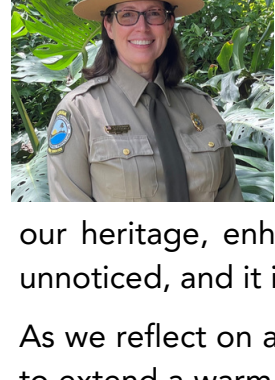




THE NEWS PACKET

SPRING 2024



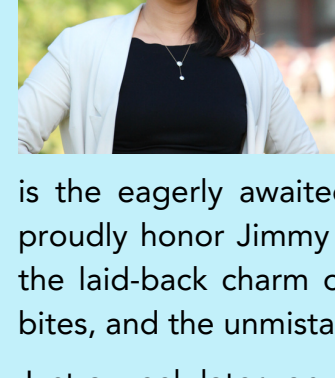
MANAGER'S MESSAGE

by Jessica Cabral

As manager of The Barnacle, I am continually awed by the dedication and passion demonstrated by our volunteers, and I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you who tirelessly gives your time, energy, and expertise to supporting the mission of the Florida Park Service. Your commitment to preserving our heritage, enhancing visitor experiences, and maintaining our grounds and facilities does not go unnoticed, and it is because of you that The Barnacle continues to thrive.

As we reflect on and appreciate the invaluable contributions of current and past volunteers, I also want to extend a warm invitation to new individuals to join our volunteer family. Whether you have a passion for history, enjoy working outdoors, or simply love interacting with people, we have a variety of volunteer roles available to suit your interests and schedule. We welcome volunteers of all ages and backgrounds, and no prior experience is necessary—just a willingness to lend a helping hand. If you have been considering becoming a volunteer or know someone who might be interested, I encourage you to reach out to me at Jessica.Cabral@FloridaDEP.gov or the Volunteer Coordinator at Kevin.Floyd@FloridaDEP.gov.

Thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to seeing both new and familiar faces in your state park.



A STROLL THROUGH THE PARK

by Amy Exum, President

Greetings Members,

As we step into the vibrant embrace of spring, the Barnacle Society invites one and all to embrace the warmth of the season with a series of captivating events set against the backdrop of balmy nights. Kicking off our festivities on April 6th is the eagerly awaited Cheeseburger in Paradise, our largest fundraiser of the year. This year, we proudly honor Jimmy Buffett, a cherished lifetime member of our society whose spirit resonates with the laid-back charm of our coastal haven. Join us for an evening filled with tropical tunes, delicious bites, and the unmistakable ambiance of paradise.

Just a week later, on April 12th, enjoy the enchanting glow of the moonlight, while being swept away by the mesmerizing rhythms of flamenco. Let the music transport you to distant lands as you revel in the passion and artistry of this timeless dance form. And for those who seek solace in the beauty of words, we are thrilled to announce our inaugural Poetry Night on April 14th, where verses will dance upon the breeze, echoing the sentiments of the season. As the days grow warmer and the nights remain as inviting as ever, we extend a heartfelt invitation to experience the magic of these upcoming events. Come together with friends and loved ones to celebrate the joy of community and the enduring spirit of the Barnacle.

Additionally, we wish to pay tribute to the remarkable generosity of Mary Ann Hart, a cherished volunteer whose recent passing left a profound impact on our society. Mary Ann's legacy lives on through her generous donation to the Barnacle, ensuring that our mission to preserve and celebrate our coastal heritage continues to thrive for generations to come.



Escape to Margaritaville for a laid-back evening of all things Jimmy Buffett, a life member of The Barnacle Society. Stroll down the path sipping a complimentary Margarita and listening to the sounds of a steel drum. A Jimmy Buffett tribute band will serenade us while we dine on gourmet cheeseburgers and veggie burgers with a large selection of toppings. And for dessert, a sundae bar, cheesecake and fruit tarts. Champagne, cocktails, wine and beer will be available at the cash bar.

Don't forget your Hawaiian shirts and flipflops – there will be a Jimmy Buffett look-alike contest!

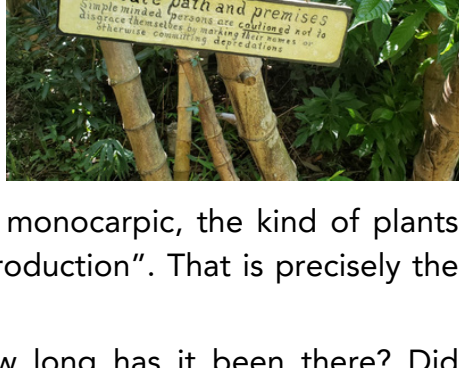
THE NATURE OF THINGS AT THE BARNACLE

by Suzanne Koptur

A Botanical Era Ends

As one continues up the sidewalk past the pavilion, on the right there stands a large clump of bamboo. On the side of the bamboo away from the bay is a faint footpath, and a marker designating it as the original path that people used to traverse the area. The path ends at the wall separating the park from the looming condominiums on the north side of the park, but it was not always that way. On the bamboo is a sign with historic words, warning people not to deface the place with graffiti.

Non-native, ornamental bamboo species were introduced to Florida by gardeners desiring fast-growing, dramatic looking plants. Bamboo are monocarpic, the kind of plants that grow and grow until they reproduce, and then die: "big bang reproduction". That is precisely the condition of this Barnacle bamboo.



How long has it been there? Did the Munroe family plant it? And the big question remains, what should be planted in its place? This may be an opportunity to plant an attractive and useful native plant, perhaps cocoplum, that could also provide delicious fruits for wildlife and for people. They make very good jam!

Thanks to Gregory Bonilla for the photographs.

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY REGATTA—2024!

by John Palenchar

Well, it happened again! The 28th reenactment of the first Regatta held on Biscayne Bay in the Spring of 1887, has come and gone. This year's event drew 20 registrants, 18 of which made it to the start.

Egret Class: EFFORTLESS--Alyn Pruett, skipper.

Sandpiper Class: ECHO—Doug Hanks, skipper.

Plover Class: HENRIETTA—Bill Coleman, skipper.



The Barnacle's EGRET, Captain Mike Chapman and crew



EGRET, Captain Craig Grossenbacher and crew

It was a truly picture-perfect day on the Bay. The Chowder Party and Awards banquet drew a boisterous crowd of sailors, family, and friends. Thanks are due to the many wonderful individuals and organizations who support this annual event. Among them are our local sailing and yacht clubs, Coconut Grove Sailing Club, Biscayne Bay Yacht Club, and Coral Reef Yacht Club, as well as our excellent Race Committee consisting of Captain Tom Septembre and Steve Sherman and his Regatta Committee. Thanks also to those who baked goodies for the Skippers' Meeting and to Bruce Matheson and Chef André for the Fish Chowder and to Cheryl and Olivier de Lavalette and Crew for the Veggie Chowder. Plans are already afoot for next year's Regatta!



Our intrepid Coconut Grove Sailing Club Race Committee!



Approaching the Starting Line



The dedicated Bob Derez on the support boat

Our intrepid Coconut Grove Sailing Club Race Committee! Approaching the Starting Line The dedicated Bob Derez on the support boat

A PIRATE LOOKS AT CHOWDER

by Danny Garcia, with his wench, er... wife, Wendy Mahr

Arrr, when yer wench's birthday be landin' on Talk Like a Pirate Day, and she's gathered a haul of pirate plunder through the years, there be no other choice but to don yer finest pirate attire for the grand costume bash, lest ye be labeled a scalawag of the highest order!

The only challenges we faced were the winds that afternoon. They had started to build and shift to a land breeze. Having the wind on the nose the whole way back in made for some long tacks across the bay. We crossed tacks with the Barnacle's Egret as she sailed by on her ear in the freshening breeze as she made her way back to her mooring. She looked beautiful out there!



...it was looking like we might be going straight from the boat to the Chowder bash in our seafarin' attire. We cruised in along the waterfront, sailing by the Barnacle with Egret already at her mooring, then the Sailing Club with an early happy hour crowd on the second floor. I lowered the sail as Wendy brought our boat to a nice landing at the dock.

We scrambled home... and... went back and forth on the whole pirate idea and finally, Wendy said, "what the heck, let's go for it!" To which I added, "let's do it in Renny's honor!"

So off, we drove into the Grove dressed head to toe as a pair of swash buckling pirates of Biscayne Bay from back in the day. We parked by the old Playhouse and scurried across the street with folks barely batting an eye at us.

We "stormed" down to the pavilion where the Chowder Party was already in progress. Amid, double takes and smiles, we crashed the chowder line and pillaged some rum (and cokes) in good pirate form. We managed a third place in our class but were rewarded with the most holy grail—first prize in the costume contest. Not sure if the gold doubloons my wife tossed into the crowd had anything to do with our winning. We'll never know for sure but we carried away our "loot," and proceeded to enjoy the rest of the evening with friends and fellow racers, trading stories about how close we came to winning our races.

'Twas yet another fine Washington's Birthday Regatta Weekend! Aye, and many thanks to all ye landlubbers who pitched in to make this event a reality, and to all the hearty sailors and crews as well! Fair winds to ye all, and mayhap we'll cross paths once more next year!

MEET A RANGER

by Suzanne Koptur

Meet Kevin Floyd

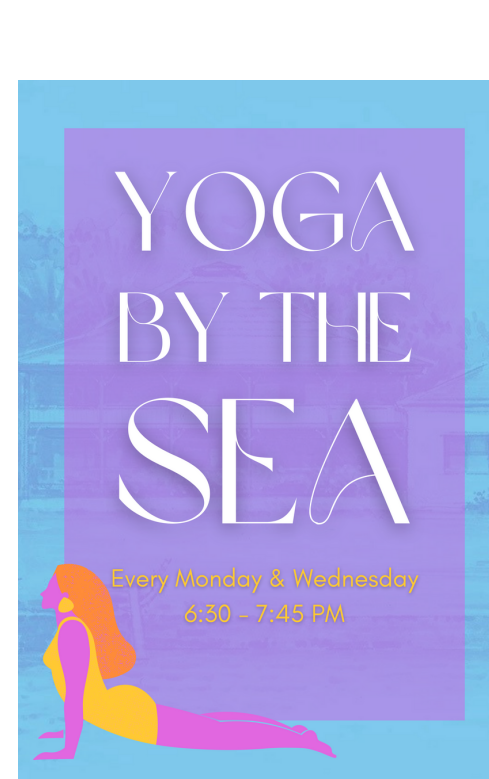


Kevin Floyd

Kevin Lorenzo Floyd is a Miami native, who came to the Barnacle four years ago and since that time has made a big impression on all with his positive attitude and capable handling of many duties at the park. For many years he worked in finish carpentry, and we are glad he moved to a ranger position when his former boss retired. Kevin attributes his strong work ethic to his first job: at 12 years old he started working at a grocery store run by a Trinidadian family. He became close to them and credits them with inspiring him to do things right the first time, to keep busy, and to always do his best.

Kevin is the father of two sons, Travion (20 yrs old) and Kamar (16). He recently published a book entitled Hood Tales, stories of his childhood growing up in the ghetto (available on Amazon). In his free time, Kevin likes to watch movies – not t.v. programs, but shows where the whole thing is over and done in one sitting. He especially likes horror movies, and his favorite snack is popcorn. He enjoys when Barnacle Society volunteers fire up the popcorn machine for the concerts, providing some "quality control".

EVENTS AT THE BARNACLE



ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

The News Packet was created to inform members and public about The Barnacle Society, The Barnacle Historic State Park, and events and activities there. Published quarterly by The Barnacle Society, it is part of our continuing program to support and preserve the home of Commodore Ralph Middleton Munroe. The News Packet represents the method of mail and news delivery before the turn of the 20th century. A small boat sailed to Fowey Rocks Light and received a "packet" of newspapers and mail from passing coastal ships bound for Key West or Jacksonville.

Suzanne Koptur, Editor

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Barnacle Society, Inc. is a volunteer non-profit, citizen-supported organization created to generate public awareness, education, and financial support for the preservation and maintenance of The Barnacle Historic State Park.

PARK HOURS

Friday through Wednesday 9 AM to 5 PM
Closed Thursdays, New Year's Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.