



## August 2020 Newsletter

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### Monthly Conservation Note

#### Good News

On Saturday, I met with one of IRC's major supporters at Atlantic Dunes Park, in Delray Beach. We talked about the pandemic, political polarization, the extinction and climate crises, and other modern-day challenges. But rather than having this discourse over the internet, we walked through the middle of a long-term and ongoing ecological restoration project. We could see both the results of our efforts to date, and the extent of the work that remained; the mistakes of the past (like letting invasive species and seagrape trees overwhelm the incredible and rare diversity of the historical coastal strand), and opportunities to get it right in the future.

At one point, the supporter said (and I am paraphrasing), "With all of the challenges and negativity all around us, I need to support positive efforts, I need Good News!"

Our work is always a challenge and we are always fighting against the headwinds of powerful forces: political, financial, and social. To stay focused on our mission, we must acknowledge what is at stake, like the extinction of species and the annihilation of native ecosystems. But, ultimately we must be in the Good News business if we are to thrive. So I hope you take a moment and enjoy our Newsletter this month. There is much to celebrate, especially given the odds.

**George Gann**

*Founder and Executive Director*





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

Erin L. Deady, P.A., Gayle Kolasa, Janice Duquesnel, Julie Cheon, Amy Kimball, Michael Kohner, Monique Picon, and Dave Porfiri, plus two anonymous donors. Also, a special shoutout to our monthly donors Barbara McAdam, Steven Green, Stephen Jones, and Steven Schuemann.

We raised \$2,827 this month, including \$2,000 for Restoring the Gold Coast! 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.

IRC has an E-Trade account, so please contact us about giving gifts of stock.

**DONATE**

## Restoring the Gold Coast Update

August has been a busy month for Restoring the Gold Coast! We had a planting event with surf campers from Under Blue Waters in Delray Beach and our first restoration events at Red Reef Park in Boca Raton. (See "Recent IRC News & Events" later in this this newsletter.)

We are excited to have a few **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES** that will be available this fall to a small number of participants! These are not open to the public right now so that we can keep numbers small and maintaining social distancing. Let us know if you are interested in helping at planting events, or



with follow-up watering or maintenance. We also continue to offer our **Biodiversity Starter Plant Kits** and **Coastal Consultations**.

To volunteer or for more information, please email Cara Abbott ([abbott@regionalconservation.org](mailto:abbott@regionalconservation.org)). And thanks again to our major sponsor - **Impact 100 Palm Beach County**.

## Pine Rockland Initiative Update

This past month, Miami-Dade Fire Rescue and Miami-Dade County Department of Environmental Resources Management's forestry staff conducted a second prescribed burn this year at **Ned Glenn Nature Preserve**. Prescribed burning is an essential management tool where fragmentation makes natural fire impossible. IRC's recent work at Ned Glenn, including invasive species control and native hardwood reduction, has made these prescribed burns safer and more effective. We will follow up in the coming months to take advantage of this burn to further reduce invasive species populations and help monitor the recovery of rare species responding to the fire. These efforts would not be possible without the collaboration with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Miami-Dade County's Environmentally Endangered Lands Program, and Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens.



Photo of the Ned Glenn Nature Preserve prescribed burn courtesy of the **Town of Cutler Bay Facebook Page**.

## Puerto Rico Facebook Page Update from IRC Research Associate Jorge Carlos Trejo-



**Plantas en Puerto Rico / Plants in Puerto Rico**  
Public group · 7.6K members

About Discussion Announcements Rooms Members Events Media Files

Octavio Rivera Hernández  
Visual Storyteller · 6h

Psychilis x raganii?  
Sabana Grande



Carolus Trejo, Steve Maldonado Silvestrini and 13 others · 14 Comments

Like Comment Share

View 2 more comments

Steve Maldonado Silvestrini · I say yes  
Like · Reply · 6h

View 6 more replies

Steve Maldonado Silvestrini · Yo nunca llevo libros pal campo  
Like · Reply · See Translation · 6h

View 2 more replies

Ricardo Valentin Si, Psychilis x raganii,  
Like · Reply · 6h

Plantas en Puerto Rico

Inicio PP & Cita / IR Home & Citation | Guia Verde / Green Guide | Agro Guia Verde / Agro Green Guide | Info-Botanica / Info-Botany | Online Resources

Listo de Plantas por Especie o Familia / Plants por Area de Conservación - Plantas por Elevación  
Búsqueda Rápida · Búsqueda Avanzada · Búsqueda de Sinónimos

List of Plants by Species or Family / Plants by Conservation Area · Plants by Elevation  
Quick Search · Advanced Search · Search Synonyms

Búsqueda Rápida / Quick Search

\* Texto de Búsqueda / Search String:

Buscar/Search · Despejar/Clear

\*\* Escribir un nombre o parte de un nombre/Type a name or a part of a name.

The Puerto Rico Facebook page "["Plants in Puerto Rico"](#)" is a bilingual Spanish/English forum for everybody, from experts to newcomers. I opened the page in May 2015, and today it has more than 7,500 members. We discuss many topics about regional plants, both native and introduced, either wild or cultivated, including plant identification. Other general topics include agriculture, horticulture, and lately, gardening. Though the page focuses on Puerto Rico, many topics are more universal regarding botanical sciences, botanical history, and botanical arts. This Facebook page aligns with IRC's ["Plants of the island of Puerto Rico webpage"](#), which provides floristic data on all native and naturalized plants on the island of Puerto Rico, including historical information on rare species.

The current COVID pandemic was immediately reflected in the group, as hundreds of members have been added. During March – June 2020, we gained about 500 members per month. A great proportion of new members were specifically interested in home gardening or family food production, as one might expect.

To improve the quality of the information in the posts, I started a campaign inviting members to include the locality of the plants in their posts. Also to help maintain order and style, two new administrators were added in addition to IRC's Chief Conservation Strategist, George Gann, who has provided assistance as needed. We thank Steve Maldonado and Christian Torres for becoming administrators and providing critical assistance managing the page. We also thank many active members who feed the group with interesting and beautiful contributions.

Next month, check out an update from IRC Research Associate Mike Barry, on a collaborative project between Jobos Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (JBNERR) in south Puerto Rico and Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research

J. Carlos Trejo-Torres  
IRC Research Associate  
Mérida, Mexico

## "Meet Our Team" Spotlights

### Board Member - Donna Shore

Donna Shore has a long and rich history in professional and volunteer environmental and social work. A graduate of American University in Communications, Law, Economics, and Government, she is a founding member of The Institute for Regional Conservation and was a participant in IRC's signature Amazonas expedition to the Brazilian Amazon. That trip became the catalyst for her lifelong commitment to understanding the myriad interconnections that make up our planet, human and natural. She has worked as an executive-level project manager since the late 1980s, including as Assistant to the Chair of Earth Day 1990, which is today the largest secular holiday celebrated in the world. She has also worked in the entertainment, publishing, political, professional translating, and art sectors and is dedicated to developing and advancing programs that further sustainability. She joined the IRC Board in 2005 and is currently Executive Assistant to the CEO of a private national investment firm. Donna lives in northern California with her husband and two sons and is an active volunteer in her community.



### Research Associate - Sandy Koi

Sandy is a Ph.D. student at Florida International University's Department of Earth and Environment, where she is researching at-risk plant and insect taxa in selected pine rockland fragments. Her scientific research primarily revolves around the object of her thesis, the Atala butterfly (*Eumaeus atala*), an imperiled South Florida species that she has been studying since 2001. Sandy currently



spearheads an assisted relocation project for the Atala butterfly from eruption sites into suitable new sites in southeastern Florida. She actively coordinates butterfly surveys for organizations such as the North American Butterfly Association (NABA), Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI), and IRC. She is a contributing member of the Imperiled Butterfly Working Group (IBWG) and a founding member of the Miami Pine Rocklands Coalition. Many of her photographs and plant information about South Florida butterfly host and nectar plants grace the national NABA website. In addition to her other talents, Sandy is also a biological illustrator.



Congratulations are also in order as Sandy and former IRC CEO Craig van der Heiden recently published an article titled "Butterfly Diversity on a Southeast Florida Military Base Located within an Urban Matrix" in the Journal of Zoological Research, [available here](#).



## Recent IRC News & Events

### Red Reef Park - Coastal Restoration

This month IRC began restoration work at Red Reef Park in Boca Raton, as part of our Restoring the Gold Coast program. After removing patches of invasive Beach naupaka (*Scaevola taccada*), we added more than 75 plants including Horizontal coco-plum (*Chrysobalanus icaco*), Yellow neclacepod (*Sophora tomentosa* var. *truncata*), Baycedar (*Suriana maritima*), and Sea-lavender (*Tournefortia gnaphalodes*).

Special thanks to Keith Buttry and his daughter, Zamia, from Neglected Plants, Inc., Mike Cangey from Coastal Growers Inc., and Ian Wilkinson for helping with the work. We thank Coastal Growers and Silent Native Nursery for many donated or discounted plants; Michael Kohner for watering newly added plants; and Lindsey



Nieratka and Singletary Kinlaw from the City of Boca Raton, for help coordinating this event.

## Restoring the Gold Coast with Under Blue Waters



IRC had the pleasure of working with Under Blue Waters at a planting event in Delray Beach. Led by IRC Education & Outreach Coordinator, Cara Abbott, campers learned about coastal conservation first hand! They helped plant Sea-lavender and Baycedar plants before spending the rest of their day out on the water.



Special thanks to Bob Cawood of Outdoor Youth Adventures for helping us coordinate this event. Also thank you to Coastal Growers Inc. for donating plants and helping with installation and watering, and to George Gann and his daughter Maya for helping with logistics.



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 | [Website](#)

