



OCTOBER 2016

# Birch Bulletin

## A Garden Party for "Helen's Garden"



**W**ith Marti Huizenga as Chair and an amazing Host Committee that includes: Pamela Huizenga Alexander, Mimi Bauer, Nancy Blosser, Pamela Baynes, Peggy Fucci, Barbara Grevior, Fonda Huizenga, Jennifer Huizenga, Alice Lucia Jackson, Janet Jordan, Ginny Miller, Ellen Murton, Jamie Stiles and Kim Sweers – our event is already a success.

"We're excited to be a part of the effort to 'Bring Birch Back!'," said Marti Huizenga. "The park is a very special place in all our hearts, and adding a meditation garden will enhance the peacefulness of it."

Thanks to the following sponsors for their support: I. Lorraine Thomas, AutoNation, Bank of America, Rick Case Auto Group, ACURE, Ellis Diversified, My Own Cruising Journal, Shooters and the Water Taxi.

The event will be held on the lawn of Terramar in Hugh Taylor Birch State Park beginning at 11:30 a.m. with a silent auction followed by a luncheon, live auction, brief program, and music. For more information go to [birchstatepark.org](http://birchstatepark.org) or email [gbutler@birchstatepark.org](mailto:gbutler@birchstatepark.org) or [treilly@birchstatepark.org](mailto:treilly@birchstatepark.org).



Top Row: Lilia Ciciolla, Peggy Fucci, Gale Butler, Lori Chevy, Janet Jordan, Mimi Bauer, Pamela Baynes; Bottom Row: Marti Huizenga, Jamie Stiles, Alice Jackson



Pictured from left in the center are Sandra Juliachs, Gale Butler and Lori Chevy surrounded by Bank of America associates.

## Thank you Bank of America!

**O**ur thanks to Lori Chevy, Broward Market President, Bank of America for not only donating a \$5,000 grant to support Friends, but also for the large group of associates they brought to the park on Saturday, September 17th for a beach clean-up.

Pictured from left are: OPS Ranger Falon Hoak, Lori Chevy, Broward Market President, Bank of America and Ranger Ronny Glisson.





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BIRCH STATE PARK, INC.

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Gale M. Butler, Executive Director

GButler@BirchStatePark.org

Trudy Reilly, Director of Membership and  
Development

TReilly@BirchStatePark.org

## Friends Presents at Beach Council Luncheon



Jim Ellis, EDI and President of the Friends Board of Directors, Heidi Dennis, The Pelican Beach Resort; Gale Butler, Executive Director, Friends of Birch State Park, and Jennifer Roberts, Hugh Taylor Birch State Park Manager.

With more than 100 guests in attendance,

Friends showed our history video introduced by Board President Jim Ellis. We thank the Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber's Beach Council for the opportunity!

## Save the Dates:

### Terramar Society Members Reception

**Thursday, Dec. 1, 2016 5:30p.m.**

Terramar at Hugh Taylor Birch State Park, holiday lights, cocktails, music, hors d'oeuvres.

### An Evening by the Sea

**Friday, February 3, 2017 6 p.m.**

Terramar at Hugh Taylor Birch State Park, cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, silent and live auctions, awards, entertainment. Benefiting the Friends of Birch State Park.

## Friends Launches The Giving Tree Campaign

Honorary Friends' board member, Kim Sweers, CEO of FB Marine Group, has agreed to chair the The Giving Tree campaign, based on the popular children's book by Shel Silverstein. It is a metaphor of parental love for a child. The campaign will include the naming of twenty full-grown trees in the park, chosen by Park Manager Jennifer Roberts as well as The Giving Tree wall with tiles naming donors. The levels are \$1,000 for a tree and \$500 for tiles on The Giving Tree wall. The wall will be located next to the beautiful mosaic tile mural depicting our iconic 100-year-old Banyan tree named "Helen's Tree" after Hugh Taylor Birch's daughter.





## Thank You!

### Terramar Society Members

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

Jim Ellis  
Steve & Jeannie Hudson  
Par & Louise Sanda

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

John & Fran Custer  
Marc & Sharon Friedman  
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Marc & Sharon Friedman  
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Moss Foundation  
Carlos & Lisa Rodriguez  
Robert & Jennifer Roselli  
James & Shari Sawran  
Marshall & Suzanne Watson

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

Jon Bell  
Peter & Janet Buhl  
Gale Butler  
Tyler & Sarah Chappell  
Michael & Mary Ellen Coen  
Ken Evans/Camp Live Oak  
Jon & Elaine Krupnick  
The Mastriana Family  
Lee McDonald  
Mari Mennel-Bell  
Frithiof Mikus  
Terry & Jamie Stiles  
Randy & Kim Sweers  
Bob Swindell & John Cotter  
Andrew & Lori Taubman  
Bill & Nancy Thies  
E.C. Traver

## Jennifer Roberts Appointed New Park Manager

Jennifer began her career after high school when she joined the military. She served 15 years in the US Army and Army National Guard as both an enlisted member and an officer, including a tour in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Desert Storm. Jennifer went on to become a Biologist Assistant with Miami Dade County Department of Environmental Resources Management and as an Environmental Specialist for Hillsborough County's Parks, Recreation and Conservation. She supervised an invasive species work crew, headed a multi-agency Invasive Species Task Force and transcribed and managed several large-scale grants. Jennifer began her Florida Park Service Career in 2011 as an OPS Park Ranger at Oleta River State Park. She was quickly promoted to Park Services Specialist where she served as Volunteer Coordinator, AmeriCorps Site Supervisor and Special Event Coordinator. Since February 2015, Jennifer has worked at Birch State Park as Assistant Park Manager and was recently named Park Manager.



Jennifer Roberts, Park Manager

*"I'm honored to be the new Park Manager of this piece of the real Florida," said Jennifer. "Our staff and I along with the Friends of Birch State Park, are working together to move the park in a positive direction while preserving the cultural resources and natural communities that make it so special."*

## Board of Directors Adds New Members

The Friends of Birch State Park recently welcomed two new board members: Andrew Caldwell, Wealth Management Vice President, Wells Fargo Advisors LLC and Dan Lindblade, Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce President and CEO.



Dan Lindblade,  
President & CEO,  
Greater Fort  
Lauderdale  
Chamber of  
Commerce

"We are honored to have Andy and Dan join our dynamic board," said Board President Jim Ellis of Ellis Diversified, Inc. "They bring a wealth of knowledge and community service experience to the Friends of Birch State Park."



Andy Caldwell,  
Wealth  
Management  
Vice President,  
Wells Fargo  
Advisors LLC

## Park Welcomes Crockett Foundation



Ranger Mark Carhuel leads Margate Middle School youth on a ranger-guided tour that included a live animal show.

Recently, the Crockett Foundation, led by Executive Director Elaine LaMarca, brought students from Margate Middle School who are a part of the Foundation's "School is Cool" program to the park. Their field trip included a ranger-guided tour, a BBQ lunch and a live animal show with indigenous snakes and gopher tortoises. The Crockett Foundation's mission is to help build character, develop leaders, and improve communities – one child at a time.

We invite other non-profit youth groups to visit us either for a field trip or for an overnight at either the Primitive Youth Campground in tents or the Elks Youth Camp in cabins. For more information call: 954-564-4521 or ask at the park Ranger Station at the entrance to the park on Sunrise Boulevard.

## Visitor Survey Provides Park Insight



Marion Fields Fass and Mike Ebbs, volunteers in Impact Broward's Executive Service Corps, designed and implemented a survey to help the park better target potential volunteers. We are grateful to them for using their strategic skills to help Hugh Taylor Birch State Park attract much-needed volunteers.

## Travel Host Donates Bench



Ina Lee, founder and CEO of Travel Host

Ina Lee, founder and CEO of Travel Host, donated a bench located on the 1.8 mile loop path. It's in a perfect spot for tired joggers to sit and catch their breath!

Our bench campaign is successfully giving our visitors not only places to sit and enjoy the serenity of the park, but a way to "own" a piece of the park that makes the statement, "I care about this park." To date, over 18 benches have been added to the park with bronze plaques naming the donors. Behind each plaque is often a very special story told sometimes with just a name and other times through a quote. For more information go to [BirchStatePark.org](http://BirchStatePark.org).

## Friends Visit Wells Fargo Wealth Management



Wells Fargo's Wealth Management team invited Gale Butler, Friends of Birch StatePark, to talk about the Bring Birch Back! Campaign. The presentation included such exciting projects as: the seawall replacement, Long Lake project, floating public boat dock on the Intracoastal, improvements to the Terramar Visitor Center and a new restaurant. We appreciate any opportunity to tell our story. **THANK YOU WELLS FARGO!**