



August 2021 Newsletter

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Monthly Conservation Note

Restoring the Web of Life

Native plants comprise the most obvious foundational element of native ecosystems, but before native plants comes geology, soils, hydrology, climate, and the other physical parts of the ecosystem that determine which native plants can live where. Within an ecosystem, whether natural or human derived, additional factors such as light availability, soil moisture, and competition all affect where individual plants live and whether they will just survive or they will thrive. But physical features and plants alone an ecosystem do not make. Animals and fungi are both essential elements of native ecosystems, and act as the connector pieces that keep everything tied together.

Since 2005, IRC's Natives For Your Neighborhood (NFYN) has provided information essential to restoring native ecosystems in yards, along roadways, at schools, and even in conservation areas. But while our coverage of native plant species has been exemplary, our coverage of animals has lagged behind, with examples of only a few butterflies. However, that is beginning to change.

With support from the [Florida Wildflower Foundation](#) and many other NFYN sponsors, contributions of photographs from IRC supporters (see below), and amazing public domain resources, we are beginning to expand our coverage of animals to better represent the Web of Life. From bees to beetles and birds, keep a look out on [NFYN](#) and lend a hand submitting pictures, providing financial support, and even writing content. It's a big job and we can use all the help we can get!

George Gann

Founder and Executive Director



Bumblebees in the genus *Bombus* are important pollinators in Florida. Public domain images of these and other bees are available from the [USGS Native Bee Inventory and Monitoring Lab](#).



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

William Bathurst, Amy Kimball,
Leslie Landert, & Sabrina Carle.

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

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.

Thank you to our recent Natives For Your Neighborhood (NFYN) sponsors: [Wilcox Nursery](#), [Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation \(SCCF\)](#), & [Green Thumb Inc.](#) Wilcox Nursery located in Largo offers landscaping services such as design, installation, and restoration along with selling native plants and supplies. SCCF located in Sanibel offers a native garden center, environmental education, and various trails through their preserves. Green Thumb Inc. located in Hollywood offers landscaping services such as consulting, design, and maintenance as well as educational outreach.

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.

DONATE

An Update on Pine Rockland Restoration Efforts at Military Site

IRC continues its restoration activities at the United States Department of Defense SOCSOUTH facility, adjacent to the Homestead Air Reserve Base in

Homestead, Florida. This work focuses on restoring the pine rockland habitat for two federally endangered plants, *Galactia smallii* (Small's milkpea) and *Linum arenicola* (Sand flax)

Over the last several years, we have focused our efforts on invasive species control and native hardwood reduction. Currently, we are utilizing restoration mowing at the site to effectively manage native and nonnative weeds and increase native pine rockland groundcover diversity. We have observed native species flourishing and beginning to colonize even the most disturbed areas. We expect to see further expansion as restoration continues.

[Read more...](#)



Applied nucleation trial planting.



Galactia smallii (Small's milkpea)

"Meet Our Team" Spotlight

Thank You & Goodbye, Gabriel!

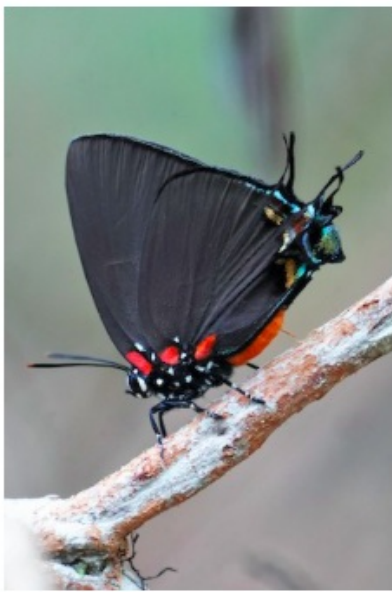
Gabriel Caceres joined IRC as a field crew member in December 2020 and worked mostly in our Ecological Restoration and Management (ERM) programs like our Pine Rockland Initiative (PRI).

Gabriel recently resigned from IRC to pursue a position as a Wildlife Biologist in Texas. We wish him the best in his new endeavors. Thank you and goodbye, Gabriel!



Wildlife Photos for Natives For Your Neighborhood - Thank You!

Thank you to those who sent us wildlife photos for our Natives For Your Neighborhood (NFYN) webpage after our



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In habitat at Teague Hammock Preserve in St. Lucie County, Florida.

request in last month's newsletter. We updated 8 butterfly species that were missing photos and even added 2 new pollinators into our database. Check out the [wildlife page](#) in NFYN to see these updates!

We are still looking for more butterfly photos listed [here](#). So if you have pictures of eggs, caterpillars, or butterflies of any species on our list, share them with [Cara Abbott](#). We also welcome photos of other native pollinators not yet on our NFYN site like moths, bees, and birds. Photo credit will be used with each of your photos used on our website.

Help IRC Get Top-Rated Ranking



If you love our work, then tell the world! Stories about how you've volunteered with us used our free online databases, or learned something new from a workshop from people like you will help us make an even bigger impact in our community. GreatNonprofits – the #1 source of nonprofit stories and feedback – is honoring highly regarded nonprofits with their 2021 Top-Rated List.

Won't you help us raise visibility for our work by posting a brief story of your experience with us? All content will be visible to potential donors and volunteers. It's easy and only takes 3 minutes! [Click here](#) to get started!

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

