



ARCH CREEK TRUST

A NOT FOR PROFIT CORPORATION

1855 N. E. 135th Street
North Miami, Florida 33181

November 2010

GREAT NEWS!

Arch Creek Park will remain in operation. The details are still confusing and there will be many changes. The park will be closed on Mondays and Tuesdays during the school year as usual. To remain in operation with limited staffing, volunteers will be needed. If you signed up, thank you. The staff is making a list of jobs that need to be done. Some may be indoors, like greeting guests, other jobs might be like securing air plants to trees. Your support was a very important factor in the decision that the park could remain open. It was wonderful to see so many friends and members at the Rally. Thank you.

The number of milkweed plants in the butterfly garden is amazing. It is rare not to see at least one monarch butterfly, especially on a sunny day. The senna plants are attracting the yellow sulphur butterflies, with their yellow blossom. On some senna plants you will find the caterpillar eating the flowers instead of the leaves, so you have to look carefully. They are yellow and green with various striping combinations.

As a safety measure, wire fencing was installed along the creek at the entrance. The iguanas still manage to get to some of their favorite plants. I read that they don't like hair, so I am going to borrow some dog hair to put around their favorite meals. Hopefully that will help.

Now the bad news. Our park manager, Sally Timberlake is being transferred to A.D. Barnes Park. She will be sorely missed by all.

TRUST MEETING - SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH. @ 10 A.M.

Arch Creek Trust, Inc.
1855 N.E. 135 St.
Miami, FL 33181

Robert Wilder

Welcome to our new park manager, Aimee Scott. She has been working for Miami Dade County Parks and Recreation Dept. since 2003. She started her adventures with the County as a Park Service Aide/Naturalist at Greynold's Park, working with Arch Creek and Pelican Harbor, developing Interpretive Programming. In 2007 she interned with the National Park Service, National Marine Sanctuary and NOAA in Key West. Upon returning she was transferred to Crandon Park. Next she was promoted to a Full Time Recreation Leader. In 2009, she was transferred due to budget cuts to the Deering Estate in Cutler. She has again been hit by budget cuts so she was transferred to the North Part of the County to Arch Creek. She is looking forward to getting the Interpretive Programs up and running again.

SERENDIPITY

The painted buntings have returned to my feeder. They have graced my yard for about 4 years. But why did they choose my yard? A happy accident. My neighbor planted a beautiful red bouganvilla next to our fence and near my bird feeder. The thorny branches gave the birds a safe haven. This spring he cut it back severely so that none of the branches protruded through the wire, so I was concerned. I moved my feeder closer to the fence and I have a small Clementine about 4 ft. high on my side of the fence. It was with great relief when I spied the beautiful rainbow bird again.

The bad new is that "Mexico is one of their migrating stops. The colorful birds are often found in cages at busy markets where it is a popular choice as a caged bird." From *The Silence of the Birds*

MOUNTAIN TOP REMOVAL

This month the EPA took a historic step towards protecting the people and the waterways of Appalachia by recommending the withdrawal of a permit for the largest mountaintop removal coal mine ever authorized, Spruce Mine #1. It would have had severe impact on the waters and the environment of local communities in West Virginia.

The mine would bury more than seven miles of headwater streams and pollute water quality miles from the mine, according to Sierra Club. Finally mountaintop removal coal mining companies are finding that bank after bank won't lend to them. Right now UBS, the world's second largest bank is deciding whether to stop funding the companies responsible for this hideous practice. UBS is a Swiss banking giant" Imagine a bank in Switzerland is a major factor in destroying our beautiful Appalachian mountains! Since 2008 UBS has lent \$900 million to companies responsible for over a third of all MTR coal mining. It was caught helping rich Americans dodge taxes. Now many banks have renounced Mountaintop Removal mining. Credit Suisse, Bank of America, Citi, Morgan Stanley, J.P. Morgan Chase and Wells Fargo have all dropped out." Source - Avaaz.org

BIRD MIGRATION

"When we see a beautiful bird singing in the yard, it is easy to forget that many others did not survive. By some estimates, we have already lost almost half of the songbirds that filled the skies only forty years ago. During the twentieth century we have lost roughly 300 million hectares of tropical forest, an area about a third the size of Canada or the U.S. Tropical forests are being destroyed even though they are one of the most important natural resources on the planet. Tropical forests cover only 6% of land surfaces, but receive half of the rainfall. They play a critical role in protecting the watershed and all that lives there. With tropical deforestation proceeding at a breakneck pace, is there enough good quality habitat to provide a home for migrants?"

COFFEE WITH A CONSCIENCE

"A traditional shade-grown-coffee farm is a mini ecosystem with more than two dozen different species of trees that shade the coffee plants. It is biodiversity friendly. Heavily shaded coffee plantations were home to more than twenty species of butterflies, twenty-seven species of ants, sixty-one species of bees and wasps and one hundred species of beetles. Coffee plantations in Veracruz were home to ten different species of frogs, half a dozen species of bats and two dozen species of mammals such as opossums, rabbits and the threatened nutria. Migrant birds are attracted not to the coffee itself, but rather to the food that the shade trees provide. Many birds are insect eaters and they feed in the canopy trees above the coffee. Others search the forest floor for insects hiding under leaves. Still others come for fruits found among the canopy trees."

"In many ways we live in a fantasy world, consuming resources on our planet with abandon and ignoring the realities of how ecosystems really function and support life and human society. How can the cycle be broken? The global problems of overpopulation, overconsumption of natural resources, broken ecosystems, rising temperatures, and increasing world poverty seem inevitable and overwhelming. Yet there is hope for migratory birds and the state of the planet. There are simple actions we can do every day to promote a healthier world for birds, for ourselves, and for our grandchildren." Recycling paper, using less electricity and buying green products.
From :*The Silence of the Birds*

CORN-BASED ETHANOL

“Though it was embraced by industry as a moneymaker and by federal lawmakers who saw it as an easy, bipartisan environmental sop, corn-based grain ethanol requires huge inputs of fossil fuels to plant, harvest, fertilize, spray with pesticides, ferment, and transport. Factor in the unintended consequence of rainforests being burned down around the world to clear land to grow more corn for ethanol, and the whole project withers. Cellulosic ethanol, which can be made from the waste fibers of any plants or even from manure, is far greener. But corn-based ethanol, still heavily supported by Congress and the Obama administration, now consumes a third of all corn plants grown in the United States.”

“At Western Washington University they have built a hybrid car that gets the equivalent of 94 miles a gallon while using a fuel made from a plentiful local waste product: cow manure.” If they use cow manure for fuel instead of corn, maybe we can once again buy delicious corn at the supermarket instead of tough overripe kernals.

Calendar

Saturday, November 6, 10 a.m. Join the volunteers to learn what opportunities are available to help the park

Saturday, November 20th. 10 a.m. Arch Creek Trust meeting. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Friday, December 10th. at 7 p.m. Actor Robert Dawson will present an evening with Charles Dickens at the North Miami Library. Free admission

Saturday, December 11th. Join members of the Greater North Miami Historical Society, Friends of the Library and Arch Creek Trust with a Holiday Luncheon at Arch Creek Park. Bring a dish to share. Time: 11 a.m.

