Park life

A MIAMI-DADE PARKS PUBLICATION

Winter 2008
www.miamidade.gov/parks

Enriching Your Life
Through Natural, Cultural and
Recreational Experiences

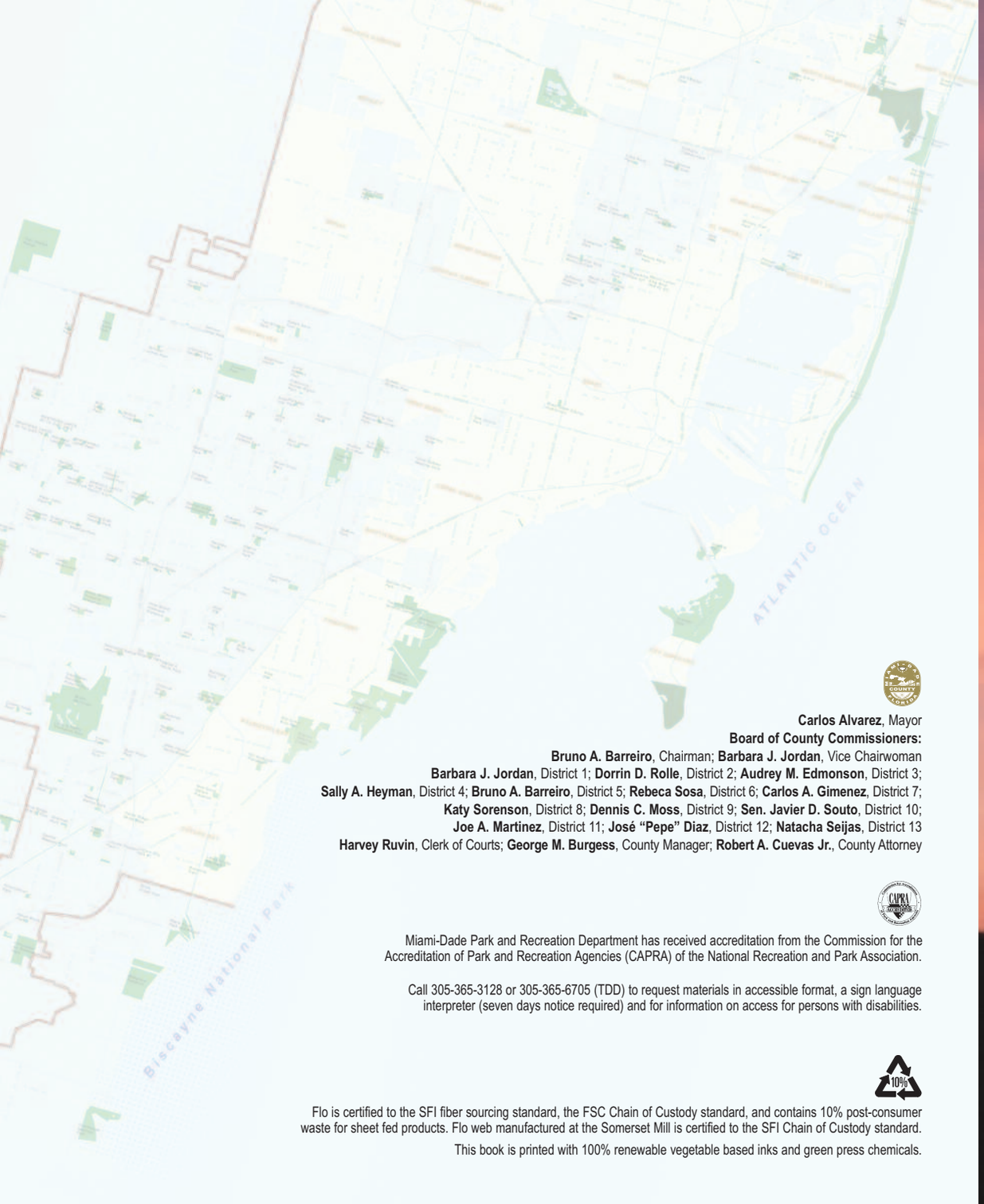
In this Issue:

Support for a Place to Play

A Call to the Heart

Experience the Amazon in Miami

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY



Carlos Alvarez, Mayor
Board of County Commissioners:
Bruno A. Barreiro, Chairman; **Barbara J. Jordan**, Vice Chairwoman
Barbara J. Jordan, District 1; **Dorrin D. Rolle**, District 2; **Audrey M. Edmonson**, District 3;
Sally A. Heyman, District 4; **Bruno A. Barreiro**, District 5; **Rebeca Sosa**, District 6; **Carlos A. Gimenez**, District 7;
Katy Sorenson, District 8; **Dennis C. Moss**, District 9; **Sen. Javier D. Souto**, District 10;
Joe A. Martinez, District 11; **José "Pepe" Diaz**, District 12; **Natacha Seijas**, District 13
Harvey Ruvin, Clerk of Courts; **George M. Burgess**, County Manager; **Robert A. Cuevas Jr.**, County Attorney

Miami-Dade Park and Recreation Department has received accreditation from the Commission for the Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) of the National Recreation and Park Association.

Call 305-365-3128 or 305-365-6705 (TDD) to request materials in accessible format, a sign language interpreter (seven days notice required) and for information on access for persons with disabilities.

Flo is certified to the SFI fiber sourcing standard, the FSC Chain of Custody standard, and contains 10% post-consumer waste for sheet fed products. Flo web manufactured at the Somerset Mill is certified to the SFI Chain of Custody standard.

This book is printed with 100% renewable vegetable based inks and green press chemicals.

CHAMPIONING THE CAUSE

We're spoiled in Miami, and I suppose you could say we're fortunate to have such a long list of fun and wonderful things to notoriously take for granted. Let's see, there's the fact that every day is a sunny day…how we're never too far from a beautiful ocean view… and all the ways beauty abounds, from beautiful people seemingly everywhere, to the bright-green parakeets, whose chatter fills the air.

And how about how we're practically another country unto ourselves with our own exclusive, "Spanglish"? Where else can you find such an amazing patchwork of nationalities engaging you at every turn? …Maybe in New York???

Well, New York is good company to be in, known for its grand Central Park. There's also Chicago, whose social center—Millennium Park—draws visitors in from all over the world. Ultimately, the greatest cities are anchored by their equally great park systems, and Miami, really, comes in second to none, except in the minds of those who take the vast Miami-Dade County Parks system for granted. Comprised of more than 250 parks, it's one of the largest networks of parks, beaches, wildlife landscapes, wetlands, and recreational gems in the entire United States.

While this great parkscape of green and blue spaces is breathtaking, it's the heart and soul of Miami-Dade Parks & Recreation that's truly vital. Building playgrounds and recreational facilities for kids and adults at every end of the County and in most neighborhoods in between, the Parks organization aims to ensure that every community, regardless of economic make-up, has a park to exercise and reflect in, and in which to socialize and play with neighbors, friends, family, and even pets. From programs that introduce kids to the exploration of nature and the arts, to the provision of sports development opportunities for nominal fees; from free concerts and events and the preservation of endangered lands, to the development of more green space and connectivity in this increasingly growing urban environment… Miami-Dade Parks is hard at work, striving daily to improve the quality of life in Miami-Dade County. But, it cannot achieve these and countless other noble pursuits without support.

And so, this issue of Parklife invites you to do just that—engage yourself and support us in this champion effort. It's in sharing the responsibility of stewardship that we'll grow to more fully understand and appreciate each other's needs and that of our environment—resulting in greater progress and improved humanity. And that's nothing to be taken for granted.

Atoll, Matheson Hammock Park

Parklife

A MIAMI-DADE PARKS PUBLICATION

Winter 2008

Contents

1 Mission

4 Support for a Place to Play

10 I Am Miami-Dade Parks

12 A Different Corporate Experience

16 A Call to the Heart

20 Parks in Focus

28 Parks at a Glance

30 Progress Report

32 Experience the Amazon in Miami

34 Meet a Native

35 Calendar of Events

49 In Closing

front/back cover spread:
Kate

Publisher:
Miami-Dade County Park and Recreation Department

Editor:
Doris Howe

Assistant Editor:
Susana Cortázar

Business & Project Manager:
Damarys Isler

Graphic Designers:
Ruben Perez, Gabriel Reyes

Photographer:
Peter Dooling

Public Information Officer:
Edith Torres

Contributors:
Mary Abreu, Bill Ahern, Lucy Binhack, Cindy Castelblanco, Brian Cullen, Barbara Falsey, Catherine Ferreira, Angie Gomez, W. Howard Gregg, Roger L. Hammer, Katherine MacDiarmid, Maria Nardi, Donna Peyton, Pablo Tejeda, Sally Timberlake, Jennifer Tisthammer, Jose Toledo

Miami-Dade County Park and Recreation Department

Jack Kardys, Director

W. Howard Gregg, Assistant Director for Planning and Development

Frank Faragalli, Assistant Director for Operations

Allison Diego, Assistant Director for Administration

George Parrado, Assistant Director for Recreation

Parklife
T (305) 755-7800 / F (305) 755-7857
www.miamidade.gov/parks

Reproduction in whole/part of **Parklife** without prior written permission is strictly prohibited. For questions/comments about **Parklife**, write to Miami-Dade Parks, 275 NW 2nd Street, 3rd Floor, Miami, FL 33128, phone (305) 755-7800, or email at parks@miamidade.gov.

Support for a Place to Play

By Donna Peyton and Jennifer Tisthammer

"Our challenge today is not that much different than it was when we first began at the turn of the century…convincing Miami-Dade citizens of the importance of a strong park system to meet today's, as well as future needs for green space and recreation programs that enhance well-being and community life." – Jack Kardys, Parks Director

The Miami-Dade County parks system began in 1929, when A. D. "Doug" Barnes was hired as director to lead the County's Road Beautification Program. With his great foresight, he sought to acquire and preserve the community's most cherished heritage and nature parks, including Matheson Hammock, Greynolds, Haulover, Redland Fruit and Spice, Fairchild Gardens, and Homestead Bayfront Park. In its more than 80-year history, the Park and Recreation Department has seen many expansions and has grown in size to one of the nation's largest, nationally accredited park systems, with 255 parks totaling 12,000 acres available to residents and visitors of Miami-Dade County.

"Our challenge today is not that much different than it was when we first began at the turn of the century… convincing Miami-Dade citizens of the importance of a strong park system to meet today's, as well as future needs for green space and recreation programs that enhance well-being and community life," says Miami-Dade Parks Director Jack Kardys.

As the Department moves into the future, the Parks and Open Space System Master Plan–a 50-year vision for a unified parks system–is the cornerstone addressing such ills as increased population, encroaching development, traffic congestion, and declining green space. Through our innovative Adopt-A-Park Program, we are reaching out to the community–individuals and corporations–for ongoing support of our efforts to make Miami a more livable city.

One shining example of commitment to the Department's many worthy programs is the Parks Foundation of Miami-Dade, which was established in 2004 by concerned citizens who recognized the benefit in supporting the programs and initiatives of the Miami-Dade Park and Recreation Department.

Since the Parks Foundation paved the way, corporations, universities and non-profits have all chosen to take an active leadership role as Adopt-A-Park Program partners. Supporters include

The University of Miami, KaBOOM!, US Paralympics, and Nike, to name a few. "Giving back to the community is one of our core values at The Home Depot. We are thrilled to be working with Miami-Dade Parks and helping make the new playground at Little River Park a reality," says Juan McCausland from The Home Depot.

Individual community leaders including Dick Anderson–a starting safety for the Miami Dolphins' unbeaten 1972 Super Bowl championship team and subsequently elected to the Florida Legislature–have made a considerable investment in Miami-Dade County for decades. Dick believes that part of what sets a community apart as a special place are the volunteers who invest time and energy in projects, organizations, local government, and causes that build and strengthen the community and connect the people who call it "home." Dick's community activism has led to serving in the Senate between 1978 and 1982, board positions with The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis and the Baptist Hospital Foundation, and a variety of other civic projects, including the Parks Foundation's Fit to Play, Fun for Life Program–one of our adoptable programs, which addresses our community's growing need to keep our kids physically fit and engaged in fun and educational activities.

"Giving back to the community is one of our core values at The Home Depot. We are thrilled to be working with Miami-Dade Parks and helping make the new playground at Little River Park a reality."

"I believe one of the greatest healthcare challenges that we face in the 21st century is the alarming number of youth who are suffering from obesity and a lack of exercise," says Dick.

The Fit to Play Program speaks to the staggering statistics that approximately nine million children over the age of six are considered overweight in this country. The prevalence of obesity has nearly quadrupled among boys and girls over the last 25 years. Studies estimate that 5%-7% of Caucasian and African American children, 12% of Hispanic boys, and 19% of Hispanic girls are obese. Miami-Dade Parks is aggressively addressing this serious, national health issue with its Fit to Play, Fun for Life program. It's much easier to prevent obesity than to treat it. "Some exciting [lessons] of the Fit to Play, Fun for Life sports development and nutrition program are that it teaches children proper nutrition, creates good exercise habits and offers mentoring

The Parks Foundation of Miami-Dade

Helping Us Help Others

Individuals and corporations can help support parks programs with gifts made to the Parks Foundation of Miami-Dade–a 501(c)(3) organization that supports Miami-Dade Park and Recreation programs and projects to build a world class parks system for residents and visitors alike.

Charitable funds received are used for recreation scholarships, cultural initiatives, parks and facilities improvements, land acquisition, and preserving parks and green space, among other initiatives. The Parks Foundation of Miami-Dade set a goal last year to enhance the Fit to Play, Fun for Life program through scholarships for youth, program expansions to more park sites and equipment purchases. The goal is to get all of Miami-Dade County involved. Individuals and corporations can donate through our Adopt-A-Park Program or make a commitment of an unrestricted gift to support overall Park Foundation initiatives. When you or your family consider making a charitable gift, it is a great way to make a contribution and make a difference in the lives of our community's next generation. Gifts received are tax deductible and a number of giving and recognition opportunities are available.

Outright gifts of any size using a check or money order made payable to Parks Foundation of Miami-Dade can have an immediate impact. The Parks Foundation accepts gifts of marketable securities, as well. Increasingly, donors are making gifts using appreciated stocks, bonds, or real estate as a popular alternative to cash, because it allows the flexibility to make even larger gifts and has the benefit of additional tax savings.

Gifts of any size join others to grow fun, recreation and fitness programs for our kids. From $10 to $100,000, individuals, businesses and organizations can have a significant impact with their generous giving.

Please take a moment to make a gift online at www.parksfoundation.org or by calling Donna Peyton at (305) 755-7804. Help us to help kids in our community to stay fit and have fun.

and leadership development opportunities. By providing our youth with a place to play, we encourage healthier, more active kids," says Dick. This program is an ongoing initiative, supported through contributions and partnerships fostered by the Parks Foundation of Miami-Dade.

"Many of our kids return year after year," says Highland Oaks Park Manager Daniel Barcia, "because they find our program challenging, entertaining and most important, fun!" Mikketa, age 7, member of the "Shorties" (ages 6 – 8), enrolled in Highland Oaks Park's after-school Fit to Play, Fun for Life Program for the second year, because all her friends attend and enjoy jump rope and hop scotch. "It helps us exercise and have fun, too! Coach Millie taught us how good it is to eat healthy, and now I love to eat apples and oranges. They're my favorite now," explains Mikketa.

Fit to Play, which is offered in 43 parks, registers more than 11,000 kids in its summer camp and more than 3,500 in its after-school programs annually. It reaches a diverse cross section of our population, including all ethnicities and income levels, and challenges kids with such activities as football, basketball, soccer, tennis, swimming, fencing, and field trips.

Camps are also offered for children with disabilities and include enriching camp experiences such as wheelchair sports, swimming, arts and crafts, and field trips.

"I believe one of the greatest healthcare challenges that we face in the 21st century is the alarming number of youth who are suffering from obesity and a lack of exercise."

Kaboom! at West Perrine Park

21 YEARS OF TURTLE TRACKING – *MAKING A DIFFERENCE*

By Bill Ahern, Recreation Specialist 1
Marine Turtle Permit Holder # 017

My first experience with sea turtles takes me back to the summer of 1966 on Miami Beach at 1st Street. Though now known worldwide for the glitz and glamour that has become South Beach, in 1966 the south end of Miami Beach was a low-rent district.

I was 16 years old and attending Miami Springs High School. Since the school had a surfing team, I was always at the beach–either Miami Beach or Cocoa Beach.

At sunrise, as we parked on this particularly beautiful morning, we noticed hundreds of sea turtle hatchlings run over in the parking lot. I remember their flippers having a white outline. This is the unmistakable marking of Green Sea turtle hatchlings. Sadly, only a few were still alive. The bright lights from the street had set them on a deadly westerly course. As the few we found alive were gently put into the sea to swim off, we all watched quietly. On this day, my quest to help the little turtles would commence.

For the remaining summer days, my surfing pals and I would spend hours looking for more stray survivors. The casualties were enormous; only a few handfuls were located. We all marveled at how a sea turtle could nest on a beach with so little sand.

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, overdeveloped coastal areas began to erode natural nesting habitats. Drastic action had to be taken in order to preserve the precious coastline. By 1977, a beach rebuilding project was underway. At the time, it was the largest comprehensive beach renourishment project worldwide. The Army Corps of Engineers, the Department of Energy and Resource Management (DERM), and the Miami-Dade Park and Recreation Department collaborated on what was to be a five-year project starting at Government Cut and going north to the end of Sunny Isles.

Years later, Key Biscayne and Crandon Park Beach also underwent beach renourishment.

In the summer of 1980, the beach-rebuilding project was halfway complete. Beach sand was pumped in from offshore for an area covering almost 20 miles in length and 1,000 feet in width. We were well on our way to holding the title of "the world's longest stretch of man-made beaches." Today, all of Miami's beaches are man-made.

As a side benefit of rebuilding the beaches for community residents and visitors in Miami-Dade County, we unknowingly rebuilt the ancient sea turtle nesting areas on our beaches. Female Loggerheads, Green and Leatherback sea turtles found the beaches adequate for their clutches of eggs once again.

In 1974, the Endangered Species Act was enacted to protect all sea turtles and other dwindling populations of animals by state and federal laws. And, by 1980, the Miami-Dade Parks Sea Turtle Recovery Program was established. We have obtained our Marine Turtle Permit from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, and the program is looking forward to its 29th season of saving sea turtle populations from extinction.

The Sea Turtle Awareness Program is but one of the unique programs Miami-Dade Parks offers under its "Adopt-A-Program" umbrella.
To learn more about saving the sea turtles, or to donate to this fascinating program, please call (305) 361-6767 today or visit us online at: http://www.miamidade.gov/parks/fun-eco_turtle.asp

I am Miami – Dade Parks

By Susana Cortázar

"We open ourselves to incredible experiences when we accept that we are all much more alike than different."

Lucy Binhack
Kendale Lakes Park

She was a member of the National Junior College Athletic Association National Championship Volleyball team; earned an athletic scholarship to UM where she completed her Bachelor of Science in Education with a major in Recreation Therapy and was named MVP on the UM Volleyball Team; completed her Recreation Therapy internship at the UM/Jackson Memorial Hospital Rehabilitation Center where she worked with amputees, spinal cord injured, stroke and pediatric-orthopedic patients to teach recreation, sports and community skills and engage patients in leisure education; earned her Master's Degree in Public Administration from FIU.

We are talking about Lucy Binhack, CTRS, MPA, who spearheads the Parks Leisure Access Division–which provides sports and recreation activities for persons with disabilities.

After working in the field of recreation therapy for persons with disabilities for several years and gaining invaluable experience in a clinical environment, Lucy joined us in 1993 and has since made an indelible mark with the implementation of innovative ideas and programs.

When asked what inspired her to pursue this specialty, she stated, "A professor in my junior college gave me a book about recreation therapy. The minute I began reading I knew it was for me. I liked the fact that I would be making a difference in people's lives, that it was not a 'typical' job as it involved being active and outside, and I would never have to wear panty hose."

Lucy surrounded by her tireless and passionate staff.

Her passion for her job is continually displayed as she tirelessly strives to keep up with new technology, techniques and equipment "in the world of disability and medicine" that will benefit those she serves, as well as training staff and developing groundbreaking programs. She must identify what programs work for which participants and their level of ability. Her level of energy allows her to maneuver all these responsibilities. In fact, she thrives in situations where she "can be physical as well as intellectual."

One of her most memorable accomplishments was having the privilege of "teaching quadraplegics how to swim. They initially do not believe they can, and when they do, it is such a rush ... they are thrilled to be independently mobile, even if only in the water. I really enjoy witnessing their newfound freedom and the confidence it gives them."

She loves her job and is grateful to have found her "life's work" and "actually get paid for doing it." Luckily for her program participants and the rest of the Parks Department, Lucy plans on staying here until she wins the Lotto, and we know what the chances of that are!

I am Miami-Dade Parks is a recurring article that will highlight volunteers, staff and participants in our programs.

A Different Corporate Experience

By José Toledo

Did you know that Miami-Dade Parks offers a wide array of activities and venues for local, national and international companies to create the ideal corporate event in what is known as "The Corporate Experience"? These unique opportunities enable corporations to entertain, train, team-build, reward, and offer staff incentives within beautiful park settings that often take your breath away, while bringing people together outdoors, closer to nature and away from the hustle-and-bustle of the city and its rush-and-stress environment.

Our park settings allow you to renew yourself and refresh your perspective. You and your group can "get away from it all" without taking on the cost and inconveniences of leaving home.

The versatility of our facilities and staff can handle any type of function–from a small 60-person birthday party to a 6,000-employee corporate picnic. Approximately 40,000 patrons take advantage of the Corporate Experience yearly. From family reunions to community picnics to corporate teambuilding, we provide a wide variety of distinct settings and amenities to suit your needs and create a memorable outing. The county-wide accessibility and affordability of our programs and facilities make it even more enticing for corporate patrons.

Here is just a sampling of some perks you can share with your colleagues and staff, and leverage to impress your clients: Rent a cabana at Crandon Park Beach for the day, month or year; launch your team members on a refreshing boat ride along Biscayne Bay and the Atlantic Ocean; hold your meeting in the state-of-the-art office spaces located at the Crandon Park Tennis Center, home of the world-renowned Sony Ericsson tennis tournament and surrounded by plush natural surroundings; treat your staff to a few rounds in our five world-class golf courses or our fun mini golf course; have an educational experience at one of our nature centers; experience the thrill of outdoor exploration, while on a naturalist-guided tour through nature with EcoAdventures that offers kayaking, canoeing, hiking or biking; go horseback riding at the Equestrian Center at Tropical Park; or just enjoy a game of baseball, football or volleyball at our many sports fields; and have your function catered. You can even surprise your guests and colleagues by holding your corporate meeting at the Deering Estate at Cutler in its historic mansion with vaulted ceilings and large antique fireplace that inspire ingenuity.

To enhance the patron's experience, our parks provide additional amenities such as electricity for special lighting or other needs, water, picnic tables, and shelter rentals.

Miami-Dade Parks is the ideal venue for holding corporate events. There is something for everyone at affordable prices. Experience "The Corporate Experience." Your employees will love you for it!

A Call To The Heart

By Angie Gomez

"Volunteers don't get paid; not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless."
- Sherry Anderson

It was a typical summer day, and I was roaming the Redland area when I spotted Brandy. He was trapped in a ditch, and must have been struggling to get out for quite a while, because his breathing was erratic, his body soaked with sweat. Tears were drying on his face and his eyes only showed fear. You could see him make an attempt to escape, but he was tired. Thankfully, a team of rescuers was on site, and they approached him slowly, not to scare him more. One of the rescuers went down the muddy embankment and began speaking softly to him, placing a harness around his body. The rescuers worked in unison; some putting planks under him, others pushing from behind. You could hear them calling out instructions to each other. "You stand here and you push from there," "we don't have much time left", "on three–one, two, and three," as they worked hard to set him free. Although exhausted, after a half hour, Brandy kicked in and helped get himself free.

I remember taking a good look at him as he stood on firm ground and saying to myself, "Wow, what a magnificent creature!" I was so grateful the rescuers had been there to save his life. There he was, standing as tall as he could–an exhausted thoroughbred horse about 16 hands high, chocolate with white socks and a small diamond patch on his forehead. You could hear the concern for his health in the rescuers' voices as they tried getting Brandy into the trailer they had brought with them to take him away.

I discovered that many of the rescuers were volunteers. I remember wondering what would have happened to Brandy had they not been there. As I watched them leave, I realized my heart had been captured and carried off in that old beat up trailer, and hoped to see Brandy again. What happens to a community when there are no volunteers to fill and perform numerous vital functions? I realized that day that I wanted to make that type of difference and help out those in need.

In the Miami-Dade Park and Recreation Department, volunteerism is alive and well. We have over 25 types of volunteer activities in which our interested citizens can participate–from "going green" initiatives, to helping kids and animals in need. Many of these activities fall under our "green" mission to plant a better tomorrow for our children with our new Park and Open Space System Master Plan, a countywide vision designed to provide a more livable, sustainable community by connecting parks, public spaces, natural and cultural areas through greenways, water trails and tree-lined streets. Volunteer projects that help us move toward a greener tomorrow involve tree and flower planting efforts near areas targeted to be integrated in the connectivity of our greenways, water trails and parks. Other projects that involve cleaning up and collecting items for recycling at one of our shoreline parks or assisting with grounds maintenance at one of our community parks, go a long way toward enhancing a community and fostering stewardship of the land.

We also have educational and recreational programs for children, in which volunteers can help a child in a wheelchair to color, teach another to play an instrument, or mentor children to complete their homework in an after-school program. These volunteer activities provide heart-warming and far-reaching results.

If you're an animal lover, we have volunteer opportunities such as animal care at one of our petting zoos; rescuing endangered sea turtle hatchlings by helping them to safely find their way home to the ocean; manning a dog park; and assisting the Miami Metrozoo commissary to prepare meals for the animals in their collection.

If an everyday commitment is not possible for you, Miami-Dade Parks has short-term volunteer opportunities. We are partnering with organizations that, like us, are interested in enriching our communities. These organizations collaborate with us in providing agricultural education presentations; providing access to culturally enriching events; and partners such as KaBOOM! and The Home Depot assist us in building playgrounds for neighborhood children. As we work on partnerships with local universities, secondary schools, Hands On Miami, and others, we aim to develop lasting relationships that enhance the lives of others. We look to the citizens of Miami-Dade County as our source of assistance and realize how volunteers not only allow us to reach our organizational goals, but assist us in keeping the pulse of our society in our hands by their integration into our workforce.

In the history of our country, Americans have made great achievements through their volunteer efforts. Today, the volunteer force is as prevalent and undying as ever, with people working independently as well as through organizations that coordinate volunteers to help provide services that would not otherwise be available.

We Salute You!

Miami-Dade Parks is proud to recognize these partners who have provided volunteer assistance to help make our programs, services and facilities a great success in service to the residents of the entire county:

which helps communities across the country to build playgrounds.

whose volunteers build low-income housing, help to restore the natural environment, tutor at-risk children, and more.

which focuses on making a community safer, assisting in times of disasters and helping to protect the environment by cleaning parks and streams.

For more information about these Miami-Dade Parks partners, visit www.kaboom.org, www.handsonmiami.org and www.americorps.org.

How would you feel knowing that you made a big difference in your surrounding community by giving only of your time? The difference is apparent when a child can use a bike trail, because it was cleared of debris by a group of volunteers the day before, and when a family can sit under a tree to watch the kids play a soccer game, because a few years prior a group of volunteers helped plant that tree.

Generation after generation, Americans have watched carefully for the need to help and courageously stepped in to fill the void. These individuals are truly the conscience of society and the assistance that every organization seeks. It is our desire that the volunteers who come to Miami-Dade Parks find a sense of ownership toward the areas being enhanced by their services. Giving back to the very place of which you are a part is the American way of life.

So, if you think it might be fun or rewarding to volunteer with the Miami-Dade County Park and Recreation Department, sign up today! Let us show you what your community needs from you, what programs are out there that may be of interest to you, and allow the experience of "giving of yourself" to enrich and reward you in unexpected ways.

I'm the Volunteer Coordinator for Miami-Dade Park and Recreation. Someone who was in your shoes, a spectator who witnessed a horse rescue by a volunteer organization dedicated to assisting animals in need, whose heart was stolen and carried off in an old beat up trailer.

For information on how you can volunteer, visit our site at http://www.miamidade.gov/parks/about-volunteering.asp

Photography by Peter Doeling

Parks in Focus

Crandon Beach

EcoAdventures, Bear Cut

Greynolds Park

Blackpoint Park and Marina

Blackpoint Park and Marina

Oak Grove, Matheson Hammock Park

Parks at a Glance

1 **2nd Annual Senior Art Show at Women's Park**
On Friday, September 12 Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Alvarez and Miami-Dade Parks presented the 2nd Annual Senior Art Show at the Roxcy O'Neal Bolton Women's History Gallery at Women's Park located in west Miami.

2 **Kaboom! Design Day at Little River Park**
Children gathered at Little River Park on October 7 to design their dream playgrounds. Miami-Dade Parks, Kaboom!, Home Depot and the Miami Dolphins have teamed up to build a new playground at the park this December.

3 **The Heart Walk at Tropical Park**
On October 11 Miami-Dade Parks participated in a 5K walk at Tropical Park to help support the American Heart Association.

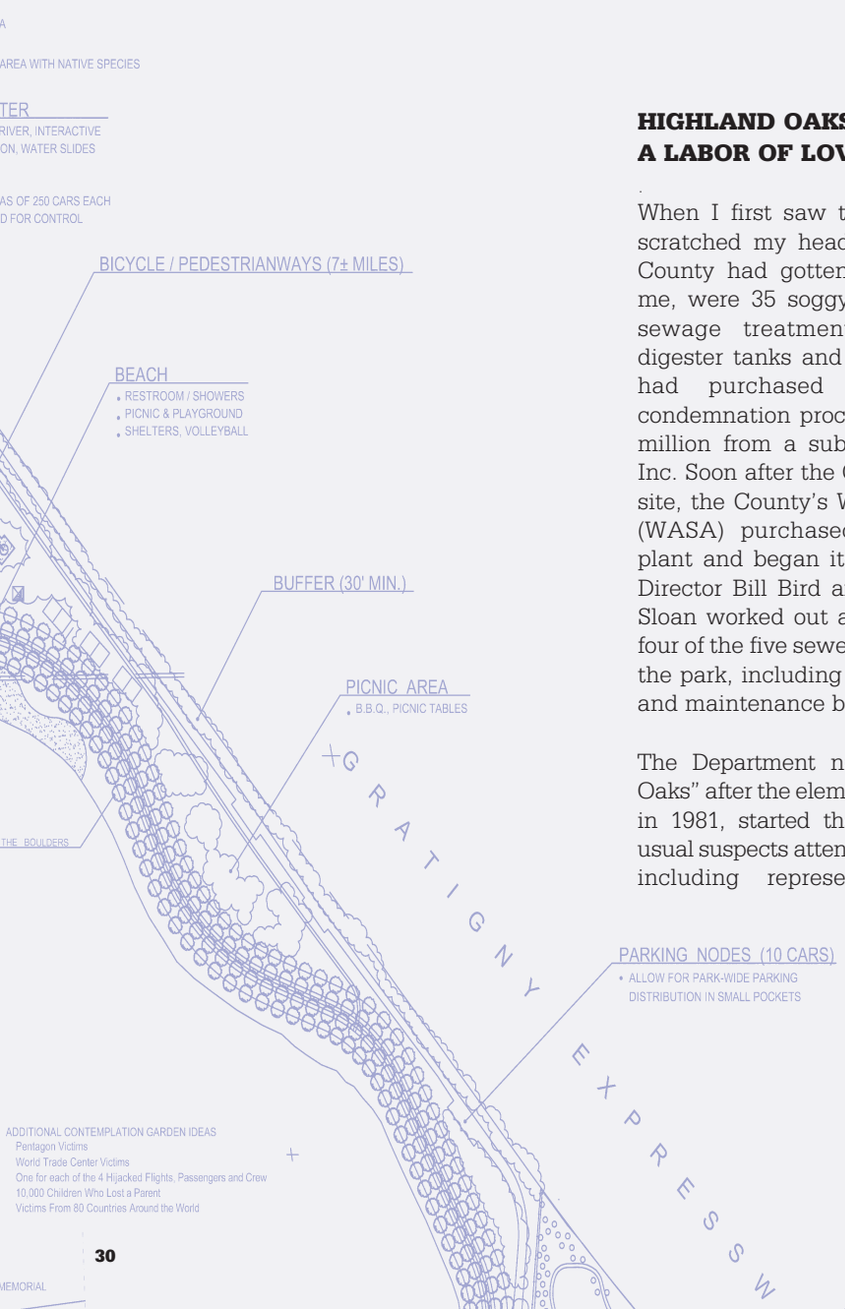
4 **Claire Rosichan Park Dedication**
Miami-Dade Parks dedicated a new shaded playground with surrounding benches and other amenities on October 30. In 1975, Mr. Arthur Rosichan donated monies to fund the park at the passing of his wife, Claire, who originally gave him the idea after seeing kids playing in the street during her commute to work, because they didn't have a park in which to play.

5 **Kendall Indian Hammocks Park Dedication**
On November 1, Miami-Dade Parks dedicated a new field center, storage building and other amenities at Kendall Indian Hammocks Park. The field center will service the three baseball fields and two large soccer fields which host games every day of the week.

6 **Ribfest 2008 at Homestead Air Reserve Park**
Rodney Atkins performs in front of a raucous crowd on November 9 during Miami-Dade Parks 5th Annual Ribfest, presented by Miller Lite.

progress report...

By W. Howard Gregg



HIGHLAND OAKS PARK
A LABOR OF LOVE FOR KEN FRIEDMAN

When I first saw the "Ball Tract" in 1977, I scratched my head and wondered what the County had gotten itself into. There, before me, were 35 soggy acres and a neighboring sewage treatment plant, complete with digester tanks and sludge fields. The County had purchased this property through condemnation proceedings in 1976 for $1.445 million from a subsidiary of Caesar's World, Inc. Soon after the County purchased the park site, the County's Water and Sewer Authority (WASA) purchased the sewage treatment plant and began its dismantling. Then Parks Director Bill Bird and WASA Director Garrett Sloan worked out an agreement that allowed four of the five sewer plant acres to be added to the park, including the plant manager's office and maintenance building.

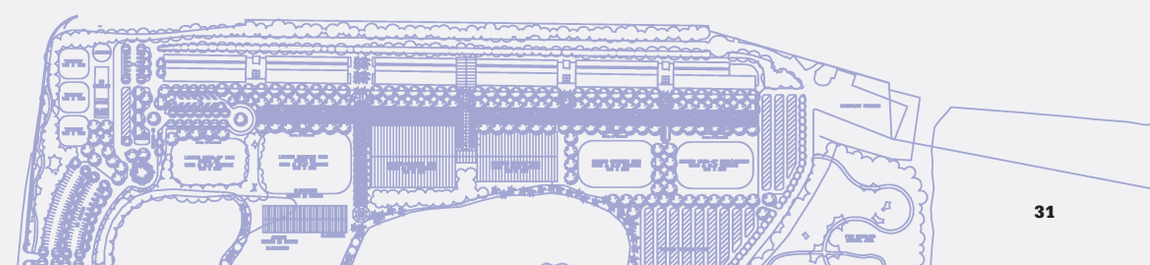
The Department named the park "Highland Oaks" after the elementary school next door and, in 1981, started the park's master plan. The usual suspects attended the first public meeting, including representatives of homeowner associations and the president of the North Miami Beach Optimist Club. Representing the Skylake–Highland Lakes Homeowners Association was Kenneth Friedman. This association had been requesting a park for many years. As early as 1972, the association wrote then-County Manager Ray Goode, stating: "…no new parks have been created in the Northeast Dade County section of any major significance since Greynolds Park in the 1930s."

It took more than three years to complete the park plan, primarily because of a conflict between the homeowners and the North Miami Beach Optimist Club over the number of baseball fields in the park. Everyone acknowledged a deficiency of baseball fields in Northeast Dade County, but the impact on homes abutting the park was thought to be too severe. The department eventually agreed that a lake would be dug in the park's north half to provide much needed fill for the low-lying park and to avert future attempts to construct baseball fields in that area. The County Commission approved the park plan in 1984.

As is often the case, there was no money to develop the site. The quest for funding began with royalties from the contracted lake excavation and an agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation to deposit excess clean fill from some of their construction projects. The 1980s were lean years and the department budget requests were unfunded; however, Kenneth Friedman was determined to see that his community had its park. Every year, beginning in 1985, Friedman sought grants and lobbied state legislators and County commissioners for park funding, and every year dollars dribbled in….and development commenced. One year a walkway was built, the next a playground, and the next the renovation of the old sewage treatment office building for after-school programs. And so it went, year after year after year. Kenneth Friedman even stood outside polling places for the 1996 Safe Neighborhood Parks (SNP) referendum asking people to vote "YES" for Parks….and the $1.0 million for Highland Oaks Park.

The Park has come a long way–there is a beautiful recreation center, a lighted parking lot, ball fields, a lighted pathway around the lake, a vita course, and a sand volleyball court. Right now, remaining SNP dollars are funding a portion of the Oleta River Headwaters Restoration project that will be completed in early 2009. A unique feature of Highland Oaks Park is that the Oleta River flows through it. Through collaboration with Department of Environmental Resource Management, which brought several environmental restoration projects funded by developers, the river bank has been transformed into a beautiful and healthy habitat for wildlife native to South Florida. The current project will reconnect the western reach of the river through a new culvert and complete the river restoration all the way to the lake.

The Parks Department has been supported, encouraged and guided by the community throughout all these efforts, and Ken Friedman has always been a prominent voice. When asked what motivated him to work so hard for so many years, Ken paused and reflected: "My first job was with the City of Miami's Park and Recreation Department and I love parks!" SUPER JOB, KEN!!



Experience the Amazon in Miami

South Florida will journey into Tropical America when Amazon & Beyond opens at Miami Metrozoo on December 6, 2008. The 27-acre, $50 million exhibit will showcase giant river otters that can grow to be six-feet long; jaguars, the largest cats in the western hemisphere; harpy eagles with talons the size of grizzly bear claws; and anacondas, the mightiest snakes on earth. Divided into three areas that surround the center Fiesta Plaza, the Cloud Forest, Amazon Forest and Atlantic Forest will house more than 600 animals from the region.

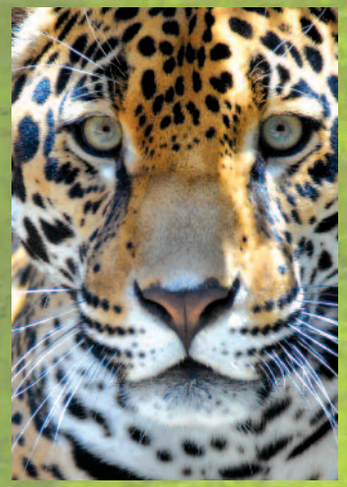
The Fiesta Plaza, adorned with brightly colored flags, will be the center of it all and the point of entry. Artifacts like dugout canoes and drums from Central and South America will transport visitors to the wild tropics. Close encounters with the smaller and friendlier creatures will be possible at an orientation pavilion. Youngsters will be invited to play on climbable folk-art-inspired animal sculptures at Parade of Life or splash in Fiesta Children's Fountain, a fun, jumping jets water feature, while others can catch a street theater performance of Quetzal's World on the main stage. Here, families can also grab a snack and browse the gift shop before experiencing the three impressive regions of Amazon & Beyond.

The Cloud Forest, a cool, higher ground in the wet clouds, is cloaked in moisture, mist and mystery with prowling, slithering and flying creatures found nowhere else in the world. The animals spot curious visitors long before becoming visible themselves. Brilliantly hued hummingbirds and butterflies flutter silently from flower to flower. Howler monkeys signal their presence with loud calls heard over a mile away and squirrel monkeys swiftly travel through the canopy of the tropical forest.

Sights of deadly snakes and insects with hundreds of legs may scare guests. They may want to think twice before entering the home of venomous eyelash vipers, giant millipedes and Mexican red-legged tarantulas. Those who dare enter will see the fer-de-lance, one of the deadliest snakes in Tropical America! Colorful poison dart frogs and red-eyed tree frogs may draw in skittish visitors.

"Amazon & Beyond will not only be an exceptional exhibit at Miami Metrozoo, but it will also be Miami's next big thing! We want the impressive collection of flora and fauna to inspire everyone to protect the endangered rainforests and the amazing animals that live there. Through participation in conservation programs and by making changes in the way we use natural resources, together we can all make a positive impact," said Ron Magill, Miami Metrozoo's Goodwill Ambassador and Communications Director.

Be cautious of lurking jaguars stalking you in the landscape. The powerful carnivores' piercing stares can be felt through the small openings in the dense bamboo grove. These mysterious felines can be viewed from the carved rocks and below the water.



Enter a place where the landscape changes dramatically, the world's oldest tropical rainforest - the Amazon Forest and the flooded forest. Here, where once a year 20% of the world's available fresh water is contained, adventurers can experience the dry and wet seasons on each side of the exhibit. Rivers and streams overflow their banks, flooding the region's forests and creating a new habitat where fish like the giant pacu munch on tree fruits and birds dive to escape danger.

This annual phenomenon triggers migrations of birds, fish and other animals, and creates an unusual home for many species. At nearly 30 feet in length when fully grown, the giant green anaconda cannot be missed. Be careful approaching the intimidating Orinoco crocodiles, they are the largest predators in South America growing to lengths of 16 feet and weighing almost 1,000 pounds. Witness the beauty and power of the largest eagle in the Americas, the harpy eagle, and the rainbow painted bill of the keel-billed toucans.

Land in an endangered area, the Atlantic Forest, where in reality there are more than 10,000 plant species found, half of which are unique to this area as are at least 5% of the world's butterfly species. The forest is so biologically diverse that many species are found only there. At Amazon & Beyond's Atlantic Forest, visitors will be able to watch tiny monkeys like golden lion tamarins eat juicy fruit and insects, and giant river otters swim along their cascading pools. At lengths of up to six feet, these otters are the longest of the world's 13 species of otter, and Miami Metrozoo is one of only three U.S. zoos to house them.

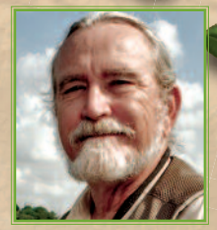
Miami Metrozoo and the Zoological Society of Florida hope the inimitable splendor of the flora and fauna at Amazon & Beyond will help drive its mission to encourage an appreciation for the world's wildlife and to help conserve it for future generations. These regional treasures are not only magnificent; they are also delicate and irreplaceable.

By Cindy Castelblanco

Your Support is Vital

There are many ways in which you can support Miami Metrozoo—by adopting an animal, sponsoring an event or exhibit, planned giving, and more. For details on how you can do so, please visit The Zoological Society of Florida at www.miamimetrozoo.com or call (305) 255-5551.

MEET A NATIVE:



A recurring article
by Roger L. Hammer

PAINTED BUNTING

It may hardly be noticed by most people, but each fall South Florida is blessed with the arrival of millions of migratory birds. Some are simply passing through on their annual trek to their wintering grounds in the tropics, but many take up seasonal residency here before flying back North to their nesting grounds as winter gives way to spring.

One of the most remarkable species of birds that makes this annual pilgrimage is the Painted Bunting. They may arrive as early as August, but most can be expected in late September or early October, and they can be a daily visitor to backyard bird feeders from fall into spring in South Florida.

Painted Bunting females and immature males are almost uniformly green with a greenish-yellow breast, allowing them to blend in perfectly with leaves on trees, which helps them avoid predators, such as hawks and falcons. Mature male Painted Buntings, on the other hand, are one of the most colorful birds in North America, sporting a bright-blue head, green back and brilliant-red breast.

If you have never seen a Painted Bunting, you're in for one of life's genuine treats. Painted Buntings will visit backyard bird feeders, especially if the feeder is filled with millet and is placed near shrubbery. As they are shy and flighty, it is important that you offer them a safe place to feed. If you do not own a bird feeder, you can still enjoy these remarkable birds by visiting Miami-Dade County parks that keep active feeders. If you would like to see Painted Buntings, the following parks will offer you the best chances to do so:

Castellow Hammock Park
22301 Southwest 162 Avenue
(305) 242-7688

Bill Sadowski Park
17555 Southwest 79 Avenue
(305) 255-4767

A.D. "Doug" Barnes Park (Sense of Wonder Nature Center)
3701 Southwest 70 Avenue
(305) 662-4124

BE ON THE LOOK OUT

Threats to Painted Buntings include habitat destruction, feral cats and illegal trapping for the pet trade. It is a felony to be in possession of any native migratory bird so, if you know of pet stores or individuals who keep native songbirds as pets, please phone the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission at 1-888-404-3922. Cell phone users can call *FWC or #FWC. Rewards are offered.

calendar of events

WINTER 2008–2009

(NOTE: DATES AND TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. CHECK THE PARKS WEBSITE FOR ADDED EVENTS AND CANCELLATIONS OR CALL PRIOR TO ATTENDING.)

DEC 1 - 31, 10 AM TO 5 PM
(Ticket office closes at 4 PM)
HOLIDAY WONDERLAND AT THE DEERING ESTATE
Free with paid admission to the Estate.
Visitors can tour the elegant and historic houses as they come alive with holiday accents and decorations created by the District XII Garden Clubs, the University of Florida Miami-Dade Extension, the FAFCS District and the International Ikebana Society.
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 235-1668 ext. 233

DEC 4, JAN 1, FEB 5, 7 – 9 PM
NITE HIKE
Free with admission to the Estate.
Experience the wood and its wildlife as it comes to life at night.
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 235-1668 ext. 233

DEC 4 – 7
SOULFUL NOEL
Soulful Noel is the story of Christmas presented through drama, dance, and song. The contemporary approach makes Soulful Noel a holiday must-see for audiences of all ages.
Joseph Caleb Auditorium
5400 NW 22 Ave.
(305) 636-2350

DEC 4, 7 PM – 8 PM
LECTURE: "FLORIDA FRIENDLY LANDSCAPING: COMMON LANDSCAPE MISTAKES"
Free.
As part of the Estate's monthly lecture series, Laura Vazquez, Florida Yards & Neighbors Coordinator, University of Florida, will talk about common landscape mistakes.
Visitor Center Auditorium
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 235-1668 ext. 233

DEC 5, 2008, 7 – 9 PM
TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY
Free with admission to the Estate.
Celebrate the kick-off of the Holiday Season of Events at the Deering Estate with a Tree Lighting Ceremony and listen to some of your favorite holiday classics.
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 235-1668 ext. 233

DEC 5, 8 PM
NOCHES TROPICALES FEATURING ALBITA
Free.
This concert series, sponsored in part by Target, celebrates Hispanic music and dance.
Tropical Park
7900 SW 40 St.
(305) 271-0812

DEC 6, 2008, 7 – 10 PM
HOLIDAY UNDER THE STARS CONCERT
The 10th Annual Holiday under the Stars outdoor concert will feature a musical performance by Mad Romance with the Miami String Project and Stacy Berkley. Guests are welcome to bring blankets, lawn chairs and picnic baskets.
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 235-1668 ext. 233

DEC 6 – 7, 8 AM – 6 PM
HERITAGE HORSE SHOW
Free to spectators.
Ronald Reagan Equestrian Center
Tropical Park
7900 Bird Road
Butch Medin
(954) 347-1799

visit our website at
www.miamidade.gov/parks

DEC 6, 7 PM
NUTCRACKER
$25, $20, $15
NUTCRACKER Christmas classic
Miami Dade County Auditorium
2901 West Flagler St.
Box Office (305) 547-5414
Ticketmaster (305) 358-3558

DEC 6, JAN 17, FEB 28, 9 AM – 4PM (PLEASE ARRIVE AT 8:45 AM)
ECOADVENTURES: NEW! EXPEDITION SOUTH FLORIDA ~ AIRBOAT & SWAMP TROMP
$60/Person
Glide through the Everglades. Stop by alligator holes and eat alligator tail, cat fish, frog legs at Coopertown Restaurant! At the Swamp Tromp, cool your feet through wet prairies and cypress swamps in search of birds, wildflowers and adventure. Trip limit 10 participants. Bring binoculars and change of shoes. Reptile presentation included! Travel by EcoAdventures van. Meet at A.D. Barnes Nature Center. Reservations required.
A.D. Barnes Sense of Wonder Nature Center
3401 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 365-3018

DEC 7, 7 PM
MARCO ANTONIO MUÑIZ
$87, $77, $47
Spanish Concert
Miami Dade County Auditorium
2901 West Flagler St.
Box Office (305) 547-5414
Ticketmaster (305) 358-3558

DEC 7 & 14, JAN 18, FEB 15, 10 – 11 AM
ECOADVENTURES: NATURALIST GUIDED FAMILY TRAIL WALKS
$3/Person
Discover all about South Florida flora and fauna through nature walks and short animal presentations. Themes will vary, so please call to find out the theme for the day and to pre-register. Please bring a water bottle, sun protection, bug spray, binoculars, walking shoes, and clothes appropriate for the weather.
Bill Sadowski Park
17555 SW 79 Ave.
(305) 255-4767

DEC 10 & 13, JAN 7 & 10, FEB 4 & 7, 7 – 8 PM (PLEASE ARRIVE AT 6:45 PM)
ECOADVENTURES: NEW! PET CARE CLASSES
$6/Person
Trained A.D. Barnes naturalists will teach valuable lessons about animal care. Includes mammals, birds, fish, reptiles and amphibians. Call ahead for schedule of pets. Reservations are recommended.
A.D. Barnes Sense of Wonder Nature Center
3401 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 662-4124

DEC 11, JAN 12, FEB 12, 7 – 11 PM
ECO ADVENTURES: DEERING ESTATE AT CUTLER - MOONLIGHT CANOE TOUR
$40/Person (Ages 18 and older).
Canoeists will enjoy the moonlit beauty of Biscayne Bay as they make their way to Chicken Key.
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 235-1668 ext. 233

DEC 12, 8 PM
HOLIDAY CONCERT
$10/Person
Join the Miami-Dade Parks Community Band for a concert of holiday music.
Joseph Caleb Auditorium
5400 NW 22 Ave.
(305) 636-2350

DEC 12 & 26, JAN 9, FEB 6, 7:30 – 9 PM
ECOADVENTURES: NEW! ARCH CREEK PARK CAMPFIRE
$6/Person
Ease the stress of your work week with our classic campfire program. Our naturalists will take you on a hammock hike in search of the critters that lurk in the night. Then join us around our fire ring where you'll hear classic tales that are sure to be filled with fright! Reservations required.
Arch Creek Museum & Nature Center Arch Creek Park
1855 NE 135 St.
(305) 948-2891

DEC 12, 4:30 – 7 PM JAN 10, FEB 8, 5:30 – 8 PM
ECOADVENTURES: CRANDON PARK'S SUNSET & MOONLIGHT KAYAK ADVENTURE
$40/Person (Ages 9 and above)
View a spectacular South Florida sunset from the seat of a kayak as we paddle through the waters of Bear Cut and explore the forgotten and secret part of Key Biscayne by light of the rising full moon. Wear closed-toe water shoes.
Reservations required.
Crandon Park Visitors & Biscayne Nature Center
6767 Crandon Blvd., Key Biscayne
Parking Lot #1, North Beach Entrance
(305) 365-3018

DEC 12 & 13, 8 PM DEC 14, 3 PM
BALLET ETUDES NUTCRACKER CHRISTMAS CLASSIC
Miami Dade County Auditorium
2901 West Flagler St.
Box Office (305) 547-5414
Ticketmaster (305) 358-3558

DEC 13, 20 & 27, 7 – 9:30 PM JAN 10 & 24, 7 – 9:30 PM FEB 7 & 21, 7 – 9:30 PM
ECOADVENTURES: FAMILY CAMPFIRE AND NIGHT WALK
$6/Person
Join park naturalists to learn about scary nighttime critters then search for them on the nature trail after dark. Afterwards, enjoy a campfire with marshmallow roast and star viewing with Southern Cross Astronomical Society. Reservations required.
Bill Sadowski Park
17555 SW 79 Ave.
(305) 255-4767

DEC 13 & 27, JAN 10 & 24, FEB 7 & 21, 7:30 – 10:30 AM (PLEASE ARRIVE AT 7:00 AM)
ECOADVENTURES: NEW! CUTLER WETLANDS BIRDWATCHING TOUR
$35/Person
Hike to the Cutler Wetlands and experience birding for wading and other species of birds. Bring binoculars and camera. Water, comfortable walking shoes, bug spray and sun block recommended. Travel by EcoAdventures van. Meet at A.D. Barnes Nature Center.
Reservations required.
A.D. Barnes Sense of Wonder Nature Center
3401 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 365-3018

DEC 13 & 27, JAN 10 & 24, FEB 7 & 21, 6 – 9 PM (PLEASE ARRIVE AT 5:45 PM)
ECOADVENTURES: NEW!! CHEKIKA HERP TOUR
$35/Person
Search for and identify reptiles and amphibians in Everglades National Park. Learn about the impact of exotic reptiles on ecosystem. Travel by EcoAdventures van. Meet at A.D. Barnes Nature Center.
Reservations required.
A.D. Barnes Sense of Wonder Nature Center
3401 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 365-3018

DEC 13, JAN 24, FEB 21, 10 AM – 1 PM (PLEASE ARRIVE BY 9:45 AM)
ECOADVENTURES: NEW! EXPEDITION SOUTH FLORIDA ~ CAMPING PROGRAM ~ INTRODUCTION TO CAMPING
$12/Person
Workshops and clinics re basics of safe, comfortable and enjoyable overnight wilderness trekking. Learn to prepare for types of camping & equipment/gear to buy. Reservations required for all workshops, clinics and overnight campouts.
A.D. Barnes Sense of Wonder Nature Center
3401 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 365-3018

DEC 13, 7 – 10 PM
ECOADVENTURES: NEW! EVERGLADES MOONLIGHT TOUR $18/Person
Travel in EcoAdventures van to Anhinga Trail for a moonlight guided walk. Naturalists will point out sounds of the Everglades which may include frogs, owls, alligators feeding, and nighthawks. Participants will then be taken to Pa-hay-okee Overlook for an elevated boardwalk view of the expansive prairie.
Pre-registration is required.
Castellow Hammock Nature Center
22301 SW 162 Ave.
Meet at Everglades National Park Coe Visitor Center, 40001 State Road
9336, Homestead)
(305) 365-3018

DEC 13 & 20, 10 AM – 12 PM
STORY-TIME AND KIDS CRAFTS WITH SANTA
Free with admission to the Estate. Mr. Claus will be reading holiday stories next to the beautiful Christmas tree in the Stone House Ballroom. After story-time there will be kids crafts activities.
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 235-1668 ext. 233

DEC 14, 8 – 11 AM
ECO ADVENTURES: DEERING ESTATE AT CUTLER – CHICKEN KEY CANOE TOUR
Adults $25; Children (ages 9 – 14) $15
Canoeists will experience the beauty of Biscayne Bay as they make their way to Chicken Key Island, a seven-acre bird rookery.
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 235-1668 ext. 233

DEC 14, JAN 24, FEB 28 9:30 AM – 4:00 PM
ECOADVENTURES: ECOADVENTURES CITY TOUR
$50/Person
Experience the natural and cultural side of Miami through the eyes of a native. Cruise around town in our "Eco Van" as we make stops and walk among South Florida's historical landmarks. The Cape Florida Lighthouse, The Barnacle, Coral Gables's Biltmore Hotel and Little Havana are just some of the fascinating places you will get to visit. Bring a camera and wear comfortable shoes and sunglasses. There will be a stop for lunch during the tour. Lunch not included in above fee.
Reservations required.
Crandon Park Visitors & Biscayne Nature Center
6767 Crandon Blvd., Key Biscayne
Parking Lot #1, North Beach Entrance
(305) 365-3018
22301 SW 162 Ave.
(305) 242-7688

DEC 14 – 23, 8 AM – 6 PM
JUNIOR ORANGE BOWL TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP 2008
Free to spectators.
Tropical Park Tennis Center
7900 Bird Road
Lynn Mitchell
(305) 662-1210

DEC 14, 5 – 6 PM
JAN 9, FEB 6, 5:30 – 6:30 PM
ECOADVENTURES: NEW! CRANDON PARK'S SUNSET TRAM TOURS
$4/Adult, $2/Child
(Ages 14 and under)
(Minimum 10 people ~ Reservations required)
Take a ride throughout Crandon Park on our open air tram. Enjoy the cool, crisp ocean breeze during this time of year as we visit the Bear Cut Preserve, the scenic ocean beach wall and the Crandon Gardens.
Reservations required.
Crandon Park Visitors and Biscayne Nature Center
6767 Crandon Blvd.,
Key Biscayne
Parking Lot #1,
North Beach Entrance
(305) 361-6767, Ext. 112

DEC 18 & 19, FEB 26, 8 PM
DEC 21, 3 PM
CUBAN CLASSICAL BALLET
Miami Dade County Auditorium
2901 West Flagler St.
Box Office (305) 547-5414
Ticketmaster (305) 358-3558

DEC 20 & JAN 31,
9 AM – 4 PM
(PLEASE ARRIVE AT 8:45 AM)
ECOADVENTURES: NEW! EXPEDITION SOUTH FLORIDA ~ AIRBOAT & SCENIC ADVENTURE
$60/Person
Glide through the Everglades. Stop by alligator holes and eat alligator tail, cat fish, frog legs at Coopertown Restaurant! At the Swamp Tromp, cool your feet through wet prairies and cypress swamps in search of birds, wildflowers and adventure. Ride the "Eco van" for a scenic drive. Reptile presentation included! Travel by EcoAdventures van. Meet at A.D. Barnes Nature Center.
Reservations required.
A.D. Barnes Sense of Wonder Nature Center
3401 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 365-3018

DEC 20, 3:30 – 6 PM
JAN 11, FEB 22, 4:30 – 7 PM
ECOADVENTURES: NEW! KEY BISCAYNE SUNSET BOAT TOUR
$35/Person
Welcome aboard the Pelican Skipper! Cruise around the island of Key Biscayne with our knowledgeable and experienced naturalist staff on a 40-passenger catamaran boat. Enjoy breathtaking views of Biscayne Bay and historical landmarks such as Stiltsville and the Cape Florida Lighthouse. We highly recommend sunglasses, sunscreen and camera to make your trip more enjoyable.
Reservations required.
Crandon Park Marina
4000 Crandon Blvd., Key Biscayne
(305) 365-3018

DEC 21, JAN 18, FEB 15,
2 – 4 PM
(PLEASE ARRIVE AT 1:30 PM)
BAY CRUISE
$35/Person
Take a relaxing trip on the Pelican Island Skipper Pontoon Boat and discover South Florida's nature and history. The boat will depart from the Deering Estate and explore Biscayne Bay.
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 235-1668 ext. 233

DEC 22 – DEC 26
(NO CAMP ON DEC. 25)
DEC 29 – JAN 2
DEERING DISCOVERY CAMP
Children, ages 6-13, will learn about history, archeology, and nature by taking part in a series of hands-on activities at the Deering Discovery Camp. Camp hours are from 9 AM – 4:30 PM. Please note that early drop-off and late pick-up are available for an additional fee. Early drop-off is from 7:30 AM – 9 AM and late pick-up is from 4:30 PM – 6 PM. There is a one-time $10 annual camp registration fee.
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 235-1668 ext. 233

DEC 22, 23, 24, 29, 30, 31,
JAN 2, 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM
ECOADVENTURES: WINTER NATURE CAMP
Join the staff at Bill Sadowski Park for a fun and educational adventure. Children 6 – 12 will learn about South Florida's native plants and animals through hands-on activities, games, and crafts. Pre & post camp care available from 7:30-9:30 AM & 3:30-5:30 PM, at no extra charge. Children need to bring lunch, water bottle, hat, sunscreen, insect repellent, comfortable clothes, and enclosed shoes.
Reservations required.
Bill Sadowski Park
17555 SW 79 Ave.
(305) 255-4767

DEC 27, 10 AM – 12 PM
(MEET AT THE VISITOR'S CENTER
AT 9:45 AM)
ECO ADVENTURES: DEERING ESTATE AT CUTLER - BIKE TOUR
Ride along the trails and explore the scenic landscapes while learning about the Estate's historic past.
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 235-1668 ext. 233

SAT & SUN: 1/3 & 1/4;
1/10 & 1/11; 1/17 & 1/18;
1/24 & 1/25; 1/31 10 AM – 3 PM
KAYAK RENTALS
Adults $10/Hour plus regular park admission; Children (ages 9-15) $8 per hour plus regular park admission.
Minimum 1 hour rental. Includes kayak, life vests, paddles and a small dry bag. To rent a kayak, you must be at least 21 years old. Ages of 9– 20 must be accompanied by a parent or a legal guardian in the same kayak. Two people per kayak required. All rentals are subject to weather and wind conditions.
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 235-1668 ext. 233

JAN 3, FEB 14, 12 – 7 PM
(PLEASE ARRIVE AT
11:45 AM)
ECOADVENTURES: NEW! EXPEDITION SOUTH FLORIDA ~ AIRBOAT & SHARK VALLEY BIKE ADVENTURE
$65/Person
Glide through the Everglades. Stop by alligator holes and eat alligator tail, cat fish, frog legs at Coopertown Restaurant! Bike a scenic trail of saw grass prairies, grassy marshes and tropical hardwood hammocks at Shark Valley. Watch for alligators, wading birds and otters. Reptile presentation included! Travel by EcoAdventures van. Meet at A.D. Barnes Nature Center.
Reservations required.
A.D. Barnes Sense of Wonder Nature Center
3401 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 365-3018

JAN 3 – FEB 7 (SAT)
10:30 AM – 12 PM
BEGINNERS TAI CHI CLASSES
$60
Apply your internal power with slow motion routines that promote health and longevity. The instructor is J. Morris. Classes are held in the Exhibit Room of the Visitor Center. Space is limited. Advance registration is required.
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 235-1668 ext. 233

JAN 5 – FEB 23 (MON)
6 – 7:30 PM
(NO CLASS ON 1/19 & 2/16)
INTERMEDIATE TAI CHI CLASSES
$60
Apply your internal power with slow motion routines that promote health and longevity. The instructor is J. Morris. Classes are held in the Exhibit Room of the Visitor Center. Space is limited. Advance registration is required.
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 235-1668 ext. 233

JAN 6 – FEB 10
(TUE) 6 – 7:30 PM
EVENING YOGA CLASSES
JAN 7 – FEB 11
(WED) 10 – 11:30 AM
MORNING YOGA CLASSES
$60
Learn how to relax, meditate and relieve stress during this six-week course. Instructed by M. Shulman. Class size is limited.
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 235-1668 ext. 233

JAN 7 – FEB 11 (WED)
7 PM – 8:30 PM
BEGINNING BALLROOM DANCING CLASSES
$70
Learn the basic moves of Fox Trot, Cha-Cha and Swing. Instructor Gwen Peiffer. Class size is limited.
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 235-1668 ext. 233
JAN 7 – FEB 11 (WED)
8:30 – 10 PM
INTERMEDIATE BALLROOM DANCING CLASSES
$70
Learn additional moves of Fox Trot, Cha-Cha and Swing. Instructor Gwen Peiffer. Class size is limited.
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 235-1668 ext. 233

JAN 8 – FEB 12 (THU)
6:30 – 7:30 PM
PILATES
$60
Focus on improving flexibility and strength with controlled movements that engage your body and mind. Instructed by Celia Maluf. Class size is limited.
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 235-1668 ext. 233

JAN 10 & 11, 10 AM – 5 PM
REDLAND FESTIVAL
$6/Adult
Children 11 & under are free.
A tradition at the park since 1976, this annual festival features local arts and crafts, a large selection of tropical plants and great food. Children's activities include a petting zoo, pony rides, an interactive puppet & magic show, and a wild and wonderful Everglades reptile show.
Fruit & Spice Park
24801 SW 187 Ave.
(305) 247-5727 or
www.fruitandspicepark.org

JAN 10, 23, FEB 14, 28,
9 AM – 12 PM
SATURDAY MORNING KIDS CAMP: TOPICS VARY
$30/Child (Ages 6-10); $10 one-time annual camp registration fee.
Children can participate in a hands-on, site-specific program that focuses on nature,archeology, arts & science.
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 235-1668 ext. 233

JAN 10, 9 AM – 12 PM
VOLUNTEER WORKDAY @ KENDALL INDIAN HAMMOCKS
Free.
Come join the Environmentally Endangered Lands Program and Natural Areas Management and assist with air-potato removal. Community service hours provided.
11345 SW 79 St.

JAN 16, 9 AM – 12 PM
VOLUNTEER WORKDAY @ CAMP MATECUMBE PINELAND PRESERVE
Free.
Come join the Environmentally Endangered Lands Program and Natural Areas Management and assist with the removal of exotic vegetation. Community service hours provided.
11400 SW 137 Ave.

JAN 16, 7 PM
LIVING ARTIST CONCERT SERIES: "PECULIAR PLANTS"
$35 General admission.
Chamber Music/Baroque Series: Special guest American harpsichordist and musicologist Kenneth Cooper and composer Victoria Bond in collaboration with Living Artist Concert Series Founding Artists. Artist in Residence, Cesar Barroso, will concurrently choreograph his exhibit by the same title that serves as a photographic survey of the uniqueness of South Florida.
Stone House Ballroom
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 235-1668 ext. 233

JAN 16, FEB 6
9 AM – 4:30 PM
KIDS CAMP
(TEACHER PLANNING DAY)
TOPICS VARY
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 235-1668 ext. 233

JAN 16 – MAR 31, 7 PM
FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT: "PECULIAR PLANTS" (OPENING OF THE SOBAY FESTIVAL
OF THE ARTS)
Free with admission to the Estate. Artist in Residence, International Fine Art Photographer and conservationist, Cesar Barroso, exhibits "Peculiar Plants" as the second exhibition of his three-part exhibition "Ecosphere," chronicling man's interaction with the living resources of our planet.
Stone House Ballroom
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 235-1668 ext. 233

JAN 16, FEB 6
9:30 AM – 3:30 PM
ECOADVENTURES: TEACHER WORKDAY PROGRAMS
Spend a day of fun and hands on learning with our naturalist staff. Themes vary and children will hike the nature trails, create nature crafts, and play fun and educational games. Children need to bring lunch, water bottle, hat, sunscreen, insect repellent, comfortable clothes, and enclosed shoes. Early and late drop off available at no extra cost. Reservations required.
Bill Sadowski Park
17555 SW 79 Ave.
(305) 255-4767

JAN 16, 7 – 9 PM
OPENING FOR ANNUAL WOMEN'S ART EXHIBIT HELD JANUARY THROUGH MARCH
Free.
Honor recipient of the 2009 In the Company of Women Outstanding Woman in Arts & Entertainment.
Women's Park
10251 W. Flagler St.
(305) 480-1717

JAN 17, 1 – 3 PM
ECOADVENTURES: BASIC OUTDOOR SKILLS
$12/Person
Learn the basic skills to have an enjoyable and safe camping experience in South Florida. Apply your newly acquired skills by participating in overnight camping trips scheduled for our new Expedition South Florida Camping Program. Practical equipment, knots, cuisine, and places to camp will be discussed. Pre-registration required.
Castellow Hammock
Nature Center
22301 SW 162 Ave.
(305) 242-7688

JAN 17, 10 AM – 12 PM
BUTTERFLY WALK
Free with admission to the Estate. Explore various habitats of the Estate while finding and identifying numerous butterfly species.
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 235-1668 ext. 233

JAN 17, 9 – 11 AM
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN BREAKFAST WITH KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Free.
Honor recipient of the 2009 In the Company of Women Outstanding Woman in Government & Law
Women's Park
10251 W. Flagler St.
(305) 480-1717

JAN 17 – FEB 21 (SAT)
10 AM – 12 PM
INTRODUCTION TO PASTELS CLASS
$150
Students will learn how to combine pastels and use different types of paper that are best suited for their project. Students will also do an in-depth analysis of color in order to achieve the correct tone. All levels are welcome. Classes will be held in the exhibit room. Space is limited and advanced registration is required. A materials list will be provided upon registration.
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 235-1668 ext. 233

JAN 21 – MAR 30
ANTIQUE MAP EXHIBIT: LA ROSE DES VENTS, "CARTOGRAPHY OF YORE"
Free with admission to the Estate. This exhibit features a collection of original, antique maps from Europe and the Americas from the 1500s through the 1700s.
Richmond Cottage, Second Floor
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 235-1668 ext. 233

JAN 21, 7 – 9 PM
LECTURE AS PART OF FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY'S WOMEN OF DISTINCTION SERIES
Free.
Honor recipient of the 2009 In the Company of Women Outstanding Woman in Science & Technology
Women's Park
10251 W. Flagler St.
(305) 480-1717

JAN 23, FEB 20, 7:30 – 9 PM
ECOADVENTURES: GREYNOLDS PARK CREATURES OF THE NIGHT HIKE
$6/Person
Fascinated by the moon and the stars or even glow bugs? Then come learn about the mysteries of the night and see what lurks around our park when the lights go out! Our naturalists will take you on a night hike through the park in search of its nocturnal residents. A walk though the park will follow our presentation. Pre-registration required. Meet at the Greynolds Park Office
Greynolds Park
17530 W. Dixie Highway
(305) 945-3425 or
(305) 948-2891

JAN 23, 8 PM
NOCHES TROPICALES FEATURING AN EVENING OF TANGO
Free. This concert series, sponsored in part by Target, celebrates Hispanic music and dance.
Tropical Park
7900 SW 40 St.
(305) 271-0812

JAN 24, 8 PM
ST. PETERSBURG RUSSIAN BALLET
Classical ballet program.
Miami Dade County Auditorium
2901 West Flagler St.
Box Office (305) 547-5414
Ticketmaster (305) 358-3558

JAN 25, FEB 22, 6 – 8:30 PM
ECOADVENTURES: GREYNOLDS PARK CANOE 'N CAMPFIRE
$18/Person
Join our naturalists on a leisurely paddle on the Oleta River to Camp Greynolds. Sit around a campfire, roasting marshmallows, while listening to stories of the area's first inhabitants. Pre-registration required.
Meet at the Greynolds Park Office
Greynolds Park
17530 W. Dixie Highway
(305) 945-3425 or (305) 948-2891

JAN 28 – MAR 4,
3:30 – 5:30 PM
ECOADVENTURES: NEW! DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY FOR CHILDREN
$72/Child
Wednesdays are the perfect day for kids to learn the basics of digital photography in Bill Sadowski's beautiful nature preserve and create their very own scrapbook. Each child must supply his or her own digital camera and a package of photo paper. Class will end with an art show and campfire celebration! Reservations required.
Bill Sadowski Park
17555 SW 79 Ave.
(305) 255-4767

JAN 31, 10 AM – 12 PM
ORGANIC GARDENING LECTURE
Lecturer: Margie Pikarsky
$10/Person
Organic food tastes like "food" should! It hasn't been genetically altered or picked green without flavor. Organic gardening may take a few extra steps but the effort is worth it.
Fruit & Spice Park
24801 SW 187 Ave.
(305) 247-5727 or
www.fruitandspicepark.org

JAN 31, 9 AM – 1 PM
ECOADVENTURES: EVERGLADES CANOE TOUR
$39/Person (Ages 7 and above)
This naturalist guided canoe trip takes you along the edge of Everglades National Park where you can view birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, wildflowers and other wetland vegetation. Bring water, snack and/or lunch. Meet at Glenn Garrett Memorial Park (near the entrance to Everglades National Park, south side of 40001 State Road 9336, Homestead). Pre-registration required.
Castellow Hammock Nature Center
22301 SW 162 Ave.
(305) 242-7688

JAN 31, 9 AM – 12 PM
VOLUNTEER WORKDAY @ DEERING ESTATE - NORTH
Come join the Environmentally Endangered Lands Program and Natural Areas Management and assist with coastal clean-up. You will also enjoy a tour of the Estate. Community service hours provided.
16701 SW 72 Ave.

SAT & SUN: 2/7 & 2/8; 2/14 & 2/15; 2/21 & 2/22; 2/28
10 AM – 3 PM
KAYAK RENTALS
Adults $10 per hour plus regular park admission; children (ages 9-15) $8 per hour plus regular park admission.
Minimum 1 hour rental. Includes kayak, life vests, paddles and a small dry bag. To rent a kayak, you must be at least 21 years old. Ages of 9 – 20 must be accompanied by a parent or a legal guardian in the same kayak. Two people per kayak required. All rentals are subject to weather and wind conditions.
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72 Ave
(305) 235-1668 ext. 233

FEB 1 – 14
SOBAY FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS
The SoBay Festival of the Arts was created in 2006 to raise awareness of the visual, literary and performing arts in the South Miami-Dade community and to promote the missions of partnering organizations.
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 235-1668 ext. 233

FEB 4, 7 PM
POETRY SLAM: SOUTH FLORIDA WRITER'S ASSOCIATION
The South Florida Writer's Association presents an evening of poetry and music. Notable poets will delight you with their words. Book signings to follow the poetry presentation.
Stone House Ballroom
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 235-1668 ext. 233

FEB 1, 7 PM
ARTSOBAY EXHIBIT OPENING (EXHIBIT RUNS THROUGH MARCH 2)
Free.
This is an annual open call, juried fine art exhibit that showcases contemporary art utilizing a variety of media that depict the soul of artists utilizing basic elements of color, line, form, texture and scale.
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 235-1668 ext. 233

FEB 5 – MAR 12, 4 – 5:30 PM
ECOADVENTURES: NEW! AFTER SCHOOL NATURE CLUB
$50/Child (Ages 6-12)
The After-School Nature Club meets Thursdays! Earn a Junior Naturalist Certificate and become knowledgeable stewards of the environment. Join our naturalist staff for animal presentations, trail walks, games, and learn about South Florida's flora and fauna in a fun and interactive way!
Reservations required.
Bill Sadowski Park
17555 SW 79 Ave.
(305) 255-4767

FEB 6, 9 AM – 12 PM
VOLUNTEER WORKDAY @ LARRY AND PENNY PINELAND
Come join the Environmentally Endangered Lands Program and Natural Areas Management, assist with clean-up and enjoy a nature hike. Community service hours provided.
12451 SW 184 St.

FEB 6, 7 PM
LIVING ARTIST CONCERT SERIES: "EMERGING"
$35 general admission.
Piano Series: South Florida's next generation of pianists from Florida International University's Piano Department will perform in the Stone House Ballroom.
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 235-1668 ext. 233

FEB 7, 11 AM TO 12 PM,
CURATOR'S TOUR FOLLOWED BY LUNCH WITH THE ARTISTS
Join curator David Castillo, exhibiting artists and LegalArt Executive Director Carolina Garcia for a tour of our ArtSoBay Winter Exhibit followed by discussion of the Economic Impact of Arts on our Community over lunch.
Richmond Cottage
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 235-1668 ext. 233

FEB 7, 8 PM, FEB 8, 3 PM
FOREVER TANGO
$60, $50, $40
Dance.
Miami Dade County Auditorium
2901 West Flagler St.
Box Office (305) 547-5414
Ticketmaster (305) 358-3558

FEB 7, 10 AM – 1 PM
REDLAND FARM TOUR
$25/Person
Join Park Manager Chris Rollins as you visit various orchards and vegetable farms throughout the Redland. A great time to sample the winter vegetables from the Redland agricultural community.
Fruit & Spice Park
24801 SW 187 Ave.
(305) 247-5727 or
www.fruitandspicepark.org

FEB 7, 10 AM – 1 PM
KIDS HERB PIZZA GARDEN
$10/Person
Instructor: Karen Esty
Kids will have a blast! Make the best pizza in the world from your very own herb garden. Learn to plant and care for the various herbs that are used in cooking. Kids will go straight from the garden to the parks kitchen to create their very own masterpieces. *Delizioso!*
Fruit & Spice Park
24801 SW 187 Ave.
(305) 247-5727 or
www.fruitandspicepark.org

FEB 8, 1 – 3 PM
ALL NATURAL HERBAL TEAS
Instructor: Miguel Cisneros
$10/Person
Learn to make your own healthy natural herbal teas from the garden. Miguel will guide you through all the steps from growing techniques to steeping fresh herbs such as purple basil, lemongrass, tarragon, and assorted mints.
Fruit & Spice Park
24801 SW 187 Ave.
(305) 247-5727 or
www.fruitandspicepark.org

FEB 11, 7 PM
SERAPHIC FIRE VOCAL CONCERT
Seraphic Fire, Miami's professional chamber choir, was created in response to the perceived need for more performances of Renaissance, Baroque, and Contemporary art music in South Florida. Young, virtuosic musicians bring a trendsetting and adventurous performance to the Estate.
Stone House Ballroom
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 235-1668 ext. 233

FEB 12, 79 PM
BUSINESS NETWORKING RECEPTION IN COLLABORATION WITH SUITED FOR SUCCESS
Free.
Honor recipient of the 2009 In the Company of Women Outstanding Woman in Business & Economics.
Women's Park
10251 W. Flagler St.
(305) 480-1717

FEB 13 – MAR 20 (FRI)
4:30– 5:30 PM
ECOADVENTURES: NEW! MIMING CLASSES FOR CHILDREN
$36/Child (Ages 9-14)
Think outside the box by joining a special miming class at Bill Sadowski Park on Fridays! Learn how to use body movement and facial expression to get your point across! This class will take an intense look at the art of miming and is geared for children 9-14 years old. Come out and be part of this class filled with energy, passion and fun!
Reservations required.
Bill Sadowski Park
17555 SW 79 Ave.
(305) 255-4767

FEB 14, 9 – 11:30 AM
ECOADVENTURES: VALENTINE'S DAY WILDFLOWER WALK
$18/Person
Join naturalists from Castellow Hammock on this leisurely-paced walk National Park. Wildflowers abound this time of year in the prairies, pinelands, and hammocks of the Everglades. Meet at the Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center Bookstore, 40001 State Road 9336, Homestead. Pre-registration required.
Castellow Hammock Nature Center
22301 SW 162 Ave.
(305) 365-3018

FEB 14, 4:30 – 8:30 PM
ECOADVENTURES: VALENTINE'S DAY CANOE AND CAMPFIRE
$28/Person
Join us for a sunset paddle with your sweetie and then enjoy a romantic picnic by the campfire and star viewing with Southern Cross. Bring your own picnic and we will supply you with delicious s'more's for desert! Come prepared to get wet. Bring extra shoes, a change of clothes and towel. Reservations required.
Bill Sadowski Park
17555 SW 79 Ave.
(305) 255-4767

FEB 14, 8 PM
(GATE OPENS AT 7 PM)
"MOONLIGHT & MUSIC" VALENTINE'S CONCERT
The Moonlight and Music Concert offers couples the opportunity to celebrate love at a romantic outdoor concert under the stars. Guests are welcome to bring blankets and picnic baskets.
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 235-1668 ext. 233

FEB 14, 8 PM, TIME TBD
MOCHA SOUL SERIES
Partnering with Mocha Soul Promotions the Mocha Soul Series returns to the Caleb Auditorium bringing Miami the hottest and freshest sounds of today's neo-soul artists.
Joseph Caleb Auditorium
5400 NW 22 Ave.
(305) 636-2350

FEB 17 – MAR 24 (TUE)
6 – 7:30 PM
EVENING YOGA CLASSES
$60
Learn how to relax, meditate and relieve stress during this six-week course. Instructed by M. Shulman. Class size is limited.
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 235-1668 ext. 233

FEB 18, 6:30 – 9 PM
WOMEN-RELATED DOCUMENTARY FILM PRESENTED WITH FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY'S WOMEN'S STUDIES CENTER
Free.
Honor recipient of the 2009 In the Company of Women Outstanding Woman in Health and Human Services.
Women's Park
10251 W. Flagler St.
(305) 480-1717

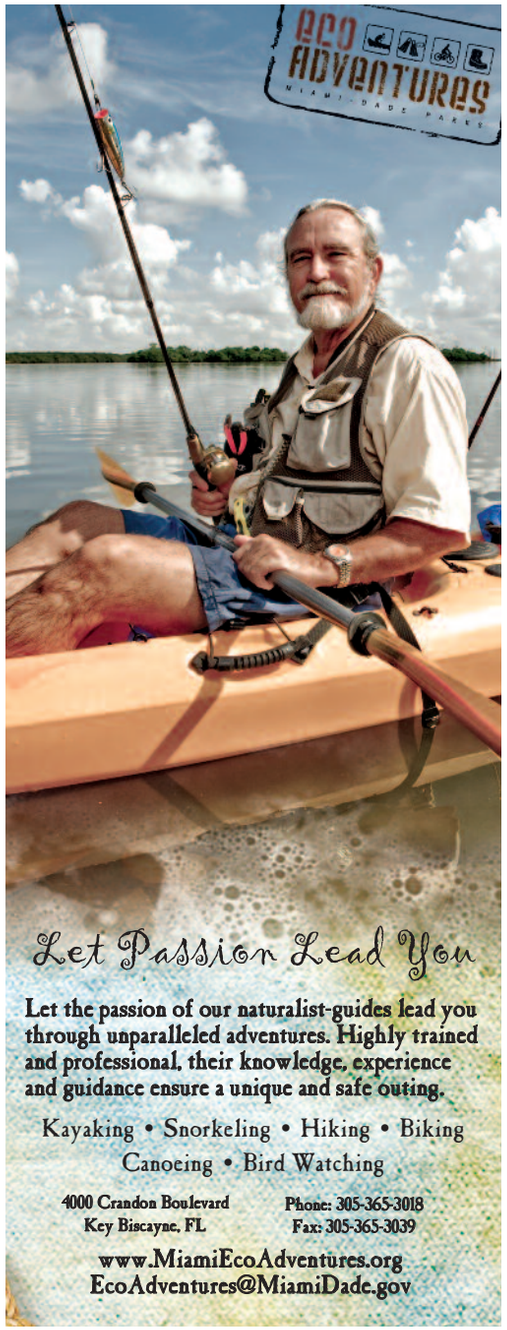
FEB 18 – MAR 25 (WED)
10 – 11:30 AM
MORNING YOGA CLASSES
$60
Learn how to relax, meditate and relieve stress during this six-week course. Instructed by M. Shulman. Class size is limited.
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 235-1668 ext. 233

FEB 18 – MAR 25 (WED)
8:30 – 10 PM
INTERMEDIATE BALLROOM DANCING CLASSES
$70
Learn additional moves of Fox Trot, Cha-Cha and Swing. Instructor Gwen Peiffer. Class size is limited.
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 235-1668 ext. 233

FEB 21, 10 AM – 12 PM
BUTTERFLY WALK
Free with admission to the Estate. Explore various habitats of the Estate while finding and identifying numerous butterfly species.
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 235-1668 ext. 233

FEB 28, 9 AM – 12 PM
SATURDAY MORNING KIDS CAMP: BUTTERFLIES
Children, ages 6-10, can participate in a hands-on, site-specific program that focuses on nature, archeology, arts & science. $30 per child; $10 one-time annual camp registration fee.
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 235-1668 ext. 233

FEB 28, 10 AM – 2 PM
GIRL SCOUTS' READING IN THE PARK – A DAY OF READING ACTIVITIES FOR THE COMMUNITY
Free.
Honor recipient of the 2009 In the Company of Women Outstanding Woman in Communications & Literature.
Women's Park
10251 W. Flagler St.
(305) 480-1717



FEB 28, 10 AM – 12 PM (MEET AT THE VISITOR'S CENTER AT 9:45 AM)
ECO ADVENTURES: DEERING ESTATE AT CUTLER - BIKE TOUR
Ride along the trails and explore the scenic landscapes while learning about the Estate's historic past.
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 235-1668 ext. 233

FEB 28 – APR 4 (SAT)
10 AM – 12 PM
INTRODUCTION TO PASTELS CLASS
$150
Students will learn how to combine pastels and use different types of paper that are best suited for their project. Students will also do an in-depth analysis of color in order to achieve the correct tone. All levels are welcome. Classes will be held in the exhibit room. Space is limited and advanced registration is required. A materials list will be provided upon registration.
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 235-1668 ext. 233

Ongoing Activities

DAILY, 10:30 AM & 3 PM
DEERING HISTORIC HOUSE TOURS
Free with admission to the Estate. This tour highlights the history surrounding the Deering Estate at Cutler and the story of Charles Deering. Guests will visit the 1st and 2nd floors of the Stone House and Richmond Cottage, as well as the basement/wine cellar of the Stone House.
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 235-1668 ext. 233

DAILY, 12:30 PM
NATURAL AREA TOURS
Free with admission to the Estate. Join a naturalist guide and walk in the footsteps of Florida's first people. Hike through a lush forest of tropical hardwood trees and clinging vines down the Native American footpath that, near the end of the nineteenth century, would become the first Cutler Road/Ingram Highway.
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 235-1668 ext. 233

DAILY, 9:30 AM – 12 PM
ECOADVENTURES: CRANDON PARK'S KAYAK ADVENTURE
$30/Person (Ages 9 and above)
Kayak along the beautiful shallow waters of Key Biscayne and explore the protected areas of Bear Cut Preserve where land meets the sea. Join us as we discover the tropical fish, spotted eagle rays, sea stars, and coastal birds that share this fragile and unique environment. This trip is a great introduction to kayaking and we are certain it will be the highlight of your visit to Crandon Park. Wear closed-toe shoes (water shoes).
Reservations are required.
Crandon Park Visitors & Biscayne Nature Center
6767 Crandon Blvd., Key Biscayne
Parking Lot #1, North Beach Entrance
(305) 365-3018

DAILY, 9 AM – 4 PM (YEAR-ROUND)
ECOADVENTURES: CRANDON PARK VISITORS & BISCAYNE NATURE CENTER
Parking: $5/Vehicle, $10/Bus
The Crandon Park Visitors and Biscayne Nature Center is your gateway to the Bear Cut Preserve, a 264-acre natural barrier island habitat located on the northern tip of Key Biscayne. Guided tours and educational programs are offered year-round for all ages - from low tide marine beach and wading tours, to bird watching, canoeing, kayaking, snorkeling and bicycling. Visit the center's exhibit room and aquariums with different recreated underwater habitats. Explore the self-guided nature trails. Trail guides are available in the Nature Center.
Crandon Park Visitors & Biscayne Nature Center
6767 Crandon Blvd., Key Biscayne
Parking Lot #1, North Beach Entrance
(305) 361-6767, Ext. 112

EVERY MON, 6 – 8 PM
INTRODUCTION TO ACRYLICS CLASS
$125 (FIVE-WEEK SESSION)
Students will complete two acrylic paintings inspired by the natural surroundings of the Deering Estate. This course offers students the opportunity to work on the grounds of the Estate and in the studio. All levels are welcome. Space is limited and advanced registration is required. A materials list will be provided upon registration.
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72 Ave.
(305)235-1668 ext. 233

MON, WED & FRI
11 AM – 12 PM
LOW IMPACT WATER EXERCISES
$45 for 15 classes
Tamiami Pool
11201 SW 24 St.
(305) 222-2128
(305) 222-2175 (TDD)

TUE & THU, 11AM – 12 PM
LOW IMPACT WATER EXERCISES
$30
A.D. Barnes Pool
3401 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 665-5319
(305) 669-4052 (TDD)

TUE & THU, 11 AM – 12 PM
LOW IMPACT WATER EXERCISES
$20 for 10 classes
Gould's Pool
21805 SW 114 Ave.
(305)-752-4966
(305)-385-6230 (TDD)

FIRST WED OF THE MONTH
7:30 PM
REDLAND EVENING HERB SOCIETY
Enjoy learning about herbs and their uses.
Fruit & Spice Park
24801 SW 187 Ave.
(305) 247-5727 or
www.fruitandspicepark.org

WED, 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM
SPORTS PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN WITH AUTISM
$35 for 8 classes
Rotating sports program include soccer, fencing, tennis, and basketball
Coral Estates Park
1405 SW 97 Ave.
(305) 226-1622

WED, 12 PM – 2 PM
FITNESS SWIMMING
Lap swimming for people with disabilities.
Palm Springs North Pool
7901 NW 176 St.
(305) 752-4966
(305) 385-6230 (TDD)

WED & SAT, 10 – 11 AM (PLEASE ARRIVE AT 9:45 AM)
ECOADVENTURES: NEW!! MORNING NATURE STROLL
WED & SAT, 6:30 – 7:30 PM (PLEASE ARRIVE AT 6:15 PM)
ECOADVENTURES: NEW!! EVENING NATURE STROLL
$6/Stroller (Ages 1 – 4)
Learn about nature and outdoor exercise for parents. Includes story, art and nature craft project, nature walk. Walk or ride strollers through the hardwood hammock to tree hotel and back through pine rockland. Bug spray, sun block, water, reservations recommended.
A.D. Barnes Sense of Wonder Nature Center
Meet at Nature Center.
3401 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 662-4124

WED, JAN – FEB, 7:30 – 9:30 PM
ECOADVENTURES: ARCH CREEK PARK GHOST TOURS
$6/Person
What better place for a ghostly encounter than at Arch Creek, one of Miami's best kept secrets! This naturalist-guided tour takes you on a journey through the past, from historical accounts dating back to the 1800s to modern-day sightings. Reservations required.
Arch Creek Museum & Nature Center
Arch Creek Park, 1855 NE 135 St.
(305) 948-2891

LAST WED OF THE MONTH 7:30 PM
TROPICAL FRUIT & VEGETABLE SOCIETY OF THE REDLAND
Free tasting table, plant exchange and horticultural library.
Monthly guest speaker lecturing on tropical fruits & vegetables.
Fruit & Spice Park
24801 SW 187 Ave.
(305) 247-5727
www.fruitandspicepark.org

THU, 7 PM (TWICE A MONTH)
SOUTH DADE GARDEN CLUB
Come to a meeting and learn about gardening and make new friends.
Fruit and Spice Park
24801 SW 187 Ave.
(305) 247-5727
www.fruitandspicepark.org

FRI, 5:30 PM – 7 PM
FRIDAY FENCING CLUB
$35
Fencing instruction for people with physical disabilities.
Tamiami Park
11201 SW 24 St.
(305) 222-2128/(305) 222-2175 (TDD)

SAT, 1:30 – 5 PM
ECOADVENTURES: CRANDON PARK'S BAYSIDE CANOE ADVENTURE
$44/Person (Ages 7 and above)
This naturalist-led canoe trip explores the forgotten and secret part of the beautiful shallow waters of Key Biscayne. Explore this peaceful water wilderness where great blue herons, spotted eagle rays, upside down jellyfish, and green iguanas live among the mangrove fringes. Wear closed-toe shoes (water shoes).
Reservations are required.
Crandon Park Visitors and Biscayne Nature Center
6767 Crandon Blvd., Key Biscayne
Parking Lot #1, North Beach Entrance
(305) 365-3018

SAT, 11 AM – 12 PM
TAI CHI
Instructor: Elisa C. Smith
$10/Person
Elisa will calmly guide you in the practice of this ancient martial art. Experience increased energy, strengthened muscles, joint mobility, improved balance, posture, and flexibility. Breathing exercises will aid in healthy stress release.
Fruit & Spice Park
24801 SW 187 Ave.
(305) 247-5727
www.fruitandspicepark.org

SAT, 9:30 – 10:30 AM
YOGA
$10/Person
Instructor: Deanna Carlile-Alvarez
Experience a complete attitude adjustment! Begin with gentle stretching & strengthening exercises. Learn breathing techniques that relax tight muscles and add a sense of renewal and lightness.
Fruit & Spice Park
24801 SW 187 Ave.
(305) 247-5727
www.fruitandspicepark.org

SAT, 9 – 11 AM
WHEELCHAIR TENNIS
Free.
Tennis instruction for those 9 and above who use a wheelchair. Novice and professionals are welcomed.
Big Five Tennis Club
600 SW 92 Ave.
(305) 752-4966/(305) 385-6230 (TDD)

SAT, 10 AM – 12 PM
JR. WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL
Learn to play wheelchair basketball.
For children ages 6 and above.
Camp Matecumbe
13841 SW 120 St.
(305) 752-4966
(305) 385-6230 (TDD)

SAT, 10 AM – 1 PM
ECOADVENTURES: HISTORIC OLETA RIVER CANOE TRIP
$28/Person (Ages 7 and above)
The beauty of the Oleta River has drawn man to its shore for centuries. As early as 500 B.C., the river was home to Tequesta Indians camping along its shore. Federal troops used the river in the 2nd Seminole War to travel south from Loxahatchee. The river linked the Seminole Indians living in the Everglades to Biscayne Bay. Relive the river's historic past with park naturalists. Explore this natural haven for wading birds, osprey, fish and the endangered West Indian Manatee.
Reservations required.
Meet at East Greynolds (Northeast Regional Dog Park)
16700 Biscayne Blvd., North Miami Beach
(305) 365-3018

SAT & SUN, 10 AM – 12 PM
ECOADVENTURES: MATHESON MORNING BAY SHORE CANOE TREK
SAT & SUN, 4 – 6 PM
ECOADVENTURES: MATHESON EVENING BAY SHORE CANOE TREK
$28/Person (Ages 7 and above)
Canoe through a mangrove forest and learn about the native wading birds and other bay animals and plants of this South Florida ecosystem.
Reservations required.
A.D. Barnes Sense of Wonder Nature Center
Meet at Matheson Hammock Park & Marina, 9610 Old Cutler Road West of Sailing School
(305) 365-3018

SAT & SUN, 11 AM – 12 PM & 2 – 3 PM
ECOADVENTURES: NEW! GREYNOLDS PARK GUIDED CANOE TOURS
$12/Adult, $9/Child (Ages 9-14)
CASH ONLY
Come explore the waterways of Greynolds Park on these naturalist-guided one-hour canoe tours. Wear closed-toe shoes (water shoes).
Meet at the Canoe Rental Site, just east of Oleta River Shelter.
Greynolds Park Entrance, NE 22 Ave. & Miami Gardens Dr., North Miami Beach
(305) 945-3425
or (305) 948-2891

Available Upon Request

ECOADVENTURES: CRANDON PARK HERITAGE TRAM TOURS OR SUNSET TRAM TOURS
$4/Adult, $2/Children (Ages 14 and under)
(Minimum 10 people ~ Reservations required)
Enjoy a tram ride through the Bear Cut Preserve. Learn about the island of Key Biscayne and its fascinating history. From the Tequesta Indians to the pirates and pioneers - it's been an amazing journey. Tram rides also available upon request for birthday parties, corporate events and other special events.
Crandon Park Visitors & Biscayne Nature Center
6767 Crandon Blvd., Key Biscayne
Parking Lot #1, North Beach Entrance
(305) 3616767, Ext. 112

Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Alvarez,

Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro and the Board of County Commissioners,

and Miami-Dade Park and Recreation Department

present the

21st Annual
In the Company of Women
Wednesday, March 4, 2009
6 — 9 pm

Biltmore Hotel
1200 Anastasia Avenue
Coral Gables, FL 33134

To become a sponsor or for more information, please contact:
Lisa Fernandez
Chair of In the Company of Women and Manager of the Women's Park
305-480-1717 ext. 104
lfern@miamidade.gov

Parklife

www.miamidade.gov/parks

GET CONNECTED.

GET INFORMED.

GET PARKLIFE.

Stay updated on all the events and programs happening in your Miami-Dade Parks by visiting the website.

"A civilization flourishes when people plant trees under which they will never sit."

– Greek proverb