



Institute for
Regional
Conservation

May 2019 Newsletter



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!](#) Above, beach verbena (*Glandularia maritima*) in Big Cypress National Preserve (G. Gann, 2019). This Florida endemic is disappearing from pine rocklands in Miami-Dade County and the barrier islands of southeastern Florida. As part of our [Restoring the Gold Coast](#) program, we hope to augment wild populations on barrier islands in southern Palm Beach County.

Tracking Extinctions

Earlier this month we posted some disturbing news on Facebook about global extinctions as reported by the [IPBES](#). An estimated 1 million species are threatened with global extinction. But how did we get to this point? While we are familiar with the many drivers of extinction (e.g., habitat destruction, poaching, degraded water systems, fire exclusion, the widespread use of insecticides), it is important to note that it usually takes a bit of work to drive a species to extinction. By the time a plant or animal gets listed as Critically Endangered on the [IUCN Red List](#), it has already been wiped out over the vast majority of its range. Thus, preventing local and regional extinctions is key to protecting global biodiversity. This is why IRC tracks possible extinctions and posts lists on our online databases ([Florida](#), [Florida Keys](#), [Puerto Rico](#)). We want researchers, land managers, and citizen scientists to look for these species, so that they can receive protection if they are still present. And we want to document it if they are indeed gone so that we can better understand what happened and how we can prevent further local extinctions in the future. As part of this effort, we will be working for the next two years with Broward County, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, and the Broward Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society to document plant extinction in eastern Broward County. Please consider making a [donation](#) to support this important effort. George Gann

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

Save The Date!

IRC's 35th Anniversary celebration on Thursday, November 7th!

Location and times to be announced, so be on the look out.

New IRC Associate

One of the key assets of IRC are our many Associates, many who have worked as staff for IRC in the past. These Research and Conservation Associates possess tremendous skill sets, experience, dedication, and enthusiasm for conservation and ecological restoration. We are excited to announce that butterfly and wildlife expert Mary Truglio Fesmire has joined our team as a Research and Conservation Associate.



A huge thank you to IRC board member John Campanola, Agent, New York Life Insurance Company, for his generous donation of \$1,500 toward our 35th Anniversary event!

Also, to IRC Associates Steven Green, and James Johnson, for contributing to our program.

Thank you to our recent Natives For Your Neighborhood sponsors, [Amelia's SmartyPlants](#) and [Wilcox 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](#).

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Recent IRC Events

IRC Signs Impact 100 Palm Beach County Grant Contract!



At the May 16th ceremony, The Institute for Regional Conservation signed an agreement with Impact 100 Palm Beach County to fund our Restoring the Gold Coast program. We can't wait to put this \$100,000 to good use restoring native coastal biodiversity while building a community of environmental advocates! [Impact 100 PBC](#) is a women's charitable organization funding local nonprofit initiatives in southern Palm Beach County.

To learn about Restoring the Gold Coast, check out our new [web page](#) for the program.

IRC at EEL's Rockdale Pineland Preserve Volunteer Workday

IRC's Field Biologist, Michelle Smith, participated in the volunteer workday at Rockdale Pineland Preserve in southern Miami-Dade County. Staff from the Miami-Dade [Environmentally Endangered Lands](#) (EEL) program and [Natural Areas Management](#) (NAM), and [Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden](#) led several groups to plant endangered and common pine rockland species throughout the preserve.



George Gann at IUCN Rewilding Task Force Meeting at White Oak Conservation Center

In April, George Gann represented the Society for Ecological Restoration and IRC at a meeting convened by the [IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management](#). The purpose of this meeting was to conduct a North American regional review of the concept of Rewilding, an idea with origins in North America but now receiving significant support in Europe and elsewhere as a conservation strategy. This meeting contributes to a larger effort to develop a set of principles and guidelines for rewilding that can be applied at the global scale. An important topic being addressed is the relationship of rewilding to ecological restoration and other restorative



Participants at rewilding meeting at White Oak conservation center outside of Jacksonville, Florida. Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom, and the United States were represented.

practices.



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