



JUNE 2019

# Birch Bulletin

## Community Foundation Funds Tunnel Mural



Hugh Taylor Birch State Park Beach Tunnel Aquarium Mural made possible by support from the following funds at the Community Foundation of Broward (CFB): Katz Family Fund, Harold D. Franks Fund and Mary and Alex MacKenzie Community Impact Fund.



Friends Board President Jim Ellis, CFB Grants Manager Angelica Rosas, Friends' Development Director Trudy Reilly, Park Manager Kyle Easley, CFB President/CEO Linda Carter and Friends' Executive Director Gale Butler.

On February 1st of this year, the Friends of Birch State Park and the Community Foundation of Broward held a celebration and ribbon cutting for the Aquarium Mural in our 80' long tunnel to the beach from the park. It took months of volunteers scraping and patching the fifty-year-old tunnel's walls and ceiling, not to mention replacing the wooden stairs and adding a safety rail, before the tunnel was ready for our artist, Todd Michael Hanna, to work his magic. Todd included children from the Nova University School and volunteers from Bank of America in the painting of some of the fish he'd outlined in his mural. Thank you to Bill Oliver, Tim Ott and so many others who helped prep the tunnel so it could be brought to life. We think children AND adults will enjoy this artistic new addition to the park.

## Floating Boat Dock Now Open!

We invite all the boaters to visit our new floating boat dock along the Intracoastal Waterway seawall at the park. In addition to the park being a Water Taxi stop, boats up to 30 feet will now be able to dock at the park for a \$2 donation from 8 a.m. until dusk.



Floating public boat dock

## Bank of America Volunteers with Team Leader Lilia Ciciolla



Bank of America volunteers



## Board of Directors

### PRESIDENT

Jim Ellis, Ellis Diversified, Inc.

### VICE-PRESIDENT

Stephen Tilbrook, GrayRobinson, PA

### SECRETARY

Tyler Chappell, The Chappell Group, Inc.

### TREASURER

Tom Byrne, New River Capital Partners, LP

Dan Barnett, Wizard Entertainment  
John Barranco, Barranco Gonzalez Architecture  
Stephen Botek, Botek Thurlow Engineering  
Heather P. Brinkworth,

School Board of Broward County – District 3  
Andrew Caldwell, Wells Fargo Advisors  
Lilia Ciciolla, Bank of America  
Mark Corbett, Gold Coast Magazine  
Patrick Daoud, Daoud's Fine Jewelry  
Laura Elmore, 954Design  
Ken Evans, Camp Live Oak  
Peggy Fucci, OneWorld Properties  
Heather Geronemus, Ultimate Software  
Katherine Koenig, Koenig IP Works, PLLC  
Ina Lee, Travel Host of Greater Fort Lauderdale  
Dan Lindblade, Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce  
Christine Madsen, Mad 4 Marketing, Inc.  
John Magee, Southern Wine & Spirits  
Whitt Markum, Stiles Construction  
Mari Mennel-Bell, Jazz SLAM  
Dawn Read, Winterfest, Inc.  
Robert Roselli, Roselli Law  
Julie Saumsiegle, Morgan Stanley  
Ashley Sawyer Smith, Akerman LLP  
Shea Smith, Berkowitz Pollack & Brant  
Andrew Taubman, Kaufman, Rossin & Co.  
Nancy Thies, Community Foundation of Broward  
William Walker, Water Taxi  
Paul Weinberg, Keith & Associates  
Allen Zeman, Center for Human Capital Innovation

### HONORARY COUNCIL

Joe Amatore Carlos Suarez  
Dr. George Hanbury Kim Sweers  
Dominick Miniaci Phil Thornburg

We are a 501c(3) non-profit organization formed to help preserve, conserve, enhance, and promote Hugh Taylor Birch State Park through community support.

Gale M. Butler, Executive Director  
GButler@BirchStatePark.org  
Trudy Reilly, Director of Development  
TReilly@BirchStatePark.org

## Executive Director's Message



Gale M. Butler

Our top projects in 2019 are: Marti's Meditation Garden (in progress), the trestle walkway over Long Lake (out for bids), and the new tunnel mosaic project which launched this month. It will once again be the work of our tunnel mural and banyan tree mosaic artist, Todd Michael Hanna. The project is being funded by the Elaine Krupnick Fund for the Arts of the Community Foundation of Broward. The colorful seascape mosaic will be visible from AIA and cover the wall of the beach entrance to the tunnel as well as the entrance from the park.

In addition to helping fund park projects, Friends' focus will be on both our Terramar Society and Friends' membership levels. We hope you will consider joining either level to support the

exciting projects now being planned and launched.

We thank the following Terramar Society members for their ongoing support:

### BANYAN LEVEL (\$5,000 per year)

Joe & Wini Amatore  
Jim Ellis  
Steve & Jeannie Hudson  
Ed & Sherry Meehan  
Carlos & Lisa Rodriguez  
S. Donald Sussman

### MANATEE LEVEL (\$3,000 per year)

Dominick & Meike Miniaci

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

John & Summer Barranco  
Stephen & Kari Botek  
Gale M. Butler  
Andrew & Connie Caldwell  
Tyler & Sarah Chappell  
Michael & Mary Ellen Coen  
Keith Costello/Ist Green Bank  
Fran Custer  
Dorian & Pat Damoorgian  
Tim Elmes  
The Galleria/Fort Lauderdale

Martin Lesser & Linda Groene  
Jon & Elaine Krupnick  
Monica & Michael Maroone  
Mastriana Family  
Lee McDonald  
Mark McGuire & Craig Wilson  
Mari Mennel-Bell/Joel Greenbaum  
Robert & Jennifer Roselli  
Andrew & Lori Taubman  
Paul Templer  
Bill & Nancy Thies  
E.C. Traver  
Steve Walker & Karen Hooks

For more information, you may go to our website:  
[www.birchstatepark.org](http://www.birchstatepark.org) and click on membership.

## Friends Adds New Board Members

Heather Geronemus, a native of Fort Lauderdale, serves as the head of the Media, Customer & Community Relations Team for Ultimate Software. She is a graduate of Pine Crest School here in Fort Lauderdale and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing from New York University. She is very involved in the community and Ultimate Software has been generous to the Friends of Birch State Park. Her talents make Heather a great addition to our board.



Heather Geronemus



Shea Smith

We also welcome Shea Smith, who received a bachelor's and master's degree in Accounting from the University of Florida prior to joining Berkowitz Pollack & Brant as the Director of Audit and Attest Services. Shea comes to our board with plenty of community experience including serving as a board member of United Way of Broward, HANDY, Ludertrail and Mockingbird Trail. An avid bike rider, part of his routine is to ride the loop road in Birch Park with his wife, Ashley, and new baby girl, Ruby. Shea's background and skillset will be put to good use as a member of our board.



DEDICATED TO BRINGING BIRCH BACK FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

## *An Evening by the Sea*

Held on Friday, March 29, our annual “An Evening by the Sea” boasted wonderful honorees and a spectacular view of the park from the top of the Sonesta Hotel. Thanks to donors and sponsors, Friends’ raised much needed funds for park projects. We thank our auctioneer Gordon Latz and live auction donors of items: Ken Evans, Michael Grimme, Carlos and Lisa Rodriquez, Daoud’s Fine Jewelry, Casa D’Angelo and Water Taxi. Our event sponsors were: Presenting sponsor Lorraine Thomas, Ellis Diversified, Inc., Ultimate Software, JM Family Enterprises, ACURE, Akerman LLP, The Las Olas Company, Bank of America, Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino, NSU, Advanced Roofing, Tim Ingham and Julie Pabst, Kaufman Rossin, Shooters Waterfront, LaCroix, Moss Construction and Daoud’s Fine Jewelry.



Exec. Director Gale Butler with Presenting Sponsor Lorraine Thomas



Honorees: Water Taxi Captain Nelson, David Margolis, Bill Walker, Janet Langfur, Dan Fuhrman



Honoree Peggy Fucci, OneWorld Properties



Honoree Heather Geronemus, Max Dauerman, Maggie Gunther, Kara Perkins, George Taylor



Florida State Rep. Chip LaMarca, Jim Ellis, Birch State Park Mgr. Kyle Easley



Joe and Wini Amaturo



Sandy and Bob Moss, Moss Construction



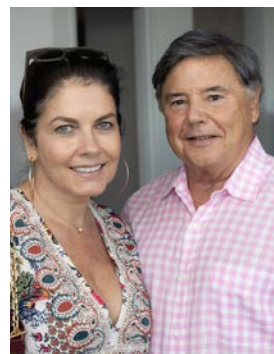
Judge Dorian and Pat Damoorgian, Julie Saumsiegle and Don Weeks



Jeannie and Steve Hudson, Mark McGuire, Craig Wilson, Nancy Theis



John Barranco, Ashley Sawyer Smith, and Shea Smith



Alexandra and Ron Mastriana



Stephen and Kari Botek

## *Ultimate Software Volunteers at Park*

On Monday, April 22nd, almost 50 volunteers from Ultimate Software spent the day refurbishing the entrance to the park and walking the beach picking up debris washed in from boats and left by beachgoers. Their reward was a pizza lunch and knowing they made our park shine through their efforts. Thank you to Heather Geronemus who led the team of volunteers as part of her Community Relations efforts with Ultimate Software. Thank you to all!



Ranger Heather Lamberto with Ultimate Software team



DEDICATED TO BRINGING BIRCH BACK FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

## *Birdies for Birch: Bigger, Better*

Lago Mar Country Club was a hit with the 120 golfers who thought the course was “very technically challenging!”. Thanks to Georgia Pig for a very popular lunch. Also thanks to our hard-working golf committee: Chair Stephen Botek, Botek Thurlow Engineering; Andrew Caldwell, Wells Fargo Advisors; Whitt Markum, Stiles Corporation; Dawn Read, Winterfest; Katherine Koenig, Koenig IP Works, PLLC; and Laura Elmore, 954 Design. Major sponsors were: Gray Robinson, Botek Thurlow, Ellis Diversified, LaCroix, Zarella Construction, Florida Exotic Landscaping, Power Design, Callis Mechanical, Shooters Waterfront, PGAL, Rise Flagler, Ultimate Software, All American Windows, The Related Group, Roselli & Associates, GFA International, Lochrie & Chakas PA, Tim Moore Painting, Lotspeich Co., Barranco Gonzalez Architecture, Let's Get Real Productions, Daoud's Fine Jewelry, Doubletime Digital and Tito's Vodka. On course refreshments were provided by Blue Martini, LaCroix, Brown Forman and Bill and Nancy Thies.



Left to right: Park Manager Kyle Easley, Animal Specialist Ranger Marc Caruhel, and Ranger Heather Lamberto



(1st Place) JAXI Builders Team: Russell Harding, Gred Arrop, Phillip Vento, Tony Vento



(2nd Place) Gray Robinson: Tom Loffredo, Stephen Tillbrook, Mason Tillbrook, Scott Cagan



(3rd Place) Botek Thurlow Engineering: Stephen Botek, Karsten Amlie, Bryan Happ, Tom Parker



(1st Place) Lois Schmatz, Pamela Baynes, Michelle Howland, Lisa Kitei



(2nd Place) Karen Genovese, Liz Hernandez, Ann Spalding, Trichelle Henry



Stiles Team: Whitt Markum, Randy Zerra, Tim Miller, Brian Kitain



Bazooka Hole: Golf Committee Team Members Dawn Reed and Katherine Koenig with golfers



Water Taxi Team: Alex Chin, Bill Walker, Ray Cote, Eric Roberts



Lunch sponsor Georgia Pig: John, Matthew, Mark, Robert and Luke Moorman