



The Deering Estate Foundation, Inc.
Partners In Preservation, Education & Recreation
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Member NEWSLETTER

July 2011

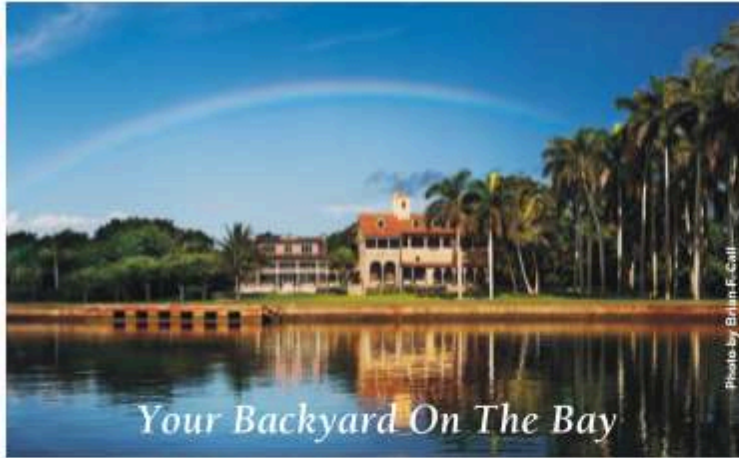


Photo by Brian F. Call

Your Backyard On The Bay

Partners in Preservation, Education and Recreation

The Deering Estate Foundation is a charitable, 501(c)3 community-based organization dedicated to preserving, protecting and enhancing the Deering Estate at Cutler for this and future generations.

ALL DONATIONS TO THE DEERING ESTATE FOUNDATION ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE TO THE EXTENT PROVIDED BY LAW

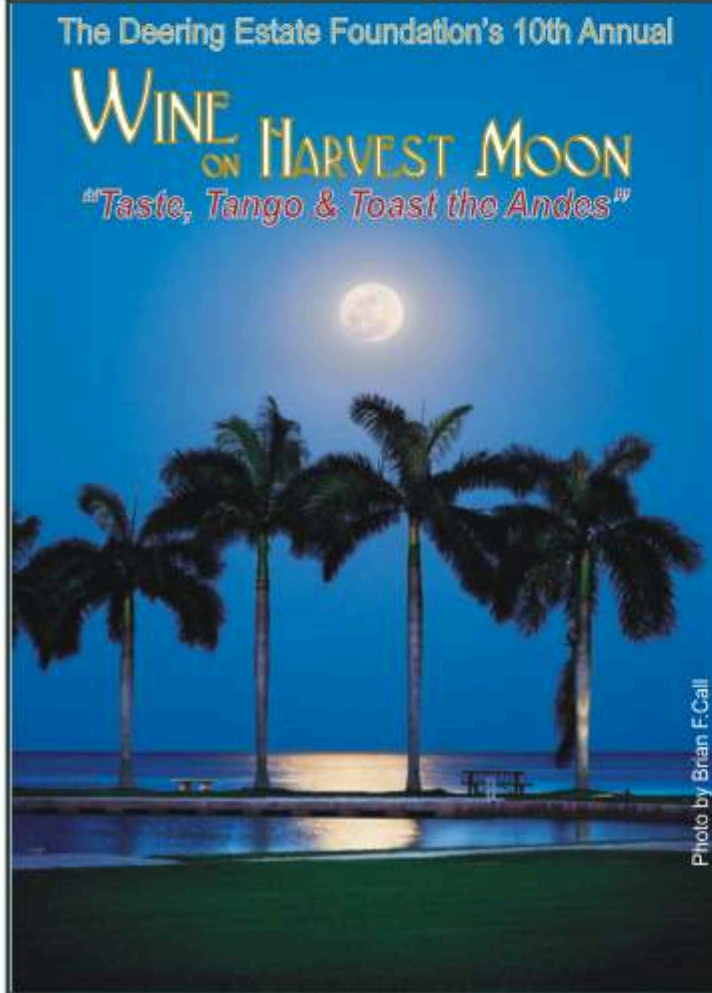


Photo by Brian F. Call

SAVE THE DATE
Saturday, October 15, 2011
7:30 pm - 10:30 pm

10th Annual
Wine on Harvest Moon


Please join us under the golden light of the harvest moon over Biscayne Bay at the Deering Estate at Cutler for this annual fundraising event to

"Taste, Tango and Toast the Andes"

in celebration of the fine wines, flavorful cuisine and rich culture of Argentina and Chile.

From the Event Chairman...
Not to be missed, this signature event is limited and sells out every year. Make sure to purchase your tickets early and help us make this year's event another huge success by asking your company to become a supporting sponsor. Call me for more information at 305.235.1776.

Tickets go on sale August 1st


Howard Tendrich



Mary Pettit

From the Director...

mpettit@deeringestate.org

It gives me great pleasure to offer a note of best wishes for a fun-filled summer, in this, the Foundation's new membership newsletter. The newsletter will be issued periodically throughout the year to keep you informed on what's happening in "Your Backyard on the Bay" and what we are doing as an organization to further our mission of *preserving, protecting and enhancing the Deering Estate at Cutler for this and future generations.* We hope you will find the newsletters informative and useful in maximizing your membership benefits while sharing in the pride of our achievements made possible by your support.

Technology is moving fast. Like most organizations, we are trying to keep pace with communicating effectively in this new "digital" age and "social media" world. The beauty of our organization is that it appeals to all ages that include the *print* generation, *e-mail* generation and now the generation "X"er's, who like getting their news through *Facebook* and/or *Twitter*. If you prefer to get your news via e-mail, please let us know by sending an e-mail to membership@deeringestate.org. We will remove you from the newsletter mailing list and send your news via e-mail in the future. If Facebook and/or Twitter is your preference, log on to our website, www.deeringestate.org, and click on the links to follow us.

We are very interested in your feedback and sincerely appreciate your friendship and annual support.

Spotlight...



Michelle Streit

Meet our newest staff member, **Michelle Streit**. She joined our team in April as Membership Coordinator. Originally from Kansas, Michelle has long served the children and families of our community through previous positions held at membership and service based organizations that include the Dave & Mary Alper JCC and South Dade YMCA. She also loves tennis and currently serves as Vice Chair of Friends of Miami Tennis, Inc.

We warmly welcome Michelle to our team. Her ext. is 253. Give her a call or stop in to say hello the next time you visit the Estate.



Ashley Sodeman

Other Staff News...

Our most veteran staff member - albeit our youngest - **Ashley Sodeman** will walk with the FIU Class of 2011 in August to receive her Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration. For those of you that have come to know and love Ashley over the years, you know this was a long journey for her, but SHE DID IT and we couldn't be more proud.

Congratulations Ashley!

Deering Community Partners Program

...working together for the betterment and sustainability of our community

Your membership is about to get even better...

In these challenging economic times, it is important to pull together as a community to help each other by leveraging our resources in any way we can. We are pleased to announce the new **Deering Community Partners Program** rolling out in September that *embraces opportunities to build effective collaborations with businesses to cross promote and encourage doing business locally for the betterment and sustainability of our community.* The program is designed to drive business to our partnering organizations while they in turn provide money saving consumer incentives specifically for our members and visitors when they present their Deering Estate Foundation Membership Card or Deering Estate admission ticket at point of purchase.

Here's a sneak preview....

Present your Deering Estate Foundation Membership Card the next time you are making a purchase at Golden Rule Seafood and enjoy 10% off of your purchase. Follow that up with a trip to Crown Wine & Spirits and enjoy 10% off your purchase of \$100 or more. Interested in buying a new Ford? Before you do, call Palmetto Ford Truck Center and your membership card could be worth up to an additional \$500 off your purchase price.



Do you own or manage a business that would benefit from becoming a Deering Community Partner?

If so, log on to our website, www.deeringestate.org, click on become a member at the top of the screen and enroll your company or employer as a Corporate Member. Then download and complete the Deering Community Partnership Application and send it in. If you are already a *Partners in Preservation* level member, you can enroll your business in this new program at no additional cost as an added benefit of your membership.... **But hurry! The initial enrollment period ends August 31st.**



Did you know...

...that the Deering Estate at Cutler's educational staff provides science-based environmental education and hands-on learning enrichment to over 12,000 elementary, middle, and high school students and 450 home-school students each year?

Check out the scope of our educational programs on the website:
<http://www.deeringestate.org/pages/KidsCampFieldTrips.aspx>

Your Foundation At Work...



Coral Way K-8 Center

School Yard Science Program - The Rubber Hits the Road

Last year the Deering Estate Foundation enthusiastically seeded the development of the new School Yard Science Program (SYSP), to mobilize the Estate's award-winning Eco-Academy - a 30-unit curriculum in Ecology, Archeology, Geology, Biology, Marine Biology, and Environmental Science. The program was developed in direct response to cuts in education at both the local and state level making it more difficult for many schools to participate in our programs through field studies on site. This past year, the Estate's *Eco-Brigade* (Educators and Naturalists), equipped with mobile ecosystems (Marine Mobile and Geo Mobile), lab technology, equipment, lessons and supplies traveled throughout the tri-county area, thanks to funding from *Ford Motor Company*. In addition, *Peacock Foundation* generously underwrote the tuition and supplies to deliver the program as academic enrichment to six of our community's Title I middle schools as part of after-school programming.

Hats off to our funding partners and educational team for making this program a reality! We look forward to seeing this program continue to expand to many more schools in the coming years.

One of the Foundation's current funding objectives is to raise \$40,000 to purchase a custom designed van that can be fully dedicated to our "Eco-Brigade" to safely and easily transport the mobile eco-systems, equipment and all of the lab materials needed for our outreach programs while at the same time promoting our programs by colorfully wrapping the vehicle in graphics for all to see wherever our team travels. If you are interested in helping us achieve this goal, call Mary Pettit at 305.235.1668 x266.

Preservation Institute: Nantucket Jennifer Tisthammer, the Assistant Director of the Estate, was one of only twelve professionals nationwide selected to participate in the *Preservation Institute: Nantucket*, the signature field school of the University of Florida's Center for World Heritage & Stewardship. She is currently being immersed in the many facets of cultural heritage conservation and World Heritage on the island that was one of the first National Register Historic Districts in the United States. The Foundation jumped at the chance to fund her tuition knowing that she will bring back to the Estate a deeper knowledge of best practices for conservation, the technical expertise to apply for World Heritage Site status for the Deering Estate at Cutler and a much needed professional designation/certification that will allow us to apply for and coordinate historic preservation grant programs at the federal level. Just knowing the passion, creativity and energy Jennifer exudes on a normal day, I guarantee she will return from Nantucket with a whole litany of new objectives and ideas to keep catapulting us forward.

Cutler Burial Mound Boardwalk We are scheduled to break ground on replacing the rapidly deteriorating Cutler Burial Mound Boardwalk in September, thanks to the generous support of the *Batchelor Foundation* and *Mr. and Mrs. John Fox*. This new boardwalk provides visitors and students safe and easy access to this significant archeological site on the Estate. Henry Perrine Jr. described the Tekesta skeletons buried at the Cutler Burial Mound as being face down with their heads pointed toward the center of the mound like spokes on a wheel. There is a huge ancient oak tree atop the burial mound - its age approximates the demise of the Tekesta in the area - and adding to its mystic is the Great Horned Owl who each year takes up residence in the tree. This is a fascinating and unique treasure that we can safeguard and still provide appropriate public access to for understanding, learning and contemplation. Plan to take a hike with our naturalists this fall, once the mosquitoes die down and the cooler weather returns



Cutler Slough Rehydration Project You may have noticed all of the digging and now the water that is becoming more and more visible on the Deering Estate property west of Old Cutler Road. What you are witnessing is progress being made on the *Cutler Slough Rehydration Project* that will restore this property back to an environmental wetland that feeds the Cutler Slough that runs under the Chinese Bridge, through the Estate and eventually out in to Biscayne Bay. The Foundation's Board of Directors recently voted to set aside the funds needed to demolish the old house on the property to keep it from becoming a distraction from the beautiful landscape of the new wetland soon to emerge. We are in the permitting process now and, with any luck, the house will be gone by the end of the summer.

Artist Village Many of you know that the Foundation began seeding the development of the Estate's *Artist Village* and cultural programs several years ago. It has always been our goal to provide easy access to quality cultural experiences and programming for the South Dade Community. The return on our investment is visible everyday on the Estate through our Artists in Residence, rotating exhibits, concerts in the ballroom and cultural arts programming and events. We are proud to share with you that this year we were invited to apply for and awarded a *Cultural Advancement Grant* from the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs. In this town, that brings validity to our programs and a new level of recognition for the Estate within the cultural arts community and demonstrates the Department's commitment to help us further develop and grow these programs through their funding and support.

The work we do would not be possible without the support received each year from you, our members and our valued partners and donors. Thank you!

News from the Board of Directors...

Dan Yglesias, Board Chairman/President



The **Richmond Cottage** is about to receive some long overdue TLC. At a recent Board Meeting, Bill Irvine, Director of the Deering Estate at Cutler, announced that funding has been secured through Miami-Dade County to completely restore the exterior envelope of the Richmond Cottage that has been rapidly deteriorating over the past few years. Work is scheduled to begin this summer so be prepared to "pardon our dust" as this project gets underway.

Mr. Irvine also confirmed that work will begin shortly on the build out of the restrooms and picnic areas at **Deering Point**. We know how much this means to the functionality of the property for those that use it regularly.



Daniel Yglesias

The Deering Estate in partnership with the Deering Estate Foundation, Miami-Dade County Public Schools and the Everglades Foundation, is piloting a new science-based environmental stewardship academy/magnet program at **Perrine Elementary** this coming school year. **The NESTT Academy - Nurturing Environmental Stewards Today and Tomorrow** - serves as a model for establishing nature-center-to-school collaborations to promote awareness and understanding of environmental education and its role in formal education. The 2011-2012 Academy is comprised of sixty students in 3rd - 5th grades who participate in a 30-week science based curriculum. The program includes scheduled professional development days at the Estate, in school and onsite field study trips, and access to the Estate's learning resources (i.e. fossils, preserved specimens, live animals, lab equipment and materials) for studies in ecology, marine biology, zoology, geology, archeology and environmental science. Ultimately the goal is to establish a statewide sanctioned science-based Environmental Stewardship curriculum for K-12, that can be expanded through MDCPS and potentially to regional and national audiences as modeled, and made available through a dedicated website.



The Foundation is presently seeking funding partners to seed the first three evaluative and model years of the N.E.S.T.T. Academy at Perrine Elementary to cover tuition (programming fees) and transportation costs. If you are interested in supporting this initiative, contact Mary Pettit at 305.235.1668 x266.



David A. Marley, Jr.

Preserving the Legacy

From the Fundraising and Development Committee
Dave Marley, Committee Chairman

In this, the inaugural Deering Foundation newsletter, as Fundraising and Development Committee Chairman, I thought it a great opportunity to re-state to our members who we are as a foundation, our mission and our vision. The Deering Foundation is a volunteer driven, community-based, charitable 501(c)3 organization. Our mission is "to **raise public awareness** of the Deering Estate at Cutler and to **raise funds** to support education, research, exhibits and collections, the conservation and restoration of the Estate's natural and historical resources." Our vision is "to be the voice and perpetual partner of the Deering Estate at Cutler, providing the resources and support necessary to achieve and sustain the national recognition as a diverse cultural and educational destination for future generations."

Without your continued financial support through immediate donations and planned giving; the mission and vision of the Foundation cannot be sustained. In the coming months, the Foundation will be announcing how you as a member can be more involved. We invite your participation and thank you for your continued support.



With no rain in sight, the 7th Annual Deering Seafood Festival attracted record attendance. A HUGE THANK YOU to all of our restaurants and caterers along Seafood Alley for keeping up with the crowd and especially to our sponsors, partners and the over 200 volunteers who make this event possible every year. Even with the mid-afternoon overcrowding, the surveys overwhelmingly revealed that guests enjoyed themselves and look forward to coming back again in future years. That means that our biggest challenge for the coming year will be how best to control attendance to maintain the quality of the event and keep it enjoyable for all who attend. Hmm... We may have to increase the price of admission again... but that doesn't affect you because as members, you get in FREE. **Thank you for attending** and taking advantage of this member benefit!



Eric Haas - Event Chairman

If you would like to become a Seafood Festival Volunteer, please e-mail Ashley at asodeman@deeringestate.org.



Save the Date for next year
Sunday, March 25, 2012

