



IRC December 2016 Newsletter

IRC Senior Biologist Featured on National Geographic Channel

IRC's Senior Biologist, Michael Barry, will be featured in an episode of "Years of Living Dangerously" on the National Geographic Channel on Wednesday December 7th at 10:00 pm. Mike will be sharing his passion for climate change issues with episode host, Bradley Whitford. For more information on the episode, [click here](#) and to watch a preview of the episode [click here](#).



IRC Launches Newly Designed Website

We are excited to announce the launch of our newly updated website! This new format is the result of months of work and a collaborative team effort. In particular, we would like to thank [Leif Gann-Matzen](#) for his wonderful design skills and help in transitioning our website to a more user friendly version on both desktops and smartphones. If you haven't seen our [homepage](#) in the last couple weeks, check it out and let us know what you think! We will also be updating our online databases to a more responsive format in 2017 so stay tuned for those changes as well.



Pineland Croton Propagation Project Takes Off

The first of many pineland croton (*Croton linearis Euphorbiaceae*) seedlings to emerge from seed, marks

the beginning of an effort to restore imperiled pine rockland habitat in the lower Florida Keys. IRC, in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Dagny Johnson Key Largo Hammock Botanical State Park Nursery, has initiated a large scale propagation effort that aims to plant thousands of pineland crotons throughout its native habitat within the National Key Deer Refuge on Big Pine Key.



These plants are the sole larval host plant for the federally endangered Bartram's scrub-hairstreak (*Strymon acis bartrami*) butterflies in South Florida, as well as an important food source for several other butterfly species. Given the increase of development and fire suppression of pine rockland habitat, both Bartram's scrub-hairstreak and pineland croton populations have seen a dramatic decline in recent years.



IRC End of Year Fundraiser Underway

As 2016 comes to a close, we begin preparing for the upcoming year and all we want to accomplish as we fulfill our mission of conserving rare plants, animals and ecosystems. Specifically, we are raising funds to hold a beach restoration event in Delray Beach in February of 2017 and a pine rockland restoration event in Miami in March 2017. We are seeking sponsors at the following levels to make these events a reality. To contribute, either click on the link to our Paypal account below or mail a check to 100 E. Linton Blvd. Ste. 302B Delray Beach, FL 33483.

Spider Orchid Level - \$100
Longclaw Orchid Level - \$50
Butterfly Orchid Level - \$25

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