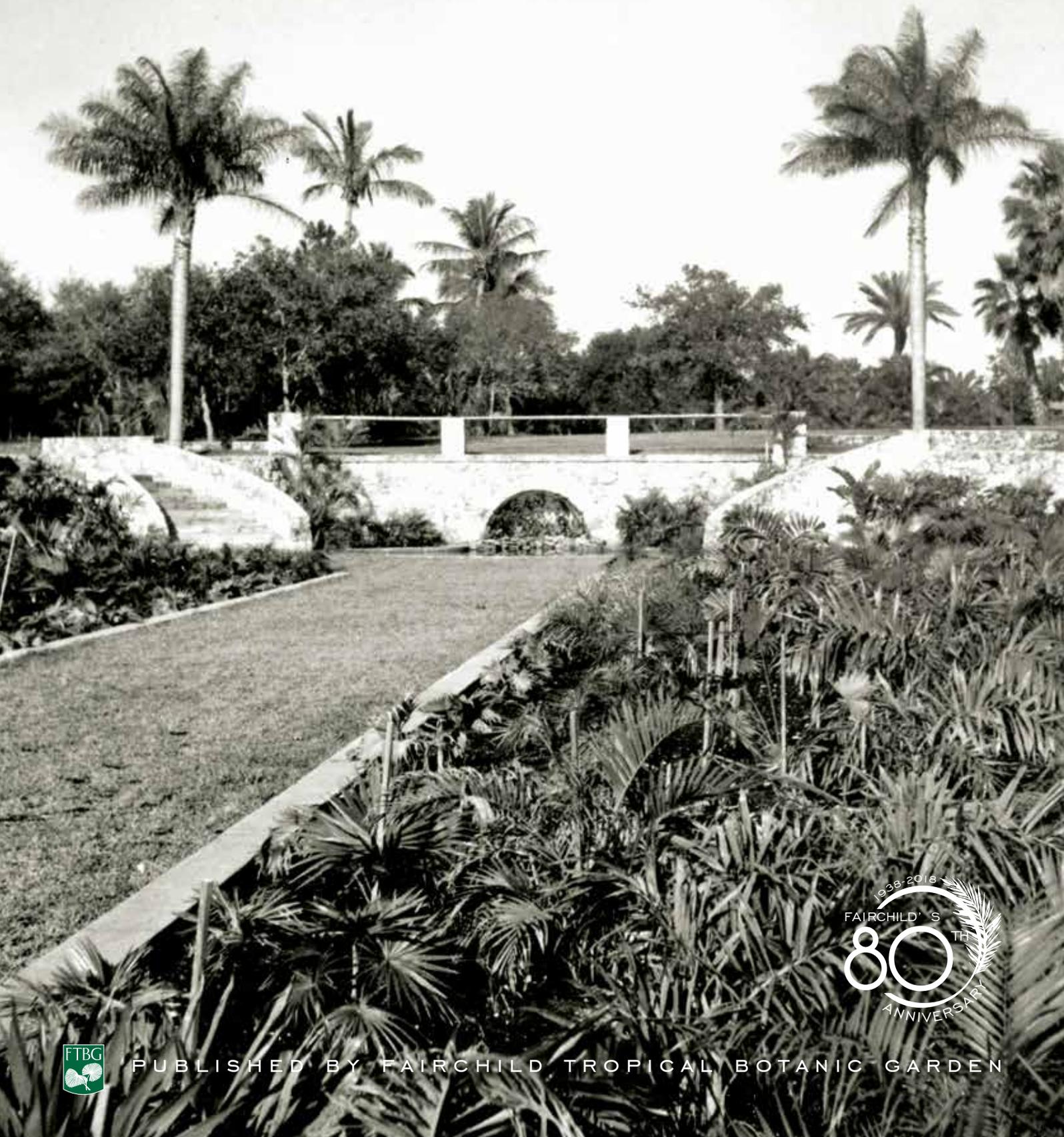


the TROPICAL GARDEN



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Miami was founded in 1896 by Julia Tuttle. Forty-years later, Fairchild Tropical Garden (as it was called then; the “Botanic” was added in 2004) was founded, after Col. Robert Montgomery wrote Marjory Stoneman Douglas on July 19, 1934, and asked her what she thought of the idea of a botanic garden in Miami bearing Dr. David Fairchild’s name:

“Dear Marjory,
When I was taking a bath this morning I had an idea. It would be a lasting disgrace to all of us if we do not provide for a permanent tropical garden bearing David Fairchild’s name.”

Two years later, in 1936, the Garden was incorporated, and in 1938, Fairchild officially opened.

Fairchild has watched Miami—incorporated with only 300 people—grow into a thriving metropolis of 3.5 million. The Garden has been witness to this city’s history—as well as a major contributor to it. Many of the notable names we know initially came to Miami at Montgomery’s request, to help the Garden in its nascent years. And as we celebrate the Garden’s 80th Anniversary this year—officially making the Garden an octogenarian—we have no plans of slowing down.

This issue of the magazine is a fantastic curation of the Garden’s history. You’ll read about Lucida Wait’s book, “The First 10 Years,” which captures the first 10 years of history in near journal form. The book is out of print, but you can peruse a copy in our 80th Anniversary Exhibit in the Historic Gatehouse.

You’ll read about #PlantingMondays, a social media outreach experience that features our horticulturists and the record number of specimens they’re planting in the Garden this year. We’re planting more today than when the Garden was first founded.

You’ll also read about the new Conservation Student Scholars Program, which connects students with interests in botany and environmental education with opportunities, to develop those interests into future careers in these fields. These students will be leading tours and interactive experiences during your visits to the Garden.

Most exciting is our long history of exceptional education programs like “Growing Beyond Earth,” a partnership with NASA that has students growing and researching edible plants for future missions to Mars and other long space travel. By the time you read this issue, we will have hosted a video down-link with students and the astronauts aboard the International Space Station.

My favorite anecdote from Fairchild’s history is that the idea of Fairchild came to Montgomery while in the bath. It had been determined that the Garden’s location was among the few places in South Florida not prone to frost—making it ideal for growing plants from the tropics; therefore, Montgomery wrote his friend Marjory Stoneman Douglas to get her thoughts on the idea. She replied, “Dear Colonel, Well, sir, I think you’ve got it. I think that the Fairchild Garden is a purely swell idea.”

In his wildest dreams, Montgomery and the Garden’s other founders could not have envisioned that these 83 acres would, in only 80 years, expand millions of miles into our solar system and possibly beyond. Talk about a swell idea.

Yours in celebration,

Nannette M. Zapata, M.S./MBA



Isabel Sanchez is Fairchild's director of volunteer services, a position she has held since August 2017. Her focus is to promote and enhance the Garden's volunteer program. She leads the new Conservation Student Scholar volunteer program, which engages our youth in community volunteerism while adding to the visitor experience. Sanchez has a background in anthropology and linguistics.



Kenneth Setzer joined Fairchild as a writer and editor with the marketing team in 2013. He contributes to print and digital media. Setzer enjoys writing about natural and human history and is an enthusiastic outdoor photographer. His educational background is in linguistics.



Chad Husby, Ph.D., has been Fairchild's botanical horticulturist since 2015. He focuses on international plant exploration to enhance the Garden's collections and diversify South Florida horticulture. Prior to joining Fairchild, Husby worked at the Montgomery Botanical Center. He received his undergraduate degree from Alma College, a Master of Applied Statistics from Ohio State University, a Master of Science in horticulture from Virginia Tech and a Ph.D. in biology from Florida International University.



Georgia Tasker was the garden writer for *The Miami Herald* for more than 30 years, and now writes and blogs for Fairchild. She has received the Garden's highest honor, the Barbour Medal, and a lifetime achievement award from the Tropical Audubon Society. She is also an avid photographer, gardener and traveler. She graduated cum laude from Hanover College in Hanover, Indiana.

the TROPICAL GARDEN

The official publication of Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

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ON THE COVER
Bailey Palm Glade
Photo: Archives/FTBG



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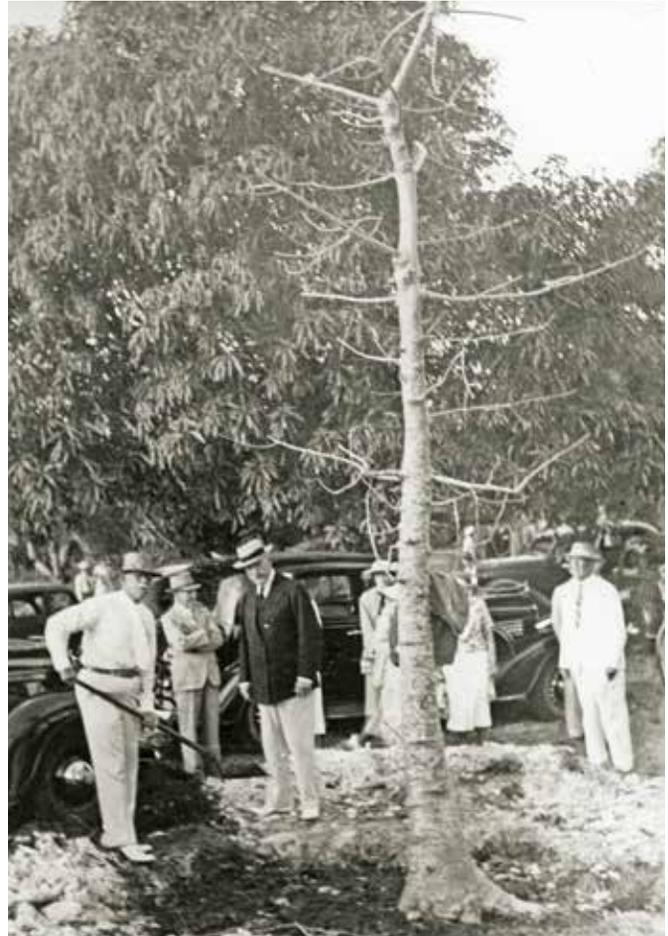
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GET IN ON THE CONSERVATION



Dr. David Fairchild planting the dedication baobab *Adansonia digitata* in 1938. Photo: Archives/FTBG

Happy 80th Anniversary to Us!

On a fine March day 80 years ago, Fairchild Tropical Garden was dedicated. Happy 80th anniversary to us! As we celebrate our longevity throughout the year, *The Tropical Garden* will feature history-focused stories that give contemporary readers windows into the Garden's early years.

In addition, the Garden will soon mount a historical exhibition that focuses on Dr. David Fairchild, plant exploration, artifacts and early plantings. Lucida Wait, charter member of Fairchild and author of "Fairchild Tropical Garden, The First Ten Years," wrote that, "The Garden had a museum before it had a garden!" It was planned to exhibit valuable ways in which palms were utilized around the world.

Today, we believe that an exhibition of plant exploration, artifacts and palm products will be vital to understanding what Fairchild has contributed to the horticultural and scientific worlds.



Timothy Perez and Nichole Tiernan/FTBG

New Conservation Student Scholar Volunteer Program

The Conservation Student Scholar Volunteer Program provides training and practice in the fields of botany and environmental education to qualified young adults. It also provides a forum for them to hone public speaking, public service and public education skills. The program gives each volunteer the opportunity to lay the cornerstones of an academic and professional foundation, enriching the experience and enhancing the student's value to institutions of higher learning, prospective employers and society. The first group of 48 scholars completed their training and started the program on March 3. For more information, please contact volunteer@fairchildgarden.org

Garden Club of America Awards Funds to Two Fairchild Ph.D. Students

Fairchild graduate students Nichole Tiernan (Florida International University) and Timothy Perez (University of Miami) received Garden Club of America Awards in Tropical Botany—each of which is worth, \$5,500 towards their Ph.D. studies.

Tiernan studies the threatened neotropical genus *Plumeria L.* (Apocynaceae), commonly known as frangipani, an ornamental garden plant that occurs throughout the Caribbean Islands. Though several species are common in tropical gardens, including at Fairchild, many wild-growing species are not present anywhere in horticulture. This award will help fund her continued work to understand the confusing taxonomy of the group, using the living collection at Fairchild. She aims to unveil wild varieties currently not in cultivation. Such studies of threatened plants provide a framework for what and where to conserve. This is important for botanical garden collections, which provide important habitation for off-site conservation.

Perez will use his award to predict the susceptibility of tropical plants to climate change, using Fairchild's living collections. Scientists believe tropical plants are close to their high-temperature thresholds and their heat tolerances (the temperatures that cause photosynthesis to fail) may help predict which species are most susceptible to climate change. Perez's research will harness the diversity of Fairchild's living collections to measure the physical characteristics of leaves and photosynthetic heat tolerances, in order to understand which species are in the greatest danger of thermal stress due to global warming.



Conservation in action: Removal of invasive *Lumnitzera racemosa* (Combretaceae) from Matheson Hammock Park

On Friday, January 19, our plant conservation team (Jennifer Possley, James Lange and Gaby Placido) led a community activity to remove the highly invasive *Lumnitzera racemosa* (Combretaceae) from Matheson Hammock Park, and also from the Garden. Forty volunteer biologists from all over Florida joined this initiative, removing 260 plants throughout a 19-acre footprint. The participants were from Miami-Dade, Broward and several state and federal agencies. Last year, 119 plants were removed, but only 20 volunteers joined our conservation team. For comparison, the first round of contractors in 2010 eliminated approximately 20,000 stems.

Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

Congratulates

The FIRST Graduating Class of BioTECH @ Richmond Heights Botany Magnet Program



BioTECH High School, the first high school in the U.S. to offer a botany program, opened in the Fall 2014, in partnership with Fairchild and Miami-Dade County Public Schools, is graduating its first class of students. These inaugurating class of graduating seniors have conducted real science and research at Fairchild's Science Village. They've been mentored by Fairchild's botanical and horticultural scientists and have performed real-world science research in the Garden's DNA and Imaging laboratories and aboard the mobile botany bus, STEMLab. They have contributed to ground-breaking science for our Million Orchid Project and our partnership program with NASA, Growing Beyond Earth.

We are thrilled to congratulate these remarkable young botanists as they ready themselves for commencement. We are proud to have worked and learned from them and look forward to their very bright futures in botany and science.

Cindy Bravo
Sofia Collett-Solberg
Ryan Duncan
Brianna Esplugas
Cristian Fajardo
Gabiella Flores
Giselle Gomez
Callie Hill-Tarves
Marjani Jones
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Ryan Johnson
Justin Lee
Emily Londono
Evelyn Penaherrera

Alan Prette
Carlos Rean
Ximena Sakay
Aramis Somoza
Victor Ulloa
Carolina Valdes
Jonathon West

You are the Future of Plants!



The Role of the Garden Volunteers in the Early Days

By Isabel Sanchez. Photos: Archives/FTBG

We can trace the historical role of volunteers in the Garden all the way back to its inception in 1938. The visionary Col. Robert Montgomery enlisted the help of many collaborators and Garden founders, including his wife Nell Montgomery, Dr. David Fairchild and his wife Marian Hubbard Bell Fairchild, William Lyman Phillips, Marjory Stoneman Douglas, and other important historical figures. They all donated their enthusiasm, time and talent in order to make Fairchild Tropical Garden a reality.

The first documentation of the philanthropic spirit of volunteerism at the Garden was the Women's Committee. Formed in April of 1938, it included

many of Montgomery's collaborators, as well as Garden members. This group's primary goal was to help raise funds for the Garden. Their first planned event was a large bridge and tea benefit on January 25, 1939. However, it was the 1940 inauguration of the Ramble by Nell Montgomery that truly brought this group's official volunteer involvement to the forefront.

In the lead-up to the Ramble, volunteers picked fruit, labeled plants and sorted items set for sale. At the actual event, they helped with plant sales as well as jam and jelly sales, and gave tours to visitors for 25 cents. The Ramble represented a call to the community to help raise funds to purchase a much-needed truck.



3



4

For 1947's Ramble, more than 125 women and men spent days sorting, pricing, cleaning and carrying donated items to the booths where they would be sold. It was viewed as a labor of love. Garden tours had become quite popular, so the Women's Committee enlisted the help of even more volunteers, who they referred to as "corps of helpers."

During the 1950s, volunteer roles expanded, and volunteers became an active force in horticulture. They were entrusted with seed collection and propagation in the nursery. According to Nell Montgomery's 1951 *Ramble Bulletin* report, "A member was asked by a visitor why she was working so hard for the Ramble. She replied: 'Some of those who love the Garden can write out a check as their contribution; others contribute lovely items to sell, and many of us feel that we can help by giving time.' Thus it has been from the start: generous giving by people who feel the Garden is worth working for." We can see that the community network was strong and empowered.

Since the Ramble was growing each year, the need for volunteers became increasingly urgent, as many areas needed significant support. In November of 1954, the *Garden's Bulletin* included an article titled "Volunteers Wanted." The first official written volunteer recruitment document in the Garden's archives, it called for volunteers to be greeters at the gate and welcome visitors, and included morning and afternoon shifts. The recruitment effort realized

Montgomery's vision of a garden where visitors would have their first experience with the enchanted world of tropical plants. In this vision, he included a friendly welcoming committee that would greet visitors at the entrance, and an information booth staffed with people to answer questions. This, he felt, would help preserve Dr. Fairchild's passion for plants and people.

During the 1960s, volunteers who worked in the nursery were referred to as "volunteer workers." These volunteers included community members, university students and snowbirds who were active only during the fall and winter months. A record of the volunteer workers' names included how often they volunteered, personal reasons why they had not volunteered recently or if they were on hiatus.

Since the early days of the Garden, the community has always had a sense of ownership, and volunteers have been a strong and heartwarming force. Through the Garden's history, Lucida Wait's words from her book *Fairchild Tropical Garden, The First Ten Years,* have continued to ring true: "It will be impossible to name every person who has worked for the benefit of the Garden. ... My readers will agree with me in this: most of those who work for the garden do so because of a genuine love of plants and the desire to establish a place of peace and beauty for the benefit of all those who need it, and not from any sense of personal or social gain." 

1. & 2. Cleaning seeds for distribution.
3. A Vine Committee kept track of early plantings on the Pergola.
4. Volunteers wove palms into hats and baskets for early Rambles.



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Starting: Monday, July 9 | Ending: Friday, July 27

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3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

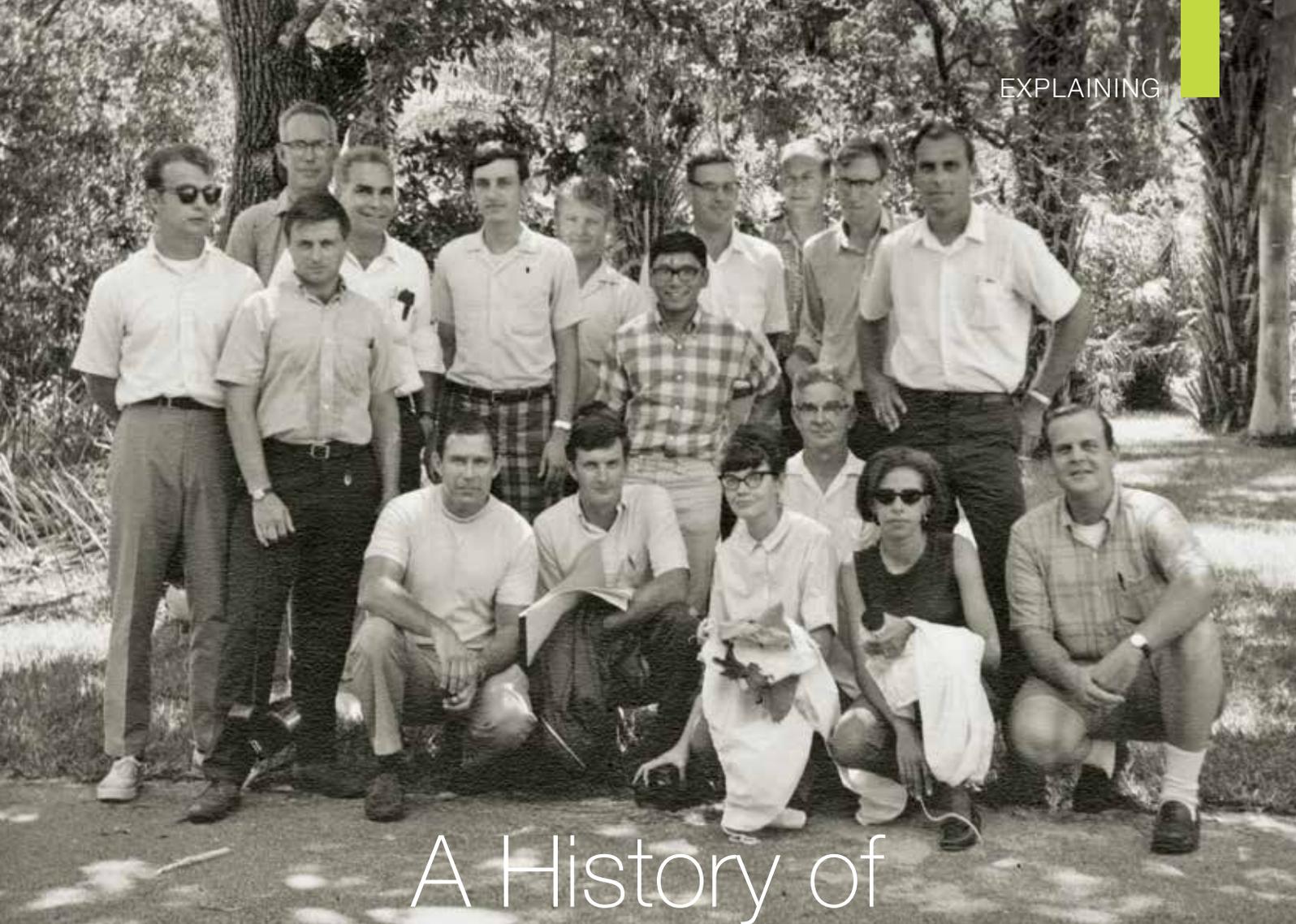
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A History of Education at Fairchild

A 50-Year-Old Tradition of Formal Botanical Education,
and an Even Older Traditional of Informal Education

By Amy Padolf. Photos: Archives/FTBG

Education has always been an important part of Fairchild's mission. As we celebrate our 80th year, I set out to understand when this tradition of sharing our knowledge and love of plants began.

As early as 1939, just one year after the Garden opened its doors to the public, Dr. David Fairchild was asked to stage an education exhibit in the "Gardens on Parade" at the World's Fair in New York. Dr. Fairchild worked to curate an exhibit on

palms and develop education content. In a letter from Fairchild to Col. Robert Montgomery dated April 8, 1939, Fairchild wrote, "I could think of nothing more dramatically beautiful than such an exhibit, which would allow visitors to understand the beauty and importance of palms, beyond being houseplants." The educational material he created included handwritten signage with each palm's common and scientific name, as well as stories of why these plants were important.



PREVIOUS PAGE: First Advanced Program in Tropical Botany, Summer 1968. **ABOVE:** Third Advanced Seminar in Tropical Botany, held at Fairchild and sponsored jointly with the University of Miami, in 1970.

But a formal education program took a bit of time to get off the ground. Fairchild staff and the academic community knew that the Garden could offer a unique opportunity for botany students to explore the tropics without leaving the country—but it wasn't easy to convince funders to support this effort. The first attempt to acquire funding to support such a program was met with little support. In 1967, National Science Foundation grant reviewers' comments included: "Florida isn't really tropical. They only have a few tropical plants"; "Certainly there is no tropical ecology that can be studied in Florida"; and "It will not have significant effects on tropical botany."

However, in June of 1968, in partnership with the University of Miami and with funding from the National Science Foundation, the Garden hosted the first Tropical Botany Summer Seminar. Coordinated by the late Dr. Taylor Alexander (1915-2005), a UM professor of botany, it saw 12 students participate in a six-week exploration of plant anatomy, morphology and taxonomy. The students (10 men and two women), mostly graduate students of botany, were chosen based on merit and came from Wisconsin, Michigan, New York, Virginia and Florida. According to an article in the October 1968 *Fairchild Bulletin*, then-director Dr. John Popenoe explained that this course was so significant because "there was nowhere else in the world that it could be taught so effectively." In 1968, nowhere else offered the opportunity to study living specimens of more than 150 families of tropical plants.

A member of the academic and scientific community taught each subject area: anatomy was taught by Fairchild's own Dr. Barry Tomlinson; taxonomy, by the late Dr. Richard A. Howard, former director of the Arnold Arboretum at Harvard University; and physiology, by the late Dr. Howard Teas from the University of Miami.

Popenoe recognized the potential impact that this course would have on the future of education. The *Bulletin* quoted him as saying: "We can assure future students that each year the Garden will be more beautiful than before and that there will be a greater wealth of plant material to study."

Fifty years later, this course is still going strong. It's now taught by Dr. Walter Judd, distinguished professor emeritus from the Department of Biology at the University of Florida. The Tropical Botanic Summer Seminar offers an opportunity to explore the extensive holdings of tropical vascular plants at Fairchild, The Kampong, Montgomery Botanical Center and the Gifford Arboretum. It follows a format similar to the one established in 1968.

On the Tropical Botany Seminar, more than 1,000 career botanists have studied under some of the nation's foremost plant experts in one of the largest living tropical botany collections in the United States. 

Enjoying the Fruit of Your Labor

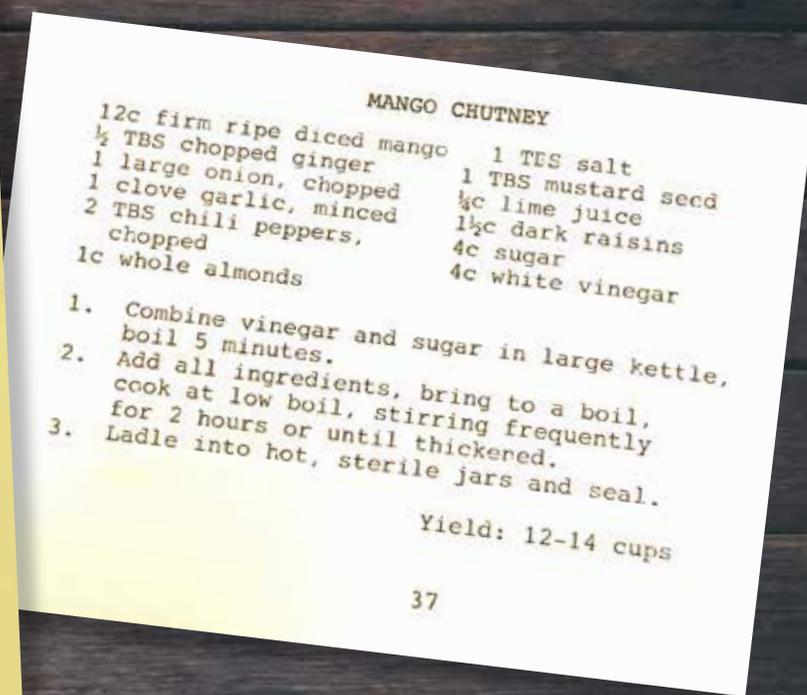
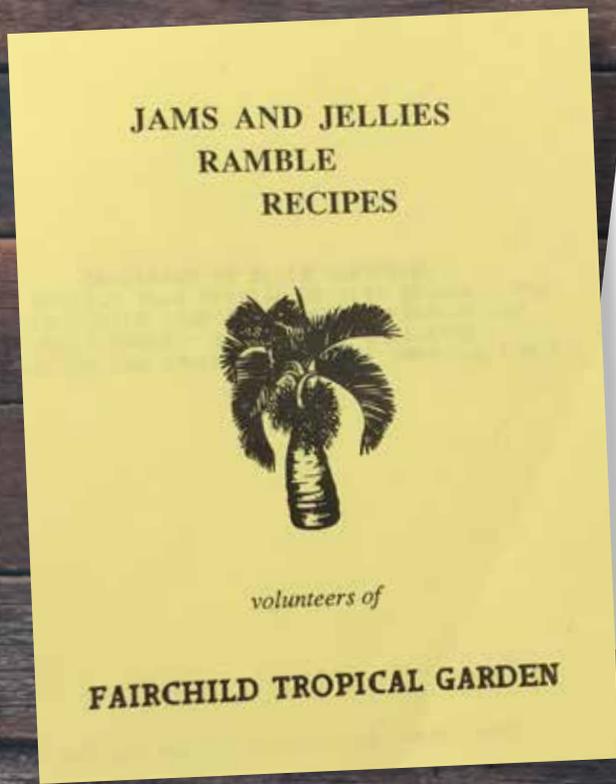
By Mary Neustein. Photos: Archives/FTBG



Have you ever faced a bumper crop of your favorite fruits, knowing you will want to have them when they are not in season? What to do? For some new ideas to add to your repertoire of culinary favorites, let's take a peek into the book "Jams and Jellies Ramble Recipes," by Ellen Eckstein and her volunteers.

Eckstein was a passionate pioneer in creating and preserving the abundance of South Florida's fruit harvests, turning them into tasty jams, jellies and chutneys. Back in her time, home cooks' vocabularies did not include gluten-free, vegan, paleo or sugar-free; they used the real thing—sugar, acid and pectin.

Each one of these condiments has unique characteristics on its own. Jellies are usually translucent, able to hold their shape and made with fruit juice. Jams are smooth and thick, softer than jellies, and made with crushed, ground or chopped fruit. Chutneys are the tangy version of a jam, and can be savory or sweet; they are made with fruits or veggies, vinegar and spices.



"Jams and Jellies Ramble Recipes" cover and inside recipe page.

Fairchild's premier jam and jelly maker, Eckstein devised a special recipe booklet on preserving the Garden's fruits. She was dedicated to collecting and processing rare tropical fruits, and chaired The Ramble Jams, Jellies and More Committee for years.

Here are some tidbits from the 1980 *Friends of Fairchild Newsletter*, detailing the record numbers of donations of jars, pectin, wax and fruits Eckstein and her Jams and Jellies team of volunteers received. It all led up to a successful Ramble!

June 1980: *The old Jams and Jelly Committee has been slaving over a hot stove lo these 6 months and, thanks to*

your donations of fruit, jars, etc., has put up a whopping 1,675 jars of preserved fruit. Remember—their goal is 3,000 jars, so keep that stuff coming in!

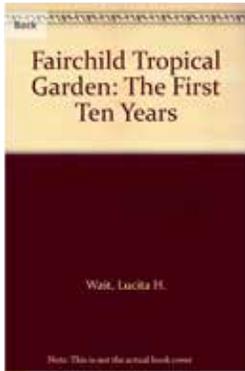
October 1980: *From Ellen Eckstein: Jams and Jellies and More! Many thanks for the jars, fruit, pectin, wax—keep up the good work! We're happy to note that we've put up 30 varieties of fruit 60 different ways to meet our 3,000 jar quota.*

November 1980: *Jams and Jellies says thanks to all for their donations. Anyone with an urge to bake call Ellen Eckstein... Members of her committee were televised by Channel 7's "Agriculture and the Consumer Today."*

December 1980: *Ramble's Jams and Jellies booth grand total sales \$8,694.*

What can be more gratifying than preserving your fruit harvest and seeing all those glistening jars lined up in your kitchen pantry for your family (or lucky friends) to enjoy later? I can imagine Eckstein getting prepared in her kitchen to make the mango chutney recipe shown above. Please enjoy and share. 





“Fairchild Tropical Garden: The First Ten Years” by Lucida H. Wait

Reviewed by Georgia Tasker

In his wisdom, Col. Robert Montgomery asked that a book be written to set down the year-by-year development of Fairchild Tropical Garden. He had been unable to find any such book to help “in my efforts to avoid mistakes and take advantage of opportunities to build the Fairchild Tropical Garden into an ideal project.” The task fell to Lucida Wait, a founding member of the Garden, associate editor of the Garden’s *Bulletin*, president of the Coconut Grove Library and executive secretary for the International Palm Society. “Fairchild Tropical Garden: The First Ten Years,” was first published in 1948.

“The underlying thought here is to form a sound and trustworthy foundation for the future. ... We are building for future generations,” Montgomery wrote in a forward to Wait’s book. Marjory Stoneman Douglas reviewed the book for *The Miami Herald*, writing, “Now we have a book which describes in detail the work, struggles, community activity and knowledge which have made that garden.”

Indeed, this book’s detail is unprecedented in its scope, from the inclusion of each speech given at the March 25, 1938, dedication, to the accounting that more than 1,400 plants were “given to about 300 members and no one can keep track of the number of seeds” that went out through the plant and seed distributions that began in 1938.

We find that the Garden at one point sold postage stamps in wax-paper envelopes; that the Board of County Commissioners gave \$5,000 for construction of the caretaker’s house; and that Montgomery sold a building in New York City and used the money to build the auditorium named for his wife.

The Garden put on an exhibition in the World’s Fair in Flushing, Long Island, in 1939 and won a gold medal. The exhibit, funded by the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, so impressed other garden clubs that they voted to award the Garden Club of America Founders Fund to Fairchild. The result was the addition of the Garden Club of America Amphitheater.

To write the book, Wait scoured the records to report such details as this: As of May 1940, 112 species of vines had been planted in the Semple vine collection, and the arrangement was according to color. By 1942, “the vine collection, having made very rapid growth during the past year,” required considerable pruning during June and July by six men, a truck and driver. It took two weeks, but a small twister in 1943 landed midway through the vine pergola and blew away 13 of the masts.

World War II reduced the staff and activities at the Garden, which promoted a motto, “Nothing will be done that might interfere with winning the war.” In 1943, the Garden held a celebration for

the publication of Dr. David Fairchild’s “Garden Islands of the Great East”; to save on rationed gas, people gathered at Cocoplum Plaza and were taken to the Garden every hour by trucks with temporary seats.

The Women’s Committee inaugurated the “Guides” in 1941, but not enough men were interested in the Men’s Committee, so the idea was dropped. Every item in the palm museum set up at the University of Miami is described, and every donor recognized. Every staff member is named. An appendix lists plants donated each year as well as the donor, including the donors of “miscellaneous small but none the less appreciated plants.” Alas, during the first 10 years women were known only by their husbands’ names, so the identities of Mrs. Charles Love, Mrs. George Brett, Mrs. E.F. Rowell and a lengthy list of others remain hidden. Unmarried women got to use their first names.

For anyone interested in the history of the Garden, now with the more formal “Botanic” in its name, this is a wonderful read. The Colonel was so impressed that he ordered copies sent as gifts to supporters of the Garden around the country. 

This book is out of print but can be purchased from online book resellers. To enjoy a copy of the book, please visit the “History of Fairchild” exhibit in our Historic Gate House.



A GEM OF A BUILDING—A LITTLE GARDEN HISTORY IN STONE

Dr. David Fairchild's vision for the Garden included a library on tropical botany, and it came to life just a few years after opening.

By Kenneth Setzer



Not all the jewels at Fairchild are green. Some are not even living. They belong to a part of Fairchild people often overlook—our architecture. I don't mean our landscape architecture, which is world-renowned, but rather the architecture of our buildings. We have beautiful structures, many—both old and new—built of the local Miami oolite rock (often incorrectly called “coral rock”) that is so reminiscent of early Miami.

“It Should Have a Library”

Before the Garden was dedicated on March 23, 1938, Dr. David Fairchild had specified it should contain “a library on Tropical Botany.” Some maintenance structures already existed,

including a garage and dynamite storage shed (can you imagine using dynamite to dig holes?), but nothing that met both the functional and aesthetic demands of a growing botanic garden's library.

Col. Robert Montgomery and his wife Nell had made the contribution—including 83 acres—that allowed the Garden to be founded; they were also again instrumental in getting the library building constructed. In 1939, the accounting firm of Lybrand, Ross Bros., and Montgomery celebrated Montgomery's 50th year in accounting by presenting the new Garden with a gift that would enable it to construct a building to house the botanical library and a museum filled with palm products and artifacts.

PREVIOUS PAGE
The Montgomery Building: non-members of the Garden could access the Museum for 25 cents. An additional source of income came from selling the stamps attached to parcels of seeds the Garden received from exotic locales.

RIGHT
The “mysterious coco de mer” from the museum’s collection of palm products.



Construction began on the Montgomery Library & Museum on September 25, 1939—a year and a half after the Garden’s dedication. The architect was Robert Fitch Smith, who also designed Fairchild’s Garden House and the “Doc” Thomas House in South Miami (the current home of the Tropical Audubon Society). Some 300 people—including Dr. Thomas Barbour, the Montgomerys and Fairchild’s landscape architect, William Lyman Phillips—attended the little building’s dedication on February 7, 1940. Liberty Hyde Bailey and others spoke, and the gathering coincided with the Garden’s annual meeting, where Dr. Elmer Merrill was inducted as president of the Garden. Dr. Fairchild himself was absent, away exploring and botanizing in India.

The Museum of Palm Products

Barbour was a herpetologist and overall naturalist extraordinaire. He also wrote extensively, including the book “That Vanishing Eden: A Naturalist’s Florida,” which is worth a read if you can find a copy. Having served as director of Harvard’s Museum of Comparative Zoology, he knew a thing or two about museum displays. Barbour generously oversaw the installation of a palm products museum within the new Montgomery building, and even donated its display cases.

Much of the palm products collection was originally housed at the University of Miami. Raincoats, hats,

musical instruments, sail cloth, nets, baskets, woven matting made from nipa palms, carved coconuts, “the mysterious coco de mer,” Balinese dolls and various “votive offerings” populated the collection. Practical items like jaggery sugar, rattan furniture, palm syrup, fruit and “wax for phonograph cylinders” were also on display. All of these and more were destined to educate visitors on all the uses for palms around the globe.

According to Marion Dall, chair of the original Museum & Library Committee, Capt. Richard Carney contributed a cross section of a royal palm, while Capt. and Mrs. Clark Stearns donated palm spears, clothing and utensils from Samoa, where Capt. Stearns served as governor. Gilbert Grosvenor of *National Geographic* magazine donated enlargements of palm photographs (Alexander Graham Bell was father-in-law to both Grosvenor and Fairchild).

The Library & Museum Building Today

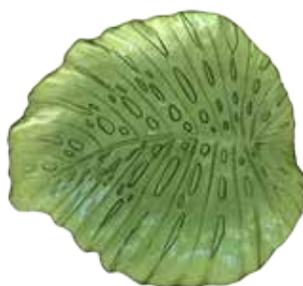
The Garden has grown tremendously since those early days, and today the Montgomery Library & Museum building houses offices. However, with the exception of the small addition of a director’s office in 1972, the building looks mostly as it did in 1940. Seventy eight years later, its native rock, pine interior, cypress rafters and beams, as well as its art deco details, still maintain, as the architect desired, “a fresh interpretation of rustic tropical architecture.” 

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OBJECT OF INTRIGUE: THE GARDEN BLOWGUN

By Kenneth Setzer
Photos: Kenneth Setzer/FTBG
and Archives/FTBG

The Agassiz/Barbour/Fairchild
blowgun, at 9 feet long, is a heavy
weapon to wield.

In the 19th century, scientist and naturalist Louis Agassiz was as internationally famous as Charles Darwin or Alexander von Humboldt. The Swiss-born Agassiz gained fame studying glaciers and for introducing the concept of ice ages as part of Earth's history. Perhaps not surprisingly, there is an Agassiz-Fairchild connection involving a most interesting object. Here's how an Amazon blowgun wound up in the Garden's collection.

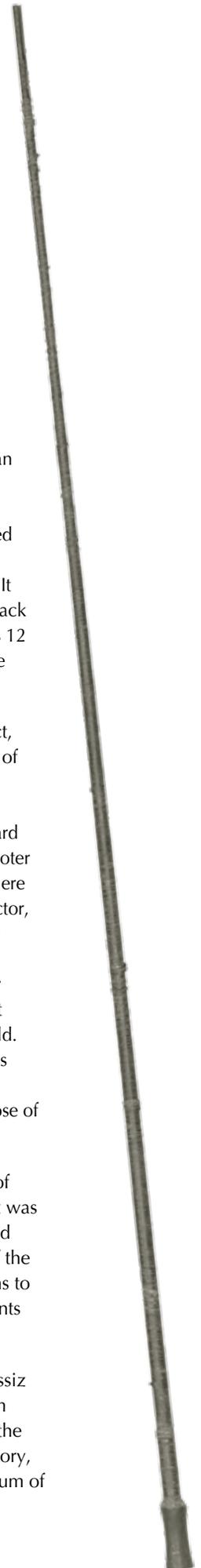
Soon after beginning work at the Garden, I began poking around the archives while searching for information on the Montgomery Library building and its palm products museum; I gasped in amazement at a *Miami Times* column on the palm products museum dated March 10, 1941. It references a display of "the blow gun brought back from the Amazon in 1871 by Louis Agassiz. It is 12 feet long, has a sight, and poisoned arrows to be blown high up into trees to kill birds."

Does the Garden really possess such an artifact, collected by one of the most famous scientists of all time?

Agassiz was many things to many people: Harvard professor, explorer, naturalist, mentor, self-promoter and to some, a formidable scientific nemesis. There is no doubt, however, that he was an avid collector, even by Victorian standards. He was considered to possess "a mania for collecting, and rapidly accumulated natural objects of all kinds." Never one to ignore the chance to explore, he was part of numerous sailing expeditions around the world. He feverishly collected natural history specimens as well as artifacts and interesting objects from different cultures for his own collections and those of universities, museums and other collectors.

In 1865, he joined a journey to Brazil as part of the Thayer Expedition. For 16 months, Agassiz was immersed in all the wonders the Amazon could offer a scientist, traveling about 2,000 miles of the river and shipping back over 80,000 specimens to Harvard. The expedition collected not just plants and animals, but artifacts of human culture.

Much of the collection filled the museum Agassiz himself founded in 1859: the Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology. Today accessible to the public as the Harvard Museum of Natural History, that museum is adjacent to the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology at Harvard.





Dr. David and Marian Fairchild, standing in front of the Garden House, admire the ingenuity of turning a palm trunk into a weapon.

Agassiz died in 1873, but his son in many ways continued his work. Alexander Agassiz, a student of engineering and chemistry, later gained expertise in ichthyology. He also made a fortune in copper mining, but not without teaching and curating in the museum his father created. During the Thayer Expedition, Alexander remained back at the Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology to receive his father's shipments from the Amazon; he is key to uncovering the path the blowgun took to get to the Garden.

Finally, in Florida, we discover the third link in the chain: Thomas Barbour. Born in Martha's Vineyard, he visited Harvard as a teen and was so besotted by the Museum of Comparative Zoology that he eventually completed his education there with a focus on reptiles and amphibians, though was known to have broad biological interests. At Harvard, he studied under Alexander Agassiz, eventually becoming director of the museum that helped hook him on biology.

Barbour also had a grandmother in Eau Gallie, Florida; in his book "That Vanishing Eden: A Naturalist's Florida," he lovingly recalls adventures in exploring the "wild Florida" he found while staying with her. He and Dr. David Fairchild were apparently very good friends, with Barbour regularly staying at the Kampong's guest house. When Fairchild Garden was established, and a museum of palm tree products proposed, it's only natural that Dr. Fairchild would appeal to his friend, who possessed a great love of biology and knowledge of museums. Fairchild wrote

"He took a keen interest in the Palm Museum and when the associates of Colonel Montgomery built it he contributed largely to its equipment." Barbour set up the palm museum with display cases, images, interpretation, and—apparently—a blowgun.

I still sought the smoking (blow) gun to this mystery. I hadn't found anything to directly link Barbour to getting the blowgun to the new Fairchild Tropical Garden, but his prestige at Harvard's Museum and connection to Agassiz's son sure makes it likely. I wanted to know the source of the *Miami Times* reporter's statement for attributing the blowgun to Louis Agassiz. Her byline is Mrs. Marion F. Dall, Chairman, Museum and Library Committee—the Museum being the Fairchild palm products museum. She was also Fairchild's "Museum Curator," so her knowledge of the blowgun's provenance was likely direct from Barbour or Dr. Fairchild.

A Peabody Museum annual report from 1880 lists receiving a "zarabatana, or blow gun," collected from the Amazon River by the Thayer Expedition, under the direction of Louis Agassiz, and "presented by the Museum of Comparative Zoology."

I finally found a source in our archives: an old, yellowed letter dated 1938 from the director of the Harvard Peabody Museum, Donald Scott, to Dr. Fairchild. Scott notes that a shipment to Dr. Fairchild has been made, including:

"Blowgun (also described as Zara batana), from Rio Madeirs (sic), Brazil. Collected by Professor Alexander Agassiz, date unknown. Received as a gift from Dr. Agassiz in 1871."

Now supposedly Alexander did not accompany his father Louis on this expedition, so it's possible he means that Alexander Agassiz donated his father's blowgun to the Peabody Museum. Either way, this confirms the blowgun is the real deal.

Nell Jennings Montgomery recalled that during the first Ramble Festival, "Dr. Fairchild set up a dart blowing contest . . . Dr. Fairchild provided the blow guns. He had brought them from South America for the [palm] Museum and they originally had poison on the darts." One hopes none of these were the Agassiz-collected blowgun; then again, at 9 feet (not 12, as *Miami Times* stated), I doubt anyone would have dared wield it. Ah, simpler times, without worry of liability for stray poison darts! 

Through the eyes of BioTECH @ Richmond Heights Executive Interns

By Milo Vergara-Kniveton and Jessica Little,
BioTech High School Botany Program Students
Photos by Jennifer Possley

Imagine working in a tropical paradise while striving to protect and grow endangered plants. Fairchild scientists James Lange and Jennifer Possley get to do just that. As field biologists, they travel all over South Florida in search of rare plants in order to map, monitor and collect seeds for long-term storage. Additionally, they reintroduce native species, research ideal habitat conditions and seek effective control methods for invasive plants that directly impact rare native plants. As their interns, we have gotten a taste of what it is like to be field biologists, walking in their shoes and experiencing this exciting world.

Helping a Carnivorous Bromeliad Survive

One of the first projects we worked on involved the powdery strap air plant (*Catopsis berteroniana*), a partially carnivorous, endangered bromeliad that has a native range from southern Florida to south Brazil. Lange and Possley wanted to know which size of the plant would best survive in the *ex-situ* collection of the Garden. We started by splitting all of the air plants into four classes based on their size. Then, we used Fairchild's plant records database and a plot

James Lange, Jessica Little and summer interns Jake Aller and Emily Canner measure Burma reed in pots prior to herbicide application.





One of the recently attached young powdery strap air plants.

map to locate buttonwood trees in the Lowlands. Buttonwoods are known to house powdery strap air plants in the wild. Using glue, we attached powdery strap air plants to buttonwoods and a few other trees throughout the Garden. To date, young individuals in the medium range (2.5 centimeters to 3.5 centimeters) seem to be surviving the most consistently. With this project, we hope to find the best life stage during which to reintroduce this species to the wild, so that the individuals will be more likely to survive and bring the species out of endangerment.

Keeping an Invasive Cane Grass Down

For another project, we got to know Burma reed (*Neyraudia reynaudiana*)—an invasive cane grass that is a serious danger to South Florida’s disappearing, globally endangered pine rockland habitat. This fast-growing, resilient plant is very difficult to get rid of. Possley teamed up with Miami-Dade County and the University of Florida to test different herbicide treatment methods on Burma reed. The current method involves going out into the affected area, cutting the Burma reed and spraying it with an herbicide, then going back a second time to spray the regrowth. Because this method needs two treatments, it has the possibility of missing some individuals during the second spraying. Our job was to measure grass heights before and after treatment in order to demonstrate which treatments were the most effective at controlling Burma reed. Hopefully, a new and more effective treatment will be found in order to save our precious pine rocklands.

In the Seed Lab

Last but not least, a major part of our internship has been to act as Fairchild’s seed lab technicians. We have taken over the seed lab at the nursery and made it our home for the rest of the academic year. In this role, much of our job is to set up experimental germination trials for rare species like the Key Tree Cactus (*Pilosocereus robinii*), sand flax (*Linum arenicola*), locustberry (*Byrsonima lucida*) and Havana skullcap (*Scutellaria havanensis*). Through these experiments, we learn whether seeds of these species can survive desiccating and freezing—and can therefore be stored, long-term. As seed lab technicians, we also continually collect data and care for ongoing seed germination trials. We also inventoried and organized Fairchild’s frozen seed bank of conservation plants, and helped organize information on the Conservation Team’s offsite frozen seed bank, which is housed at the USDA’s National Laboratory for Genetic Resources Preservation in Fort Collins, Colorado.

In addition to working on projects and learning about the life of a field biologist, as Lange’s and Possley’s interns, we have learned what it is like to develop an efficient work ethic, think outside the box and perfect skills used every day at a garden like Fairchild. We are thankful for the opportunity we have been given! 





THE FALKLAND ISLANDS MORE THAN 180 YEARS AFTER DARWIN

Exploring spectacular
birdlife and unusual
topography

By Georgia Tasker

Tuft-forming tussock grass once rimmed the Falkland Islands archipelago (400 miles east of Tierra del Fuego in the southern Atlantic Ocean) and served as the most important nesting and feeding habitat for birds and seals. Only about 20% of that tussock grass coverage remains today, the victim of years of sheep farming. Nonetheless, during a recent trip to the Falklands, at Settlement Harbor on the Falkland island of West Point, the tussock showed why it is so valued.

Black-browed albatross were nesting atop tussock pedestals, some courting by rubbing beaks and grooming each other, and some already protecting eggs. Endangered primarily due to long-line fishing, these albatrosses have dark eyebrows that seem to make them frown. Rock-hopper penguins, which have red eyes, went about their ritualistic courting and mating, hopping from rock to rock among the albatross nests. There has been a big drop in this penguin population during the last 30 years, as the parents now must travel 40 kilometers (nearly 25 miles) to get food for their chicks.

Albatross and penguins are not the only creatures to utilize tussock. Petrels, wrens, thrushes, siskins, owls, kelp geese and fur seals find niches among and inside the plants. From a distance, tussock appears soft and small, but it is easily head-high when walking through it. It held high stalks of wheat-colored flowers when we visited.

On nearby ground, low green mounds of succulent cushion plants called balsam bog look as if they should be soft but actually are quite prickly. The ground also supports diddle-dee, another low-growing plant that produces red fruits from which jelly, jam and gin can be made. Scurvy grass, white grass

PREVIOUS PAGE

Tussock grass is home to a variety of wildlife and hosts red-jacketed tourists too.

Photo by Sandra Schultz

BELOW

A black-browed albatross with wings outstretched is showing her egg; small rock-hopper penguins share the space.

Photo by Georgia Tasker/FTBC



“These [Falkland] islands, in the same latitude with Tierra del Fuego . . . can boast of few plants deserving even the title of bushes; whilst in Tierra del Fuego it is impossible to find an acre of land not covered by the densest forest.”

“The Voyage of the Beagle,”
Charles Darwin

New Zealand cordyline is not native but serves as an ornamental.
Photo by Georgia Tasker/FTBG



and sedges (grasslike plants with triangular stems and inconspicuous flowers) also grow. There are no native trees on West Point, but several introduced trees populate the landscape: Monterey cypress, Sitka spruce and lodge pole pines.

Carcass Island

West Point island, at the western end of the archipelago, was just our introduction to the Falklands, or *Islas Malvinas*, as Argentines call them. Britain rules here, but Argentina claims it as well. Captain James Cook landed here in 1575. There are two main islands, East Falkland and West Falkland, with a total of 778 islands in the full archipelago.

Our second landing in the Falklands brought us onto Carcass Island—named for a ship, not a dead body. It is a birding paradise. The island never had the rats that overran other Falkland Islands, killing many native birds. (On the island of South Georgia, for instance, the rat population was nearly eliminated through dropping of rat poison from the air—leading to the return of the southernmost songbird, the pipit.) On Carcass, we saw birds including the tiny endemic Orr’s wren; two species of red-billed oystercatchers, one all-black and one pied; striated caracara; rock shags, which are black and white cormorants; turkey vultures; kelp geese; Falkland’s thrush; Falkland grass wrens; and black-chinned siskins.

We hiked over the rolling landscape owned by the descendants of a sheep farmer who built his house in 1880. Patches of glowing yellow flowers across parts of the island are produced by gorse, an exotic, thorny shrub brought from Europe to serve as a windbreak. It has become invasive, but remains attractive to birds and photographers. Rather curiously out of place near the farm house was the ornamental New Zealand cordyline, commonly called a cabbage tree. (We know other species as ti plants.)

East Falkland

The capital of the Falkland Islands is Stanley, a town of 7,000 residents on East Falkland. It once was an important center for repairing ships that rounded Cape Horn (at the tip of Chile) and came limping in from high winds and battering waves. In 1914, the Panama Canal opened, ships no longer needed to round the cape and ship repair here ceased. When Charles Darwin visited the Falklands in 1833 and 1834, he noted that every plant on the island eventually turned to peat, in beds often 12 feet thick. After ship repair declined, the populace turned to digging peat, selling it for fuel. Peat sometimes still is used for fuel in Stanley and open-slatted houses allow the peat mounds to dry.

Stone runs or stone rivers exist on the interior of the East Falkland island. These are streams of quartz boulders that froze, thawed and washed down from hills during the last Ice Age. Darwin said of the boulders: "The blocks are not waterworn, their angles being only a little blunted; they vary in size from one to two feet in diameter to 10 or even more than 20 times as much. They are now thrown together into irregular piles, but spread out into level sheets or great streams." They are a unique feature of the Falklands, and form abstract patterns when photographed from the air.

Although they are not spectacularly beautiful, the Falkland Islands nonetheless possess an interesting topography and certainly wonderful birdlife. That was not enough for Darwin, however. In "The Voyage of the Beagle," he described the archipelago as "undulating land, with a desolate and wretched aspect ... everywhere covered by a peaty soil and wiry grass, of one monotonous brown color." 

BELOW

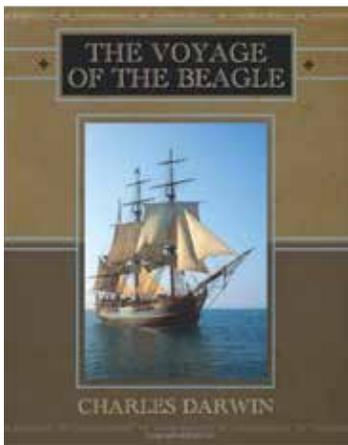
A Falkland Thrush has yellow-orange legs, a yellow eye-ring, and here sits on tussock grass.

Photo by Georgia Tasker/FTBG



“The Voyage of the Beagle,” by Charles Darwin

Reviewed by Georgia Tasker



For years, “The Voyage of the Beagle” has been on my bookshelf. The story of Darwin’s trip from Cape Verde Islands to South America, the Galapagos, Tahiti, Australia, South Africa and back to England is one of those “should read” books, not unlike “Remembrance of Things Past” and “War and Peace.” (No, I have not had the intellectual fortitude to tackle the last two.)

However, the time arrived when Charles Darwin’s travels informed my own, so I picked up “Voyage.” Over the years, I have been to many of the places Darwin visited on his 5-year journey, but I had to arrive at a particular point in my experience to appreciate his. And I found it fascinating.

On a trip to Patagonia, at the southern tip of South America (an area covering both Argentina and Chile), we followed in Darwin’s path—leaving Montevideo, Uruguay, and sailing south, stopping in Colonia del Sacramento. We walked through that city’s cobbled and ancient streets. But in our time, its cathedral had been restored, whereas Darwin saw it as “a curious ruin; it was used as a powder-magazine and was struck by lightning ... two-thirds of the building were blown

away ... and the rest stands a shattered and curious monument of the united powers of lightning and gunpowder.”

While at sea in the southern Atlantic, Darwin wrote, he saw flocks of butterflies: “There are several accounts of insects having been blown off the Patagonia shore. The cause probably is due to the want of shelter, both of trees and hills, so that an insect on the wing with the off-shore breeze would be very apt to be blown out to sea.” He also marveled at phosphorescence on the nighttime sea, which he wrote was “a wonderful and most beautiful spectacle.”

In Argentine Patagonia, I stood on what today is called Darwin’s Overlook and saw, far below, the Ria Deseado (River of Desire), which Darwin traveled for many miles. He concluded that the river valley had been carved by an ancient ocean and the huge boulders were left by icebergs, but that the source of the river was the Andes. We found ancient oyster fossils that he, too, found. “What a history of geological changes does the simply-constructed coast of Patagonia reveal!” he wrote of the fossils.

When Darwin arrived in the Falklands, a native fox still was living. One form on the island of East Falkland was larger than that

From time to time, the romantic in Darwin appears in “Voyage,” adding grace notes that are unexpectedly sweet:

In a tropical forest: “It is easy to specify the individual objects of admiration in these grand scenes; but it is not possible to give an adequate idea of the higher feelings of wonder, astonishment, and devotion, which fill and elevate the mind.”

A spider that lands on the *Beagle* is called a little aeronaut. “When disturbed it lifted up its front legs, in the attitude of attention. On its first arrival, it appeared very thirsty, and with exerted maxillae drank eagerly of drops of water.”

Walking over a treeless plain, Darwin felt “an ill-defined but strong sense of pleasure” and was prompted to quote a verse from “Mont Blanc: Lines Written in the Vale of Chamouni,” by the poet Percy Bysshe Shelley.

On watching stones tumbling from mountain to ocean: “the ocean is their eternity and each note of that wild music told of one more step towards their destination.”

Observing a snow-white tern hover over his head: “its black eye scanning with quiet curiosity your expressions. Little imagination is required to fancy that so light and delicate a body must be tenanted by some wandering fairy spirit.”

And this: “a traveler should be a botanist, for in all views plants form the chief embellishment.”

on the island of West Falkland—something Darwin found comparable to the differing tortoises on the Galapagos islands. He correctly foresaw that, “Within a very few years after these islands shall have become regularly settled, in all probability this fox will be classed with the dodo, as an animal which has perished from the face of the earth.” No foxes remained when we arrived.

In Tierra del Fuego, the archipelago off the southernmost tip of the South American mainland, the beech trees, *Nothofagus betuloides*, were so thick Darwin had to follow a mountain river to move through the forest. We were there. We also saw on the beech “Darwin’s fungus,” which is bright yellow and which Fuegians ate uncooked. Darwin called Tierra del Fuego “the only country in the world where a cryptogamic plant affords a staple article of food.”

In the Beagle Channel, a strait in Tierra del Fuego, Darwin became a tourist, and he wrote: “It is scarcely possible to imagine anything more beautiful than the beryl-like blue of these glaciers and especially as contrasted with the dead white of the upper expanse of snow.”

And, of course, the Galapagos provided Darwin the recognition of the beak differences among finches. “Seeing this gradation and diversity of structure in one small, intimately related group of birds, one might really fancy that from an original paucity of birds in this archipelago, one species had been taken and modified for different ends,” he wrote. 

 This book is available at
The Shop at Fairchild. \$17

Valley of the River of Desire,
visited by Darwin.
Photo by Georgia Tasker/FTBC

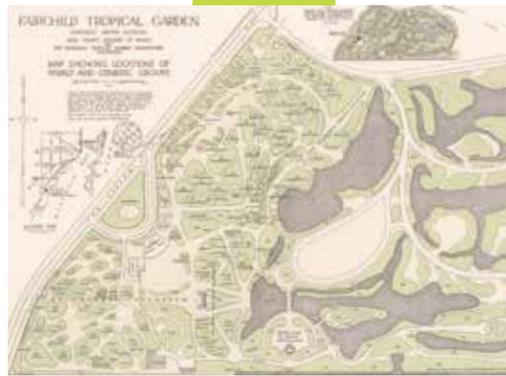


The New Plants of Fairchild

Text and photos by Brett Jestrow, Ph.D. and Chad Husby, Ph.D.

While spring is always a wonderful time to plant, after the destruction of Hurricane Irma, planting is now all the more important. After losing 80 trees across the Garden, we now have the chance to introduce a large array of new plants. Luckily, over the years, we have collected a wide range of plants, from wild habitats across the Caribbean to the markets of Thailand, and by exchanging plants with botanical gardens from around the world. Now is the time to move these plants, which were waiting in the nursery, and bring them out for display.

An interesting map of the Garden from 1948 shows the taxonomic layout of its first 10 years. While much of the original design of the Garden remains the same, many of the plants have changed. Made before the Rainforest or Spiny Forest of Madagascar, both now emblematic of the garden, the map shows how the Garden is always moving forward. And yet, this classical map still serves to inform and inspire future plantings. As of this writing, we have planted 450 plants since late January, plants we hope you will find new, interesting and exciting.



Agave nashii

Since the Garden is in South Florida and is part of the Caribbean floristic region, Caribbean flora requires special attention and emphasis from us. In 2016, on an expedition to the southern Bahamas, we were able to collect a dramatic agave. A well-represented genus in the Bahamas, this species is only known from the edge of the Pygmy Forest of southeastern Great Inagua. Readily identifiable, this species is noteworthy for its pastel colors, distinctive leaf impression patterns and small stature. Because it lends itself to propagation by producing offshoots, this species holds real potential for xeric—low-moisture—landscaping. Examples were planted to the side of the Sibley *Victoria Amazonica* Pool.



Cerbera manghas

Quite similar in appearance and related to the New World frangipani, *Cerbera manghas* is a widespread species in the Indo-Malaysian region. However, while the typical form of this widespread species has green leaves and white flowers, a dramatic form with purple-red leaves and white and red flowers recently entered cultivation. It apparently came from a wild population of New Caledonia. In 2015, while perusing the markets of Bangkok, we were able to source a few of these as grafted plants. One has been planted in the flower garden near the Jean DuPont Shehan Visitor Center and is just now coming into bloom for the first time in the Garden. It shows great horticultural promise in South Florida and was unaffected by our recent winter cold snaps.



Araucaria muelleri

A tropical conifer worthy of mention has rubbery leaves and geometric spirals; *Araucaria muelleri* is especially charismatic. Endemic to the remote island of New Caledonia in the southwest Pacific Ocean, this remarkable conifer came to Fairchild via a circuitous route. Originally collected from the island by researchers at Scotland's Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, a seedling was shared with the Atlanta Botanic Garden as part of the International Conifer Conservation Programme; later, Dr. Jason Smith grafted a cutting from the tip of this plant.



Dracaena umbraculifera

This species was first described in publication in 1797 from a cultivated plant thought to have been from Mauritius. No wild population was known, and the species was considered extinct in the wild, though cultivated in several botanic gardens around the world. A stately species with long, narrow, arching leaves, it was recently a subject of molecular research undertaken by the Missouri Botanical Garden. The published study found that the closest relatives of this species could be found in Madagascar, not Mauritius. A subsequent expedition discovered five populations in the wild. No longer considered extinct in the wild, the specimen recently planted in the Garden was one of the very samples included in this scientific study. This plant serves as another example of how botanic gardens work together to understand and explain our rarest plants.

Encephalartos princeps

Cycads have a long history at Fairchild and, given their long lifespans, an impressive collection has developed over the decades. One specimen currently growing in Cycad Circle is *Encephalartos princeps*.

Loran Whitelock, a specialist of the genus, wild-collected this plant from the type locality (from which it was described in 1965) near the Kei River of the Cape Province, South Africa, in 1971. Though the Garden had only a single plant of unique provenance, working with Fairchild volunteer Chip Jones, we have been able to propagate this lone individual from cuttings. One of these clones is now planted in the Garden near the *Victoria* Pool and will help to protect the Garden from losing such a special collection.



Grevillea baileyana

Grafting is a remarkable technique that can allow new species to grow in areas where they struggle on their own roots due to difficult soil conditions or pathogens. Many important fruit trees, including mangos, are traditionally grafted onto advantageous rootstocks. Though members of the plant family Proteaceae often have dramatic flowers and are used as centerpieces in floral arrangements, they have generally proved difficult to grow in South Florida due to our hot, humid summers, alkaline limestone soils and their sensitivity to phosphorus fertilization. However, after testing different species in the nursery, one has proved itself by surviving under normal South Florida horticultural conditions for the last few years. This species, while dramatic in its own right with its coppery golden leaves, could also serve as rootstock for other species. This could open wonderful opportunities for new and beautiful flowering trees for South Florida. This plant can now be seen near the Visitor Center.



Hemithrinax ekmaniana

Palms hold a special place at Fairchild and no mention of plantings could be complete without them. A remarkable species, *Hemithrinax ekmaniana*, graces the cover of the most recent issue of *Palms, the Journal of the International Palm Society*. The accompanying featured article explains that the species is restricted to three mogotes in central Cuba. Mogotes are steep-sided hills, composed either of limestone, marble or dolomite, that are generally isolated and surrounded by nearly flat plains. Just over 300 mature *Hemithrinax ekmaniana* plants exist in the wild, the article adds. Immediately recognizable, these palms—with their compact globose crowns, silver-blue leaves and thin trunks at maturity—are reminiscent of lollipops. We have planted seven of these, which were grown from seed in the Fairchild nursery and are now 10 years old. Slow-growing palms, these were planted along the gentle slope next to the *Victoria* Pool, where they will receive the full sun and perfect drainage that they require.



Podocarpus orarius

A plot near the Corbin Education Center, the home of Fairchild's education department, was historically focused on tropical conifers. Unfortunately, Hurricane Andrew destroyed much of the collection, and since that time few conifers have been brought back into the Garden. Now we have planted more than a dozen in this area, including rare and curious examples. Given our climate, we are able to grow these species outdoors, allowing them to reach their full potential. One, *Podocarpus orarius*, was first described in 2012 from the Solomon Islands. Our specimen came to Fairchild from the International Conifer Conservation Programme of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, and is another example of the importance of botanic gardens sharing living collections for conservation, research and beauty. A highlight of this species is its long leaves, which are deep red when young and then turn green.



Sedum formosanum

While focusing on large woody perennials, we have also planted some smaller herbs, including this rather charismatic succulent. While visiting Taiwan in 2015, we came to a native plant nursery growing many taxa not common in horticulture, yet with the potential to thrive in our similar latitude and climate. Most small crassulacean succulents, while quite popular in places like California, will typically rot in South Florida without protection from our summer rains. However, *Sedum formosanum*, endemic to Taiwan, has continued to grow rot-free throughout our summers. The plant freely produces yellow flowers in spring and can be seen near the Visitor Center. 

#PLANTINGMONDAYS

NEW PLANTINGS IN THE TROPICAL PLANT CONSERVATORY & RARE PLANT HOUSE

By Kenneth Setzer and Georgia Tasker
Photos by Kenneth Setzer and Maureen Tan



Nepenthes rafflesiana

This insectivorous pitcher plant from Malaysia, Borneo and Sumatra is a favorite among growers. It's a lowland species, preferring hot, humid conditions with bright, filtered light. Though not rare, it never fails to astonish when you contemplate this vining plant's ability to trap and digest insects in its squat, bulbous pitchers. Pitchers are spotted in green and purple maroon, with a beautifully striped lip (peristome) for insects to slide off to their demise.



Curculigo species is a new palm grass that was gathered during the 2015 Thailand expedition. Palm grass ordinarily is green, but this new edition has spectacular metallic purple and silver leaves.

PREVIOUS PAGE
Stegolepis ferrugina, a member of a family of grass plants from northern South America, primarily Venezuela. Orange flower buds have pointy nobs that require a kind of mucilage to help them emerge from the leaf bases. Originally described by 19th Century British botanist John Gilbert Baker.

We are planting fabulous specimens

at a rapid pace after several plant-collecting expeditions. Each Monday, our horticulturists, plant collection experts and volunteers spend the day planting dozens of new accessions and sharing the experience via our Instagram channel using the hashtag #PlantingMondays. We will also feature #PlantingMondays in our magazine.



Acmopyle sahniana

We may have expansive conifer forests in North America, but the Southern Hemisphere hosts some very rare, ancient and unusual conifers. This small, bushy podocarp is endemic to Fiji and is critically endangered. The IUCN Redlist states there are probably less than 100 mature plants in the wild, where it prefers steep, mountainous areas with lots of precipitation.



Asplenium species from South America bear ornately cut leaflets that gracefully arch outward, then give rise to a new plant at each leaf tip. Thus, the nickname "walking fern," because the plants seem to walk along their substrate.



Chorigyne cylindra is a member of the Cyclanthaceae and is related to the *Ludovia* and *Carludovica* that our Botanical Horticulturist Dr. Chad Husby wrote about in the last issue of *The Tropical Garden*. Its leaves are split, emerging from a fan-shaped base.



Licuala mattensis, the Mapu palm, is a dwarf palm with patterned leaves from Borneo. It is sought by palm growers the world over. It loves acid soils and high humidity, so the conservatory is just the right environment.



Mapania caudata

Native to the tropical rainforests of Malaysia and Borneo, *Mapania*, like some other shade-loving plants, shows blue-green iridescence in its leaves due to the presence of silica particles. It's in the sedge family, and needs consistent moisture.



Selaginella picta

Bright green with silver-white stripes, this small but striking plant can spread to form a mat up to about a foot tall. Its love for humid locations in bright shade makes this *Selaginella* a perfect addition to the Tropical Plant Conservatory & Rare Plant House in shady areas beneath and between other plants.



Ixora with white flowers has come from a Thailand expedition. For ixora fans, this would be a lovely acquisition and one that does not shoulder the common nickname "flame of the woods."



Selaginella sp.

Selaginella is called spikemoss or clubmoss, but it's not a moss. And while it does reproduce via spores, it is not a fern. It is a lycopod, a division of very primitive plants. Today's lycopods are fairly small, and are distinguished by having microphylls—leaves with a single vein. This example's ID remains uncertain, making it even more intriguing with its emerald green and gold-tinged, flattened microphylls.



***Peperomia sp.* (Hawaiian)**

Peperomia are some of the most common and tough houseplants. But with more than 1,000 species in the genus, there are bound to be mysteries. This one was collected in Hawaii, and its species has yet to be identified. Ours are growing atop a stone wall in the Rare Plant House along with ferns, selaginellas, and others. The *Peperomia* are rooted in damp sphagnum moss to keep their roots moist as they get started on the rock wall. The minty green leaves against red stems make them look like a forest of tiny trees.



Tarenna borbonica

This plant is native to the Mascarene Islands. In the coffee family, this small bush is grown for its incredible leaves, which are very glossy and patterned, especially in younger foliage. Ours was brought back from Thailand.

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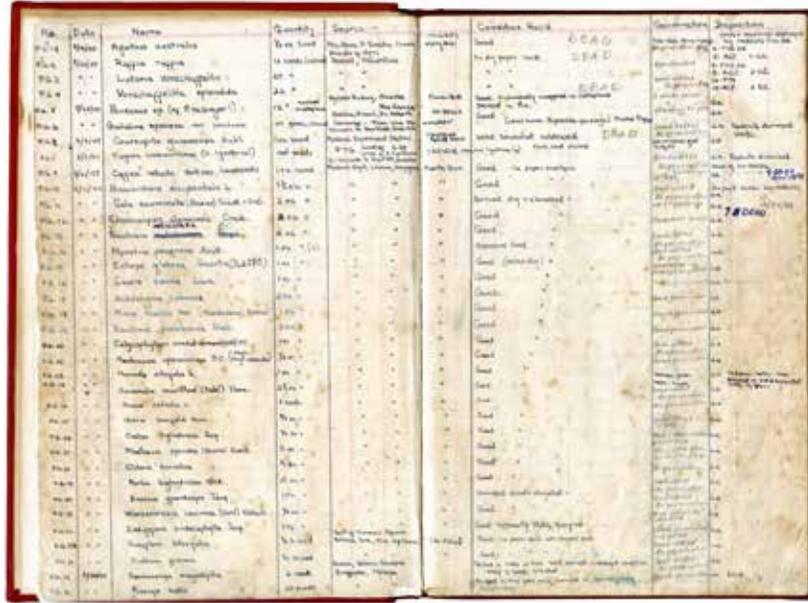
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THE GARDEN'S EARLY PLANTINGS

By Javier Francisco-Ortega, Ph.D.; Brett Jestrow, Ph.D.;
Chad Husby, Ph.D.; Marilyn Griffiths; and Carl Lewis, Ph.D.
Photos: Archives/FTBG, USDA National Agricultural Library
Special Collections and Kenneth Setzer

The Cycad Circle and oak tree ca. 1948.
Reproduced from Lucita Waits's book, "Fairchild
Tropical Garden." *The first ten years.*





Numeric identifiers for the first 35 plant entries introduced at Fairchild according to the recording system established in 1947.

Photo: Courtesy of FTBG Department of Horticulture.

The flagship of a botanic garden is its living collection of plants. They are a source of beauty, education, horticulture, research and conservation. Because of its unique location and 80-year-long history in plant exploration, few other large botanic gardens in the continental U.S. have Fairchild's splendor, range and experience in cultivating tropical plants.

Our founding fathers were aware that the Garden needed to establish a unique collection of living plants. This green patrimony was considered the basis to fully develop Fairchild's mission of celebrating tropical botany. Therefore, it is not surprising that just one year after the Garden was established, its first official plant hunting expedition was organized. Dr. David Fairchild led the expedition onboard the *Chêng-Ho*, a traditional Chinese junk built in Hong Kong specifically for this task. This plant exploration endeavor reached remote locations of Indonesia and the Philippines between 1939 and 1940 and brought many plants to the Garden. At least nine of the species collected by Dr. Fairchild during this trip are still grown in the Garden.

In a 2013 issue of the *The Tropical Garden* devoted to celebrating the Garden's 75th anniversary, Georgia Tasker presented an article highlighting the 11 tree species distinguished botanists and horticulturists planted when the Garden was inaugurated on March

23, 1938. These 11 trees can be considered the first "official" plants that started the Garden's legacy of tropical horticulture. These initial plantings also recognized the Garden pioneers.

Among these 11 individuals, only one remains with us today: the baobab tree Dr. Fairchild planted. This individual is located near the Sunken Garden in the Montgomery Palmetum. It is worth mentioning that the largest baobab tree in the Garden (located near the northeast corner of the Phillips-Atwater Gatehouse) is also an old friend. It was planted in 1938 from material provided by the Dade County Nursery.

The collections that the first director of the Garden, Col. Robert Montgomery, had on his property were an important initial source of plant material. His private gardens (today the Montgomery Botanical Center) were extensive, famous worldwide because of their superb plantings of cycads and palms from all continents. The Garden's founders considered these two groups of plants a main priority for the

living collections. The Horticulture Department archives contain an undated report prepared by Roger W. Sanders that provides a good review regarding the arrangements of early accessions introduced to Fairchild. From this report, it seems that as early as November 1934, Montgomery started acquiring plants for a garden to be established in South Florida to celebrate Dr. Fairchild's legacy. These archival documents also show that, between May and October of 1938, the Garden received a total of 179 plants accessions from Montgomery's garden. During 1939, the number of introductions from Montgomery's property increased to 193. The introduced material included palms, along with trees from a wide range of flowering plant families such as Bignoniaceae, Fabaceae, Sapotaceae, Annonaceae and Moraceae.

The book "Fairchild Tropical Garden: The First Ten Years" by Lucita H. Wait (see Georgia Tasker's review on page 19) also has insights regarding our first living collections. Wait's accounts were largely based on the *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Tropical Botanic Garden*, which included the director's report for each year. These Proceedings are still housed in our archives and are among the most important historical documents at Fairchild. From Wait's book we know that "by the date of the Garden's first anniversary ... the total [plantings]

had reached 692 individual plants, representing 243 species." This number increased significantly during the rest of 1939, and by October the Garden had 1,034 palms, representing 268 species. There were also 24 species of cycads (142 plants), 266 vines and, Wait wrote, the "succulent garden was favored with a fine collection of agaves from the United States Department of Agriculture. Many aloes and other species were planted." This material was donated by Montgomery as well as other individuals, landscape companies, nurseries, banks, small business, USDA-Chapman Field, Dade County, the city of Coral Gables, the Tropical Research and Education Center, and the Subtropical Experiment Station.

According to Sanders' report in our archives, by the end of 1940 the total number of introduced plantings was 5,400, already giving Fairchild the best living collection of tropical plants in the continental United States.

Many of the botanical jewels introduced by Garden collaborators and supporters between 1938 and 1948 are still with us, and Wait highlighted them. They include the oldest fellow of our collections: a well-developed individual of the Mexican cycad *Dioon edule*, chestnut dioon or virgin's palm, located on the northwest edge of Cycad Circle. It was donated by Mr. Arno H. Nehrling in 1940, and was originally imported from Scotland in

AE-14 (Revised)

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Packing slip with first shipment of seeds to Fairchild from the *Chêng-Ho* expedition.
 Photo: Courtesy of USDA National Agricultural Library Special Collections.

Dear Mr. H. G. Gentry

The Cheng Ho is starting South tomorrow and as a last parting gift we are sending you just a package especially for Mrs. Fairchild who has been spending two days in the Malay States and failed to leave with these very pretty plants which I think are more or less new to Florida.

Would you be good enough to take care of them and divide them as they grow so that Florida can have samples of them and so that Mrs. Fairchild will be able to have some to discuss when she returns. Do not be sure if these arrive safely as that later on we may write you where to discuss to send some of them. I know that the orchids had been tried in Florida & I am sure some from Java or Sumatra but I want the specimens that it has failed for some reason or other. In the meantime specimens there are none of it and they are scarce.

I am too much rushed to even indicate the condition of my stock at this moment or to tell you how we are going off with the Trustees of the Philippines on his boat to be decorated by the Cheng Ho two days later.

My Curran is going with me as collector and he is not packing up the plants to go by the plane this afternoon at four.

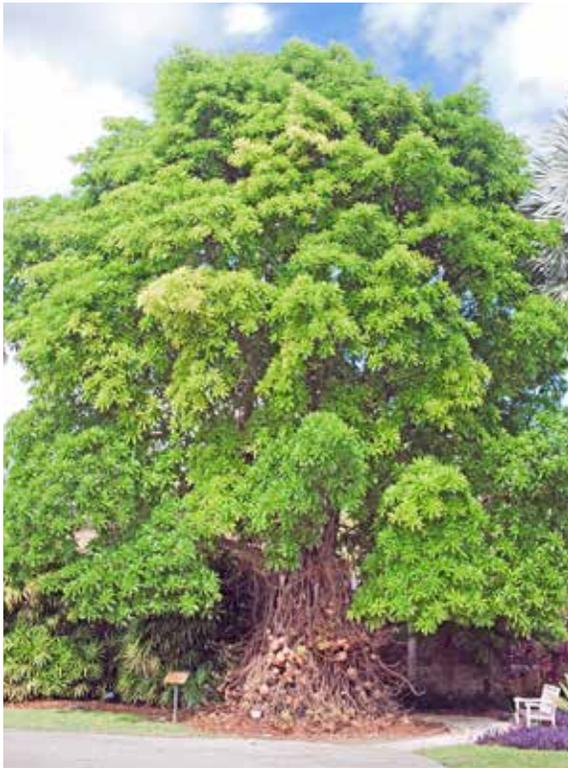
This is the first business letter from the Cheng Ho. It ought to go to the F.T.G. but since there are plants and there may be some orchids about their arrival I am sending to you. The F.T.G. will not receive from them later. There are not ordered on my special book and will carry no number. Do not be sure to get Mrs. Gentry on them.

The engines are starting and I must stop.

With the very best of regards to Mrs. Fairchild and send you to section (name) and here and the others. Please tell her about this shipment. (name) yours

D. Fairchild

First official letter from the *Chêng-Ho* expedition reporting the first shipment of seeds to Fairchild.
 Photo: Courtesy of USDA National Agricultural Library Special Collections.



The cannonball tree (*Couroupita guianensis*) in Plot 137, is one of our earliest introductions.

Photo by Kenneth Setzer/FTBG



Albizia niopoides is the Garden's tallest tree, and a national champion. It was collected by Dr. David Fairchild in 1932 as part of the Allison V. Armour Expedition to the Caribbean Islands and Guyanas. Found in Plot 7.

Photo by Kenneth Setzer/FTBG

1873. Just across from this magnificent Mexican cycad stands a splendid and large cannonball tree, *Couroupita guianensis*, that was another of our first introductions; the specimen came originally from the Hope Gardens of Jamaica and was donated to us by Mrs. Sarah Jones in 1938. A few other iconic individuals include three large and beautiful trees of the Caribbean *Pimenta dioica*, allspice, that were donated by a nursery and by the Tropical Research and Education Center between 1940 and 1942 (these trees are currently located in Plot 45).

The small Indonesian tree *Clerodendrum minahassae*, which belonged to the Mint family, was another introduction by Dr. Fairchild that Wait highlighted in her book. One accession of this beautiful tree can be seen in Plot 51, located just west of the Tram Plaza. It was planted in 1941 and was a unique introduction brought to the Garden from the Celebes Islands by Dr. Fairchild.

Finally, the last member of Wait's selection still found in the Garden belongs to the coffee family: *Posoqueria latifolia*. A single individual of this is located in Plot 24 just west of the Overlook; it was planted in 1939 from an unreported source.

Interestingly, some of the Garden's introduced plants originated from expeditions that Dr. Fairchild made long before the Garden was established, mostly

onboard the research yacht *Utowana*. The Sunken Garden baobab tree that he planted at the Garden's inauguration came from material collected during the 1927 *Utowana* expedition to West Africa. One of the largest trees in the Garden, the legume *Albizia niopoides*, was part of the collections Dr. Fairchild made in 1932 during his first extensive exploration of the Guyanas and the Caribbean Islands, also onboard the *Utowana*. This individual is located at the north end of the Vine Pergola and was planted in 1942.

Dr. Fairchild's connections with the USDA also facilitated the introduction of unique plant material. A good example is one individual of the Haitian palm *Attalea crassipatha* found in Plot 142 (adjacent to the northwest corner of the Bailey Palm Glade). This accession was originally collected in southern Haiti in 1938 for the USDA, was introduced to the Garden in 1940, and was planted in this plot in 1943. This is one of the most threatened palm species in the Caribbean Islands, and it is unlikely that during this time this very rare palm tree was a common element in tropical gardens of Florida.

Keeping Track of Early Plantings

Documents found in the Garden archives also provide good insights about how these early plantings were recorded. According to Sanders'

report, when the Garden was just started in March 1938, “no plant-by-plant accession record was kept of any plantings made during this Garden’s first season.” However, soon there was a system based on “Master Cards” to assign accession numbers to the collections. Unfortunately, this system was not based on single numeric identifiers, but on at least three different ones! The reason was that these early plantings came from three major sources: Montgomery’s private garden, Dr. Fairchild’s plant hunting expeditions and personal collections, and other donors. It appears that this system with different numbers created some confusion for our horticulturists. On top of that, the Garden was initially divided into two distinct sections. The first one—the Montgomery Palmetum Section—was within the boundaries of the land donated by Nell Montgomery in 1938. The second section—the Dade County Section—comprised the rest of the Garden, and is the piece of the property that Dade County developed as part of the arrangements made between the local government and Fairchild to establish a botanic garden adjacent to Matheson Hammock Park. It was only around May of 1947 that the Garden started to move towards a single numeric system, using a plant-record notebook, to keep track of the seeds and plants that it received. However, this transition took a while, and due to unknown reasons there were still two independent plant record identifiers of our living collections until 1955.

Early Plant Distributions

There were many hurdles to sort out to establish these early plantings. The two most important ones were the high salt content of the water from the Garden wells and the snaps of cold weather. They resulted in many plants not surviving, and eventually there was a need to make a new well that did not have salinity intrusion. Another major problem faced by the Garden was uncertainty, particularly regarding sources for unique plant material, funding for its expanding horticulture activities and ways to keep strong support from the Miami community through Garden memberships.

The archive records show that by April 1938 material from 26 species was already available for distribution, only for Garden members. This distribution program expanded rapidly, and during 1940 more than 600 plants and “large quantities of seeds” were shared with Garden members. Many of the distributed samples came from the *Chêng-Ho* expedition.

We believe that the initial policy of the Garden to distribute plant material only among its members aimed to increase the Garden’s connections with the community. Many of the plants introduced through the Garden were not available in the horticulture trade. Having access to these novel introductions would have encouraged plant enthusiasts to join the Garden. Clearly, this policy also helped to develop new gardening plants for South Florida. 



The Cycad Circle and oak tree in April 2018.

Photo by Kenneth Setzer/FTBG

Gala in the Garden

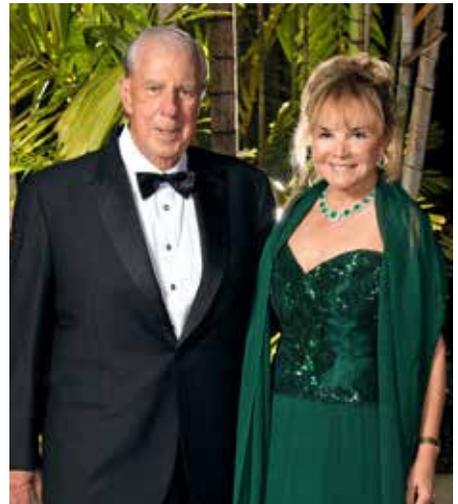
Fairchild's 25th annual *Gala in the Garden* was held on February 3, 2018, at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden's Lakeside Marquee, which allowed for gorgeous panoramic views of the Garden under the moonlit sky. Guests dined and danced the night away in an Emerald Oasis, this year's Gala theme. Majestic moss-covered Bismarckia palms wrapped in yellow orchids stood throughout while lush ferns hung over the dance floor. Proceeds from the Fairchild Gala support the Garden's science education, conservation science and horticultural programs.



Frances Sevilla-Sacasa, co-chair of *Gala in the Garden*, James Boink, and Raphael Bastian



Joyce Burns, philanthropic chair of *Gala in the Garden*, and Tony Burns



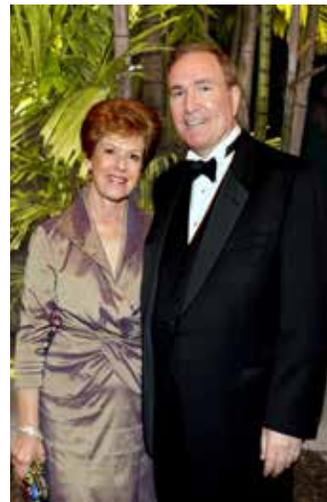
Paul and Swanee DiMare, co-chair of *Gala in the Garden*



Jim and Jan Risi Field, Mary Jean Risi and Louis J. Risi, Jr., senior vice president and treasurer of Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden



James Murphy and Bunny Bastian



Colleen and Richard Fain



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A gardener's lesson: tough love and discipline are good for us

Text and photos by Georgia Tasker

As an aroid addict, I have spent years collecting, nurturing and writing about this group of plants that includes philodendrons, monstera, alocasias and more. But I have a confession to make: Some of them are monsters. Or so it would seem.

Several years ago, I bought a small *Philodendron subincisum*, an attractive Mexican aroid with glossy undulating leaves sporting scalloped edges. I planted it at the base of a royal palm. Offshoots of that plant have found their way around my garden. Over the years, the original philodendron has grown three quarters of the way to the top of the royal palm. It has sent out shoots at the base of the palm that now surround it with what appear to be self-contained clumps. Recently, as I was on a ladder trying to remove three and four layers of the *P. subincisum* vine from a *Latania* palm, I

Philodendron subincisum
climbing a mahogany tree.



realized that the plant's true calling is to reach for the stars. Every time I lop off a wayward section of vine, two or three new shoots emerge. I have forgotten exactly how the vine made it to the palms in my front yard, but I have a good suspicion.

The same thing has happened with *Philodendron mexicanum*, an aroid that occurs from Mexico through Ecuador. It has arrow-shaped leaves and a kind of matte finish. When it reached the top of a *Veitchia* palm in my front yard, it headed back down the palm, then back up, and then out across the mulch. So what did I do? Put part of it next to another palm.

And while I would love to blame the aroids for being out of control, the true fault lies in my wishy-washy ways. It is sometimes imperative to throw away cuttings and seedlings. My backyard is dotted with bird's-nest *anthuriums* because they reproduce all the time and tough love has not been a part of my horticultural mindset.

When the firebush sends up root suckers, do I dig them up? When coffee does the same thing and birds drop seeds here and there, do I dig them up? Nope. I have a history of being a lily-livered gardener.

So here is a resolution, and I recommend you take note: Be firm. Compost. Toss. Give away. But do not feel compelled to save every cutting, every sprout, every shoot. Bring some discipline to the garden and the gardener. Be strong. 



TOP
Philodendron mexicanum is taking over a *veitchia* palm.

BOTTOM
Philodendron roots encircle this palm after the vine was removed.



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WHAT'S GOT
SIX LEGS
BUT ISN'T A
BUTTERFLY?

By Kenneth Setzer

Large female Malaysian
jungle nymph.



Three color variations of Derby's flower beetle.
Photo by Kenneth Setzer/FTBG

Experience a slice of the tropical world in our Wings of the Tropics Exhibit without travelling the globe.

Fairchild's Wings of the Tropics (WOT) exhibit in The Clinton Family Conservatory houses many dozens of species of hummingbirds, butterflies and moths from the tropics, free-flying for you to see up close and personal. But what else lives in the giant enclosure? And why is this diversity of life more than just eye candy?

One of the Garden's aims, which is reinforced by WOT Exhibit Manager Martin Feather, is to present visitors with a slice—however small it must necessarily be—of the incredible mass of diversity of living things found in the planet's tropics. It has long been observed that, as you near the tropics, the diversity of living things—plants, animals, fungi, everything—increases, and as you leave the tropics, towards the poles, diversity decreases. Biologists have never agreed on why precisely this is; it would seem on the surface that warmth and humidity contribute, though nature's secrets are rarely so simple.

Feather, who has decades of experience raising insects for conservation and display, has been the WOT manager since its opening in 2012. He has introduced some quite charismatic beetles and phasmid “walking sticks” to “give people just a tiny slice of the massive biodiversity of the tropics,” he explains. Their presence also helps visitors (and Garden staffers and volunteers, too) cultivate empathy with non-human creatures. Read on for a brief introduction to some of the Wings of the Tropic's less expected residents:

The Malaysian jungle nymph (*Heteropteryx dilatata*)

This large, fearsome-looking insect from the Malay Peninsula is covered in spines. They are mostly for these leaf-eating vegetarians' defense, which involves flipping over to do a headstand with a warning display of spines or stridulating their wings to make a warning sound. They can then close their back pair of spiny legs on an approaching predator like a pair of scissors.

This species is a good example of sexual dimorphism: males and females look quite different. Males reach only around 4 inches and are a dull gray-brown. The adult females can reach 10 inches in length, and develop a striking, lime green-chartreuse color. Popular as insect pets, *H. Dilatata* don't seem to mind handling by humans at all; the gorgeous female pictured in this story explored my hand and arm gently. Note her undersized, vestigial wings.

Australian prickly stick insect (*Extatosoma tiaratum*)

An eastern Australia native, this well-armored, cryptic creature is a master of disguise and deception. When threatened, it may curl its abdomen to adopt a scorpion-like pose, though it cannot bite or sting; when approached, it sways back and forth like a leaf in the breeze. In a remarkable case of interdependence, females flick their eggs outwards onto the forest floor, where a fatty layer covering the eggs attracts ants. The ants carry the eggs back to their nests, consume the covering and dump the intact eggs into their waste areas. The temperature and protection of the ant colony is ideal for hatching, and indeed the hatchling prickly insects are ant mimics.

Derby's flower beetle

(*Dicronorrhina derbyana*)

Beetles are in the order Coleoptera and are the most numerous animals on the planet. A defining characteristic of beetles is their wing covers, called elytra, which conceal their actual flight wings. Compare this to flies and many other insects, which have four wings for flight. In beetles, the forewings evolved into the elytra that cover and protect the flight wings.

These flower beetles are little gems that grow only to about 2 inches long, but dazzle with soft metallic coloration and white stripes. A sub-Saharan native, the adults eat sap and fruit. This image shows three color variations in the Wings of the Tropics: metallic green and red; green with gold highlights; and an unusual bluish color morph. The first two display white markings on their elytra and pronotum (area behind the head), while the blue one has white only on the pronotum. You can tell these are all males because of the "T"-shaped horn structure at their heads. A beetle in the same family and sub-family, called the green June beetle (*Cotinis nitida*), is native to and often found in South Florida and looks quite similar to the African beetle.

Elephant beetle (*Megasoma elephas*)

This Neotropical animal's subfamily, Dynastinae, denotes it as a type of rhinoceros beetle. (It is somewhat confusing to have two Old World animals used to describe a New World beetle.) They can grow as long as 5 inches, with some males growing even larger and horned, but fear not—the beetle only eats sap and decaying fruit. Adults are very dark, nearly black in color, but a layer of fine hairs gives them a golden, airbrushed appearance.

M. elephas larvae, which can take more than two years to pupate, eat decaying wood and organic matter

and are incredible recyclers. Beetles, like butterflies and moths, must survive through all four stages of metamorphosis: egg, larva, pupa and, finally, adult. Somewhat sadly, adults only live for a couple months.

Hercules beetle (*Dynastes hercules*)

Another Neotropical native, this is the longest flying insect alive, with major males growing to more than 6 inches. They've intrigued naturalists for centuries, no doubt due to the massive horn that males sport, which they use to throw competing males from sources of food or from females. Darwin pondered the horn's role in sexual selection. Females lack these horns, which is the case for all scarabs. While mostly black, the elytra of males can be a very woody olive brown with dark spots, while females' elytra have a beige tinge. They apparently darken in higher humidity. Found from Southern Mexico to Bolivia in central South America and nearby parts of the Caribbean, Hercules adults rest by day in leaf litter, and at night search the forest for fallen fruit.

While males may live up to their names in lifting each other during mating disputes, their reputation for strength may be a bit overstated. The larvae are also fairly huge, up to 6 inches, and are eating machines; by consuming rotten wood in dead trees, they are a vital part of a forest's cycle. Because of their size, these beetles need mature forests with large trees.

Feather has a permit to breed Hercules beetles as well as *Chrysina* beetles—small, brilliantly metallic insects of Costa Rica. He explains that captive breeding allows the animals to be displayed and reduces demand met by poachers who take animals from the wild population. It also gives people a chance to look into the face of tropical diversity and wonder if these incredible animals are wondering back. 

An adult elephant beetle.
Photo: Wings of the Tropics/FTBG





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Please contact Susannah Shubin at 305.667.1651, ext. 3375 or sshubin@fairchildgarden.org to learn how you can join The Legacy Society. Your commitment today supports the Garden long into the future.

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IN MEMORIAM



Raymond F. Baddour Scientist, Entrepreneur, Educator and Fairchild Trustee

By Nannette M. Zapata

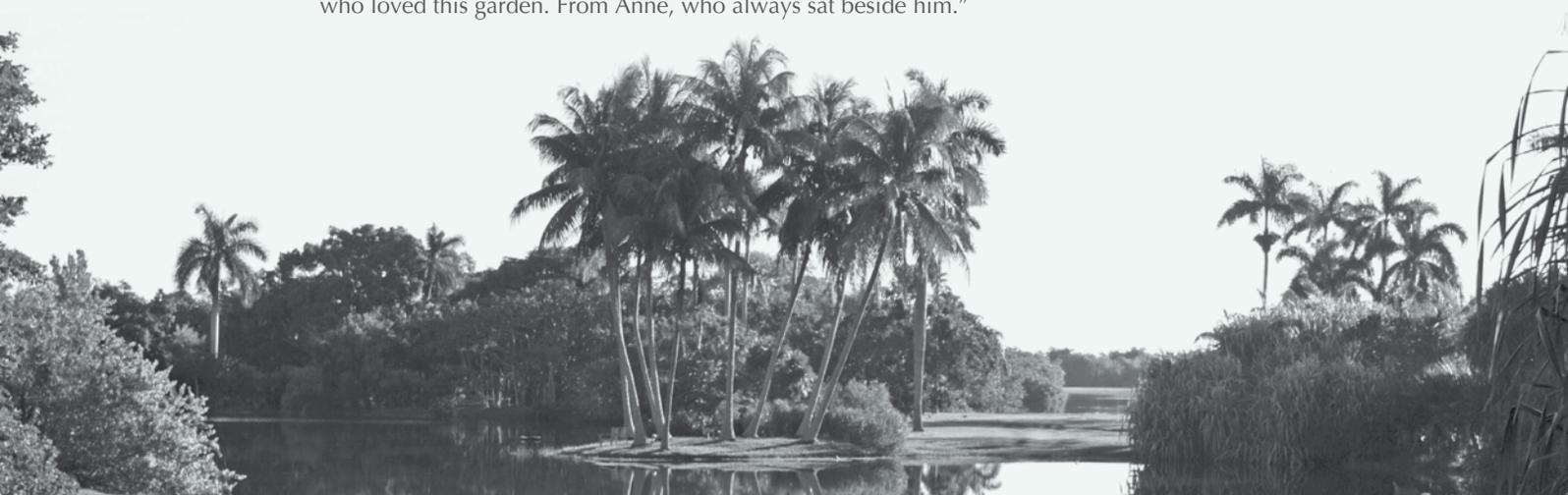


Dr. Raymond F. Baddour, one of the most prolific American scientists to have served on the Fairchild Board of Trustees, passed away this past December. His career spanned more than six decades and resulted in countless scientific innovations in the biochemical and biomedical industries, as well as an illustrious academic tenure at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The founder and first director of MIT's Environmental Laboratory, Baddour was the university's Lamont du Pont Professor Emeritus of Chemical Engineering. He also co-founded the biopharmaceutical company Amgen, along with a score of other companies.

Baddour was a Fairchild trustee for 15 years, always supporting the Garden's science mission. He, his wife Anne and their family endowed the Raymond F. Baddour, Sc.D. DNA Lab in the DiMare Science Village and Hsiao Laboratories. Anne Baddour is also a Fairchild trustee and a world-record holder in research aviation.

The most fitting reminder of Baddour's impact on the Garden, however, is the bench just around the corner from the Baddour Lab, which bears this inscription: "To Raymond, who loved this garden. From Anne, who always sat beside him."





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12th Annual International Chocolate Festival

January 19, 20, and 21 saw chocolatiers fill the Garden House for three days of some of the most incredible chocolates in all sorts of artistic forms, all for the gustatory pleasure of Chocolate Festival guests. Fairchild's cacao trees were a big hit, as were the chocolate-scented *Oncidium* orchids. Food and music kept things lively, as did kids' activities and classes on growing cacao and cooking with chocolate. The cool festival t-shirts with new designs sold out!



Valentine's Day Concert at Fairchild Featuring Carmen Lundy

On Wednesday, February 14, Miami native and jazz chanteuse Carmen Lundy delighted the crowd with melodious tunes of love and romance under the nighttime Garden sky, surrounded by the beauty of Fairchild. Music lovers relaxed on the Garden House Lawn with picnics or opted for a special VIP Romance Package with reserved seating.

Annual Members' Meeting

The Garden held its Members' Annual Meeting on Friday, March 16. The meeting highlighted the accomplishments and activities of the past year, including recovery efforts following Hurricane Irma. It was held in the Adam R. Rose and Peter R. McQuillan Arts Center and welcomed hundreds of members who learned about the Garden's accomplishments and future plans from Board of Trustees President Bruce W. Greer, Senior Vice President and Treasurer Louis J. Risi, Jr., Director Dr. Carl Lewis, and Botanical Horticulturist Dr. Chad Husby.



16th Annual International Orchid Festival

The Garden was overrun with thousands of orchids during our Annual International Orchid Festival on March 9, 10, and 11. Thousands of orchid lovers attended the breathtaking American Orchid Society Juried Show & Exhibition inside the Garden House, shopped at the many orchid vendors and experts, took classes in orchid care and cultivation, and learned about the incredible strides Fairchild has made to conserve native Florida orchids with The Million Orchid Project. Visitors also got a look inside the Mobile STEMLab bus used by Miami-Dade County school students as part of The Million Orchid Project's micro-propagation efforts.



Crown Prince of Japan Visits Fairchild

On March 17, the crown prince of Japan, Kōtaishi Naruhito Shinnō, visited Fairchild. His educational tour included the Wings of the Tropics butterfly exhibit, the Baddour DNA Laboratory and a display of experiments from Fairchild's "Growing Beyond Earth" program. After witnessing a spectacular butterfly release in the Clinton Family Conservatory, the crown prince remarked, "It reminds me of Ryōan-ji, except the stones are plants." At the Baddour Lab, the crown prince engaged students about their research into the genetics of a rare palm tree to find new strategies to conserve it.



Volunteer Appreciation Brunch

The Garden's annual Volunteer Appreciation Brunch took place under the canopy of the Lakeside Marquee tent on a spectacular March 21. Hundreds of volunteers joined in the celebration, and many were awarded pins denoting their years of service. Garden staff cooked and served the brunch as a way to show appreciation for all the volunteers do to keep the Garden running throughout the year. Director Carl Lewis, Board of Trustees President Bruce Greer, and Volunteer Director Isabel Sanchez presented the following awards:

- Volunteers of the Year:** Sheila Berckmans, Bill Quesenberry, Jim Schmucker, Gloria Greene
- Hurricane Irma Top 8 Volunteers:** Steve Lyn, Bill Quesenberry, Norma Craig, Judy Stewart, George Andrykovich, Gary Diamond, Kathy Jones, Mimi Schwar
- Volunteer with the Most Hours:** Ted Adelman
- Team of the Year:** Early Birds
- Special Recognition Award:** Education Programs





Easter Saw Eggsplorers in the Palmetum

Easter Sunday, April 1, saw kids running in search of eggs full of candy and treats all over the Palmetum at our first-ever Eggsplorers! A few special golden eggs contained prizes like Fairchild memberships, Shop at Fairchild gift cards and The Glasshouse Café by Le Basque gift cards. A special Easter breakfast was also served at the Glasshouse Café.



Spring Garden Festival and 39th Annual Spring Plant Sale

Revelers welcomed spring to Miami on April 14 to 15 at the Spring Garden Festival, which included music, classes, cooking, food as well as beer tasting, and of course, plants at the Spring Plant Sale. In addition to plants offered by vendors, the Garden's sale featured plants never before offered, such as red mistletoe cactus, exotics like the black bat plant, and rare natives like pearlberry, with almost all Fairchild plants selling out.

WISH LIST

Fairchild has a wish list of items that will enhance our programs, but we need Wish Makers. We hope you see a wish that you can help fulfill.

FOR OUR HORTICULTURE OPERATION

- 2 Tablet Notebooks, \$1,500
- 12 Golf Cart Batteries, \$1,200
- Walk-Behind Aerator, \$1,500
- Hardware for Accession Tag Embossing Machine, \$2,000
- Plant Transport Van, \$20,000

FOR CONSERVATION, RESEARCH AND THE HERBARIUM

- Extra-Tall Tripod, \$150
- Laptop Computer, \$2,000
- GPS Unit (GeoXT 6000), \$8,000

FOR THE FAIRCHILD FARM

- Golf Cart, \$7,000

FOR MEMBER AND DONOR SERVICES

- Laptop Computer/LCD Projector, \$2,000
- Digital SLR Camera, \$1,000

FOR OUR STUDENTS

- Solar Conversion Kits for Education Golf Carts, \$4,000
- iPads for Explorer Field Studies Program, \$2,500
- Dark Field Microscope, \$600

FOR OUR VISITORS

- Golf Cart, \$7,000

To fully fund a wish, donate a portion of the cost or donate the actual item, please contact Griselda Chavarria at 305.667.1651, ext. 3309, gchavarria@fairchildgarden.org, or please visit www.fairchildgarden.org/Donate.





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