



**John Palenchar, President**

Goodness, what a difference a Season makes! *My View From the Porch* has altered drastically in the last couple of weeks as our Country and the world come to grips with the COVID-19 pandemic. The Park is closed and empty. Ghosts of the 1918 pandemic wander The Barnacle halls. This, however, does not mean that your Barnacle Board of Directors is standing down. As we go to press, we are set to hold our first “virtual” Board meeting to keep the business of The Barnacle Society moving forward.

First and foremost, we have embarked on an ambitious project to address the severe erosion occurring on both side of the Munroe House as well as the looming effects of rising seas. An in-depth study and Master Plan is complete. We are further analyzing how best to take the project from concept to reality. The immediate need is to address the erosion issue which significantly affects safe access to activities on The Barnacle lawn. A copy of the Master Plan is available in the Park Office. This is a large undertaking and will require intensive fundraising—which obviously is hampered severely by current health restrictions! If any of our members know of funding sources, please let us know!

This will also be my last column as I will be “passing the gavel” (virtually) to our First Vice-President, Lee Taylor. It has been a pleasure and honor to work with our dedicated Barnacle Board, our wonderful Park Manager, Katrina, and so many of you, our Barnacle Society members. Stay well, keep your distance, and I look forward to seeing you all at The Barnacle, once this has passed!



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The News Packet

Spring 2020



A Walk in the Park

Katrina A. Boler, Park Manager



Today's *Walk in Park* was magnificent. It's a beautiful sunny day with our resident birds offering quite a concert followed by the chirps from the audience of squirrels offering appreciation of the melodies. Pelicans and Cormorants practice social distancing, each on his own piling of the Irma-damaged dock, peacefully sunning and preening under a sky of crystal blue, a gentle breeze blows in from the Bay...and life in the Park goes on.



Although the Park along with the remainder of Florida State Parks, is closed this season due to COVID-19 concerns, Barnacle Staff are using this time industriously, taking care of much needed Maintenance and Resource Management projects so that when our gates open again the Park will be in shipshape.



We are also pleased to announce that the damaged dock and Boathouse as well as the *Micco* Pavilion have been funded. We've been working with Florida Park Service's Bureau of Design and Construction to move the project forward. Additionally, Rockers Stone has completed the first section of wall repair on the boundary between the Park and Abitare. We're hoping that sections two and three will be funded soon.



Watch [www.FloridaStateParks.org](http://www.FloridaStateParks.org) and [www.TheBarnacle.org](http://www.TheBarnacle.org) for details regarding what's coming next at YOUR state park!

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Egret is Like New

By Bill Tenney

Member of the Maritime Committee

*Egret* was removed from the water on August 30, 2019 when Hurricane Dorian threatened the state of Florida. You will remember that this hurricane devastated the Northern Bahama Islands, but surprisingly turned north in the ocean before hitting Florida.

While *Egret* was out of the water, the Maritime Committee, with Jason Biondi as Chair, made a decision to remove the old paint and check the condition of *Egret's* hull, in particular her bottom. To do this, *Egret* was taken on her trailer to a boat yard in Naples, and it was found that her bottom and hull were in good shape. This was good news because we certainly want to keep *Egret* for many years to come.

Jason made new floorboards for *Egret* while she was out of the water. Also, following a request for donations made by The Barnacle Society President John Palenchar, \$4,500.00 was raised to help pay *Egret's* bill at the Boat Yard. We are

grateful to all those who donated. *Egret* was put back in the water February 18, 2020, just in time to participate in the Washington's Birthday Regatta. Jason skippered with Sanna O'Sullivan and Tim Eaton crewing. Nora and Bill Tenney also crewed. *Egret* was back on the water and did beautifully!

Due to the heavy equipment being used to install a new dock just south of The Barnacle, *Egret* was recently moved to a temporary mooring at the Coconut Grove Sailing Club. *Egret* is safe there. We say a big thank you to the Sailing Club. Meanwhile, the COVID-19 virus and the "stay-at-home" policy prevents us from going sailing.



**Picture caption: Aboard the Egret. Olivier Lavalette TBS Secretary front, Odile Lostis. Photo by Bill Tenney a**

## **SAWDUST AND SHAVINGS**

**Spring 2020**

**John Palenchar**

Saws at The Barnacle Boathouse were buzzing up until the Park closed. Repairs on our Boatyard Skiff are progressing and the new sole boards for *Egret* are now finished and installed. Special thanks to Julian Rubio and the Alermar Foundation for their generous year-end Matching Grant and to all who made matching donations toward *Egret's* refit and new paint. Together we raised over \$4,500! *Egret* is now

back on her mooring and ready to sail. Look for an opportunity to enjoy a memorable Sail on The Bay on our Barnacle website!

And the Boathouse Gang continues to craft beautiful wood items from our Dade County Pine salvaged from the original Barnacle porch floorboards. If you would like to “own a piece of The Barnacle,” pass by the Boathouse on Wednesdays or Saturday’s and see what’s on offer! (once the Park re-opens, that is)

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John Palenchar

### **2020 Washington’s Birthday Regatta**

The 24<sup>th</sup> Washington’s Birthday Regatta, commemorating the first-ever Regatta held on Biscayne Bay and organized by Commodore Munroe and his neighbor, Kirk Munroe, did *not*, as they say, “Go off without a hitch.” First of all, the Saturday races had to be postponed until Sunday, due to predicted strong winds. However, the “Awards Banquet and Chowder Party” was held, as scheduled, Saturday evening—minus the Awards (no races, no Awards)! Then, on Sunday, with winds still high, a number of mishaps occurred, including one “capsize” (Skipper and craft unharmed, thanks to a great effort by the Race Committee and friends) and this led to the “Race Results” not being available in time for Awards, which had been rescheduled for that evening. As of this writing the trophies still sit in The Barnacle Office, waiting out the Park COVID-19 closure, in the hope that a celebratory Awards event can be held in the not-too-distant (fingers crossed!) future.



In spite of all this, this year’s Regatta was a Big Success! We had 26 boats registered, with 22 actually making it to the starting line. (Some Skippers had to drop out due to the race day change). The Race Winners were as follows: EGRET CLASS: **SABROSURA**, Pascal Gademer, Skipper; SANDPIPER CLASS: **PEACOCK**, Peter McClennan, Skipper; PLOVER CLASS: **LARGO**, Joe Logan, Skipper; OPEN CLASS: **ELIZABETH BELLE**, Jay Flynn, Skipper; SPECIAL EXHIBITION CLASS: **CAPT. WINKY**, Justin Hayes Long, Skipper.

As usual, the Chowder Party was well-attended and great fun! We *did* hand out two “Special Recognition” Awards—one to **Chef Andre’**, chowder master “par excellence” and one to Park Ranger **Jessica Cabral**, for the incredible Office Support she has provided for the Regatta, facilitating the mailings, logging in Registrants, and printing the various Regatta materials (Race Numbers, Historic Photos for Table Décor/Door Prizes, etc., etc., etc.). The “Best Costume” Award (yes, some of us don

“period” outfits for the event!) went this year to **Richard Crisler**, long-time and much-respected CGSC Sailing Instructor.



As in years past, the **Coconut Grove Sailing Club Race Committee**, led by Principal Race Officer, **Nancy Rogachenko**, provided excellent Course set-up and Race oversight—including shifting their commitment from Saturday to Sunday. Thanks go to **The Coconut Grove Sailing Club and Biscayne Bay Yacht Club** for financial support; to **Starbucks** for the Skippers Meeting Coffee and to **Bruce Matheson** for the Chowder and the floating dock.

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(INCLUDE AS A CLASSIFIED AD)

**HELP WANTED**  
**MAINTENANCE VOLUNTEERS**

**Spring 2020**

Despite the yeoman efforts of Park Staff, the list of things that need fixing around the Park continues to grow. To address this need, we are looking to form a Volunteer Maintenance Team once the Park is open again. Basic handyman/woman skills are all that are needed. Members will paint, repair, replace—whatever small jobs need doing. We will establish a weekly “Maintenance Day” for the Team and attack the “to-do” list item by item. Those interested in joining our Barnacle Maintenance Team should contact Park Ranger Jessica Cabral at 305-442-6866.

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Meet a Board Member

Mary Scott Russell



Every member of the Barnacle Society has a special connection. Their very own reason behind why they decide to devote their time and effort in preserving one of the most beautiful backyards in South Florida. Our featured board member this month is Mary Scott Russell, who has served as a board member for over 10 years.

Mary Scott grew up in the heart of Coconut Grove, on El Prado with her Grandparents a block away on Leafy Way. She attended Plymouth Nursery school and St. Stephen's Day School, shopped at Bert's Market for groceries with her Grandmother and her Mother, Mary Dodd Trammell, took her shopping at Little Jack Horner, a children's clothing shop, on Main Highway. Everything she knew was in the Grove, including the Barnacle House. She explained, " The Barnacle is a part of my upbringing and reminds me of a happy, simpler time."

Mary Scott learned of The Barnacle Society through Susan Johnson, the mother of her childhood best friend Laura. She accepted the opportunity to serve on the Barnacle Board and for the next ten years served diligently, because she recognizes the need to preserve the history of Coconut Grove especially The Barnacle as it is one of few remaining landmarks. She has worked tirelessly alongside many others to preserve The Barnacle for future generations.

**[I AM IN NEED OF PICTURES. PLEASE SEND ANY YOU MAY HAVE OF MARY]**

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The News Packet

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***The Barnacle Society Board of Directors***

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John Palenchar, President

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Bill Tenney  
Karelyn Travieso  
Sheryl Weir-Latty

*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 20<sup>th</sup> 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, Editor

**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.

305-442-6866

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

