Federally Endangered Beach Jaquemontia in Southern Palm Beach County Partners Meeting: City of Boca Raton, City of Delray Beach

April 25, 2022



George D. Gann





and

Jennifer Possley



with

Kevin Kalasz



Agenda

- Introductions
- o Background on IRC and our mission
- Conservation context in South Florida
- Beach Jacquemontia 2020 Status
- Boca Raton and Delray Beach details
- Discussion



IRC aims to protect, restore and manage all biodiversity on a regional basis, and to **prevent** local extinctions of native plants, animals and ecosystems. All conservation is ultimately local. **2022 is our 38**th Anniversary Year. Staff of 8, 13 Associates, 7 Board Members.

Floristic and faunistic inventories

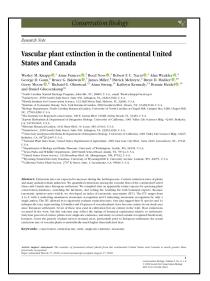
Rare species research

Ecological restoration design and implementation

Educational training and workshops

Online tools and resources

International policy





GUIDELINES FOR PLANTING A PINE ROCKLAND IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

George D. Gann, Jennifer Possley



Why plant a pine rockland? Pine rockland is a critically imperiled ecosystem that has been heavily impacted by urban development and agriculture. Found only in South Florida and the Bahama Archipelago, less than 2% of the original pine rocklands remain in Miami-Dade County outside of Everglades National Park. Pine rocklands of the lower Florida Keys have also been heavily impacted by development, sea level rise, and flooding from hurricanes and tropical storms. Creating a pine rockland is not easy or simple, but it can be extremely rewarding. Pine rocklands provide wonderful habitats for native plants and wildlife, including many species of very rare plants, butterflies, bees and other pollinators, and songbirds. If wellplanned and managed they can also be aesthetically pleasing.



Uniting Global Thinking with Local Expertise



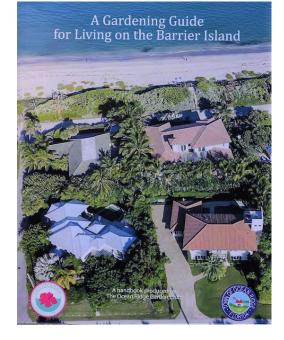




Rare Plants of

South Florida:









ooking at the many woes of the world, from COVID-19 to climate change, it is understandable to feel overwhelmed. Yet, we know from ample evidence that the sum of individual actions is as important as

those of government, large businesses or big conservation organizations. This is especially true in urban and suburban areas, where our collective individual actions may make the difference between conservation success - or the lack thereof. This need for individual action has never been more urgent, no matter where you live, and is embraced by Plant America with Trees, an emphasis of National Garden Clubs Inc. At the international level, there is tremendous work being done to address not one, but three global environmental challenges: countering climate change, preventing the extinction crisis and

12 | The National Gardener







Global Uptake of International Principles and Standards for the Practice of Ecological Restoration



Launched in September 2019

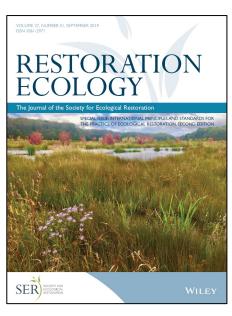
Incorporated into global restoration guidance

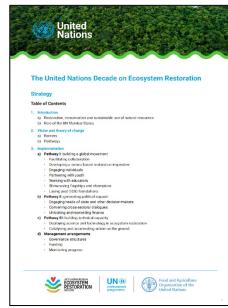
Cited as a key document in the official Strategy of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration

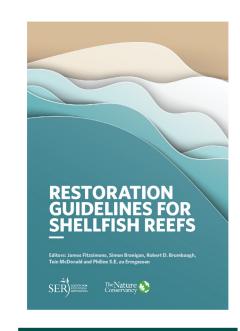
Is the most downloaded manuscript in the history of journal Restoration Ecology (40,000 downloads in 2+ years)

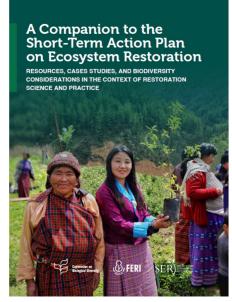
Cited >325 times (Dimensions)

www.ser.org/standards, or https://doi.org/10.1111/rec.13035



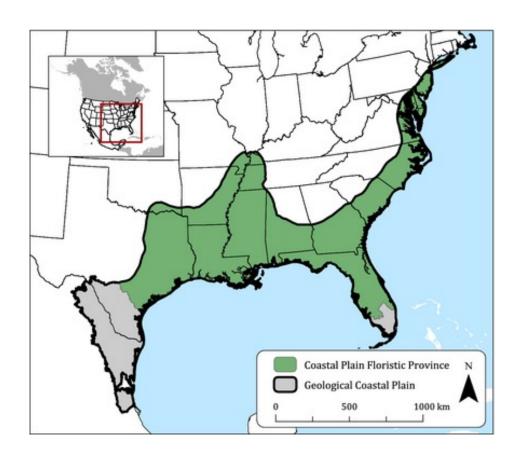












North American Coastal Plain Global Biodiversity Hotspot Noss et al. 2014





Local Biodiversity Matters For Conservation and Sense of Place



Species of Management Concern in Everglades National Park, hardwood hammocks.

>50% of region in conservation; United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) 2020 Protected Areas Target was 17%. Everything should be great. But it's not, due to lack of protection of coastal and upland ecosystems.





NASA Johnson Space Center; August 14, 2013





Fragmentation leads to inexorable loss

no species are lost from either pool. As fragmentation proceeds we eventually reach some critical level of reduction and fragmentation where species begin to die out. The susceptible pool loses species earlier and loses more species in total than does the resistant pool. When the resistant pool begins to lose species, it loses them very rapidly, because by this time the fragments are small and there is little habitat left.

Insularization causes extinctions over and above those expected through reduction in the total area of habitat. More species persist at equilibrium if the remaining habitat is concentrated into a single large patch rather than distributed over many small fragments (Figure 4). We stress that the results in Figure 4 are equilibrium patterns; depending on the relative time scales of habitat destruction and species'

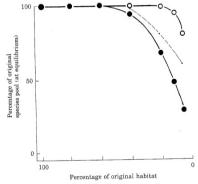


FIGURE 4. The number of species remaining in each species pool as fragmentation proceeds. Closed circles show the pool of species with large area requirements and low vagility. Open circles show the species with less stringent area requirements. The small dots connected by the dashed line depict the proportion of the first pool that would be present when the habitat is minimally fragmented. (From McLellan et al., 1986.)

Wilcove 1986





Some species and groups go faster, some slower

Plant Biodiversity is Key to Animal Biodiversity and visa-versa





Extinction Debt

Refers to the time delay between the impact of environmental changes and the time species go extinct.

(from Tilman et al. 1994)

Dark Diversity

Refers to the missing portion of a species pool for a given habitat in a given region.

(from Pärtel et al. 2011)

Are we in the extinction prevention business?

Or the biodiversity recovery business?

How do we actually *Save Species*?

And ourselves?

Restoring the Gold Coast

2022-2023 Phase II









Sponsors











Collaborators

































Activities of the Restoring the Gold Coast Program



Piriqueta cistoides subsp. caroliniana

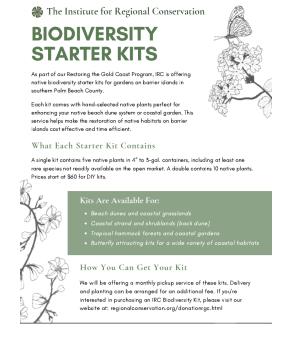


Trichostem dichotomum











Foster Habitats for Birds and Butterflies

Four Larval Host Plants – 10 Coastal Butterflies



Historical Ecosystems of Palm Beach County – Beach Dune



Phipps Ocean Park



Delray Beach

Historical Ecosystems of Coastal Palm Beach County – Maritime Hammock





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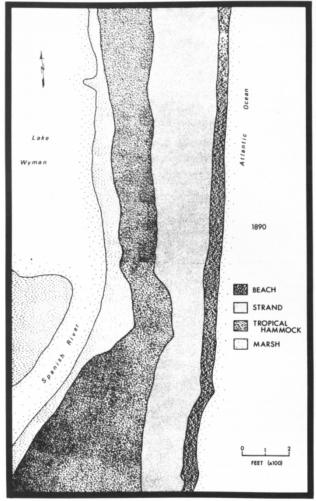


Fig. 1. Interpretation of the plant associations on the Boca Hammock region in 1890. Based on 1845 and 1870 surveys and 1940 aerial photography.

PRESENT ASSOCIATIONS—The fresh water marsh that previously existed in the Intracoastal Waterway basin no longer exists. A mangrove association has replaced this fresh water community. Mangrove invasion took place largely after 1921 (Long, 1921) when the Hillsboro Canal was opened. A survey by Butler in

Boca Hammock, Boca Raton



Canaveral National Seashore

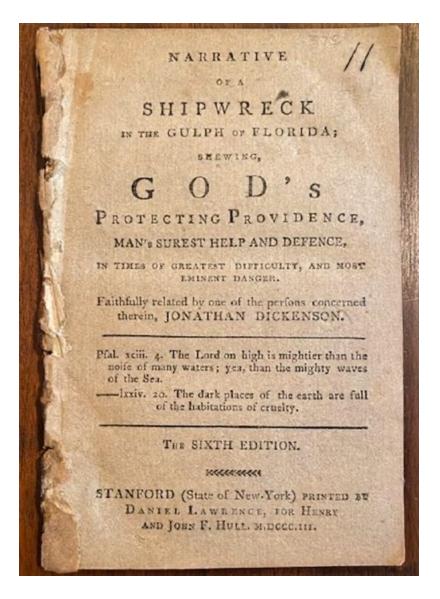


Washington Oaks Gardens State Park, Palm Coast



"The Florida Indians Capture the Shipwrecked Company," from Pieter van der Aa, Naaukeuirge Versameling der Gedenk-waardigste Zee en Landreysen na Oost en West-Indien (1707). Florida Memory • The Jupiter Inlet Hurricane of 1696

- Indigenous people lived on the barrier islands
- They arrived in South Florida about 12,000 y ago
- Glades Indians (Jaega and others) extinct by 1770s
- Miccosukee and Seminole tribes permanently settled in southern Florida in the early 1800s
- Indigenous fire increased and maintained grassy and shrubby ecosystems that benefited wildlife and species diversity



Story of Jonathan Dickinson, 1696

Historical Ecosystems of Palm Beach – Coastal Strand



US Lifesaving Service House of Refuge Delray Beach 1876



Palmetto Park Road and A1A, Boca Raton c. 1925

To the Newcomer, the Barrier Islands Were Stark, Prickly Landscapes

Reference Sites for Coastal Strand



Courtesy: Rob Barron



Kissimmee Prairie State Park



Canaveral National Seashore. Courtesy: Rob Barron



Delray Municipal Beach

Freshwater Lakes, Marshes, Interdunal Swales, and Swamps were present, but we know less about them







These wetlands were and are critical for wildlife

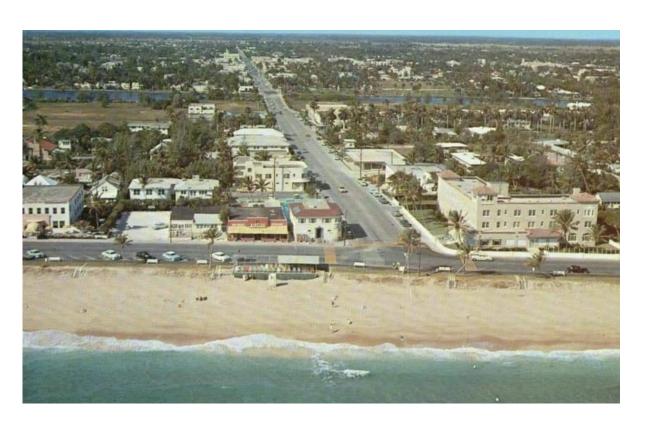
By mid-20th century the transformation of many barrier islands was complete.

Town of Palm Beach



Where Did the Native Biodiversity Go?





Delray Beach, circa 1970

Delray Beach, early renourishment



Jennifer Possley, Conservation Program Manager Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden



Fairchild & partners – 30+ yrs of Jacquemontia research & recovery

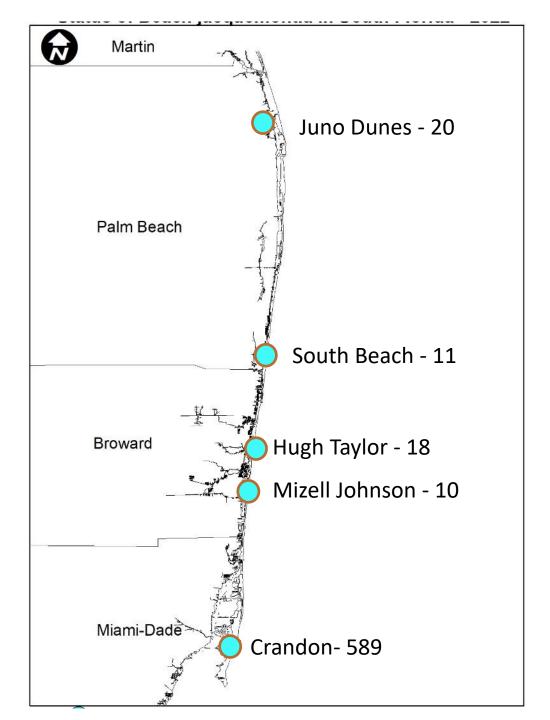
- Habitat open grassy areas in stabilized dune
- Seed biology / banking Forms a short-lived soil seed bank, seeds are orthodox, ~15 years in storage
- **Breeding system** Mixed. Flowers can self-pollinate, but outcrossing results in much greater seed set. Visitors = many spp of flies, wasps, butterflies.
- Genetics Variation with pops, not between – except Oakland Park
- Demography Highly variable by site/year
- Horticulture Easily cultivated from seed (scarification required) and cuttings.





Beach jacquemontia

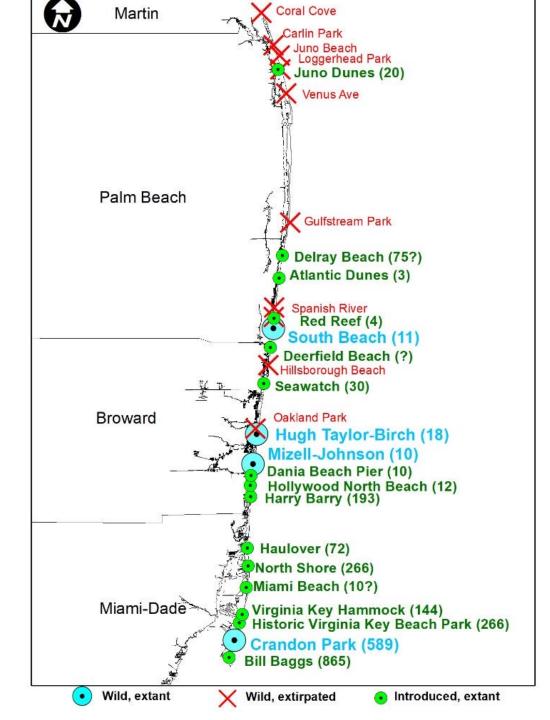
approximate historic distribution



Wild beach jacquemontia today

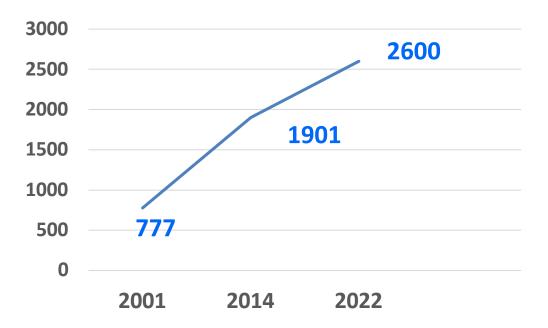
648 plants

Loss of connectivity

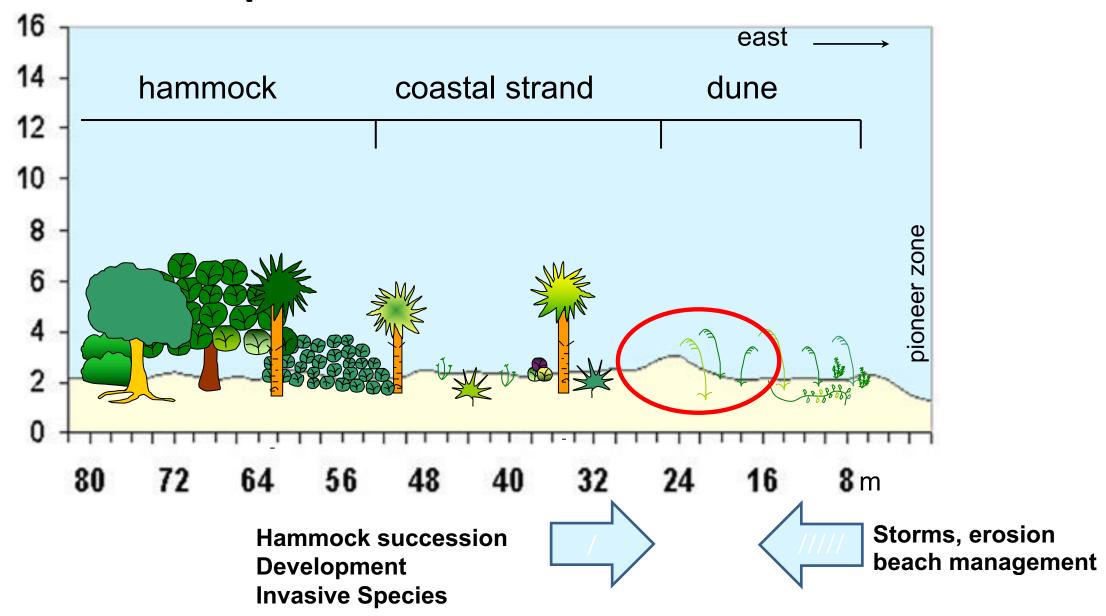


Wild + Reintroduced 2022

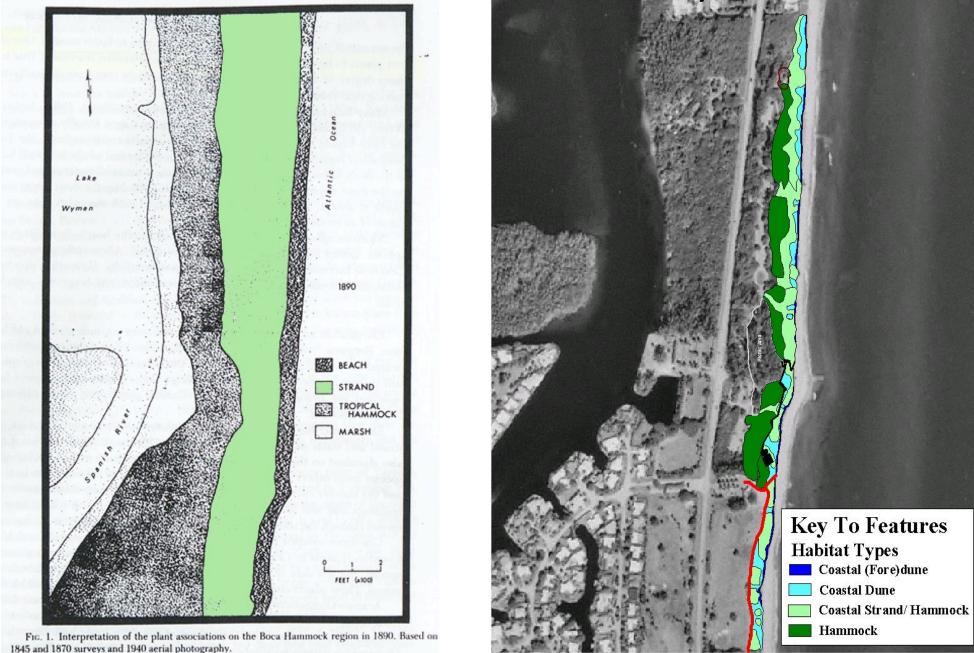
Total number of plants in South Florida



Causes of extirpation & decline



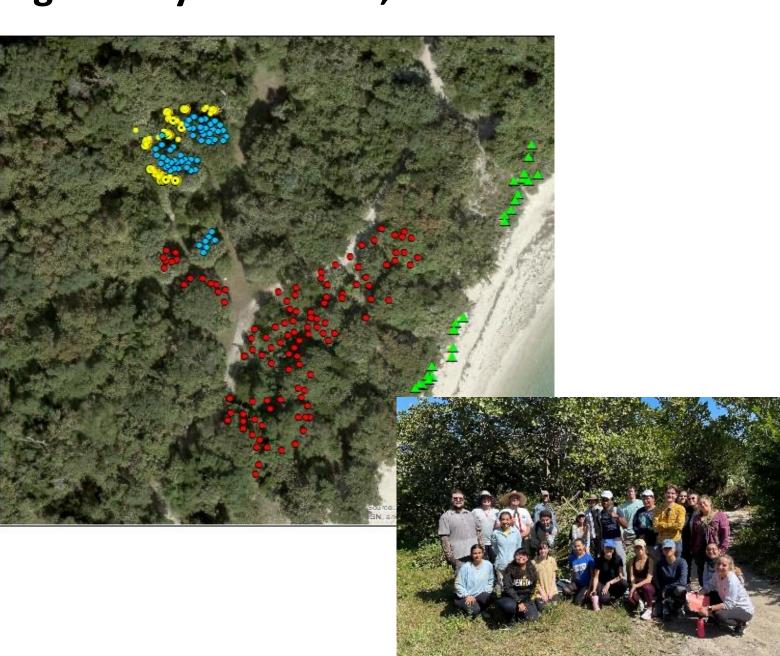
Loss of strand, dune in Boca Raton, 1900 vs 2007





Loss of strand, dune in Virginia Key Hammock, 2006 vs. 2022





Historic Virginia Key Beach Park - today







North Beach Open Space Park – 266 plants

Invasive species mgmt., including sea grape (beach raking)









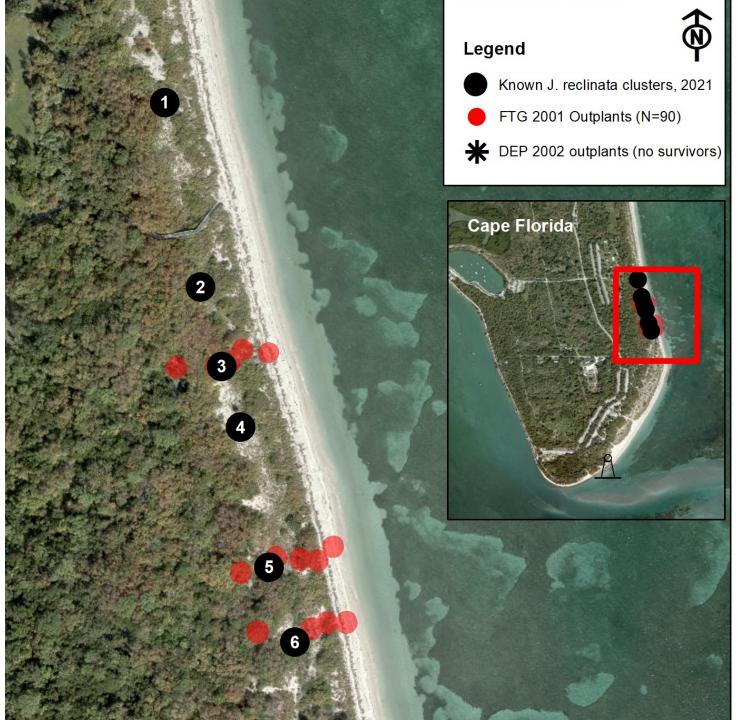


Bill Baggs Cape Florida

2001 Outplants (90)

VS

2021 Distribution (865)



Bill Baggs Cape Florida

2001 Outplants (90)

VS

2021 Distribution (865)

Plants of South Florida · Plants by Conservation Area · Plants by County · Plants by Habitat

Quick Search · Advanced Search

Please scroll to the bottom for more images.

Jacquemontia reclinata House

Beach clustervine, Beach Jacquemontia

Family: Convolvulaceae

Group: Dicot

Substrate: Terrestrial

Habit: Herb

Perennation: Perennial

Native Range: Endemic to South Florida along the east coast from Miami-Dade County to Martin County.

Map of select IRC data for peninsular Florida

NatureServe Global Status: Critically Imperiled

United States Federal Status: Endangered

State of Florida Status: Endangered

Florida Natural Areas Inventory State Status: Critically Imperiled

IRC SOUTH FLORIDA Status: Critically Imperiled

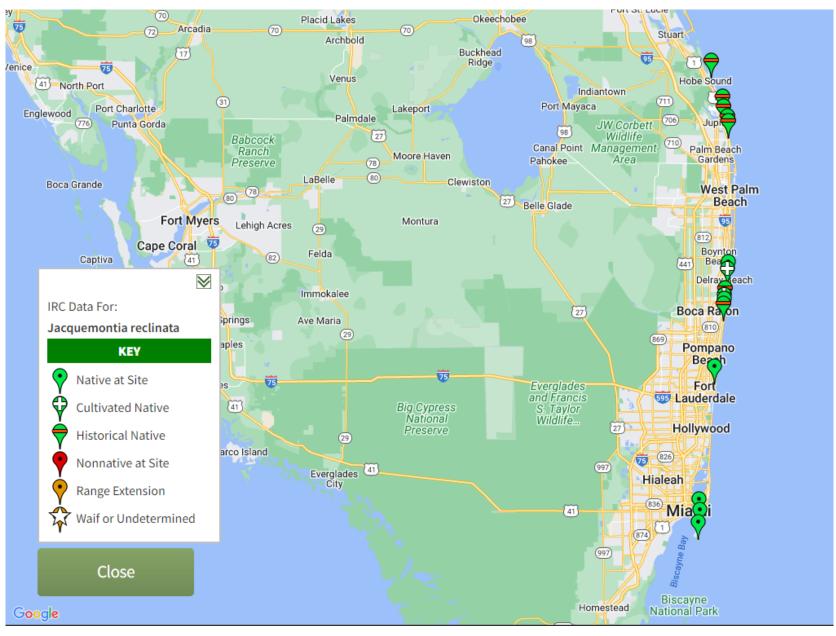
SOUTH FLORIDA Occurrence: Present **SOUTH FLORIDA Native Status:** Native

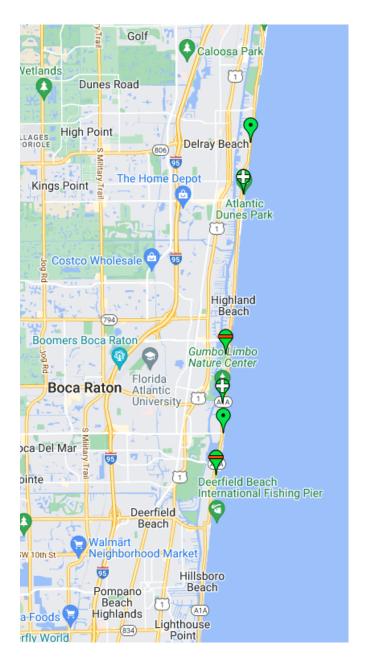
South Florida History and Distribution: For a federal review of Jacquemontia reclinata throughout its range, see the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Species Profile. See also the species account from the 1999 South Florida Multi-Species Recovery Plan, pp 1049-1055, Florida Natural Areas Inventory's Field Guide to the Rare Plants of Florida page (Chafin 2000), and Rare Plants of South Florida (Gann et al. 2002, pp 451-453).



Copyright by: Kristen Finch in cultivation, Palm Beach County, Florida

FISF Maps





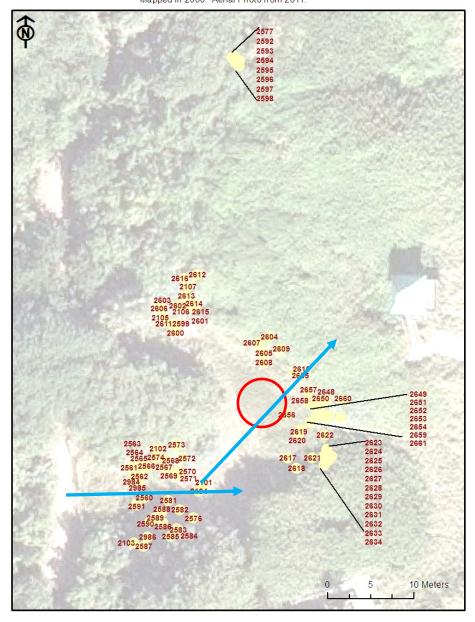




South Beach North Patch After 2 treatments



Jacquemontia reclinata at South Beach Park (Palm Beach County) - DETAIL MAP 1 Mapped in 2000. Aerial Photo from 2011. 95 of 245 Plants.



2014, J. Lange









South Beach, South Patch





Red Reef Park, South Patch Site of Historical Population at Pavilion





South-Central Patch FTBG Images 2005











Jacquemontia reclinata at Atlantic Dunes Park



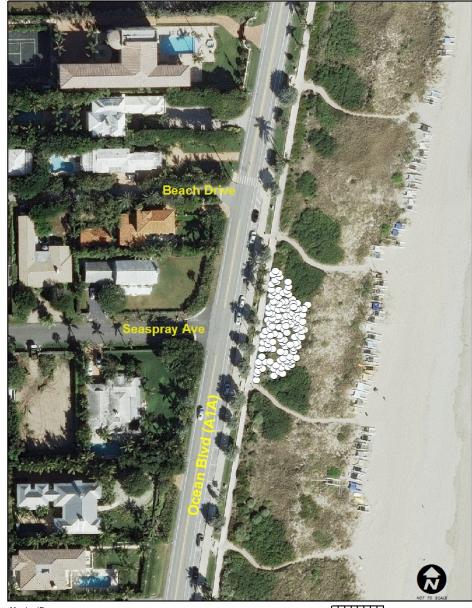
Jacquemontia reclinata in 2002 (26 plants)

(•) Jacquemontia reclinata planted in 2021 (__ plants)

Trails (mapped in 2002)

0 5 10 20 M LIIIIIIII Aerial from 2021

133 Jacquemontia reclinata planted at Delray Beach in 2005 - OVERVIEW 2011 Aerial from www.labins.org

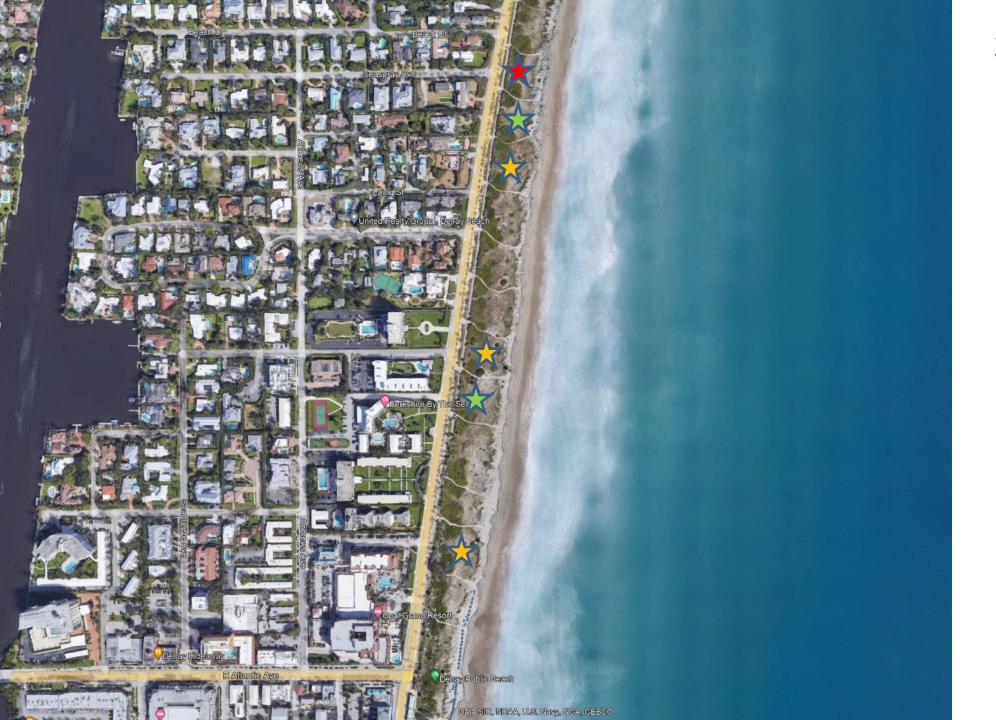


Map by JP

0 5 10 20 Meters

"A sea of Jacquemontia" FTBG 2011





2015 IRC Surveys



Same area planted by FTBG in 2005



Additional areas documented by IRC

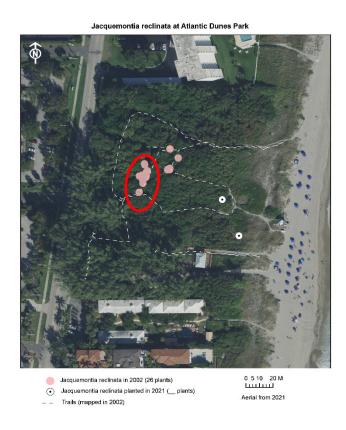
2020 Planting



50 plants added



Interior populations lost. Completely overtopped by Brazilian-pepper and seagrape.



Mar 2004, after clearing Dec 2003





Brazilian-pepper, Scaevola, Seagrape Invasion. Incremental restoration, removing invasives, restoring coastal strand west of dune crest.





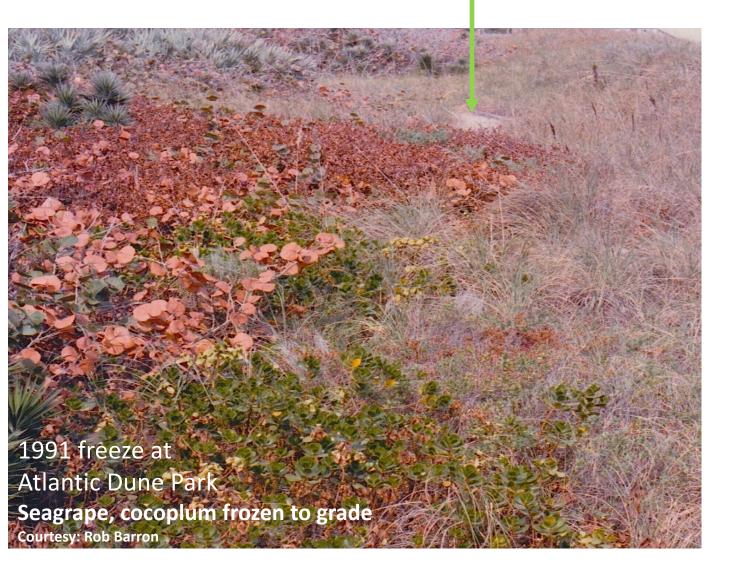
Pushing west into interior



South patch



North patch with *Tephrosia curtissii*





Causes of Seagrape Expansion

- Planting
- Lack of fire
 - Loss of Indigenous burning
 - No prescribed burning
 - Fire suppression
- Fewer freezes
- Competition for light
 - Exotics in interior and on edges
- Added nutrients
 - Fertilizer from landscapes
 - Fertilizer from dune plantings
 - Other contamination
- Changes in wind dynamics
 - Exotics on dune and in interior
 - > Renourishment
 - Buildings

If Jacquemontia reclinata is going to persist in the future..., then some large changes to the habitat have to happen. Fire somehow needs to become a component again of the ecosystem. If fire is not possible then these large stands of hammock trees need to be removed or reduced from the coastal strand and back dune. If any replanting is to take place then only habitat appropriate plants should be installed: low lying shrubs, wildflower and grasses. Sam Wright, FTBG, 2009.

Tree Controversy

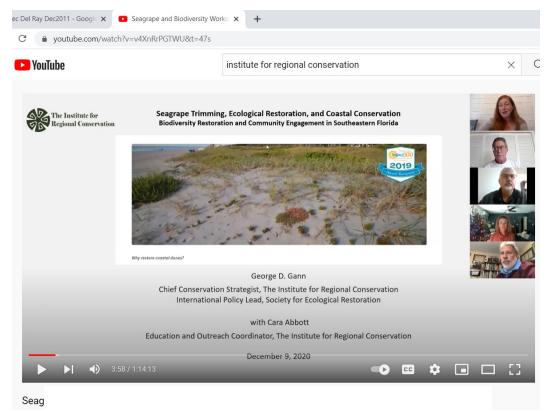


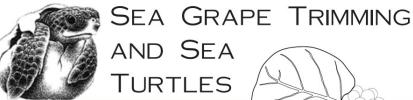


Coastal Star



The iconic sea grape tunnels near the Atlantic Avenue pavilion likely will be spared from the chain saw, following an outcry from some Delray Beach residents. Conflicting environmental views and a wish to keep the beachscape character in place are the main issues. **ABOVE**: Elsewhere in the public beach dune, trimmed sea grapes soon will sprout branches and limbs. The trims kept with the decades-long belief that the sea grapes shade out other native plants that provide a more diverse habitat. **BELOW**: One of the tunnels. At the end of a 61/2-hour meeting on Aug. 18, one commissioner brought up a Beach Property Owners Association's email that supported trimming all sea grapes. Vice Mayor Ryan Boylston and two other commissioners agreed to this, but the next day Boylston asked the commission to reconsider the height of sea grapes, which it plans to do Sept. 10. In February an Antim Environmental study advised leaving the tall.





What are sea grapes and how do I know if I have them?

Sea Grape, Coccoloba unifera is a remarkable native, salttolerant species of plant found along many of Florida's beaches. Plants may appear as low spreading bushes or tall continuous hedges along the sand dunes. This plant can be identified by its thick circular leaves 8" to 10" in diameter and its grape-like clusters of fruit. This fruit is consumed by a number of native birds and mammals, while the protective canopy provides habitat for animals including songbirds, lizards, gopher tortoise and beach and the hatchlings will make their way as a group to the sea. For loggerhead turtles, it may be 15 to 20 years before one of these hatchlings returns to her natal beach to nest for the first time.

How can trimming my sea grapes affect sea

Lighting Impacts of A1A Viewing Corridors on Sea Turtle Disorientations

Ali Courtemanche, Sydney Jimenez, Rebecca Mannen, Emily Mirowski, Taylor Roe, Annalise Wershoven, David Anderson, and Kirt Rusenko, PhD Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 North Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton, FL 33432

Abstract

The city of Boca Raton, the southernmost city in Palm Beach County, includes 4.9 miles of vegetated coastline in the center of a rapidly growing suburban community. Sea turtle nesting success depends on many factors, but one main factor is the presence of a dark beach front. When hatchlings are exposed to artificial light, they disorient, causing unnecessary energy expenditure, an increased likelihood of predation, and an overall lowered survival rate. Viewing corridors along a portion of A1A allow drivers to see the ocean from the road. These were created by removing large sections of dune vegetation. Vehicle headlights, as well as more urban sky glow, are now visible on the beach in these corridor areas. Mapping nest success and hatchling disorientations allows for the analysis of the impact that the viewing corridors have on the beach front and Boca Raton's sea turtle conservation efforts.



Sea Grape Trimming and Beach Renourishment: How Dune Height And Beach Width Affect Loggerhead Nesting in Boca Raton, FL

David Anderson and Kirt Rusenko, PhD Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 North Ocean Blvd., Boca Raton, FL 33432

Introduction

Boca Raton's Sea Turtle Conservation and Research Program is one of the oldest sea turtle monitoring and protection programs in Florida. For almost 40 years, sea turtle nesting activity has been recorded along the city's beaches. From 1977 to 1988, 2.5 miles of city park beaches were monitored and since 1988, all five miles are covered. Three species nest along Boca Raton's beaches; the loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*), the green (*Chelonia mydas*), and the leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*). This study primarily focused on loggerhead nesting within the northernmost mile of Boca Raton where a combination of sea grape trimming (2011-2012) and beach renourishment (2014) took place.

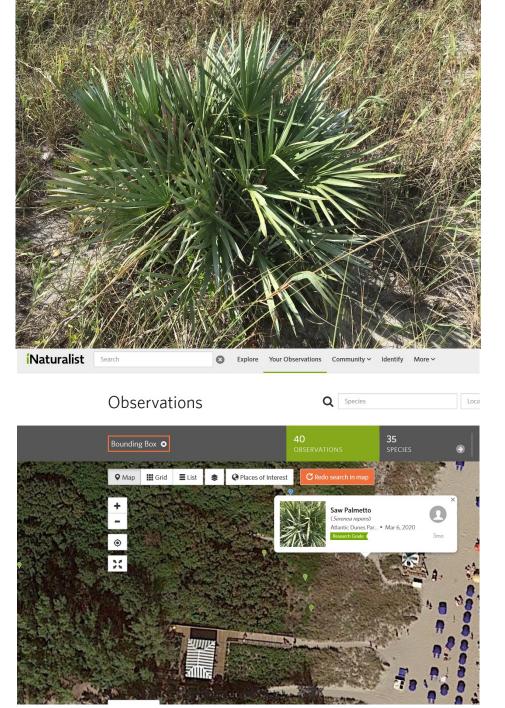




Loggerhead (Caretta caretta)



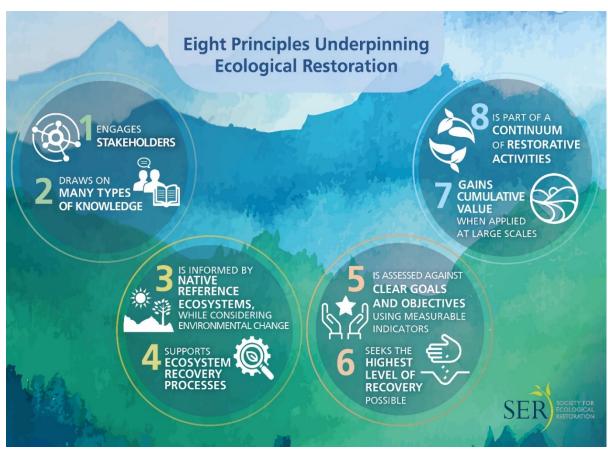
Loggerhead Nest



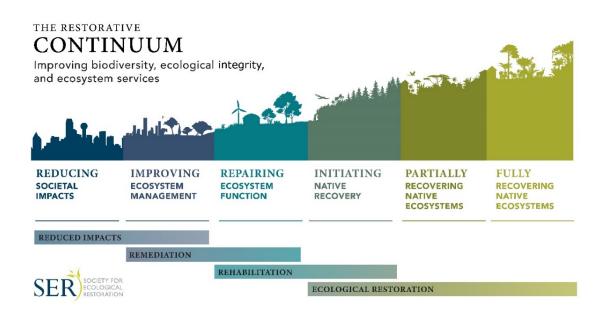


Opportunity. Bringing coastal strand east by using cues from natural recruitment.

What happens in Palm Beach County matters



www.ser.org/Standards



All restorative activities matter, no matter how small. But some activities many not be restorative at all (e.g., some mitigation, afforestation of native grasslands).

Business As Usual Thinking

- 1. Sustainability is about reducing impact
- Emphasis is on gray infrastructure, not green infrastructure

Transformative Thinking

- 1. The **baseline is neutrality** (carbon, biodiversity, ecosystem services)
- 2. The **goal is restorative** (e.g., bending the curve, net gain, moving the needle, ecological uplift) with regard to biodiversity and ecosystem services and, where appropriate, carbon.

Rapid Assessment of Native Coastal Uplands at Red Reef Park, Boca Raton, Florida

George D. Gann

March 29, 2021



Submitted by: The Institute for Regional Conservation 100 East Linton Boulevard, Suite 302B Delray Beach, FL 33483



Submitted to: Greg Stevens & Lindsey Nieratka City of Boca Raton 201 W. Palmetto Park Road Boca Raton. Florida 33432

Preliminary Ecological Restoration and Management Plan for Native Coastal Uplands at Red Reef Park, Boca Raton, Florida

George D. Gann

October 19, 2021



Submitted by: The Institute for Regional Conservation 100 East Linton Boulevard, Suite 302B Delray Beach, FL 33483

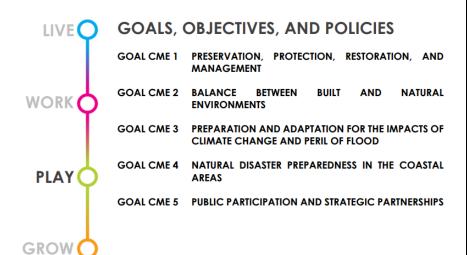


Submitted to: Greg Stevens & Lindsey Nieratka City of Boca Raton 201 W. Palmetto Park Road Boca Raton, Florida 33432

Boca Raton

Delray Beach





DISCUSSION