



**The Institute for
Regional Conservation**

March 2016 Newsletter

Greetings!

The Institute for Regional Conservation had a strong start to the spring season with endangered species work in Homestead, invasive plant management projects in Vero Beach and the Florida Keys and outreach events in Miami, Key Largo and Big Pine Key. Below you will find a brief update on each. Also, be sure to read about our exciting upcoming volunteer opportunity in Delray Beach on Saturday, April 30th.

Thank you,
The Institute for Regional Conservation



Pine Rockland Study in Homestead

IRC has continued working on the endangered species project through the Center for Integrated Research on the Environment (CIRE) with the University of Montana and Tufts University on the Homestead Air Reserve Base (HARB). This portion of our work has focused on a demography study of *Croton linearis*, the host plant for Bartram's Hairstreak, on the pine rocklands found within HARB. While completing the demography study, observations of any rare, threatened, or endangered species found within this unique and imperiled habitat are being recorded.



[Link to Croton linearis Species Page](#)



Invasive Plant Management Updates

IRC's Invasive Plant Management teams have been busy completing projects in Vero Beach and the Florida Keys. Our Mainland Team is about to begin removing invasive plant species such as Shoebuttan ardisia, Air potato, and Cogon Grass at Oslo Riverfront Conservation Area. Our Keys Team has started working at the National Key Deer Refuge in Big Pine Key to target over a dozen invasives including Brazilian Pepper, Australian Pine and Lather Leaf.



March Outreach Events



25th Annual Delicate Balance of Nature Lecture Series

On March 9th, IRC's Education and Outreach Coordinator, Cara Abbott, gave a presentation titled "Invasive Plants: What To Do Next With Native Gardening" at the 25th Annual Delicate Balance of Nature Lecture Series at John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park.



1st Annual Florida Keys Wildlife Refuge Outdoor Festival

On March 18th, IRC's Florida Keys Field Biologist, Adriana Olavarria, represented IRC at the 1st Annual Florida Keys Wildlife Refuge Outdoor Fest.



Native Plant Day

On March 19th, Cara Abbott represented IRC at Native Plant Day at Bill Sandowski Park in Miami hosted by the Miami Dade Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society. We distributed information about IRC and also gave a talk on how to utilize the Natives For Your Neighborhood database.



Symposium in Canary Islands

IRC's Senior Botanist, Jorge Carlos Trejo Torres, has been invited to participate in the XIII Symposium of the Asociación Ibero-Macaronésica de Jardines Botánicos (AIMJB) in Fuerteventura, Canary Islands from April 5th - April 8th. The motto of the symposium is "endangered plants and the role of botanical gardens in its conservation." On April 7th, Carlos will give a talk on the conservation work IRC has conducted through the creation of the Plants of the Island of Puerto Rico database.



[Link to Plants of the Island of Puerto Rico Database](#)



Upcoming Events

Saturday, April 30th 8 am - 12 pm

The Institute for Regional Conservation will be holding a second restoration volunteer day at Atlantic Dunes Park (1605 S. Ocean Blvd. Delray Beach, FL 33483) on Saturday, April 30th from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. This volunteer day will be part of the Great American Clean Up and will focus on further restoring biodiversity within this beautiful public park by removing invasive plant species like snake plant (*Sansevieria hyacinthoides*) and planting native species that are currently missing but historically found within the park. The supplies for this Great American Clean Up event are made possible by a mini-grant awarded by Keep Palm Beach County Beautiful, Inc ([KPBCB](#)).



A lot of great work was accomplished at our volunteer day on January 30th but there is still plenty more to be done in restoring biodiversity at the park. At this event, volunteers will assist IRC in removing and bagging invasive plant species, planting native plants in the hammock and dune areas, and removing trash throughout the park. Families, school groups, local organizations and local residents of all ages are welcome to attend! Because this is a Great American Clean Up event, participants will be given a commemorative t-shirt for volunteering their time. Questions and RSVP's can be sent to Cara Abbott 305-304-6610 or abbott@regionalconservation.org.