



President's Message by David Biega

This is my first opportunity – in this inaugural edition of the newsletter – to make a formal report to the membership of the Friends of Ulumay, and I want you to know I am very anxious to make this organization succeed.

It is a special honor for me to be asked to serve as your president for the current two-year term, but, after many months on the job as a temporary officer, I still realize there is a lot more going on—and so much more yet to do—than meets the eye.

So the honor is mutual: I honor you all for placing your trust and confidence in me. This realization increases the admiration and gratitude I hold for those who have put so much into the formation of this organization.

When I took office, I reminded you I know Ulumay territory as my backyard neighborhood over the past thirty years, and now the time has come for me to help preserve and prolong its existence. I will do my best but need your help.

One comforting thing I quickly learned – with much relief – was there is already in the wings a very dedicated core of workers who really keep this organization going.

It is always risky to start singling out individuals, but I have to acknowledge the extraordinary efforts of at least an indispensable few: Richard Stevens for his leadership; Barb Venuto, for arranging excellent speakers for our programs; and Jack Lembeck and Vince Lamb for taking on the many ad hoc assignments to their completion. And Kathy Scheetz, for handling our formation secretarial duties with skill and timeliness (and, I might add, going far above and beyond the call of duty); I hope all of you will join me and thank these key individuals for their constant and often unrecognized contributions.

The Friends of Ulumay organization is extremely grateful to United Space Alliance. They provided a five hundred dollar donation that we intend to use for exotic plant removal. We are very thankful for their consideration and support of the community and us.

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Calendar			
Sep 21	Monthly Meeting	7 PM	Kiwanis Park
Oct 19	Monthly Meeting – Paul Schmalzer, Ph.D. EEL Program Selection and Management Committee chairman	7 PM	Kiwanis Park
Oct 31	Nature Hike with Barb and Charlie Venuto	8 AM	Ulumay gate
Nov 8	Sierra Club Canoe and Kayak Outing - by reservation	10 AM	Ulumay
Nov 16	Monthly Meeting – Becky Bolt of Dynamac will speak on reptiles and amphibians	7 PM	Kiwanis Park
Dec 19	Christmas Bird Count at Ulumay – Charlie Venuto, leader	early	Ulumay gate



President's Message continued

Our joint venture with the Brevard County Parks and Recreation and the Environmentally Endangered Lands program needs to be formalized in a Memorandum of Understanding before we can go do some "real work" at Ulumay; we submitted a draft agreement, and the District Two County Commissioner promised that this will be accomplished by September.

Our tax-exempt charitable organization status with the IRS, along with the agreement with the county, will lead to trail maintenance projects, installation of informational kiosks, invasive exotic maintenance, and natural area improvements for nesting and foraging wildlife. Many of you will be called on for assistance with selecting and developing our projects and program of work.



Meanwhile, we were instrumental in the placement of a historic marker for Ulumay; we joined the Adopt-A-Shore program with Keep Brevard Beautiful to focus on the problems associated with marine debris and to provide motivated volunteers for litter removal.

We have undertaken a small project for the Central Area EEL Program Land Manager; to conduct a survey of all the straight-line mosquito control ditches and recommend which should be preserved for paddling access, and which can be restored to a more natural state through mitigation projects of government programs.

In accomplishing these activities, we are indeed fortunate to have strong support from Susan Boorse of Parks and Recreation, and the EELs management team.

There are exciting things ahead for the Friends of Ulumay; but to achieve full success as an organization we will need the continuing support, participation and hard work of all our members.

We have a good mix of retired and working folks, but we can certainly use more of both. You can help our vice president Jack Lembeck in building our membership by talking up the organization with every eligible person you see.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at our meetings and events.

David Biega

Donate a Red Cedar

At a summer meeting, a board member suggested that we establish a program to allow members to donate Red Cedar trees for planting in Ulumay. The native trees would be planted where exotics such as Brazilian Pepper are removed. We will discuss this possibility at the September meeting.

September Meeting – A Casual Get-Together

Please join us for pizza and soft drinks. If you want, bring a salad, appetizer or dessert. Many interesting developments have occurred during the summer and some great ideas have surfaced. This is your chance to help shape Friends of Ulumay according to your interests. Join us at the first Kiwanis Park building at 7:00 PM on Monday September 21.



Improved Access for Human Powered Craft

Brevard County Mosquito Control performed culvert maintenance and repairs at Ulumay earlier this year. Friends of Ulumay representatives approached them about improving the kayak and canoe launch sites. Mangroves surround the launch site that paddlers commonly use to access the interior canals within the impoundment. A permit must be obtained to severely prune or remove those mangroves.

Obtaining better access to launch canoes and kayaks in Sykes Creek was far easier. The Mosquito Control staff agreed to



Friends of Ulumay with Mosquito Control staff



Canoe and Kayak Launch Site

relocate the fence that protects the main impoundment pump to increase the area available for boat launching. Their workers completed the fence relocation soon after our discussion. Vandals had destroyed the previous fence so a new installation was required. The new launch site, shown in the photo, is located just west of the large impoundment pump house.

Brevard County Preserves Coastal Jewel

On August 20, the County Commission approved the purchase by the EEL Program of 188 acres of Atlantic Coastal Ridge in Malabar, a property known as Coastal Jewel. The property adjoins the Jordan Scrub Sanctuary, which contains 354 acres. The U.S. Air Force provided \$900,000 in matching funds, which allowed Brevard County to purchase the land for less than 60% of the appraised value.

The Coastal Jewel purchase was critically important for Florida Scrub-Jay habitat preservation. Jordan Scrub Sanctuary, Coastal Jewel and an adjacent subdivision conservation easement together include more than 600 acres of scrub-jay habitat. Paul Schmalzer, Ph.D., reports four Florida-listed species of rare scrub plants on Jordan Scrub and he believes that they are likely to grow on the Coastal Jewel property as well.

This purchase also protects the Indian River Lagoon by preventing development on a property that could potentially hold 500 single-family residences. The sandy soils and native plants will now serve to filter stormwater as it flows toward the lagoon from properties further west.



Mike Knight and Paul Schmalzer check wetlands at Coastal Jewel



Coastal Cleanup on September 19

Keep Brevard Beautiful is sponsoring the local Ocean Conservancy's Coastal Cleanup with 15 check-in sites in Brevard County on September 19 from 8am until noon. This global effort involves documenting litter as you clean up. Cigarette butts are the most numerous pieces of litter. Plastic bags are the Number one dangerous item found in the water, entangling and suffocating many animals each year. The Monofilament line-recycling program was initiated after studying the results of a Coastal Cleanup. Central Brevard check-in sites are Kelly Park East in Merritt Island, Cherie Down Park in Cape Canaveral, and in Cocoa Beach there is Shepard Park, Lori Wilson (N) and Ramp Rd. Park. Clean up supplies will be provided. Free t-shirts while supplies last. For more info, check out: www.KeepBrevardBeautiful.com

Paddle Ulumay Canals on November 8

You are welcome to join the Turtle Coast Group of the Sierra Club in a canoe and kayak outing at 9:00 AM on Sunday, November 8, 2009. We will paddle the interior canals within this urban wilderness and we should find lots of wildlife. Many species of migrating birds visit Ulumay. Ospreys, pelicans and wading birds are present year round. We plan to stop at least once to explore one or more of the islands.

This trip should last approximately three hours. Beginning paddlers are welcome. Vince Lamb will serve as the outing leader. Jim Durocher of Space Coast Kayaks will assist and will provide rental kayak (\$25 per person). There is no charge for people who bring their kayaks or canoes. Contributions to Sierra Club are invited.



Jim Durocher at Ulumay

This outing will be limited to 25 participants. Please send an email to vince@turtlecoast.org for reservations. Call Vince at 321-258-5168 with questions. If you want to reserve rental kayaks, please send a check payable to Space Coast Kayaks, Inc. to Vince Lamb, 11590 Dragon Point Drive, Merritt Island, FL 32952.

Friends of Ulumay Officers and Directors

President	<i>David Biega</i>	Vice-President	<i>Jack Lembeck</i>
Acting Secretary	<i>Karin Biega</i>	Webmaster and Newsletter Editor	<i>Vince Lamb</i>
Treasurer	<i>Vince Lamb</i>	Speaker Coordinator	<i>Barb Venuto</i>

Friends of Ulumay is a non-profit organization formed to provide and promote excellent environmental stewardship of the Ulumay Wildlife Sanctuary.

To contact any of the officers or directors, please send a message to info@ulumay.org. Your message will be referred to the person that you request or the one who can best address your needs.

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