



SUMMER 2021

Birch Bulletin

Dedicating the Stephan Celebration Pergola

Flying from Arizona and the Carolinas to dedicate their father's gift to Birch Park, were Lara Lozinski, her husband, Robert, and her brother, Cary Stephan. Our Board president Chris Madsen hosted the ribbon cutting and reception. Ted Stephan, donor of the gift, had come to Fort Lauderdale on Spring Break from Ohio State University as part of the swimming team back in the '50s. After graduation, he returned to Fort Lauderdale, married and had a family who enjoyed picnics in Birch State Park. Remembering the fun he had here in Fort Lauderdale, Ted decided to gift the pergola to the Park. Thank you to Ted Stephan and family for returning to Fort Lauderdale and the Park in remembrance of the "good times"!



Left: Friends' Board President Chris Madsen, Robert Lozinski, Executive Director Gale Butler, Lara Lozinski, and Cary Stephan.

Top: Cary Stephan and Lara Stephan Lozinski with bas-relief plaque of their father, Ted.

Botek and O'Neil Teams Win Birdies for Birch

We held our Birdies for Birch Golf Tournament at Fort Lauderdale Country Club on April 26th and thank our presenting sponsor, UKG (Ultimate Kronos Group), for their support. We hosted 108 golfers on the renovated North course for an 18-hole scramble. It began with a shotgun start followed by an outdoor reception and award ceremony. Stephen Botek and Whitt Markum did a great job as tournament co-chairs helping us net over \$20,000.

Thank you to our sponsors: UKG, Related, Georgia Pig, Power Design, KEITH, EDI, Botek Thurlow, Cailis Mechanical, La Croix, Bill & Nancy Thies and Universal Engineering Sciences.



(Winning Team shot 54) Gary Bogen, Randy Bogen, Event Co-Chair Steve Botek and Roger Langer



(Winning Team shot 67) Jeannie O'Neil, Gail Stroger, Cheryl Corezine, Nikki Calhoun



Bill Stoors, Steve Botkin, Andrew Caldwell and Bill Branam



Stiles Construction Foursome: Ken Miggins, Brian Kitain, Doug Wallace, event co-chair Whitt Markum



Michelle Howland, Lisa Kitei, Alice Jackson and Jamie Stiles



Eileen Lank, Pat Damoorgian, Dana Mullaney and Jane Brand Eagon



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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.

(954) 566-0660
birchstatepark.org



Board President's Message

Lots of good news to report after a year and a half of bad. Park facilities, amenities and programs are open and operating. Projects are winding their way through the permitting and bid process and will launch later this summer. As President of Friends' Board of Directors, I have been gratified at the level of support coming from our board and our community. It showed an appreciation for these 180-acres of green space. I am also proud of the staff of the Park and Friends who continued to work and move projects and events forward throughout the pandemic.

My two-year commitment as board president is coming to an end in January. I have enjoyed being involved in the various events and issues both the Park and Friends deal with on an ongoing basis. It sure hasn't been dull!

Thank you, our supporters, for sticking by us and continuing to care for Greater Fort Lauderdale's "Central Park".



Christine Madsen

Friends' Message



Gale Butler

We're back! And, happy to be back. Throughout the fall, winter and spring seasons, we worked on park projects, held our Garden Party, Birdies for Birch and Camp Birch BBQ Family Day events safely and joyfully. Thank you all for being so supportive and loyal.

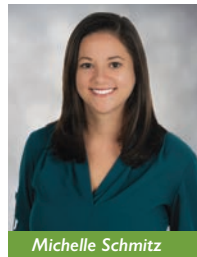
Our current projects are: Sunrise Blvd. and AIA corner retro sign, now out for permitting, the walkway over the Long Lake Train Trestle, which the state will launch soon, and the Elks Youth Camp storage cabin retrofitted into an outdoor classroom.

Now, for even better news... Friends' Director of Membership and Development, Michelle Schmitz, will be giving birth to a baby boy. She has been a trooper throughout and her energy, organizational skills, and upbeat nature never stopped being the best part of every day.

While Michelle is on maternity leave, I'll be here with an intern or two, compliments of Michelle's nieces (who are computer whizzes!). We will keep you posted as to the new Schmitz' family addition's name and size as soon as we know it. Please join me in wishing Michelle and family well!

Gale Butler, Executive Director

Michelle Schmitz, Development Director



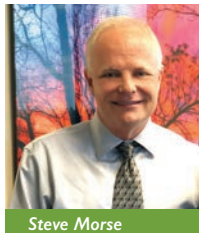
Michelle Schmitz

Meet Steve Morse, New Board Member

Steve Morse is the Chief Operating Officer of Conrad & Scherer trial attorney litigation firm. He has held senior management positions involving operations, finance, administration, HR and training, risk management and integration of business acquisitions for Blockbuster Entertainment, AutoNation, Huizenga Holdings, NationsRent, Devcon Security and, most recently, Royal Palm Capital Partners.

He began his career with Coopers & Lybrand as a C.P.A. and holds a B.S. summa cum laude, in Accounting from Barry University. However, we think the most impressive part of his resumé is, of course, his 20-year history as a member of Birch State Park!

Please join us in welcoming Steve to the Friends of Birch State Park family.



Steve Morse

Friends Hosts Gold Star Teens in Park

Friends welcomed a dozen teens from the Gold Star Sailing Camp (GSS), a 501(c)(3) non-profit, volunteer-based organization. It is dedicated to providing unique opportunities to the surviving children of fallen military service members. The goal of the camp is to instill self-confidence, build character, teach teamwork, develop leadership, and promote healing in a positive environment of hope, adventure and friendship. The group spent June 13-19 in Fort Lauderdale sailing from the Lauderdale Yacht Club and paddle boarding on Long Lake in Birch Park.



Gold Star Sailing Camp

Young Professionals Volunteer



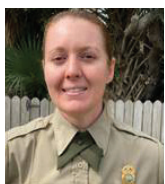
We thank the Hagen Family Foundation for supporting our clean out and retrofit of the Elks Youth Camp storage cabin as part of our outdoor classroom project. An Emerge Broward Team came out for the second time on Saturday, June 5th. Each time, they filled a large garbage bin with old, broken machines and furniture. The Emerge Broward team has adopted this project and will be able to help with the next stage of this retrofit.



Thank you to Brittany Caldwell's Emerge Broward team: *Emily Dmiszewicki, Aaron Dmiszewicki, Hamed Yaghini, Danielle Vanderlaan, Ana Rodriguez, Freddy Masterson, Lynnea Masterson, Steven Myones, William Anastasiou, Brian Stafford, Kyle Berry, Deilis Martinez and Leandro Maria.*



July Surprise: New Park Manager



LeAnn Hinson

We welcome new Park Manager LeAnn Hinson in July. LeAnn began her career as a Park Ranger at St. Joseph Peninsula State Park in 2004. During that time, she earned her AA degree from Gulf Coast Community College and a BA degree in Organizational Management with Ashford University. Since 2016, LeAnn has served as an assistant park manager for St. Andrews State Park prior to joining Birch Park. We wish Kyle Easley and his family well in their new home at Hillsboro River State Park.

Thank You! Terramar Society Members

The Terramar Society of the Friends of Birch State Park is the backbone of Friends' operations. We thank these very loyal annual supporters.

Banyan Level - \$5,000

Joe & Wini Amaturio
Jim Ellis & Olya Salehi
Steve & Jeannie Hudson
Bill & Anne Scherer
S. Donald Sussman & Michelle Howland

Manatee Level - \$2,000

The Maroone Family
The Mastriana Family
The Miniaci Family

Sea Turtle Level - \$1,000

Stephen & Kari Botek
Gale M. Butler
Andrew & Connie Caldwell
Connie Chaney & Al Rothstein
Tyler & Sarah Chappell
Michael & Mary Ellen Coen
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Bruno Mejean & Martina Hund-Mejean
Mari Mennel-Bell & Joel Greenbaum
Traci Miller & Troy McHatton
Bill & Nancy Thies
E.C. Traver

Marti's Garden Club - \$1,000

Joe & Wini Amaturio
Gale M. Butler
Rick & Rita Case
Michael & Mary Ellen Coen
Dorian & Pat Damoorgian
Ted & Kathy Drum
Jim & Janet Jordan
Lisa Kitei
Monica Maroone
Ed & Sherry Meehan
Mari Mennel-Bell & Joel Greenbaum
Bill & Anne Scherer

DEDICATED TO BRINGING BIRCH BACK FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Camp Birch BBQ Family Day

Over 200 attendees came to the Park's North Picnic Area near the Intracoastal Waterway on Saturday, June 5th for a fun, family day. The children rode the Catabella Express train, ponies, participated in Camp Live Oaks' sack races and tug of war games, enjoyed a BBQ lunch, Good Humor ice cream and snow cones while listening to music by a DJ. We are already planning to hold the event again, only this time on Saturday, February 12th.

Thank you to our presenting sponsor JM Family Enterprises, and all our sponsors: Akerman, Allstate, EDI, UKG, Berkowitz Pollack Brant, Dutton Real Estate, Conrad & Scherer Trial Lawyers, Elite Home Staging, Ashley Sawyer Smith, P.A., V & M Erectors, Walmart Neighborhood Market, 954 Design, Camp Live Oak, Funky Buddha and Gulf Stream Brewing.



Spotlight on Corporate Partnerships

We appreciate our corporate members who partner with us on events, volunteer efforts and with sponsorships. A corporate membership costs \$500 a year and includes your logo featured on our website, 10% discount on all concessions, 12 free admissions (up to 8 in a car), complimentary Corporate Day in Birch Park for team-building, along with a private ranger tour for 10 guests.

For more information visit birchstatepark.org

Join the following corporations and become a corporate member:



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