



February 2024 Newsletter

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Conservation Note

George is working on a UN Convention on Biological Diversity deadline.
His Conservation Note will be back in March.

Upcoming Events

March 9th- Ecological Restoration Day at Red Reef Park

Event time: 9am-11am

Join us for a native installation planting day at Red Reef Park, Boca Raton. We will meet at the pavilion on the south end of the park. We will also give a brief overview about the importance of coastal ecosystem conservation. We hope to see you there.

You can sign up [here](#).



Restoring the Gold Coast Program
The Institute for Regional Conservation





**ECOLOGICAL
RESTORATION
VOLUNTEER DAY**
With the City of Boca Raton

Help us install native plants & learn about coastal ecosystem conservation!

Where: Red Reef Park
1400 N Ocean Blvd,
Boca Raton, FL 33432

When: Saturday,
March 9th
9am-11am

Register at:
[regionalconservation.org/ircs/
Events.asp](https://regionalconservation.org/ircs/Events.asp)

A confirmation email containing all the event details will be sent to all registered participants on the day prior to the event.



We Need Help With:

- Installing native plants on the beach dunes.
- Mild debris clean up
- Invasive species removal

March 30th-Ecological Restoration Volunteer Day at Atlantic Dunes Park

Event time: 9:30am - 12:30pm

Join us for a day focused on restoring ecosystem habitat at Atlantic Dunes Park, Delray Beach. We are happy to have New York Life Foundation sponsor this event. We will meet at the entrance of the park. IRC will also give a brief overview about the importance of coastal ecosystem conservation. We hope to see you there.

You can sign up [here](#).



Restoring the Gold Coast Program
The Institute for Regional Conservation

ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION VOLUNTEER DAY

With the City of Delray Beach

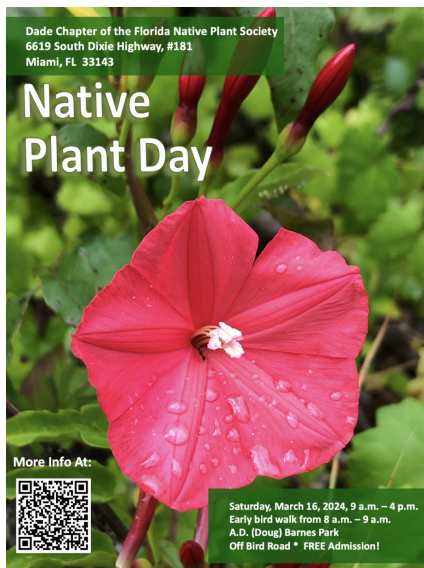
Help us remove invasive plants, install natives & learn about coastal ecosystem conservation!

Where: Atlantic Dunes Park
1605 S Ocean Blvd, Delray Beach, FL 33483
When: Saturday, March 30th from 9am-12pm

Register at:
regionalconservation.org/ircs/Events.asp


A confirmation email containing all the event details will be sent to all registered participants on the day prior to the event.

NEW YORK LIFE FOUNDATION



Dade Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society
6619 South Dixie Highway, #181
Miami, FL 33143

Native Plant Day

More Info At:


Saturday, March 16, 2024, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Early bird walk from 8 a.m. – 9 a.m.
A.D. (Doug) Barnes Park
Off Bird Road * FREE Admission!

Meet IRC at Native Plant Day- Saturday, March 16th

Liz Dutra, IRC's Conservation Program Manager, will give a presentation (9:45 to 10:10am) and will have a table for IRC at the Dade Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society' annual Native Plant Day on Saturday, March 16th at A.D. (Doug) Barnes Park.

This FREE event is from 9am- 4pm.

Come out and meet some IRC staff and learn more about the IRC. See details of the event, including programs, walks, children's activities, plant sales, displays by environmental organizations, and more! Check out the website link [here](#) or the [calendar](#).

IRC Collaborates with the United Nations on Release of UN Decade 2021-2030 Standards of Practice for Ecosystem Restoration

We are proud to share that IRC was a collaborating organization and our Executive Director, George Gann, was a contributing author on the development of the 2024 Standards of Practice to Guide Ecosystem Restoration – A Contribution to the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030. The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration recognizes the critical need to protect,



STANDARDS OF PRACTICE TO GUIDE ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

A contribution to the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030



Standards of practice to guide ecosystem restoration



Figure 1. The standards of practice provide key recommendations for application of the ten principles of ecosystem restoration.

Notes: The standards of practice were developed to assist restoration implementers (including community members, NGOs, private and public sectors, academic and research institutions) with developing restoration projects that reflect the principles of ecosystem restoration for the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. Recommended practices address priorities directly related to restoration and management of restoration activities in project sites (principles 1, 2, 3 and 4), as well as principles that apply beyond the project site to prevent misuse of resources and unmet needs (principles 5 and 6), to address the standards of practice recommendations for monitoring and evaluation (principles 7, 8 and 9), and to address the enabling conditions needed for the successful restoration activities to promote an iterative process and foster high levels of effective practice (principles 10 and 11). Finally, the recommended practices assist restoration projects with contributing to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the goals of the UN Convention on Biodiversity and related global initiatives. Some of these practices (marked with colored shading within the text) are operational and may be beyond the scope of most restoration projects. The recommended practices in the Standards of practice generally apply to multiple UN Decade priorities. For this reason, they have been organized by components of the restoration process (Figure 2) rather than by principle.

Source: FAO, UN Women and SER (2021). Principles for ecosystem restoration to guide the United Nations Decade 2021-2030. Rome, Italy. <https://www.fao.org/forestry/unesco/decade/20210301>

conserve and reverse degradation of our world's native and productive ecosystems. This publication is a momentous step forward for ecosystem recovery.

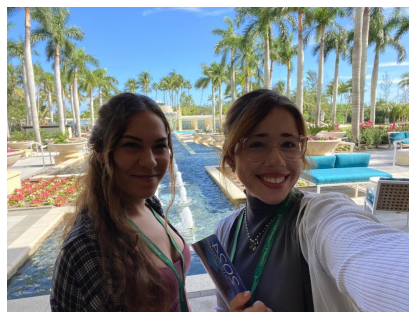
The concept of ecosystem restoration includes ecological restoration as well as other restorative activities such as reduction of societal impacts, improving ecosystem management, and repairing ecosystem functions and services. Additionally, the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration aims to enhance human health and well-being, including increasing the sustainable delivery of ecosystem goods and services, and contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation. You can find a link to the standards [here](#).

IRC attends the Everglades Coalition Conference



On January 25th, Celeste Boncompte and Melany Flint, our Ecological Restoration Field Technicians, had the distinct privilege of representing the Institute for Regional Conservation by attending the 39th annual Everglades Coalition Conference held in Bonita Springs.

The conference provided a platform for insightful discussions on Everglades restoration and water conservation initiatives. Several esteemed panel members delved into the intricacies of preserving this unique ecosystem,



Celeste Boncompte and Melany Flint at EVCO

Another panel, aptly named “CERP and the City,” discussed the benefits of restoring

emphasizing the importance of collaborative efforts. Many thought-provoking panels were featured, such as “Art, Culture and the Everglades” where artists shared their inspirations and concerns on their Everglades muse, and how their work may help engage the community in conservation efforts.



Learn more about the conference [here](#).

natural systems that are inherently interconnected, and how this would build resilience across Florida. The panel “Western Everglades: threats and opportunities” featured two indigenous members of both the Miccosukee and Seminole tribes of Florida, emphasizing their support for the Western Everglades Restoration Plan (WERP) and stressing how important it is for different communities to be included in discussions for an effective collaborative approach to conservation.

Hearing from so many industry leaders and their differing perspectives helped to shed light on their ongoing and proposed innovative approaches to engage communities in the protection of natural resources and further protect this invaluable ecosystem. The conference as a whole served as a catalyst for fostering dialogue and actionable strategies to safeguard the Everglades and promote water conservation efforts for generations to come.



Thank you to all who have supported IRC's programs with a \$20 or larger donation in the last month: Leah Materna-Laurel, Barbara Wertz, Martha Meroni, Nancy West, Nigel Morris, Thrity Vakil and Craig Huegel.

Thank you to our **Monthly Sustainers** who donate \$25 or more each month: Barbara McAdam, Lindsay Boehner and Valerie Seasholtz.

While we get funding for some great projects, those funds rarely cover all

If you're interested in being a sponsor of Natives For Your Neighborhood, please reach out to **Katherine Hardial**.

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

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.



Beach clustervine
(*Jacquemontia reclinata*)

DONATE

Recent Volunteer Days

We hosted an ecological restoration day at Red Reef Park in Boca Raton on February 10th. Where we had over 24 volunteers join us!

In two hours we installed 100 plants! 40 sea oats were installed to stabilize the dune, and 60 more were installed to increase native plant biodiversity (23 overall different species of plants). We planted natives such as the state threatened Inkberry (*Scaevola plumieri*), and state endangered Beach clustervine (*Jacquemontia reclinata*) and Sea-lavender (*Tournefortia gnaphalodes*).



Then on February 17th, we hosted an ecological restoration day with over 10 volunteers at Atlantic Dunes Park in Delray Beach.

Volunteers learned about coastal conservation and helped us by removing several invasive plants. We were able to remove roughly 2000 cubic feet of the invasive Brazilian-pepper!



Volunteers at Atlantic Dunes Park on 2/17

Volunteers at Red Reef Park on 2/10

Not only did we install new plants, we also removed some Beach naupaka (*Scaevola taccada*) which is a nonnative, invasive plant along the dune. We also got into the Seagrape bushes and trimmed them down to create more space for all the new plant biodiversity!

Thank you to everyone who came out to get their hands dirty and make their community a greener place! Your efforts are making a real difference in restoring this beautiful habitat and coastal ecosystem!



Volunteers planting a Beach creeper

This event mainly focused on Snake plant, Carrotwood, Oyster plant and Brazilian pepper removal. Check out our handcart full of removed Snake plants & Oyster plant! We are grateful for our volunteers whose hard work and efforts are getting us closer to restoring this precious coastal ecosystem.



Volunteers with a cart full of Snake plant



Volunteers removing Brazilian-pepper

ERM Crew Volunteers at EEL Workday at Navy Wells Pine Rockland

On February 10th, about 20 volunteers helped our Ecological Restoration Management (ERM) team at Navy Wells II Pineland Preserve, a Miami-Dade Environmentally Endangered Land (EEL) preserve. Volunteers helped remove recently cut invasive grasses such as Burmared (*Neyraudia reynaudiana*) and Napier grass (*Pennisetum purpureum*), as well as litter. Miami-Dade County provided dump trucks where volunteers placed the invasive vegetation. We were able to fill 2 whole trucks! After the cleanup, volunteers were led into a more pristine area of Navy Wells II where Alex Seasholtz, Director of Ecological Restoration, talked about Pine Rocklands history and the importance in preserving the critical habitat they provide. We showed them several native species such

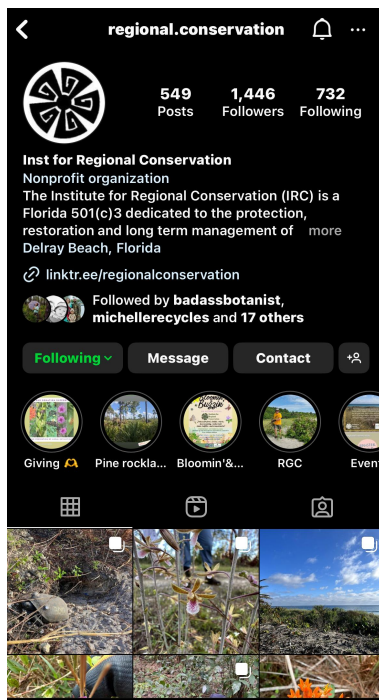


as Low rattlebox (*Crotalaria pumila*) and the native pollinator host plant Coontie (*Zamia integrifolia*) for the Atala butterfly.

The event was hosted by the county's Environmentally Endangered Lands Program, and we are so grateful for this collaboration to restore Pine Rocklands. It was a wonderful day and we can't wait to do it again!



Follow us on Social Media



The best way to stay up to date on all things IRC is to follow us on social media! Every week we spotlight native plants for "Wildflower Wednesday" and give a glimpse into one of our many unique projects from our "From the Field Friday" posts. You can also follow our socials where we share our event photos and lots of relevant information about the environment and beyond.

So, if you haven't already, follow us on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#)!

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](#)
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