



FEBRUARY 2017

Birch Bulletin

An Evening by the Sea Honors Five and Raises Funds for Park Projects

On Friday, February 3, 2017, Terramar will once again host An Evening by the Sea to raise funds for special projects in Hugh Taylor Birch State Park. The evening will include a reception, live and silent auction, dinner and music. Some of our live auction items will be: Paella dinner for 20 in your home by Giani; an

African Safari; a 4-day, 3-night trip to Napa Valley Wine Country with round-trip airfare for two and a hot air balloon ride; and a beautiful piece of jewelry donated by Daoud's Fine Jewelry.

Major sponsors are EDI, ACURE, JM Family Enterprises, Ultimate Software, Bank of America, Lorraine Thomas, The Las Olas Company, Nova Southeastern University and Paramount Refreshment Solutions.

We are honoring the following community leaders:

Ken Evans – “Children’s Champion Award”
Founder, Camp Live Oak

Tyler Chappell – “Bring Birch Back!” Award
The Chappell Group

Linda Carter – “Community Leadership Award”
CEO, Community Foundation of Broward

Joe and Wini Amatore – “Community Lifetime Achievement Award”, The Amatore Foundation

For more information on An Evening by the Sea, go to www.birchstatepark.org and click on An Evening by the Sea.



Left to right: Jim Ellis (EDI), Linda Carter, Tyler Chappell, Ken Evans, Wini and Joe Amatore, Gale Butler, Lilia Ciciolla and Steve Hudson



Left to right: Jennifer Roberts, Park Manager, Joe and Wini Amatore



Left to right: Steve Hudson (ACURE), Lilia Ciciolla, (Bank of America)



Left to right: Linda Carter, Tyler Chappell and Gale Butler



Left to right: Ken Evans and Jim Ellis on Long Lake



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TReilly@BirchStatePark.org

Executive Director's Message: Remembering Marti



Gale Butler, Executive Director, Friends of Birch
State Park with Marti Huizenga

To say that Marti Huizenga was a friend and supporter to many charities is an understatement. Over the years Marti funded and gave her time to hundreds of events and projects that benefitted all walks of life and we are a better community for it. In the past couple of years, she turned her attention to the Friends of Birch State Park thanks to a breakfast meeting she had with Friends' board president Jim Ellis in 2014. After that meeting, she came to me and asked if I'd be interested in becoming the Executive Director of Friends. As she drove me around the

park, childhood memories of picnics with my family and galloping horses with my late sister, Jill, along the Intracoastal Waterway washed over me. So, what could I do? I said yes. From that moment on, Marti supported me and Jim and the dream of bringing this special green space back to life. Last fall, Marti chaired The Garden Party for us raising funds for a meditation garden she thought would be a great addition to the park. In her memory, and with her matching grant, we will make her dream a reality. Thank you Marti...for everything.

The Meditation Garden Campaign Continues . . .

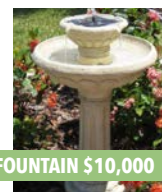
The Garden Party, also known as "Marti's Party" for "Helen's Garden", held on October 19, 2016 and chaired by our friend Marti Huizenga, was a resounding success. Almost 200 attendees helped us net more than \$65,000. Any monies raised from the event are to be matched up to \$100,000. We are continuing to fund raise for the meditation garden until we reach the full \$100,000. For more information, please call 954-566-0660 or email gbutler@birchstatepark.org.



LABYRINTH \$20,000



STONE BENCH \$5,000



FOUNTAIN \$10,000



STEPPING STONE \$1,000

2017 Friends' Events

Our events coming up are: An Evening by the Sea (February 3), the Night of Literary Feasts author dinner (April 1), the Air Show on the lawn of Terramar (May 6) and the First Annual Birdies for Birch Golf Tournament (May 18) to be held at Fort Lauderdale Country Club. Chairs for the golf tournament are: Tyler Chappell and Steven Tilbrook.

Thank You! Terramar Society Members

BANYAN LEVEL **(\$5,000 per year)**

Jim Ellis
Steve & Jeannie Hudson

MANATEE LEVEL **(\$2,000 per year)**

John & Fran Custer
Marc & Sharon Friedman
Peggy Fucci
Wayne & Marti Huizenga
Paul & Jennifer Kroncke
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Moss Foundation
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SEA TURTLE LEVEL **(\$1,000 per year)**

Peter & Janet Buhl
Gale M. Butler
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Michael & Mary Ellen Coen
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Ken Evans
Jon & Elaine Krupnick
The Mastriana Family
Lee McDonald
Mari Mennel-Bell
Terry & Jamie Stiles
Randy & Kim Sweers
Bob Swindell & John Cotter
Andrew & Lori Taubman
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E.C. Traver

President's Message

We have so many good stories to tell of our accomplishments in 2016. The long-awaited cleanout of Long Lake – Phase I is complete and you can now canoe or kayak the full, mile-long length of the lake. The park has successfully been awarded funds from F.I.N.D. (Florida Inland Navigational District) to fix the seawall and add a floating public boat dock thanks to Friends' Board Members Tyler Chappell and Ken Evans. As part of the park's upgrades to become ADA compliant, the restrooms near the Manatee Pavilion have been reconfigured for accessibility. Work will begin shortly on the restrooms in the Live Oak and Banyan Pavilions. We also have a completely new limitless playground donated by Carlos and Lisa Rodriguez. Soon, we will begin to raise funds for a second playground. Finally, we are still raising funds for our meditation garden – a dream of Marti Huizenga's – and will break ground in February. Our restaurant, Park & Ocean, will be open in February as well. Stay tuned!



Jim Ellis, President
Friends' Board

Birch State Park Hosts A1A Grand Opening

On October 27th, Fort Lauderdale Mayor Jack Seiler held his State of the City address here in Birch Park and combined it with the grand opening of A1A. The state redesign of A1A was finally finished with a beautiful median boasting palm trees and other plantings and sidewalks and crosswalks with bike lanes and parking places giving a new look to A1A between Sunrise Boulevard and Oakland Park Boulevard. Guests gathered at 5 p.m. for a



Left to right: Brian Donaldson, President of Finger Streets HOA; Florida State Representative George Moraitis; Broward Commissioner Chip LaMarca; Fort Lauderdale City Commissioner Dean Trantalis; Fort Lauderdale Mayor Jack Seiler; Broward Commissioner Bobby Dubose; Fort Lauderdale City Commissioner Bruce Roberts; Fort Lauderdale City Commissioner Romney Rogers



sneak peek reception at our new restaurant, Park & Ocean, to open early February and a ribbon cutting on A1A with politicians in attendance. The A1A redesign, a project of the Florida Department of Transportation, and the State of the City address were a big hit and introduced a whole new audience to Hugh Taylor Birch State Park.

Left to right: Olya Salehi, Jim Ellis, President Friends of Birch State Park and Gale Butler, Executive Director, Friends of Birch State Park.

New River Middle Visits Park



New River Middle School students were treated to lunch and a live animal program.

New River Middle schoolers visit the park with Science teacher Barbara Raposa for the L.I.F.E programs that focuses on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). Park Manager Jennifer Roberts and Friends' Executive Director Gale Butler (center back) welcomed the students. Friends funds the buses needed to transport students to the park. For more information on how you can help go to www.birchstatepark.org and click on Birch Bus Buddies.

Living Well Program Draws Tai Chi Followers



Tai Chi instructor Kathy Keating holds classes on Thursdays at 9 a.m. from October 2016 through May of 2017 meeting in the breezeway to the beach in the park.

Birch Bus Buddies Launches in 2017



Our campaign to raise funds to bring more students from elementary, middle and high schools to Hugh Taylor Birch State Park has launched and will continue throughout the year. Each field trip with a bus carrying fifty students in it costs \$500. Our goal is to raise enough to double the number of children who experience a day in our park that combines nature with education and includes time spent on trails along the Intracoastal Waterway, our Coastal Dune Lake and our beach. The emphasis is on STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) teachings using nature. For more information about how you can help, call 954-566-0660.

Terramar Keepsake Ornament

Artist Pat Anderson designed the Friends of Birch State Park's first keepsake ornament. Price \$25.00. Available at Terramar in the park.



Light Up Birch: A New Holiday Tradition



On December 8th, Friends hosted our Terramar Society members at a VIP event at Terramar. It included a reception amidst holiday decorations and a tree lighting ceremony on the lawn with the St. Anthony's School Girls' Choir singing carols. Friends' board president Jim Ellis thanked our Terramar Society members and gave a brief update on our accomplishments in the park for 2016. Stay tuned for the 2017 Light Up Birch event.

St. Anthony's School Girls' Choir (center: Shaun Moylan, Choir Director) at the Light Up Birch with Friends' President Jim Ellis and Executive Director Gale Butler.