



Photo by Gabby Orihuea/Fairchild

**BIRD DAY AT FAIRCHILD**

A bright sunny morning on November 1, 2009, brought out hundreds of visitors for Fairchild’s first Bird Day, made possible by support from James A. Kushlan. Over 100 guests arrived at 7:00 a.m. for a special bird walk filled with ruby-throated hummingbirds, warblers and wading birds. Later in the day visitors enjoyed lectures by Larry Manfredi, Roger Hammer, David Wagner, Pedro Lastra and Joe Barros on everything from beginning birding to how to anticipate a bird’s next move for that perfect picture. There were also educational displays by the Falcon Batchelor Bird of Prey Center and Pelican Harbor Seabird Station, and kids even learned how to make a bird feeder with pinecones and peanut butter! Be sure and check out the James A. Kushlan Bird Trail next time you visit Fairchild and enjoy South Florida’s winged wonders.



Photo by Gabby Orihuea/Fairchild

**PLANTS AND PEOPLE—AN INTERACTIVE GARDEN**

In December 2009, Fairchild launched a pilot program inviting early to mid-stage Alzheimer’s patients and their caregivers to the garden for lunch and a specially tailored tram tour. Over 50 people attended the program, entitled Plants and People—An Interactive Garden. The program will continue once a month between January and May 2010. Participants will be required to register but the program is free. This new and exciting project is supported by Lin Loughheed, member of Fairchild’s Board of Directors, and inspired by a program at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City.



Photo by Education Staff/Fairchild

**FAIRCHILD CHALLENGE BOTANICAL FASHION SHOW FOR HIGH SCHOOLS**

As part of this year’s Fairchild Challenge, high school students from across South Florida modeled and explained their original plant fashion designs before a panel of fashion aficionados during the Ramble. The winning male/female couple outfits were designed by Krystal Gonzalez from Our Lady of Lourdes Academy. The stunning models were Amanda Reyes and Christopher Carbahle. The female outfit featured croton leaves, yellow daisies, gold medal and double delight roses with three types of beans in an elegant low-cut, off-the-shoulder evening gown. The male jacket also featured croton leaves and three types of beans, used for beading along the collar, pockets and seams. Calla lily leaves were used to spectacular effect for the trousers. Congratulations to everyone who entered this year. The results were amazing!

**THE FAIRCHILD PALMS**



The young professionals group affiliated with Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden is proud to host “Fine Wines at Fairchild” from 7:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Friday, January 29. Guests will enjoy an exquisite wine tasting paired with delicious gourmet cuisine from a top local chef. This spectacular indoor/outdoor event will include live music, a silent auction and moonlight tram rides. All proceeds benefit the Fairchild Challenge environmental education outreach program. Guests will also have a unique opportunity to place orders to purchase the featured wines at discount prices directly from the presenting wine sponsors. Immediately following the event, guests will be invited to an after-party at an exclusive venue in South Miami. Space is limited to 250 guests. Tickets may be purchased online now at [www.fairchildpalms.org](http://www.fairchildpalms.org). For more information, visit us online at [www.fairchildpalms.org](http://www.fairchildpalms.org), check out our Facebook group, “Fairchild Palms,” or send an e-mail to [thefairchildpalms@gmail.com](mailto:thefairchildpalms@gmail.com).



(L-R) Greg Pawley, Mary Scott Russell and Alejandra Navas look on as the President of the Fairchild Palms, John C. Malloy III, addresses the group.

## FAIRCHILD CHALLENGE TEACHERS' INFORMATION LUNCH

The Fairchild Challenge hosted another successful Teachers' Information Lunch on Saturday, August 29, with more than 350 Miami-Dade elementary, middle and high school teachers present—our largest attendance to date! During the annual kick-off lunch, Fairchild Palms President John C. Malloy III joined other Fairchild Palms members to present a \$10,000 donation to the Fairchild Challenge program.

The Fairchild Challenge has won praise from teachers since its inception in 2002 and continues to earn accolades each year. Teachers believe the program engages students in an environmental discussion with their peers that truly makes them feel they have a duty to be responsible and stay informed.

The elementary school pilot program for the Fairchild Challenge opened its doors to 24 schools this year, while the middle and high school programs continue to grow. We are looking forward to another inspiring and successful year for the Fairchild Challenge! Thank you all for your continued support.



## FAMILY FUNDAYS ON SUNDAYS

From now until May, the first Sunday of each month is a Family *Funday*. Our first *Funday* was a hit with kids of all ages who came out from 12:00 until 4:00 p.m. to have fun in the inspirational setting of the garden. Happy families got something extra to add their Sunday afternoon repertoire as they got their faces artfully painted and watched hilarious interactive performances by the Chasing Tales Improv Troupe. Families also took a nature walk showcasing interesting holiday plants like frankincense and made a yummy holiday gift for the wild birds in their lives.

## THE FAIRCHILD PALMS THRILLER BOOTANICAL BASH, A GREAT SUCCESS!

Fairchild hosted the Fairchild Palms "Thriller BOOtanical Bash," on Friday, October 30. More than 300 people attended the costume party and danced the night away for a good cause. Proceeds of the event, which raised thousands in ticket sales and sponsorships, went to the Fairchild Challenge environmental conservation and education program. Sponsors included: ABC Imaging; Atlantis Paradise Island, Bahamas; Clear 2 Go; Conrad Miami; Coral Gables Executive Physicians; EmpHire; Epic; Geomantic Designs Inc.; Malloy & Malloy; Pepe Luzarraga Catering Corp.; Quintessence Skin Science; Roar Media; Ron Atlantico Private Cask; Select Vodka; Viceroy Miami; z. mann. For more information about joining the Fairchild Palms or sponsoring an event, visit [www.fairchildpalms.org](http://www.fairchildpalms.org).

