



## December 2022 Newsletter

### In This Issue...

- Monthly Conservation Note - "The Power of Nature"
- Happy Holidays from IRC
- Upcoming Events
  - Volunteer Day at Atlantic Dunes Park on January 21
  - Everglades Coalition Annual Conference
- Thank You to Our Donors
- Become a Natives For Your Neighborhood Sponsor
- We're Hiring - Field Technician
- IRC Receives Grant from Florida Wildflower Foundation
- IRC Contributes to Peer-Reviewed Article
- Recent Events
  - Ecological Restoration Volunteer Day at Atlantic Dunes Park
  - UN Decade Monitoring Task Force Panel
  - Presentation for BPOA

[View as Webpage](#)

## Monthly Conservation Note

### The Power of Nature

As 2022 winds down, we prepare to say goodbye to the old and hello to the new. We reflect on accomplishments made and ponder resolutions of ambitious changes moving forward. For IRC, 2022 has been an incredible year and we are extremely grateful for what we have achieved. But sometimes the smallest things remind us of the power of regeneration, the power of nature to heal.

For regular readers, you will know that we have been working at [Atlantic Dunes Park](#) (ADP) in Delray Beach since 2016, slowly restoring some of the coastal

possible? The area it is growing in was well visited. Previously, we had discovered [tropical-puff](#), [Bahama nightshade](#), and [pitted stripeseed](#) nearby, new records for the park. But Walter's groundcherry we have been searching for more than six years. And then there it was!

It may not look like much, but this is incredible; that this little plant survived under a mound of invasive species for decades and still had the energy to emerge into a new world undergoing restoration. It made me reflect on my own

strand that historically dominated the site. Along the way we have planted many native plants and have been surprised by the discovery of native species never before reported from the site. Remove invasive species and restore the right conditions and nature's abundance will be revealed.

But I have to say, I was really surprised when I visited ADP a few days ago with Mary Wozny from the City of Delray Beach's sustainability office. I was showing her an area where we started removing [Brazilian-pepper](#) back in 2020 when I saw something just emerging – [Walter's groundcherry](#), a native wildflower not reported from Atlantic Dunes Park in more than 30 years. How is that even

resolutions for the New Year. Maybe I would be better served laying the groundwork for many little unexpected changes rather than one big (likely unattainable) goal. Only time will tell!

George Gann  
*Founder and Executive Director*



Walter's groundcherry. Last reported for Atlantic Dunes Park by Rob Barron in 1991.

---

## Happy Holidays from IRC!

On behalf of everyone at IRC, we would like to wish you a wonderful holiday season and happy new year! We could not fulfill our vision of uniting people and nature to restore our world without the support of people like you.



*Happy Holidays and Happy New Year From all of us at The Institute for Regional Conservation*



## Upcoming Events

### Volunteer Day at Atlantic Dunes Park on January 21

Join us for a Restoring the Gold Coast ecological restoration volunteer day at Atlantic Dunes Park in Delray Beach on Saturday, January 21 from 9am - 12pm. We will be increasing biodiversity by planting native species and continuing to remove the non native, invasive Brazilian-pepper.

To sign up, [click here!](#)

**Restoring the Gold Coast Program**  
The Institute for Regional Conservation

*Atlantic Dunes Park*  
**ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION VOLUNTEER DAY**

• SATURDAY JANUARY 21ST 2023 •

FROM 9 am-12 pm  
SIGN UP BELOW

JOIN THE INSTITUTE FOR REGIONAL CONSERVATION FOR AN EXCITING DAY INSTALLING PLANTS AND REMOVING BRAZILIAN-PEPPER FROM ADP

WWW.VOLUNTEERMATCH.ORG/SEARCH/OPP3630714.JSP

DELRAY BEACH  
Parks & Recreation

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
of Palm Beaches and West County  
Our Mission: Our Community. Better Together.

Atlantic Dunes Park

### Everglades Coalition Annual Conference

IRC is excited to be participating in the



## 38th Annual Everglades Coalition

Conference in Coral Springs on January 26-28, 2023. This is the largest forum for discussing Everglades restoration progress, challenges, and opportunities.

The conference brings together diverse stakeholders including conservation groups, elected officials, business leaders, local, state, tribal and federal partners, scientists, and students to engage in meaningful dialogue about restoring America's Everglades.

Be sure to check out the panel titled, "Tragedies and Triumphs: Addressing the Everglades Biodiversity Crisis" on January 28 from 4-5pm to hear from IRC Executive Director, George Gann. To register, [click here](#).



**Thank you** to all who have supported IRC's programs with a \$20 or larger donation in the last month: Kathryn Doolittle, Erin Deady, Sierra Club Management, Rick Harty, Carlos Reverte, John Edwards, Sharyn Ladner, Joan C Keating, Kathryn Villano, and Sky-Bolt Enterprises.

Thank you to Steven Schuemann, Stephen Jones and our **Monthly Sustainers** who donate \$25 or more each month: Barbara McAdam, 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.

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

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.



Northern Cardinal. Copyright by: Beryn Harty, 2022.



## How to Become a Natives For Your Neighborhood Sponsor

**SPONSORSHIP LEVELS**

HERBACEOUS	EMERGENT	CANOPY
Your name and a link to your website under "Additional Sponsors"	Your icon and/or name with a link to your website on the right bar visible on all pages guaranteed to be among the top spots. This includes plant lists and plant details.	Your icon and/or name with a link to your site on the right bar on the home page and visible on all subsequent pages including plant lists and plant details.
\$100	\$1,000+	\$250+

Did you know that we have sponsorships available for Florida nurseries that sell native plants and other organizations that promote native plants? For a yearly fee you can have your nursery or organization prominently displayed on [Natives For Your Neighborhood](#) and can even list the species you carry directly on our individual plant pages. This is a great opportunity to support our free online resource while gaining exposure to over 1,400 weekly users who are interested in the species your nursery provides.

For more information, contact our Program Associate, [Michelle Smith](#).

## We're Hiring - Field Technician

We're HIRING! IRC is looking to hire up to 2 new field technician positions for our Pine Rockland Initiative Program.

An ideal candidate would be someone willing to learn the safe use and handling of herbicide, and operation of machinery such as chainsaws and brushcutters. Must be able to lift and carry 50 pounds. A working knowledge of South Florida plants (native and nonnative) is preferred. Our team members receive in depth training on restoration techniques and come away with an advanced knowledge of native and nonnative plant species.

To apply, send a cover letter and resume to [Cara Abbott](#).

**We're Hiring!**  
**CAN YOU OPERATE A CHAINSAW?**  
**FIELD TECHNICIAN**

Our Ecological Restoration Team is growing! We are looking to hire TWO additional field technicians to work on our Pine Rockland Initiative in Miami-Dade County. This is an entry level position, perfect for recent graduates or others looking to gain field experience while learning how to restore this important, imperiled habitat. Must be able to lift 50 lbs and operate machinery, such as a chainsaw!

Those interested should email a copy of their resume or CV with a letter of interest to [abbott@regionalconservation.org](mailto:abbott@regionalconservation.org)

**Institute for Regional Conservation**

# Foundation

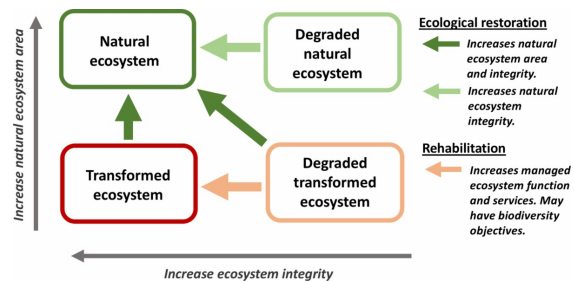


We are excited to share that the **Florida Wildflower Foundation** (FWF) has continued their support of Natives For Your Neighborhood (NFYN) with a \$5,000 grant. We plan to use this funding to continue expanding NFYN northward, continue adding wildlife to NFYN and to link to some of the amazing resources FWF provides on their website.

## IRC Contributes to New Peer-Reviewed Article

IRC's Executive Director, George Gann, helped author a new peer-reviewed paper titled, "Setting ambitious international restoration objectives for terrestrial ecosystems for 2030 and beyond." This paper came out just in time for the UN Convention on Biological Diversity COP 15, explaining the special role of ecological restoration in recovering ecosystem integrity and increasing area of natural ecosystems.

To read the article, [click here](#).



Contributions of ecological restoration and rehabilitation to the goals of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

## Recent Events

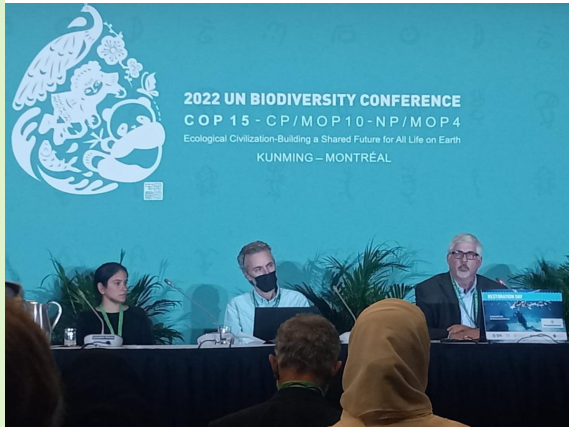
### Ecological Restoration Volunteer Day at Atlantic Dunes Park

We had a great turnout at our Ecological Restoration Volunteer Day at Atlantic Dunes Park in Delray Beach on December 3rd. We had beautiful, cool weather to haul away and remove countless Brazilian-pepper branches, Beach naupaka, and Oysterplant (all of which are invasive and harmful to the ecosystem). This hard work made room in the forested area to add plant diversity at future restoration work days. Stay tuned for future volunteer days!



Thank you to the City of Delray Beach, the Community Foundation of Palm Beach and Martin Counties, New York Life, Neglected Plants Nursery and our amazing volunteers!

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



## UN Decade Monitoring Task Force Panel

On December 13th, IRC's Executive Director and SER's International Policy Lead, George Gann, participated in the UN Decade Monitoring Task Force panel at COP 15. The panel presented the methodology for reporting transparent data on restoration in support of monitoring the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and Target 2 of CBD's Global Biodiversity Framework.

To view a recording, [click here](#) and begin at 7:08:07 to see George and his colleagues.

## Presentation for Beach Property Owners Association

On December 19, IRC Executive Director, George Gann, gave a presentation titled, "Restoring Resilience and Beauty - The Dunes of Delray Beach" to the general members meeting of the [BPOA of Delray Beach](#).



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](#)  
Newsletter Editor: Cara Abbott

