



Rare Species Surveys in Homestead

IRC has been subcontracted through the Center for Integrated Research on the Environment ([CIRE](#)) to work with scientists from the University of Montana and Tufts University to survey for endangered species in Homestead, Florida. Currently, IRC is looking for the presence of *Strymon acis bartrami* (Bartam's Hairstreak) and *Anaea troglodyta* (Florida Leafwing) by searching for both the butterflies and their host plants such as *Croton linearis* (pictured right).

This study will also include surveys of two rare plant species: *Linum carteri* (Carter's Small Flax) and *Brickellia mosieri* (Florida brickell-bush). Surveys for these plants are estimated to begin over the summer.



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In cultivation, Palm Beach County,
Florida, 2013

Invasive Plant Management in the Keys

IRC's Florida Keys crew have been finishing up invasive plant management at Marathon Key where they worked on restoring Coco Beach and the Community Park. Additionally, they are continuing work with [The Nature Conservancy](#) located on Big Pine Key and beginning invasive plant management work at the [Key Deer Refuge](#) also located on Big Pine Key.



Florida Keys crew removing
Scaevola taccada (Beach naupaka)
on Marathon Key.

Invasive Plant Presentation at ORCA

IRC's Ecological Restoration and Management crew will soon begin an invasive plant management project at the Oslo Riverfront Conservation Area ([ORCA](#)) in Vero Beach, Florida. ORCA consists of 440 acres along the Indian River Lagoon of South Indian River County made up of undeveloped mature coastal hammock, scrubby flatwoods and estuarine wetlands.

There is an [ORCA volunteer group](#) that participates in stewardship classes offered by the Florida Medical Entomology Laboratory, University of Florida ([FMEL](#)), and the Pelican Island Audubon Society ([PIAS](#)). IRC's Education and Outreach Coordinator, Cara Abbott gave a presentation on the FLEPPC-1 invasive plants found within ORCA at the conclusion of the six week course. Some of the participants also went on a guided walk throughout the conservation area with one of IRC's botanists, Allan McCarthy, to further coordinate volunteer and contractor efforts. We are looking forward to having this wonderful group of volunteers assist our field crew at ORCA on upcoming volunteer days!



Upcoming Events

- **Native Plant Day**- Join IRC at 21st Native Plant Day at the Bill Sandowski Park in Miami on Saturday, March 19th from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- **Atlantic Dunes Park Restoration Day** - IRC will be holding a second restoration volunteer day Atlantic Dunes Park in Delray Beach on Saturday, April 30th from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. This event is made possible thanks to a mini-grant awarded by Keep Palm Beach County Beautiful, Inc (**KPBCB**). Check out our website and facebook page for upcoming information regarding this exciting event!

A private non-profit organization, The Institute for Regional Conservation (IRC) is dedicated to the protection, restoration, and long-term management of biodiversity on a regional basis, and to the prevention of regional extinctions of rare plants, animals and ecosystems.

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