



ARCH CREEK TRUST NEWSLETTER

SPECIAL ISSUE

MAY 2015



FORTHCOMING EVENTS / DATES

May 17th (Sunday)

SAVE GREYNOLDS PARK COMMITTEE MEETING – Meeting to discuss the future of Greynolds Park. Location: tables across from the Lagoon Pavilion (look for the Committee’s banner).

May 15th-17th (All weekend)

REDLAND INTERNATIONAL ORCHID FESTIVAL – The largest international orchid festival in the world with vendors from around the world. Location: Redland Fruit & Spice Park (24801 SW 187th Avenue, Redland)

Date to be Determined (June, 2015)

ARCH CREEK TRUST LUNCHEON – Annual luncheon for all members of Arch Creek Trust. Location: *To Be Determined*

President’s Message

I feel genuinely honored to have served as president of Arch Creek Trust in service to our organization, cherished park and in support of park issues and conservation for northeastern Miami-Dade. This is my fourth year as president and well over a dozen as Trust member. We’ve been through some tough times for sure. Budget issues, limited park hours, summer lulls, park staff reductions and the loss of all of the park’s chickee structures to name a few.

With this said, we’ve managed not to waiver from our mission of providing support when and where needed, recognizing individuals who’ve made a difference, supporting educational programming as well as holding special events at the park to let the community know that they have -- in their own back yards -- a green jewel to be discovered.

Most importantly during my tenure, we’ve managed to keep historic Arch Creek Park open and accessible for the public despite very real woes of underfunding. I hope I’ve been able to provide a positive direction for you.

Lastly, I want to express my gratitude and huge respect for each and every one of you who silently (or vocally) choose to be present during our meetings, help out when you can, and fully participate in our mission. I have noticed everything and there’s no better group of committed people. You are all wonderful.

Thank you for being there and allowing me lead the helm for a bit. It’s now time for me to step down and allow a new face to lead us. Whoever that is will count on my (and I hope your) support and good will as we face new challenges to come. ~ Rick Ferrer

YEAR IN REVIEW: 2012

The following is a partial list of Arch Creek Trust and the Park's highlights during 2012:

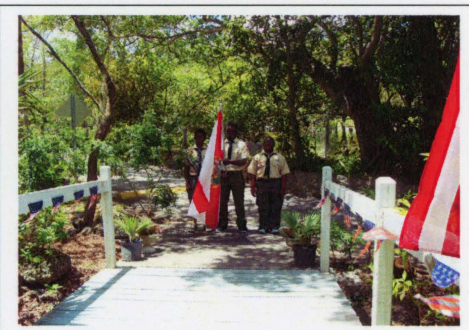
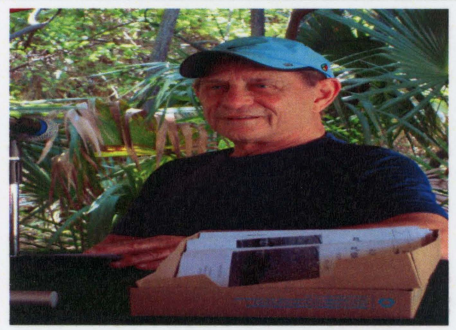
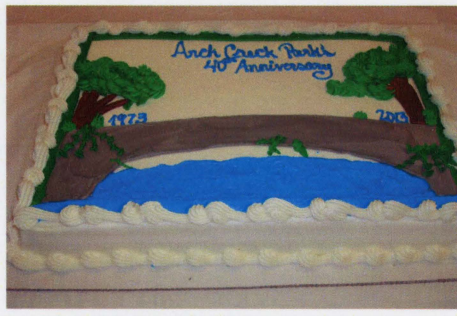
- Election of new Trust officers (March)
- Quotes for large Chickee repairs
- Renaming of large Chickee for Marjory Stoneman Douglas approved
- Large chickee is completely re-thatched at a cost of \$6500 to Trust
- Plant purchases and Plant Sale
- Carol Helene voted 'Special Advisor' to Board
- Summer camp scholarships approved by the Trust
- Boy Scouts (Pack 305) install owl boxes
- Trust Paradise tree seedlings are donated to Miami-Dade County's Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) program
- Board votes to identify donors by name according to donations: Friend; Patron; Life Member or Benefactor
- Committee appointed to study signage issue for park
- Rick attends Florida Tree Summit at FIU for the Trust with summary report to the Board
- Summer Luncheon held at Suzy Lai's Chinese Restaurant
- Arch Creek Trust helps man and monitor the park during summer period (June to August).
- Planning starts for Park's 40th year benchmark Anniversary in 2013.
- Arch Creek Park links up with the Park Department's "Eco Adventures" program. Arch Creek Park now administered through A.D. Barnes Park
- Renee Gonzalez joins the park as a new employee
- Updates on lost historic sites of interest
- Tour of the Glenn Curtiss Mansion (Miami Springs) organized
- Rosy meets with Miami-Dade Commissioner Monestime regarding park bench issue
- Miami-Dade Park's Jim King is honored by the Trust at Duffy's Bar and Grill for his service to Arch Creek Park
- Trust participates in tree plantings in NE Miami-Dade
- Trust appropriates funds for park for a new leaf blower. Trust donates a weed eater to the park
- Trust considers different ideas for improving membership
- Trust given a heads up on "All Aboard Florida" rail service plans

YEAR IN REVIEW: 2013

The following is a partial list of Arch Creek Trust and the Park's highlights during 2013:

- Plant sale held in March
- Arch Creek lecture by local historian Juan Rivera at Big Chickee
- Trust forwards letter of concern regarding poorly constructed speed bumps within the park
- Election of Trust officers
- Trust support for sister organization "Friends of the Oleta River"
- Membership committee created
- Attendance to FEC corridor presentation before Biscayne Gardens Civic Association
- Support to sister park "Arch Creek East Natural Area" by lobbying FIU and City of North Miami not to open a roadway access for university through NE 135th Street
- Attendance to Climate Change Conference at FIU
- Information on actions to save energy, water, etc. disseminated
- Trust holds special celebration to mark the 40th anniversary of the park's acquisition by the State of Florida with special honors to: Maureen Harwitz, Harvey Ruvin and Bob Carr; official re-naming of Big Chickee for Marjory Stoneman Douglas; installation of State flag at museum; Florida anthem; speeches and remembrances; food and drinks; and recreation of historic post card image (i.e., antique autom over Arch Creek natural bridge)
- Left over plants from plant sale donated to Urban Paradise Guild
- Discussion of Park critical needs and how improve these
- Trust participates in Park volunteer and clean up days
- Park awards scholarship for summer camp children in need
- Summer luncheon at Miami Shores Country Club with honors to Trust's Special Advisor and ex-president Carol Helene
- New color promotional / membership cards created
- Arch Creek Trust helps man and monitor the park during summer period (June to August).
- Holiday party with sister organizations Greater North Miami Historical Society and Friends of the North Miami Library held at Marjory Stoneman Douglas (Big) Chickee
- UM Archaeological conference (Pat Manfredi and Rick Ferrer attend for Trust)
- Curci Mansion (Hallandale) visited with sister organizations

YEAR IN REVIEW: 40th Year Acquisition Anniversary Celebration – April 27, 2013



YEAR IN REVIEW: 2014

The following is a partial list of Arch Creek Trust and the Park's highlights during 2014:

- Trust participates in Native Plant Day at Enchanted Forest Park with sale of plants, books and Trust information booth
- Park issues with vagrancy and vandalism (flag burned)
- Clarification that park lies within Metro (County) Police jurisdiction
- New supervisor over park
- Eagle Scout project at park finished (small butterfly garden and overnight camping area)
- Marjory Stoneman Douglas (Big) Chickee lost to fire incident during Fall.
- Park security is stepped up with regular monitoring visits
- Trust provides assistance for park openings and closings
- On-going issue of small chickees in disrepair (repair or remove) – all chickees removed by end of year.
- FIU geologists and hydrologists visit park and the Arch Creek area. 1940s aerials of the Arch Creek area are donated to the Trust
- Trust participates in volunteer days at the park
- Trust continues to support of "Save Greynolds Park" organization

YEAR IN REVIEW: 2015

The following is a partial list of Arch Creek Trust and the Park's highlights up through May, 2015:

- Trust begins work to develop event for first quarter of 2015; tying in event to Dade Heritage Days is discarded
- Work on Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between Trust and County continues
- Trust officer elections delayed
- Trust holds first ever "Earth Day" celebration at park on April 26th with special characterization performance of "David Fairchild"; nature tour; bird release; food and drinks; books and sale items.
- Trust begins design review study for new shelter to replace the demolished Marjory Stoneman Douglas Chickee
- Trust holds officer elections during May meeting

Arimathea

Grass

~ My mother sent me some gardening humor that she knew I would appreciate: A conversation between God and St. Francis about grass. This puts a whole different perspective on having a green lawn.~

GOD: Frank, you know all about gardens and nature. What in the world is going on down there on the planet? What happened to the dandelions, violets, milkweeds and stuff I started eons ago? I had a perfect no-maintenance garden plan. Those plants grow in any type of soil, withstand drought and multiply with abandon. The nectar from the long-lasting blossoms attracts butterflies, honey bees and flocks of birds. I expected to see a vast garden of colors by now. But, all I see are these green rectangles.

St. FRANCIS: It's the tribes that settled there, Lord. The Suburbanites. They started calling your flowers 'weeds' and went to great lengths to kill them and replace them with grass.

GOD: Grass? But, it's so boring. It's not colorful. It doesn't attract butterflies, birds and bees; only grubs and sod worms. It's sensitive to temperatures. Do these Suburbanites really want all that grass growing there?

St. FRANCIS: Apparently so, Lord. They go to great pains to grow it and keep it green. They begin each spring by fertilizing grass and poisoning any other plant that crops up in the lawn.

GOD: The spring rains and warm weather probably make grass grow really fast. That must make the Suburbanites happy.

St. FRANCIS: Apparently not, Lord. As soon as it grows a little, they cut it - sometimes twice a week.

GOD: They cut it? Do they then bale it like hay?

St. FRANCIS: Not exactly, Lord. Most of them rake it up and put it in bags.

GOD: They bag it? Why? Is it a cash crop? Do they sell it?

St. FRANCIS: No, Sir, just the opposite. They pay to throw it away.

GOD: Now, let me get this straight. They fertilize grass so it will grow. And, when it does grow, they cut it off and pay to throw it away?

St. FRANCIS: Yes, Sir.

GOD: These Suburbanites must be relieved in the summer when we cut back on the rain and turn up the heat. That surely slows the growth and saves them a lot of work.

St. FRANCIS: You aren't going to believe this, Lord. When the grass stops growing so fast, they drag out hoses and pay more money to water it, so they can continue to mow it and pay to get rid of it.

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Arimathea (*continued*)

GOD: What nonsense. At least they kept some of the trees. That was a sheers stroke of genius, if I do say so myself. The trees grow leaves in the spring to provide beauty and shade in the summer. In the autumn, they fall to the ground and form a natural blanket to keep moisture in the soil and protect the trees and bushes. It's a natural cycle of life.

St. FRANCIS: You better sit down, Lord. The Suburbanites have drawn a new circle. As soon as the leaves fall, they rake them into great piles and pay to have them hauled away.

GOD: No! What do they do to protect the shrubs and tree roots in the fall to keep the soil moist and loose?

St. FRANCIS: After throwing away the leaves, they go out and buy something which they call mulch. They haul it home and spread it around in place of the leaves.

GOD: And where do they get this mulch?

St. FRANCIS: They cut down trees and grind them up to make the mulch.

GOD: Enough! I don't want to think about this anymore. St. Catherine, you're in charge of the arts. What movie have you scheduled for us tonight?

St. CATHERINE: *Dumb and Dumber*, Lord. It's a story about . . .

GOD: Never mind, I think I just heard the whole story from St. Francis.

Aside from the theological stupidity (and to think that Saint Catherine would feature such an idiotic movie!), it is a funny story for those of us who despise the American obsession with sterile green space.



ABOUT US:

Arch Creek Trust is a citizens group that supports Arch Creek Park and the environment in northeast Miami-Dade County. We are involved with the historical, botanical and archaeological protection within the community. We are dedicated to the preservation and enrichment of Arch Creek Park and its surrounding areas. We conduct fund raising events through the year and provide equipment and material needs for the park. Everyone interested in the care and future of Arch Creek Park and the surrounding environment is urged to become active and join the Trust in support of its activities.

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