



Institute for
Regional
Conservation

June 2017 Newsletter

George Gann Becomes a Member of the North American Plant Red List Authority



IRC's Acting Director, George Gann, has been invited to join the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) North American Plant Red List Authority. This will make him an official member of the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC), the largest of six commissions in the IUCN.

The SSC undertakes assessments of the status of species, develops species conservation action plans and strategies, prepares technical guidelines and formulates IUCN policy statements. The Commission delivers and promotes this technical knowledge, advice and policy guidance to those who can influence the implementation of conservation actions across the world. The major role of the SSC Red List Authority is to contribute status assessments of species to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, in collaboration with Global Species Programme (GSP) staff in the IUCN Secretariat and the Red List Partner institutions.

IRC Hires New Intern

We are excited to announce that IRC has recently hired Monika Larsson as our new intern. Monika is working out of our Delray Beach office with Education and Outreach Coordinator Cara Abbott and Acting Director George Gann on data entry, outreach events and much more. We are thrilled to have her on board!

"Growing up in California, it was easy to fall in love with the outdoors. With that appreciation for nature comes the responsibility to protect it. I have recently returned to the States after completing my undergraduate degree in Human Rights, which I received at Malmö University in southern Sweden. After attempting a graduate programme at Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic, I have decided to pursue other interests in South Florida, where my parents have resided for the past seven years. I am happy to be part of the team at IRC, where I can contribute to a cause which I care for while at the same time learning so much!" -- Monika Larsson



Volunteer Spotlight

Kathleen M. (Kay) Brennan began volunteering for IRC in December 2016. She retired from the Palm Beach County Department of Environmental Resources Management in 2011 after working for 23 years in ERM's Natural Areas Program for the acquisition and management of conservation lands in Palm Beach County. Kay has a B.A. in Biology from Dominican University in River Forest, IL, an M.S. in Zoology (Ecology) from Iowa



An atala (*Eumaeus atala*) butterfly on its larval host plant, coontie (*Zamia integrifolia*). Check out the [Atala species page](#) on NFYN updated by Kay!

State University, and an M.P.S. (Pastoral Studies) from Loyola University (Chicago). Her master's thesis was a faunal study of a 160-acre natural prairie in northwestern Iowa. Prior to moving to Florida from Chicago in 1987, she worked for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Lake Michigan Federation, the University of Illinois at Chicago Circle, the Field Museum of Natural History, and several private consulting firms.

Currently she is assisting IRC in updating and expanding the butterfly information on the Natives for Your Neighborhood section of the IRC website and assisting staff with various educational and volunteer activities. IRC is greatly benefiting from Kay's expertise and hard work, and we are so thankful to have her volunteering for us!
