

**bham**buzz soapbox



## Andre Natta

**bhamterminal.com Station Master**

**"I have** been on the board of Ruffner Mountain for three years and have served as the vice president for the past two years. We are implementing the first part of our master plan for Ruffner Mountain and will have the new 5000 square foot complex as well as a new pavilion next to our amphitheater. Ruffner Mountain Nature Center is a great place. It is an 1,011 acre forested urban nature center and certified wildlife habitat that offers educational programs, weekend activities, and over 11 miles of footpaths for hiking and birding. But most of all it is extremely important to have an oasis so that you have a place to sit and think, hike and get a little closer to nature right here in the city of Birmingham.

My soapbox is about what Birmingham can become as a city. There are so many positive things that we can promote, and it can be done without modeling it after another city. We are in the cradle of the Civil Rights movement, which should be remembered and celebrated, we have amazing live music, we have Ruffner Mountain and all that it will become the new green corridor, great food, Rickwood Field, some great old neighborhoods and architecture. There are so many great little gems in Birmingham, and people all too often sell this city short. To me Birmingham should be Birmingham. We should celebrate our accomplishments and bring out and build on the magic we already have." — *AS TOLD TO BEAU GUSTAFSON* 