

# Volunteer Views

PUBLISHED BY FAIRCHILD TROPICAL BOTANIC GARDEN

FRIENDS OF FAIRCHILD NEWSLETTER • JANUARY 2010 • VOL 30 ISSUE 1

## FAIRCHILD VOLUNTEERS LOOK TO THE PAST...

**“...No man can know where he is going unless he knows exactly where he has been and exactly how he arrived at his present place.”**

*(Maya Angelou)*

Seventy years ago, in late 1939, David and Marian Fairchild embarked on the first Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden plant expedition aboard the Cheng Ho where they collected 500 different kinds of plants, many of which were sent back to the garden to be planted for observation and further study. The Cheng Ho voyage helped to establish Fairchild as an important place for scientific inquiry and exploration. Now a dedicated group of volunteers working in Fairchild's archives under the direction of Fairchild librarian Nancy Korber is helping to ensure that the garden's rich historical legacy will be passed down to future generations. Volunteers Carol Dietrick, Jan Horton, Elizabeth Kagan, Mary Jo Robertson,



Marianne Swan, and Sharon Wylie have organized and are now indexing and scanning into a database thousands of archived expedition photos taken by David Fairchild on the Cheng Ho and on earlier plant expeditions. Photos by Cheng Ho expedition photographer, Edward “Ned” Beckwith are also contained in the archives along with a journal Beckwith maintained during this historic voyage. Entries from Beckwith's journal have been transcribed and replicated as a daily blog on the garden's website,

<http://chengho.fairchildgarden.org>.

Currently scanning photographs from David Fairchild's expedition to Europe and North Africa in 1924-25, the archives volunteers work diligently to create an accurate chronology of events by cross-referencing Fairchild's photographs with his personal journals and scrapbooks of these trips. They also consult *Mabberley's Plant-Book* to correctly identify and name thousands of plants Fairchild photographed. As volunteer Marianne Swan points out, these photos may be the only ones in existence which document, during this time period in history, the remarkable and remote places as well as the plant life and people which David and Marian Fairchild observed on their journeys. Thanks to the work of our wonderful archives volunteers, this important part of Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden's story will be preserved for researchers, historians and garden caretakers for years to come.

## ...AND PREPARE FOR FAIRCHILD'S FUTURE

Take a walk through Fairchild's rainforest this season, and you may encounter artist Cameron Gainer's replica of Bigfoot, or stroll through the amphitheater to experience world famous artist Yayoi Kusama's brightly colored flower sculptures. In recent months, 250 volunteers attended art training presented by volunteer Bob Petzinger to learn about these and five other artists who comprise this season's art program at Fairchild. Art at Fairchild is just one of the ways

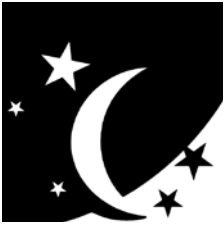


that the garden is attracting new audiences to its important mission. In December, volunteers conducted the first interactive tour for early and mid-stage Alzheimer's patients and their caregivers allowing them to connect to the beauty of nature. This fall volunteers helped to judge the Fairchild Challenge's “River of Grass” middle and high school performances as well as the Challenge's Botanical Fashion Show. Horticulture volunteers made a follow-up visit to a garden they established last spring at WJ Bryan Elementary School, while conservation volunteers participated in two local field projects. Dr. Carl Lewis stated in his December *State of the Garden* address to volunteers that a successful botanic garden must remain relevant

to the greater community through its science and education as well as by presenting art, offering community outreach, and providing sustainable solutions for the local homeowner and gardener. Volunteers play a vital role every day in spreading the garden's message through their participation in Fairchild's education, horticulture and conservation programs, when they answer a visitor's question, talk about the importance of membership or introduce art to a group on the tram. Thank you to all the volunteers who are such great ambassadors for Fairchild!

For more information about this year's art program, visit the garden's website, [www.fairchildgarden.org](http://www.fairchildgarden.org). Go to the bottom of the volunteer page and look for the link to Seasonal Art Training Manual.

## THURSDAY NIGHTS AT FAIRCHILD



Invite your family and friends to experience the charm of Fairchild at night as the garden extends its hours from 6:00-9:00 p.m. on scheduled Thursday nights this season. The garden will be open the following evenings: January 21, February 11 and 25, March 11 and 25 and April 1 and 15. On tap this year are movies, music, moonlight and more, including a “yappy” hour where visitors can “woof” it up with their dogs during an evening in the garden. Visit Fairchild’s website, [www.fairchildgarden.org](http://www.fairchildgarden.org) for the schedule of activities. Don’t forget, admission at night is \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members. Volunteer guest passes may be used for Thursday Nights.

## ALL ABOUT CHOCOLATE, COFFEE AND TEA

This year’s 4th annual Chocolate Festival, scheduled for **3 days**, January 22, 23 and 24, promises to be bigger and better than ever as visitors are treated to all things chocolate as well as two flavorful additions, coffee and tea. The Festival features cooking demonstrations, lectures, plant sales, the House of Chocolate and a cupcake decorating competition. Look for children in the rainforest learning about the cacao plant and getting a stamp in their chocolate “passports”. No school on Friday means the Chocokids area will also be buzzing with activity. Visitors will be treated to delicious coffees and teas as they participate in tastings in the Visitor Center Ballroom. **Festival volunteers needed. Call 305.667.1651, ext. 3364. Training will be provided.**

## FRIENDS OF FAIRCHILD

Friends of Fairchild are volunteers who give or are committed to giving a minimum of 30 hours of service each year. Friends are invited to attend monthly meetings and are the guests of honor at the Volunteer Appreciation Brunch in March. Mark your calendars now for the following Friends’ programs:

**Wednesday, January 13**, Coffee at 9:30 a.m., program at 10:00 a.m., Corbin A Speaker: Michele Williams, Ph.D, ethnobotanist, Director, Southeast Region of Florida Public Archaeology Network at FAU, “Native American Medicinal Plants.”

**Wednesday, February 10**, 9:30 a.m. Field trip Kerry’s Orchids (See details on page 3)

**Wednesday, March 17**, 10:15 a.m., Volunteer Appreciation Brunch, Garden House

**Saturday, April 17**, 8:00 a.m. Bird Walk for Fairchild Volunteers, meet at the East end of the Visitor Center parking lot.

**Sunday, May 2**, FOF Spring Social for volunteers and their guests, 5:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, May 12**, Coffee at 9:30 a.m., program at 10:00 a.m. FOF elections, Speaker TBA

## GARDEN-TO-GARDEN SCARECROW SUCCESS

Thanks to Garden-to-Garden scarecrow contest committee members Stacy DeMeo, George Gates, Pauline Goldsmith, Cornelia Hurst, Lynn Leverett, Yonna Levine, Lane Park and Susan Shapiro, a very successful scarecrow competition raised \$1800 for Project Restock to help create healthy ecosystems in Fairchild’s lakes.

The whimsical scarecrows were a popular feature at the Edible Garden Festival as visitors voted for their favorite ‘crow in each of three categories. The winning entry in the junior division, a second grade class at Devon Aire K-8, elected to donate their prize money back to Fairchild. In return the committee organized a field trip to Fairchild where Project Restock manager Jason Lopez explained the lakes project to the attentive students. Congratulations to the other scarecrow winners: Fairchild’s Horticulture team in the adult category and Project Yes in the corporate category. Thank you also to the roving volunteers who helped to sell ballots, to Lynda LaRocca for taking photos, and to everyone who participated to make the scarecrow competition such a wonderful success for Fairchild! Great job Garden-to-Garden committee!



## PAPER OR ELECTRONIC

If you would like to help us cut costs and receive an electronic version of the *Volunteer Views*, call Stephanie at 305.667.1651, ext. 3364 or e-mail [sbott@fairchildgarden.org](mailto:sbott@fairchildgarden.org).

## RAMBLE REPORT

Thousands of people enjoyed a fun-filled 3-day weekend on November 20, 21 and 22 at the 69th annual Ramble Festival and, as usual, Fairchild’s hardworking volunteers were everywhere! From Antiques and Collectibles and Old Books to Plant Sales and Herbs, Fairchild food booths, Kidway, Visitor Services, Admissions and Membership, volunteers took the 3-day festival in stride and enthusiastically welcomed crowds of visitors, many of whom took advantage of the extra Ramble day to do some serious shopping! After 69 years, the Ramble remains a wonderful garden party. **Thank you to the hundreds of terrific Ramble volunteers who helped to make this weekend such a success!**

## FAIRCHILD’S ESTATE JEWELRY PROGRAM

The Shop at Fairchild is accepting donations of estate or costume jewelry for the Fairchild Estate Jewelry program with all proceeds going directly to support Fairchild’s programs. If you have necklaces, bracelets, watches, tie clips, cuff links or other small collectibles which you no longer use and would consider donating, please call the Shop at 305.667.1651, ext. 3305 or e-mail [shop@fairchildgarden.org](mailto:shop@fairchildgarden.org). Each donor will receive a letter acknowledging the donation.



## FAIRCHILD'S VOLUNTEER TRAINING PROGRAM

### ORIENTATION TOURS

Orientation Tours are given monthly so new volunteers can learn more about garden features and landmarks. The next tours are being offered on Tuesday, January 26, 10:00 a.m.-noon (includes CTPC) and on Saturday, January 30, 10:00-11:00 a.m. RSVP 305.667.1651, ext. 3364



### BASIC HORTICULTURE CLASSES

Enhance your knowledge and improve your horticultural skills by attending Basic Horticulture classes. Fairchild's experienced horticulture staff has planned a great series of classes for our volunteers. Priority will be given to volunteers working in horticulture, but classes are open to all volunteers. All classes will be held on Wednesdays in Corbin A, 1:30-3:30 p.m. \*(unless otherwise noted).

### March 9 \*(Tuesday), Pruning Trees and Shrubs

Instructor: Bob Brennan. A great overview for all volunteers who prune as part of their volunteer job at Fairchild or in their home gardens, Bob is a certified arborist with 40 years of experience in South Florida.

### February 17, Propagation from Seeds and Cuttings \*(Held at the Nursery at the CTPC)

Instructors: Mary Collins and Scott Hyndman. Mary is Fairchild's Senior Horticulturist who is responsible for the garden's annual plant sales. Scott joined Fairchild in 2009 as Nursery Manager after working for many years in the ornamental plant industry as a nursery and plant tissue culture lab manager and for the USDA.

### February 24, Identifying and Treating Invasive Plants

Instructor: Hillary Burgess. Hillary is a Living Collection Manager at Fairchild.

She is responsible for maintaining Fairchild's native plant areas.

### March 3, How Plants Get Their Names

Instructor: Ken Neugent. Ken was the Nursery Manager for 14 years and is currently Fairchild's Conservatory and Special Projects Manager.

### March 31, The Garden Journal, with an Introduction to Fairchild's Plant Records

Instructor: Marilyn Griffiths. Marilyn has been working in Plant Records since 1993. She is responsible for maintaining records, maps and tags for all plants in the garden.

### April 7, Growing Bromeliads \*(Garden House)

Instructor: Jason Lopez. Jason is a Living Collection Manager and is responsible for Project Restock to create healthy ecosystems in and around Fairchild's aquatic areas.

**To register for Horticulture classes, please call 305.667.1651, ext. 3324**

## VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTIONS

**67,900  
hours**

Volunteer contributions for September 1, 2008 thru August 31, 2009 total over 67,900 hours. The list below

shows the hours given by volunteers in each program area and/or department:

**Education:** (Challenge, Discovery, Explorer): **4,715**

**Horticulture:** (Aquatics, Arid, Butterfly, Cycads, Conservatory, Early-Bird

Cleanup, Flower Garden, Groomers, Heliconia, Nursery, Palms, Plant Records, Propagation, Plant Sales, Rainforest, Special Projects, Victoria Pool, Vine Pergola): **8,657**

**Center for Tropical Plant Conservation:** (Archives, Conservation, Herbarium, Library): **8,139**

**Visitor Services:** (Guides: Tram and Walking Tour, Shuttle, Host): **12,471**

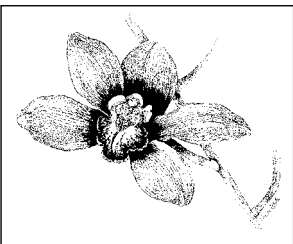
**Admissions, Information Desk and South Gate:** **5,024**

**Membership and Shop:** **3,755**

**Festival and Events:** (Ramble, Chocolate, Butterfly Days, Mango, Orchid): **16,183**

**All Other Areas:** (Development, Friends of Fairchild, Office, Special Projects, Training, Tropical Fruit, Trustees, Volunteers): **8,956**

## FRIENDS OF FAIRCHILD FEBRUARY FIELD TRIP INFORMATION



Drawing by Silvia Botta

### FOF Field Trip, Wednesday, February 10: Kerry's Nursery, 21840 SW 258 Street, Homestead, 9:30 a.m.—noon.

Have you ever wondered where garden centers get their beautiful orchids and bromeliads? Kerry's Nursery is one of the largest wholesale producers of orchids and bromeliads in the world. Director of Research and plant pathologist at Kerry's, Dr. Robert McMillan will lead a behind-the-scenes tour of the nursery's mechanized growing process. Volunteers will be able to purchase plants at the end of the tour. Wear comfortable shoes and meet at the sales area at 9:30 a.m. No RSVP required. For more information, call FOF Chair, Yonna Levine at

305.389.5404. Volunteers are invited to take a brief tour of the Fairchild Farm at the conclusion of the visit to Kerry's.

**Directions to Kerry's Nursery:** Take US 1 south. Turn right onto SW 264th Street (Bauer Drive). Turn right onto SW 217th Avenue. Turn left onto SW 258 Street, Kerry's will be on the left.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### JANUARY

\*\*MOMMY & ME TEA, Sunday, January 17, 3:00 p.m.

4th ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CHOCOLATE FESTIVAL WITH COFFEE & TEA, Friday, Saturday & Sunday, January 22-24, 9:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

MEMBERS' LECTURE & MOONLIGHT TOUR, Wednesday, January 27, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Lecture: Finding Balance, Dr. Kaia Calbeck, South Miami Hospital, 7:00 p.m. Visitor Center Ballroom, moonlight tour to follow.

FAIRCHILD CHALLENGE ENVIRONMENTAL DEBATES, Saturday, January 30, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

### FEBRUARY

GALA IN THE GARDEN, Saturday, February 6, 6:30 p.m. - 12:00 a.m. Tickets & information at 305.667.1651 ext. 3375

FAMILY *FUNDAYS* ON SUNDAYS, February 7, 12:00 - 4:00 p.m.

MEMBERS' LECTURE, Wednesday, February 10, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., The Wilderness Waterway and Backcountry Featuring Canoe/Kayak Adventures in Everglades National Park, Christi Carmichael, Park Ranger. Visitor Center Ballroom

VALENTINE'S DAY CONCERT FEATURING JON SECADA, Sunday, February 14, Gates open at 5:30 p.m. Concert begins at 7:00 p.m. Tickets & information 305.663.8058

\*\*FIRST LADIES' TEA, Sunday, February 21, 3:00 p.m.

### MARCH

MEMBERS' DAY ANNUAL MEETING & AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES, Saturday, March 6, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

FAMILY *FUNDAYS* ON SUNDAYS, March 7, 12:00 - 4:00 p.m.

MEMBERS' LECTURE, Wednesday, March 10, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., Skin Cancer Awareness and Prevention: Staying Safe in the South Florida Sun, Dr. Arthur Colsky, South Miami Hospital. Visitor Center Ballroom

\*\*ORCHID TEA ROOM, Friday, Saturday & Sunday, March 12-14, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

8th ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL ORCHID FESTIVAL, Friday, Saturday, & Sunday, March 12-14, 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

\*\* Call 305.663.8059 for tickets and information. Teas are held at the Visitor Center Ballroom and Veranda.



## Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden Mission Statement

We save tropical plant diversity through exploring, explaining and conserving the world of tropical plants; fundamental to this task is inspiring a greater knowledge and love for plants and gardening so that all can enjoy the beauty and bounty of the tropical world

Volume 30, Issue 1, January 2010  
Volunteer Views is a newsletter  
for the volunteers of  
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

Editors: Arlene Ferris and Stephanie Bott  
Volunteer Views is published by  
© Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, 2010

Paper is 100% post consumer fiber; no new trees; neutral pH; chlorine free process. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced without permission.



Accredited by the American Association of Museums, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden is supported by contributions from members and friends, and in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Arts Council, the National Endowment for the Arts, Institute of Museum and Library Services, the Miami-Dade County Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners, and with the support of The City of Coral Gables.

## FAIRCHILD TROPICAL BOTANIC GARDEN

Exploring, Explaining and Conserving the World of Tropical Plants  
10901 Old Cutler Road, Coral Gables, Florida 33156-4296 USA