



Institute for Regional Conservation

September 2019 Newsletter

Monthly Conservation Notes

35 Years of Service

2019 marks the 35th anniversary of the Institute for Regional Conservation, an organization that has grown from the dreams and aspirations of college students at the University of Colorado to an organization working at the cutting edge of conservation and ecological restoration locally, regionally, and around the world.

We have so much to be grateful for, including the support of family, friends, and community. We acknowledge that we are just one of many organizations working at the interface of biodiversity conservation, sustainability, and human wellbeing. We do not have any ownership of The Truth, but we do have vast experience, and ideas that are both grounded in reality and organized to make positive change. We are never satisfied with the status quo, but rather always push to get more done.

But who is IRC? To me, IRC is not just the staff, or the associates, or the board, but all of the people, organizations, and communities that work together to protect and restore biodiversity, and to make the world a better place.

But we stand at a difficult time. The Amazon rainforest, which IRC pioneers studied in the 1980s, is burning to the ground. Again. Hurricane Dorian made clear that the worst is yet to come as a consequence of climate change. Our hearts go out to our neighbors in the Bahamas. Greed and apathy reign supreme, not only in Washington but in other capital cities around the world. We are, indeed, experiencing a Crisis of Nature. And it is real.

So what do we do? Two things. 1) We work harder, and smarter, and together. We don't have the luxury to remain in our little organizational silos. We must work together, across many sectors, and we must work fast. 2) We must focus on the positive things we can do. We must move from a position of net degradation to a position of net improvement. This is why ecological restoration and other allied activities are so important. We must make a positive change.

In the months and years ahead, we hope you will be part of the IRC community. Come to an event, use our resources, contribute time and technical knowhow to help us help the planet, and make a contribution. Whatever you can give, be it \$5 or \$5,000, helps. Nothing is wasted and every investment in IRC moves us forward. And we know we can make a difference. Thank you.

George Gann

Founder and Executive Director



IRC founders in the Amazon 1985. Three are still active members of the Board: George Gann,

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

Save The Dates!

IRC's 35th Anniversary celebration in Miami-Dade County will be on Sunday, **October 27th** at the City of Miami's historic Simpson Park. For more information, [click here](#).

IRC's celebration in Palm Beach County will be on Thursday, **November 7th** at the offices of BCoSF Media in Delray Beach. For more information, [click here](#).

IRC's 35th Anniversary Event in Miami-Dade County



Join IRC as we all celebrate 35 years of working together on behalf of South Florida's biodiversity. This event will be held on **Sunday, October 27th** at the [City of Miami's historic Simpson Park](#) from **3:00 pm to 6:00 pm**.

3:00 pm - "Biota Scavenger Hunt" or a leisurely stroll in the remnant of Brickell Hammock preserved in the park. (It's not a dense jungle and unpaved paths are smooth, but dress to be in the warm outdoors.)

4:00 pm - Presentations and Reception with a look back on IRC's history and to its future, and socializing over refreshments.

Parking: Space at the park is limited, on-street parking is for residents. Please try to carpool. Drive to the park (5 SW 17th Road, Miami 33129 - off South Miami Ave.) for parking assistance. Overflow parking will be with [Pay-by-Phone](#) north of 15th Road.

RSVPs are greatly appreciated but not required (Call 305-247-6547 or email admin@regionalconservation.org).

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 Miami-Dade event and how to list your sponsorship. Or contact the IRC (Call 305-247-6547 or email admin@regionalconservation.org).

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

DONATE

Join IRC in the International Coastal Cleanup for our Restoring the Gold Coast Program



Join IRC at Atlantic Dunes Park in Delray Beach for [the International Coastal Cleanup](#) on **Saturday, September 21st from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm**. We are honored to be working with [Keep Palm Beach County Beautiful](#) and [the City of Delray Beach](#) for this event. This will be a great opportunity to help with the extra trash and debris that has washed up in the aftermath of Hurricane Dorian. We will have a check-in table set up at the pavilion located along the boardwalk. We hope you will consider joining us for a fun and educational morning of restoring coastal biodiversity together!

Participants will be planting a variety of native coastal plants, removing invasive plants and picking up trash. We will provide all 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, we will have someone posted in the parking lot across the street with free parking passes for volunteers.

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 [RGC webpage](#) to learn more about this program!



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

Raymond Jungles, Ginny Powell & Linda Beatty.

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

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

### Cara Abbott Talks at Boca Community High School

IRC's Education and Outreach Coordinator, Cara Abbott, talked with the students of Dr. Rachel Wellman's AICE Environmental Management class at Boca Community High School about the history and management of coastal habitat, the importance of biodiversity, and how to become an advocate for Florida's coastline.

Next week, we will be taking these students on a field trip to South Inlet Park in Boca Raton to add plants to the maritime hammock to increase coastal biodiversity.

We are so excited to be working with Dr. Wellman and her students on our Restoring the Gold Coast program!



## IRC News & Upcoming Events

- **International Coastal Cleanup, September 21st: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm.** Join IRC at Atlantic Dunes Park in Delray Beach for the International Coastal Cleanup. This event is in partnership with [Keep Palm Beach County Beautiful](#) and [the City of Delray Beach](#).
- **8th World Conference on Ecological Restoration, September 24th- 28th:** Our Chief Conservation Strategist, George Gann, will be attending the [8th World Conference on Ecological Restoration](#) on in Cape Town, South Africa. The day before the conference he will be co-leading the Second Biennial Global Forum on Ecological Restoration, where 40 invited scientists, policymakers, and practitioners will brainstorm about scaling up restoration around the world. At the conference, the Second Edition of the International Principles and Standards for the Practice of Ecological Restoration will be launched. IRC is one of three main contributors to that document, along with the Society for Ecological Restoration, and the Society for Ecological Restoration Australasia. George will participate as a Keynote Speaker at the closing plenary, contributing to the discussion of mainstreaming and scaling up restoration in the coming decade.
- **IRC at Palm Beach FNPS & Audubon Everglades Meeting, October 15th: 7:00 pm - 9:30 pm.** George Gann will speak at a joint meeting of the [Palm Beach County Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society](#) and [Audubon Everglades](#) on October 15th at Mounts Botanical Garden. George will speak about 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.
- **Restoring the Gold Coast Kick-Off Event, 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 at 9:00 am, 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 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 webpage 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](#).
- **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, an agent of New York Life.



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