



Institute for  
Regional  
Conservation

## March 2019 Newsletter

### Phytoforensics and Adaptive Management at the Delray Beach Lake Ida Parcel



One of the tenets of good ecological restoration practice is to have an adaptive management plan. Often, the reaction of plants to restoration treatments tells us some things we did not previously know about a restoration site. Our [Lake Ida restoration site](#) in Delray Beach, for example, is highly complex, with plants preferring open drier habitats comingled with remnant plants of wetter habitats. We knew the site was drier now due to drainage into the adjacent canal separating the site from the County-owned Lake Ida Park to the South. But it was not clear just how much of the site was previously well-drained.

Our preliminary plan was to restore most of the site along the canal to an upland hardwood forest, grading into swamp plants along the canal. But we were having trouble keeping the hardwood forest plants along the canal happy, and they always seemed stressed by not enough water. Last fall, we cleared an additional area along the canal of the invasive exotic, Brazilian-pepper. There were very few natives in that area to guide us, and since we were having trouble keeping the plants we had already planted happy, we decided not to plant right away, but rather to wait and see what happened.

On March 12th, while inspecting the site and conducting routine maintenance with IRC field biologist Michelle Smith, I noticed something different recruiting in the newly cleared area - Slenderleaf clammyweed (*Polanisia*

### Monthly Conservation Notes

Join us for our monthly Conservation Notes, where we discuss topics important to our work. If you have ideas about topics you

would like to see covered, please [send us a note!](#)

This month, George writes about some interesting developments at our Delray Beach Lake Ida Parcel restoration site. Thanks to the City of Delray Beach Parks for partnering with us on this project, and the Community Foundation of Palm Beach and Martin Counties for funding our work there in 2018.

*tenuifolia*), a short-lived native plant which is ranked as rare in South Florida by IRC (photos at left), and found in dry scrub and scrubby flatwoods habitats. This discovery will now help guide our plan, calling for the restoration of rarer, drier habitats along most of the south boundary of the property. We can't wait to see what else appears as the restoration proceeds!  
George Gann

## This year marks The Institute for Regional Conservation's 35th anniversary!

### Atlantic Dunes Park Restoration, April 27th A Green Delray Volunteer Event!

IRC is taking part in the [Great American Cleanup](#) day on April 27th by hosting a volunteer day at Atlantic Dunes Park as part of our Green Delray Program! We will be hosting this day in partnership with [Erin L. Deady Law, P.A.](#), [Keep Palm Beach County Beautiful, Inc.](#), and the [City of Delray Beach](#).

Help restore native biodiversity and clean up our coastline as people across the country take part in the Great American Cleanup. Come prepared to plant native dune species that support the coastal ecosystem, remove weedy, invasive species that harm the coastal ecosystem, and pick up trash. We will provide all tools needed for the morning as well as light refreshments. Volunteers of all ages welcome! More info [here](#).

**Volunteers needed for Atlantic Dunes Park Restoration, a Green Delray Event!**

**When: Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>  
9:00am – 12:00pm**

Volunteers of all ages needed to help plant native dune species that support the coastal ecosystem, remove weedy invasive species that harm the coastal ecosystem, and pick up trash.

**Participants:**

- Are advised to wear close-toed shoes, long pants, and sunscreen.
- Will be provided with gloves and all necessary tools.
- Will be offered water and light refreshments.
- Will receive a free t-shirt for coming out!

Meet at Atlantic Dunes Park in the parking lot and look for a volunteer handing out free parking passes.

Send RSVPs to [abbott@regionalconservation.org](mailto:abbott@regionalconservation.org)  
or 305-247-6547

ERIN L. DEADY, P.A.  
Institute for Regional Conservation

KEEP PALM BEACH COUNTY BEAUTIFUL

CITY OF DELRAY BEACH

### Thank You Volunteers!

- Everyone at IRC would like to thank our amazing and hard-working volunteers!
- **Kay Brennan** has been volunteering with IRC since 2016, creating and updating our butterfly pages on our Natives For Your Neighborhood website!
  - **Mary Truglio Fesmire** of the Imperiled Butterflies of Florida Work Group (IBWG), for helping us collect and clean pineland croton seeds as part of our Big Pine Key pineland croton project.

- **Ian Wilkinson & Julia Renninge** for helping to count and bag pineland croton seeds.
- **Leif Gann-Matzen** for helping maintain and upgrade our website.
- **Michael Getman** for helping us with our historical data scanning project, and also for helping keep our croton stock pots free of weeds!

If you are interested in volunteering at IRC, please email to [admin@regionalconservation.org](mailto:admin@regionalconservation.org)



**Thanks to Erin Deady** of [Erin L. Deady Law, P.A.](#) for donating \$1,000 towards our Atlantic Dunes Restoration Day as part of our Green Delray Program.

Erin L. Deady, P.A., is a full service legal and consulting firm. The Firm is Small Business Administration federally-certified as a Woman-Owned firm.

**Thank you to our most recent Natives For Your Neighborhood sponsor:** [Native Choice Nursery.](#)

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.](#)

**DONATE**

## Great Give Event

IRC is excited to be participating in this years' Great Give Palm Beach & Martin Counties on Wednesday, April 24th! This is a 24-hour online giving event led by the United Way of Palm Beach County and United Way of Martin County. For more information, [click here.](#)



Take part in this community-wide event by supporting IRC's mission to protect and restore the biodiversity of our beautiful beaches and green spaces with a tax-deductible donation. All donations will go towards our Restoring the Gold Coast Program and Green Delray Program. Follow us on [Facebook](#) to see more information and

how to donate for this event when the day comes!

## Photos Needed for NFYN Website!

If you've used our Natives for Your Neighborhood website to create your garden, we would love to see it! We are looking to display images of real gardens built with NFYN in Florida, so that the public can better visualize what their native gardens can look like. Even if you submit a photo of only one plant in your garden, it would be greatly appreciated.

To submit photos or ask any further questions, email [admin@regionalconservation.org](mailto:admin@regionalconservation.org)!

## Recent IRC Events

### IRC at Native Plant Day with Miami-Dade FNPS



IRC's field biologist, Michelle Smith, crew leader, Hans van der Heiden, and crew member, Louis Castillo, attended Native Plant Day hosted by the [Miami-Dade Chapter of Florida Native Plant Society](#).

They had a butterfly host plant matching game, samples of invasive plants, free tubelings of the native plant [Simpson's stopper](#) (*Myrcianthes fragrans*) for guests to plant and take home, and gave out free seeds of native wildflowers.

### George Gann Talks Restoring the Gold Coast with BPOA

IRC's chief conservation strategist, George Gann, gave a talk to the Beach Property Owners' Association of Delray Beach on March 20th. The topic was *Restoring the Gold Coast - Biodiversity and Community Engagement in Southern Palm Beach County*. BPOA has been an earlier supporter of Restoring the Gold Coast, including making a financial contribution to our effort. Stay tuned for more news about Restoring the Gold Coast.



### FIU Restoration Lab Field Trip

IRC's field biologist, Michelle Smith, and crew leader, Hans van der Heiden, recently led a



group of FIU students on a tour and workday at Sunny Palms Pineland Preserves. Students learned about pine rocklands, conservation issues, ecological restoration, rare plants, and invasive plants, and helped remove an overabundance of [Lacy bracken fern](#) (*Pteridium caudatum*). Sunny Palms is part of the network of conservation areas managed by the Miami-Dade County Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program, which we are helping to restore with funding from the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

## Upcoming IRC Events

- **April 20th:** IRC will host a volunteer event at one of our Pine Rockland Initiative restoration project sites, Quail Roost Pineland Preserve. This Miami-Dade County EEL site is normally closed to the public, so this is a great opportunity. The event will be from 9:00am to 12:00pm. For more information, [click here](#).
- **April 24th:** IRC will participate in this year's Great Give Palm Beach and Martin Counties event. There will be more information on why and how to donate on our Facebook page.
- **April 27th:** [Great American Cleanup](#) volunteer event at Atlantic Dunes Park from 9:00am to 12:00pm. For more information, [click here](#).
- **May 4th:** IRC will host a volunteer event at another one of our Pine Rockland Initiative restoration project sites, Pine Shore Pineland Preserve, which is also managed by EEL. The event will be from 9:00am to 12:00pm. For more information, [click here](#).

We are a nonprofit conservation organization exempt from taxes under the U.S. Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)3.

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

