



Institute for Regional Conservation

August 2024 Newsletter

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Conservation Note

Is it 1984 or have I lost my mind? The great Jonathan Dickinson controversy.



Globally Imperiled Florida Scrub at Jonathan Dickinson State Park

By now, almost all of you will have heard of the bewildering proposal to destroy globally imperiled Florida scrub at Jonathan Dickinson State Park, chock full of endemic, rare, and threatened plants and animals, including many state-listed species. The reason? To build a golf course and provide other “improvements.”

Aside from the normal whiff of improper political influence and public agencies forgetting their central mandate to protect

What is fundamentally wrong with this statement?

Florida has spent billions of dollars restoring ecosystems and will continue to spend billions in the future. We are in the middle of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. The European Union has just passed the transformational EU Nature Restoration Law. What we know is that most native ecosystems have been degraded in Florida and around the world. Ecological

irreplaceable natural resources, there is something else insidious here that deserves critical attention. Following the extreme negative public response following disclosure of the plan, Governor DeSantis said ““As if they were going to try to take away unspoiled land. No, there was almost 1,000 buildings on that base back in the day. There's still some remnants of it.”



Photo: Largeflower rosegentian (*Sabatia grandiflora*)



Photo: Saw palmetto in scrub habitat

All of the photos above were provided by Michelle Smith, IRC Program Associate.

restoration is imperative to stop the extinction crisis, respond to climate change, and deliver essential ecosystem services like clean water and breathable air. But imagine a world in which any ecosystem restored or being restored can be destroyed with the stroke of a pen because it is not ‘unspoiled’. Are the Everglades next?



Photo: A gopher tortoise in habitat at Jonathan Dickinson State Park,



Photo: Arial photo looking east from the Hobe Mountain Observation Tower

One of the eight globally agreed principles of ecological restoration is *Ecological Restoration Supports Ecosystem Recovery Processes* (Gann et al. 2019). Nature, assisted by appropriate restoration measures, can be highly effective at recovery – in fact Nature is way more efficient than we are. Yes, there were many buildings in the past where scrub is now at Jonathan Dickinson. This is not something negative, but rather a testament to the power of Nature and the good works of the Florida Park Service. This recovery is an incredible success story to be celebrated, not something to be diminished to sell off another piece of Florida to the politically connected.

George Gann
Founder and Executive Director

Upcoming Events

**Coastal Conservation Workshop-
Guided Nature Tour & BioBlitz at
North Beach Oceanside Park -
Miami Beach**

Friday, September 13th-10am to 12pm

Join the Institute for Regional Conservation and Miami Botanical Garden with support from Miami Beach Rising Above for a guided nature tour at North Beach Oceanside Park in Miami Beach. IRC and Miami Botanical Garden will host a fun and educational nature walk within the tropical hammock and beach dunes and discuss the importance of coastal conservation. Volunteers will learn how to identify coastal native plants, the importance in building a biodiverse dune system and how that help protect from storms and so much more. We will be using the app iNaturalist to "BioBlitz" local flora and fauna that we encounter on our nature walk. This is event is open to everyone of all ages.

It is a great way to gain community service hours. To sign up check out our [IRC events page](#) and scroll to the Boca Raton Flyer for more details.

Ecological Restoration Volunteer Day - South Pointe Park - Miami Beach

Saturday, September 14th-9am to 11am

Join the Institute for Regional Conservation in this exciting project with the City of Miami Beach! On Saturday, September 14th from 9am to 11am. IRC and our volunteers will be working together to plant a variety of native plants to the beach dune along South Pointe Park in Miami Beach. Volunteers will assist with installing native plants into the ground and learn about coastal ecosystems.

It is a great way to gain community service hours. To sign up check out our [IRC events page](#) and scroll to the Boca Raton Flyer for more details.

Ecological Restoration Volunteer Day - Palmetto Bay Park- Village of Palmetto Bay

Saturday, September 14th-9am to 11am

Join the Institute for Regional Conservation for an ecological restoration volunteer day at the Palmetto Bay Park Pineland Preserve in the Village of Palmetto Bay, Miami, FL. The event is on the morning of Saturday, September 14th from 9am to 11am. Come learn all about the importance of preserving Pine Rocklands and help us install native plant species that will increase the biodiversity of this critical ecosystem. This is a family friendly event! You can also receive service hours.



Restoring the Gold Coast Program
The Institute for Regional Conservation

COASTAL CONSERVATION EDUCATION WORKSHOP

GUIDED NATURE WALK AND BIOBLITZ
Come learn about coastal ecosystems, native plants and take part in citizen science using the iNaturalist app.

Where: North Beach Oceanside Park
8328 Collins Ave, Miami Beach, FL 33141
When: Friday, September 13th from 10am-12pm

Register at: bit.ly/MBRestoration

MIAMI BEACH BOTANICAL GARDEN | Institute for Regional Conservation | MIAMI BEACH RISING ABOVE



Restoring the Gold Coast Program
The Institute for Regional Conservation

ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION VOLUNTEER DAY

Help us install native plants & learn about coastal ecosystem conservation!

Where: South Pointe Park
1 Washington Ave, Miami Beach, FL 33139
*Meet us at our south-end boardwalk/pier stairs
When: Saturday, September 14th from 9-11am

Register at: bit.ly/MBRestoration
An email with more details will be sent out upon registration

MIAMI BEACH BOTANICAL GARDEN | Institute for Regional Conservation | MIAMI BEACH RISING ABOVE



ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION VOLUNTEER EVENT

When:
Saturday, September 14th
9am - 11am

Where: Palmetto Bay Park
17535 SW 95th Ave, Palmetto Bay, FL 33157

Come learn about pine rocklands and install native plants with us!

Register at:
regionalconservation.org/ircs/Events.asp
More details will be sent by email after registration

The Institute for Regional Conservation | Village of Palmetto Bay

It is a great way to gain community service hours. To sign up check out our [IRC events page](#) and scroll to the Boca Raton Flyer for more details.

Ecological Restoration Volunteer Day - South Beach Park - Boca Raton

Saturday, September 28th-9am to 11am

Join the Institute for Regional Conservation in this exciting project with the City of Boca Raton! On Saturday, September 28th from 9am to 11am. IRC and our volunteers will be working together to plant a variety of native plants to the beach dune along South Beach Park. Volunteers will assist with installing native plants into the ground and learn about coastal ecosystems. We will also remove some nonnative plants.

It is a great way to gain community service hours. To sign up check out our [IRC events page](#) and scroll to the Boca Raton Flyer for more details.

Restoring the Gold Coast Program
The Institute for Regional Conservation

ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION VOLUNTEER DAY

With the City of Boca Raton

Join us for an Ecological Restoration Day focused on installing native coastal species to the dunes!

Where: South Beach Park
400 N State Road A1A,
Boca Raton, FL 33432

When: Saturday,
September 28th
9am-11am

Register at:
regionalconservation.org/ircs/Events.asp

A confirmation email containing all the event details will be sent to all registered participants on the day prior to the event.

We Need Help With:

- Installing native plants on the beach dunes
- Mild debris clean up
- Invasive species removal

City of Boca Raton
OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY

Upcoming Fundraiser

Restoring the Link Between People and Nature A Do Good Delray Event

AN IRC FUNDRAISING EVENT

RESTORING THE LINK BETWEEN PEOPLE AND NATURE

OCTOBER 3RD 2024

FROM 5:00PM TO 8:30PM

Join us for a fun family friendly event!

DELRAY BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

3 NE 1ST ST.
DELRAY BEACH, FL 33444

TICKETS: \$45 KIDS \$5

TO GET TICKETS VISIT THE WEBSITE BELOW OR SCAN THE QR CODE

Meander the Native Gardens, Enjoy Great Food & Drinks, Exhibits, Silent Auction and Kids Activities

WWW.REGIONALCONSERVATION.ORG

Institute for Regional Conservation
DELRAY BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY and HERITAGE GARDENS

AN IRC FUNDRAISING EVENT

RESTORING THE LINK BETWEEN PEOPLE AND NATURE

OCTOBER 3RD 2024

BECOME A SPONSOR

POLLINATOR RESTORER - \$1,000
logo on all promotional materials, booth at event, 3 shout outs during trivia and plug in IRC newsletter

CONSERVATION CULTIVATOR - \$500
logo on all promotional materials, 1 shout out during trivia and plug in IRC newsletter

GARDEN GUARDIAN - \$250
1 shout out during trivia and plug in IRC newsletter

BEE KIND - \$100
name appears on list of donors

WWW.REGIONALCONSERVATION.ORG

Institute for Regional Conservation
DELRAY BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY and HERITAGE GARDENS

OUR ANNUAL FUNDRAISING EVENT IS HERE!

BUY TICKETS TODAY!

We're thrilled to announce an upcoming fundraising occasion in collaboration with Do Good Delray, hosted by the [Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce](#). This year, we're joining forces with [Central Park Taekwondo - Delray Beach](#), again and our focus is set on generating funds for our programs, such as our [Pine Rockland Initiative](#) and [Restoring the Gold Coast](#) programs.

Save the specifics:

Date: Thursday, October 3rd

Time: 5:00pm - 8:30pm

Location: [Delray Beach Historical Society](#)

This event is designed for **all ages** to enjoy. Anticipate a delightful array of food, beverages, face painting, trivia, raffles, and much more!

Secure your tickets without delay - just [click here](#). For those interested in becoming sponsors, additional details can be found on the flyer above and by [clicking here](#).

Let's work together to achieve our objective of reaching **\$10,000** in support! Your participation is invaluable.



Spotlight on our Field Technician "Alex Gascon"

We're thrilled to spotlight our field technician, Alex Gascon, who also recently passed his Florida Aquatic Pest Control Training with flying colors! This certification is a testament to his dedication and expertise in managing invasive species and protecting our valuable wetland ecosystems. His achievement not only enhances our team's capabilities but also strengthens our commitment to conservation excellence. Congratulations, Alex Gascon, on this well-deserved accomplishment!



Thank you to all who have supported IRC's programs with a \$20 or larger donation in the last month: Sally Areson and Constance Lyons.

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

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.

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.

If you're interested in being a sponsor of Natives For Your Neighborhood, please reach out to **Katherine Hardial**.

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



White stopper
(*Eugenia axillaris*)

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.

Coastal Conservation Education Workshop with IRC & Miami Beach Botanical Garden

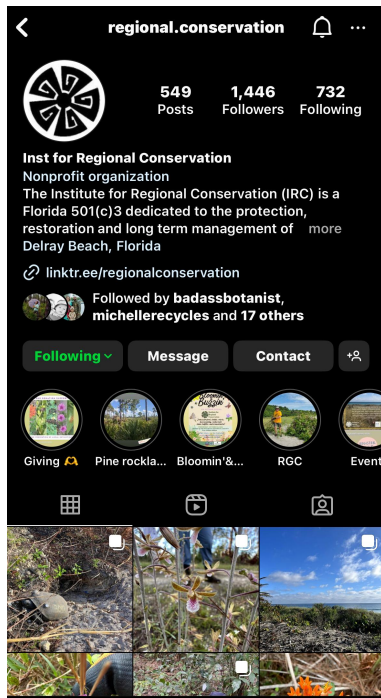
Thanks to the Miami Beach Rising Grant and with support from the Miami Beach Botanical Garden, IRC hosted the 1st of 4 educational events on Saturday, August 3rd. Volunteers of all ages learned about the importance of creating

a biodiverse dune system, participated in a tour led by Riki Bonnema, the horticulturalist for the Miami Beach Botanical Garden, and planted native coastal dune seeds for the nursery.

If you're looking to get involved, make sure to check out our [IRC events page](#) for upcoming volunteer events.



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.



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

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