



Institute for Regional Conservation

December 2021 Newsletter

In This Issue...

- Monthly Conservation Note - Thanks for a Great Year
- Thank You to Our Donors
- Red Reef Volunteer Day
- Florida City Pineland Volunteer Day
- Robert Morgan Educational Center Pine Rockland
- "Meet Our Team" Spotlight - Research Associate J. Carlos Trejo Torres, Ph.D.
- LinkedIn

[View as Webpage](#)

Monthly Conservation Note

Thanks for a Great Year

On behalf of the staff and Board, thanks for a great year despite all the craziness. We know everyone is busy, so we wanted to keep this short and sweet. See you next year!

George Gann

Founder and Executive Director





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

William Petry, Garden Club of Palm Beach, Amy Atkins, Rick & Beryn Harty, Steven Woodmansee, Michelle Fiore, Sharyn Ladner, Mary Chandler, Arlene Ferris, and Luis Garcia.

Thank you to our monthly sustainers who donate \$25 or more each month:

Barbara McAdam and Valerie Seasholtz

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.

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.

Red Reef Volunteer Day

On December 17, IRC had the privilege of hosting a Restoring the Gold Coast volunteer day at Red Reef Park in Boca Raton. Thank you to the City of Boca Raton, Gumbo Limbo Nature Center staff, and volunteers for helping us continue to restore native biodiversity at this coastal park!

Together, we removed several large patches of the invasive *Scaevola taccada* (Beach naupaka). We also cut back some sea grapes to open up an area containing a beautiful patch of the federally endangered *Jacquemontia reclinata* (Beach clustervine) to provide more sunlight. Finally, we increased diversity of native plants in the coastal strand by adding plants such as *Serenoa repens* (Saw palmetto), *Jacquemontia reclinata* (Beach clustervine), *Ernodea littoralis* (Beach-creeper), and *Dalea floridana* (Florida prairieclover).

For more photos from the event, [click here](#).



Florida City Pineland Volunteer Day



On December 11, Miami-Dade Environmentally Endangered Lands Program (EEL) in conjunction with IRC's Pine Rockland Initiative had a terrific day at Florida City pineland in Southern Miami-Dade county. Thank you to all the volunteers for a great job cleaning up debris along the edges of the preserve. We invite anyone interested in participating in a similar volunteer event to check out the Miami-Dade EEL [event calendar](#).

For more photos from the event, [click here](#).

Robert Morgan Educational Center Pine Rockland

One of our more recent Pine Rockland Initiative projects has been at Robert Morgan Education Center (RMEC) in southern Miami-Dade County. The preserve is a 1.5-acre parcel of pine rockland that is part of the Richmond Tract, the largest contiguous fragment of pine rockland in urban Miami-Dade County. When IRC began work at the Robert Morgan Educational Center (RMEC) pine rockland, the preserve had been relatively unmanaged with little to no invasive plant management for many years. This resulted in an 80% dominance of hardwoods and invasive species, with few pine rockland species remaining.

With support of staff, students, and the community, IRC's restoration efforts have focused on the control of invasive plants in the pineland, including Burmared and Brazilian-pepper, and reducing the cover and height of native hardwoods that grow unchecked without periodic fire. This work has allowed key pine rockland species like Saw palmetto and wildflowers like Narrowleaf silkgrass and Rockland twinflower to recover and flourish. Pineland croton, an important host plant for the federally endangered Bartram's Hairstreak and Florida Leafwing butterflies, and Wedgelet fern,



RMEC Pine Rockland, before restoration began.



RMEC Pine Rockland, immediately following restoration activities in October, 2020.

a state endangered fern, have also reappeared.

This is still a work in progress, but the improved condition of the site will be a huge asset to the community, helping to check the spread of invasive plants into nearby pinelands, and providing a positive learning opportunity for the students. Please support this collaboration by donating and mentioning "RMEC" in the comment section!



RMEC Pine Rockland, on December 30, 2021.

"Meet Our Team" Spotlight



Research Associate **J. Carlos Trejo Torres, Ph.D.**

A native of the Mexican Yucatan, Carlos Trejo is responsible for IRC's program in the Yucatan and also plays a primary role in our work in Puerto Rico and elsewhere in the Caribbean. He is co-author of the IRC websites [Plants of the Island of Puerto Rico](#) and [Plantas del Mayab](#) (Mexican Yucatan Peninsula). He is currently the Chief of the Department of Urban Trees in Merida, Mexico. This position has allowed him to contribute, as a botanical scientist expert in the regional flora, in important programs for the city of Merida such as the development of the App ArbolMid that allows people to know 100 common trees of the City as well as trees present in 450 city parks.

Recently, Carlos had an article titled "Bicentenario de una ley que protegió los árboles en Yucatán, en 1821." published in Desde el Herbario CICY. The full article can be accessed [here](#).

To read more about Carlos's many accomplishments, check out his biography on our [staff page](#) under research associates.

LinkedIn

Did you know IRC is on LinkedIn? Be sure to [connect with us](#) for additional updates and announcements.



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](#)

