



100 Ladies of Deering President's Report – January 2024

The 100 Ladies of Deering have already been busy in 2024. We were privileged to experience sunrise on the Deering Estate on January 9th. While the colors were more sepia than pastel, watching the birds fly out of the mangroves, the clouds scuttle by, and breathing in fresh breezes reminded us once again of the magic and beauty of the Deering Estate.

January 10th was bittersweet as the 2023 holiday décor came down. The Alice in Wonderland theme was challenging to envision, but what went up exceeded everyone's expectation. Kudos to Ann Destafanis, Nancy Eggland, Maria McDonald and Michelle Streit for leading the Décor Committee. We understand the Deering Estate Designer in Residence Alfredo Brito already as some ideas for the 2024 Holiday Season and are looking forward to our next challenge.

Our January General Meeting will be Thursday, January 18, in the Visitor's Center Theater. Guests are welcome, so join us at 6:30 for social time and 7:00 pm for a short business meeting and a presentation by 100 Ladies of Deering Legacy member and Artist in Residence Meg Wallace. She will share her intuitive process of creating eco-art sculptures and the philosophy behind it. Weather permitting, following the meeting there will be an optional walking tour over to where Meg's piece 'Soundprints' is installed on the Deering Estate as part of the Spring Contemporary.

Soundprints is inspired by her previous work, "Mother Mangrove," and captures the unique sound fingerprint of the Deering Estate forest and contrasts it with the outside man-made noises that threaten the forest's existence. The Hear Here sculpture, designed by Meg, provides a serene venue for individuals to sit, reflect, and embrace the calming sounds of nature. The outer shell comprises three mangrove leaves converging into a wishbone center, which encases the inner symbolic mangrove sanctuary. Located at the waterline of the Deering Estate, it is a place view the beautiful raw mangrove sanctuary while surrounded by the peaceful sounds of nature.

To round out the week, on Friday, January 19, Lori Rickles and the Outreach Committee have arranged a special Conservation tour of Vizcaya. This is sure to offer insight into the conservation process to stabilize original Deering items and further explore and expand the relationship between the two Deering estates in South Florida.

We will end the month with mahjonn on January 25, and are already looking forward to one of our signature events, Vintage Valentine's Luncheon in February.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Battaglia
President, 100 Ladies of Deering