



Wild About Wildlife

The National Wildlife Refuge Association kicked off the season with a *Wild About Wildlife* summer luncheon at Table 26 in West Palm Beach. The private, champagne luncheon included an auction and live music to benefit the *South Florida Urban Wildlife Refuge Program*. Luncheon Co-Chairs were **Nancy Marshall** and **Elaine Meier** who welcomed 55 guests, many wearing green, blinking necklaces to indicate their \$1,000+ donation to the program and as Honorary Committee members.

Giving underserved youth an exposure to natural areas in Palm Beach County and environs is a vital component to building a strong and broad-based conservation constituency that will work to protect our environment now and in the future. The Urban Wildlife Refuge Project in South Florida includes significant and thought-provoking on-the-ground experiences designed to generate greater interest and participation from underserved youth.

“We are committed to connecting underserved kids to nature,” said event Co-Chair **Nancy Marshall**. “It is important to our community to develop our next generation of environmentalists.”

Engaging youth in conservation creates a strong foundation for environmental stewardship, provides new career pathways, an understanding of biological and ecological systems, and a basis for understanding how our environment is impacted by human activity as well as natural disasters and climate change.

Their goal is to increase off-site visits to community organizations, as well as develop additional on-site Refuge field trips for schools and organizations. This will engage urban youth to develop a passion for nature and become the next generation to conserve and preserve the natural areas.

For more information about the *South Florida Urban Wildlife Program* visit www.refugeassociation.org.



FIRST ROW: Elaine Meier and Nancy Marshall; Liz Figueroa, South Florida Project Specialist for the *South Florida Urban Wildlife Refuge Program*; Marti LaTour, Arlette Gordon and Debbie Goldenhersh; **SECOND ROW:** TJ and Monique McCall Nelligan; Weggie Antle and Dianne Bernstein; **THIRD ROW:** Major General Gray and Marlene Payne; Adriana Luchekcho and Sheryl Wood; **FOURTH ROW:** Bob Slater and Diane Buhler; Marco Aguilar and Missy Branson. PHOTOS: RICH GRAULICH