



HAPPENING AT THE PARK

- **Bring Birch Back Bench Campaign** (\$2,500—\$5,000 depending on view)
- **An Evening By the Sea January 22, 2016:** first ever gala on the lawn at Terramar!
- **Winterfest Boat Parade Saturday December 12:** for more information go to winterfestparade.com
- **Announcing new Park concessionaire:** BG Coco Café Outdoor Center. Featuring all new rental equipment for water and land activities!
- **Introducing the newly formed young professionals group:** RNGR

More info in this issue

PARK HISTORY VIDEO



The Friends of Birch State Park invite you to visit our website and watch our video on the history of the Park and the role Hugh Taylor Birch played in making Fort Lauderdale the thriving, exciting city it is today. Remember, while Hugh Taylor Birch State Park is a State Park, it is OUR State Park and ours to cherish and enjoy.

WWW.BIRCHSTATEPARK.ORG

MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

GALE M. BUTLER

Dear Friends,

The Friends' office is now in Terramar –Hugh Taylor Birch's home overlooking A1A and the ocean, as are the Park staff offices. Work is now being done on the ground floor of Terramar to open the house with temporary wall exhibits of our Park's flora and fauna. Some of the older historic wall exhibits telling Hugh Taylor Birch's story will be used as well. Also, a video depicting Birch's Journey to and love for this area will be shown to visitors on a recently donated big screen television.



The excitement is building as we now have our new concessionaire on board: BG Coco Café Outdoor Center. The name is a nod to the café' that used to be in the Park many years ago. What a hit that will be! There's so much being upgraded here in our Park, but we assure you that nothing is being added that will affect the natural habitats of our animals and indigenous plants and trees. We only want to make your visit the best experience possible with upgraded restrooms and playgrounds that are ADA accessible, for example.

To help fund some of our projects we have launched a "Bring Birch Back Bench Campaign". You will be able to purchase an approved State Park bench in the name of a loved one, your family or your company, engraved on a plaque placed in the center of the bench back. Benches range in price from \$2,500 to \$5,000 depending on the view and location. Please go to www.birchstatepark.org or call 954.566.0660 for more information.

Come for a visit. During season, Friends runs golf cart tours on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 4 p.m.—weather permitting. If you would like to join us, please call first to make sure there is room! The Park also runs tram tours for visitors seven days a week. Bring a friend or your family members and learn of our plans to Bring Birch Back for future generations to enjoy. See you in the park!

- Gale

MESSAGE FROM OUR PARK MANAGER

David Dearth

Hello All,



It's something about the light that deepens, especially in the evening when splashes of gold illuminate through the canopy. The evenings are *somewhat* cooler and you get that nostalgic feeling that Fall is in the air. I almost hesitate to say cool, because the days do remain quite warm here in the subtropics. But Fall has arrived, and the days couldn't be more beautiful. To our wildlife, the Fall means the movement of literally thousands of species in the air and along our coastline or waterways. This is the richest time for avian lovers who might want to catch a glimpse of a painted bunting or a scarlet tanager. Vireos, warblers, gnat catchers abound by the many thousands, feeding off of the figs and stopper trees, or scavenging for insects. Hugh Taylor Birch State Park's wild canopy serves as a life saver to these amazing creatures who travel literally between continents.

LET'S HELP LONG LAKE



Visit our website and watch a video on our project to rid Long Lake of invasive, non-indigenous plant life so that boaters and visitors can access the entire length of the lake. Contact us if you think YOU can help!

WWW.BIRCHSTATEPARK.ORG

MEET YOUR ASSISTANT PARK MANAGER

Jennifer Roberts



Jennifer grew up in La Crosse, Wisconsin and began her career after high school when she joined the military. She served fifteen years in the US Army and Army National Guard as both an enlisted member and an officer. Jennifer went on to become a Biological Assistant with Miami Dade County Department of Environmental Resources Management where she conducted coastal resource management and permitting. Jennifer then worked as an Environmental Specialist for Hillsborough County's Parks, Recreation, and Conservation. Jennifer began her Florida Park Service Career in 2011 as an OPS Park Ranger at Oleta River State Park.

I am very pleased to announce the opening of our new concessions, "BG Coco Café and Outdoor Center". Dane White, Regional Concessions Manager, and the rest of their team have begun operations at Hugh Taylor Birch State Park! This top of the line company has a tremendous variety of recreational rentals including pedal boats, bikes, canoes, kayaks, paddleboards, jet skis, Segways and more. Tremendously exciting for us is the opening of their full Cafe located at the Beach Gate Entrance/Concessionaire area of the park. Please come by and see how this is just one of the many exciting improvements in our momentum to "Bring Birch Back!"

We have a dynamic and ever-growing volunteer team. We would love to have you join us by showing you the wide variety of job descriptions available to you, including Tram Driving, Xeriscaping, Ranger Station Attendant, Beach Gate Attendant, Animal Care and more! Please call the park at 954.564.4521 and inquire about volunteering. Or visit: <http://birchstatepark.org/volunteer>. You will find contact information for the park's Volunteer Coordinator and a link to the Park's Volunteer Handbook there.

Our ranger-led walks, every Friday and Saturday at 10:30am, rotate through our knowledgeable and friendly ranger staff. Learn about the unique ecosystems and the rich history that is preserved within the late Mr. Hugh Taylor Birch's estate. This is truly one of the best representations of what spanned this entire coastal area just a few short decades ago, so its intrinsic worth is invaluable to our historical and ecological legacy. If you are looking for a unique and relaxing shift from the urban excitement of Fort Lauderdale, consider Hugh Taylor Birch State Park as a destination for your vacation, or simply for locals, as a retreat from your daily routine.

We hope to greet you here in this small piece of "The Real Florida."

- David

SUPPORT THE PARK

The holidays are approaching and most of you will be busy shopping for gifts. Remember when you are shopping on Amazon, to shop at smile.amazon.com and support the Friends of Birch State Park! When you shop at AmazonSmile, Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price to Friends Of Birch State Park Inc. Bookmark the link <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/65-0999861> and support us every time you shop.

Support us when you
shop this holiday

Amazon donates when you
shop at smile.amazon.com.





She was quickly promoted to Park Services Specialist where she served as Volunteer Coordinator, AmeriCorps Site Supervisor and Special Event Coordinator. Jennifer holds an Associate's degree in both Environmental Science and German.

TWEETSIE RAIL ROAD



Go to our website and enjoy a short video of the little railroad that used to operate in Birch Park from the mid—sixties to mid—eighties. Enjoy!

Contact us if you think YOU can help!

WWW.BIRCHSTATEPARK.ORG

BRING BIRCH BACK BENCH CAMPAIGN DONORS

Atlantic Ocean/Intracoastal

Gale Butler

Marti Huizenga

Lansing Melbourne Group

Mangroves/Long Lake/Meditation Garden

BG Florida State Parks

Playgrounds

Peggy Fucci

Interior Park

Ina Lee

Kim Sweers

Tolley Family

BRING BIRCH BACK BENCH CAMPAIGN

Help Friends *Bring Birch Back* by purchasing an ADA accessible, weather proof bench in Hugh Taylor Birch State Park. A plaque will be placed in the center of the upper back of the bench inscribed with the name of your company, family, or loved one. You will also have an inscribed leaf on the Giving Tree in the Terramar Visitor Center.

Your support will assist the Friends of Birch State Park as we fund park needs such as repairs, replacement equipment, and other special projects not covered by the state park system's budget. Visit www.birchstatepark.org/bench-campaign or call 954.566.0660 for more information.

Bring Birch Back BENCH CAMPAIGN



JOIN US
AS WE ADD BENCHES TO
HUGH TAYLOR BIRCH STATE PARK

BRING BIRCH BACK BENCH CAMPAIGN

Help us enhance our beautiful park by sponsoring a new park bench with one of the following views:

_____ Atlantic Ocean/Intracoastal Waterway	\$5,000
_____ Mangroves/LongLake/Meditation Garden	\$3,500
_____ Playgrounds	\$3,000
_____ Interior Park	\$2,500

All benches are ADA accessible and weather proof. A plaque will be placed in the center of the upper back of the bench inscribed with the name of your company family, or loved one. You will also have an inscribed leaf on the Giving Tree in Terramar.

Your support will assist the Friends of Birch State Park as we fund park needs such as repairs, replacement equipment, and other special projects not covered by the state park system's budget. We are grateful for your willingness to help us "Bring Birch Back" to being one of the best maintained and most visited parks in Florida. Thank you!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

CHECK# _____ AMEX VISA MASTER CARD CASH

CC#: _____

Signature: _____ Exp. Date: _____ SC: _____

Friends of Birch State Park, Inc. was formed to support Hugh Taylor Birch State Park and is a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Please make your check payable to Friends of Birch State Park, Inc. and return this form with your payment to:



Friends of Birch State Park, Inc
3109 East Sunrise Boulevard
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304

For information please call (954) 566-0660 or email:
gbutler@birchstatepark.org

You can also visit our website www.birchstatepark.org



FRIENDS OF BIRCH STATE PARK INC.

LIVING WELL PROGRAM



The Park's monthly Living Well: Modalities of Wellness Program consists of short seminars, that enlighten and educate on the benefits of natural resources for our well-being. The program is held the second Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. FREE to members!

WWW.BIRCHSTATEPARK.ORG

WATER TAXI



WE'RE NOW STOP #10

Water Taxi tickets allow for UNLIMITED boarding all day and discounts for over 60 restaurants and shops.

For Water Taxi pick up or schedule call 954.467.6677 or visit:

WWW.WATERTAXI.COM

AMAZON



Support Friends while you shop at Amazon! Just visit: SMILE.AMAZON.COM and use your existing login and password. Amazon Smile Foundation donates 0.5% of eligible purchases to Friends of Birch State Park.

NEW AT THE PARK

You may have noticed the Park's colorful new signs asking visitors to drive carefully in areas where the Park's resident Gopher Tortoises frequently cross the loop road. Birch State Park is home to this threatened species protected under State law, and as part of our efforts to provide a safe environment, Friends Board Member Laura Brill Elmore of 954Design created the signs to help protect these gentle creatures from cars. The signs were placed near the tortoise habitats where visitors are frequently seen snapping photos and observing the tortoises as they dine on local flora.



Gopher tortoises are long-lived reptiles that occupy upland habitat throughout Florida including forests, pastures, and yards. They dig deep burrows for shelter and forage on low-growing plants. Gopher tortoises share these burrows with more than 350 other species, and are therefore referred to as a keystone species (<http://myfwc.com/GopherTortoise>).

FRIENDS OF BIRCH STATE PARK EVENTS

On September 17, the RNGR's, our new young professionals group, hosted their first membership recruitment event aboard the Lady Windridge Yacht in Fort Lauderdale. Since the event, the group has grown to 28 members including eight founding Board Members.

Founded in 2015, RNGR's adopted mission is to help RESTORE Hugh Taylor Birch State Park; NURTURE it for current and future generations; GROW community support and engagement; and RESPECT the legacy Mr. Birch left to the residents and visitors of Fort Lauderdale. RNGR will fulfill its mission to support The Friends through a variety of networking, social, volunteer and fundraising activities that highlight and enhance the Park's natural beauty and amenities.

To join RNGR visit our website: www.birchstatepark.org/rngr



RNGR
RESTORE-NURTURE-GROW-RESPECT



WEEKLY AT THE PARK

Meet the Park Rangers:

Every Friday & Saturday **Live Animal Presentation** **1:00 pm**

A Live Animal Presentation is held at Terramar Visitor Center. Park Rangers offer a Live Animal Presentation with our park's very own resident critters!

First Friday of each month: **Mangrove Habitat Walk** **10:30 am**

This 1.5-mile walk guides guests past the famous Gopher Tortoise habitat, through the Pavilion 1 & 2 area and into the park's extensive mangrove habitat.

Second Friday of each month: **Mid-Trail Walk** **10:30 am**

This 2-mile walk gives guests the historical overview of the park and focuses on the importance of balanced ecosystems in South Florida.

Third Friday of each month: **Beach & Coastal Dune Lake** **10:30 am**

This 1-mile walk guides guests past one of the park's unique fresh-water ecosystems, the Coastal Dune Lake, and informs guests about the formation and evolution of Barrier Island systems.

Fourth Friday of each month: **Beach Hammock Trail Walk** **10:30 am**

This 1-mile walk guides guests into one of the last residual Tropical Hardwood Hammock (Maritime Forest) habitats in Broward County.

Monthly close to full moon: **Full Moon Mangrove Tour** **8:30 pm**

This approximately 3 hour ranger-guided canoe ride takes you into the Mangrove habitat area. Some restrictions apply please visit our website for more information.

The RNGR's kicked off their first Park volunteer project with Sweep Fest on November 7, a paddling sweep of the Park's mangrove habitat. The RNGRs followed a guide through the mangrove swamps at Birch State Park to clean up trash and debris that floated in from the intracoastal. By removing this debris, the RNGRs helped enriched the habitat for all of the aquatic and avian species who live there. Thank you RNGRs!



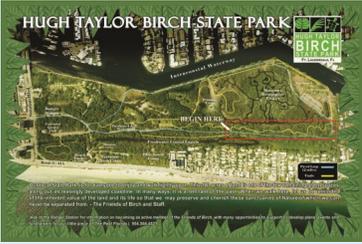
PARK VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

There are many ways to donate your time and talent to the Park: Skills such as carpentry, mechanics, plumbing, electrical, etc. are desperately needed. For example, one of our volunteers, **Mike Hare**, donated nearly \$9,000 worth of labor to reconstruct some of the original 75-year-old plumbing under Terramar house. The State Parks could not function without their volunteers; in the State Park system, there are 1800 full-time staff and over 30,000 volunteers. Join us for the fun of it and the good feeling it will give you to be a part of a venue that brings the joy of nature to residents and visitors alike.

To volunteer visit www.birchstatepark.org/volunteer



MID-TRAIL AUDIO TOUR



This mid-trail audio tour guides you through a 3/4 mile walk! Scan QR Code and listen straight from your phone or visit www.birchstatepark.org



TERRAMAR SOCIETY MEMBERS

BANYAN LEVEL (\$5,000)

Jim Ellis

Steve & Jeannie Hudson
Par & Louise Sanda

MANATEE LEVEL (\$2,000)

Marc & Sharon Friedman
Hackleman, Olive & Judd, P.A.
Huizenga Family Foundation, Inc.
Dominick & Meike Miniaci
Moss Foundation
Carlos & Lisa Rodriguez
Robert & Jennifer Roselli
James & Shari Sawran
Marshall & Suzanne Watson

SEA TURTLE LEVEL (\$1,000)

Peter & Janet Buhl
Gale Butler
Tyler & Sarah Chappell
Michael & Mary Ellen Coen
Bob Swindell & John Cotter
Ken Evans/Camp Live Oak
Paul & Jennifer Kroncke
Lee MacDonald
Mari Mennel-Bell
Terry & Jamie Stiles
Andrew & Lori Taubman
Bill & Nancy Thies
Lynne Wines

BUTTERFLY LEVEL (\$500)

John & Lois Schmatz
Mark & Joanne Snead

Terramar Society is a high level support group for the Friends of Birch. For more info visit: www.birchstatepark.org/

BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

INA LEE: Travelhost Magazine of Greater Fort Lauderdale

Ina Lee came to Fort Lauderdale in the early '80s and began one of the most successful tourist magazines around. For almost 40 years, Ina has grown Travelhost into a powerhouse tourist development tool for Greater Fort Lauderdale. She founded the iconic and wildly popular Winterfest Boat Parade as well as the Beach Council of Greater Fort Lauderdale. For decades, Ina has led the charge on any issue that will help turn Central Beach into a world class tourist destination. Her role for the past 20 years serving on the Marketing and Advertising Committee of the Convention and Visitors Bureau again has focused on fueling Fort Lauderdale's number one economic engine: Tourism. Her awards include Business Person of the Year from the Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber, Citizen of the Year from the City of Fort Lauderdale, a March of Dimes Woman of Distinction and has won four Travelhost Omni Awards. Ina chairs the Friends Marketing Committee and has led a dynamic group in promoting Birch Park to the community through a branding campaign that includes advertising and social media, often using her staff time to work on projects. Thank you Ina!

RHETT ROY: Landscape Architecture and Design

You've heard the term, "an actor's actor"? Well, Rhett Roy is known as the Landscape Architect's Architect. He and his team have designed some of the most iconic projects in Fort Lauderdale including the Huizenga Plaza stage, the Fort Lauderdale Airport Greenbelt, Red Reef Park, the Fountains Mall at Plantation and the redesigns of Las Olas Boulevard and Delray Beach's Atlantic Avenue to name a few local projects. Our excitement of having Rhett Roy join our board comes in part from his willingness to make Terramar and its surrounding lawn a design priority in the next couple of months. He is a member of the Florida Native Plant Society, the Florida Irrigation Society, the Florida Xeriscape Association, the International Society of Arboriculture, the Bromeliad Society, Cycad Society and the American Orchid Society, again, to name just a few. Welcome Rhett!

MARK CORBETT: Associate Publisher, *Gold Coast Magazine*

Mark Corbett is currently spearheading the growth of *Gold Coast* magazine in every way, from representing the brand in the community to selling total packages across the company's multiple print and digital platforms. Corbett's start in Fort Lauderdale was the transformation of Riverwalk Trust's monthly newsletter into a magazine. Starting in 2002 and continuing for more than five years, Mark served as the President for New River Design Group, the entity responsible for producing *Go Riverwalk Magazine*. He served as a board member to Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale, the Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce, and the Project 100 renovation project of the Chamber building and property. Today, Corbett is considered an expert in the integration of print and digital media. Welcome Mark!

IN-KIND DONATIONS WELCOME!



For those of you who wonder what you can do even if you don't have time to volunteer, there's always donating something needed by the Park. Recently, Quikrete donated concrete mix for various projects throughout the Park. That donation has been valued at more than \$1,000. Thank you Quikrete! To donate to the Friends please contact us at 954.566.0660.



PARK CONCESSIONS



From bikes to Segways, to kayaks, canoes, and pedal boats, BG Coco Café Outdoor Center has everything you need!

Open seven days a week
www.bgcococafe.com
954.563.2900

BIRCH PARK FAMILY ALBUM



Traffic Jam at Hugh Taylor Birch State Park

Friends prides itself on conserving Birch State Park for future generations without forgetting the relevance of remembering the past. We love and appreciate all the memories created and feel they should all have a place to be commemorated!

If you would like to share any of your memories of our park send a photo and brief story to gbutler@birchstatepark.org and we will include it in our Birch Park Online Family Album.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Jim Ellis,

Ellis Diversified, Inc.

PRESIDENT

Steve Tilbrook,

GrayRobinson, P.A.

VICE-PRESIDENT

Tyler Chappell,

The Chappell Group, Inc.

SECRETARY

Andrew Taubman

Kaufman, Rossin & Co.

TREASURER

WE SALUTE OUR SEAGULL SOCIETY

On January 22, 2016, the Seagull Society of the Friends of Birch State Park will host its first-ever, fundraising event chaired by Suzanne Watson: “**An Evening by the Sea**”. The excitement is building as we plan for 150 guests entertained by the Las Olas Jazz Trio, feted to cocktails and heavy hors d’oeuvres with a live and silent auction under a tent amidst a setting that is one-of-a-kind: the grounds of Terramar, Hugh Taylor Birch’s home built in 1940, overlooking the Atlantic Ocean.



The Seagull Society, chaired by Janet Buhl, was formed to help increase membership in the Terramar Society which supports the operations of the Friends of Birch State Park. The Friends of Birch State Park is a non-profit whose mission it is to help preserve, conserve, enhance and promote Hugh Taylor Birch State Park through community support.

“Janet and I are so excited about ‘An Evening by the Sea’ and hope to make it an annual event that people will put on their calendars and attend both for the fun of it and to support our beautiful park,” said Suzanne Watson Chair of the event. “We plan to decorate the grounds of Terramar in an Art Deco style as a nod to the period in which Terramar was built.”

A special highlight of “An Evening by the Sea” will be our program honoring **Commissioner Chip La Marca** with the Sandman Award for his role in the refurbishment of our beach; **Marti Huizenga**, who has earned the Believer’s Award for her

early-on belief that Hugh Taylor Birch State Park was worth saving and rejuvenating after almost 30-years of neglect; and, finally, **Jim Ellis** will be awarded the Hugh Taylor Birch Visionary Award for putting his heart and soul into the Bring Birch Back campaign as well as almost one million dollars in donations over the years.

Auction items for the event include but are not limited to: a week-long condo stay in Costa Rica, a stay at the Zulu Nyala Lodge in South Africa, and an overnight stay at the Center for Great Apes in Wauchula, Florida.

Tickets to “An Evening by the Sea” are available for \$100 (or \$75 for Terramar Society members) and can be purchased on our website at <http://birchstatepark.org/evening-by-the-sea-2016>

Members of the Seagull Society include: Gail Bulfin-The Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance, Diana Chibas, Kimberly Miller – GALLERYone by Hilton, Rosa Reyes – Capital Grille, and Candi Evett - Andrea Grill and Wine Bar.

For information on joining the Seagull Society please call 954.566.0660

Dan Barnett

Wizard Entertainment

Heather P. Brinkworth

School Board of Broward

Janet Buhl

Community Advocate

Mark Corbett

Goldcoast Magazine

Dave Cundy

Cundy Insurance

Richard Dodge

Nova Southeastern University

Laura Elmore

954Design

Ken Evans

Camp Live Oak

Peter Flotz

Lansing Melbourne Group

Peggy Fucci

OneWorld Properties

Ginny Fujino

Blacktie-SouthFlorida

Katherine Koenig

Christopher & Weisberg, P.A.

Ina Lee

TravelHost Fort Lauderdale

Christine Madsen

Mad 4 Marketing, Inc.

John Magee

Southern Wine & Spirits

Mari Mennel-Bell

Jazz SLAM

Kimberly Miller

GalleryOne DoubleTree Suites

Chad Moss

Moss & Associates

Dawn Read

Winterfest, Inc.

Rosa Reyes

The Capital Grille

Robert Roselli

Roselli Law

Rhett Roy

Rhett Roy Landscape Architecture

Sara Shake

MadStudios

Philip Ward

GrayRobinson, P.A.

Allen Zeman

Center for Human Capital

Innovation

HONORARY BOARD

Joe Amataro

Dr. George Hanbury

Marti Huizenga

Dominick Miniaci

Carlos Suarez

Phil Thornburg

We are thrilled to introduce the Park's new concessionaire, BG Coco Café Outdoor Center. BG Coco Café Outdoor Center is the place to go for bicycle rentals, Segway tours, jet skis, canoe and kayak rentals.

Enjoy a Segway tour through a coastal hammock trail or kayak down a freshwater coastal dune lake. Grab a premium Townie beach cruiser or Giant road bike and cruise down Fort Lauderdale's famous boardwalk. With a full concession stand you can grab a drink and cool down with an ice cream as you head to the beach to ride one of their Jet Skis on the warm, crystal clear waters of South Florida. Bring the whole family, they have plenty of kid's bikes and are child friendly!

BG

**COCO CAFE**
OUTDOOR CENTER



JET SKI • SEGWAY • BICYCLES • CANOES • KAYAKS • PADDLE BOARD • PEDAL BOAT



BGCocoCafe.com • 954-563-2900

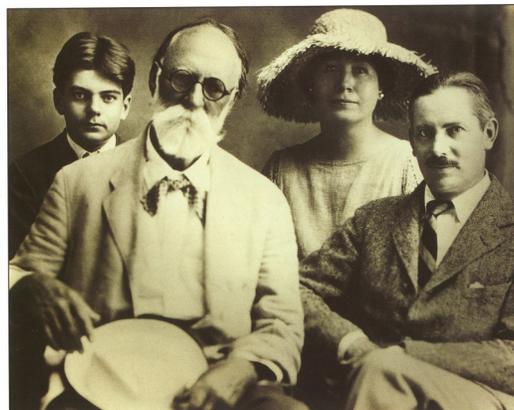


DID YOU KNOW?

Hugh Taylor Birch first came to Fort Lauderdale in 1893 when there were less than 10 people in what was then called, the New River Settlement. At that time, he was 45 years old and serving as General Counsel for Standard Oil in Chicago. After traveling to Florida by train with Henry Flagler, he stayed with Flagler in Palm Beach listening to Flagler's dream of taking his railroad through the "untamed south Florida wilderness" to Key West. Intrigued, Birch borrowed a sloop and sailed south along the coast until he was forced by a tropical storm to take shelter in what is now Bahia Mar Yacht Basin. He fell in love with the area and began buying land for anywhere from one dollar to four dollars an acre.

While he is best known for donating his 180-acre estate to the state of Florida for a state park, he also donated three-miles of beach to the City of Fort Lauderdale with the stipulation that "no buildings shall be constructed upon said property, except sunshades or other similar structures customarily erected for the benefit of those using a public park or public beach."

What an amazing gift...



CLAY BARTLETT, HUGH TAYLOR BIRCH, HELEN AND FREDERIC BARTLETT. CIRCA 1924.

Pictured: Clay Bartlett, Hugh Taylor Birch, Helen and Frederic Bartlett Circa 1924