



JUNE 2018

Birch Bulletin

Spending an Evening by the Sea with Friends



Honorees Lisa, Ava, Grant and Carlos Rodriguez with Park Manager Jennifer Roberts



Diana Metcalf with auctioneer Gordon Latz and honoree Lorraine Thomas



Friends' President Jim Ellis, Honorees Lisa Scott-Founds, Dawn Reed & Kathleen Kellher

On March 23rd, our annual Evening by the Sea fundraiser was held as usual in a large tent on the lawn of Terramar. This year, however, thanks to daylight savings time, guests could enjoy the beautiful setting and a view of the ocean.

More than 180 guests arrived to help us honor the following Community Leaders:

Lorraine Thomas

– *Birch Lifetime Achievement Award*

Carlos & Lisa Rodriguez – *Birch Legacy Award*

Winterfest, Inc. – *Birch Partnership Award*

Bryan Moser – *Birch Above & Beyond Award*

We raised almost \$100,000 with the help of our sponsors that included Ellis Diversified, Inc., ACURE/The Hudson Family, JM Family Enterprises, Morgan Stanley, Ultimate Software, Florida Community Bank, Shooters Waterfront/The Grateful Palate, Bank of America, Nova SE University, Advanced Roofing, Akerman, Daoud's Fine Jewelry, Southern Wine & Spirits, Gale Residences, LaCroix Sparkling Water and Gold Coast Media.

Gordon Latz, our live auctioneer, raised almost \$25,000 with another \$5,000 coming from our silent auction. The Mari Bell Trio provided the fun music.



Friends' President Jim Ellis with Bryan Moser and Park Manager Jennifer Roberts

State Names Jim Ellis Volunteer of the Year



Eric Draper, Director of Florida State Park Service, Jim Ellis, Jennifer Roberts, Park Manager

Eric Draper, Director of Florida State Park Service presented Jim Ellis with the *Director's Special Volunteer Service Award* for his above and beyond efforts to obtain funds from the state, Florida Inland Navigation District, Broward Boating Improvement Program, City of Fort Lauderdale, Broward County Commissioners, the Community Foundation of Broward and private donors to support several major renovations in the park. They include: reconstruction of the 1.2-mile sea wall, installation of a 230' floating public boat dock and welcome center, and the clean out of our mile-long fresh water coastal dune lake and moat.



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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.

Executive Director's Message



Gale M. Butler

This season has been a very busy time for Park Manager Jennifer Roberts and her team of rangers. We want to recognize them for their perseverance and patience throughout each of the projects still underway: the clean out of Long Lake and its 800' moat, the reconstruction of the 1.2 mile seawall on the Intracoastal Waterway, the 230' floating boat dock and welcome center and the launch of Marti's Meditation Garden. All these projects add to the labor and working week of the rangers and we appreciate their dedication to the park and cooperation with our "Bring Birch Back!" campaign.

Park Manager Recognized by the State

Jennifer Roberts, Hugh Taylor Birch State Park manager, has been recognized by Eric Draper, the director of the Florida State Parks Service, as District 5 Employee of the Month. Jennifer is known for her team spirit, work ethic, positive attitude, and knowledge of the flora and fauna of the park.

"Jennifer is always approachable and will stop what she is doing to talk to an employee, visitor or volunteer at any moment," said Kyle Easley, assistant park manager. "She is an amazing leader and dives into the trenches with the rest of us, regardless of the project."

Floating Boat Dock and Welcome Pavilion Opens

On Thursday, June 14th, Hugh Taylor Birch State Park Manager Jennifer Roberts and Friends President Jim Ellis hosted representatives from the Florida State Park Service, the Florida Inland Navigation District, Broward Boating Improvement Program, and other local dignitaries to officially open the boat dock and pavilion.

"It is the first time in the history of the park that you will be able to come to the park by boat," said Jennifer Roberts, park manager. "This is an exciting day for us and we thank Friends, our park team, our partners in F.I.N.D., B.B.I.P. and the county as well as our vendor, B&M Engineering for making this day possible."



Left to right: Jim Ellis, Friends'; Commissioner Chip Lamarca, David Matson, John Fiore, Derek Godfrey, project manager; Jennifer Roberts, park manager; John Barranco, Frank Gernert, F.I.N.D. board member; Don Bergeron, Ass't Bureau Chief - District 5; Tyler Chappell, Chappell Group; Eric Draper, Florida Park Service Director

Gale M. Butler, Executive Director

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Trudy Reilly, Director of Development

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Long Lake Moat Open for Boats

The Long Lake moat, previously clogged with debris and muck, is once again open for boating. The clean-out was made possible by support provided by the following funds at the Community Foundation of Broward: The Wil and Susan Groaton Fund, Rick and Rita Case Fund and Community Impact Fund. A grant from Bank of America also assisted in this effort.

It adds a sense of excitement and discovery when you realize you can paddle through the 800'-long moat. "It took corporate volunteers from Bank of America, Citrix, Progressive and many others and the coordination of Tim Ott and his crew to clean out the moat to the point where water began trickling through from Long Lake," said Friends President Jim Ellis. "Now you've got several feet of clean water flowing through!"



Left to right: (1st canoe) Angela Rosas, CFB charitable fund manager, Gale Butler, Friends; (Middle canoe) Jim Ellis, Friends; Jennifer Roberts, park manager; (3rd canoe) Steve Hudson, CFB board chair, Paige Hyatt, CFB board member

Amaturo Family Funds Birch Bus Buddies

Thanks to the Amaturo Birch Buddies program, three schools from the Catholic Diocese in South Florida visited the park on field trips including St. Ambrose, St. Anthony's and St. Jerome's Catholic Schools. They received a ranger-guided nature tour, viewed a historical video on Hugh Taylor Birch and the park and participated in a live animal program with indigenous snakes, turtles, and a baby alligator.



Left: Saint Jerome's students learn about park animals. Right: Students from Saint Anthony's enjoy Ranger Marc Carhuel's live animal program thanks to Wini (on right) and Joe Amaturo's Birch Bus Buddies Fund.

Thank You! Terramar Society Members

BANYAN LEVEL (\$5,000 per year)

Jim Ellis
Steve & Jeannie Hudson
Carlos & Lisa Rodriguez

MANATEE LEVEL (\$3,000 per year)

Marc & Sharon Friedman
Peggy Fucci
Ed & Sherry Meehan
Dominick & Meike Miniaci

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

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Mari Mennel Bell & Joel Greenbaum
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LEGACY GIFTS TO SUPPORT HUGH TAYLOR BIRCH'S LEGACY

Hugh Taylor Birch left the state of Florida 180 acres as a nature park so that future generations could experience Florida as he found it in 1893. We hope you, too, will think about a gift that will last, a gift to Birch Park so that future generations of Floridians and visitors will continue to enjoy the natural beauty of this oasis. Whether it's through the purchase of a bench or a larger estate gift, it is a gift that will last.

DEDICATED TO BRINGING BIRCH BACK FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

2nd Annual Birdies for Birch a Double Success

Our 2nd Annual Birdies for Birch golf tournament, held at Fort Lauderdale Country Club on April 26 with 94 players, doubled the amount raised over last year. We thank our sponsors, auction donors and players who supported the event and added to the fun of the day. A couple of new additions were the Whiskey Pull from Primo Liquors and the Bazooka Hole where you pay for the chance of shooting your golf ball out of a small cannon-like device some 250 yards down the green toward the hole.

Our three co-chairs were: Stephen Botek of Botek Thurlow Engineering, Tyler Chappell of The Chappell Group and Stephen Tillbrook of Gray Robinson PA. We thank our golf committee that included: Andy Caldwell, Lilia Ciciolla, Patrick Daoud, Laura Elmore, Ginny Fujino, Ginny Miller, Dawn Read and Nancy Thies.

Major sponsors included: LaCroix Sparkling Water, Gray Robinson PA, Ellis Diversified Inc., B&M Marine Construction, Gale Residences, Botek Thurlow Engineering Inc., The Chappell Group, Fort Lauderdale Water Taxi, Resolve Marine, Tom Krips Construction, Best Rental Service, Miller Construction, Roselli & Associates, Lochrie & Chakas PA, American National Bank, Daoud's Fine Jewelry, Southern Wine & Spirits, Tito's Vodka, JM Family Enterprises and Gold Coast Magazine.



Golf tournament chairs: Tyler Chappell, Steve Tillbrook and Stephen Botek



Left to right: Kevin Brown, Tyler Chappell, Chad Christensen and Joe McMahon



Bazooka Hole sponsored by B&M Marine



Left to right: Tyler Wakefield, Quoc Truong, Stephen Botek and Eric Barr



Tyler Chappell thanks Trudy Reilly for a great tournament



Left to right: Scott Verrier, Paul Weinberg, Andy Lynskey and Bobby Fountain



Left to right: Jim Thies, Chuck Smith, Bill Thies, Greg Martin



Left to right: Randy Zerra and Whit Markum



La Croix on field Oasis



Left to right: Carrie Bolf, Lois Schmatz, Pamela Baynes and Lisa Kitei



Left to right: Ellen Jackson, Ginny Miller, Colleen Burke and Kathryn Glenewinkel