
Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve

January - February 2017

HAPPY NEW YEAR!
 I encourage you to
 Walk the trails!
 Visit the Education Center!
 Volunteer!
 Donate!
 -Cathie Foster



Save the Dates Upcoming Friends Events

- Jan. 7 FOBCP Book Club
- Jan. 8 Music Jamboree
- Jan. 8 Off the Beaten Path hike:
 Cypress Swamp Stomp
- Jan. 21 Return the Preserve Work Day
- Jan. 28 Wildflower Garden Club
- Feb. 4 FOBCP Book Club
- Feb. 4 Star Party with St. Pete
 Astronomy Club
- Feb. 18 Return the Preserve Work Day
- Feb. 25 Wildflower Garden Club

- Chairman's Message by Cathie Foster . 1
- Save the Dates 1
- Friends of BCP Membership. 2
- Annual Meeting & Volunteer
 - Appreciation Celebration 11/5 . . . 3
 - Year 2016 in Review3
 - Thanks Celebration raffle donors . 4
 - Merigiare String Quartet 11/13 . . . 5
- Adopt an Acre 5
- Native Plant Mini Workshop 12/3 . . . 6
- Wreath-Makng Workshop 12/3 7
- Return the Preserve Work Day:
 - Before & After by Evan Earle Jr. . 8
 - Music Jamboree 1/8 9
 - 2017 Off the Beaten Path Hikes 10
 - Star Party 2/4 11
 - Leafcutter Bees by Craig Huegel . . . 12
 - Shopping at the Preserve 13
 - Nature Store News
 - by Kathleen Nichter 14
 - News from the Wildflower Garden
 - by Pam Brown 14
 - Pam's Gardening Thoughts 15
 - Brooker Creek Book Club
 - by Kathleen Nichter 16
 - Volunteer News By Julia Myers. . . . 17
 - FL Master Naturalist classes 19
 - Adopt an Acre Info/form 20
 - Calendar of Events 21
 - Mission Statements/Contacts 22



PLEASE JOIN US!

Who We Are: We are the citizens support group for Brooker Creek Preserve. We work hard to keep the Preserve ecologically healthy and open to the public.

Our Mission: We support the Preserve through fund raising, volunteer programs, hands-on involvement, and education to ensure that the Preserve remains a natural wilderness for future generations. We have been around for 20 years, (ten years more than the Education Center) with a long history of love and support for the Preserve, all 8,700 acres of it.

What We Do:

Organize and conduct events, festivals, night hikes, workshops, specialty hikes, campouts, and fundraisers.

Provide funding for the programs that occur at the Education Center.

Publish a bimonthly newsletter full of great information about the Preserve.

Apply for and obtain grants.

Fund volunteer needs including Volunteer Appreciation in November.

Run the Nature Store.

Remove exotics and nuisance plants and tend the Wildflower Garden.

Work to extend the Pinellas Trail past the Preserve entrance.

Public speaking at clubs, schools, and events.

Lobby and work with the county commission and state legislators for Preserve support.

We rely completely on memberships, grants, and donations to achieve our many missions. Please join us in making Brooker Creek Preserve the very best it can be!



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Please select your membership level.

- \$48 Preserve Pal (\$4/month)
- \$120 Preserve Partner (\$10/month)
- \$240 Preserve Protector (\$20/month)
- \$480 Preserve Guardian (\$40/month)
- \$1,200 Preserve Sentinel (\$100/month)
- Other (\$_____/month)

All levels are tax-deductible; you will receive an official letter noting your membership donation.

Please mail a check endorsed to FOBCP to:

Membership, Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve
3940 Keystone Road
Tarpon Springs, FL 34688

Please note that you can join online! Go to:

<http://www.friendsofbrookercreekpreserve.org>

Through the online Paypal, you can do a single payment or schedule monthly giving, if you wish.

This is a gift membership from: _____ Email: _____

Friends Annual Meeting and Volunteer Appreciation — Nov. 5



Thank You for another GREAT Year! In fiscal year 2016, we had 67 active volunteers contributing 6,734 hours, which is an equivalent of \$158,653 of service to this community! On top of that we had 24,570 visitors in the Education Center and we offered a total of 395 programs reaching 11,275 people! You all are FANTASTIC! Keep up the AWESOME work. - Julia Myers

The Preserve - 2016 Year in Review

Flatwoods Restoration 2015 & 2016: 500+ acres



Before: heavy fuel load, low understory biodiversity. high intensity burns



Immediately After



One Year After: low fuel load, high understory biodiversity, low intensity burns, Catesby lily expanding beyond original boundary

Fire: Low acreage of burns for FY16 due to high rainfall and prolonged extreme wet conditions.

- 1 prescribed burn /21 acres (compared to 6 prescribed burns/177 acres in FY15) & 2 wildfires - 9 acres

Nuisance Exotic Biological Control

- Release of Air potato beetle



Brooker Creek Preserve Hydrological Restoration Project

- Joint funded by Pinellas County & Southwest Florida Water Management District
- Low water channel crossings, pipe replacement, ditch filling, improve hydrology of wetlands up & downstream, exotic vegetation treatment. Consultant working on 60% plans

Timber Thinning

- 450 acres of pines to be thinned. Firebreaks to be cleared of all trees from fence 25 feet wide (Sample area has been cruised/marked, Timber company selected, Waiting for area to dry out)

New Fence Installation

- Over 9,200 linear feet installed - west boundary of Scenic Horse Trail & Scenic Horse Trail Entrance (fence and guardrail)

Security/Trespass/Vandalism

- Poaching wildlife & palmetto berries, cut and destroy fence and gates, ATV & dirt bike trespass, after hours trespass

Questions??? Contact Lisa Baltus, North County Land Manager: lbaltus@pinellascounty.org

The Friends would like to thank the following businesses that donated gift cards or items for the Brooker Creek Preserve Volunteer Celebration raffle table.

Hoffman Architects (www.hoffmanarchitects.net)

Marco's Pizza (2657 East Lake Road near Tarpon Woods Blvd)

Olive the World Bistro (24 Hibiscus St., Tarpon Springs)

Pampered Gardeners (www.pamperedgardeners.com)

Publix at Brooker Creek (Ridgemoor Blvd)

Sandpiper Café (833 Douglas Ave., Dunedin)

Smoothie King (4956 Ridgemoor Blvd., Palm Harbor)

Merigiare String Quartet (Music in the Woods Series) — Nov. 13

The Friends were delighted to invite Merigiare String Quartet to the Preserve thanks to an anonymous donation from one of our wonderful Friends! On a Sunday afternoon in November, about 50 people gathered to hear the gorgeous classical music fill the auditorium. We all want to thank the donor for this



Photos by Jane Myers



One of our volunteers, Ray Poynor, wood carver extraordinaire, built an 8' x 4' stage for us to use for the string quartet. We paid him for the materials but he did not charge us for his labor. The stage is beautiful!

Another stage was also borrowed and used with the quartet. So, many thanks to Jim and Gayle Morris for lending us their beautiful stage. Everyone in the auditorium could see the musicians and the musicians were able to sit and face each other. Lots of work, and we sure appreciated having these stages. Thanks to Barb Hoffman for getting the Morris stage over to the auditorium!

Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve New Members

Ray Poynor
Sherry Hawley

See page 20 for the Adopt an Acre Form and information.

Friends  of Brooker Creek Preserve

ACRE ADOPTIONS FOR BROOKER CREEK PRESERVE

One couple donated to our Adopt an Acre program to enhance restoration and land management programs in December; Thanks to Alan and Linda Goodson for donating \$50 to adopt 1/2 acre in Brooker Creek Preserve!

Native Plant Holiday Mini Workshop — Dec. 3

Four local chapters of the Florida Native Plant Society teamed up to organize a fabulous day of fun and education for the "Native Plant Holiday Mini Workshop. Hosted by the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve, this free event highlighted four main classes and an awesome pot-luck lunch. Classes included *Introduction to Plant Identification* with James Stevenson (UF IFAS), *Using Native Plants in the Landscape* with Bruce Turley (Wilcox Nursery), *How Roots Work* with Craig Huegel, PhD (St. Petersburg College), and *Designing Your Native Landscape - A Hands On Primer* with Katy Roberts (Pinellas Chapter, Florida Native Plant Society). Participants could also make a holiday wreath if they wished.

After his talk, Craig Huegel led a group of enthusiastic attendees on an impromptu hike. The wildflower (right) is orange milkwort (*Polygala lutea*). Photos by Cathy Vogelsong.



Wreath-Making Workshop — Dec. 3

A good time was had by all. Many thanks to the volunteer workshop teachers Ruth Earle, Barb Hoffman, and Sandra Miraglia, and to Evan Earle, Jr. who gathered the grapevine and cabbage palm fronds.



Return the Preserve Work Day - Before And After

by Evan Earle Jr.

We've all seen the "Before And After" photos from diets and makeovers. Well, personally, I think the Friends Of Brooker Creek Preserve (FOBCP) has created the best before and after pictures in the County. Talk about a makeover!

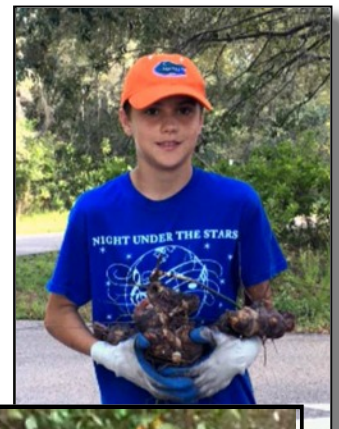
Before



We took a break in November and December from our Return The Preserve (RTP) Work Days so folks could have more time for family and friends at this busy end of the year. As we move into 2017, I'm taking this opportunity to share the tremendous amount of work accomplished by all of the Friends and volunteers who have participated in our RTP Work Days over the years. And yes, over the years is accurate. 2017 will mark our fourth year!

Our RTP Work Days actually started in December, 2013 with the wreath making workshop. My job was to gather grapevines. Sandra Miraglia and I gathered grapevine from the small "island" of oaks and Beautyberry in the drop off loop at the entrance of the preserve's boardwalk. That humble beginning was the spark, the seedling if you will, for our RTP Work Days. We have tackled grapevines, greenbrier, Caesar weed, and St. Augustine grass. We even took a plunge into Brooker Creek itself to remove invasive apple snails and their eggs (now THAT was a fun RTP Work Day with people and kayaks in the creek).

I remember the very first RTP Work Day. As I gazed at the blanket of tangled vines smothering the trees next to the boardwalk entrance, I thought to myself, "If we have enough people show up, we'll knock this out in a couple of hours."



During

Understatement of the century! We had plenty of volunteers, but that supposedly one-day effort grew from my "couple of hours" estimate into a once-a-month program. It took five full RTP Work Days to finish that site, but from there, we have tackled many more areas.

The best part of our RTP Work Days is the people! From six years old to, well, let's just say AARP eligible and then some, our RTP Work Day teams are unstoppable. We have welcomed groups and clubs from area schools, entire families bonding by volunteering, and individuals returning time and again, donating their time and energy. I have had the true pleasure to meet, work with, and laugh with some incredible people, all pulling together (literally sometimes).

I am so grateful to the Friends and volunteers who have participated in our RTP Work Days. I appreciate each and every person who gave up their Saturday morning(s) to work with us. Their time, enthusiasm, and hard work are why we have been so successful.

The next time you visit Brooker Creek Preserve, I encourage you to stop and take a few moments to look at what we have accomplished. I look forward to more great Saturdays in 2017. It is hard work, but so very fulfilling. The before and after says it all. Please join us as we work together to help return the Preserve to it's natural integrity.



After

Music Jamboree- Jan. 8 All Are Welcome!

Please join us at our next Jamboree on Sunday, January 8th, at the music pavilion.

Dust off that acoustic guitar and join us as we are led by Brad Myers, a local musician, in the beautiful wooded setting of the Preserve. We will gather at 2:30 and end at 4 p.m. Listeners are always welcome, too!

Photo by Jane Myers





Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve
OFF THE BEATEN PATH

A nature-based fundraising hike series!

Description: This series of four hikes will take place in beautiful areas tucked away within Brooker Creek Preserve in sites that are closed to the public. Our guide, Dr. Craig Huegel, a Wildlife Ecologist with St. Petersburg College, can identify everything, from the tiniest moss to the tallest tree including animal prints, bird calls, lichens, and more. He is full of stories and very patient in answering questions. The hikes will be not only educational, but a lot of fun as well! The hikes will begin at 9:00 a.m. and be about 3-4 hours long. Bring water and lunch.

Cost: \$80 donation for the series or \$25 donation per hike with a 10% discount for members of Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve

Sites Off the Beaten Path:

Jan. 8, 2017 - Cypress Swamp Stomp - Located in the central part of the preserve, this site features orchids, ferns, and epiphytes. It may be wet, it may be dry, so be prepared for either as we plunge into the depths of the swamp!

April 9, 2017 - Sandhill Scramble - The only true sandhills of Brooker Creek Preserve. This site is in the northern end of the preserve and will feature an abundance of spring wildflowers.

July 9, 2017 - Interior Wildlands - We will be in parts of the Preserve so remote that cell phones won't work, areas so pretty you won't believe you are in Pinellas County!

Oct. 8, 2017 - In Search of Catesby's Lily - Located in the eastern part of the preserve, we will search for the endangered Catesby's Lily. In so doing, we will see a profusion of beautiful fall wildflowers in full bloom.

Reservations Required: Reserve your spot by emailing fobcp@tampabay.rr.com. Sign up early! Only 20 spots are open for these fabulous hikes *off the beaten path!* Questions? Email fobcp@tampabay.rr.com or call 727-934-2680.

Star Party with St. Pete Astronomy Club

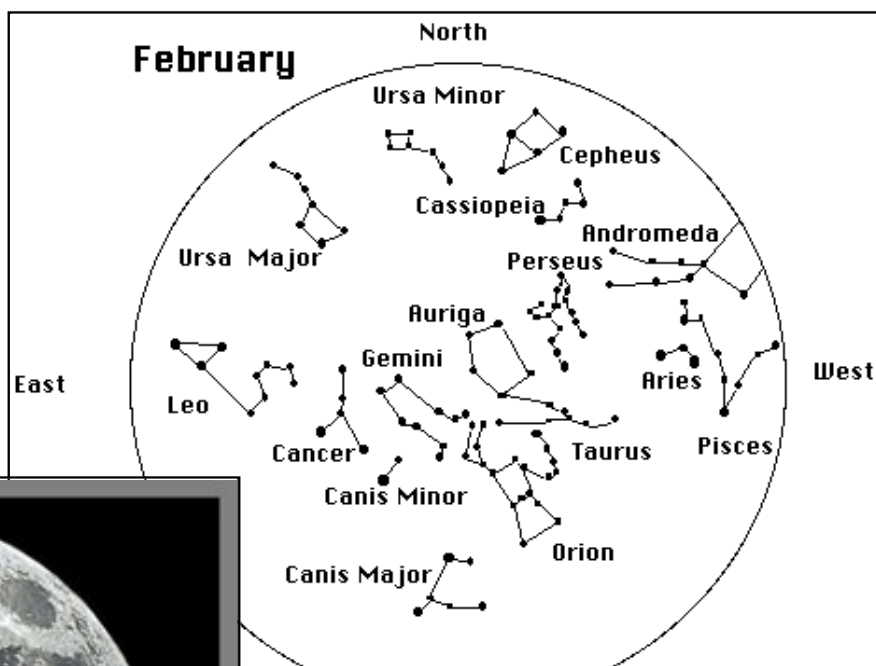
Saturday, Feb 4, 2017, 6:30 - 10:00 pm

Arrive by 7:00 pm - entrance gates will close at this time.

Join us as we once again stargaze with the St. Petersburg Astronomy Club. The Astronomy Club will provide telescopes and expertise. Night hikes will be conducted as well, along the 0.75 mile Ed Center Trail through the woods. Please bring a chair, water, and insect repellent. Bring your own telescope if you have one. As always, pets, smoking and alcohol are not allowed. Arrive between 6:30 and 7:00 pm - the front gates will be open only during this time. A \$3 per person donation is requested. Registration is required.

Register on the Eventbrite webpage:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/star-party-tickets-29346403884>



Leafcutter Bees

By: Craig Huegel

Leafcutter bees are important native pollinators and found throughout North America. In Florida there are approximately 63 different species within seven genera: *Ashmeadiella*, *Heriades*, *Hoplitis*, *Coelioxys*, *Lithurgus*, *Megachile*, and *Osmia*, but because of their relatively small size, they can be overlooked despite their commonness.

Most leafcutter bees are stout-bodied, black bees, slightly smaller than a honey bee, ranging in size from 5 mm to 24 mm. The females, except the parasitic *Coelioxys*, carry pollen on hairs on the underside of their abdomen rather than on their hind legs like other bees. When a bee is carrying pollen, the underside of the abdomen appears light yellow to deep gold in color. This can be easily seen in the bee photo that accompanies this article.

Leafcutter bees, as their name implies, cut out 0.25 to 0.5 inch circular pieces of leaves to construct nests. For this reason, they have evolved a wide head with stout jaws to make cutting leaves a bit easier. Most leafcutter bees nest aboveground in tunnels created by beetles and other small animals in soft wood. They then divide these tunnels into individual brood chambers by blocking off sections along the way with wet soil, chewed up flower petals or pieces of leaf. A ball or loaf of pollen is stored in each cell and they then lay a single egg. Thereby, each cell will produce a single bee. When the egg hatches, the larva has its own food supply in sufficient quantity for it to reach maturity.

Most leafcutter bees mature in the late fall and overwinter in their nests as newly formed adults. In the following spring, they chew their way out of the nest. Leafcutters are solitary bees and do not live in large groups or colonies like honey bees. Leafcutters do not aggressively defend nesting areas like honey or bumble bees. Their sting has been described as far less painful than that of a honey bee. Leafcutter bees will only sting if handled and therefore are not a stinging danger to people.

The presence of leafcutter bees is most easily detected by their leaf-cutting activities on certain plants near their nests. From my experience, they are selective in which leaves they cut, but the small half-moon circular cuts are nearly identical in each leaf. This is shown in the leaf photo in this article. Some species of leafcutter bees use petals and resin in addition to leaves. These bees will commonly cut circles from ornamental plants such as roses, azaleas, ash, redbud, bougainvillea and



Leafcutter bee collecting pollen on giant ironweed (*Vernonia gigantea*)

other plants with thin smooth leaves. This does no real harm to the plant, but some gardeners might quibble that it decreases their aesthetic value.

Leafcutter bees are important pollinators of many wildflowers. They also pollinate fruits and vegetables and are used by commercial growers to pollinate blueberries, onions, carrots and alfalfa.

I enjoy leafcutter bees in my landscape, despite their leaf-cutting activities. Since leafcutter bees do not feed on the leaves they cut, insecticides are usually ineffective for preventing leaf cutting, and placing barriers around your ornamental plants is likely more aesthetically damaging than the cutting itself. My advice is to simply accept them for the important role they play in your pollinator landscape and forget the urge to believe that plants should have "perfect" foliage. To be certain, the presence of these bees indicates that you do, in fact, have a healthy landscape.



Leafcutter bee cutting on azalea leaves. Photos by Craig Huegel.

Year-round shopping is easy at Brooker Creek Preserve!

Here are a few ideas!

- Buy gifts from the Nature Store. Whether it is grandma, a new baby, or someone in between, the nature store has many awesome items to choose from. And, 100% of the profit benefits the Preserve!
- Adopt An Acre - what a great gift! 100% of the proceeds go to Preserve restoration. A form is attached.
- When shopping online through Amazon, click this link: smile.amazon.com and Amazon will donate to Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve!
- Give a gift membership to the Friends. Recipients will receive a card with the giver's name noted and a welcome package that includes the awesome book, Explore the Mysteries of Brooker Creek Preserve. And you will receive the tax deduction! A gift membership form is attached.

Nature Store News

By Kathleen Nichter

In the past couple of months, I have had several comments about the store, that people miss it if it has to be closed for any reason, and that it is a regular stop when they need a book (new or used), toy, honey, or a gift. I did quite a bit of my own holiday shopping there, and I know others did too.

Most visitors like and expect a retail operation at destinations like Brooker Creek Preserve. Some want a souvenir of their visit, and others want to find further information on something they saw, experienced, or learned while visiting. Some just want to visit and browse, which we encourage. Of course, the fact that we are all volunteer run and the money stays right there at Brooker Creek Preserve is a major point for many people. At one of our recent events, a visitor approached me in the store and asked "Now, any purchases I make here help the Preserve, right?" I was happy to answer yes and explain our operation.

Over the next several months we will be working on information and signage in the store to point out to visitors the items we carry that are unique to our area, offer further information on some items, and in general give our visitors a more personal, unique experience. Any suggestions you might have are always very welcome.

News from the Wildflower Garden

by Pam Brown

We took November and December off from working in the garden during the Holidays. Not much is happening in the garden during this time. Plants have gone to seed and we have let them fall this fall in hopes of increasing the number of wildflower plants in the garden.

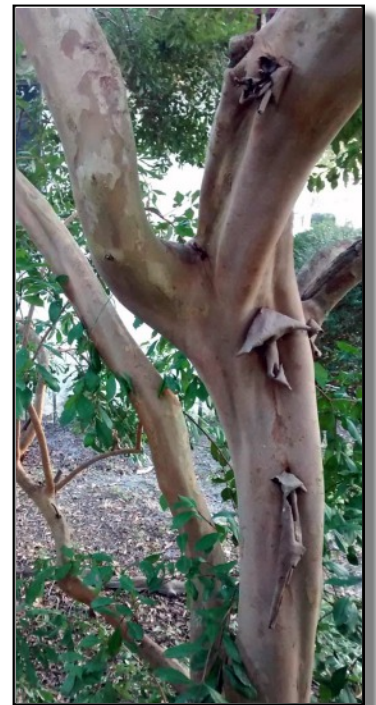
Volunteers work to maintain the garden as a wildflower meadow that contains wildflowers native to Brooker Creek Preserve. We meet in the morning of the last Saturday of each month. Our winter hours are 9 - 11 a.m. Bring gardening tools, gloves, a hat, and wear closed toed shoes. We will provide breakfast snacks and coffee. We would love to have you come and join us on January 28, 2017.

Pam's Gardening Thoughts

Winter is a good time to plant native trees in our area. The soil remains relatively warm and allows roots to establish before the spring when temperatures rise and there is little rain. There are a number of native trees that are good for residential landscapes. Consider your site and research the size of the tree you will like to plant. Look up - are there power lines near? Be sure to allow plenty of room for the mature growth of the tree near any power lines. You do not want to end up with a tree that has been severely pruned by the utility company to eliminate limbs interfering with the lines. Also, be sure to locate the tree far enough away from the house so that the limbs are not contacting your roof and roots are not invading your foundation. Most trees look very small compared to what the mature size will be ten to twenty years from planting.

Those of us with small residential lots will probably need to plant small trees versus trees like Live Oaks (*Quercus virginiana*) or Slash Pine (*Pinus elliottii*). Some of my favorite small trees that also provide food and shelter for wildlife are:

- Sweet Acacia (*Acacia farnesiana*) - has small, highly fragrant yellow puffball blooms in the fall and provides food and shelter for birds and insects. However, it does have thorns, so plant well away from sidewalks and driveways.
- Yaupon Holly (*Ilex vomitoria*) - female plants produce white spring flowers that attract a myriad of pollinators followed by small red berries in the fall that are favored by birds. Male plants produce white flowers to pollinate the female flowers, but no berries. Sucker growth can arise close to the trunk and should be removed to prevent a thicket from growing.
- Simpson's Stopper (*Myrcianthes fragrans*) - small white flowers lead to edible red fruit, but the wildlife will probably get it first. This tree can tolerate occasionally wet soil and needs little attention once established.
- Chickasaw Plum (*Prunus angustifolia*) - this deciduous tree blooms with profuse white flowers that attract many pollinators in late winter before new leaves emerge. Reddish plums provide food for a variety of wildlife. This tree can produce suckers near the trunk that should be removed to prevent a thicket from forming.
- Sand Live Oak (*Quercus geminata*) - is a much smaller tree than the stately Live Oak (*Quercus virginiana*). It is much better suited to residential landscapes, is salt tolerant, and grows in dune areas. The acorns provide for a variety of wildlife.



The beautiful mottled peeling bark of a Simpson's stopper. Photo by Cathy Vogelsong.

When choosing a tree in the nursery, look for a straight dominant trunk with branches well spaced along the trunk. You might also want to choose a smaller tree. Research at the University of Florida has shown that a younger tree with a smaller trunk diameter will establish faster and catch up in size to a larger tree within about three growing seasons.

For detailed information about planting trees, see "Specifications for Planting Trees in the Southeastern US" on the Internet at: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep112>.

Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve Book Club

By Kathleen Nichter



Photo by Karl Nichter

I am filling in for Jon Burr for this issue as he enjoys his international trip.

Our December discussion of *Chasing*

Shadows by Daryl May was enriched by the presence of the author himself. He told us many things to add to the stories in the book, and about his writing. We asked questions that come up in our reading and listened to the answers from the man himself.

We continue 2017 with the overall theme of "Florida" to include all types of reading relating to our home state. Our selections for the next three months are:

January 7, 2017

Cracker: The Cracker Culture in Florida History by Dana St. Claire This is quite a tour de force of Florida as a young state.

February 4, 2017

Pick any book, magazine issue, ezine, mezzanine, so forth, that deals with Florida nature or history and share your thoughts (and recommendations) about what you read. It's ok if several of you read the same thing (on purpose or by coincidence.) You may read a previous book that might have been read before you were a member of the group. We may in the future pick other topics to allow a potpourri of writings to read. We may in the future also pick one publisher as a source of material: Florida University Press or Pineapple Press for example.

March 4, 2017

Best State Ever, A Florida Man Defends His Homeland, by Dave Barry. Dave has written many books and articles about Florida. Weeki Wachee and Tarpon Springs are just a few of the places that get the Barry treatment.

Volunteer News and More!

By Julia Myers, Education Support Specialist, Brooker Creek Preserve

We are very happy to announce our new hire for the part-time Education Support Specialist position!

Welcome Trevor Ackerman! Hopefully you all will have the opportunity to get to know Trevor, but since he is part-time and might not be here on the days you are volunteering, here's a little about him: Trevor is a recent graduate from the University of Florida where he studied Sustainability and History. He spent this past summer interning with UF/IFAS Extension in Largo. Trevor has a passion for the environment and loves the outdoors. He was born and raised 15 minutes from Brooker Creek, so this job is a dream come true for him! We are very excited to add Trevor to our exceptional staff at the Preserve! He will be covering our new Sunday openings, working closely with our volunteers to ensure their needs are met. Trevor will also design and develop volunteer training, add to our growing list of educational program offerings, and much more!



We are kicking off January with some awesome programs including a Tree Planting program to celebrate Florida Arbor Day with free trees on January 21st! We are excited to add some new programs this year as well as repeat some old favorites. We have a goal of expanding our Family Fun Friday Mornings program from monthly to weekly this summer and to develop new Sunday programs and hikes! Cheers to 2017!!



Jan. 21: **A Tree Planting Imperative**: This program will focus on the importance of planting trees because they are being removed faster than we are replacing them. We will discuss planting the right tree in the right place and the need to replace the thousands of trees that we will lose in the coming decades, both public and private. Free trees will be given out in celebration of Florida Arbor Day. Class will be led by Steve Hanas of Pinellas County Forestry.

Sundew (*Drosera capillaris*). Photos by Julia Myers.

Volunteer News, continued

We love our hike leaders! Here is Volunteer, Barb Hoffman, leading a 5-mile, 15-person hike on Saturday, Dec. 10, for Outdoor Afro, a meet-up group for young professionals who love the outdoors.



Threadroot Orchid (*Harrisella porrecta*)
Photo by Julia Myers.

If you would like to join our active volunteer group at Brooker Creek Preserve, please call us at (727) 453-6800.

Don't forget to "like" Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center on Facebook and share the page with your friends! We are also on Instagram now, you can follow us under @brookercreekpreserve.

Florida Master Naturalist Program

The Florida Master Naturalist Program is a collection of 7 non-credit environmental education courses for adults designed to assist graduates to share their knowledge with others, to act in a positive manner, to help feel a greater connection to the land, and to develop their own personal land ethic. Depending upon your interests, you may take any or all of the 7 FMNP courses in any order. The only requirements for this adult program are student enthusiasm, participation and attendance; and for Core Modules the completion of an interpretative talk and final project. No comprehensive examination is required.

The UF/IFAS FMNP upcoming courses in Pinellas County are Conservation Science (in January) and Upland Systems (in February.) All 7 FMNP Modules are taught in Pinellas County annually.

For additional information about FMNP classes in Pinellas County, visit www.SensingNature.com or contact FMNP Lead Instructor Jeanne Murphy at mailto: jmurphy@sensingnature.com?subject=Master%20Naturalist%20classes, 727-397-2306. For general information about the FMNP, visit www.masternaturalist.ifas.ufl.edu.

Wishing you wonderful holidays and new year,

Jeanne Murphy, UF/IFAS Florida Master Naturalist Program Instructor

WANTED!

Mulching Mower to aid in land management!
Only \$500,000!



An Invitation from Barry

Barry Andress, our *Golf Cart Guy*, invites you to take a tour with him in the golf cart along the paved 2-mile driveway loop at Brooker Creek Preserve. The golf cart provides a quiet ride and a new way to see the beautiful landscape and possibly some wildlife. Barry knows some natural history and Preserve history, and is happy to share his knowledge with you. Please email Barry to set up a date and time: alfabarry3@gmail.com.


 Friends of
 Brooker Creek Preserve

ADOPT AN ACRE



*A program to enhance restoration and land management programs in **Brooker Creek Preserve***

The **ADOPT AN ACRE** program was established by the Friends in 2016 to give individuals the opportunity to help keep intact the ecological integrity of the Preserve.

100% of funding will be used for:

- Removing exotic and invasive plants
- Restoring the natural flow of water
- Fire management
- Restoring natural plant communities

Acres make great gifts for birthdays, anniversaries, memorials and more!

Upon receipt of the donation, the donor or honoree's name will be placed on the **ADOPT AN ACRE** display inside the Environmental Education Center for one year. A certificate will be sent to the honoree acknowledging the adoption.

Donor
Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

Email: _____

___in honor of ___in memory of ___for myself

Honoree
Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

I wish to adopt _____ acres @ \$100/acre

Total Due: _____

Make check payable to: FOBCP

Mail to: 3940 Keystone Road
Tarpon Springs, FL 34688

Questions? fobcp@tampabay.rr.com

FEID #59-3302182 tax-exempt, non-profit corporation

A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (1-800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. REGISTRATION NUMBER CH. 16077

BROOKER CREEK PRESERVE

Cool calendar for your refrigerator!

January 2017

*Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve events

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
5 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15	6 Guided Hike 9-10:30 <i>(Florida Forests)</i>	7 Guided Hike 9-10:30 <i>(Ecosystems)</i> *Friends Readers Club 9:30-10:30 Visiting Critters 10:30-12	8 Education Center and * Nature Store Open 11-4 *Off the Beaten Path Hike 9-1 *Music Jamboree 2:30-4
12 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15	13 Guided Hike 9-11am <i>(Native Plants)</i>	14 Beginning Bird Hike 8-10 am Intro to Plant ID 10:30-12 *Night Hike 6-8:30 pm	15 Education Center and * Nature Store Open 11-4
19 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15	20	21 *Return the Preserve Work Day 8-11 Guided Hike 9-10:30 <i>(Footprints on the Land)</i> Tree Planting Initiative 10:30-12 Youth Program-Spiders 1-2 pm	22 Education Center and * Nature Store Open 11-4
26 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15	27 Family Fun Friday 11-Oct	28 Wildflower Garden Club 9-11 Extended Hike 9-11 Photographing Nature Program 10-11:30	29 Education Center and * Nature Store Open 11-4

FEBRUARY 2017

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
2 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15	3 Guided Hike 9-10:30 <i>(Florida Forests)</i>	4 Guided Hike <i>(Ecosystems)</i> 9-10:30 *Friends Readers Club 9:30-10:30 Frogs! 10:30-12 *Star Party with St.Pete Astronomy Club 6-10 pm	5 Education Center and * Nature Store Open 11-4
9 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15	10 Guided Hike 9-10:30 <i>(Native Plants)</i>	11 Beginning Bird Hike 8-10 am Intro to Outdoor Survival Skills 10:30-12	12 Education Center and * Nature Store Open 11-4
16 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15	17	18 *Return the Preserve Work Day 8-11 Guided Hike 9-10:30 <i>(Footprints on the Land)</i> Invasive Plants 10:30-12	19 Education Center and * Nature Store Open 11-4
23 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15	24 Family Fun Friday 10-11 am Closing Your Seasonal Home 10:30-12	25 Photography Hike 8:30-10:30 *Wildflower Garden Club 9-11 Extended Hike 9-11 Discover Prehistoric Florida 10:30-12	26 Education Center and * Nature Store Open 11-4

For program details go to <http://www.brookercreekpreserve.org/programs-classes.htm> Click "Calendar of Classes/Programs/Hikes"

Hiking Trails are open every day from 7:00 am until one hour before sunset

Friends events are noted in **green**.

Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve - Mission Statement: The mission of the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve is to provide public support for the Preserve through fund raising, volunteer programs, and education to ensure that the Preserve remains a natural wilderness for future generations.

Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve - Land Use Position Statement: The Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve support land uses within the boundaries of Brooker Creek Preserve which have a main purpose that furthers the preservation, conservation, restoration or protection of the land and resources of the Brooker Creek Preserve.

Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve:
www.FriendsOfBrookerCreekPreserve.org
Email: fobcp@tampabay.rr.com
Voicemail: (727) 934-2680

Brooker Creek Preserve:
Phone: (727) 453-6900
Website: www.brookercreekpreserve.org
Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center is located at 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs, Florida, 34688. Phone: (727) 453-6800
Hours: Thurs. - Sat. 9am - 4pm, Sun., 11am - 4pm.

Friends Nature Store is located in the Education Center. Hours: Thurs. - Sat. 9am - 4pm, Sun., 11am - 4pm.

Preserve Hiking Trails open 7 days a week, 7:00am to 30 minutes before sunset. Closed the day after Thanksgiving and Dec. 25.

Horse Trails open 7 days a week, all year, sunrise to sunset.

This newsletter is published every other month. Please submit articles to Newsletter Editor Dr. Craig Huegel (727) 422-6583 or email Huegelc55@aol.com

Pinellas County PCR Mission statement: The mission of the Parks and Conservation Resources Department is to maintain and protect the inherent value of the County's natural, cultural and recreational resources through sustainable access, education, and stewardship that enhance quality of life for our community and future generations.

Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve Board of Directors:

Officers

Chair: Cathie Foster
Vice Chair: Robert Burkard
Secretary: Pam Brown
Treasurer: Jane Myers

Directors

Art Director: open
Beekeeper: Robert Burkard
Business Director: Barbara Hoffman
Fall Wildflower Festival Chair:
Cathie Foster
Financial Advisor: Bob Host
Grants: Allyn Childress
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Land Use Chair: Dr. Craig Huegel
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Nature Store Manager: Kathleen Nichter
Newsletter Editor: Dr. Craig Huegel
Night Hikes: Mark Yeager
Owl-O-Ween: Barb Hoffman
Publicity Chair: Barbara Schultz
Return the Preserve Work Days:
Evan Earle, Jr.
Wildflower Garden: Pam Brown
Wildlife Safari - Cathie Foster

Further Leadership

Book Club: Jon Burr & Kathleen Nichter
Membership: Jeff Myers
Newsletter Publisher: Cathy Vogelsong
Website Master: Cathy Ordiway

Registration Info: FEID #59-3302182 tax-exempt, non-profit corporation

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