



2011-2012 FAIRCHILD CHALLENGE LAUNCH BRUNCH

On August 27th and September 10th, the education department marked the 10th anniversary of The Fairchild Challenge. Between these two days, more than 470 enthusiastic South Florida teachers joined us at the 2011-2012 Fairchild Challenge Launch Brunch. This year's event had the largest turnout on record.

At the brunch, teachers had the opportunity to learn about the year's competitions, called "challenges." They include competitions in performing and visual arts, creative and reflective writing, a botanical fashion show, an environmental debate, engineering, citizen science, intergenerational interviews, school gardens and habitat restoration. Environmental action challenges give students the opportunity to implement environmental stewardship projects in their home, school and community. Throughout the year, student projects will be submitted to Fairchild to be evaluated by a panel of professionals from the community. The goal of the schools is to collect as many points as possible to win The Fairchild Challenge Award. Top scoring schools will receive cash prizes.

To support our efforts, the Fairchild Palms—the Garden's young professionals group—gave us a generous donation of \$15,000 (Learn more about the Palms at www.fairchildpalms.org).

During the 2010-2011 school year, The Fairchild Challenge engaged more than 100,000 South Florida students and teachers in this free, multidisciplinary environmental education program. With the tremendous outpouring of interest and support, we expect that number to grow, and we look forward to another spectacular year. To learn more about the program and follow its continued growth, please visit us at www.fairchildchallenge.org and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/TheFairchildChallenge.



TLE EXPERIENCING THE GARDEN

Fairchild is pleased to partner with The Learning Experience School (TLE) as part of TLE's student job skills training. The Learning Experience School promotes a safe and peaceful environment that encourages individualized academic, social and emotional growth for all children and adults with developmental disabilities. It provides its students with the necessary tools to become more active members of society.

TLE students participate in Fairchild's "Experiencing the Garden" program, part of our Plants and People initiative that encourages people to interact with the garden in an enjoyable and relaxing way. Each Friday morning, 12 to 17 students participating in TLE's Adult Program visit Fairchild to provide help in departments across the garden. They have helped create new member packets, prepare items for festivals and further art projects like Yoko Ono's Wishing Tree. Students' visits are full of excitement as they are eager to learn and assist in any way possible. It is a wonderful way for them to give back to the community by volunteering, while learning necessary skills that are required in today's workforce.



18TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY MUSIC AT FAIRCHILD

It was a magical night in the Garden for the 18th annual Holiday Music concert, co-chaired by Susan Feldman and Jane Battle. After a delicious champagne dinner, provided by Macy's Catering, guests enjoyed a wonderful program conducted by Robert Heath, director of music for Plymouth Church and an esteemed member of the Bach Society in Miami. The music program included such favorites as Antonio Vivaldi's "L'Inverno," "Do You Hear What I Hear" and "Silent Night." This delightful evening would not have been possible without the support of White & Case LLP, Baptist Health South Florida, Bank of America and Merrill Lynch Wealth Management.

(L-R) Holiday Music co-chairs Jane Battle and Susan Feldman, along with Bixie Renick and committee members Jeanne Aragon, Maureen Gragg and Diane Davis.