



October 2019 Newsletter

Monthly Conservation Notes

IRC co-leads development and launch of new international Standards for ecological restoration

It is fitting that during our 35th anniversary year, IRC helped lead a global effort to update and expand guidance on developing, implementing, and monitoring ecological restoration projects in any ecosystem anywhere in the world. Following a nearly three-year effort, the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER), IRC, and more than a dozen participating institutions launched the [International Principles and Standards for the Practice of Ecological Restoration](#), Second Edition, at the 8th World Conference on Ecological Restoration in Cape Town, South Africa. More than 800 conference delegates, including representatives of the United Nations Environmental Programme, UN Food, and Agricultural Organization, and the South African government were on hand for the launch.

With pressure mounting for massive investment in climate change mitigation and adaptation, and the restoration of degraded lands, the restoration Standards are a critical resource to help ensure that global restoration efforts maximize conservation and ecosystem services benefits, and do not cause unintended harm or fail. I had the honor of leading a group of 16 scientists and restoration practitioners from seven countries in preparing this document. It was peer-reviewed and is available as a special issue of the journal [Restoration Ecology](#).

While global restoration Standards may seem esoteric and unrelated to our work in Florida and the Caribbean, nothing could be further from the truth. Because the Standards were developed by practitioners, like me, together with internationally renowned restoration scientists, they are built for everyday practice on the ground, and in the water. In fact, IRC is already using the updated Standards for two of our projects, [Restoring the Gold Coast](#) and our Pine Rockland Initiative. Tools like the Social Benefits Wheel help us to track the effects of our work on the community, and we are using the Standards to help build reference models for the restoration of critically-imperiled pine rocklands in Miami-Dade County. We are proud of this contribution and hope you will take the time to take a look.

George Gann

Founder and Executive Director



INTERNATIONAL PRINCIPLES
AND STANDARDS FOR THE
PRACTICE OF ECOLOGICAL
RESTORATION

SECOND EDITION SUMMARY

The new restoration Standards are available from [SER](#), as an open-access special issue of [Restoration Ecology](#), and as a summary document. A Chinese translation is also available from the SER website.

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

Around the Corner!

IRC's 35th Anniversary celebration in Miami-Dade County will be on **Sunday, October 27th** from **3:00 pm to 6:00 pm** at the City of Miami's historic [Simpson Park](#).

For more information, [click here](#). To RSVP, [click here](#).

IRC's 35th Anniversary Event in Palm Beach County



Join IRC as we all celebrate 35 years of working together on behalf of South Florida's biodiversity. This event will be held in Palm Beach County on **Thursday, November 7th** at the offices of [BCoSF Media](#) in Delray Beach from **5:00 pm to 8:00 pm**.

This event is sponsored by John Campanola, agent of New York Life, [Erin Deady Law](#), [Central Park Taekwondo](#), and [Valentina's Pizza and Pasta](#).

5:00 pm - Meet the IRC team while socializing over refreshments.

6:00 pm - Presentations and Awards with a look back on IRC's history and to its future.

Parking: Please stay tuned for parking information.

RSVPs are greatly appreciated. Sign up through our [Eventbrite page](#).

Sponsor this event or donate to IRC! You can help IRC's conservation mission by co-sponsoring our 35th Anniversary event at any level or by donating to IRC. Please click on the 'Donate Now' button and leave a comment that your donation is to sponsor the 35th Anniversary Delray Beach event or contact IRC (Call 305-247-6547 or email admin@regionalconservation.org).

Details are also on the [IRC website](#), [Facebook page](#), and [calendar](#). Please share the word!

DONATE

Join IRC for our Restoring the Gold Coast Kick-off Event in Delray Beach **TOMORROW!**



Join IRC, [the City of Delray Beach](#), [Sandoway Discovery Center](#), and [Beach Property Owners' Association](#) for a Restoring the Gold Coast Kick-off event at the Municipal Beach in Delray Beach on **Tomorrow, October 19th from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. RAIN OR SHINE!** We will meet at the gazebo located across from Nassau Street. We will have a brief ceremony and ribbon cutting and then work in the dunes to the east of the gazebo.

Participants will learn about the value of restoring coastal biodiversity while planting a variety of native coastal plants, removing invasive plants, and picking up trash. We will provide all the tools, gloves, and materials necessary as well as light refreshments. We ask that volunteers wear closed-toed shoes, sunscreen, and a hat. All participants will receive a free t-shirt at check-in!

For parking, come to the check-in table to receive free parking passes for volunteers and park along the beach or at the Sandoway Discovery Center.

If you have any questions or would like to send in your RSVP, please contact our Education and Outreach Coordinator, Cara Abbott, at 305-304-6610 or abbott@regionalconservation.org.

Check out our webpage to learn more about our [RGC Program!](#)



Thank you to our recent donors for supporting IRC's programs.

Steve Pearson, [Broward County Chapter of FNPS](#), Sandra Shore, & Geraldine Xydas.

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

IRC would like to thank John Lawson for donating plants towards our RGC event at South Inlet with Boca Community High School last month.

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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.](#)



Recent IRC Events

George Gann Talks to the Palm Beach Chapter of FNPS & Audubon Everglades

George Gann talked to the [Palm Beach Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society](#) and [Audubon Everglades](#) on "*The Institute for Regional Conservation: Conservation in a Changing World*". He discussed the IRC program, from local efforts to global policy, including Restoring the Gold Coast, Natives For Your Neighborhood, and the new edition of the international restoration Standards.



Cara Abbott Talks to Atlantic High School's National Science Honor Society

IRC's Education and Outreach Coordinator, Cara Abbott, was the guest speaker for Atlantic Community High School's Science National Honor Society October Meeting. Cara talked about IRC's Restoring the Gold



Cara (left) and the Science National Honor Society officers.

Coast program and how students can get involved with restoring native coastal habitat here in Delray Beach!

IRC Hires New Crew

IRC has hired a new crew to work on our Pine Rockland Initiative Program in Miami!

Our new Field Crew Leader, Alex Seasholtz (top), received his B.S. in Social Science from FSU and later pursued a degree in Aquaculture from Hillsborough Community College. As a South Florida native, he grew up with a deep appreciation for Pine Rocklands and all-natural South Florida environments.

Our new Crew Member, Christian Bartell (middle), received his B.S. in Zoology from Southern Illinois University. He has experience with various habitat restoration techniques and working with birds and a passion for environmental health, sustainability, and preservation.

And our other new Crew Member, Donnie Faughnan (bottom), received his B.S. in Fisheries and Aquaculture from SUNY Cobleskill. He has experience with invasive species and specimen collection and has a passion for aquatic environments and the sciences.



South Inlet Event with Boca Community High School Students

As part of our Restoring the Gold Coast program, IRC led Dr. Rachel Wellman's AICE Environmental Management class on a field trip to South Inlet Park in Boca Raton this week! These Boca Community High School students got hands-on experience



restoring coastal biodiversity by planting a fun variety of natives in the maritime hammock. They also picked up trash off the beach and brainstormed solutions to current issues coastal habitats face.

Thank you [Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation](#) for your support in this event! Thank you, Rob Barron, for delivering the plants and lending us Chris and Tom for the morning! And lastly, thank you [Impact 100 PBC](#) for funding our Restoring the Gold Coast Program!



IRC's International Coastal Cleanup Event at ADP

Our International Coastal Clean-Up event at Atlantic Dunes Park was a HUGE success, despite the wind and rain. With almost **100** volunteers, we worked together to remove 64.98 kg of trash (which was mostly comprised of microplastics) and 27.75 kg of recyclables off the beach. Some of the weirdest trash items people found were: a shoe sole, a tent, a Juul pod, a barrette, and wire!

Since this event was also part of our Restoring the Gold Coast Program, participants helped us increase coastal biodiversity by planting native Saw palmetto and Spanish stopper and removing invasive Bowstring hemp (Snake plant), Brazilian pepper, and Beach naupaka.

Thank you to [Keep Palm Beach County Beautiful, Inc.](#) and [the City of Delray Beach Parks & Recreation Department](#) for all of your support for this event. And thank you to [Impact 100 PBC](#) for funding our Restoring the Gold Coast Program which makes events like this possible!

We would also like to thank our IRC Volunteer Crew Leaders/Members, John Miller & the boys and Isabel Marzullo for their hard work and help with the event!



IRC News & Upcoming Events

- **Restoring the Gold Coast Kick-Off Event, Tomorrow, October 19th: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm.** Join IRC, [the City of Delray Beach](#), [Sandoway Discovery Center](#), and [Beach Property Owners' Association](#) for a Restoring the Gold Coast Kick-off event at the Municipal Beach in Delray Beach. We will meet at the gazebo located across from Nassau Street. We will have a brief ceremony and ribbon cutting, and then work in the dunes to the east of the gazebo. Participants will learn about the value of restoring coastal biodiversity while planting a variety of native coastal plants, removing invasive plants, and picking up trash. We will provide all the tools, gloves, and materials necessary as well as light refreshments. We ask that volunteers wear closed-toed shoes, sunscreen, and a hat. All participants will receive a free t-shirt at check-in! Check out our web page to learn more about our [RGC Program!](#)
- **IRC 35th Anniversary Event in Miami-Dade, October 27th: 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm.** Join IRC as we all celebrate 35 years of working together on behalf of South Florida's biodiversity at the [City of Miami's historic Simpson Park](#). This event is sponsored by Patty Phares, the [City of Miami Parks and Recreation](#), Steve Pearson, [Dade Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society](#), [Broward Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society](#), and Joy Klein.
- **IRC 35th Anniversary Event in Delray Beach, November 7th: 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm.** Join IRC as we all celebrate 35 years of working together on behalf of South Florida's biodiversity at the offices of [BCoSF Media](#). This event is sponsored by John Campanola, agent of New York Life, [Erin Deady Law](#), [Central Park Taekwondo](#), and [Valentina's Pizza and Pasta](#).
- **Restoring the Gold Coast Event with the Town of Ocean Ridge, November 16th: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm.** Join IRC and the [Town of Ocean Ridge](#) for a Restoring the Gold Coast event at Town Hall. We will have an educational workshop including a presentation from George Gann and others, a biodiversity planting event, and refreshments.

We are a nonprofit conservation organization exempt from taxes under the
U.S. Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)3.

