



100 Ladies of Deering President's Report – November 2023

As we move into this season of giving thanks, the 100 Ladies of Deering has a lot to be thankful for, starting with the Deering Estate Foundation staff! This week the 100 Ladies of Deering hosted our biggest Fireflies and Friends event to date with 94 attendees. Held in the Stone House courtyard, it would not have been possible without the support of the DEF and DE staff. At the event, we highlighted local women-owned businesses; All Star Event Photography, Tipsee Chix beverage service, Chill-N Nitrogen ice cream, Blooming Gardens florists, and Voli 305 Vodka. Along with décor from Michelle's vast supply, food from Delicious Catering and weather that was spectacular, everything combined to showcase the Deering Estate and the 100 Ladies of Deering at their best. Fireflies and Friends is a member retention and recruitment event and we have already had membership inquiries. Our number stands at 86 with 2 pending as of today, we'll see if we hit 100 by the end of the year. The number is not important though, it is finding women who share our commitment to the Deering Estate and continuing Charles and Marion Deering's legacy of community, culture, and conservation in South Florida.

We are also thankful for the recognition of Meredith Ehrman, Chair of the Furnishing & Design Committee, as DE/DEF Volunteer of the Year, and Terry Long and Charlie Gomes for their \$10,000 directed donation through the Marilyn K. Gaylord Trust for the purchase of wicker furniture of the front and back porches of the Richmond Cottages. The furniture is the foundation for the décor and will be accessorized with artwork, pillows, lighting and other elements by the Furnishing & Design Committee. The Marion Deering Award, replacing the Original Award, and given to those who go above and beyond for the 100 Ladies of Deering, was presented to Barbara Bass, Nancy Michelson and Lori Hass for their work on Legacy, The Deering Estate. Three new members received membership pins, and Michelle was presented with a sweatshirt to show appreciation for her dedicated event planning abilities.

November 12th, we will begin decorating for the holidays in the Richmond Cottage. The next week we will be busy presenting Legacy at the Miami Book Fair on Friday and Saturday, with decorating continuing in the Stone House Great Hall on Sunday. We are beginning to gear up for our participation in the Guardian ad litem holiday family program. We have adopted three families and will be collecting things to make their holidays extra special.

During this busy time, we never forget to frame our activities in support of the Deering Estate, the Deering Estate Foundation, and are thankful for all the opportunities to make a difference in the local community.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Battaglia
President, 100 Ladies of Deering