



Institute for Regional Conservation

March 2024 Newsletter

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Conservation Note

New from Natives For Your Neighborhood

One of the less appreciated but powerful components of our Natives For Your Neighborhood (NFYN) website are the planting guidelines that we have prepared for select habitats. Our newest guidelines, just finalized, are for planting tropical coastal hammocks along the South Florida coastline. If you live along the coast, you can also find these guidelines by typing in your ZIP code, selecting coastal berm or maritime hammock from the habitat list, clicking on the *Learn More*, and then *How to Restore*. These guidelines are as useful on the east coast from Key Biscayne to Jupiter Island, and all along the west coast north to Charlotte County. Tropical coastal hammocks in the Florida Keys are best planted using our earlier rockland hammock guidelines. Since the tropical coastal hammock guidelines are new, we would greatly appreciate any feedback, and especially any images of the guidelines being put into action.

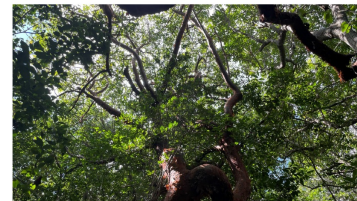
We have also been busy expanding NFYN throughout the state, and Mindi Ogden, also president of the Palm Beach County Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society, has been working with us to collect the plant page information for about 200 temperate species from central and northern Florida. She has also just completed a thorough review of availability for over

GUIDELINES FOR PLANTING A TROPICAL
COASTAL HAMMOCK IN SOUTH FLORIDA
George D. Gann
The Institute for Regional Conservation
www.regionalconservation.org

Version 1.0
March 2024



Why plant a coastal hammock? Coastal hammock is an imperiled ecosystem that has been heavily impacted by urban development along the Florida coast. In South Florida, defined here as Martin, Glades, and Charlotte counties south to the Florida Keys, coastal hammocks that are dominated by tropical species can be found throughout the Atlantic Coast and north to Sanibel Island in Lee County on the Gulf Coast. Creating a tropical coastal hammock (coastal hammock) is relatively simple and inexpensive and can be accomplished in a wide variety of situations. Coastal hammocks are aesthetically pleasing, conserve energy, reduce pollution and long-term maintenance, and contribute to climate change adaptation and mitigation. They also create wonderful habitats for native plants and wildlife, including many species of rare plants, butterflies, bees and other pollinators, and songbirds.



1,000 native plants statewide, by geographic region (south, central, northeast, Panhandle). In the coming weeks, we will begin to upload the data that Mindi has been curating, resulting in a much more robust NFYN in the northern parts of the state. This work is supported by private funding raised through our Do Good Delray fundraiser in 2023, and through the support of the Florida Wildflower Foundation and our other NFYN sponsors.

We'd love to have some current testimonials that reflect your thoughts after some time (even years) of using NFYN. Testimonials are very useful for securing financial support and for promoting NFYN. Also, we are still looking for high-quality images of many species (vertical format is preferred). And finally, a tool like NFYN always has errors and we need your help to find them and get them fixed. Testimonials, images, and error reports can be sent to irc@regionalconservation.org with NFYN in the subject line. This truly is a 'neighborhood effort'!

George Gann
Founder and Executive Director



Upcoming Events

Restoring the Gold Coast Program
 The Institute for Regional Conservation

ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION VOLUNTEER DAY
 With the City of Boca Raton

Where: Red Reef Park
 1400 N Ocean Blvd,
 Boca Raton, FL 33432

When: Monday,
 April 1st
 9am-11am

Register at:
regionalconservation.org/ircs/Events.asp

A confirmation email containing all the event details will be sent to all registered participants on the day prior to the event.

Help us remove invasive plants and learn about coastal ecosystem conservation!

Monday, April 1st

Restoring the Gold Coast Program
 The Institute for Regional Conservation

ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION VOLUNTEER DAY
 With the City of Boca Raton

Join us for an Ecological Restoration Day focused on removing nonnative plants and cleaning up the beach dune!

Where: Red Reef Park
 1400 N Ocean Blvd,
 Boca Raton, FL 33432

When: Friday,
 April 12th
 9am-11am

Register at:
regionalconservation.org/ircs/Events.asp

We Need Help With:

- Installing native plants on the beach dunes
- Mild debris clean up
- Invasive species removal

A confirmation email containing all the event details will be sent to all registered participants on the day prior to the event.

Friday, April 12th

Restoring the Gold Coast Program
 The Institute for Regional Conservation

ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION VOLUNTEER DAY
 With the City of Boca Raton

Join us for an Ecological Restoration Day focused on removing nonnative plants and cleaning up the beach dune!

Where: Red Reef & South Beach Parks
 1400 N Ocean Blvd,
 Boca Raton, FL 33432

When: Saturday,
 April 27th
 9am-11am

Register at:
regionalconservation.org/ircs/Events.asp

Join a guided nature walk, have fun with our BioBlitz, and help us install native plants!

A confirmation email containing all the event details will be sent to all registered participants on the day prior to the event.

Saturday, April 27th

We have three volunteer events for the month of April all located in Boca Raton as part of our Restoring the Gold Coast Program. Please join us! They are all located at Red Reef Park where we meet at the pavilion at the south end of the park. Its a great way to gain community service hours (tell a high school student to join us!). You can sign up using the links below and be sure o check out our

events tab on our website for upcoming volunteer opportunities.

For these events you will help us in removing invasive plants and install native plants at Red Reef Park, Boca Raton. We will meet at the pavilion on the south end of the park. We will give a brief overview about the importance of coastal ecosystem conservation. We hope to see you there.

Monday April 1st - Sign up [here](#). 9am to 11am.

Friday, April 12th- Sign up [here](#). 9am to 11am.

Saturday, April 27th- Sign up [here](#). 9am to 11am.

Dade Chapter FNPS Field Trip to Coral Reef Park and Coral Pine Park

Saturday, April 27th 9am to 11:30am.

Both parks contain globally imperiled pine rockland plant communities. Join the Dade chapter and IRC's Director of Ecological Restoration, Alex Seasholtz for a guided tour of both parks and learn all about the restoration activities happening at these special places.

Click here for more [information](#).

**Dade Chapter Florida
Native Plant Society
Field Trip w/ IRC**

Saturday, April 27th
9am to 11:30 am

Visit Coral Reef Park & Coral Pine Park



IRC Shout out to City of Miami Natural Areas Department



We would like to recognize the amazing work that the City of Miami's Natural Areas Department has done on Virginia Key, and in particular former Park Naturalist, Etienne Hernandez and Gloria Anita, Senior Park Naturalist. The area selected for restoration at Virginia Key was suffering from the expansion of the maritime hammock, with several populations of endangered species beginning to decline.

Hardwood reduction was conducted in early 2023 in an effort to increase light penetration into the understory. The City of Miami's Natural Areas Department continued to expand upon this work throughout 2023. Their work demonstrates what can be accomplished on a budget when proper planning, clearly defined goals, and a little bit of elbow grease are used.

Their work also underpins the importance of allowing nature to heal itself as many of the plants have recruited naturally from nearby germplasm with minor plant augmentation used.



Pine Rockland Initiative Update: IRC restores Coral Reef Park



IRC has been working on exciting new projects in the Village of Palmetto Bay, Miami- Dade County at Coral Reef Park. Our crews have been working hard to remove invasive plant species and overgrow native hardwoods to restore the pine rockland habitat in the park.

You can see the beautiful work happening from the before and after where the crews removed Sewervine (*Paederia cruddasiana*) and exposed the remnant high value patches of Saw palmettos. This park was loaded with lots of biodiversity and IRC’s crew has been doing a fantastic job repairing the ecosystem function of its pine rockland habitat. Recently, our crew found the endangered species man-in-the-ground (*Ipomoea microdactyla*) hanging on to life in the restoration area that was in a lower quality area of the park!





Thank you to all who have supported IRC's programs with a \$20 or larger donation in the last month: Michael Kohner, Cindy Dwyer, Ken Fairman, Martha Meroni, Nancy West.

Thank you to our **Monthly Sustainers** who donate \$25 or more each month: Barbara McAdam, Lindsay Boehner and Valerie Seasholtz.

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.

If you're interested in being a sponsor of Natives For Your Neighborhood, please reach out to **Katherine Hardial**.

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



Ocean-blue morningglory
(*Ipomoea indica*)

DONATE

Recent Volunteer Day at Red Reef- 3/9

We hosted an ecological restoration day at Red Reef Park in Boca Raton on March 9th where we had over 24 volunteers join us!

We truly appreciate everyone who came out to get their hands dirty and make their community a greener place. Your efforts are making a real difference in restoring this beautiful habitat and

Thanks to funding and support from the City of Boca Raton, IRC was able to provide 90 plants representing 23 different native coastal species such as the state threatened Inkberry (*Scaevola plumieri*), and state endangered Beach clustervine (*Jacquemontia reclinata*) and Sea-lavender (*Tournefortia gnaphalodes*).

coastal ecosystem.



Volunteers at Red Reef Park on 3/9



Installing native plants in the dunes

"Our volunteers are unlike any other, they show up passionate and ready to get to work. This event was particularly special because we had 2 volunteers as young as 11 years old! It is rewarding to have the opportunity educate our younger generations about coastal conservation and provide opportunities for all ages to install important native plants. We are thankful for our wonderful volunteers and for the City of Boca Raton for making this a priority through their funding and support". says Liz Dutra, IRC's Conservation Program Manager

Recent Volunteer Day at Atlantic Dunes Park 3/30

We hosted an ecological restoration day at Atlantic Dunes Park in Boca Raton on March 30th where we had over 27 volunteers join us!

Thanks to funding and support from the City of Delray Beach and New York Life Foundation, IRC was able to install 200+ plants representing over 30 different native coastal species such as the state endangered Beach clustervine (*Jacquemontia reclinata*) and rare species like Beach verbena (*Glandularia maritima*) and Partridge pea (*Chamaecrista fasciculata*).

These plants were installed in an area where volunteers had removed the nonnative invasive Brazilian-pepper and Carrotwood at a previous event

held by IRC. These invasives were choking out other species from growing. Volunteers also planted Coralbean, Seaside goldenrod, Corkystem passionflower, native Agave and 25 other native plant species.

Volunteers also removed invasive nonnative plants such as Snake plant, Oyster plant, and Brazilian-pepper. We are grateful for the 27 volunteers who came out to support our ecological restoration day. We want to especially thank our IRC board member, John Campanola and wife Lydia as well as the New York Life Foundation for their generous support and contribution to our restoration efforts.



IRC attends Native Plant Day with the Dade Chapter of FNPS-3/16

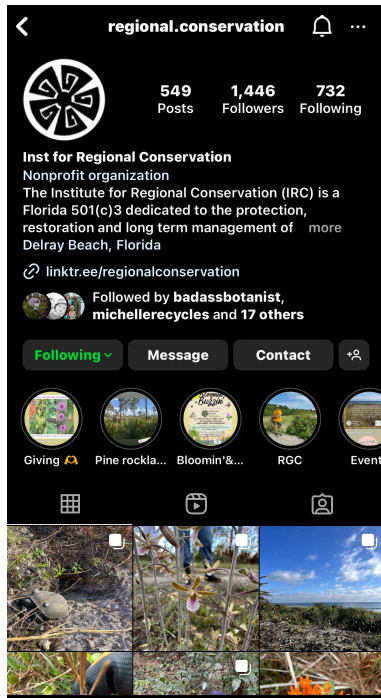
IRC attends Native Plant Day with our friends from the Dade Chapter Florida Native Plant Society. Liz Dutra and Alex Seasholtz (Director of Ecological Restoration) co-tabled the event and shared things all IRC.



Our Conservation Program Manager, Liz Dutra, gave a talk about IRC's Native For Your Neighborhood online program. We were happy to support the wonderful Dade-FNPS chapter for the lovely work they conduct throughout the county of Miami-Dade.

It was a beautiful day with many native plant growers, local nurseries and plant enthusiasts.

Follow us on Social Media



The best way to stay up to date on all things IRC is to follow us on social media! Every week we spotlight native plants for "Wildflower Wednesday" and give a glimpse into one of our many unique projects from our "From the Field Friday" posts. You can also follow our socials where we share our event photos and lots of relevant information about the environment and beyond.

So, if you haven't already, follow us on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#)!

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](#)
Newsletter Editor: Liz Dutra



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