



**Institute for
Regional
Conservation**

August 2025 Newsletter

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Conservation Note

Urban Arboriculture as Ecological Restoration

This February, IRC was honored once again to sponsor the Annual Conference on Tropical Arboriculture in Mérida, Mexico, founded by our board member, Dr. Jorge Carlos Trejo. I was privileged to present a talk at the conference, hosted by the Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán (UADY), on a topic central to our mission: reframing urban arboriculture through the lens of ecosystem restoration.

The urgency is real. Mérida, like so many cities worldwide, is experiencing the intensifying urban heat island effect. Without bold action, rising temperatures will place both infrastructure and human health at risk. But urban greening offers a way forward. By designing ecological corridors, planting native species, and integrating biodiversity into everyday urban life, cities can cool their environments, support wildlife, and reconnect people to nature — creating what Singapore calls a “City in a Garden.”



IRC signs an MOU with Asociación Mexicana de Arboricultura (AMA).
Photo on left: IRC Board Member Dr. Carlos Jorge Trejo-Torres, IRC Associate Dr. Diego Carmona, AMA President Víctor Velasco López, IRC Board Chair Robert Heinzman, AMA Quintana Roo Chair Rafael Reynoso Valdez.
Photo Right: Celebratory dinner after the conference.

This vision aligns with IRC's Regional Conservation Models (RCM), which integrates science, community, and long-term strategies to conserve biodiversity at regional scales. We are excited to explore extending this proven approach into the Yucatán, amplifying local expertise and capacity.

We also celebrate the signing of a MOU with the Asociación Mexicana de Arboricultura, advancing joint projects in ecological restoration, arboriculture, and urban biodiversity conservation. And we are delighted to welcome a new [IRC associate](#), Dr. Diego Carmelo of UADY, whose innovative work — from restoring Yucatecan dry forest to designing green roofs inspired by sidewalk crack plants — embodies the creativity and urgency of restoration in a warming world.

Together, we are building resilience — one tree, one city, one region at a time.

Robert Heinzman
Vice President & Chair of the Board

Upcoming Events



Saturday, September 6th - Ecological Restoration Day at Red Reef Park

Join IRC for an ecological restoration volunteer event with the City of Boca Raton at Red Reef Park. We will be planting native species at one of our existing dune restoration sites. We will also continue removing invasive dune species to make room for plantings and allow for natural regeneration.

We hope you will come volunteer with us and help install native plants. To sign up for this event, visit [here](#).

You're invited! Join Us!

4th Annual Fundraiser



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OCTOBER 17, 2025

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

EARTH GUARDIAN \$1000

Logo on all promotional materials, optional booth at the event.
Three shout outs during trivia and plug in IRC newsletter.

NATURE LOVER \$500

Logo on all promotional materials, one shout out during trivia
and plug in IRC newsletter

POLLINATOR \$250

One shout out during trivia and plug in IRC newsletter

BEE KIND \$100

Name appears on list of donors

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Recent Events

Saturday, August 2nd - Ecological Restoration Day at Galaxy Sand Pine Scrub Preserve

Thank you to our fantastic volunteers for participating in our ecological restoration event at Galaxy Sand Pine Scrub Preserve. We had a successful day kicking off our first RUN (Reviving Urban Nature) Program event. With over thirty volunteers, we removed patches of pesky invasive snake plant. We then worked together to plant over 200 native plant species, enhancing the biodiversity and a health of the



scrub ecosystem. Some of these species include Gopher-apple (*Licania michauxii*), Narrowleaf silkgrass (*Pityopsis graminifolia*), Scrub palmetto (*Sabal etonia*), and Erect prickly pear (*Opuntia stricta*).

Thank you to Chris Lockhart of Habitat Specialists Inc., and the City of Boynton Beach for partnering with IRC and making this event possible. We thank everyone who took part in our RUN Program to restore urban areas of South Florida.

Link to more event photos [here](#).



Saturday, August 23rd - Ecological Restoration Day at South Beach Park, Boca Raton

Thank you to the City of Boca Raton and our volunteers for a successful ecological restoration event at South Beach Park. We started off by removing large patches of invasive Beach naupaka and trimming back Seagrapes that were encroaching on the dunes. We also planted a variety of native species in the dune. Some of the plants we installed included Beach Jacquemontia, Seaside goldenrod, and Dune sunflower.

We have one more beach event coming up in September please join us!

As always thank you to all the volunteers for your continued support. And a special thank you to Michael Kohner for his donation of native plants!



Saturday, August 30th - Ecological Restoration Day at Gopher Tortoise Preserve, Boca Raton

Thank you to our fantastic volunteers for participating in our ecological restoration event at Gopher Tortoise Scrub Preserve. We had a successful event promoting our RUN (Reviving Urban Nature) Program. With over thirty volunteers, we installed almost 400 native plants. This is Phase I of a two Phase project where we are restoring critically endangered scrub habitat. Some of the species installed included Gopher-apple (*Licania michauxii*), Narrowleaf silkgrass (*Pityopsis graminifolia*), Whitemouth dayflower (*Commelina erecta*), and Largeflower false-rosemary (*Conradina grandiflora*).

Thank you to Michael Kohner for his continued support and special thanks to multiple staff members within the City of Boca Raton to make



this possible. Stay tuned for Phase II planting that will take part in late October.



Natives For Your Neighborhood Sponsor Spotlight



This month we would like to highlight [Natives of Corkscrew](#) Nursery located in Fort Myers, Florida. They have an extensive variety of native species in their inventory and are very knowledgeable when it comes to selecting the best native plants for your next landscape project. Their specialty is providing locally grown trees, shrubs, wildflowers and grasses.

We thank Natives of Corkscrew 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: Sabrina Carle, Julia Flynn, Jose Garcia.

Thank you to our **Monthly Sustainers** who donate \$25 or more each month: John Campanola, James Duncan, Maria Rowley, Lindsay Bohner 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 [Stacy Brown](#).

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



[Piriqueta cistoides](#)
([Pitted stripeeed](#))

Photo credit: Liz Dutra

Special Thanks to Michael Kohner for his continued support and donation of native plants for our events!

PLEASE DONATE

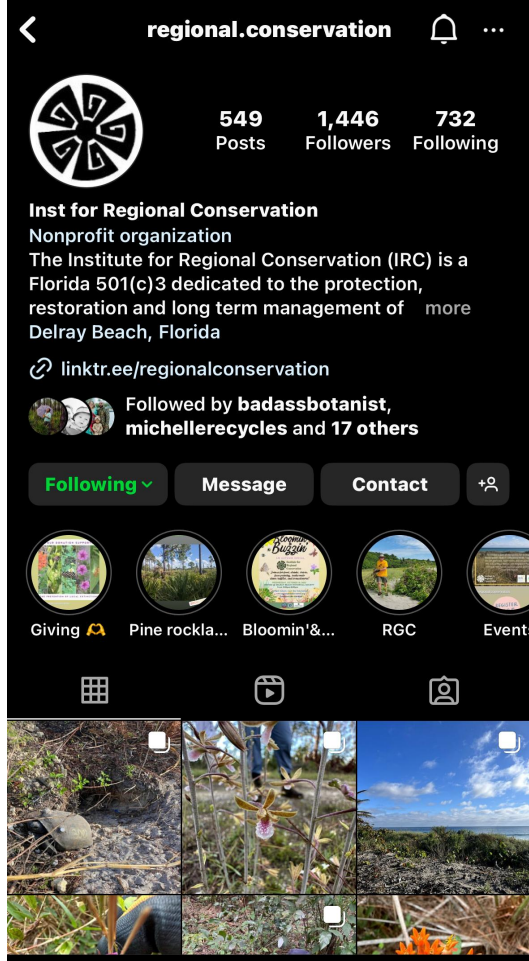
Your donations empower us to enhance our free online resources, safeguard rare plants and animals, restore native ecosystems, and champion more effective public policies for conservation.

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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