



# Birch Bulletin

JUNE 2017

## An Evening by the Sea...

Our second annual An Evening by the Sea event was attended by friends and families of our deserving award recipients who were:

**Joe and Wini Amaturio** – The Amaturio Foundation, Community Lifetime Achievement Award

**Linda Carter** – Community Foundation of Broward, Community Leadership Award

**Tyler Chappell** – The Chappell Group, Bring Birch Back Award

**Ken Evans** – Camp Live Oak, Children’s Champion Award



The setting was the tented lawn of Terramar overlooking the ocean. The evening consisted of a live and silent auction and fun music by The Mari Bell Trio. Thanks go to our sponsors especially Daoud’s Fine Jewelry and Gordon Latz, our stellar auctioneer. All funds raised go toward Friends and park projects.



Top: Douglas, Wini and Joe Amaturio; From left: Tyler, Catherine and Sarah Chappell; Ken Evans with Beatrice Miniaci, Linda and Michael Carter.

## Friends’ Birdies for Birch a Blast

Friends’ first-ever golf tournament, Birdies for Birch, drew a fun crowd of 90 enthusiastic golfers. Our thanks to presenting sponsor Florida Community Bank as well as sponsors, Ellis Diversified, GrayRobinson, Boatyard, Resolve Marine, Tom Kripps Construction and Botek Thurlow Engineering.

Our two live auction items: a weekend at the Elks Youth Camp and a two-hour cocktail cruise on the Water Taxi for 100 people were a hit! Thank you to Tyler Chappell and Steve Tilbrook for chairing the tournament, to our hard-working committee and Rangers Mark and Falon and their live animal show!



Winning foursome: Ara Tokatlian, Joe Grey, Will Block, and John Powers



First place from left: Lois Schmatz, Pamela Baynes, Carrie Bolf and Lisa Kitei



Presenting sponsor Florida Community Bank’s Douglas Roberts, Tournament co-chairs Tyler Chappell and Steve Tilbrook and Friends’ board President Jim Ellis.





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BIRCH STATE PARK, INC.

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### STAFF

Gale M. Butler, Executive Director

GButler@BirchStatePark.org

Trudy Reilly, Director of Membership and  
Development

TReilly@BirchStatePark.org

## Executive Director's Message



Gale M. Butler

So far, 2017 has been an exciting year in which several long-time projects such as the sea wall reconstruction, the widening of the loop road, and the 230' floating boat dock launched. Kudos to the perseverance of our board of directors, especially our executive committee, who worked hard to make these projects happen.

Other news is that the late Marti Huizenga's favorite project, the meditation garden, is also breaking ground in June. Marti believed in Friends and our mission to "Bring Birch Back!".

The meditation garden will be located in the northwest corner of the park overlooking the Intracoastal Waterway. Indigenous

trees and plantings will be used to give intimacy yet allow for viewing the waterway. Stone benches and a Labyrinth will be highlights of the garden.

## Birch Bench Campaign a Hit with Park Visitors

As part of our fundraising efforts, we purchased 30 benches to place around the park so that visitors can relax and enjoy the beauty of nature. The bench costs depend on the location, whether overlooking the ocean, the Intracoastal Waterway, inland trails, Long Lake or playgrounds. There are only 8 benches left and we hope the next time you wonder what to buy someone who has everything, you'll think of us! Most benches have plaques with interesting sayings or poems or quotes on them. When you're in the park, stop and take a look at the plaques on the benches. They just might make you smile.



## Terramar Hosts Night of Literary Feasts



Co-hosts Doug and Denise Reynolds and Gale Butler toast guests in Hugh Taylor Birch's dining room in Terramar his five-bedroom, art deco, Mediterranean-style home built in 1940 when Birch was 90 years old. Just before his passing, Birch donated his home and 180-acre estate to the state of Florida for a nature park.

The Night of Literary Feasts, an annual fundraiser for the Broward County Library Foundation, was held on April 1st and is an evening of authors and dinners in private homes and venues. For the second year in a row, Terramar was the site of a dinner with some 30 guests and author Lawrence Millman who wrote "At the End of the World".



## Board President's Message



Jim Ellis, President Friends' Board

Thanks to the dedication of Friends' Board of Directors and Park Manager Jennifer Roberts, several projects – that have been four years in the making, have been launched. First: Long Lake Clean-out Project Phase I has been completed and Phase II is beginning. Second: the repair of the 1.2 mile seawall – the longest in South Florida has officially started. Third: we have a brand new limitless playground next to the Manatee Pavilion. Fourth: the 2-mile loop road widening-for-safety project will begin shortly.

“We have many people and organizations to thank for the successful launch of these projects such as: the Department of Environmental Protection, Community Foundation of Broward, the State of Florida, the Florida Inland Navigation District and board member

Tyler Chappell, the City of Fort Lauderdale and Phil Thornberg, the Broward County Commission and Commissioner Chip LaMarca, our board member Mari Mennel-Bell, and for our new playground, Carlos and Lisa Rodriguez,” said Jim. “Next time you visit the park, you’ll see all the activity. It’s exciting!”



Construction begins on saving the 1.2 mile seawall on the Intracoastal Waterway.



New limitless playground donated by Carlos and Lisa Rodriguez.



Introducing Park & Ocean, the new restaurant in the park serving lunch and dinner and offering entertainment on weekends.

### COASTAL DUNE (LONG LAKE) RESTORATION PROJECT - PHASE I

The Friends of Birch State Park is grateful for the funding and/or assistance with the removal of non-indigenous plant life and habitat restoration in Long Lake, a one-mile coastal dune freshwater lake enjoyed by residents and visitors alike.

MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH THE GENEROSITY AND ASSISTANCE OF:

- FRIENDS OF BIRCH STATE PARK, Friends of Birch State Park
- Florida Park Service/Department of Environmental Protection
- City of Fort Lauderdale
- BROWARD COUNTY, Broward County Board of Commissioners
- COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF BROWARD, Frederick W. Jaqua Fund and Joseph P. and Patricia A. Moore Fund of the Community Foundation of Broward
- Mari Mennel-Bell

### PHASE II - WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Additional funding is required to complete the removal of existing and emergent invasive plant species in Long Lake.

Contact the Friends of Birch State Park to donate.



YOUR DONATIONS ARE IMPORTANT!

Please consider becoming a member of the Friends of Birch State Park so that together we can continue preserving, conserving, enhancing and promoting Hugh Taylor Birch State Park. Visit [birchstatepark.org](http://birchstatepark.org) for more information and to join.



Long Lake Clean-Out Project Phase I completed.



## Flying High Over Birch State Park: Fort Lauderdale Air Show

On May 6 and 7, Hugh Taylor Birch State Park hosted the Fort Lauderdale Air Show both in the park and on the beach. The weather was outstanding with clear skies and cool temperatures. Thousands enjoyed the show both days but on Saturday, Friends of Birch State Park hosted special fans and friends on the lawn of Terramar.



Top Left: Jeannie and Steve Hudson, Ginny Miller and son Whit Hudson, Bottom Left: Olya Salehi, Park Manager Jennifer Roberts and Jim Ellis, Top right: Doug Coolman, Dorothy Harden, Michael Weymouth, John Ropes, Jodi Weymouth and daughter Paige, Bottom Right: Tom and Ginny Miller, Jim Ellis, Gale Butler, Traci Martineau and husband Troy.

## Wayne Huizenga Tours Park

On a breezy but sunny day, Wayne Huizenga, Fort Lauderdale icon, businessman and philanthropist toured Hugh Taylor Birch State Park for the first time in many years, since he and his late wife, Marti, brought the children here for picnics. The Huizenga's have been strong supporters of the mission of the Friends of Birch State Park and have funded the meditation garden project which begins in June 2017.

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- |                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| A Garden Party:        | October 25, 2017 |
| Light Up Birch:        | December 7, 2017 |
| An Evening by the Sea: | January 19, 2018 |
| Birdies for Birch:     | April 26, 2018   |



Left to right: Bill Gordon, Jennifer Merry, Val Hinkel, Jim Ellis, Wayne Huizenga and Gale Butler