



Institute for
Regional
Conservation

December 2018 Newsletter



Happy Holidays!

Everyone at IRC would like to wish you all Happy Holidays!

As we traverse this holiday season all of us at the Institute for Regional Conservation want to say *thank you* to everyone who has given their time, financial support and partnership.

Without your generosity, we would not have been able to continue to build bridges:

Bridges between the hard working people who protect endangered habitats and the critical tools they need to do so.

Bridges between the people who write the rules and a vision that protects Florida's endangered biodiversity.

Bridges between people who care and opportunities to restore fragile ecosystems.

Bridges between people and possibility - the possibility that we may ensure our children's rights to experience - and value - the gifts of healthy creative webs of life.

We greatly appreciate your past support and need your continued (and increased!) support to sustain our current level of commitment to the future of our ecosystems.

[Donate](#)

IRC 2018 Project Spotlight

Lake Ida Parcel



With a grant from Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties, IRC has conducted restoration work at the Lake Ida Parcel in Delray Beach. This year, IRC has conducted bimonthly flora and fauna surveys, hosted 6 volunteer day events, and collected survey data on the volunteers. In working with the volunteers and Delray Beach Parks and Recreation, IRC has opened up the southern and eastern portions of the site by removing invasive plants, picking up trash, and planting native species in the areas opened.

Pine Rockland Initiative



With funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and in collaboration with private landowners and Miami-Dade County EEL program, IRC has conducted and continued to work on pine rockland habitats throughout Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties. In the past year, IRC's field crew has worked on over 130 acres of pine rockland treating non-native, invasive plants and native hardwood reduction. IRC has worked at over ten sites including county-owned and privately owned pine rocklands and has held several volunteer days. For this upcoming year, IRC plans to work on at least 60 acres of pine rockland throughout Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties.

Croton Project



IRC has continued to work at the National Key Deer Refuge in Monroe County by planting and monitoring Pineland croton (*Croton linearis*) through a contract with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This year, IRC has replaced the Pineland croton plants that were lost and damaged during Hurricane Irma, prepped new sites for planting, planted more Pineland croton with the help of volunteers, and has collected over 3,000 seeds. This project is to aid in the federally endangered Bartram's scrub-hairstreak (*Strymon acis bartrami*) butterflies, as Pineland croton is the only host plant for the butterfly. In the oncoming months, IRC plans to plant more Pineland croton and continue to monitor the plants for survival, herbivory, and plant recruitment.

Recent IRC News



Our Crew Member, Daniel Bomback (Left), has moved on to new opportunities and our Field Crew Leader, Ruben Sola (Right), has moved on to a new opportunity in Africa.

Everyone at IRC is grateful for their hard work and dedication and wish them both the best in all future endeavors.



Recently, IRC has brought on two new field crew members onto the team, Louis Castillo (Left) and Sarah Solomon (Right)!

Louis has a degree in Environmental Science from FSU and has experience with restoration work, native plants, and managing gardens.

Sarah has a degree in Environmental Engineering from FIU, has experience with native plants, and has participated in past volunteer days with IRC.