

Volunteer Views

PUBLISHED BY FAIRCHILD TROPICAL BOTANIC GARDEN

FRIENDS OF FAIRCHILD NEWSLETTER • AUGUST 2009 • VOL 29 ISSUE 3

SCARE UP SOME FALL FUN WITH THE FAIRCHILD GARDEN-TO-GARDEN COMMITTEE

The Fairchild Garden-to-Garden volunteer fundraising committee is organizing a scarecrow competition to coincide with the Fall Harvest Weekend on October 24 and 25, 2009. Placing scarecrows in fields dressed in old clothes is a time-honored tradition used to scare away birds from the crops and ensure a plentiful harvest. Here at Fairchild, students, families, and local businesses will be encouraged to create their own 4 to 6 foot tall scarecrows using environmentally-friendly, child-safe material to be displayed around Fairchild in designated 4'x 4' plots. Participants will compete in three category levels: junior (younger than age 18); adult (age 18 and older); and sponsor (businesses). Entry fees are \$15, \$25, and \$100 per plot, respectively, for each category level. Scarecrow set-up will



take place on Sunday, October 18 from 9:30 a.m. – noon and Monday and Tuesday, October 19 and 20 from 9:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Displays will be on view from Wednesday, October 21 through Halloween. For a \$1 fee, visitors will be able to purchase a ballot at any admission point, at the information kiosks, on the shuttle and tram and cast their votes to determine a scarecrow winner in each category. Winners will be announced and prizes awarded at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 25 at the conclusion of the Fall Harvest Weekend. Funds raised from the scarecrow competition will be used to support Project Restock, a program to restock Fairchild's lakes with fish. Stocked lakes are essential to local and migrating birds and will help to support the James A. Kushlan Bird Conservation Project as well as other important education programs. Join the fun by gathering your family and friends, filling out an entry form on Fairchild's web site or at the Garden, and creating your own one-of-a-kind scarecrow! For more information about the scarecrow competition or to find out about volunteering opportunities for the weekend, call George Gates at 305.885.1088.

CONNECT TO PROTECT SOUTH FLORIDA'S NATIVE PLANT HABITATS

Some of Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden's most important conservation work is taking place literally in our own backyards. Fairchild launched the *Connect to Protect* network to help preserve and strengthen our remaining pine rocklands, a globally endangered ecosystem which occurs only in South Florida, the Bahamas and Cuba. The pine rocklands have been reduced to less than two percent of their original size due to habitat destruction, the suppression of fires that normally maintained pine rockland habitats, and the invasion of non-native plant species. Pine rocklands are home to over 400 native plant species including 31 endemic species not found anywhere else on earth. The remaining pine rocklands are fragments separated geographically from one another, and many are found on unprotected public and private land. The goal of *Connect to Protect* is to encourage homeowners and land managers to plant pine rockland habitats as "stepping stones" to connect these isolated fragments. In this way, birds, butterflies and bees are more likely to find and transport seeds and pollen, increasing the numbers of pine rockland plants as well as improving the plants' long-

term genetic health. Fairchild is dedicated to educating as many people as possible about this important native plant habitat and promoting native plants which are less costly to install and maintain, and require less water, pesticide, fertilizer and mowing. As part of the Fairchild Challenge, students designed a winning *Connect to Protect* logo and



were encouraged to plant native pine rocklands on their school grounds. Fairchild volunteers can get involved by planting their own pine rockland gardens. Keep an eye out as well for future *Connect to Protect* volunteer opportunities. For more information, visit Fairchild's website www.fairchildgarden.org.

The *Connect to Protect* logo was created by Yunxin Jiao, Miami Palmetto High School



FALL INTO ART AT FAIRCHILD!

We're planning another exciting art season in the Garden. See page 4 for volunteer training dates.



FRIENDS OF FAIRCHILD



FRIENDS OF FAIRCHILD

Looking for a great way to meet your fellow volunteers? Join the *Friends of Fairchild* for monthly meetings with featured guest speakers, field trips, and social events. All active volunteers giving a minimum of 30 hours of volunteer work a year in a regularly scheduled program area are members of the FOF. Mark your calendars now for this year's *Friends of Fairchild* events.

Wednesday, October 14, Coffee at 9:30 a.m., program at 10:00 a.m., Corbin A, Adrian Hunsberger, Urban Horticulture & Master Gardener Coordinator at the Miami-Dade Extension Office.

Wednesday, December 9, Coffee at 9:30 a.m., program at 10:00 a.m., Corbin A, Dr. Carl Lewis, Director, *State of the Garden* annual address.

Wednesday, January 13, Coffee at 9:30 a.m., program at 10:00 a.m., Corbin A, Speaker TBA.

Wednesday, February 10, Field trip, TBA.

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

Saturday, April 17, Special walking tour of Fairchild. Details TBA.

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

Wednesday, May 12, Coffee at 9:30 a.m., program at 10:00 a.m., Corbin A, Speaker TBA.

VOLUNTEERS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

The Independent Sector, a Washington D.C. coalition of non-profits, estimates the value of volunteer time in Florida in 2008 at \$17.78 per hour. Last year Fairchild volunteers donated 65,000 hours of their time. Using the Independent Sector's figure, the in-kind donation of Fairchild volunteers would be worth an amazing \$1,155,700! The true value of Fairchild volunteers, though, can't be measured in dollars because **you** are priceless!

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION DAYS

Have a friend or family member who would be a great addition to the Fairchild volunteer team? Tell them about our upcoming Volunteer Information Days. Prospective and veteran volunteers can learn about volunteer opportunities in the year ahead. Information sessions will be offered on:

Wednesday, September 2, 9:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m., Garden House

Saturday, September 12, 10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m., Garden House

Saturday, September 26, 10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m., Corbin A

We will hold a separate event on **Tuesday, September 15** from 9:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m. to introduce volunteers to staff and programs at the **Center for Tropical Plant Conservation**. For more details about this year's volunteer opportunities, visit the volunteer section on Fairchild's website www.fairchildgarden.org. To RSVP call 305.667.1651, ext. 3324.



Fairchild recently launched a "Branch Out Partners" program in an effort to promote local South Florida businesses by offering special discounts to Fairchild members. Participating partner businesses which include popular restaurants, the American Airlines Arena, print services, the Biltmore Hotel, orchid and plant vendors, dog trainers and more (a comprehensive list is available on Fairchild's website under Supporting Fairchild/Membership) will offer a discount on their products and services when members present a valid Fairchild membership card. To encourage a favorite business to be part of this program, contact Mari Novo at 305.667.1651, ext. 3357 for more information.

RAMBLE NEWS

Join us on November 20, 21, and 22 from 9:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. for three days—**yes three days**—of fun at Fairchild's oldest festival! This year's Ramble Festival promises to be bigger and better than ever, and you can help in a variety of ways. **The Antiques and Collectibles and Old and Rare Books Booths** need your donations. If you have china, silver, antique jewelry, ceramics, or heirloom linens to donate please call Dorothy

HURRICANE REMINDER

If a tropical storm or hurricane is approaching, call 305.667.1651, ext. 3384 for garden updates pertinent to volunteers.

PAPER OR ELECTRONIC

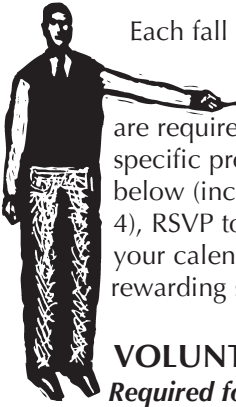
Help us to conserve! Receive your copy of this newsletter by e-mail by calling Stephanie at 305.667.1651, ext. 3364 or e-mail sbott@fairchildgarden.org.

IN MEMORIAM

Fairchild Garden has lost a dear and cherished friend with the recent passing of Ruth Dowell Myers. Ruth was a much-loved volunteer in The Shop at Fairchild, working there weekly for 15 years. She was also a member of the volunteer committee which raised funds to purchase the botanical mosaic at the Visitor Center. Staff and volunteers mourn the loss of this gracious and elegant lady.

Errera at 305.666.3010. Contact Stuart Debenham at 305.665.8572 or e-mail wdebenham@msn.com. to donate quality book, movies, and books on CD and DVD. Don't have treasure to donate? **We need volunteers to help at a variety of Ramble booths.** To volunteer, call Sandy Schoenfeldt at 305.667.1651, ext. 3324. All Ramble volunteers are invited to breakfast on October 31 at 9:30 a.m. in the Garden House.

FAIRCHILD VOLUNTEER TRAINING PROGRAM



Each fall Fairchild offers a variety of classes, trainings and meetings to prepare volunteers for the season ahead. Some are required for all volunteers and others apply to specific programs. Please read through the listings below (including the Seasonal Art Training on page 4), RSVP to the appropriate extensions and mark your calendars as we prepare for an enjoyable and rewarding season ahead!

VOLUNTEER CORE COURSES

Required for all new volunteers.

They are offered twice each year, in the fall and spring.

- **Fairchild's Mission, History and Governance**, Saturday, October 3, 10:00 a.m.- noon, Visitor Center, Dr. Carl Lewis, Director
- **Fairchild's Plant Collections**, Saturday, October 3, 12:30 - 2:30 p.m., Visitor Center, Christie Jones Leiva, Horticulture Supervisor
- **Fairchild's Landscape Design**, Saturday, October 31, 10:00 a.m.- noon, Corbin A, Professor Joanna Lombard, UM School of Architecture
- **Natural History of South Florida**, Saturday, October 31, 12:30 - 2:30 p.m., Corbin A, Roger Hammer, Senior Naturalist, Miami-Dade County Parks

Call 305.667.1651 ext. 3324 to register.

ORIENTATION TOURS

Required for new volunteers.

Wednesday, September 9, 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, September 12, 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, September 26, 1:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 8, 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, October 10, 10:00 a.m.

Call 305.667.1651 ext. 3364 to register.

Tours involve walking approximately 1/2 mile; tours with transport can be arranged in advance.

EFFECTIVE TEACHING & LEARNING

Required for Explorer and Discovery guides, recommended for all guides, open to all volunteers.

Explore methods of educating & inspiring learning in children and adults.

Friday, October 2, 10:00 a.m. - noon, Corbin A, Caroline Lewis, Director of Education.

Call 305.667.1651 ext. 3324 to register.

BASIC BOTANY

Required for all guides, open to all volunteers.

Thursday, December 3, 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Corbin A. Wear walking shoes and bring lunch.

Call 305.667.1651 ext. 3324 to register.



FAIRCHILD EXPLORER PROGRAM

Required for new and returning guides.

General Meeting

Tuesday, September 15, 10:00 a.m., Corbin A

Training

All meet at 10:00 a.m., in the Volunteer Room

- **Training for Living with Plants**

Monday, September 21

- **Training for Where We Live**

Tuesday, September 22

- **Training for Life in a Rainforest**

Wednesday, September 23

- **Training for Tropical Explorations**

Thursday, September 24

Call 305.667.1651 ext. 3322 to register.

DISCOVERY PROGRAM TRAINING

Required for new and returning guides.

General Meeting

Tuesday, September 15, 10:00 a.m., Corbin A

Training

All meetings in Corbin A

- **Demonstration of Biomimicry Activities**

Tuesday, September 22 10:00 a.m.

- **Demonstration of Symbiosis Activities**

Wednesday, September 23 10:00 a.m.

- **Practice Teaching of Biomimicry Activities**

Tuesday, September 29, 9:30 a.m.

- **Practice Teaching of Symbiosis Activities**

Wednesday, September 30, 10:00 a.m.

Call 305.667.1651 ext. 3353 to register.

VISITOR SERVICES TRAININGS AND MEETINGS

- **General Meeting for Discover the Tropics**

Walking Tour Guides

Tuesday, October 13, 10:00 a.m. - noon, Corbin A

- **General Meeting for All Hosts (choose one)**

Saturday, October 17, 12:30 - 1:30 p.m., Corbin B

Thursday, October 22, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m., Corbin A

- **Butterfly Training for Hosts and Walking Tour Guides**

Saturday, October 17, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m., Corbin A

- **Conservatory Training for Hosts and Walking Tour Guides**

Thursday, October 22, 11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Meet at the Conservatory

- **Shuttle Drivers Lunch and Meeting**

Tuesday, October 6, 11:30 a.m., Corbin A

Call 305.667.1651 ext. 3328 to register.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

AROID SHOW & SALE, Saturday & Sunday, September 19-20, 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

DOG DAYS OF SUMMER, Sunday, September 27, 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

OCTOBER

MEMBERS' DAY PLANT SALE, Saturday, October 3, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

BONSAI SOCIETY OF MIAMI SHOW & SALE, Saturday & Sunday, October 10-11, 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

FALL HARVEST & SCARECROW WEEKEND AT FAIRCHILD, Saturday & Sunday, October 24-25, 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

NOVEMBER

SOUTH FLORIDA PALM SOCIETY SALE, Saturday & Sunday, November 7-8, 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

THE RAMBLE, Friday, Saturday & Sunday, November 20-22, 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

DECEMBER

MEMBER'S LECTURE, Wednesday, December 2, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Dr. Carl Lewis, Director, followed by MOONLIGHT TOUR, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

HOLIDAY MUSIC IN THE GARDEN, Sunday, December 6, 6:00 p.m. For tickets call 305.667.1651, ext. 3358.



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

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SEASONAL ART TRAININGS

Required for Admissions, Information Desk, South Gate, Hosts, Membership, Walking Tours, Shuttle, Tram and Shop volunteers; open to all volunteers.

Find out what's new this season with the Fairchild Art Program. Join us for one of the following art trainings to learn about this year's artists and other seasonal updates.

Thursday, November 12, 10:00 - 1:00 p.m., Corbin A

Saturday, November 14, 12:00 - 3:00 p.m., Corbin A

Tuesday, December 1, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m., Garden House

Saturday, December 5, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., Corbin A

Call 305.667.1651, ext. 3324 to register

2009 Members' Day Plant Sale, Saturday, October 3, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Once again, the time has arrived for members to enjoy this exclusive benefit. A mailer with descriptions of the plants for sale will be sent to all members. Additional information and photos will be posted on the Fairchild web site www.fairchildgarden.org.

FAIRCHILD TROPICAL BOTANIC GARDEN

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

"Gardens, scholars say, are the first sign of commitment to a community. When people plant corn they are saying, lets stay here. And by their connection to the land, they are connected to one another." -Anne Raver-