [Palm Beach Chapter of FNPS!](#)

Thank you to Julia Renninger and her master gardener friends, Helen and Butch, for helping IRC continue our restoration work at the Lake Ida Parcel by weeding and watering!

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Recent IRC Events

IRC won Impact 100 Grant!



The Institute for Regional Conservation and our "Restoring the Gold Coast" program was recently selected as an Impact 100 winner! We can't wait to put this \$100,000 to good use restoring native coastal habitat while building a community of environmental advocates! [Impact 100 PBC](#) is a women's charitable organization funding local nonprofit initiatives in southern Palm Beach County.

Atlantic Dunes Green Delray Volunteer Day

IRC was honored to participate in the Great American Cleanup by holding a restoration event sponsored by [Erin Deady Law](#) and [New York Life](#) at Atlantic Dunes Park. Volunteers helped IRC restore this beautiful park through several activities including removing invasive species, planting sea oats and picking up trash. Some of the invasive species removed included Brazilian pepper, Beach naupaka, Bowstring-hemp, Oysterplant, Australian umbrellatree, Carrotwood, Tropical-almond and Chinese-violet.

We'd like to thank The City of Delray Beach, Keep Palm Beach County Beautiful, and Comcast Cares for supporting this event. We would also like to thank JetBlue, Clarkson Alumni and Beach Property Owners Association for volunteering! IRC has been working at Atlantic Dunes Park for four years now and we can really see the difference these events are having! For more pictures from the event, [click here](#).



Quail Roost Pineland Preserve Volunteer Day

IRC recently held a restoration volunteer day at Quail Roost Pineland Preserve, which is a [Miami-Dade Environmentally Endangered Lands \(EEL\)](#) site. IRC Field Biologist, Michelle Smith, and Education and Outreach



Coordinator, Cara Abbott started the morning with a tour of the pine rockland. Everyone from the group was able to share fun facts on pine rocklands plant species and insects we encountered! As a team, we cleared a patch of Tuberous sword fern (*Nephrolepis cordifolia*), Shrubverbena (*Lantana camara*), Brazilian-pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolius*), and Rose natalgrass (*Melinis repens*) on the site!

We'd like to give a special thank you to Tiffany Melvin from Miami-Dade EEL, IRC's board member, Patty Phares, and the excellent group of volunteers for coming out and being part of IRC's event! For more pictures from the event, [click here](#).

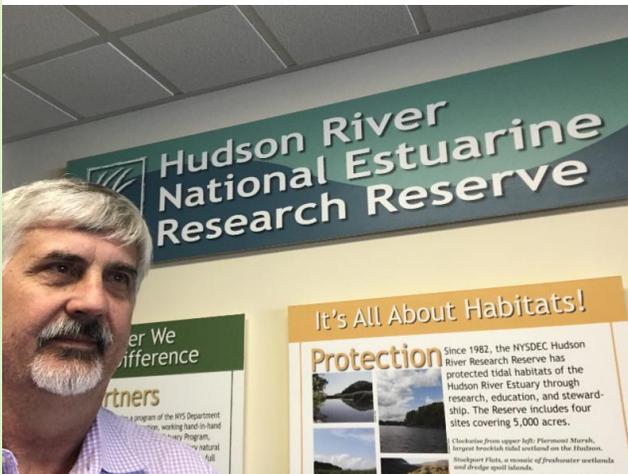
George Gann Presents to Naples Chapter of FNPS

George also presented at a meeting of the to Naples Chapter of Florida Native Plant Society on March 26th. The topic was *The Future of Native Plant Conservation in South Florida: History and Adaptation in the Age of Rapid Change*.

George discussed native plant conservation from both global and local perspectives, including examples from Collier County. Focusing on the entire native flora of nearly 1,500 species, he also went on to describe what we know, what we have accomplished over the last 50 years, and how we might move forward into the future with native plant conservation in South Florida.



George Gann Leads Restoration Training in New York



IRC's Chief Conservation Strategist George Gann was an instructor at two 1-day workshops at the Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve in Staatsburg, New York. The workshop was provided by our partner, the [Society for Ecological Restoration](#) (SER) and introduced ecological restoration practitioners and managers to a consistent and comprehensive approach to ecological restoration based on SER's [International Standards for the Practice of Ecological Restoration](#), of which George is

second author.



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