



**Institute for  
Regional  
Conservation**

## June 2020 Newsletter

### In This Issue...

- Green Delray Update
- Restoring the Gold Coast Update
- Pine Rockland Initiative Update
- "Meet Our Team" Spotlights
- Recent IRC News and Events



**Thank you** to all those who have supported IRC's programs in the last month.

Diana Doty and Barbara McAdam.

Donations allow us to provide important free resources to the public, land managers, scientists, landscape designers, and enthusiasts of native plants and native plant gardening.

IRC has an E-Trade account, so please contact us about giving gifts of stock.

*"I added an icon to my smart phone so I can access the Institute For Regional Conservation's website with just a touch. I find it a very useful tool for plant identification because I can check the plant list for specific sites, greatly narrowing the list of candidate plants to consider. The handy link to the Plant Atlas is great! I recommend the site every chance I get." - Sabrina Olson Carle*

### Green Delray Update

## IRC Returns to Lake Ida Parcel

IRC's Green Delray program seeks to conserve and restore the green spaces in Delray Beach. One of the key sites for this program is the Lake Ida Parcel located just north of Lake Ida Park. In 2017 and 2018 we planted a wide variety of native species throughout the parcel, often in areas where we removed invasive plant species.

Since then, we have continued to visit the site to do weeding and check on the status of the plants we've added.

Earlier this month, IRC's restoration crew went out with John and Luke Miller and Ian Wilkinson. They loaded up John Miller's boat with supplies including a billygoat brush cutter which was used to mow back invasive grasses that were threatening to take over the parcel. Nine different invasive species were treated, hand-pulled and mowed back thanks to this group effort!



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## Restoring the Gold Coast Update



### Planting at Pompeo Dune

IRC recently completed a significant planting on a private dune in Ocean Ridge owned by Kimberlee Pompeo. Kimberlee is the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs District X Vice Chair for the Barrier Islands and is a wonderful advocate and supporter of both IRC and Restoring the Gold Coast. She purchased several Biodiversity Starter Plant Kits ([available here](#)) and made an additional donation so that our crew could do the planting on her property. Thanks to Chris Quadrel from Coastal Growers for assisting!





A total of 21 species were added to her dune, 14 of them being new to the site. You can easily see which species were added and already present by visiting the "Pompeo Private Dune Parcel" conservation area in the Floristic Inventory of South Florida (FISF) [available here](#).

This planting compliments the biodiversity hotspots we are creating throughout south Palm Beach County through our Restoring the Gold Coast Program. To learn more about this program, check out our recently recorded [webinar](#) all about Restoring the Gold Coast!

Additionally, there is a fantastic [article](#) on page 10 of The Florida Gardener Summer 2020 edition written by Kimberlee and George. This article talks about Restoring the Gold Coast, the importance of conserving coastal plants and the need to be a crusader for the environment!

## Pine Rockland Initiative Update

### IRC Crew Starts Restoration at Tropical Audubon and Girl Scouts Little House Property

June has been a busy month for our Pine Rockland Initiative program! Over the last month, IRC's Restoration Crew has worked on restoring seven different privately owned pine rocklands in Miami-Dade County.

They initiated new restoration work at the Tropical Audubon Society's pineland (IRC Crew Leader Alex Seasholtz and Donnie Faughnan pictured top right in photo taken by Ana Lima from TAS), which was planted by IRC's Chief Conservation Strategist George Gann more than a decade ago. For additional photos, [click here](#).



Our crew also conducted restoration work at the Girl Scout Little House site. This is a unique site as its the only designated Natural Forest Community in the City of South Miami. By treating and removing invasive species like the common air-potato (*Dioscorea bulbifera*), native species like the pine fern (*Anemia adiantifolia*) are able to thrive (pictured bottom right).



## "Meet Our Team" Spotlights



### Employee - Cara Abbott

We are celebrating Cara Abbott's 5th year working with IRC! Cara is our Education & Outreach Coordinator and is responsible for organizing and implementing volunteer events, providing education talks and programs, and managing IRC social media. She has also taken on one of the lead roles for our Restoring the Gold Coast Program. Cara also teaches biology courses at two local homeschool enrichment programs and volunteers with the Sea Turtle Conservation League of Singer Island.

Cara, thank you for all that you do for IRC! Your passion for the environment and for passing on your knowledge are commendable and appreciated.



### Research Associate - Jimmy Lange

In 2014, Jimmy worked for IRC as a Field Botanist, transitioning to Research Associate as he joined the South Florida Conservation Team at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden. He continues to focus on rare plant conservation and habitat management, and is past Chair of the **Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council**. He recently discovered a species of fern (*Goniopteris moranii*) in Broward County that has not previously been recorded in Florida. You can read about this fern and





its discovery in the [American Fern Journal](#).

We greatly appreciate Jimmy's hard work and dedication to rare plant conservation and his continued support of IRC's mission. Jimmy has provided IRC with many beautiful images and vouchers of rare plants in South Florida for our Floristic Inventory of South Florida (FISF) web resource.

## Recent IRC News & Events

### **Pine Rockland Initiative (PRI) Weekly Conservation Conversation**

Thank you to all who joined our Weekly Conservation Conversations including the final one on the Pine Rockland Initiative (PRI). In this webinar, we discussed the ways we are working to restore imperiled pine rockland habitat. Check out our PRI web page [here](#).

If you missed out or want to share this informative webinar, [click here](#).

Photo to the right is of Robert Moreno pineland.



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