



Institute for  
Regional  
Conservation

## November 2018 Newsletter

Thank You to Everyone Who Has Supported IRC on Give  
Miami Day & Giving Tuesday!

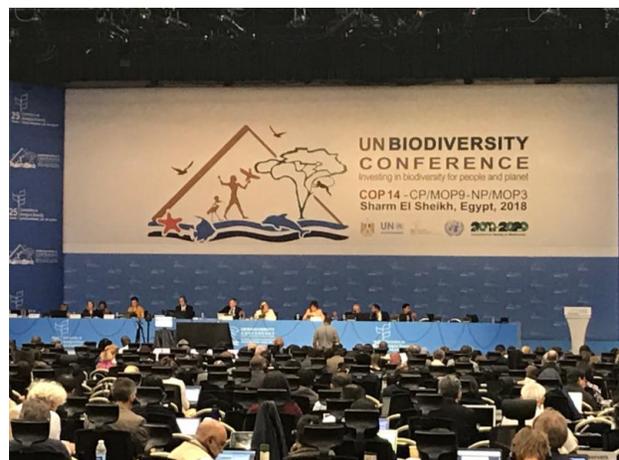
Everyone at IRC would like to thank our Give Miami Day & Giving Tuesday donors! We greatly appreciate the support from each and every one of you in helping us raise almost **\$3,000!**

Your contributions enable us to carry out our mission through restoring pine rockland habitats, restoring the coastal dune system, holding educational events, providing free online resources, and more.



## IRC Participated the UN Biodiversity Conference in Egypt!

IRC's Chief Conservation Strategist, George Gann, participated in the UN Biodiversity Conference in Egypt in mid-November as part of a delegation from our partner, the Society for Ecological Restoration. George presented on the Convention on Biological Diversity's Short Term Action Plan on Ecosystem Restoration, used by countries around the world.



Support IRC's Restoring the Gold Coast Program!

IRC's "Restoring the Gold Coast" program is a two-pronged project that mobilizes our partnerships within the community to teach children and adults about environmental advocacy as they also learn about the importance of protecting our coastal dunes and work toward restoring damage done.

Southeastern Florida's coastal dune system nearly disappeared in the 1970s due to unchecked development and erosion. The devastation of biodiversity followed. In most areas, efforts to repair the dunes only restored their structure and the habitat for a few popular species. Dozens of lesser-known species have continued to decline and go locally extinct. Unfortunately, this situation has not been addressed through existing environmental education conservation programs.

Our project helps replenish woeful lack of biodiversity, providing children and adults rich opportunities to learn how biodiversity keeps our Earth healthy, and ultimately keeps us healthy too. Participants will enjoy hands-on restoration activities and learn about environmental advocacy in Delray Beach and throughout southeastern Florida.

We will teach children and adults how greater species biodiversity ensures the sustainability of all life forms, and how healthy ecosystems can better withstand and recover from disasters.

**Get involved today by signing up for our next volunteer day!**

## Recent IRC Events

### Pine Rockland Working Group Conference

On November 1st, our Chief Conservation Strategist, George Gann, was the keynote speaker at the Pine Rockland Working Group Conference at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden. George talked about **Expanding the Pine Rockland Footprint - To Protect We Must Restore**. This presentation explored the idea that, in order to save pine rocklands, we have to restore pine rocklands - from fire suppressed "transitional" forests to bulldozed sites and even farm fields. George wanted to raise awareness that we not only need to restore these damaged habitats, but work with the community to gain the support and resources needed to do this properly! Pine rocklands are a globally imperiled ecosystem known only from South Florida, the Bahamas, and Turks and Caicos.



### Private Pine Rockland Landowners Summit

On November 3rd, IRC held this event to give private landowners the opportunity to share their successes and the challenges of owning a pine rockland. Our goal is to work as a community to help get the funding and technical support needed to restore and manage these forests. This event was funded by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Partners for Fish &



Wildlife Program, and was organized in conjunction with the [Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden's Connect to Protect Network](#).

## Lake Ida Volunteer Day #6

On November 10th, IRC held our last scheduled volunteer for the year at Lake Ida Parcel! Even with our small group, we were able to remove a large amount of invasive *Richardia*, take down some *Earleaf*, and plant about 300 native grasses. For more pictures, check out our [Facebook](#)!



A special thanks to [Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties](#) for funding this project, [Delray Beach Parks & Recreation](#) for coming out to work with us, and to our boating chauffeurs Iain Patterson, John Miller, & the boys.



We would like to thank every volunteer that has come out to one or more of our events! We couldn't have done this without your hard work and support. A special thank you to our recurring volunteers who came to every event and provided us with their boats!

## Attention!

### IRC is Looking to Hire Field Technicians!

We are looking to hire some great full-time technicians to help on our restoration projects in Miami-Dade and the Keys.

If you or someone you know is a fan of our work and would like to be involved, please send a copy of your CV, resume, or letter of interest to Michelle Smith at [msmith@regionalconservation.org](mailto:msmith@regionalconservation.org)!

Please share with anyone who might be interested!

We hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving!

