

ARCH CREEK TRUST  
A NOT FOR PROFIT CORPORATION  
1855 N.E. 135 ST.  
NORTH MIAMI, FLORIDA  
33181

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## BRIGHTEN YOUR SPRING PLANT SALE

Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 9-3  
ARCH CREEK PARK  
1855 N.E. 135 St.

Arch Creek Trust will be offering butterfly attractors, native plants and assorted flowering plants. Special orders can be placed by calling Amy at 305-788-0484. Proceeds benefit Arch Creek Park.

There will also be a nature walk at 11 am. by the park naturalist.

Visit the museum, bring a picnic lunch, enjoy the nature trails.

Free admission

For more information call 305-681-6310 or 305-944-6111



### VIRGINIA KEY BEACH

Congratulations to Miami park naturalist Juan Fernandez and his three man crew for their eight year struggle to remove exotics and restore Virginia Key. According to the Miami Herald article, they have planted native trees like pigeon plum and wild lime. There are healthy red, white and black mangroves. A plant, Biscayne prickly ash, which is nearly extinct was found on the island and is now being propagated in a small island nursery.



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*Rosey & Lee Voyce*

## UNWELCOME VISITORS PLAGUING ISRAEL

That is the title of an article sent by Henny Roth. Locusts originate in West Africa and in December were descending on Israel, “duplicating the biblical plague upon Egypt. Two people recalled the last locust attack in the 1950’s. One man reported his car was enveloped in a swarm. A woman recalled her body was covered with crawling creatures, the feeling of them moving through her hair and over her cheeks, the sound of them crunching underfoot. The prospect of a locust disaster has begun to galvanize Israelis and Arabs to join hands in at least some way as their planes fly over both sides of the border.

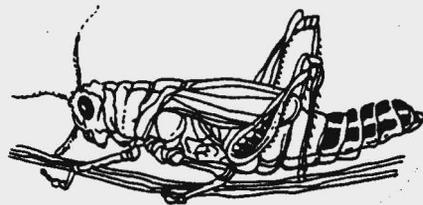
That article reminded me of the book Out of This World. The author, Mary Swander, suffered from severe allergies for years. She spent a horrible week being pricked and tested for hundreds of food, chemical and inhalant items. Then a doctor gave her a vaccine of nearly 50 antigens to cure her. She ended up in the hospital on IV’s and unable to eat anything. As she slowly recovered, she realized she would have to grow her own food, and moved to a large Amish community. She was very proud of her organic vegetables. Then the grasshoppers arrived. They not only were decimating her garden, they devoured the nylon screens on the camper top of her Toyota. They are softball size holes in her screen doors. She went to bed and woke up to their steady hum. When she consulted her neighbors they suggested guinea hens and then ducks. She was unable to find any in the area. Other neighbors suggested spraying but she couldn’t do that because of her allergies.

She began reading diaries of pioneer women, to learn how they coped in 1874, which was known as “The Grasshopper Year”. She read that the insects swept across the plains, covering every inch of ground. Tree limbs snapped under their weight. They ate through sheets and quilts that the women had hastily thrown over the plants to protect them. They even invaded homes and ate anything that wasn’t encased in metal – even kitchen utensils, furniture and wooden walls. Men tied strings around their pants cuffs to keep them from crawling up their legs. Children screamed in horror as the grasshoppers wiggled through their hair and down their shirts. In desperation, in the spring, the pioneers doused their crude cabins and barns with water, then set fire to the surrounding fields and prairies, in hopes of burning out the insect eggs and young.

Mary couldn’t have survived the resulting smoke if she tried that. A call to an organic gardening magazine suggested buckets baited with molasses water. The grasshoppers were supposed to jump in and drown.

Some did but others kept coming. She called again. The next suggestion was to make a mixture of chili peppers and garlic and spray the plants. The grasshoppers loved it. "The grasshoppers became excited, their wings vibrating, compound eggs sparkling with desire, chomping more voraciously than ever."

Then Mary remembered the idea of bug juice, made from insect parts, blended with water and sprayed back on the areas of infestation. She retrieved the dead grasshopper bodies from the molasses bucket and put them in her blender where she ground them and then added water. Then she began spraying. Slowly her garden improved. After two weeks of spraying, she realized she had won. Okra was the only cultivated plant to make it through the plague unscathed. Yuck!



# HISTORY FEST

Sponsored by: Greater North Miami Historical Society / Arch Creek Trust / Friends of the North Miami Library



- Booths, Displays and Exhibits
- Historical Tours to Sites of Interest  
(Departures: 11 AM & 2 PM)
- Photographs
- Archaeological Information
- Environmental Information

**Saturday, March 19, 2004**  
**10:00 AM - 4:00 PM**  
**Griffing Adult Center**  
**12290 Griffing Boulevard**  
**North Miami**

*Ever wonder about North Miami and the Northeast?  
Come, join us and learn about the wonders of our local history.*

**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT: 305-891-7811**

## ATTACK OF THE ALIEN INVADORS

That is the title of a chapter in the latest National Geographic Magazine. There are many invaders like the kudzu vine smothering the south, golden apple snail consuming taro in Hawaii, spurge in the prairie states that burns the mouths of cattle, and of course many fire ants.

Here in Florida we now have a problem with Burmese pythons in the Everglades, an ever increasing number of iguanas, and those awful melaluca trees, among others. Several years ago sterile carp were introduced into Arch Creek and other areas to consume duck weed. They disappeared. But now people are reporting the appearance of large koi in the creek. Apparently they were released by aquarium owners. Are they too, going to wreak ecological havoc?

## COFFEE TO BURN

Recycled coffee grounds are the primary ingredient in Java-logs, a new kind of fireplace logs. They are made from a combination of discarded coffee grounds, wood, and vegetable by-products. They burn hotter and produce more energy than straight wood. In addition, they emit 85% less carbon dioxide. They were invented in Canada and introduced in the northeastern United States. Slightly more expensive than wood logs

## ENJOY THE SEASON!

March 5. Native Plant Day at Crandon Park, 9-4pm. A full day of programs, walks and tours. Call 305-255-6404.

March 6. Deering Estate at Cutler. A moonlight guided walking tour to a Tequesta Indian burial mound. 7-9pm. 305-235-168.

March 12. Arch Creek Trust Spring Plant Sale, 9-3pm. Free admission. 305-944-6111.

March 19. Historic Fest at Griffing Center in North Miami, 10-4pm. Displays by historic and home owner groups. Free. Bus tour at 11am. and 2 pm. 305-891-7811.

April 10. Pioneer Days BBQ, 11-5pm. Many activities and super food at Arch Creek Park. 305-944-6111. More information next newsletter.

Why not cut out this schedule and fasten it on your refrigerator.

Arch Creek Trust meeting, March 14<sup>th</sup>. 7pm. Join us in the planning of these exciting activities.