



JUNE 2016

Birch Bulletin

The Best Seat in the House: Fort Lauderdale Air Show



Dozens of Friends of Birch State Park joined us on the front lawn of Terramar during the Fort Lauderdale Air Show for what turned out to be the best seat in the house! We hope you enjoy these photos from that memorable donor appreciation event.



Left: Mike Weymouth (standing at right) of the Las Olas Companies with Jody Weymouth (seated at right) and Paige Thomfohrde (seated left) and Jordan and Jason Thomfohrde (standing, left to right). Right: Friends board member Peter Flotz with his sister, Diane Wilson of Florida Luxurious Properties (left) and wife and gifted artist, Deborah.

Fort Lauderdale Air Show photo compliments of Middle River Arts

Volunteer Spotlight: Bill Oliver

Bill Oliver has spent the last year practically living at Hugh Taylor Birch State Park. We say that because he's logged more than 700 volunteer hours during that time! Whether it's weed-eating, branch cutting, installing signs or performing basic equipment maintenance, this former tile and marble contractor who lives nearby in Fort Lauderdale is multi-talented and does it all. "We can always count on Bill to help us with whatever we need to have done," says Assistant Park Manager Jennifer Roberts. "He's exactly the type of volunteer we need!" And when you ask Bill what drives him to volunteer, he'll tell you that he likes working outside, meeting people and tackling something new every day.

WE'RE GRATEFUL TO YOU, BILL!



Left to right: Bill Oliver, Linda Chappell, Gale Butler; Bill Oliver helps load donated antique furniture from Board Member Tyler Chappell's family home.



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Executive Director's Message: Gale M. Butler

Summer is a time when children are out of school and families flock to our park, heading for the beach for a swim or to the Intracoastal Waterway for a barbeque. Weekends are our busiest time of course and it's fun to watch families enjoying themselves outside in nature. After all, Hugh Taylor Birch State Park is a nature park first and foremost and everything we do every day is focused on keeping the natural beauty of our park clean, safe and exciting for children and adults alike.

The upgrades are visible to visitors and we know you appreciate the new concessionaire's kayaks and canoes as well as our new park benches and picnic tables. Your support as a Friend of Birch Park is crucial to helping us "Bring Birch Back!" after years of neglect.

**Next time you
come to the park,
stop by Terramar
for a visit!**

For example, this summer, a new playground by the Intracoastal will be built thanks to Carlos and Lisa Rodriguez's very generous donation of \$50,000. The long awaited Long Lake clean out will begin opening the entire mile-long length of the lake to boaters for the first time in decades. Thank you to Mari Mennel-Bell, the state of Florida, the Community Foundation of Broward and the Broward County Commission for their support of this project. Pavilion restrooms will be rebuilt to comply with ADA regulations and, finally, the Terramar Visitor Center is now open on a limited basis to the public during the week.



Gale M. Butler

Photos by Dove Decoteau, Downtown Photo

Coming Soon!



Thanks to a matching grant of up to \$100,000 from Marti and Wayne Huizenga, we are creating a meditation garden named Helen's Garden, named after Birch's only daughter. We will launch a campaign to raise matching funds in September at a garden party on the lawn of Terramar. Stay tuned for the date!

Introducing Alli the Alligator

Alli is the latest addition to the park's live animal presentations, which can be seen in front of Terramar on Fridays and Saturdays at 1 p.m. She's about 8 months old and is on loan to us for educational purposes from a local alligator farm.



Thank You, Terramar Society Members

BANYAN LEVEL

Jim Ellis
Steve & Jeannie Hudson
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For information about supporting the Friends of Birch State Park by joining the Terramar Society, please call 954-566-0550.

Bench Campaign Continues

Thank you to all our
bench sponsors!

The Friends of Birch State Park's "Bring Birch Back" bench campaign is well underway, thanks to the support of generous donors who have purchased an ADA accessible, weather-proof bench at the park. Funds raised from this campaign are used to repair and replace equipment at Hugh Taylor Birch State Park that the park service's limited budget is unable to afford. Each bench has a dedication plaque inscribed with the donor's information. Thank you to the following donors for their support of the bench campaign:

ATLANTIC OCEAN/ INTRACOASTAL VIEW

Jay Alexander & Pamela Huizenga
Joe and Winnie Amaturro
Gale Butler
Steve & Jeannie Hudson
Wayne & Marti Huizenga
Wayne Jr. & Fonda Huizenga
Lansing Melbourne Group
Gordon Latz/Mangurian Foundation

MANGROVES/LONG LAKE/ MEDITATION GARDEN VIEW

John and Mimi Bauer

PLAYGROUND VIEW

Peggy Fucci
Richard & Anne Marie Groblewski
Wayne Jr. & Fonda Huizenga
Mari Mennel-Bell

INTERIOR PARK VIEW

Ina Lee/TravelHost
The Tolley Family
The World Famous Parrot

Learn more about joining our "Bring Back Birch" bench campaign on our website at birchstatepark.org/bench-campaign or call 954-566-0660 to schedule a tour of the park so that we can show you a variety of available bench locations.



John and Mimi Bauer by the bench they sponsored in memory of their son, August Philip Bauer.

Floating Wheelchair Helps with Access for All



Hugh Taylor Birch State Park is proud to offer a cleverly modified lounge chair adapted with wheels and able to float for use by park patrons who have difficulty walking. Called WaterWheels, it was purchased for the park and is available for use by those with disabilities at no charge. This useful acquisition was made possible through the combined efforts of and donations from Friends of Florida State Parks, Friends of Birch State Park, Park Manager David Dearth and Russell Hibbard, who owns the Bamboo Room in Lake Worth.

DEDICATED TO BRINGING BIRCH BACK FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Bank of America Volunteers



In honor of Global Service Month, 55 Bank of America employees recently donated their time removing invasive, non-indigenous plants at Hugh Taylor Birch State Park – and we couldn't be more appreciative! If your organization is interested in corporate volunteer opportunities here at the park, please call 954-566-0660 to learn more about upcoming projects.

New River Middle Life Program



Dozens of students from New River Middle School's L.I.F.E. (Learning In Florida's Environment) Program visited the park recently to conduct fishing labs, plant seedlings and practice GPS skills in a nature setting. Hugh Taylor Birch State Park is proud to be the first state park to participate in this valuable partnership, which is expected to be expanded statewide in the near future.

The Dogs of Birch

Bob Kramm's red Jeep and three Golden Retrievers (Romeo, Nora J and Clementine) are well-known to the regulars at Hugh Taylor Birch State Park.



"This park is wonderfully maintained and we appreciate all the recent changes and improvements everywhere," says Bob. "Those of us who enjoy the park on a daily basis often comment about how helpful and friendly the entire team is to everyone and the 'welcome' treats (dog bones) at the gate are a nice touch. In addition to the daily visits, we often gather here with friends and family for special occasions and to enjoy the serenity and the beauty of this local treasure."

Best Seat in the House (cont'd)



Jennifer O'Flannery Anderson of NSU with Earl Bosworth from Broward Cultural Council and Kara Starzyk of Kara Starzyk Photography



Larry Domke with his sister and Friends of Birch State Park board member Christine Madsen of Mad4Marketing



Lilia Ciciolla from Bank of America with Jon Bell and Julian Ciciolla



From left: Vivien Dearth, Jason Leidy of Middle River Arts and Hank Henley