



JANUARY 2022

Birch Bulletin

Birch Park Retro Sign Funded by Friends' Board



From left: Friends' Director of Development and Membership Michelle Schmitz, Board Members Patrick Daoud and Steve Morse, Fort Lauderdale Commissioner Steven Glassman, Park Manager LeAnn Hinson, Fort Lauderdale Chamber President Dan Lindblade, Friends' Board President Chris Madsen, Board Members Andy Caldwell, Lisa Davis and Nancy Theis, Past Board President Jim Ellis, Friends' Executive Director Gale Butler
Rangers (in background): Bill Oliver and Eric Kiefer

Thanks to a number of generous board members, the Hugh Taylor Birch State Park Retro Sign is in place at the corner of East Sunrise Boulevard and A1A. Our commissioner, Steven Glassman, was on hand to help celebrate the unveiling of the 35 foot-long, eight feet high sign.



"Thousands of cars pass this corner daily and now people will know what all our green space is".

— Chris Madsen, Board President

Florida Power & Light Donates ADA Compliant Tram to Park

Thanks to an FPL Grant to the Florida State Parks Foundation, Birch Park now has an official "limitless" tram. The tram is designed so that anyone who is physically challenged in any way will be able to access the tram for a tour around the Park or easy beach access.

Trams also pick up visitors from their cars in one of the parking lots and take them to Hugh Taylor Birch's home built in 1940, or to the Park's open-air restaurant, Park & Ocean. For more information, contact the ranger station at 954-564-4521.



From left: Eric Kiefer, Assistant Park Manager, Park Manager LeAnn Hinson, Juliet Rhoulac, Director of External Affairs FPL, Katherine MacGregor, VP-Environmental Services FPL, Friends' Executive Director Gale Butler, Meredith Rollo, Sustainability and Outreach Manager - Environmental Services, FPL, Kevin Jones, Bureau Chief, District 5, Florida Parks Service



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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Gale M. Butler

GButler@BirchStatePark.org

954-566-0660

DIRECTOR OF MEMBERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT

Michelle Schmitz

MSchmitz@BirchStatePark.org

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

The board and Friends of Birch State Park enter 2022 having survived a two-year interruption from Covid with a sense of accomplishment. We continue to work on projects and fundraising throughout the pandemic resulting in a solid financial footing. Thank you to all our sponsors who stuck with us and helped us navigate through two Garden Parties, the first annual Camp Birch BBQ Family Day and the Birdies for Birch golf tournament. We are blessed and grateful to our long-time, loyal supporters such as Ellis Diversified, Inc., UKG, JM Family, Bank of America, The Hudson Family, the Community Foundation of Broward, Water Taxi, Conrad & Scherer Trial Lawyers, One World Properties, and Rick Case Automotive to name a few.

While I will be turning over the reins after my two-year-term is up in January, I will remain a stalwart friend and supporter of Birch State Park and will remain as past president of the Friends of Birch State Park board of directors. Thank you all for your support.



Christine Madsen

Friends' Message



Gale Butler

Our goal for the past two years has been to not just survive but to thrive. We focused on moving forward with park projects and the funding of programs such as the Live Animal Program, the maintenance of the trams, the bench campaign and the ongoing repair work at Terramar itself.

Along the way we gained new Terramar Society members (thank you!) and added new board members. Our mission is always to preserve and upgrade the Park in whatever way is needed. Thanks to our supporters, grants from individuals and organizations, and a new energetic Park Manager, LeAnn Hinson, the wind is at our backs!

We look forward to serving all of you who love Birch Park by paying attention to the small needs as well as the big projects. It all matters! Happy 2022 and thank you for your faith in our ability to succeed in our mission.

Gale and Michelle



Michelle Schmitz

Friends' Board Holiday Gathering

We are so grateful to our board of directors for their support during this challenging year.



Lilia Ciciolla, Gale Butler and Primo staff member



Stephen Botek, Laura Elmore, Chris Madsen, Lilia Ciciolla



Park Manager LeAnn Hinson and husband Ken



David Barcini, Steve Morse and Steve Tilbrook

Terramar Society Holiday Gathering

Thank you to our generous and loyal Terramar Society members, some of whom were able to attend our Holiday Gathering at Casa d'Angelo's on Tuesday, December 14th. Many are long-time members while others are new this year. We are proud to say we have over 35 members who continue to support our efforts to address Park needs and fund enhancements. You are the reason Birch Park continues to serve the community 365 days a year and improve its amenities on an ongoing basis. Thank you!



Mari Mennel-Bell and Joel Greenbaum



Kathy and Ted Drum



Michelle Schmitz, Christine Madsen



Pam Braden and Admiral Jim McManamon



Al Rothstein and Connie Cheney



Dorian and Pat Damoorgian



Mary Ellen and Michael Coen



Janie and Doug Egan



Randy Pohlman and Gale Butler



Stephen Botek and Doug Egan

For more information about becoming a Terramar Society member, visit birchstatepark.org or call us at 954-566-0660.

SAVE THE DATES!



**SUNDAY,
FEBRUARY 27, 2022**



**MONDAY,
APRIL 25, 2022**



**FRIDAY,
NOVEMBER 4, 2022**

Thank You! Terramar Society Members

Supporting Friends of Birch State Park and their efforts to preserve and improve Hugh Taylor Birch State Park for future generations

Banyan Level - \$5,000

Joe & Wini Amaturio
Pamela Braden & Admiral James McManamon
Jim Ellis & Olya Salehi
Steve & Jeannie Hudson
Carlos & Lisa Rodriguez
Bill & Anne Scherer
S. Donald Sussman & Michael Howland

Manatee Level - \$2,000

Monica & Michael Maroone
The Mastriana Family
The Miniaci Family

Sea Turtle Level - \$1,000

Stephen & Kari Botek
Bill Brown
Gale M. Butler
Andrew & Connie Caldwell
Connie Chaney & Al Rothstein
Tyler & Sarah Chappell
Michael & Mary Ellen Coen
Ed Cumisky & Amanda Hunt
Dorian & Pat Damoorgian
The Dettman Family
Ted Drum & Kathy Molinet
Doug & Jane Eagon
Martin Lesser & Linda Groene
Gary & Roberta Karch
Jon & Elaine Krupnick
Lee McDonald
Mark McGuire & Craig Wilson
Don & JoAnn Medalie
Ed & Sherry Meehan
Bruno Mejean & Martina Hund-Mejean
Mari Mennel-Bell & Joel Greenbaum
Traci Miller & Troy McHatton
Randy Pohlman
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

Friends Holds 6th Annual Garden Party

The Garden Party was started when Marti Huizenga contributed funds to build a meditation garden, now named Marti's Meditation Garden. The event raises funds to maintain the Garden and support Friends. This year it was held during a long rainy spell inside the Fort Lauderdale Garden Club's center. Over 100 attendees enjoyed a two-hour get together with many seeing old friends for the first time in at least a year due to Covid. We thank our Presenting Sponsor UKG, and all our sponsors: Rick Case Automotive, Conrad Scherer Trial Lawyers, EDI, JM Family, One World Properties, Bank of America and La Croix.



Ina Lee, Maureen Rotella



Bill Walker, Katie Donahue, Jon Saxx



Linda Carter, Marie Hansen, Lois Schmatz



Marji Helmholdt, Jamie Stiles, Connie Williams, Fran Custer



Dick and Sally O'Loughlin



Birch Park Manager LeAnn Hinson, Lynne Wines, Camp Live Oak Founder Ken Evans



Kim Bentley, Kim Cavendish, Nancy Theis



Nancy Blosser, Mary Wood



Sal Calabrese and Lynne Wines



Carolyn Lee, Michelle Howland, Shelly Walker



Brittany Caldwell, Gale Butler



Lisa Kitei, Lois Schmatz



Christie Caliendo, Bill Rotella, Chris Madsen



State Rep. Chip & Elaine LaMarca



Matt Terwilliger



Justin & Katherine Koenig



Peggy Gehl and family



Mimi Bauer, Didi Salvanechi, Randy Pohlman, Gale Butler, Gail Apruzzi, Ina Lee



Flower Shop Volunteers Joseph and LeeLee