



JANUARY 2018

Birch Bulletin



Sea wall reconstruction project



Loop road widening



Marti's Meditation Garden

Park Projects... We Have Liftoff!

The year 2017 will go down in park history as the year we reconstructed the almost 100-year-old sea wall built by Hugh Taylor Birch, cleared Long Lake of non-indigenous plants making for full access of the mile-long lake for boaters, widened the loop road four feet for safety reasons, and raised funds to build a meditation garden and labyrinth. In 2018, we will see the addition of a 230' floating public boat dock at the south end of the park's sea wall and a welcome pavilion.

"The team of Friends and state and local park management pulled together to make these major projects happen," said Friends of Birch State Park Board of Directors President Jim Ellis. "We want to thank our community partners as well such as the leadership of the Florida Inland Navigation District (F.I.N.D.), the City of Fort Lauderdale's Parks and Recreation Department, and the Broward County Board of Commissioners for their monetary and in-kind support."

The meditation garden is named Marti's Meditation Garden after community benefactor Marti Huizenga who funded the

project with a \$100,000 matching gift. We are adding about a foot of new soil to the area before planting salt-air resistant Sea Shore Paspalum grass and enclosing part of the garden with plantings and trees.

The labyrinth, funded by I. Lorraine Thomas, will be installed shortly.

Stone benches purchased by the following donors: **Steve and Jeannie Hudson, Lee MacDonald, Bob and Sandy Moss, Jim and Shari Sawran, and Randy and Kim Sweers.**

Stepping Stone donors are: **Pamela and Scott Baynes, Liz and Daniel Caldwell, Pat Damoorgian, Katherine Dover, Kathy and Ted Drum, and Linda Von Allmen.**

If you are interested in supporting the meditation garden, stepping stones and stone benches are available. Go to birchstatepark.org for more information.

2018 Coming Events!

AN EVENING BY THE SEA

Friday, March 23

6 p.m. – Cocktail Attire

Honorees:

Lorraine Thomas

Birch Lifetime Achievement Award

Carlos and Lisa Rodriguez

Birch Legacy Award

Winterfest

Birch Partnership Award

Bryan Moser, Moser Sprinklers

Birch Above and Beyond Award

BIRDIES FOR BIRCH

Thursday, April 26

11:30 a.m. Registration

12:30 p.m. Shotgun Start

Fort Lauderdale Country Club

A GARDEN PARTY

Thursday, October 25

The Garden Center

Hugh Taylor Birch State Park



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BIRCH STATE PARK, INC.

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Executive Director's Message



Gale M. Butler

In 2017, we had three successful fundraising events:

An Evening by the Sea, Birdies for Birch Golf Tournament, and A Garden Party. You, the community of Friends and park fans, stepped up to make them successful so that we have been able to donate over \$250,000 this past year to park projects.

Fundraising and friend raising is why the Friends of Birch State Park exists. Without reaching out to our members and users of the park, we couldn't continue to "Bring Birch Back!". So, thank you and we hope you will continue to enjoy the park and support our efforts in 2018.

Meet Our New Board Members

Paul Weinberg, PLA, AsLA

VP of Planning and Landscape Architecture

Keith and Associates, Inc.

Paul has nearly two decades of public realm planning and design. He is a registered Landscape Architect in the state of Florida. His projects have most recently been with Hugh Taylor Birch State Park, Fort Lauderdale Beach Streetscape Master Plan, Levitt Pavilion and Esplanade Park, Fort Lauderdale Fast Forward Design and Construction, DC Alexander Park, Fort Lauderdale Riverwalk Corridor Study and the Tunnel Top Park.

John Barranco

Barranco Gonzalez Architecture

John is a Florida native with over 25 years of experience in architectural design and construction management. He began his own firm with in 2014 with his good friend and business partner Carlos Gonzalez. Current clients include national private and publicly held organizations as well as governmental agencies. John is married to Summer, his high school sweetheart, and they have one daughter, Victoria.

Stephen F. Botek, P.E.

Botek Thurlow Engineering, Inc.

Stephen's firm is a full service civil engineering company founded in 2005. He has 20 years of experience mostly in the South Florida area and has worked with private and public sector clients taking projects from inception through site analysis, design, permitting and construction administration. Currently, BTE provides engineering consulting services for the City of Coral Springs, the Downtown Development Authority of Fort Lauderdale, Broward County Engineering Department, and the School District of Palm Beach County. He is married to Kari and has two children.

Ashley A. Sawyer, Attorney

Akerman, LLP

Ashley has served as a litigator for Akerman for the past decade after graduating from the University of Florida with honors and the University of Florida Levin College of Law magna cum laude. Her practice focuses on complex commercial litigation and dispute resolution. She provides expert advice on the ever-evolving legal and business issues impacting companies with interests in the regulated substances industries, including medical marijuana. She is a member of the Broward County Bar Association, the Ghost Light Society of the Broward Center for the Performing Arts, Leadership Broward (Class XXX), and the Young Leaders Society of the United Way of Broward County. Ashley and her husband Shea are avid Birch Park bike riders.

A Toast to the Terramar Society

On December 12th, we toasted members of the Terramar Society at Wine Watch's new Wine Room. We wanted to thank members for their loyalty to Friends and remind them how much their annual donations mean to us. During the event, owner Andrew Lampasone made a presentation on Napa Valley wines.

Left: Wine Watch owner Andrew Lampasone



Right: Friends' President Jim Ellis, Director of Development Trudy Reilly and Robert Roselli



Left: Ed and Sherri Meehan, Friends' Executive Director Gale Butler and Jon Bell



Right: Friends' President Jim Ellis, Ken Evans and Carlos Suarez



Left: Ken Evans, David Lamie and Mari Mennel-Bell



Right: Fran Custer, Nancy Thies and Olya Salehi



Left: Carlos and Lori Suarez and Julie Saumsiegle



Right: Andy and Connie Caldwell



Thank You! Terramar Society Members

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

Jim Ellis/Ellis Diversified
Steve & Jeannie Hudson
Carlos & Lisa Rodriguez
Par & Louise Sanda

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

Marc & Sharon Friedman
Peggy Fucci
Huizenga Family Foundation
Paul & Jennifer Kroncke
Ed & Sherri Meehan
Dominick & Meike Miniaci
Moss Foundation

SEA TURTLE LEVEL **(\$1,000 per year)**

Gale Butler
Andrew & Connie Caldwell
Tyler & Sarah Chappell
Michael & Mary Ellen Coen
Keith Costello
Fran Custer
Tim Elmes
Ken Evans/Camp Live Oak
Steve Walker & Karen Hooks
Jon & Elaine Krupnick
The Mastriana Family
Lee MacDonald
Mari Mennel Bell
Robert & Jennifer Roselli
Jamie Stiles
Randy & Kim Sweers
Bob Swindell & John Cotter
Andrew & Lori Taubman
Bill & Nancy Thies
E.C. Traver

Happy New Year!

It's a happy new year for our live animals. The cost to feed and care for them would amaze you so we thank the following donors for caring: Bergeron Family of Companies, Marc and Ann Cannon, Jan and Jim Cummings, Fran Custer, Tim Elms, Joan Elmore, Carole and Jeff Falkanger, Patricia Kearns, Susan Lochrie, Chris Madsen, Grey and Peg Marker, Monica and Mike Maroone, Sharron Navarro-Hadley, George and Anne Plaatt, Jim Scott, I. Lorraine Thomas, and Joanne and Mark Snead.

DEDICATED TO BRINGING BIRCH BACK FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS



The 2017 Garden Party was chaired by Birch board member Ginny Miller of Miller Construction along with a hard-working hostess committee. Patrick Daoud of Daoud's Fine Jewelry served as our live auction auctioneer and the Grateful Palette/Shooters provided the delicious lunch. The over 180 attendees bid on silent and live auction items helping us net almost \$85,000. We thank our Presenting Sponsor Bob and Sandy Moss of Moss Construction along with Lorraine Thomas, EDI, Inc., ACURE, AutoNation, One World Properties, Miller Construction, and Stiles Corporation.



Garden Party Hostesses: (left to right) Lisa Scott-Founds, Janet Jordan, Jane Smith, Peggy Fucci, Ginny Miller, LaDonna Vieweg, Nancy Blosser, Mimi Bauer, Karen Genovese, Julie Saumsiegle, Ginny Fujino, Lisa Kitei, Pamela Baynes, Nancy Thies (not pictured: Jamie Stiles, Alice Jackson)



Olya Salehi, Jim Ellis and Birch Park Manager Jennifer Roberts



Chair Ginny Miller with Presenting Sponsors Bob and Sandy Moss, Moss Construction; Jim Ellis, President, Friends Board



Great Egret Sponsor Lorraine Thomas with Broward Commissioner Chip LaMarca and Diana Metcalf



Grateful Palette/Shooters lunch sponsor guests Cindi George, Michelle Matak, Meghan Leckey, Tatiana Ichenko and Leslie Grossman



Live Auctioneer Patrick Daoud



Friends Exec. Director Gale Butler, Steve and Jeannie Hudson, White Ibis sponsor, Ginny Miller and Jim Ellis



LaDonna Vieweg, Linda Fellner and Jamie Mayersohn



Patrick Daoud, Ginny Miller, Peggy Fucci (Champagne station sponsor) and Jim Ellis



We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization formed to help preserve, conserve, enhance, and promote Hugh Taylor Birch State Park through community support.

Gale M. Butler, Executive Director
GButler@BirchStatePark.org
Trudy Reilly, Director of Development
TReilly@BirchStatePark.org