

EDWIN VILLASMIL BRINGS THE MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS POEM "I AM THE MANGROVE" TO LIFE

The 80 children who attended the free, Michael's Magic Camp especially for underprivileged children, this summer were inspired by Edwin Villasmil's artistic direction, enthusiasm and love of this planet. Edwin designed special costumes and murals to be made by the children to be worn as they dramatized Marjory's poem "I am the Mangrove". Children had their choice of being a mangrove, an alligator, a bird or a Florida panther. It was a complete learning experience, art, science, conservation and history. Parents from the inner city enjoyed watching their children recite and dramatize the poem by our cherished founder MSD.

Edwin Villasmil and his wife Elba Martinez are two wonderful artists who recently made Miami their home from Venezuela. Watch for their art exhibitions around town.

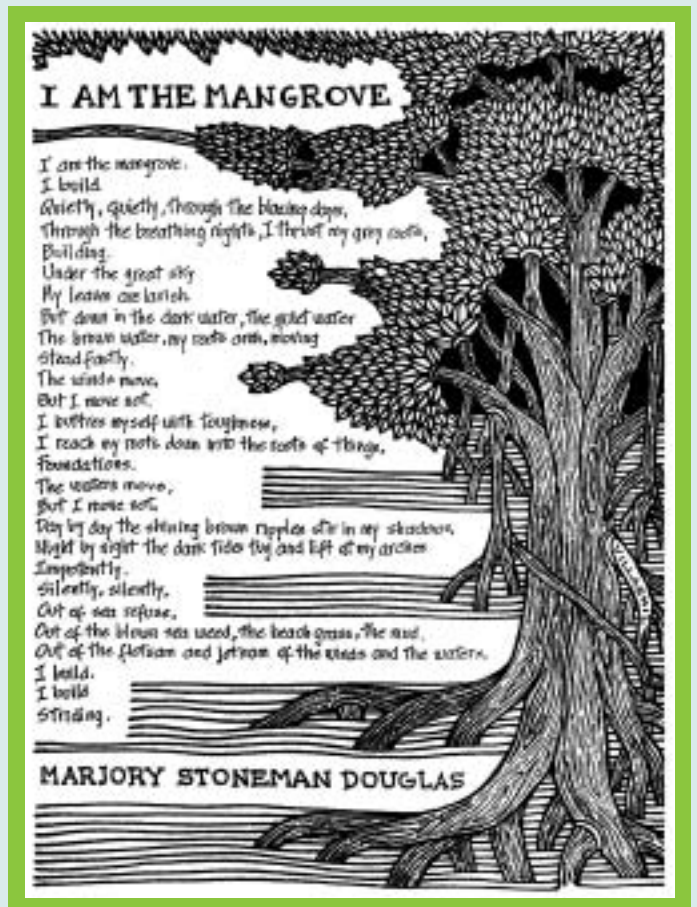


A Note from the Executive Director

Not in my wildest dreams would I have thought such great things would be happening at the Biscayne Nature Center. Back in 1988, as a Junior League of Miami project volunteer, I towed the end of the field trip line while helping write the League's publication "Our Living Coral Reef" written especially for BNC.

Twenty years later, 50,000 people walked through our doors last year, participating in field trips, lectures, special events, kayaking, beach clean-ups and native plant restoration projects. Marjory Stoneman Douglas, at the age of 95, incorporated the Biscayne Nature Center. Her goal was for her community to have a "nature center by the sea" to promote conservation and preservation through education. Sure enough Marjory, we are doing it!

Theodora Long



Michael's Magical Summer Camp

Our sixth year of Michael's Magic Camp was wonderful. It was sponsored by the Michael Scholz Memorial Charitable Fund, the Miami-Dade Department of Cultural Affairs along with the Children's Trust and the Board of County Commissioners. The camp gave underprivileged, inner-city children the experience of a lifetime. The children were able to experience their natural environment and were taught how to swim, kayak, and perform scientific experiments. Thanks to the many generous donations and grants received by the Biscayne Nature Center, we were able to offer this two-week free camp to 80 children at no cost to them or their families. We are grateful to be able to help our community in such an important way, and are anxiously awaiting next year's camp. If you would like to make a donation for next year's camp, give us a call.



“Summer By The Sea” Camp

Where best friends are made...

Our fourth year of our “Summer by the Sea Camp” was fantastic. We introduced some new activities to camp this year, creating a magical summer. The camp ran for four weeks during the month of June, offering children between the ages of 7 and 14 an eye-opening view into the world of marine and conservation science. The children dissected sharks, kayaked, snorkeled our unique fossilized reef, and experienced life as a true scientist by participating in lab research at the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science (RSMAS). We look forward to camp each summer and have begun planning the curriculum for next summer's camp. We will be reshaping our camp and offering two, two week sessions.

Summer 2009 Camp:

Session 1: June 8th through June 19th

Session 2: June 22nd through July 3rd

Registration will begin in March, 2009.

Look at our website for registration forms:

www.BiscayneNatureCenter.org



Become A Member Today!

Looking for that end of the year tax deduction?

Your membership donation allows underprivileged children the opportunity to spend a day at the Center and explore nature first hand through our many exploration programs. These programs include seagrass adventures, hammock hikes and mangrove slogs. They also dissect squid, draw and paint patterns in nature with local artist instructors and just enjoy the beauty of nature which still exists on this barrier island of Key Biscayne. Please help us continue to make these programs available to these children. Most of them have never been to the ocean, believe it or not! We will look forward to getting your membership donation today.

Enjoy the pride and boasting rights of becoming a Biscayne Nature Center member!

1. Receive coveted invitations to all events, including "Members Only" events.
2. Receive the quarterly informative and collectable newsletter.
3. Get a 10% discount at the Gift Shop, where prices are already reasonable.
4. And 10% off of all programs, including Birthday Parties. (hurray!!!)
5. Membership is tax deductible.

To become a member of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Biscayne Nature Center, send your tax deductible check payable to: Biscayne Nature Center, 6767 Crandon Blvd, Key Biscayne, Fl. 33149 or look at our website for becoming a member on line with a credit card:

www.BiscayneNatureCenter.com

A good time was had by all at the fossil reef snorkel trip, A Member's Only Event.

Become a member today and **JOIN THE FUN!!**



News-worthy Notes...

Former BNC Naturalist Pens *dogfessions*

Nikki Moustaki was a BNC Naturalist in 1993-94. She is now a freelance writer and author of over 35 non-fiction published books. Most recently she hosted, produced and wrote the NBC/MSN online show "The Celebrity Pet Dish". Her new book, *dogfessions* helps raise money for shelter dogs. Ever wonder what your dog's really thinking? Here's your chance to find out...in *dogfessions*! Buy a copy today or send in your own *dogfession*. Every *dogfession* received, \$1.00 will be donated to help shelter dogs. Visit www.dogfessions.com or www.nikkimoustaki.com for more info. Nikki's recent comments about the BNC were, "I think it was my best job ever!"



Elba Martinez

Elba Martinez graciously donates her wonderful portrait painting of Marjory Stoneman Douglas to the Biscayne Nature Center! Elba and her husband, Edwin Villasmil, are true Marjory Stoneman Douglas enthusiasts.



SPOTLIGHT

What Would YOU do for The Big Blue?

Just what are dreams made of? Our Naturalist, Daniell Washington, entered the ROXY "Follow Your Heart Tour" competition for women. Little did she know that she would melt the hearts and impact the panel of judges to the tune of \$10,000 enabling her to follow her heart. She will be using the \$10K prize to create a compelling pilot video to initiate a national marine education tour and TV show. "I see myself traveling to schools especially in coastal cities, talking to kids about ocean conservation and raising their awareness about becoming environmental stewards in their own communities. This would also promote my show, What Would YOU do for the Big Blue?"

Visit www.thebigblueandyou.com and Click on **LINKS** to watch her winning video. Click on **SIZZLE REEL** to see her latest video. It is fantastic! Great work Daniell!!!!



5 Things You Can Do at Home to Save the Ocean!

Mark Your Calendars!

Upcoming Art Exhibits at our Gallery

Dylan Terry

September 28, 2008 through November 11, 2008

Meme Ferré

November 22, 2008 through January 3, 2009

Dottie Greene

January 11, 2009 through March 1, 2009

Hans Feyerabend

March 8, 2009 through May 3, 2009



"Entrance 2007" by Meme Ferré

- **How safe is your household cleaner?** Many common household cleaners, toiletries, and soaps are made from very toxic stuff that is harmful to the oceans. Replace them with eco-friendly, non-toxic brands. Use vinegar, baking soda or micro-fiber clothes to clean the house and the car. Any toxic household product should be disposed of at a hazardous waste depot and NEVER discarded in the trash.

- **Plastic is filling the oceans.** The ocean is awash with non-biodegradable plastic debris, some of it so finely-ground that it is digested by microscopic plankton, the basis of the oceanic food chain. Keep plastic out of the ocean by reducing the amount of plastic you use. Avoid plastic bags by using reusable shopping bags. Refill plastic water bottles. Recycle plastic, or dispose of it with care. Biodegradable plastic products made from corn, food starch, and sugar cane are now available.

- **Think about how your food is produced.** Run-off from modern conventional agricultural practices is one of the major contributors to the amount of EDCs (endocrine disrupting hormones) in the ocean. By supporting organic farming and buying organic food you will keep the oceans healthy, and decrease the poisons in you and your children. Support locally-grown food by shopping at local farmers' markets.

- **A healthy lawn and garden?** Chemically-based pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers are toxic to life in the oceans, and seafood feeds them back to us. Use an organic fertilizer, or one that releases its nitrogen slowly. Choose native plants that don't need so much care. Compost your vegetable food waste and make the garden healthy that way. When you mow the lawn, leave the clippings behind. They will serve as a natural fertilizer. Try using a less-toxic insecticidal soap as a pesticide before opening up the toxic one. If you have to resort to chemicals, use them sparingly and strictly according to the instructions.

- **Be careful what you flush down the toilet.** Only human wastes and food should be flushed down the toilet. Do not use harsh chemicals or poisons to clean the toilet as they will kill the useful bacteria which process and purify water in sewage systems.

Courtesy of: Ocean Alliance

"The Marine Explorer's Club"

A new club started at the BNC last spring. The "Marine Explorers Club" is an after school program for eager to learn young scientists. Our certified naturalists teach important science concepts, such as scientific method, proper dissections, physics and chemistry. Each day, ten children enjoy a weekly, two-hour, "get your hands dirty" experiment while having fun with science. All of this takes place right here in the Bear Cut Preserve. Sign your child up today and be prepared to get WET and LEARN. Just \$200 for ten consecutive weeks. Some of last season's projects included extracting DNA from an onion, exploding balloons with dry ice, building volcanoes and investigating plate tectonics using food items, and dissecting SHARKS, the fun never ends! Call today to sign up!

2008 Family Programs Description

Make Your Reservation Today!

SEAGRASS ADVENTURE

Take a water safari through the shallow Seagrass flats, the home of many exciting creatures, such as the pipefish, seahorse and sea urchins. Participants will have the opportunity to experience marine life first hand through our unique catch and release adventure. The importance of preserving the Seagrass beds for future generations will be discussed. Wear closed toed shoes that can get wet, and bring a change of clothes for this adventure!

"TREES IN THE SEA"

Take a walk through the magical forest, right at the foot of the shoreline, at the farthest point north in Crandon Park. We will be exploring the mangrove community. This program will expose participants to the unique mangrove ecosystem. During this unique wet hike, you will learn why this ecosystem is important to the residents of Key Biscayne, as well as the important value to local and commercial fisherman. The program also includes getting up-close and personal with the live animals that call these trees home. Remember to wear closed toed shoes that can get wet and muddy. Bring a dry change of clothes to go home in.

BEACH BABIES

This program is especially designed for pre-schoolers. Do you have a play-group or a pre-school class? Join this program to have fun with the little ones while enjoying the beautiful South Florida outdoors. The children will explore the beach, touching, smelling and looking at found objects as we explore the shoreline. They will also get to meet and greet live marine animals in our touch tank. The program is designed to give children a hands-on experience with nature, learning new vocabulary words and having fun. Bring your own picnic lunch. The programs can be scheduled everyday – minimum ten children. The cost is \$10 dollars per child - parents free!



All program fees are \$10 per person
Call for Reservations at (305) 361-6767 ext. 119

Private programs for friends and family
can be booked as well.

Seagrass Adventure Dates:

November 23, 2008: 10 am-1 pm

December 13, 2008: 1-4 pm

January 10, 2009: 1-4 pm

February 7, 2009: 10 am-1 pm

March 22, 2009: 1-4 pm

"Trees in the Sea" Program:

February 21, 2009: 12-3 pm

Become a BNC Volunteer! Need Community Service Hours?

Volunteer once or twice a month at our Nature Center. We need help keeping our beach clean and our landscaping native. You can volunteer and help out by participating in our Beach Clean Ups or on one of our Restoration dates. Office, Gift Shop and Field Trip volunteers are also needed. Please call to reserve your volunteer time and day:
305.361.6767 x 119. A reservation is required.

Beach Clean Up Dates

9 am - 12 pm

November 15, 2008

December 20, 2008

January 17, 2009

February 21, 2009

March 21, 2009

April 18, 2009

May 16, 2009

Restoration Dates

9 am - 12 pm

November 1, 2008

December 6, 2008

January 3, 2009

February 7, 2009

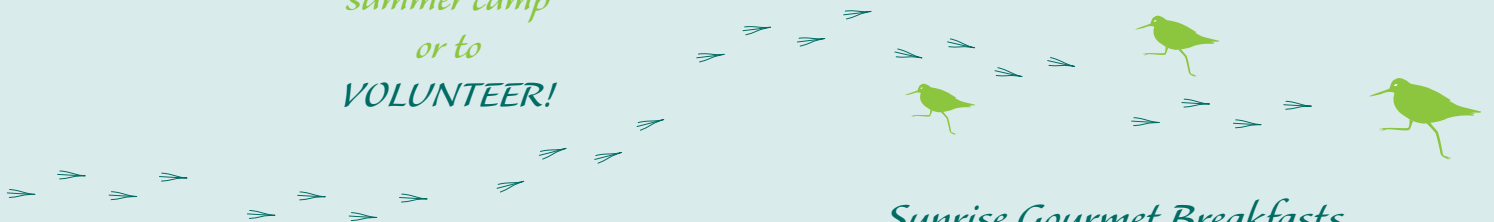
March 7, 2009

April 4, 2009

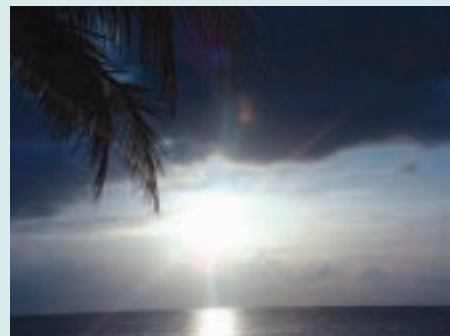
May 2, 2009

Call 305.361.6767 x 119

*to reserve a program, birthday party or
summer camp
or to
VOLUNTEER!*



Sunrise Gourmet Breakfasts



*Sam Champion and the
Good Morning America show
visit BNC!*

Announcing...Sunrise gourmet round-table breakfasts at daybreak on Crandon Beach. A series of three costs \$300. Start your day with a beautiful view and stimulating conversation. Call 305.361.6767 x 111 for reservations.

*Get updates!
Swing by our Sunny Site*



www.biscaynenaturecenter.org

