



2018 Slate of Officers & Directors

President

Jason Cowen has served on the Friends Board since July of 2014 and is seeking his first term as President. He has previously served as Vice President of the Friends (2016-2017) and has been a volunteer at the Preserve for more than five years, specializing in the Bird of Prey program. Jason is a St. Pete native with a passion for wildlife, conservation, and Boyd Hill. He also serves on the Board for the St. Petersburg Audubon Society.

Vice President

Jennifer Mistretta has served on the Friends Board since 2016 and is seeking her first term as Vice President. She is active on the Marketing and Communications Committee and is responsible for managing the Friends of Boyd Hill Facebook page. Jenn lives within walking distance of the Preserve and spends many evenings and weekends enjoying Boyd Hill with her husband and son. She is a nurse practitioner who teaches in the nursing program at St. Petersburg College.

Treasurer Pro Tempore

Tiffany Knowles has served as Treasurer for the Friends since 2013. She is seeking a temporary term to train a successor. Tiffany earned an A.A. in accounting from SPC and a B.S. in Environmental Science from USFSP. She has worked as a store manager and inventory supervisor in retail establishments and also volunteers for the Disaster Animal Response Team/Florida SARC caring for animals at an emergency animal shelter.

Treasurer-Elect

Tom Seiler has served on the Friends Board since 2017 and is seeking his first term as Treasurer. He is a Life Member of the Friends and an avid walker of the Preserve. He is a certified public accountant with over 27 years of experience. He has also practiced contract and transactional law for a national bank and worked in higher education as a professor of accounting and Dean of the Ross College of Business at Franklin University. Tom has served on a number of professional and community boards, including the Ohio Society of CPAs, Central Ohio Chapter of the Institute of Internal Auditors, and the finance committee of the United Way of Central Ohio.

Secretary

Maya Burke has served on the Friends Board since 2014 and recently completed two terms as President. She is seeking her first term as Secretary. Maya is a Pinellas County native and spends her free time outside or on the water with her husband and son. She is a graduate of New College of Florida (Political Science & Environmental Studies) and has spent more than 10 years building partnerships to protect and restore land and water resources, most recently for the Tampa Bay Estuary Program. Maya chairs the Marketing & Communications Committee and also participates on the Membership & Development Committee.

Directors:

Melinda Spall has served on the Friends Board since 2016 and chairs the Membership & Development Committee. She graduated from the University of Florida with a B.S. in Geology and works at Tampa Bay Watch. Melinda was born and raised in the Tampa Bay area and looks forward to sharing her passion for natural areas, like Boyd Hill, with the local community. She also hopes to use her experience with other non-profits to help the Friends evolve as an organization.

Lenore Myka has served on the Friends Board since 2017 and is a Bird of Prey volunteer. She is a writing coach and editor. Previously, Lenore served as a development director for a small non-profit and has experience with membership and grant writing. She lends her expertise to a variety of Friends committees.

Karis King has served on the Friends Board since 2017. She participates on the Membership & Development Committee, specializing in hosting membership appreciation events, and has served as the Board's acting secretary. She is a mother of one; a wife; a south St. Pete resident; and a behavior analyst for adults with developmental disabilities.

Jennifer Garcia-Trujillo has served on the Friends Board since 2017. She participates on the Membership & Development Committee, specializing in hosting membership appreciation events. Jennifer is a Tampa native and St. Pete resident who made the move across the bridge to raise her family near Boyd Hill and everything it has to offer.

Mike Stott joined the Friends Board in 2017 and is a Bird of Prey Volunteer. He participates on the Finance & Investment Committee and represents the Friends at a variety of Education & Outreach events.

Tessa Burnsed is seeking her first term on the Friends Board. She is a wife, mother of 4, and a veteran of the United States Coast Guard. Tessa loves nature and hiking, and considers Boyd Hill to be a south side staple. She has served as President and Treasurer of the Sanderlin PTSA and is looking forward to offering her organizational skills and enthusiasm to Friends endeavors.

Lucinda Johnston is seeking her first term on the Friends Board. She is a long-time environmentalist with a particular interest in preserving the native flora and fauna of Florida. She is active in the local community and founded Chart 411, a non-profit dedicated to promoting a more sustainable way of life.

Dennis Russo is seeking his first term on the Friends Board. He lives in Lakewood Estates with his wife and children and is an administrator with the Pinellas County School Board and a Southside Soccer coach. Dennis also started a St. Pete CoderDojo and looks forward to putting his web and computer skills to work for the Friends.