



IRC CONSERVATION WORK

Presented By: Cara Abbott

Program Manager/

Education and Outreach Coordinator

February 2018

WHO IS IRC?



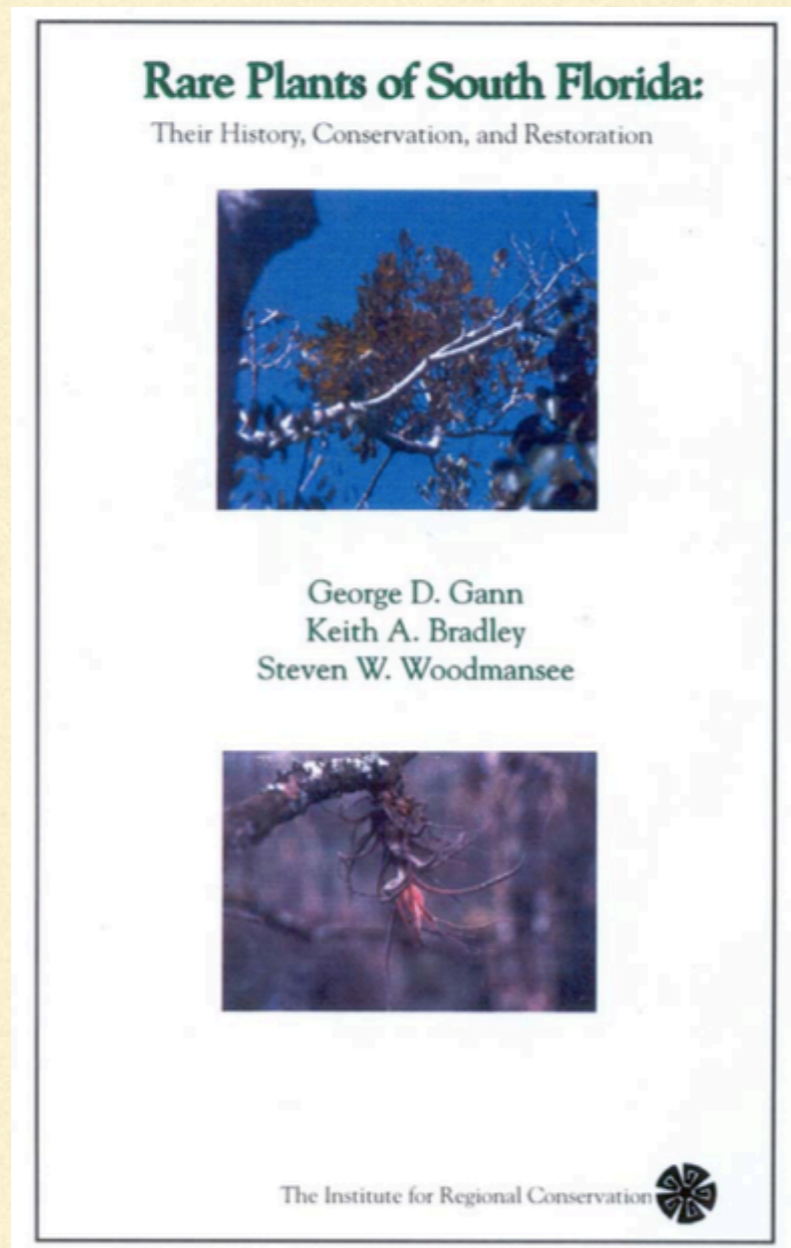
- **Mission:** A private non-profit organization, The Institute for Regional Conservation (IRC) is dedicated to the protection, restoration, and long-term management of biodiversity on a regional basis, and to the prevention of regional extinctions of rare plants, animals and ecosystems.
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OUR WORK



- Founded in 1984, IRC promotes an innovative approach to conservation.
 - We seek to protect - and restore - viable populations of all plant and animal species within a region by designing conservation strategies powered by rich, geographically-distributed data.
 - This work is especially important in regions of the world where rapid fragmentation of habitats has been experienced, or is expected.
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HIGHLIGHTS



- We compiled information online on more than 2,500 species of plants found in more than 400 conservation areas as part of The Floristic Inventory of South Florida.
- We published IRC's critically acclaimed book *Rare Plants of South Florida: Their History, Conservation, and Restoration* (2002), which emphasized the alarming loss of species in the region and provided detailed species accounts of the rarest 350 species.

HIGHLIGHTS



- Working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other partners, we have studied and contributed to the federal listing of numerous species of rare plants in Florida, including the Florida bristle fern and sand flax.
 - IRC restoration crews have worked with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Department of Defense to eradicate invasive plants on thousands of acres in Florida and the Caribbean.
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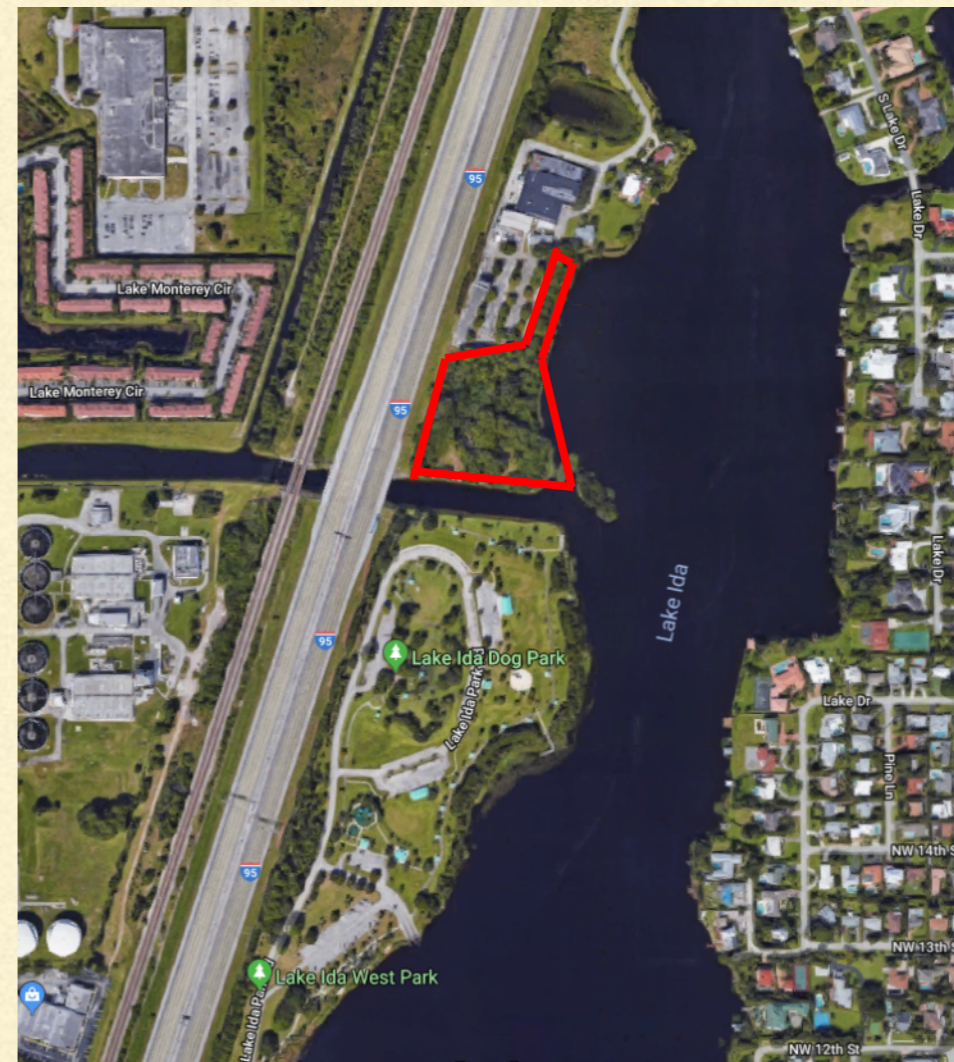
CURRENT WORK



- We are currently working on a wide variety of conservation and restoration projects in Palm Beach County, Miami-Dade County, Monroe County, Sumter County and Collier County.

PALM BEACH – LAKE IDA PARCEL

- Why this site matters: it's an important greenspace that acts as a buffer between 95 and Lake Ida (reducing pollution in the lake, preventing storm water runoff etc.).
- The land was going to be purchased and developed but the City purchased it instead to be a greenspace.



PALM BEACH - LAKE IDA PARCEL

- IRC received a Community Foundation of Palm Beach and Martin Counties Grant.
- We are working with the Delray Beach Parks Department to restore the "Lake Ida Parcel".
- Restoration will involve removing invasive plant species, planting hardy natives, and picking up trash and debris throughout the site.
- Six surveys and six volunteer days



Florida scrub frostweed on site.

PALM BEACH – FLORIDA RARE PLANT CONSERVATION ENDOWMENT

- IRC is working with agencies such as USFWS, UF, FIU, FTBG, Bok Towers, Archbold Biological Station, FFS, and FNPS to create and manage a Florida Rare Plant Conservation Endowment.
- IRC oversees the organization of conference calls, in person meetings, and working documents for the Endowment. Additionally, IRC is the secretary for all calls and meetings.
- \$6000 funding for this work is through USFWS



Linum carteri var. *carteri*

MIAMI – COASTAL PINE ROCKLAND



MIAMI - COASTAL PINE ROCKLAND

- Project Details: Restoring 50 acres of pine rockland in Miami-Dade County.
- Restoration work includes treating invasives, hardwood reduction, and monitoring threatened and endangered plant species.
- Current restoration sites:
 - George N. Avery Pineland
 - John Kunkel Small Pineland
 - Ned Glenn Nature Preserve
 - Florida City Pineland Preserve
 - Private homeowners with pinelands
- Total Budget: \$219,000 *split between Miami and Monroe



MIAMI - JACKSONVILLE ZOO

- Funding to complete restoration work at Ned Glenn Pineland
- IRC will treat invasives, collect and propagate native seeds using students to grow them, and will conduct pine rockland educational events with the school.
- Total Budget: \$15,000



4th graders of Airbase K-8 School in Homestead FL.

MIAMI – JACKSONVILLE ZOO

- Hurdles in Making Conservation Work Happen:
 - Issue with access and permission from Schoolboard



Schoolboard pine rockland site in Homestead, FL.

MIAMI - SOCSOUTH

- Project Details: Final year of five year contract to restore SOCSOUTH pine rockland properties
- Invasive plant treatments, hardwood reduction and monitoring of *Galactia smallii* and *Linum arenicola*
- Total Budget (Current Year): \$37,224



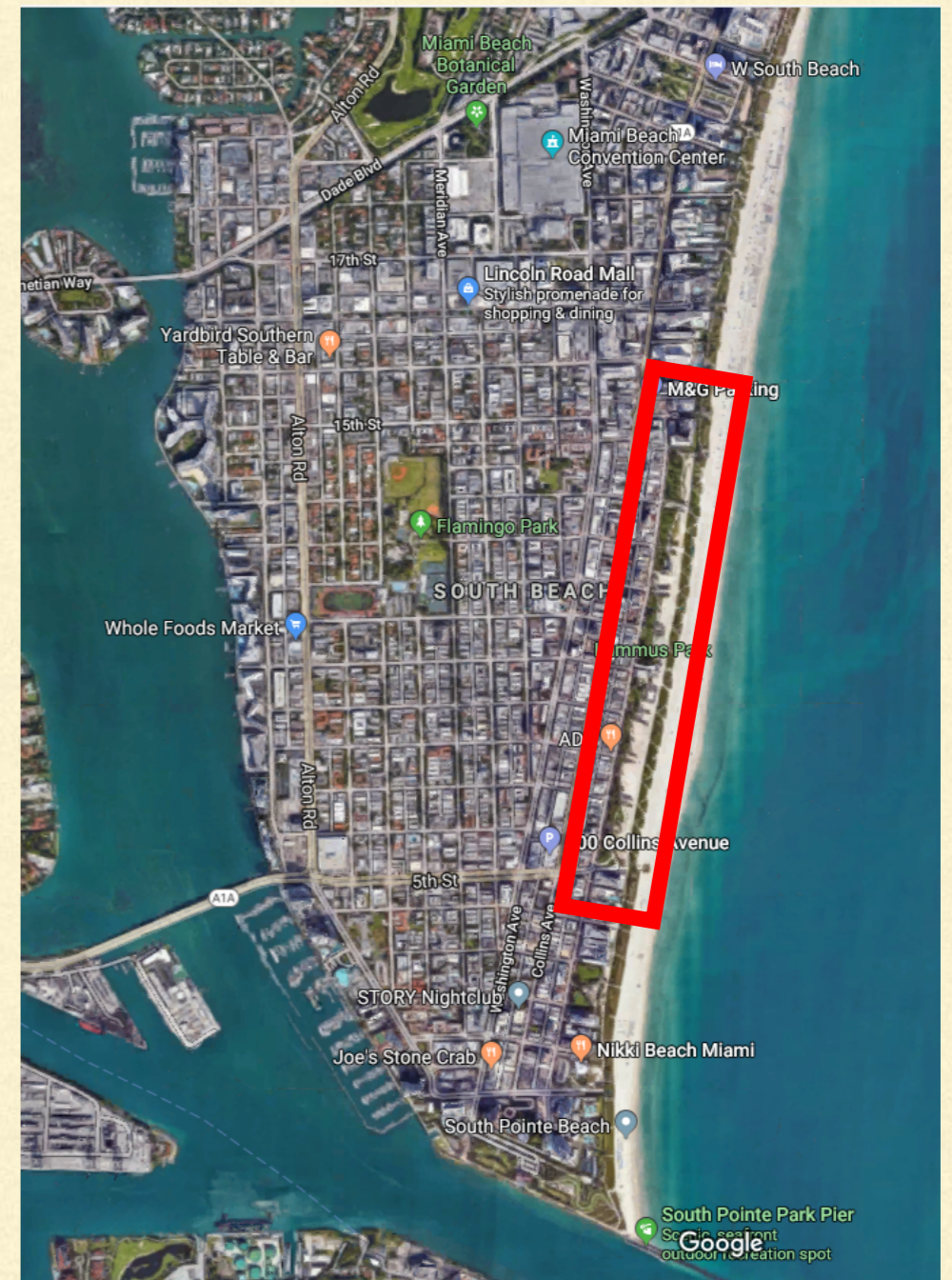
Galactia smallii



Linum arenicola

MIAMI - MIAMI BEACH RESTORATION

- IRC will hold two volunteer days aimed at restoring a City of Miami Beach park property through invasive removal, native planting and trash removal.
 - Emphasis on vertical growing native plants
- Events to take place at Lummus Park in April
- Total Budget: \$5,000



MIAMI - FLEPPC BROCHURES

- IRC is currently designing brochures that highlight common invasive plant species found in pine rockland habitat.
- We received \$700 from a FLEPPC Kathy Craddock Burks Education Grant.



Schinus terebinthifolius

MIAMI - PARTNERS

- Project Details: IRC will be holding 2-3 workshops focused on restoring private pine rocklands. The workshops will be open to any homeowner with pine dockland habitat on their properties who are interested in learning how to manage and take care of this important ecosystem.
- Total Budget: \$10,000



A previous workshop held by IRC in Key West, Florida.

SUMTER - BRISTLE FERN

- Project Details: IRC conducted status surveys for federally endangered *Didymoglossum punctatum* subsp. *floridanum*, completed a propagation study and collected environmental data on the microhabitats where the fern was observed using data loggers.
- Total Budget: \$32,869.30 from USFWS



Didymoglossum punctatum subsp. *floridanum*

MONROE - COASTAL PINE ROCKLAND

- Project Details: Restoring 40 acres of pine rockland in Monroe County.
- Restoration work includes treating invasives, hardwood reduction, and monitoring threatened and endangered plant species.
- Total Budget: \$219,000 *split between Miami and Monroe



Pine rockland habitat on Big Pine Key.

MONROE - COASTAL SAWGRASS

- Project Details: IRC will restore sawgrass wetlands by removing encroaching hardwood vegetation in the Florida Keys. Field work will be conducted between February and April of 2018 (dry season in the Keys).
- Total Budget: \$20,000 from USFWS



Conocarpus erectus growing near waterhole.



Bromeliad species will be protected during hardwood removal.

MONROE - CROTON

- Project Details: IRC is working with John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park and Crocodile Lake to collect *Croton linearis* seeds and propagate them. Once they are approximately 12 inches tall, our crew installs them in the pine docklands of National Key Deer Wildlife Refuge in Big Pine Key.
- Total Budget: \$30,000 from USFWS



Croton linearis



Florida leafwing butterfly



Bartram's scrub hairstreak

MONROE - GREENSWEEP

- Project Details: Facilitate habitat restoration and improvement on private lands primarily for Federal trust resources on wetlands, uplands and coastal areas throughout the middle and lower Florida Keys. Specifically, funding is for outreach, herbicide giveaway programs, retreatment of properties, monitoring, and treatment of new larger sites.
- Special focus on sites that benefit the marsh rabbit and key deer.
- Total Budget: \$15,000 from USFWS



Lower Keys Marsh Rabbit



Key Deer

MONROE – BIRD PLATFORM

- Project Details: IRC constructed and installed nesting bird platforms on NASKW properties to increase nesting of roseate terns and least terns. Additionally, IRC staff completed invasive plant treatment on Fleming Key.
- Total Budget: \$94,595.98



Successful nesting and laying by least terns.



Installation of bird platform.



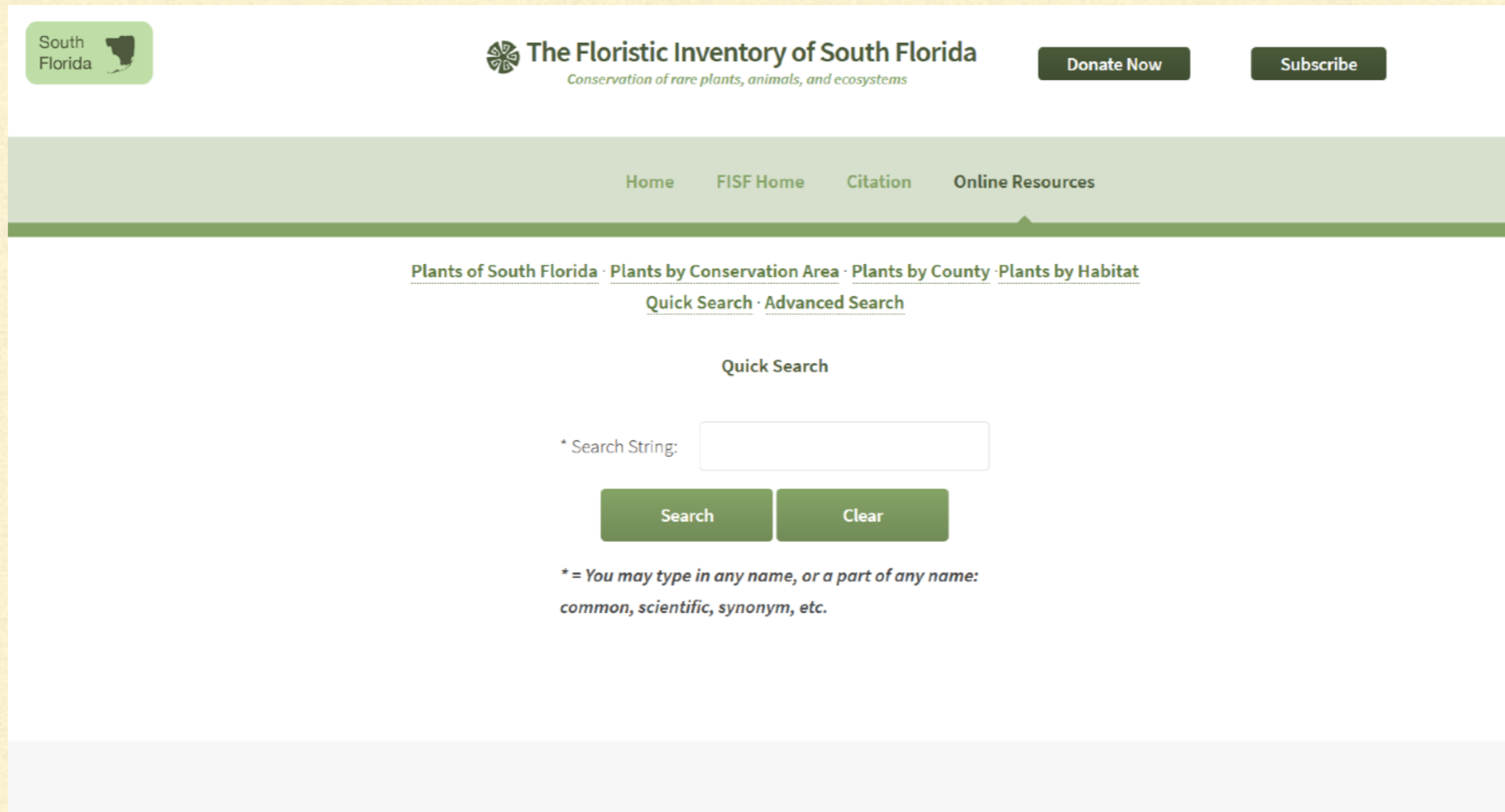
Removal of invasive plant species to benefit bird habitat.

COLLIER - PICAYUNE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

- Project Details: IRC aids in planning/ execution of exotic vegetation management services in the Picayune Strand State Forest. Additionally, we provide documentation for permit compliance.
- Total Budget: \$70,029 from SFWMD



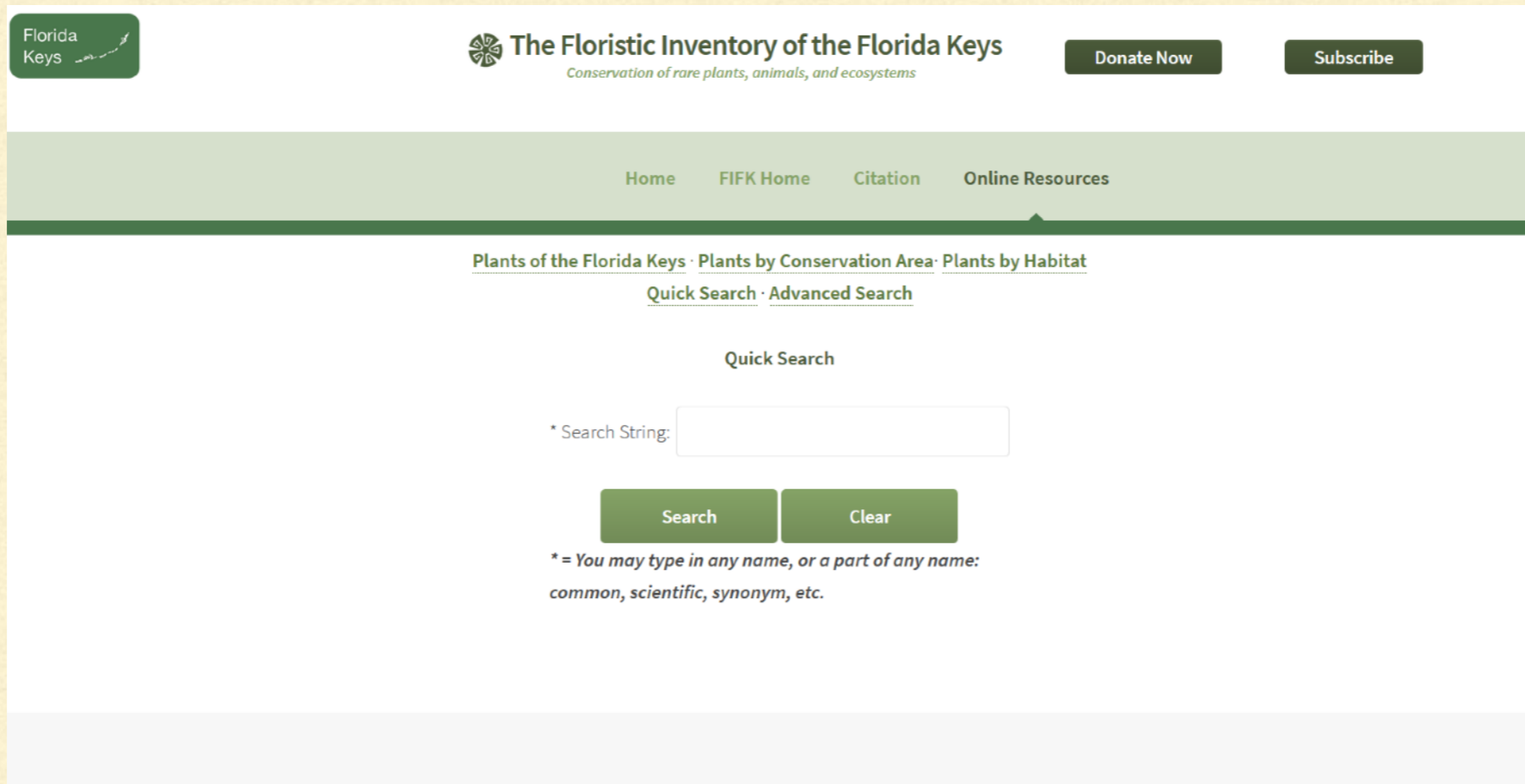
ONGOING - FISF



The screenshot shows the website for The Floristic Inventory of South Florida (FISF). The header includes the logo for South Florida, the title "The Floristic Inventory of South Florida" with the tagline "Conservation of rare plants, animals, and ecosystems", and buttons for "Donate Now" and "Subscribe". A navigation bar contains links for "Home", "FISF Home", "Citation", and "Online Resources". Below this, there are links for "Plants of South Florida", "Plants by Conservation Area", "Plants by County", and "Plants by Habitat", along with "Quick Search" and "Advanced Search" options. The main content area features a "Quick Search" section with a text input field labeled "* Search String:", a "Search" button, and a "Clear" button. A note below the search area states: "* = You may type in any name, or a part of any name: common, scientific, synonym, etc."

- **Floristic Inventory of South Florida (FISF):** provides data on more than 2500 vascular plants in the 10 southernmost counties of Florida. Each species has a plant profile where you can find its legal status, conservation info and more!

ONGOING - FIFK



The screenshot shows the website for The Floristic Inventory of the Florida Keys. The header includes the Florida Keys logo, the site title "The Floristic Inventory of the Florida Keys" with the tagline "Conservation of rare plants, animals, and ecosystems", and buttons for "Donate Now" and "Subscribe". A navigation bar contains links for "Home", "FIFK Home", "Citation", and "Online Resources". Below this, there are links for "Plants of the Florida Keys", "Plants by Conservation Area", and "Plants by Habitat", along with "Quick Search" and "Advanced Search" options. The "Quick Search" section features a search string input field, "Search" and "Clear" buttons, and a note: "* = You may type in any name, or a part of any name: common, scientific, synonym, etc."

- **Floristic Inventory of the Florida Keys (FIFK):** provides data on more than 1000 vascular plants in the Florida Keys. Information and images are provided not only on the vascular plants themselves, but on their history of discovery in the Florida Keys.

ONGOING - NFYN

- **Natives for Your Neighborhood (NFYN):** by simply typing in your zip code, you can learn how to turn simple gardening into habitat restoration by using plants that are native to your specific area. Each plant page is full of information from growing requirements, plant characteristics, and wildlife benefits!



QUESTIONS?

- Cara Abbott
- 305-304-6610
- abbott@regionalconservation.org
- www.regionalconservation.org
- www.facebook.com/regionalconservation

