IRC CONSERVATION WORK AND ONLINE RESOURCES

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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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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
MIAMI – COASTAL PINE ROCKLAND
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- 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
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.
Hurdles in Making Conservation Work Happen:

- Issue with access and permission from Schoolboard

Schoolboard pine rockland site in Homestead, FL.
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
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
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
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!
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.
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!
WHAT IS A NATIVE PLANT?

• Simply put, a plant that grows naturally in a specific region

• We call something a native if it’s natural range includes southern Florida, i.e. here without human involvement

• Not always easy to figure out, so there are a small number of species that we just don’t know

Sea oats (Uniola paniculata) – iconic species of Florida beaches, and beaches of the eastern US, Caribbean, and Mexico
WHY PLANT NATIVE?

- **Environmental Benefits:**
  - Reduce pesticide/fertilizer use
  - Reduce water use
  - Energy savings
  - Support local pollinator populations

- **Conservation Benefits:**
  - Creates recognizable habitats
  - Provides connectivity
  - Allows recruitment of native species
  - Watershed recharge, carbon sequestration, other ecosystem services

Community in Osprey, FL
Photo © Russell Sparkman/ Fusionspark Media Inc.

Troy Residence, Miami, FL
Photo by George Gann
HOME TO 3 MAJOR FLYWAYS

1) Atlantic coast

2) Atlantic Tributaries West

3) Mississippi along the gulf coast

The Atlantic Flyway encompasses some of the hemisphere's most productive ecosystems, including forests, beaches, and coastal wetlands.

This avian superhighway is utilized by 500-plus bird species and millions of individual birds.
BUTTERFLY MIGRATIONS

Monarch Butterfly
Fall & Spring Migrations

Total Area Occupied by Monarch Colonies at Overwintering Sites in Mexico

Winter Season
Data for 1994-2003 collected by personnel of the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve (MBBR) of the National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP) in Mexico. Data for 2003-2014 collected by World Wildlife Fund Mexico in coordination with the Directorate of the MBBR.

* Represents colony sizes measured in November of 2003 before the colonies consolidated. Measures obtained in January 2004 indicated the population was much smaller possibly 99 hectares. CT
Natives For Your Neighborhood

Habitat Restoration at Home
WHY NATIVES FOR YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?

- Free online database
- Data from: Floristic Inventory of South Florida
- Seven years, three plant nerds, one complete database

Premier Issue of Orion Afield (1997)
DIFFERENT LEVELS TO SEARCH

- **County Lists**
  - Most generalized species
  - Highest ease of success

- **Zip Code Lists**
  - Inland zip codes - lists include more specialists
  - Coastal zip codes – generalist species (use habitat)

- **Habitat Lists**
  - Most specialized
SEARCH BY ZIPCODE

- Retrieve lists of plants, habitats, and wildlife native to your area.
- Why by zip code?
- Conservation and wildlife considerations
## Mesic Hammock

Learn more about this habitat

### Plants found in the Mesic Hammock habitat, in zip code 33432

**Sort By:**
- Scientific Name
- Common Name

**Group By Habit:**
- None

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American beautyberry</td>
<td>Callicarpa americana</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ball moss</td>
<td>Tillandsia recurvata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bloodleaf, Juba's bush</td>
<td>Trejine diffusa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue-maidencane</td>
<td>Amplicarpum muenbergianum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Button-hemp, False nettle, Bog hemp</td>
<td>Boehmeria cylindrica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabbages palm</td>
<td>Sabal painetto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calusa grape</td>
<td>Vitis shuttleworths</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canada roadflax</td>
<td>Linaria canadensis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coastal bedstraw</td>
<td>Galium hispidulum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coastalplain staggerbush</td>
<td>Lyonia fruticosa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coco-plum</td>
<td>Chrysobalanus icaco</td>
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<tr>
<td>Common moonflowers, Moonflowers</td>
<td>Ipomoea alba</td>
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<tr>
<td>Common snowberry, Milkberry</td>
<td>Chiococca alba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coontie, Florida arrowroot</td>
<td>Zamia integrifolia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SPECIES PAGE

- How the plant can be used in landscapes and ecological restorations
- Where the plant can be found
- Description, height, growth rate, and range
- Habitats where it is typically found
- Requirements: soil, nutrients, salt tolerance, water, and light
- Flower and fruit descriptions
- Wildlife interactions
- Notes, comments, advice, and caveats
OTHER WAYS TO SEARCH

- Advanced search forms let you find exactly what you are looking for.
- A wildlife attracting shrub that will grow in light shade and has conspicuous fruits?
CREATE A NATIVE BUTTERFLY GARDEN

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Natives for Your Neighborhood wildlife list

Wildlife in Zip Code 33441

Below is a list of animals that may be observed in this zip code. By planting
native species, you will not only create a low-maintenance landscape to
enjoy, but you will also create habitat for these wildlife species.

Sort By: Scientific Name Common Name

PREVIEW FRIENDLY VERSION

Enter a zip code: OR
Choose a county: OR
Search for a plant in the Natives For Your Neighborhood database:

Common Names

Search for an animal in the Natives For Your Neighborhood database:

Common Names

Find Native Plants!

Become a sponsor!

Palamedes Swallowtail on Liatris

Ceraunus Blue on Galactia smallii
LEARN MORE ABOUT CONSERVATION

- Like our Facebook Page!
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- Check out our Website!
  - www.regionalconservation.org
- Join our Email List!
  - Link found on our website home page.
- Like us on Instagram!
  - www.instagram.com/regional.conservation

Frogfruit Phyla nodiflora
(larval plant for common buckeye butterfly)
QUESTIONS?

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