



**Institute for  
Regional  
Conservation**

## January 2023 Newsletter

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## Monthly Conservation Note

### Feedback from YOU

Did you know IRC first began including "Monthly Conservation Notes" in our newsletter back in January 2019? Since then, we have covered a wide variety of topics from tracking extinctions to collaboration in conservation to defending open spaces. We have discussed global policies, celebrated program successes and highlighted climate crises.

All of our archived newsletters can be [accessed here](#) if you would like to go back and read any of our past Monthly Conservation Notes.

As we begin a new year and start brainstorming what topics to cover in 2023, would love to hear from YOU! Is there a topic or issue you would like IRC to



IRC Executive Director and Chief Conservation Strategist, George Gann, authors the "Monthly Conservation Note."

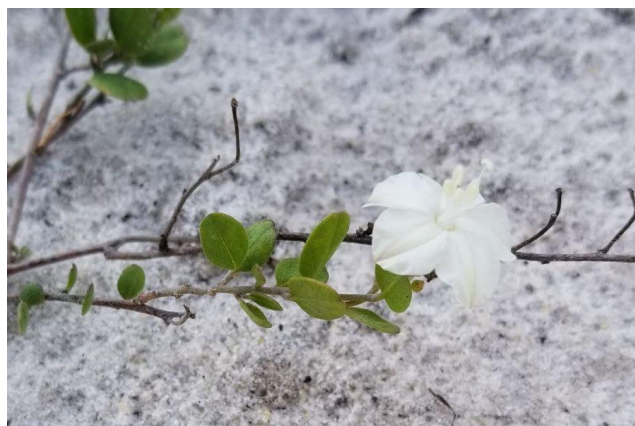
address? Is there a previous Monthly Conservation Note that stands out to you?  
**Let us know!**

## Upcoming Events

### Guided Tour of Red Reef Park

Join IRC's Cara Abbott and Kelly McLoughlin and Florida Wildflower Foundation board member CJ McCartney on a guided tour of **Red Reef Park in Boca Raton** on Friday, February 17 from 10AM - 12PM. Visit beach dune, coastal strand and maritime hammock habitats and learn about the ecological restoration work IRC is doing at the site. Participants will have the opportunity to explore and upload interesting finds to an iNaturalist project for the morning.

Registration is free for Florida Wildflower Foundation members and \$10 for nonmembers. **Click here** for more information and to register.



The federally endangered *Jacquemontia reclinata* (Beach clustervine) is one of many rare species we will explore on the tour.



**Thank you** to all who have supported IRC's programs with a \$20 or larger donation in the last month: John Costello, Richard Cohen, Steven Woodmansee, Michael Barry, and Jack Hahn.

Special thank you to Richard Cohen who donated in memory of Joyce and Don Gann.

Thank you to our **Monthly Sustainers** who donate \$25 or more each month: Barbara McAdam,

IRC would like to thank Green Isle Gardens and Amelia's SmartyPlants for renewing their Natives For Your Neighborhood Sponsorships.

Located in Groveland, **Green Isle Gardens** specializes in Florida native plants and wildflowers, with a focus on upland plant species.

Located in Lake Worth, **Amelia's SmartyPlants** provides native florals, ornamental shrubs and trees, and colorful glass garden art.

Lindsay Boehner and Valerie Seasholtz. And thank you to our new monthly donor, Sandra Colon!

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

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



**Soldier Caterpillar.** Copyright by: **Mary Keim**, 2014. Soldier (*Danaus eresimus*) on Whitevine (*Funastrum clausum*).

DONATE

## "Meet Our Team" Spotlight

### Welcome, Benjamin Del Rio!

Benjamin Del Rio joined our Ecological Restoration Team this month. He is a recent graduate of environmental studies from Florida International University who is passionate about conservation and sustainability. Born and raised in Miami, he has a deep understanding of Florida's natural world. He is excited to work in the field and actively aid in conservation efforts while helping preserve important and historic natural habitats of Florida.

Ben is going to be great addition to our Pine Rockland Initiative Program. Welcome to the team!



## Plant Photos Needed for NFYN Expansion

IRC's **Natives For Your Neighborhood** (NFYN) website contains the most comprehensive list of cultivated native



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her Instagram account [@lilliumbyrd](https://www.instagram.com/lilliumbyrd).

plants in Florida, with species from throughout the state compiled from native plant nursery sales lists, botanical gardens, and native plant enthusiasts.

We are currently expanding NFYN from south Florida, northward to eventually cover the entire state! We are in need of **LABELED PLANT PHOTOS** of species found in central and northern Florida.

See our [5-page list](#) of what plant photos we are looking to add to our website.

If you're willing to contribute your plant photos, please email them to Cara Abbott at [abbott@regionalconservation.org](mailto:abbott@regionalconservation.org). Please include (1) photo(s) with correct scientific name and (2) how you would like to be acknowledged (full name and link to your Flickr, iNaturalist or Instagram page, etc.) to be under each photo caption.

## How to Become a Natives For Your Neighborhood Sponsor

Did you know that we have sponsorships available for Florida nurseries that sell native plants and other organizations that promote native plants? For a yearly fee you can have your nursery or organization prominently displayed on [Natives For Your Neighborhood](#) and can even list the species you carry directly on our individual plant pages. This is a great opportunity to support our free online resource while gaining exposure to over 1,400 weekly users who are interested in the species your nursery provides.

For more information, contact our Program Associate, [Michelle Smith](#).

HERBACEOUS	EMERGENT	CANOPY
Your icon and a link to your website under "Additional Sponsors"	Your icon and/or name with a link to your website on the right bar visible on all pages guaranteed to be among the top spots. This includes plant lists and plant details.	Your icon and/or name with a link to your site on the right bar on the home page and visible on all subsequent pages including plant lists and plant details.
<b>\$100</b>	<b>\$1,000+</b>	<b>\$250+</b>

## Recent Events

### Rockdale Pineland Volunteer Day

On Friday January 6, IRC joined Miami-Dade



County's Environmentally Endangered Lands Program for a volunteer day at Rockdale Pineland Preserve. About 35 volunteers helped remove the nonnative, invasive [Tradescantia spathacea \(Oysterplant\)](#) from the preserve.

Thank you to the volunteers and MDC EEL program for hosting this event!

## Ecological Restoration Volunteer Day at Atlantic Dunes Park

On Saturday, January 21, IRC held an Ecological Restoration Volunteer Event at Atlantic Dunes Park, Delray Beach. We continued removing more nonnative, invasive [Schinus terebinthifolius \(Brazilian-pepper\)](#) tree. To restore native biodiversity to the historical [coastal strand](#), we added [Agave decipiens \(false sisal\)](#), [Ardisia escallonioides \(marlberry\)](#), [Chamaecrista fasciculata \(partridge pea\)](#), [Citharexylum spinosum \(Florida fiddlewood\)](#), [Coccothrinax argentata \(Florida silver palm\)](#), [Heliotropium polyphyllum \(pineland heliotrope\)](#), [Lantana involucrata \(wild-sage\)](#), [Quadrella cynophallophora \(Jamaica caper-tree\)](#), and [Trichostema dichotomum \(forked bluecurls\)](#)!

Thank you to the Community Foundation of Palm Beach and Martin County, the City of Delray Beach, Neglected Plants, and our wonderful, hard working volunteers. Without you, we wouldn't be restoring this historical coastal strand habitat!

For more photos from the event, [click here](#).



## Everglades Coalition Annual Conference

IRC was honored to participate in the 38th Annual Everglades Coalition Conference on January 27 and 28. The panels were full of insightful and inspiring information from federal, state and NGO experts from



across the state.

George Gann, IRC Executive Director and Chief Conservation Strategist, was on the final panel of the conference, titled "Tragedies and Triumphs: Addressing the Everglades Biodiversity Crisis." He discussed the importance of monitoring native plant biodiversity as a metric in Everglades restoration and gave an update on the status of rare plants in South Florida.

For more photos from the event, [click here](#).



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