



**Institute for
Regional
Conservation**

February 2020 Newsletter

A Tribute to Joyce Gann



We are sad to announce that Joyce Gann, IRC supporter and mother of IRC Executive Director and Chief Conservation Strategist George Gann, passed away on February 21st, 2020, in her home nestled in a South Miami-Dade rockland hammock. Joyce and Don Gann were important supporters and promoters of IRC from its founding. Their extensive experience in growing native plants in the commercial nursery they operated for many years can be seen throughout the IRC's Natives For Your Neighborhood online resource. In providing opportunities for their children to be immersed in nature and among botanists, Joyce and Don also contributed to the birth of the IRC. You can read more about Joyce [here](#). The Board of Directors and staff of IRC extend condolences to Don, George, and family. We will remember her supportive words and smiles at the recent 35th-anniversary celebrations of IRC.

There will be a Celebration of Life this Sunday, March 1st, from 2 pm to 5 pm at Castellow Hammock Park in Miami-Dade County. Please bring a lawn chair and a smile. The family has requested that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Florida Native Plant Society's Conservation Grants in honor of Joyce and Don Gann. The grants fund conservation projects for Florida's rare and imperiled native plants and plant communities. For more information, [click here](#).





Thank you to our recent donors for supporting IRC's programs.

Elizabeth Thompson, Mary Rose, Robert Heinzman, Alicie Warren, Anne Wilson, Anonymous, Donna Shore, John Campanola, Kingsley Dixon, Sara Komoto, Allison Turner, and Steve Sewell.

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

Thank you to our most recent Natives For Your Neighborhood sponsor, [Sustainscape!](#) Sustainscape specializes in native landscape design and installation, as well as, water and soil conservation.

Donations allow us to provide important free resources to the public, land managers, scientists, landscape designers, and enthusiasts of native plants and native plant gardening.

To check out our Natives For Your Neighborhood website, [click here.](#)

**DONATE**

## Recent IRC Activities

### 21st Annual Everglades Day Festival



IRC's Cara Abbott and Samantha Gabriel staffed an exhibitor booth at the 21st Annual Everglades Day Festival in Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge. They shared with visitors about our Pine Rockland Initiative Program, our Restoring the Gold Coast Program, and Natives For Your Neighborhood.

It was so great to see old friends and make new friends who are all passionate about our Earth and Florida's biodiversity. We look forward to attending again next year!



## IRC Presents at Delray Chamber Nonprofit Council

IRC's George Gann spoke at Delray Beach Chamber's Nonprofit Luncheon on *The Institute for Regional Conservation - Conservation in a Changing World*. George talked about IRC's history, current projects like Restoring the Gold Coast and urged attendees to personally get involved with restoring biodiversity.

Thank you Greater Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce for having us. And thank you to all of the awesome nonprofit representatives who came out to listen!



## Volunteer Event at Pine Shore Pineland Preserve

IRC's crew leader, Alex Seasholtz, and Kirk Linaje, Biologist II, of [Miami-Dade County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program \(EEL\)](#), hosted a pine rockland restoration event as part of our Pine Rockland Initiative Program this month. Volunteers helped remove thickets of bracken fern and non-native sword fern, where they were shading out other native plants. Another group of volunteers helped remove royal palm fronds from the pineland. Two dump trucks were filled with vegetation debris from the event!

Thank you to all of our volunteers for coming out for this event. And a special thank you to Miami-Dade EEL staff and Natural Areas Management (NAM) staff for their collaboration.



## Public Imperiled Butterflies of Florida Work Group Meeting

IRC's Chief Conservation Strategist, George Gann, was a speaker at the annual Public meeting of the Imperiled Butterflies of Florida Work Group (IBWG). George presented on *Thinking Big: Large Scale Restoration of Pine Rocklands for Rare Species*. He discussed the history of pine rockland loss and the strategic opportunities we have to restore this critical native ecosystem.

### Thinking Big: Large Scale Restoration of Pine Rocklands for Rare Species

Imperiled Butterflies of Florida Work Group  
Annual Public Meeting  
January 28, 2020



## IRC News & Upcoming Events

- **Restoring the Gold Coast Volunteer Event with Sea Turtle Adventures, February 29th.** IRC is hosting a closed volunteer event with the iCARE's Nature Club of [Sea Turtle Adventures](#) at Gulfstream Park. We are very excited to work with this group on planting native plants and cleaning up debris on our dunes!
- **Pine Rockland Initiative Volunteer Event at Florida City Pineland Preserve, March 7th, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm.** Join IRC and [Miami-Dade EEL](#) for a pine rockland restoration event as part of our Pine Rockland Initiative program. [Click here](#) for more details. [Click here](#) for EEL's 2019-2020 Calendar to register!
- **15th Annual Lake Worth Festival of Trees, March 14th, 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm.** IRC will have a booth at the Lake Worth Festival of Trees at the Lake Worth Cultural Plaza, the theme is "Trees Hug Carbon". This event is hosted by the City of Lake Worth Beach City Tree Board. It's a free admission event with exhibitors, vendors, speakers, and of course trees! Join us as we share info about our Restoring the Gold Coast Program.
- **Presentation at Hagen Ranch Library, March 20th, 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm.** IRC's Cara Abbott will give a presentation to students in 1st to 5th grades at the Hagen Ranch Library about things within our Florida ecosystems that could use our help, from butterflies to beaches and panthers to pine forests.
- **Save The Seas Event with Ocean Ridge, March 21st, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm.** IRC will be attending the Save The Seas - Plastic Free Awareness Day event at Ocean Ridge Town Hall. This event is hosted by the Town of Ocean Ridge and the Ocean Ridge Garden Club. Join us as our own George Gann presents on *Native Plants and Wildlife for Coastal Gardens*. For more information, [click here](#).
- **Native Plant Day with Dade FNPS, March 21st, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm.** IRC's Michelle Smith will host a booth at the 25th Annual [Dade Chapter Florida Native Plant Society](#) Native Plant Day. Join us as we share what IRC is all about and what we are working on in our Pine Rockland Initiative Program. For more information, [click here](#).
- **Restoring the Gold Coast Volunteer Event at Boynton Oceanfront Park, April 4th, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm.** Join IRC and the City of Boynton Beach for a volunteer workday at Boynton Oceanfront Park. Volunteers will help us restore native coastal habitat by planting native dune species, removing invasive plants, and picking up trash along the beach. For more information, [click here](#).
- **Great American Clean Up Event at Atlantic Dunes Park, April 18th, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm.** Join IRC at Atlantic Dunes Park for the Great American Clean Up as part of our Restoring the Gold Coast Program. This event is also in celebration of 50 years of Earth Day! Volunteers will help us continue restoring native biodiversity at this beautiful coastal park by planting natives, removing invasive plants, and picking up trash along the beach.

We are a nonprofit conservation organization exempt from taxes under the U.S. Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)3.

