

*Arch Creek Trust*

Presents

ARCH CREEK PARK'S  
**40<sup>th</sup> YEAR ANNIVERSARY**

STATE OF FLORIDA PURCHASE

1973 ~ 2013



Saturday, April 27th, 2013

Arch Creek Park  
1855 Northeast 135<sup>th</sup> Street  
Arch Creek, Florida

# Arch Creek Park & Arch Creek Trust

Arch Creek Trust, Inc. is a non-profit environmental advocacy group dedicated to protecting and preserving parks, environmental preserves and sensitive natural areas in northeastern Miami-Dade County. The Trust aids natural areas through volunteer support, advocacy and the award of funds for needed improvements, native plants, educational programs, lectures and special events. The Trust's center of activities is Arch Creek Park and surrounding natural areas.

Arch Creek Park is the remnant of a once substantial hammock forest known for its lushness, scenic beauty and natural limestone bridge. Native Americans camped and lived within Arch Creek's hammock. There was a significant village site located here with canoe landing, middens and burial mounds. Nineteenth century pioneers established a mill at Arch Creek to grind coontie into edible starch. United States military camped here and built the first roadway between Fort Lauderdale and Fort Dallas (Miami). The Military Trail later became a wagon trail for new pioneer families and travelers. This same road became the Dixie Highway. Late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century families from all over Dade County spent leisurely Sundays along the banks of Arch Creek

During the mid twentieth century a trailer park was located on this tract. In 1972-3, the land was slated for sale to be developed as an auto dealership. Through the efforts of concerned citizens and pioneer activists, the State of Florida intervened, purchasing northeast Dade County's last remnant hammock in February of 1973. On the day of the State's purchase, the wonder that had been Arch Creek's natural limestone bridge collapsed. The natural bridge was later reconstructed and the hammock opened as an environmental, historical and archaeological park in 1982. Today, the small acreage that is Arch Creek Park is recognized for its unique significance by Federal, State, County and municipal governments. The park offers the visitor a refreshing and relaxing experience of the spirit ...just steps away from busy Biscayne Boulevard.

## Arch Creek Trust Board

Rick Ferrer, President  
Rosey Voyce, Vice President  
Amy Werba, Treasurer  
Burnham Neill, Membership Coordinator

Lois Halyburton, Vice President  
Inez Couch, Secretary  
Carol Helene, Special Advisor

## Arch Creek Park Staff

Aimee Scott, Park Naturalist

Rene Gonzalez, Public Service Aide

*Arch Creek Park*  
*40<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary*  
*Program*

***Big ("Marjorie Stoneman Douglas") Chickee***

- I. Greeting and Introductions  
Rick Ferrer (Arch Creek Trust)
  
- II. Remembrances by Honored Guests
  - Robert S. Carr (Archaeological & Historical Conservancy)
  - Maureen Harwitz, Esq.
  - Harvey Ruvín (Miami-Dade, Clerk of Courts)
  
- III. Appreciation awards to Honored Guests
  
- IV. Escort Florida Flag to Museum (walk up the Military Trail)

***Museum Building***

- V. Installation of State of Florida Flag & Florida Anthem  
(Museum Porch)
  
- VI. Cake and Refreshments (Museum)

***Natural Bridge***

- VII. Antique car exhibit over Natural Bridge with  
group photograph & conclusion of event.

MEET ME AT THE BRIDGE

(by Jessie Freeling)

WHILE WAITING FOR MY FRIEND ONE DAY UPON OLD ARCH CREEK'S SHORE,  
MY MIND SLIPPED DOWN THAT TIMELESS STREAM TO WHAT HAD BEEN BEFORE.  
I SAW THE AGES MEETING THERE BECAUSE THE ROCK BRIDGE LED  
TO SUCH A PLACE OF BEAUTY, THAT EVERYBODY SAID,

MEET ME AT THE BRIDGE, THAT NATURAL LIMESTONE BRIDGE.  
MEET ME AT THE BRIDGE AT OLD ARCH CREEK.  
MEET ME AT THE BRIDGE, THE LITTLE NATURAL BRIDGE,  
THE NATURAL BRIDGE WHERE ALL THE GOOD FRIENDS MEET.

I THOUGHT ABOUT THE POTTERY MADE TWO THOUSANDS YEARS BEFORE.  
AND OF THE FOLK WHO MADE IT HERE UPON OLD ARCH CREEK'S SHORE.  
WE DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT THEM OR WHAT KIND OF LIVES THEY LED.  
BUT ONE THING IS QUITE CERTAIN, I'M SURE THEY MUST HAVE SAID,

MEET ME AT THE BRIDGE, THAT NATURAL LIMESTONE BRIDGE.  
MEET ME AT THE BRIDGE AT OLD ARCH CREEK.  
MEET ME AT THE BRIDGE, THE LITTLE NATURAL BRIDGE,  
THE NATURAL BRIDGE WHERE ALL THE GOOD FRIENDS MEET.

FROM THE IMPLEMENTS AND ORNAMENTS AND POTS THEY LEFT BEHIND,  
WE SEE THEIR CULTURE AND THEIR ART SHOWS, THEIR CREATIVE MINDS.  
ALL THROUGH THE BYGONE CENTURIES THERE'S LITTLE THAT WE KNOW,  
BUT FROM THESE FRAGMENTS OF THE PAST, YES, THEY WERE HERE, WE KNOW.

THE LITTLE CREEK FLOWED FRESH AND CLEAR, FOOD PLANTS GREW AT ITS SIDE  
AND DOWNSTREAM THERE WERE CRABS AND CONCHS BESIDE THE BAY'S SALT TIDE  
THE SEMINOLES FOUND LOGS AND THATCH AND PLENTIFUL SUPPLY.  
THE WOODS WERE FULL OF ANIMALS. OH, HEAR THE HUNTERS CRY.

I THOUGHT ABOUT CANOERS GLIDING 'NEATH ITS SHADY SPAN.  
THIS HELPFUL LITTLE BRIDGE WAS ALWAYS PRACTICAL FOR MAN.  
AS PIONEERS CAME SOUTHWARD I CAN HEAR THEIR HOOFBEATS TREAD:  
AND CHEERY FRIENDLY GREETINGS FOR THOSE PIONEERS ALL SAID.

MEET ME AT THE BRIDGE THAT NATURAL LIMESTONE BRIDGE.  
MEET ME AT THE BRIDGE AT OLD ARCH CREEK.  
MEET ME AT THE BRIDGE, THE LITTLE NATURAL BRIDGE,  
THE NATURAL BRIDGE WHERE ALL THE GOOD FRIENDS MEET.