



UNITED STATES
BOTANIC GARDEN

PRESENTS



The Fairchild Challenge

fosters interest in the environment
by encouraging students to
appreciate the beauty and value of nature,
develop critical thinking skills,
understand the need for biodiversity and conservation,
tap community resources,
become actively-engaged citizens, and
recognize that individuals do indeed make a difference.

**Challenges were developed in conjunction with The Fairchild Challenge,
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, Coral Gables, FL**



Dear Colleague in Education:

Hello from the Botanic Garden on the National Mall! We are happy to announce the **2008 U.S. Botanic Garden's Fairchild Challenge**, an environmental education outreach program designed to increase students' knowledge of and interest in the environment through a series of **multi-disciplinary challenges**. In our pilot year, over 500 D.C. Public School (DCPS) students participated with three area schools receiving the 2007 USBG Fairchild Challenge Award -- **cash awards** for environmental programs. The Challenge can complement your school's curriculum and empower your students. However, it is the promise of increasing students' environmental awareness, stewardship, and scholarship that has motivated us to launch this initiative.

The Fairchild Challenge options are environmental project-based competitions and activities. These activities take place at your school, and then the best student entries are submitted to the USBG to compete against outstanding student entries from other DCPS schools. In our second year, we are offering the program to all middle and junior high school students in DCPS and the charter school system. If you are a DCPS high school or charter high school, your ninth graders may participate. Schools earn points for their participation and achievements in each option. All schools surpassing the annual point goal are honored with the Fairchild Challenge Award and additional prizes and honors are awarded to outstanding students, teachers and schools. Your school is invited to participate in one or all **six** of this year's challenges. **Participation is free!**

The United States Botanic Garden is an institution dedicated to demonstrating the aesthetic, cultural, economic, therapeutic, and ecological importance of plants to the well-being of humankind. The Fairchild Challenge is an exciting way to promote the exchange of ideas and information relevant to this mission among our local youth. We look forward to working with you this year.

Welcome aboard!

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