



November 2020 Newsletter

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Monthly Conservation Note

The Science and Art of Healing

I have spent a lot of time thinking about the relationship between ecological restoration, human wellbeing, and politics. What is clear from our recent experiences, is that hyper-partisan politics has a negative influence on both the environment, and our physical and mental health. This is true at every scale and in every region of the United States. What is ironic about this fractured political moment, is that more and more people do not automatically align with either major political party. Yet party politics still drives the process, and those on the outskirts have gained more and more power as the relative sizes of the parties have shrunk. The proverbial pendulum swings too far in opposite directions. As partisanship has increased, science has also suffered as evidenced by our handling of the COVID, climate, and biodiversity crises during the outgoing administration. But science is ignored on both the left and the right, or worse manipulated to support popular views, including green ones.

The environment was not always a partisan issue. Republican and Democratic parties alike have both supported and fallen short on major environmental issues. The recent abandonment of science-based thinking, however, and the failure to acknowledge the affect of environmental degradation on the economy and our quality of life, threatens our very existence. We suffer from an existential crisis of major proportions.

Moving forward, we need everybody working together. We must heal our bodies, our minds, our politics, our neighborhoods, and our planet. We can only do this by crossing the aisle, embracing those with differing views, and respecting where these views come from. We must underpin this healing with evidence-based science; but we must also employ art, culture, and beauty in this effort. Perhaps most needed in this key moment is a seemingly lost art, the art of diplomacy, carried out with neighbors, government officials, and at the highest political levels.

George Gann

Founder and Executive Director





Thank you to all who have supported IRC's programs in the last month. Thank you to The Tamarind (Kimberlee Pompeo & Eric Gustafan) and Martha Rodriguez for your support of our RGC program by purchasing Biodiversity Starter Kits!

Bill Petry, Rick Harty, Winnie Edwards, Sabrina Carle, Sylvie Glickstein, and William Shaw thank you for your contributions!

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.

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

DONATE

Restoring the Gold Coast Update

We are currently looking for partners to sponsor Restoring the Gold Coast events through March 2021! With our Impact 100 PBC grant coming to a close at the end of the year, these sponsorships will help ensure our program continues to restore native coastal biodiversity.

Join our growing list of sponsors such as Beach Property Owners Association, Erin Deady Law and Surfrider Foundation to help create healthy, diverse dunes throughout Palm Beach County.

If you have questions on how sponsoring an RGC event would work, reach out to [Cara Abbott](#).

Restoring the Gold Coast Program Sponsorship Opportunities



- Sponsor a coastal restoration event for \$1000.
- Co-sponsor a coastal restoration event for \$500.
- All sponsors are promoted on social media, in our newsletter & in media releases regarding the event.

Restoring native coastal biodiversity... because a diverse dune is a healthy dune!

Restoring the Gold Coast is a collaborative initiative to restore the incredible diversity of native plants and animals native to coastal beaches and dunes in southeastern Florida, along the historic Gold Coast from Miami-Dade to Palm Beach County.

The plants your sponsorship provides will naturally capture sand to prevent beach erosion and storm damage, will provide food and shelter to butterflies, birds and other wildlife, and will serve as the first line of defense against sea level rise and catastrophic storms.

Contact Us to Become a Sponsor!

561-908-4087
abbott@regionalconservation.org
www.regionalconservation.org/RGC.asp



Pine Rockland Initiative Update

New Pine Rockland Planting Guide Now Available

Check out this newly updated Pine Rockland Planting Guide! You can find it on our Natives For Your Neighborhood page, [here](#).

This planting guide has detailed instructions for creating a pine rockland. It will enable you to elevate your gardening into conducting actual habitat restoration of a critically imperiled habitat. If restoring pine rockland on your property has ever crossed your mind, you should definitely give this guide a read for inspiration and motivation.

Thank you to Jennifer Possley and Steven Woodmansee for putting this wealth of knowledge together with George Gann.



GUIDELINES FOR PLANTING A PINE ROCKLAND IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

George D. Gann, Jennifer Possley,
Steven W. Woodmansee



Version 2.0
October 2020

Why plant a pine rockland? Pine rockland is a critically imperiled ecosystem that has been heavily impacted by urban development and agriculture. Found only in South Florida and the Bahama Archipelago, less than 2% of the original pine rocklands remain in Miami-Dade County outside of Everglades National Park. Pine rocklands of the lower Florida Keys have also been heavily impacted by development, sea level rise, and flooding from hurricanes and tropical storms. Creating a pine rockland is not easy or simple, but it can be extremely rewarding. Pine rocklands provide wonderful habitats for native plants and wildlife, including many species of very rare plants, butterflies, bees and other pollinators, and songbirds. If well-

Pictured Above: Excerpt of the "Guidelines for Planting a Pine Rockland in Miami-Dade County, Florida"

Give Miami Day 2020

We want to thank all 33 donors who helped us raise \$3,022 through Give Miami Day! We have surpassed our goal of 20 donors and raising \$3,000. This money will go towards continuing our Pine Rockland Initiative in 2021. We are so grateful for your support!



IRC Hiring Two New Field Technicians

IRC is currently accepting applications for team member (field technician) positions for 2020/2021 for our Pine Rockland Initiative program. For more information on the position and what it entails, check out our [Indeed job posting](#).

"Meet Our Team" Spotlights

IRC Research Associate - Steven W. Woodmansee

A South Florida native, Steve worked as a biologist at IRC for 11 years starting in 1997. While there, Steve helped co-author the IRC published book Rare Plants of South Florida: Their History, Conservation,

and Restoration (Gann, Bradley & Woodmansee 2002). He has deposited over 2000 herbarium specimens at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, including additions to the South Florida flora, and many new county records. While at IRC, Steve also lead projects, wrote reports, and helped train staff. In 2008 Steve left IRC to start his own business **Pro Native Consulting**, where he still conducts floristic inventory, rare plant, exotic plant, and ecological restoration research, native plant and landscape education, in addition to selling native plants with partner Silent Native Nursery in Redland, Florida. Since then, Steve has maintained his relationship with IRC as Research Associate, where he continues to support the IRC mission. Steve also taught for 7 years at Miami Dade College as adjunct faculty. Since 2000, he has served as co-chair of the **Miami-Dade Native Plant Workshop**, a free program which educates the public in plant identification techniques. He has also served in several leadership positions in the Florida Native Plant Society, including President.



Steve recently co-authored the new "Guidelines for Planting A Pine Rockland in Miami-Dade County, Florida" with Jennifer Possley and George Gann.



Upcoming Events

Seagrape Workshop

On December 9th, join IRC for an online workshop contributing to understanding the issues behind seagrape trimming, ecological restoration, and coastal conservation. The workshop will include presentations, panel discussions and open Q&A.

Check out **this recent article** from the coastal star, featuring George Gann, that covers the seagrape debate.

To attend the workshop, use the following **zoom link**.

FREE IRC ZOOM WORKSHOP
Seagrapes and Biodiversity
With George Gann and Colleagues

Join IRC's Chief Conservation Strategist, George Gann, as he leads *Seagrapes and Biodiversity*, a workshop contributing to understanding the issues behind seagrape trimming, ecological restoration, and coastal conservation.



This workshop will include presentations, panel discussions with IRC colleagues such as Jimmy Lange, and open Q&A.

Wednesday, December 9th, 2020
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
Go to <https://zoom.us/j/9767199455>
Click "Join Meeting"



Institute for
Regional
Conservation

Giving Tuesday

We at the IRC are feeling thankful for our natural environment and for the many friends who help in our efforts to restore

Unleash Generosity

December 1, 2020



Every year, on GivingTuesday, we mobilize millions of people across the globe to show up, give back, and change their communities. The goal is to create a massive wave of generosity that lasts well beyond that day, and touches every person on the planet.

GIVING TUESDAY

the link between people and nature. We invite you to support IRC on Giving Tuesday 2020. Funds raised will go towards administrative costs for programs such as Restoring the Gold Coast and the Pine Rockland Initiative and help us maintain our free online resources like Natives for Your Neighborhood and the Floristic Inventory of South Florida.

Donations on Giving Tuesday are made directly to organizations, so you can click the "Donate Now" button anywhere on our website or follow [this link](#).

Recent Events

IRC Coastal Star Feature

Thank you to Deborah Hartz-Seeley at [The Coastal Star](#) for writing up an excellent piece that features our [Biodiversity Starter Plant Kits](#)! Read it [here](#). We hope to increase native biodiversity on our barrier islands through the sales of these kits.

If you are interested in more information or purchasing a kit, reach out to us at abbott@regionalconservation.org.



Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza Fundraiser

We want to thank everyone who mentioned IRC at Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza for our RGC fundraiser. A special thank you to the Delray Chamber of Commerce Leadership Group members for supporting us.



Atlantic Dunes Park Restoration

This month our volunteers added 20 Saw Palmettos in this dune crest which was recently cleared of invasive Brazilian-pepper at Atlantic Dunes Park. Great work!

Our conservation efforts at Atlantic Dunes

Park are featured in this Sun Sentinel article. Check it out [here](#).



IRC at FAU Mentor Roundtable

IRC's Cara Abbott participated as a mentor on a roundtable by the Treasure Coast Chapter of the Florida Association of Environmental Professionals (TCC FAEP) for Florida Atlantic University Harbor Branch students. Mentors talked about their jobs/positions and gave advice to students about having a successful career in the environmental field.



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

