



Fairchild
Tropical Garden
July 1996

Garden News



William Houghton

Heliconia Society International Conference Schedule

Wednesday, July 17: Fairchild Garden
5 - 7 pm late registration
7 - 9 pm reception

Thursday, July 18: Fairchild Garden
Morning

9 Welcome from Dr. Burbidge
9:30 Alan Carle, president of HSI
10:30 Jeff Chandler: *Heliconia psittacorum*
11:30 Dr. Randy Ploetz: *Diseases affecting bananas*

Afternoon

12:30 Lunch, Garden tours
2:30 Dr. Ivan Buddenhagen: *Moko disease and the relationship and implications for Heliconia*
3:30 Dr. Bruce Kirchoff: *Flower development in Scitamineae*
4:30 John Mood: *Gingers of Borneo*
7 Dinner cruise on Biscayne Bay

Friday, July 19: Flamingo Garden

Morning

9:30 Mark Collins: *New gingers and heliconias for production*
10:30 Dr. Lucita Atehortua: *Heliconias as a model for conservation*
11:30 Dr. Timothy Broshat: *Development of Tapeinochilos as a commercial crop*

Afternoon

12:30 Lunch, tour of Tropical Paradise Nursery and Reiter's garden
3 Sandra Barnes: *Hunting Heliconias in print*
4 Tom Wood - *Strides in Hedychium breeding*
5 Informal discussion and tour of Flamingo Garden
7 A Florida barbecue

Saturday July 20: Fairchild Garden

Morning

8 Registration for single-day sampler
9 Fred Berry, author: *Heliconia, an Identification Guide*
10 Dr. Helen Kennedy: *Sexual reproduction strategy and structure in Marantaceae*
11 Bill Lessard, author: *The complete book of bananas*
noon Dr. Jose Abalo: *Some diversity in Heliconia species*

Afternoon

2 Optional tour of Parrot Jungle
7 Farewell banquet
8:30 Auction

For more information, contact David Bar-Zvi at 667-1651 ext. 320

Fairchild's Education Department expands its horizons

Reaching out to the community

"When I woke up this morning, I didn't feel very good, but then I remembered I was coming to Fairchild on a field trip, so I got up anyway. Now I feel so much better. Being here, with so much beauty and nature all around makes me feel good." This comment, from a participant in the new horticultural therapy program, illustrates one of the rewards Program Coordinator Mary Neustein finds in her challenging job.

Horticultural therapy promotes well-being by involving people in activities with plants. The specific activities vary according to the group being served: mentally, physically or emotionally handicapped individuals, the disabled, the elderly or the disadvantaged, young or old.

As Manager of Continuing Education, Mrs. Neustein is developing a series of horticultural therapy programs held throughout Dade County. In April, classes were held for the Goodlet and Wilde Senior Day Care Centers in Hialeah. These sessions were taught by Robert Bornstein, a registered horticultural therapist, with the assistance of Mrs. Neustein. During the one-hour session, residents learned about plant propagation and each took home a plant which they had potted. Participants also enjoyed a field trip to the Garden, the highlight being a tour of Windows to the Tropics. As they left, person after person shook Mrs. Neustein's hand and told her, "This visit made my day a good one."

In June and July, the program expands to include sessions in West Kendall, Homestead, Miami Beach, and South Dade as well as those in Hialeah. In these sessions, participants will learn about aromatherapy, design fresh flower arrangements, create terrariums, and make potpourri. As part of the program, they will be invited to visit the Garden in the fall.

The Garden's programs are supported, in part, by Metro-Dade County. Commissioner Natacha Millan, District 13, in particular, has been very supportive of these efforts to bring our educa-



Robert Bornstein works with residents at a Hialeah nursing home.

tional programs into Hialeah and elsewhere in the community. Mrs. Neustein sees a great need for more programs in horticultural therapy at the various senior homes she has visited, and is working to expand the activities and scope of the Garden's involvement.

Reaching out to local schools

This spring, kindergartners to fifth graders throughout Dade had an opportunity to make their environment more attractive by planting trees.

Participating elementary schools—Banyan, Coral Park, Campbell Drive and Skyway—were nominated by their regional superintendents. Students included children from disadvantaged groups, children-at-risk, and those who had shown special interest in science and horticulture.

Allen Howard, Curator of Special Projects, and David Bar-Zvi, Chief Horticulturist, met with principals and teachers to select trees and shrubs, and to choose planting sites. Plants were selected from a list approved by Dade County Public Schools which included *Tabebuia caraiba* (silver-trumpet tree), covered with golden flowers each spring; *Chrysophyllum oliviforme* (satin-leaf), native to tropical hardwood hammocks; *Hamelia patens* (firebush), a Caribbean basin butterfly-attractor; and *Sabal palmetto*, (cabbage palm) Florida's state tree. Metro Dade funds designated for Garden outreach activities provided plants, mulch and fertilizer.

In the classroom, students learned about planting, maintenance, and tree

Meyers

characteristics. Then, with help from the Fairchild representatives, the schools' staffs prepared planting areas. When it was time to plant, the students took over. They mixed soil and fertilizer, placed, watered, and backfilled the trees, and spread a layer of mulch. Follow-up activities will include maintaining the trees and field trips to Fairchild Tropical Garden.

The trees will provide a shaded shelter and a source of pride for the students who can use the area for quiet reflection, art and crafts, and gardening.



Kindergarten - 5th grade students work together to plant a tree at Banyan Elementary School

Reaching out to the Caribbean

The week of April 1st, Fairchild Tropical Garden held a technical training workshop for staff members of botanical gardens in the Caribbean. Participants at this workshop came from gardens in Jamaica and Puerto Rico. Members of the Garden's research staff provided instruction in their fields: conservation biology, curation, plant records, and nursery management.

Instructors and participants had a chance to get acquainted as they discussed how the tightly-programmed agenda could be tailored to meet participants' goals. They spent their first morning learning about *in situ* inventories, and monitoring and mapping of species; and the afternoon in the field. Their activities the next day included learning to set goals for translocation of species, planning, outplanting, and evaluation. Later, they discussed guidelines for establishing and using an *in situ* living collection.

The participants separated into two



Wilfredo Fernandez, Plant Recorder, explains Fairchild Tropical Garden's system for keeping track of plants

groups on the third and fourth days. This allowed a more personalized introduction to BG-Base records management; the accessioning process; plant production and propagation techniques; and collection maintenance. Besides giving participants hands-on experience, dividing the group in half provided an opportunity to review topics and address specific issues.

To give participants a sample of the experience that visitors to the garden have, a member of the education staff led a tour of the public garden. This tour also gave staff members a chance to share program ideas.

The technical training workshop went beyond its goals of sharing information and providing instruction. Fairchild's staff learned about the concerns and issues that are important to their Puerto Rican and Jamaican colleagues. With this experience to draw from, the Garden's staff has a basis for future workshops on technical and garden management topics. These workshops will be organized with representatives of botanical gardens throughout the Caribbean basin. Training and professional development courses will be offered on a regular basis as a component of Fairchild Tropical Garden's educational program.

SATURDAY, JULY 27 9:30 A.M. TO 3 P.M. MANGO WORKSHOPS

Education takes the stage! Learn from local mango experts. Workshops will feature topics of interest to homeowners and professionals alike. Don't miss the cooking demonstrations, informative displays, tree and fruit sales, advice from the Mango Medics and unique gifts and books from the Garden Shop

AUGUST 18 - 19 9:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

HELICONIA SHOW & SALE

Add tropical beauty to your landscape with these exotic-looking charmers. You'll be fascinated by the range of color, size and shape of the heliconias on display and offered for sale. Educational displays and society members will offer advice on choosing and growing heliconias in your garden. For more information, call Amy Donovan, 221-3251.

SEPTEMBER 18 - 19 9:30 A.M. - NOON

VOLUNTEER OPEN HOUSE

Mark your calendar now for the Annual Fall Volunteer Open House. Meet Garden staff members and learn all about the exciting opportunities available to you as a Garden volunteer. There will be opportunities to be a guide, to work in horticulture and to get involved in other areas. RSVP, Sandy Schoenfeldt at 667-1651 ext. 324.

SEPTEMBER 28 & 29 9:30 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M. AROID SHOW & SALE

Not only flowers add color to the landscape. Come and see fabulous aroids on display and for sale at this special event. You'll be amazed at the range of color, size and leaf shape. Society members will tell you all about these lovely plants, and help you choose one for your home garden. For information, call Amy Donovan, 221-3251.

Please call to confirm date,
time, and admission charge.
(305) 667-1651