

# The News Packet

Summer 2019



## THE BARNACLE SOCIETY



### My View from the Porch

*John Palenchar, President*

It's been a year now since I stepped into the President's role, and as I sit here in my rocker on The Barnacle front porch, the Park is looking better! The Boathouse, with its new siding and fresh paint, has been completely restored from the Hurricane Irma damage and years of deterioration. There are beautiful new Interpretive Signs throughout the Park, informing our visitors of both its human and natural history. There's new furniture on the lawn and, buried in the walls of the Barnacle house and Boathouse, the much-needed and long-awaited fire suppression system is installed and ready to prevent catastrophe.

And we have a fresh, new website—thebarnacle.org! All of this, thanks to the generous support of our Barnacle Society members, The Villagers, the Clinton Foundation and many others.

But I also see things still needing to be done and with your continued support we'll do them. We need to fix our hurricane-damaged dock. We need to fix the eroded lawn on both sides of the Barnacle house and make the property more user-friendly for the attendees of the ever-increasing events we hold. The Pavilion is on life-support, having sustained major hurricane damage—but its current location is in certain jeopardy from sea-level rise so this must be taken into account before investing in a new structure. All of these challenges are actively being addressed and, by this time next year, I hope we have some solutions. Meanwhile, come and enjoy our 4th of July Picnic. Or just come sit and enjoy the view from the porch!



### Tea with Mr. Shakespeare

*By Colleen Stovall*

If you are lucky enough to peruse the bookcases of The Barnacle's library, you will quickly surmise that

Commodore Munroe had a strong connection to William Shakespeare, given the number of the Bard's volumes on the shelves.

William Shakespeare was born in Stratford-Upon-Avon, England, in April 1564. The exact date of his birth is not recorded but is most often celebrated around the world on April 23. In a strange twist of fate, Shakespeare also died on 23 April; in 1616, at 52 years of age.

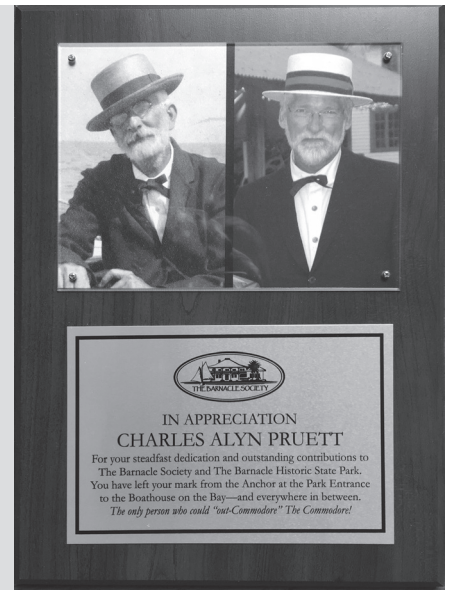
Shakespeare's 455th birthday was celebrated at The Barnacle Historic State Park on April 25 along with the Florida Shakespeare Theater. The family-oriented event included a very popular Shakespeare Photobooth.



*"and dog will have his day"  
Nelson Del Rio ~ King of the Castle*

## Volunteer Spotlight on: *Alyn Pruett*

TBS Board of Directors Past President, Alyn Pruett, operated the helm for four years with incredible organization and efficiency. Alyn is a consummate gentleman with a kind, thoughtful and creative style of leadership. He worked countless hours to improve the fundraising arm of our group and bring increased numbers of visitors to the Park. He is an exemplary leader, peacekeeper, friend and mentor to our Board. While Alyn accomplished so many important tasks, his greatest contribution was completing the installation of the fire suppression system to protect the historic house. This was no easy feat. Thank you, Alyn, for all your years of selfless service to The Barnacle and for your friendship.



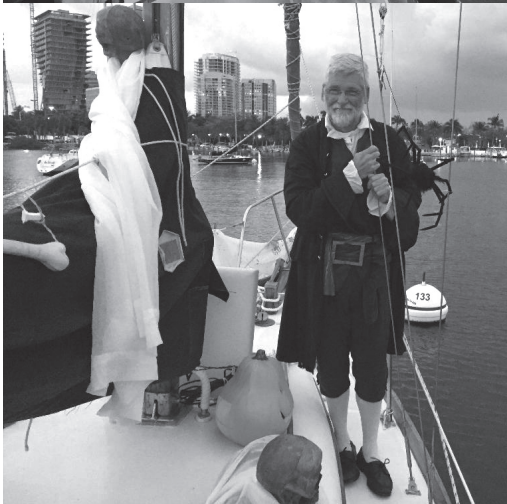
### ***Sweet Pea Ellman has this to say***

Alyn has been our North Star, a great friend to me and to The Barnacle. And, most importantly, he is Commodore Munroe's doppelganger, and not just physically. The Commodore was a Renaissance man and so is Alyn. He made use of his many talents throughout his tenure on the Board. No project was too daunting for him. Alyn, thank you for everything, we will miss you.

### ***John Palenchar expresses his thoughts***

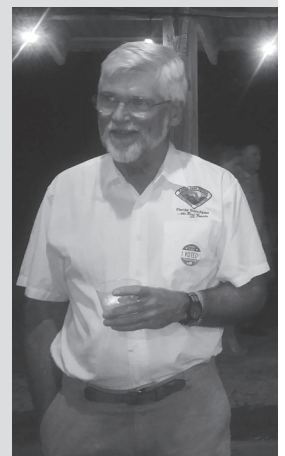
In my time volunteering at The Barnacle, I have seen Alyn "do it all." There is hardly a place or event in the Park that has not benefitted from Alyn's boundless energy and enthusiasm. He has organized a landscape beautification project for the Park Entrance. He has refurbished the Anchor on Main Highway. He has taken charge of our Washington's Birthday Regatta countless times. He served some eleven years as a Board Member of The Barnacle Society, including two terms as President. He led The Barnacle Society in one of our biggest projects to date, the funding and installation of our much-needed fire suppression system.

The energy Alyn has poured into The Barnacle is a testament to his deep appreciation of, and commitment to, this historic Coconut Grove property and its famous owner, Commodore Munroe. In addition, although Alyn has stepped down from The Barnacle Society Board, he continues to be involved in many of the ongoing plans to improve and enhance the Park. Thank you Alyn, for all you have done for our beloved Barnacle!



### ***Lee Taylor comments of Alyn's debonair deportment***

The hair on my face has been there since spring break of 1969 in one form or another but with mostly minor variations. If it was to disappear both family and friends would be wondering if I was running a fever or suffering a mental breakdown. Thus I, like Alyn, have spent hundreds of hours in front of mirrors getting the trim just right. And in Alyn's case, the well-trimmed beard is external evidence of an internal equilibrium which is both comforting and inspiring. Thank you, Alyn.





## Sawdust and Shavings

John Palenchar

The distinctive maritime aroma of Pine Tar has pervaded the Boathouse these past few months during the painstaking process of rebuilding a hurricane-mangled Marine Railway. Restoration of this replica of the Commodore's railway, at the edge of the Bay, was accomplished by Mike Chapman. Mike, who designed and built the Marine Railway ten years ago, showed up a few days after Irma and combed piles of debris for Railway parts which were strewn across the property.

After months of careful disassembly, refurbishing

(each bolt carefully cleaned and repainted) and reassembly, restoration of this important interpretive component of the park is complete. We were lucky to receive a donation of cypress timbers from local craftsman, Brian Duplisea, reducing materials costs from a projected \$600 to under \$100. We are also very lucky to have such a skilled and dedicated volunteer as Mike Chapman (referred to as a "Dynamo" by some who know him).

Next up at the Boathouse - "sea chests" for accessories specific to our individual boats and maybe a few folding stools - all crafted from salvaged Dade County pine floorboards of The Barnacle porch!

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## On the Waterfront

By Bill Tenney

All has been quiet on The Barnacle waterfront this spring Jason Biondi and Sanna O'Sullivan have been sailing *Egret* regularly. They report no mishaps or equipment failures. *Egret's* paint, top and bottom, look good. We are thinking about leaving her in the water this year unless we are forced by a hurricane to move her.

Our hurricane plan is well-established now. With the help of the Coconut Grove Sailing Club launch, *Egret* is towed to the Club lift where her masts are removed. She is then ferried next door to Seminole Ramp, brought out of the water and onto her trailer. We are grateful to CGSC and our Maritime Volunteers who are always ready to help.

Though nothing much as happened with dock repair, the Boathouse is back to normal. Gear removed for Hurricane Irma has been returned. Volunteer Mike Chapman is repairing the skiff, which was damaged when it got caught beneath the dock at high tide.

Jason Biondi is our new Maritime Committee Chair. We wish everyone a good summer and above all, stay safe!



Crew of *Egret* at 2019 Washington's Birthday Regatta.  
From left to right: Jason Biondi, Nora Tenney,  
Bill Tenney, and Sanna O'Sullivan

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## By the Time We Got to Woofstock...

By Scooby Ellman, Pup Reporter with his nose to the ground sniffing out the news

TALK ABOUT DOG-TIRED!

(Bow)Wow, what a day! Over 200 my furry friends came out to play at Woofstock on May 5. The Pit Bull of Blues Band serenaded us with *Roll Over Beethoven*, *You Ain't Nothin' But a Hound Dog*, and more songs about dogs than we knew existed! We had lots of treats, and even ice cream and pupsicles! There were games, photos, paw prints, and contests! Thank you to Dog From Ipanema, Vicki and Hardy Katz, and Equipaws for donating prizes for the contest winners and a big sloppy dog kiss to Flavia from Equipaws for making Woofstock better than ever.

I was really excited to see my new friend Zoey on her first outing. She's only four months old and already bigger than me. Most of my dog pack was there...

Kajeh, Kira, Kismet, and Buddy. Haven't seen them for a dog's age - not since our last Yappy Hour. Love hanging out with my dogs, we always have a howl of a good time.

I always get a little melan-collie at Woofstock, thinking about the first time I came to The Barnacle eight years ago. I was a frightened little pup with no home, no bed, not even a bowl to call my own. I'd been living on the streets when I was picked up and taken to a shelter. Some folks from the shelter heard about Woofstock and took me and a few of my mates for an outing. So, we get there, and two really nice ladies started talking to me and petting me. One of them gave me some of her hot dog and the next thing I know I'm jumping into her arms, she's crying, I'm crying. Then there's a car ride, a big bed, and cuddling...and the best part is I'm still there living the dream! It was the best day of my life. So many of my furry friends need a good home. I promise you will get back so much more than you give.



## A Walk in the Park

*Katrina A. Boler, Park Manager*

Summer storms are clearing the air and washing away dust and pollen and making the lawn grow lush, green, and long! Right this minute we're enjoying clear blue summer skies. It's absolutely beautiful right now

as stiff breezes churn the Bay into a happy splish-splash against the shore...and life in the park goes on.

While we're still not 100% recovered from Hurricane Irma, there is progress. The Boathouse has been restored, a number of preservation treatments on The Barnacle are complete, and dock restoration, fence repairs, and Micco Pavilion have been funded, we're excited to say.

The Barnacle Staff is busily working with The Barnacle Society, Coconut Grove BID, Coconut Grove Chamber of Commerce, The Haunted Ballet, Mad Hatter Arts Festival, and Florida Shakespeare Theatre on an exciting Event & Program line-up. Meanwhile, **Movies in the Park** sponsored by BID continue. Additionally, our twice-weekly **Yoga by the Sea** offers restorative yoga in a natural setting, free from pesticides, traffic exhaust fumes, and bustle from modern life. Participants are invited to breathe and stretch either on the lawn beneath open skies or in Micco pavilion in case of inclement weather. Set your intentions to begin a tranquil practice with us.

Watch your email and our websites to make your plans to join us for wonderful things happening at YOUR state park!

## A Day in the Hammock

*A series of poems by Sarah Wurzel*

*There once was a woman from Wyoming*

*She seemed somewhat easy-going*

*but when it came to trees*

*and viny little peas*

*She aggressively kept them from sowing*



*I meet with scores of lizards a day*

*They watch me as I make my way*

*Removing vines by the roots*

*Ripping up invasive shoots*

*They wonder if I'll let them stay*



*The hammock seems still and unassuming*

*Somewhere inside a ranger is looming*

*Visitors frolic by*

*Something catches their eye*

*"Ah!" "What is that man with the hat doing?"*

Sarah Wurzel is our Exotic Removal Ranger. Stop by the park to see what she's doing, or better yet, call 305-442-6866 to set up a time to volunteer to help keep our Tropical Hardwood Hammock healthy.

## Special thanks

*to the Stovall Family and Milam's Market Coconut Grove for their support of this year's Commodore's Birthday Party as well as to these donors for their generous contributions to our silent auction. Please support them in return.*

Adrienne Peters  
 Allison Riley & Steve Carter  
 Alix de Seife  
 Atchana's Restaurant  
 Bagel Emporium  
 Bill & Nora Tenney  
 Blonde Tulip  
 Bloomingdale's  
 Buddha Grove  
 Captain Jake Jacobsen  
 Castle Harbor Boating School  
 Coconut Grove Pharmacy  
 Colleen Stovall  
 Coral Gables Art Cinema  
 Coral Gables Dentistry  
 Chris Pruett / Garden Grove Tree Service  
 City Pooch  
 Deering Bay Yacht & Country Club  
 Deering Estate  
 Erika King  
 Eve Del Rio  
 Farinelli 1937  
 Flow Kicks  
 Fresh Market  
 Glamour Beauty Salon  
 Green Street Cafe  
 Grove Gallery & Interiors  
 Harry's Pizza  
 Isabelle's Restaurant at Ritz Carlton Coconut Grove  
 Jaguar Hospitality Group  
 Joanna's Marketplace  
 Jim Fawcett  
 LA Pizza / Julian Mus  
 La Rue Bistronomie  
 Justin Flit / Proof Pizza  
 Lesley Clothing  
 Lotus Garden Restaurant  
 Louis Del Borrello  
 Lulu's in the Grove  
 Miami Harbor Pilots Association  
 Pam Shlachtman  
 Patricia M. Cloherty  
 Regions Bank  
 Ritz Carlton Coconut Grove  
 Sanna O'Sullivan & Jason Biondi  
 Sheryl Weir-Latty  
 Starbucks  
 Strada in the Grove  
 Sue McConnell  
 The Barnacle Historic State Park  
 The Barnacle Society  
 The Commodore Bar at Ritz Carlton Coconut Grove  
 The Kampong  
 The Showroom  
 Ugo di Roma Salon and Spa  
 Vicki and Hardy Katz  
 Walt Walkington  
 Whip & Dip  
 Withers Worldwide  
 Zulu Nyala



### ***Debra Wellins writes more of Alyn's leadership skills***

Alyn is an organizational champion who presided over TBS with great leadership and courtesy. He synthesized complex issues to bring clarity and decisiveness to the Board. Alyn is a gentleman with a kind soul. At the helm of TBS, he dedicated four years of his life to raise awareness of The Barnacle and increase support for the Park. He was an exceptional President, culminating his tenure with the completion of the fire suppression system to protect the historic house. We will greatly miss his creativity and friendship on The Board and wish him well on all his new adventures.

### ***Bill Tenney describes Alyn's leadership***

I first met Alyn Pruett at The Barnacle. It was in the Library. We were meeting with Katrina and Bob Deresz about who would be taking care of *Egret*. Shortly after that, Alyn was in charge of The Barnacle's participation in the "Mango Strut" in Coconut Grove. I was impressed with how well he created a banner, and led us on the parade route.

When I became Chair of the Maritime Committee and Captain of *Egret*, Alyn was President of the Board of Directors. We were both interested in the Maritime program at The Barnacle. He was helpful and dependable. One time I lost control of the line that lets down *Egret's* centerboard. He promptly donned snorkeling gear and, with Renny Young helping, Alyn retrieved the line.

When a hurricane threatened, Alyn made the necessary arrangements with the Coconut Grove Sailing Club to tow *Egret* to safety. His judgement about the weather and when to act was always good.

In my mind, Alyn's outstanding achievement was to revive the Washington's Birthday Regatta. The Regatta and Chowder Party is an annual winter premier event at The Barnacle.



## **Calendar of Upcoming Events: Summer 2019**

**Friday, July 28**

**Movies in the Park sponsored by BID  
*Captain Marvel***

Gates open at 7:30 p.m.; Movie begins at 8:30 p.m.

**Friday, August 23**

**Movies in the Park sponsored by BID  
*How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World***

Gates open at 7:30 p.m.; Movie begins at 8:30 p.m.

**Sunday, September 8**

**Barnacle, Books, Birds, & Boats**

12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Family Event celebrating Literacy Month

**Saturday, September 14**

**Barnacle under Moonlight Concert: TBA**

Gates open 6:00 p.m.; Music at 7:00 p.m.

**Friday, September 27**

**Movies in the Park sponsored by BID  
*Dumbo (2019)***

Gates open at 7:30 p.m.; Movie begins at 8:30 p.m.

**Saturday, September 28**

**National Public Lands Day**

9:00 a.m. to 12 noon – Volunteer Work Day

1:00 p.m. – NPLD Volunteer Appreciation Picnic

**Saturday, October 12**

**Barnacle under Moonlight Concert: TBA**

Gates open 6:00 p.m.; Music at 7:00 p.m.

**Sunday, October 13**

**Owl-o-ween**

12:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Celebration of all things Owl

**Yoga by the Sea** continues each Monday  
and Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

**\*\*with the exception of Monday, September 2 ~ Labor Day.**

Events sponsored by The Barnacle Society raise funds to support The Barnacle. Picnics, blankets, and lawn chairs are welcome but please no pets at evening events. Service animals are welcomed at all times. Accessible facilities are available.

For more information, call **305-442-6866** or visit **www.TheBarnacle.org**



## THE BARNACLE SOCIETY

3485 Main Highway / PO Box 33-0579  
Coconut Grove, Florida 33233-0579



### **A Gift to our Loyal Readers**

*Present this card at any of our events  
for a free bag of popcorn.  
One popcorn per event.  
Three bags of popcorn on us.*



### **Board of Directors 2019-2020**

#### **Officers**

President - John Palenchar  
First Vice President - Sweet Pea Ellman  
Second Vice President - Lee Taylor  
Third Vice President - Debra Wellins  
Recording Secretary - Olivier de Lavalette  
Corresponding Secretary - Lilian A. Walby  
Treasurer - John Powers

#### **Board Members**

Jason Biondi  
Alix de Seife  
Louis Michael Del Borrello  
Vicki Katz  
Ani Mercedes  
Jon Peattie  
Mary Scott Russell  
Pamela J. Shlachtman  
Jorge Sotolongo  
Colleen Stovall  
Bill Tenney  
Karelyn Travieso  
Sheryl Weir Latty  
John Wynn

### **Park Hours**

**Open:**  
**Friday, Saturday,  
Sunday and Monday**

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Wednesday**

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Thursday**

9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

**Closed:**

Tuesday, News Year's,  
Thanksgiving,  
and Christmas Days

**Guided Tours**

10, 11:30 a.m., 1 and 2:30 p.m.

**Group Tours**

with two-week advance reservations  
are welcome Wednesday, Thursday

**305-442-6866**

**[www.floridastateparks.org](http://www.floridastateparks.org)**

### **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. It's published quarterly by The Barnacle Society as part of its 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 sailing ships bound for Key West or Jacksonville.

*Sheryl Weir-Latty & Bill Tenney, Editors*

### **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.**