



July 2015

MEMBERSHIP SPOTLIGHT



ROB KORNAHRENS

Thank you to Rob Kornahrens, owner of Advanced Roofing, Inc. for retrofitting many of our electric golf carts into solar powered golf carts. It saves money and we want to be as "green" as possible! Advanced Roofing has been around for over 30 years specializing in roof replacements for buildings in Florida and the Caribbean. It is ranked as the top commercial roofing contractor in Florida by Roofing Contractor Magazine and the South Florida Business Journal. Rob and his company are certainly #1 with us!

WWW.ADVANCEDROOFING.COM

PARK HISTORY VIDEO



The Friends of Birch State Park invite you to visit our website and watch our video on the history of the Park and the role Hugh Taylor Birch played in making Fort Lauderdale the thriving, exciting city it is today. Remember, while Hugh Taylor Birch State Park is a state park, it is OUR state park and ours to cherish and enjoy.

WWW.BIRCHSTATEPARK.ORG

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Jim Ellis

Dear Friends,



We are extremely proud and excited to announce the Friends of Birch State Park and the Florida State Park Service success with the approval of a \$2.5 million matching grant from the Florida Inland Navigation District (F.I.N.D.) announced 7/20/15. We'd like to personally thank Friends board member Tyler Chappell for his leadership and direction in making this happen.

Once Birch Park has access to the F.I.N.D. matching grant, we will then have access to receive more than \$4.5 million in grants and appropriations and will be in a great position as we launch our "BRING BIRCH BACK" Capital Campaign of \$12 million.

We'd also like to acknowledge widespread political support, especially from the City of Fort Lauderdale's Mayor Jack Seiler and our legislators and commissioners:

- Honorable John P. "Jack" Seiler, Mayor, City of Fort Lauderdale
- Maria Sacks, State Senate, District 34
- Lois Frankel, U.S. Representative, District 22
- Patrick Murphy, U.S. Representative, District 18
- George Moraitis, U.S. Representative, District 93
- Chip LaMarca, Broward County Commissioner, District 4
- Dean J. Trantalis, City of Fort Lauderdale Commissioner, District 2
- Lee R. Feldman, City Manager, City of Fort Lauderdale

Sincerely,

Jim Ellis
President

MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Gale M. Butler

Dear Friends,



We hope you're having a great summer and that it includes visits to the Park with family and friends. Let us know if we can make your visit more fun in any way. Remember, we have trams meeting the Water Taxi now on weekends as well as trams driving around the Park giving visitors rides to concessions or to their cars. It's a new service that is wildly popular already!

We have so many Park projects in varying states of completion and we'd like to update you on a couple of them:

- A new concessionaire will be announced soon, who will be bringing back the cafe that used to serve beach and park visitors alike. They will also be upgrading the equipment and rental equipment service as well. Stay tuned!
- We are weeks away from moving the Park staff back onto the second floor of Terramar-Hugh Taylor Birch's home. As well as the Friends' office on the ground floor. Come visit!
- Through the hard work and coordination of the staff of Ellis Diversified, Terramar has been "scraped, patched and painted" so that we can begin to work on the Visitor's Center, the Education classroom and theater and the Gift Shop. Our thanks as well to the Park staff and volunteers for their support throughout the renovation.

LET'S HELP LONG LAKE



Visit our website and watch a video on our project to rid Long Lake of invasive, non-indigenous plant life so that boaters and visitors can access the entire length of the lake.

Contact us if you think YOU can help!

WWW.BIRCHSTATEPARK.ORG

MEET YOUR RANGER Mark Foley



In this edition we showcase another important member of our park family, Florida State Park Ranger Mark Foley, who celebrates ten years as a ranger this month. Mark Foley is a Florida native, born and raised in rural DeSoto County along the banks of the Peace River in Arcadia, Florida. He began his journey in the State Park Service as a park volunteer and, in no time, rose to Park Service Ranger. In 2010, he was promoted to Park Service Specialist and serves as our park naturalist with a focus on education and volunteerism.

Through training opportunities in other state parks such as Jonathan Dickinson and Mikala, Specialist Foley, with his background in graphic design, gained tools to enhance park

- Thanks to Rob Kornahrens, owner of Advanced Roofing, most of our golf carts will soon be solar powered.

Your board of directors is working hard on several new committees such as the Volunteer, Youth, Education, Living Well Program, Marketing and Fund Raising Committee as well as the Executive Committee that steers the board on a steady course. Always, our goal is to fulfill the Friends' mission to help preserve, conserve, enhance and promote Hugh Taylor Birch State Park.

Thank you for being a member of Friends and a supporter of our beautiful 180 acres of green space in the heart of Fort Lauderdale.

See you in the park!

Gale

MESSAGE FROM OUR PARK MANAGER

David Death

Hello all,



Counting the people in the car, the steel rangers, the CSO's efforts to increase the awareness of our great park, the addition of the water taxi stop and including a greeter at the beach gate, we have increased our visitation in May by 89.5 % from May of last year!

Year / Attendance
May of 2013 = 21929
May of 2014 = 26264
May of 2015 = 49766

Well done everybody, keep up the great work, we couldn't have done it without all of you and your devotion to our park!

David

NEW AT THE PARK

WELCOME PICASSO



Meet the newest member of our Birch State Park Family, Picasso! Picasso is a sub-adult Scarlet King Snake, who is known as the famous MIMIC of the highly venomous Coral Snake. They even have their own rhyme: "red on black - venom lack,

programs and special events. Mark has also worked as a wildlife rescue volunteer for over seven years and as an on-call volunteer for the South Florida Wildlife Center where he responds, as needed, to ailing wildlife. It is a pleasure having someone so devoted to wildlife and education in our park. Congratulations Mark on your ten year anniversary!

TWEETSIE RAIL ROAD



Visit our website and watch a video on our project to rid Long Lake of invasive, non-indigenous plant life so that boaters and visitors can access the entire length of the lake.

Contact us if you think YOU can help!

WWW.BIRCHSTATEPARK.ORG

CAMP LIVE OAK



What is one of the best summer experiences in Fort Lauderdale? Camp Live Oak of course! We are delighted by all the smiling faces of the children experiencing all that Hugh Taylor Birch State Park has to offer. Stop by Camp Live Oak's Facebook page!

WWW.CAMPLIVEOAKFL.COM

red on yellow - kills a fellow". The importance of this rhyme is to specify if red touches black you are dealing with the harmless Scarlet King Snake, but if red touches yellow, run, because you are dealing with the Coral Snake. This great rhyme helps adults and kids to not only avoid a dangerous animal, but also identify when there is no threat, so both critter and human can continue on their way peacefully. The Scarlet Snake is most commonly found in the southeastern and eastern portions on the United States. They are usually found in pine Flatwoods, hydric hammocks, mesic pine-oak forests and a variety of suburban habitats; in spring, for example, you could even encounter one in a swimming pool! The maximum recorded length is about 27 inches, but are more commonly between 16 to 20 inches in maturity.

RESIDENT VOLUNTEERS



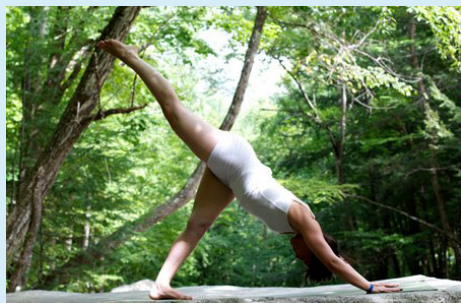
Friends recently donated a washer, dryer and freezer for our resident volunteers who donate hundreds of hours to the park each month.

TERRAMAR RENOVATION



The Terramar renovation is well under way!

LIVING WELL PROGRAM



Look for the return of our Living Well Program in the fall! We look forward to new topics and activities designed to help our members connect with the wellness benefits of our park and the great outdoors.

Visit our website for updates!

WWW.BIRCHSTATEPARK.ORG

WATER TAXI



STOP #10

right in the park! Water Taxi tickets allow for UNLIMITED boarding all day and discounts for over 60 restaurants and shops.

For Water Taxi pick up or schedule call 954.467.6677 or visit

WWW.WATERTAXI.COM

WATER TAXI



Support Friends while you shop at Amazon!

Just visit WWW.SMILE.AMAZON.COM and use your existing login and password. Amazon Smile Foundation donates 0.5% of eligible purchases to Friends of Birch State Park.

FRIENDS OF BIRCH STATE PARK NEWS!

HUGH TAYLOR BIRCH INDUCTED INTO THE WALK OF FAME



On Saturday, May 23, 2015, Hugh Taylor Birch was recognized as the Father of Fort Lauderdale Beach for his donation of almost three-miles of open beach to the City of Fort Lauderdale-giving the City its economic engine: Tourism. Of course, he was also recognized for donating the 180 acres as a state park giving Fort Lauderdale a very special green space in the midst of a rapidly developing area. Hugh Taylor Birch's nephew and only living relative, Birch Willey, accepted on behalf of "Uncle Hugh". Be sure and visit the Walk of Fame which is across from the Elbo Room located on the sidewalk by the wave wall. Also inducted were: Ina Lee, Travel Host owner and Friends' board member; Ron O'Brien, Olympic Diving Coach; and Tim Schiavonne, owner of the World Famous Parrot. Past luminaries include: Wayne Huizenga and Jimmy and Chris Evert.

FRIENDS OF BIRCH STATE PARK EVENTS

NIGHT OF HISTORY AND LEGACY



Jim Ellis, Gale M. Butler, Ina Lee and Birch Willey

WEEKLY AT THE PARK

Come and meet the park rangers:

Every Friday & Saturday **Live Animal Presentation** **1:00 pm**

A Live Animal Presentation is held at the Beach Gate Entrance - Park Rangers offer a Live Animal Presentation with our park's very own resident critters!

First Friday of each month: **Mangrove Habitat Walk** **10:30 am**

This 1.5-mile walk guides guests past the famous Gopher Tortoise habitat, through the Pavilion 1 & 2 area and into the park's extensive mangrove habitat.

Second Friday of each month: **Mid-Trail Walk** **10:30 am**

This 2-mile walk gives guests the historical overview of the park and focuses on the importance of balanced ecosystems in South Florida.

Third Friday of each month: **Beach & Coastal Dune Lake** **10:30 am**

This 1-mile walk guides guests past one of the park's unique fresh-water ecosystems, the Coastal Dune Lake, and informs guests about the formation and evolution of Barrier Island systems.

Fourth Friday of each month: **Beach Hammock Trail Walk** **10:30 am**

This 1-mile walk guides guests into one of the last residual Tropical Hardwood Hammock (Maritime Forest) habitats in Broward County.

Monthly close to full moon **Full Moon Mangrove Tour** **8:30 am**

This approximately 3 hour ranger-guided canoe ride takes you into the Mangrove habitat area. Some restrictions apply please visit our website for more information.



Gale M. Butler, William Walker, Jim Ellis

On Tuesday, May 5th, at the beautiful home of Wayne and Marti Huizenga on the New River, over 100 community leaders gathered to hear more about the plans the Friends of Birch State Park have to "Bring Birch Back!". The rain held off just long enough for the guests to enjoy being outdoors on the river and watch a video on the legacy of Hugh Taylor Birch and the historical significance of the gifts of land he gave to both the City of Fort Lauderdale (3 miles of open beach!) and the state of Florida (180 acres between the Atlantic Ocean and the Intracoastal Waterway for a state Park). During a brief program, President of the Board of Directors, Jim Ellis, and Gale Butler, executive director of Friends, recognized the contributions of Birch Willey, nephew of Hugh Taylor Birch, for his willingness to help promote the Park, and William Walker, CEO of the Water Taxi, thanking him for the Park's new partnership which made Birch Park an official Water Taxi stop. Our heartfelt thanks go to Wayne and Marti for their graciousness in hosting the gathering.

S.E.A. BY THE SEA



Jim Ellis, Jennifer Roberts, Gamalys Alejandro, Candi Evett, Rosa Reyes, Todd Michael, Janet Buhl, Katherine Koenig, David Dearth

MID TRAIL AUDIO TOUR



This mid-trail audio tour guides you through a 3/4 mile walk! Scan QR Code and listen straight from your phone or visit the Friends of Birch

State Park Website



Bill Feinberg, Gale M. Butler, Todd Michael

TERRAMAR SOCIETY MEMBERS

BANYAN LEVEL (\$5,000)

Jim Ellis

GalleryOne Doubletree Suites by Hilton
Steve & Jeannie Hudson
Par & Louise Sanda
Sun Dream Yacht Charters

MANATEE LEVEL (\$2,000)

Marc & Sharon Friedman
Hackleman, Olive & Judd, P.A.
Huizenga Family Foundation, Inc.
Dominick & Meike Miniaci
Moss Foundation
Carlos & Lisa Rodriguez
Robert & Jennifer Roselli
James & Shari Sawran
Marshall & Suzanne Watson

SEA TURTLE LEVEL (\$1,000)

Peter & Janet Buhl
Gale Butler
Tyler & Sarah Chappell
Michael & Mary Ellen Coen
Bob Swindell & John Cotter
Ken Evans/Camp Live Oak
Paul & Jennifer Kroncke
Lee MacDonald
Mari Mennel-Bell
Terry & Jamie Stiles
Andrew & Lori Taubman
Bill & Nancy Thies
Lynne Wines

BUTTERFLY LEVEL (\$500)

John & Lois Schmatz
Mark & Joanne Snead

for more information on Terramar Society please visit the Friends of Birch State Park Website

The Seagull Society, chaired by Janet Buhl, hosted a successful reception for hotel concierges in the breezeway at the beach entrance on Wednesday, June 17, complete with catering and live music entertainment. Thank you to Rosa Reyes of Capital Grille who donated the catering and to John Magee of Southern Wine and Spirits as well. Also a thank you to Adorned Photography for their great pictures. Over 120 people attended. One of the highlights of the event was the viewing of the beautiful mural on the north side of the breezeway building. Artist Todd Michael created a mosaic of Helen's Tree, the huge Banyan tree by Pavilion One. It is stunning and colorful and depicts some of our Park critters in it. A big thank you to Bill Feinberg of Allied Kitchen and Bath who donated the special one-square inch tiles for the piece of artwork.

MEET OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

WELCOME NEW FRIENDS' BOARD MEMBERS!

We recently welcomed five new Friends of Birch State Park to our board: President and Executive Producer of Wizard Entertainment, **Dan Barnett**; Founder and President of 954Design, **Laura Elmore**; Managing Member and Principal of Lansing Melbourne Group LLC (LMG), **Peter Flotz**; Executive Vice President of Moss & Associates, **Chad Moss**; and President of The Center for Human Capital Innovation, **Allen Zeman**.

DAN BARNETT - Wizard Entertainment

Dan has been booking and producing entertainment events for over 25 years. Dan's entertainment career began in 1984 as he oversaw the talent booking division of the nation's largest concert promotion company, Cellar Door Concerts. As the company expanded to include international tours, special events and corporate entertainment, he produced over 2,000 concerts and events. Once SFX acquired Cellar Door, Dan became the Vice President of Business Development, and created a division dedicated to developing large Special Events and Corporate Entertainment. His efforts landed him the half-time show of Super Bowl XXXVI. Now as Wizard Entertainment's President and Executive Producer he is part of one of the most creative entertainment production companies in the United States.

LAURA ELMORE - 954Design

Laura is a South Florida native and a former student of Fine Arts in Graphic Design from the University of Florida. She has created material for an array of national non-profit organizations and received a number of design awards including

M CRUZ RENTALS



From bikes to Segways, kayaks to jet skis, M. Cruz Rentals has all the tools for fun at the park!

Open 7 days a week
10 am to 5 pm
www.mcruzrentals.com
(954) 235-5082

BIRCH PARK FAMILY ALBUM



Traffic Jam at Hugh Taylor Birch State Park

Friends prides itself on conserving Birch State Park for future generations without forgetting the relevance of remembering the past. We love and appreciate all the memories created and feel they should all have a place to be commemorated!

If you would like to share any of your memories of our park send a photo and brief story to gbutler@birchstate-park.org and we will include it in our Birch Park Family Album.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Jim Ellis,
Ellis Diversified, Inc.
PRESIDENT

Steve Tilbrook,
GrayRobinson, P.A.
VICE-PRESIDENT

Tyler Chappell,
The Chappell Group, Inc.
SECRETARY

Andrew Taubman
Kaufman, Rossin & Co.
TREASURER

Dan Barnett
Wizard Entertainment

Heather P. Brinkworth
School Board of Broward County,
District 3

Janet Buhl
Community Advocate

an "American Graphic Award" while working with Stiles Corporation. In July 2014, after 10 years as an Art Director with New River Communications, she resigned to be founder and president of 954Design and specialize in marketing and advertising. In her free time, Laura is a community leader in the City of Ft. Lauderdale working with The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Angel's Pediatric Heart House, Cameras for Kids, H.A.N.D.Y. and Island Paws Rescue. Her annual Pumpkin Carving Contest, an event that has been enjoyed for 14 years, has raised money for local charities.

PETER FLOTZ - Lansing Melbourne Group, LLC

Peter has over 25 years' experience in a wide variety of assignments that encompass all aspects of system and project development, including: planning, financing feasibility, functional design, management architectural design, engineering, bidding, construction and operations for transportation, parking and mixed-used projects. His clients range from universities and colleges, to private developers, municipalities and institutions. Peter has conducted numerous transportation planning, traffic and parking studies for clients throughout the western hemisphere and now focuses his activities on assisting clients in the structuring and financing of transactions. He is currently a Managing Member and a Principal of Lansing Melbourne Group LLC (LMG). He is also a registered planner in the institutional development and parking consulting practice. Mr. Flotz has most recently been involved in the institutional investment initiative at LMG.

CHAD MOSS - Moss & Associates

Chad enjoys bringing people together to create significant projects for the community. He follows and embraces changing technologies to promote greater efficiency, better building and sustainability. Chad co-founded family-owned-and-operated Moss & Associates after he began his 20-year career in operations. He has been active in some of Moss' most prominent signature projects including the Miami Marlin's Park, which opened in 2012, the groundbreaking 620-bed Parkview Hall at his alma mater, Florida International University that opened in August 2013 and has been instrumental in the family's donation of \$250,000 to FIU in 2013 for a construction laboratory to achieve cost-and-time-saving practices. Chad is prominent in the community and is a member of the FIU Foundation board of directors and of the University's OHL School of Construction Industry Advisory Council. He also serves on the board of H.A.N.D.Y.

ALLEN ZEMAN - Center of Human Capital Innovation

Allen is the President of Center for Human Capital Innovation. He has designed and co-created new human capital systems and strategies with federal, state and local government agencies. Since 2008, Allen has led human capital transformation initiatives for the U.S. Army, Army Medical Department, Army R&D Engineering Command, Department of Veteran's Affairs, Department of Veteran's Health Administration and the CIA. He has designed and delivered customized education programs to Department of Commerce, Department of Energy, Department of Defense, Health and Human Services, CIA and many others. He provides best practice processes for identifying, selecting and implementing HR and talent management technologies and is also an ICF-certified executive coach with over 700 hours of coaching. Finally, Allen leads executive coaching programs at the U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, Veteran's Health Agency, and several agencies within the intelligence community including the CIA.

NEW CORPORATE MEMBERS

The Friends of Birch State Park appreciate our corporate members in the community who support our mission to help preserve, conserve, enhance, and promote Hugh Taylor Birch State Park through community support. Our Park, located in the heart of Fort Lauderdale's growing east side, is 180 acres of old Florida. And, our Park is only part of the gift from Hugh Taylor Birch that gave Fort Lauderdale its most unique characteristic: almost 3-miles of open beach visible and accessible for the public to enjoy. He was not only a naturalist but a visionary. Like

Dave Cundy
Cundy Insurance

Richard Dodge
Halmos College of Natural Sciences
and Oceanography, NSU

Laura Elmore
954Design

Ken Evans
Camp Live Oak

Peter Flotz
Lansing Melbourne Group

Peggy Fucci
OneWorld Properties

Ginny Fujino
Blacktie-SouthFlorida

Katherine Koenig
Christopher & Weisberg, P.A.

Ina Lee
TravelHost of Greater Fort Lauderdale

Christine Madsen
Mad 4 Marketing, Inc.

John Magee
Southern Wine & Spirits

Mari Mennel-Bell
Jazz SLAM

Kimberly Miller
GalleryOne DoubleTree Suites by
Hilton

Chad Moss
Moss & Associates

Dawn Read
Winterfest, Inc.

Rosa Reyes
The Capital Grille

Robert Roselli
Roselli Law

Sara Shake
Exposed PR

Philip Ward
GrayRobinson, P.A.

Allen Zeman
Center for Human Capital Innovation

HONORARY BOARD

Joe Amatore
Dr. George Hanbury
Marti Huizenga
Dominick Miniaci
Carlos Suarez
Phil Thornburg

STAFF

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Gale M. Butler

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
PROGRAMS & MEMBERSHIPS
Rachel Bryan

Hugh Taylor Birch, our corporate members are visionaries who see the value of keeping green space even as our city adds buildings and infrastructure needed for the future.

LANSING MELBOURNE GROUP



With offices at the Galleria Mall, Lansing Melbourne Group has a particular interest in the preservation of Birch State Park and is proud to call itself a member of the Friends of Birch State Park. Lansing Melbourne Group was established in

2003 specializing in providing services specifically related to transportation and parking advising, public private venture planning, parking economics and financial advising. Some examples of the services we offer our clients include: owner's representative for new facilities, master planning, rate studies, parking studies, and economic/financial studies. As a small firm, the Principals have a direct hands-on impact on every project and with every client.

In addition to providing comprehensive parking consulting services, LMG is a recognized leader in the rapidly growing market of parking development. LMG conducts economic studies, provides fee development and advisory services, and can source the financing for the majority of mixed-use or stand-alone development projects that incorporate significant parking components.

For examples of our projects please visit: WWW.LANSINGMELBOURNE.COM

FAST-FIX JEWELRY

Established in 1985, Fast-Fix has become a recognized industry leader, a trusted brand and consumer choice for jewelry, watch and Smartphone repair services as well as custom jewelry design and personalized engraving services. Fast-Fix has 155 locations in the United States and Ireland. Each location is staffed with professionally trained, expert jewelers, watchmakers and Smartphone technicians that provide the high quality and timely

services our customers have grown to respect and appreciate. Bring it in today, wear it out tonight. Fast-Fix locations are conveniently located within regional malls and shopping centers. We understand how busy life can be and we take great pride in performing most services while you shop!

Many repair companies send your valued possessions somewhere else to be serviced. At Fast-Fix, our professionally trained, expert jewelers, watchmakers and Smartphone technicians perform most repair services on your Jewelry, Timepiece or Smartphone onsite in our store. Not only does this allow for high quality services to be completed in a more timely fashion, it also provides our customers with the added protection and peace of mind from concerns regarding the risk of a valuable or sentimental possession becoming tampered with, stolen or lost.

For more information on Fast-Fix please visit: WWW.FASTFIXFRANCHISE.COM