



## July 2019 Newsletter

### Monthly Conservation Notes

#### Transformative Change

In a recent media release about accelerating biodiversity extinction rates, the [IPBES](#) stated that all is not lost if society can undergo "transformative changes across economic, social, political and technological factors."

But what does that really mean? At a recent meeting of the [IUCN](#) in Washington, DC (right), I had cause to reflect on that question. The premier body addressing conservation worldwide, the IUCN has about 1,300 member governments and organizations, 14,500 volunteer experts engaged in one or more commissions, and 900 employees. There is no question it is very large. But while many (myself included) might argue that IUCN is already too top-heavy and bureaucratic, I would also argue that it is too small and not representative enough to address the challenge of transformation called for by IPBES. If we look at other key areas (e.g., medicine, law, industry) we see much larger and diverse institutions, which reflect their importance to society.

In the end, it comes down to what we value. We value the agendas of law, medicine and industry. We don't yet value environmental institutions to the degree needed to tackle our mounting challenges.

In addition, only a small fraction of the organizations addressing conservation and sustainability, are currently members of IUCN, which limits their voice in creating a new global environmental agenda. Transformative change will require both scaling up institutions like IUCN - because we value biodiversity and ecosystem services - and, frankly, putting forward the resources to back up those values! And, at the same time, we have to ensure that these institutions are both representative, and ensure local stakeholder participation in global conservation policy. This is the purpose that drives me and all of us at IRC.

**George Gann**  
*Executive Director*



The US National Committee of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), in Washington, DC, June 2019. Fewer than 150 environmental organizations in the US are full members of the IUCN. Many other organizations, including IRC, participate through individual staff membership as experts in one or more of IUCN's six Commissions.

## Save The Date!

IRC's 35th Anniversary celebration in Miami-Dade County will be on Sunday, October 27th at historic Simpson Park. Our celebration in Palm Beach County will be on Thursday, November 7th! Location to be announced

## Thank you New York Life



We would like to thank [New York Life](#) for honoring IRC with a \$10,000 Community Impact Grant towards our [Restoring the Gold Coast Program](#). [The Community Impact Grant program](#) awards grants of up to \$25,000 to local nonprofit organizations, which are championed by New York Life agents and employees. Since the program's inception in 2008, nearly 600 grants totaling nearly \$7 million have been awarded to nonprofits across the country.

We thank John Campanola, agent for New York Life's South Florida General Office in Sunrise, for helping us secure this competitive grant. John is an IRC board member, volunteer, and donor, who has made substantial contributions to IRC over the last six years. Thank you, John!

## Help Us Bring High School Students to the Beach for Restoring the Gold Coast!



An important part of our [Restoring the Gold Coast \(RGC\) program](#) is working with a wide range of collaborators and partners including local schools.

We will be working with Atlantic Community High School students (77% of which are Title 1 students) to restore portions of the municipal beach in Delray Beach. We would like to run three field trips for these students where they spend a morning on the beach getting their hands dirty while they learn about conservation through exotic removal, native planting, and data collection.

We will also be working with Boca Community High School's AICE Environmental Management class to restore portions of coastal habitat in Boca Raton. We plan on running two field trips focused on native planting and data collection.

In order to run each field trip, **we need to raise \$600 per field trip** to cover the cost of transporting the students by bus from the school to the beach and back. **Please consider donating towards this transportation cost! Simply donate online or mail us a check and make a note that the donation for student transportation!**

**DONATE**



Thank you to the [Miami Beach Garden Club](#) for their \$1,000 gift toward of our Pine Rockland Initiative in Miami-Dade County.

Also, thank you to our recent donors for supporting IRC's program - Amy Snyder & James Hatcher.

Thank you to our recent Natives For Your Neighborhood sponsors, [Indian Trails Native Nursery](#), [Green Isle Gardens](#), & [Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation](#).

Donations allow us to provide important resources for free to the public, landscape designers, and enthusiasts of native plants and native plant gardening. To check out our NFYN website, [click here](#).

## Recent IRC Events

Michelle Smith at the 2019



## Everglades Invasive Species Summit



Field Biologist Michelle Smith attended the 2019 Everglades Invasive Species Summit hosted by Friends of [Everglades Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area \(ECISMA\)](#). A consortium of agencies, nonprofits, and educational institutions, ECISMA works to conduct research on, monitor, trap, and treat invasive animals and plants in and around the Greater Everglades. Presentations at the Summit included topics on nonnative fish, python removal, green iguana control, tegu trapping, biological control, post-fire *Melaleuca* challenges, invasive plant management, and a review of nonnative plant species in Broward County.

### George Gann Interviewed for Pine Rockland Documentary

University of Miami student, Leila Thompson, who is studying Ecosystem Science & Policy and Anthropology, recently came to IRC Headquarters in Delray Beach to interview IRC Executive Director, George Gann. Leila is making a [documentary](#) about pine rocklands and is interviewing many friends and colleagues involved with pine rockland conservation and restoration. Screenings are expected later this summer.



## Upcoming IRC Events

- **Restoring the Gold Coast Kick-Off Event, September 7th:** Join IRC, [the City of Delray Beach](#) and [Sandway Discovery Center](#) for a Restoring the Gold Coast Kick-off event at the Municipal Beach in Delray Beach. We will be meeting at the gazebo located between Ocean Terrace and Nassau Street and working in the dunes on either side of the shelter. Participants will learn about the value of restoring coastal biodiversity while planting a variety of common and rare native coastal plants, removing invasive plants and picking up trash. We will provide all tools, gloves, and materials necessary as well as light refreshments. We ask that volunteers wear closed-toed shoes, sunscreen, and a hat. All participants will receive a free t-shirt at check-in! Check out our webpage to learn more about our [RGC Program!](#)
- **International Coastal Cleanup, September 21st:** Join IRC at Atlantic Dunes Park in Delray Beach for the International Coastal Cleanup. We will have a check-in table set up at the pavilion located along the boardwalk. We will be working to enhance this beautiful park by removing damaging invasive plants, planting a variety of natives and picking up trash along the beach. This event is in partnership with [Keep Palm Beach County Beautiful](#) and [the City of Delray Beach](#). We will provide all tools, gloves, and materials necessary as well as light refreshments. We ask that volunteers wear closed-toed shoes,

sunscreen, and a hat. All participants will receive a free t-shirt at check-in!



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The Institute for Regional Conservation | [Website](#)

