Welcome
We are dedicated to promoting knowledge about the amazing diversity of tropical trees, both native and from around the world. The collection emphasizes evolutionary relationships and adaptations. Unique on a college campus, we feature representative lineages, and flowers, fruits, leaves, wood and chemistry of tropical trees providing fiber, food, scents, medicines and structural material as well as opportunities to learn about tropical ecology and evolution.

Annual events include a spring lecture by a distinguished plant scientist and a fall picnic. During the academic year, the Friends hold monthly meetings featuring an educational program and the “Tropical Tree Family of the Month.” For additional information, please call (305) 284-5364. A Checklist of Plants of the Gifford Arboretum is available for $25 in the Department of Biology Office on the second floor of the Cox Science Center (9am-4:30pm M-F).

Arboretum-related merchandise (T-shirts, bookbags and books) can be purchased in the Arboretum Office (room 190 in Cox Science Center) by appointment. Visitors to the Arboretum are invited to use metered visitor during the school week, or visitor permits may be obtained for $5/day at the Stanford Drive Information Gatehouse, just inside the entrance to the Ponce de Leon Garage, near the elevator at the Pavia Garage, and in the BankUnited Center North parking lot. Parking is unrestricted after 6 p.m. weekdays and anytime Saturday and Sunday.

http://www.bio.miami.edu/arboretum/

Brief history
The arboretum was planted in 1947 by Dr. Frank J. Rimoldi and Dr. Roy Woodbury, professors of tropical botany at the University of Miami. Over 350 plants were donated from local, state, and federal nurseries.

In 1949, the arboretum was named for Dr. John C. Gifford, the first graduate forester in the United States, an expert on tropical woods and professor of tropical forestry at the University of Miami. In 1950, the Gifford Society of Tropical Botany was formed to promote the study of tropical plants and the arboretum grew to more than 500 plants. During the following decades, many students, professors, and community members used the arboretum for teaching, research, and recreation.

In the late 1980’s, the need for additional campus parking threatened its future existence. Through the efforts of Coral Gables tree activist Kathy Gaubatz, in 1992 the University of Miami decided to support the continuation and enhancement of the Gifford Arboretum. A master plan model was developed by Architecture student Maria Nardi.

Having survived the category five Hurricane Andrew of 1992, the Arboretum was unexpectedly severely damaged by Hurricanes Katrina and Wilma in 2005. Half of the trees in the collection were lost. Professor Carol Horvitz and graduate student John Cozza took on the task of renovating the Arboretum.

Armed with funding from the IMLS (Institute of Museum and Library Services) and matching funds from the University of Miami and the Friends of the Arboretum, they worked with Robert Parsley, Janet Gavarrete, and Alan Weber to plan and implement a newly designed collection over the next two and a half years. The Gifford Arboretum is a member of American Public Gardens Association.
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For your hard work and outstanding contribution to enhancing the educational value and beauty of the Arboretum.
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