

DEDICATED TO HELPING PRESERVE, CONSERVE, ENHANCE,  
AND PROMOTE HUGH TAYLOR BIRCH STATE PARK

# BIRCH BULLETIN



Ashley Sawyer Smith, Shea and Ruby Smith

## President's Message

Happy rainy season from beautiful Birch State Park! I hope you've all had the chance to enjoy the park during our stunning winter and spring months, and that you'll continue

to take advantage of everything the park offers during the summer. Yes it's warm, but with fewer crowds and shorter lines at the ranger station, it's a perfect time to explore Birch from a quieter perspective.

I'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated in, sponsored, or donated to our signature spring events: **Camp Birch Family Fun Day and Birdies for Birch Golf Tournament**. Watching your families grow throughout the years at Camp Birch and seeing so many familiar faces at Birdies for Birch is truly a highlight of our year.

Please join me in warmly welcoming **Jessica Cabral**, our new Park Manager at Birch. Jessica is already proving she's more than up to the task, following a strong legacy of leadership.

We're also thrilled to welcome new board members:

**Ali, Summer, Ryan, and Marcus**. Your time, talent, and commitment are deeply appreciated — we're so glad to have you on board (more details page 2).

I'd also like to extend heartfelt gratitude to **Julie Saumsiegle, Patrick Daoud, and Tom Byrne**, who are stepping down after eight years of dedicated service. Thanks also to **Shea Smith** for his five years of invaluable contributions, and to **Erica Gomer** for her four years of commitment. Special thanks to **Tom Byrne**, who has served as Treasurer since 2017. Despite relocating and frequent work travel, Tom's dedication and support never wavered. Our board members bring a special connection to Birch, often with childhood memories here of their own.

Be sure to check out pages 4-5 for updates on recent and ongoing projects throughout Birch. One project especially close to our hearts is the **Long Lake trestle**—a true labor of love. While we've faced some funding setbacks, we remain steadfast in our commitment to completing this signature feature by **2026**.

Thank you for being a part of our Birch State Park family.

Ashley Sawyer Smith



## Birch Bus Buddies Returns — Connecting Kids with Nature!



This fall, we proudly relaunched our Birch Bus Buddies program, thanks to the generous support of the **Amaturo Family Foundation, Amazon, and JM Family Enterprises**. After a brief pause, the buses rolled back into the park—bringing the joyful energy of nearly **300 elementary students** from five Broward County schools, grades 1–4.

The program covers transportation costs and offers guided, nature-based experiences for young learners—many visiting a state park for the very first time. With the help of dedicated volunteers, park rangers, and staff, students explored the trails on nature hikes, learned to sign native animal names in **American Sign Language**, created crafts, and played Junior Ranger favorites like **Possum Tag**!

Kids also had the chance to get up close with some of the park's **native animal ambassadors**, sparking curiosity and a deeper appreciation for Florida's wildlife. Huge thanks to **Rangers Heather and Marc** for leading these enriching, hands-on experiences. We're also incredibly grateful to our amazing program volunteers—**Lis, Cynthia, Chuck, Karen, and Vicki**—who helped develop and guide this year's activities with heart and creativity.

If you'd like to support **Birch Bus Buddies** or **volunteer** for next school year, reach out to Michelle at [mschmitz@birchstatepark.org](mailto:mschmitz@birchstatepark.org). Let's keep inspiring the next generation of nature lovers!





FRIENDS OF  
BIRCH STATE PARK, INC.

## Executive Committee

### PRESIDENT

Ashley Sawyer Smith

### PAST PRESIDENT

Christine Madsen

### VICE PRESIDENT

Jim Ellis

### SECRETARY

Nancy Thies

### TREASURER

Mary Lou Ruderman

### AT LARGE

Stephen Botek

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Dr. Allison Alexander

John Barranco

Summer Barranco

Brittany Caldwell Beard

Bill Brown

Christie Caliendo

JaCinda Carey

Tyler Chappell

Dawn Read Diehl

Laura Elmore

Mary Forman

George Fussell Sr.

Heather Geronemus

Ryan Hanna

Katherine Koenig

Rep. Chip LaMarca

Sarah Leonardi

Whitt Markum

Ann Mihaiu

Steve Tilbrook

Marcus Unterweger

William Walker

Paul Weinberg

## Honorary Council

Joe and Wini Amaturio

Gale Butler

Dominick and Meike Miniaci

## Staff

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Michelle Schmitz

MSchmitz@BirchStatePark.org

954-566-0660

### DIRECTOR OF MEMBERSHIP AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Bridget Marron

BMarron@BirchStatePark.org

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Michelle Schmitz

The start of 2025 has been action-packed here at Hugh Taylor Birch State Park — and I wouldn't have it any other way!

In January, I had the incredible honor of presenting at the statewide meeting of Florida State Park managers and Citizen Support Organization (CSO) leaders. Sharing the story of Friends of Birch State Park — our evolution, impact, and unique community — was a proud moment. I'm so grateful to have inherited such a strong, respected organization and to play a role in continuing its legacy within the Florida Park Service. I truly hope our model helps inspire other CSOs across the state to grow their impact and elevate their parks.



Bridget Marron

One of the most joyful events each spring is **Camp Birch Family Fun Day** — and let me tell you, no one is more excited for it than my own kids. They talk about it for weeks leading up to the big day (and for weeks after)! It's one of those rare events that brings generations together in nature, laughing, learning, and playing. A heartfelt thank-you goes to our incredible committee — **Ashley, Laura, Christie, Sarah, and JaCinda** —

for dreaming big and delivering year after year. Be sure to check out the smiling faces and playful moments in the photos on page 7.

Even the rain couldn't dampen the energy of **Birdies for Birch**, which remains one of the highlights of my year. Thanks to the vision and dedication of our phenomenal event committee, we created a day to remember and raised a **record-breaking \$60,000** — all of which directly supports our mission and work here at the park. Check out all the details on page 6.

The **Community Foundation of Broward** continues to be a pillar of support for Friends of Birch, and their generosity is fueling meaningful progress in 2025. Thanks to their funding, I went on what can only be described as a "park operations shopping spree," acquiring much-needed, carefully researched tools and equipment to help our rangers and maintenance team manage the park more efficiently. And just this month, we were awarded **\$20,000** to support our beloved interpretive animals — **Cinnamon the Gopher Tortoise, Olive Oil the Box Turtle, and Taurus the Indigo Snake**. These funds will allow us to build outdoor enclosures for Cinnamon and Olive Oil near the workshop and design an appropriate habitat for Taurus inside the Terramar Visitor Center.

The park is thriving — and it's your passion, generosity, and belief in our mission that's fueling it. From record-setting fundraisers to impactful partnerships and unforgettable family events, we're building something truly special. Here's to keeping the momentum going all year long.

## Welcome New Board Members!



**Dr. Allison Alexander**  
AA Dental



**Ryan Hanna**  
Morgan Stanley Wealth Management



**Marcus Unterweger**  
MUEngineers, Inc



**Summer Barranco**  
Law Offices of Purdy, Jolly, Giuffreda, Barranco, Jisa, P.A.

**New  
Grills,  
Same  
Great  
Vibes.**



Cooking at Birch just got a major upgrade with shiny new stainless-steel setups!





Jessica Cabral

## Welcome Jessica Cabral – Our New Park Manager!

We're thrilled to welcome Jessica Cabral as the new Park Manager at Hugh Taylor Birch State Park!

Jessica brings over 20 years of experience in parks and recreation, with a strong background in visitor services, interpretation, and resource management. Her journey began in high school as a Park Service Aide with Miami-Dade County Parks, and her passion for nature and history has guided her ever since.

After years with the Deering Estate and The Barnacle Historic State Park—where she rose from Ranger to Park Manager and earned the Joe Kenner Award for Interpreter of the Year—Jessica now joins us with a wealth of knowledge and a deep commitment to stewardship.

She's excited to collaborate with our staff, volunteers, and community partners to protect and share the natural and cultural treasures of Birch Park. Join us in giving her a warm welcome!

## Terramar Society Gathers to Celebrate the Season

In December, we toasted the season in style at the beautiful Coral Ridge Yacht Club for our annual Terramar Society Holiday Gathering. It was a joyful evening of connection, celebration, and heartfelt appreciation for the supporters who help make our work possible.

The Terramar Society is made up of dedicated donors who give \$1,000 or more annually to support Hugh Taylor Birch State Park. These individuals are more than generous contributors—they are visionaries and champions of our mission. Their commitment serves as the backbone of the Friends of Birch, allowing us to preserve, enhance, and share the magic of this park with the community.



We are profoundly grateful for their continued support and look forward to growing our impact together in the year ahead.



Jim and Olya Ellis



Martin Lesser, Joel Greenbaum,  
Mari Mennel Bell, Bridget  
Marron and Linda Groene

## Design and Unwind with Friends

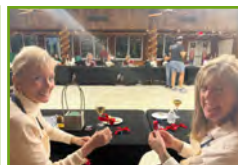
On Thursday, December 19th, the Friends hosted a festive Design & Unwind floral arranging class—and it was a hit! Guests, both familiar faces and new friends, enjoyed a cozy evening filled with delicious hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, and hands-on creativity.

Led by the talented Neya Saucha of Saucha Floral Design, the class brought plenty of laughter and left everyone with stunning holiday centerpieces to take home. It was the perfect way to kick off the season with style and cheer.

**Mark your calendar—this year's Design  
& Unwind returns on December 18, 2025!**



Ashley Hayes,  
Brittany Beard and  
Connie Caldwell



Gale Butler & Lisa Kitei



Jane Brand Eagon  
and Nancy Block



The final product!

## THANK YOU!

### Terramar Society Members

#### Banyan Level - \$5,000

Cynthia Dobbins & Nelson Hernandez  
Jim & Olya Ellis  
Lee McDonald  
Sherry Meehan  
Bruno Mejean & Martina Hund-Mejean  
Dominick Miniaci and Family  
Douglas & Erin Thieme

#### Manatee Level - \$2,000

Bob Bell  
Gale Butler & Randy Pohlman  
Michael & Mary Ellen Coen  
Gregory Dettman & Family  
Chuck Dube & Michael Luckock  
Doug & Jane Eagon  
Brian Huseman & Todd Lard  
The Parrot Lounge

#### Sea Turtle Level - \$1,000

Allison Alexander & Brad Thornbrough  
Stephen & Kari Botek  
Bill Brown & Michael Scott  
Andrew & Connie Caldwell  
Tyler & Sarah Chappell  
Ed Cumisky & Amanda Hunt  
Dorian & Pat Damoorgian  
Joaquin Duato & Almudena Becher  
Martin Lesser & Linda Groene  
Tim Ingham & Julie Pabst  
Mari Mennel-Bell & Joel Greenbaum  
Robert Rothschild  
J.J. Schaffer  
Ashley, Shea & Ruby Smith  
Bill & Nancy Thies  
E.C. Traver

The Terramar Society and General  
Members of Friends of Birch State  
Park are the backbone of the  
Friends' operation.

We thank these loyal annual  
supporters.

**(954) 566-0660 [birchstatepark.org](http://birchstatepark.org)**



# BIRCH IMPROVEMENTS UNDERWAY

## CULVERT REPLACEMENT



Long-awaited infrastructure improvements are now underway along the loop road near the Boat Dock Welcome Pavilion. At the end of May, crews began staging equipment and preparing the site, and throughout early June, periodic closures on the Main Loop Road have taken place to allow safe access for the work.

In partnership with the Florida Inland

Navigational District, the Department of Environmental Protection is replacing an aging culvert beneath the roadway. While this may cause temporary inconvenience for visitors, the upgrade is a crucial step toward protecting the park's natural systems and improving safety.

Culverts may be out of sight, but they play a vital role—preventing flooding and erosion, supporting native plants and wildlife, and ensuring safe, accessible trails and roads throughout the park.



## TRESTLE TRAIL OVER LONG LAKE

While we had high hopes following a promising update last fall from the Recreational Trails Program (RTP)—which indicated there was enough funding to support all 12 eligible projects—we received unexpected news late last year. Due to a post-meeting audit by the Florida Highway Administration, it was determined that only \$1.1 million was available for funding, far less than the initially projected \$3.5 million. As a result, only the top four projects were awarded grants, and our project, ranked fifth, just missed the cutoff.

While this development was certainly a disappointment, our passion for the Trestle Trail Project remains strong. We've already taken action—resubmitting our application for the 2025–2026 RTP funding cycle, and we're currently awaiting an invitation to present to the board later this summer.

We're also grateful to have secured a generous \$100,000 contribution from Dr. Douglas Thieme and his family, bringing us one step closer to making this transformational project a reality. With continued community support and the RTP matching grant, we remain optimistic that construction will begin in early 2026.

*Stay tuned—and thank you for believing in Birch's bright future!*

## Long Lake Long Lake Restoration Efforts Continue

Long Lake restoration remains a top priority for both the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Friends of Birch State Park. Over the past several weeks, our trusted partners at Southeast Land and Water Management have been hard at work to enhance this treasured natural feature.

These crews, who routinely treat the lake with organic solutions to control invasive plant species, have gone a step further—clearing key channels to improve boat and kayak access, removing built-up sediment from congested areas and the historic moat, and pulling debris, palm fronds, and fallen branches from the water.

These efforts not only make the lake more navigable for canoe and kayak enthusiasts, but also allow for more effective long-term treatment and preservation of this rare coastal dune lake. Thanks to this important work, Long Lake is on its way to becoming more beautiful, accessible, and ecologically healthy than ever.



## Elks Youth Camp Reopens for Summer Fun

The Elks Youth Camp at Birch is back and better than ever! After an unexpected roof leak led to a temporary closure in late 2024, the Elks Lodge and cabins have been refreshed and are now ready to welcome campers for an unforgettable, nature-filled summer.



Thanks to support from the Division, a full re-roof of the lodge was completed. With generous funding from The Atkinson Family Foundation, the Friends were able to tackle mold remediation, repair ceilings, install new blinds, and even purchase a brand-new set of banquet

chairs. The result? A fresh, clean, and welcoming space for campers to enjoy.

Our incredible park volunteers and Rangers also deserve a round of applause. They've spent months painting, cleaning, and trimming the grounds—all to ensure campers can enjoy a one-of-a-kind overnight experience under the stars.

A special thank-you goes to Marcus Unterweger of MUEngineers, who continues to monitor the structural integrity of the lodge and other aging buildings in the park. His expert oversight is invaluable to our efforts to preserve these cherished spaces.



## Floating Boat Dock Repairs Underway

Good news is on the (rising) tide — repairs to our beloved Floating Boat Dock are finally in motion! After months of delays due to back-ordered parts, crews from B&M Marine recently arrived by barge to begin the long-awaited work.



Unfortunately, between their initial assessment and arrival, the dock sustained additional damage. This meant not only a change of plans, but also the need for more parts — and, of course, more funding. Thankfully, the necessary funds have been secured, and the new parts are now officially on order.

We know how much our boating community values access to the park, and we're doing everything we can to ensure a safe, functional,

and welcoming dock is ready to go by this summer.

Thank you for your patience and continued support as we navigate the challenges of maintaining infrastructure in a dynamic, coastal environment. We can't wait to welcome boaters back to Birch in style — and securely tied up.

## Terramar Gets a Much-Needed Electrical Upgrade

Thanks to the incredible generosity of Ken Kettner of Electrical Consulting Services, Inc., the Terramar Visitor Center is now equipped with a brand-new breaker panel and updated electrical wiring. This essential upgrade replaced aging equipment that had deteriorated over time due to the park's salty coastal environment.

This improvement marks another important step in preserving the 85-year-old Terramar Visitor Center, ensuring it remains safe, functional, and welcoming for generations to come. We are deeply grateful for Ken's expertise and commitment to Birch.



## \$20,000 Grant Awarded to Support Birch's Interpretive Animals

We are thrilled to announce that Friends of Birch State Park has received a generous \$20,000 grant from the **Community Foundation of Broward**, with support from the following Funds:

Elizabeth Clark Wood Fund  
Francis and Bessie McDwyer Fund  
Helen Victoria Foote Fund  
Rose Fridek Fund

This vital funding supports the continued care and educational outreach of our beloved **Animal Program**, which features Taurus the indigo snake, Olive Oil the box turtle, and Cinnamon the gopher tortoise. These animals are stars of our Animal Program, held every **Friday and Saturday from 1-3 PM**, and free with park admission. Through this hands-on, up-close experience, park visitors of all ages are able to learn about Florida's native wildlife in a fun and meaningful way.

With this grant, we'll construct new outdoor enclosures for Olive Oil and Cinnamon, provide Taurus with an upgraded indoor habitat inside the Terramar Visitor Center, and install interpretive signage to further our educational mission. The funds will also cover ongoing needs like veterinary care, feeding, and habitat maintenance—ensuring our animal ambassadors are healthy, comfortable, and ready to inspire.

We're incredibly thankful to the Community Foundation of Broward for their commitment to nature education and for helping us continue to connect visitors with the fascinating wildlife that calls Birch home.

## Visiting the park with kids?



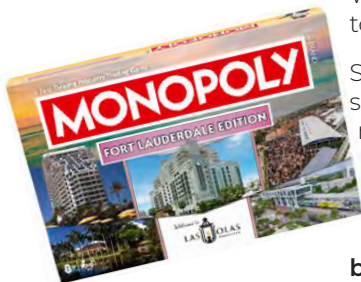
Don't miss our brand-new scavenger hunt — a fun way for kids to explore and learn! Pick up a copy at the Ranger Station.

## Birch Park Lands on the MONOPOLY Board!

We're officially board game famous! Hugh Taylor Birch State Park is proud to be featured on the brand-new **Fort Lauderdale edition of MONOPOLY!**

Selected as one of the iconic local landmarks to grace the game, our square puts Birch Park right alongside other beloved destinations that make Fort Lauderdale so special. It's a fun and unexpected way to celebrate our natural beauty, community impact, and the memories made here every day.

Even better? **You can purchase your own Fort Lauderdale MONOPOLY board directly from us!** Proceeds help support the park—so you can roll the dice *and* make a difference.



For more information and to purchase:



# 8th Annual Birdies for Birch: A Rainy Day, but a Record-Breaking Success!



We are thrilled to share that the 8th Annual Birdies for Birch, presented by our generous Presenting Sponsor UKG and held on May 5, 2025, was a phenomenal success—despite Mother Nature's own agenda!

A huge thank-you goes out to our dedicated committee: Steve Botek, Whitt Markum, John Barranco, Tyler Chappell, Katherine Koenig, Dawn Diehl, George Fussell, Ali Alexander, and Ryan Hanna, led by Committee Chair Zack Sawyer. Your hard work and enthusiasm made this event truly unforgettable.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all of our sponsors who made this event possible: **UKG** as our Presenting Sponsor; **SAFCO** for supporting the awards reception; and **Georgia Pig** for providing our delicious lunch that kicked off the day perfectly. A big thank-you also goes to **Cailis Mechanical**, our VIP Cart Sponsor; **Andare Residences**, our Buy-a-Drive Sponsor; **Keith & Associates**, who sponsored the always-fun "Magic Putt" putting contest; **EDI**, our Live Animal Sponsor (because what's a Birch golf tournament without Cinnamon the gopher tortoise making an appearance?); **Botek Thurlow Engineering**, our Pin Flag Sponsor; and our On-Course Beverage Sponsors: **Bergeron Everglades Foundation**, **KD Construction**, **Walmart Neighborhood Market**, and **Double Eagle Distribution**.

We are also grateful to **SouthState Bank** for sponsoring our programs, and to our on-course contest sponsors: **Julie Saumsiegle**, **South Florida Windows and Doors**. Thank you to the team at **Signarama Deerfield Beach** for donating all of our event signage and **AVI-SPL** for the 65in. TV, we raffled off.

A huge shoutout to our many Hole and Tee Sponsors, whose incredible support helped bring the event to life: **SRS – A Zysovich Company**, **MU Engineers Inc.**, **ENTAAF**, **American Engineering and Development Corporation**, **General Caulking and Coating**, **AXG Advisors Inc.**, **ECS Land Surveyors**, **ET3 Engineering LLC**, **Linda Strutt Consulting**, **Peacock Architects**, **Traf Tech Engineering Inc.**, **Law Offices of Purdy, Jolly, Giuffreda, Barranco, Jisa, P.A.**, **The Seminole Hard Rock Winterfest Boat Parade**, **Joseph Pechter DMD**, **AA Dental Associates**, **The Chappell Group**, **Lochrie & Chakas PA**, **Ryan Incorporated South**, **Ruderman and Company**, **Andrew Caldwell**, **FL'S Bar and Lounge**, **Copperline Electric**, **Blacksten**, **Zelaya and Perez**, **Stiles Construction**, **Barranco Gonzalez Architecture**, **Koenig IP Works**, **EDSA**, **Lotspeich Co. of Fla. Inc.**, **B & M Marine**, **Chen Moore**, **The World Famous Parrot**, **Andare Residences**, **Lighting Digital**, and the many local businesses who generously donated to our auction.

Although the tournament itself was cut short by a lightning delay after just five holes—and ultimately canceled before the skies opened up—our spirits remained high. Players were offered a rain check, and the bar and reception opened early, providing everyone the opportunity to relax and share laughs at the Clubhouse. Guests savored a festive Cinco de Mayo buffet, complete with libations, while our virtual auction delivered an exciting and successful finish to the day.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our sponsors, players, and countless volunteers, we raised over **\$60,000** to support our mission. Thank you to everyone who made this year's Birdies for Birch an event to remember. We can't wait to see you all again—hopefully for a drier event—next year!





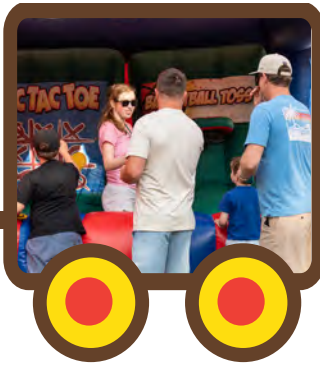
## FRIENDS OF BIRCH STATE PARK CAMP BIRCH FAMILY FUN DAY

On **Saturday, February 22nd**, we hosted the **5th Annual Camp Birch Family Fun Day**, and it was a fantastic celebration of community, nature, and family fun! Over 300 guests enjoyed an afternoon packed with excitement—rock climbing, rubber tire train rides, balloon animals, face painting, a toddler playground, storytime with author Katie Frawley, and so much more. The day was filled with laughter, sunshine (and a little glitter), and the magic that happens when families come together at the park.

Guests were treated to delicious bites from The Grill at **The Grove**, and adults relaxed with cold beverages donated by **Funky Buddha** beer. Activities ranged from airbrush tattoos and sand art to axe throwing, carnival games, and sweet treats like snow cones, popcorn, and ice cream. Special thanks to **Camp Live Oak, Sit Still Kids and Water Taxi** for adding even more fun to the festivities.

This amazing day wouldn't have been possible without the generosity of our sponsors: **JM Family Enterprises, UKG, Akerman LLP, Ellis Diversified, Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital, Ashley Sawyer Smith Law, Whitney Dutton, SouthState Bank, GodSpeaks.com, Elite Home Staging, Miami Management, Seacrest Pools, Atlantic Harbor Marine, Camp Live Oak, School Board Members Sarah Leonard, Walmart Neighborhood Market, Flora Ottimer, Florida Girls Giving Back, Sit Still Kids, and Katie Frawley.**

We're especially grateful to the powerhouse planning committee—Ashley Sawyer Smith, Laura Elmore, Christie Caliendo, JaCinda Carey, and Sarah Leonardi—who brought this event to life with passion and creativity. Thanks to their efforts and your support, we raised nearly **\$29,000** to support the Friends of Birch and the important work we do in the park every day.





FRIENDS OF  
BIRCH STATE PARK<sub>INC.</sub>

3109 E Sunrise Blvd.  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304

BIRCH  
BULLETIN:  
Explore,  
Engage,  
Enjoy!

**SAVE THE DATE! NOVEMBER 8, 2025**

# WALK WITH FRIENDS

FRIENDS OF BIRCH STATE PARK

*Support Birch State Park with Every Step*

**Registration:** 7:00am – 7:45am

**Walk-a-thon:** 7:45am – 8:30am

**After Party:** 8:30am – 10:00am

For more information or sponsorship  
opportunities call **954-566-0660**  
or email [admin@birchstatepark.org](mailto:admin@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.



**WALK WITH FRIENDS**  
FRIENDS OF BIRCH STATE PARK

Presented by

**UKG**



## “40 TOOLS IN 40 HANDS” AT BIRCH

In celebration of their 40th anniversary, the Community Foundation of Broward launched a special initiative: the “40 for 40: Spread the Love Grants.” Out of more than 200 nonprofits, Friends of Birch was

honored to be one of just 40 organizations selected to receive a \$10,000 grant!

Our winning project, “40 Tools in 40 Hands,” focuses on preserving Hugh Taylor Birch State Park by equipping our incredible volunteers and Rangers with the tools they need to get the job done. Thanks to this



generous gift, we were able to purchase brand-new, mostly



electric equipment—everything from mowers and blowers to chainsaws, pole saws, and pressure washers.

If you’ve ever shown up to volunteer and found yourself waiting for a tool to free up, you know how frustrating that can be. There’s always work to be done here at Birch—but now, there are finally enough tools to go around. This grant is helping us put real power in the hands of those who care most about keeping the park beautiful.

We’re incredibly grateful to the Community Foundation of Broward for their support—and to all of you who show up, sleeves rolled up, ready to make a difference.




## CELEBRATING FRIENDS SUCCESS

At the statewide Citizen Support Organization and Park Managers meeting held this past January, our very own Executive Director Michelle Schmitz, alongside former Park Manager Shane Zigler, was honored to present the remarkable achievements of Friends of Birch State Park.

Their presentation highlighted how our organization has grown into a self-sufficient nonprofit with two full-time staff members and a dynamic board of 30 dedicated professionals. Most impressively, Friends of Birch has contributed over \$10 million in direct support to Hugh Taylor Birch State Park over the past decade — a testament to the power of community, partnership, and purpose-driven stewardship.


It was a proud moment to share our journey and success story with peers from across the state, reinforcing our role as a model for impactful park support.





FEELING THIRSTY?

# QUENCH FOR A CAUSE!



Purchase a Friends of Birch Tumbler to receive **\$1 Soda** and **25% off Draft Beer and House Wine** at The Grove!

TUMBLER AVAILABLE AT THE GRILL AT THE GROVE

**A PORTION OF PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE FRIENDS OF BIRCH**

Friends of Birch State Park is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization formed to help preserve, conserve, enhance, and promote Hugh Taylor Birch State Park through community support.



*of*

## **Mr. Birch's Legacy at Terramar House**

*Featuring:* **Mark Zaden and the Weedline Band**

**Friday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**5:30pm – 8:30pm**

**Terramar Lawn**

**\$10 for adults,**

**\$5 for children**

**(ages 3-12)**

Tickets required for admission.

**VIP Tent for Terramar Society Members**

Bring your lawn chairs or blanket. Coolers not permitted.

Food trucks and alcoholic beverages will be available for purchase.



*Scan For  
More Information*

**Sponsorship opportunities  
available**