


Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve

July - August 2018

Chairman's Message by Cathie Foster

A new water cooler! Doing our part to reduce single-use plastics —

The Friends Board of Directors voted to sell our reusable water bottles at a price so low, we are losing money. Why? Because we want to do our part in reducing plastics in our landfills, lands, water bodies, and oceans. Here's the scoop.

Wherever I go, I see people carrying their own personal bottles of water. I do it, too. In March of 2017, the Beverage Marketing Corporation, a beverage industry consulting firm, announced that Americans now drink, by volume, more bottled water than any other packaged beverage. In terms of our health, that's great news; much less so for the environment.

In our Friends Nature Store, we have chosen to sell bottled water as a convenience to our visitors who may be heading out to hike the trails, especially on hotter days. But we have never liked the fact that we are adding to the plastics problem by doing this. Close to 50 billion bottles of water are consumed in the United States each year! However, only 12 billion of those get recycled, which means 38 billion water bottles are...somewhere out there. In numbers easier to picture, last year the average American used 167 disposable water bottles, but only recycled 38. That leaves 129 bottles per person or, back to the big numbers, 38 billion bottles that end up as trash; in a

| | |
|--|----|
| Chairman's Message | |
| by Cathie Foster | 1 |
| Congratulations Lara & BCP Staff | 3 |
| East Lake Sunrise Rotary Club Donation | 4 |
| New FOBCP members | 4 |
| Save the Dates | 4 |
| New Acre Adoptions | 5 |
| Ken Rowe Bird-A-Thon 6/2 | 6 |
| Gallery Opening: John Gurbacs 6/24 | 8 |
| Gallery Opening: Drum Circle | 9 |
| Colors of Pinellas Art Show | 9 |
| Paint in the Wild class | 10 |
| Beekeepers Club News | 11 |
| Owl Nest Box | 12 |
| Orchids of Brooker Creek Preserve | |
| by Craig Huegel | 13 |
| Return the Preserve by Evan Earle, Jr. | 15 |
| News from the Wildflower Garden & | |
| Gardening Tip by Pam Brown | 16 |
| FOBCP Readers Club by Jon Burr | 17 |
| Volunteer News by Julia Myers | 19 |
| FOBCP Membership Application | 20 |
| Adopt an Acre Info/Form | 21 |
| Calendar of Events May/June | 22 |
| Mission Statements/Contacts | 25 |

landfill, alongside the road, in our parks, beaches, parking lots, waterways - you name it. You've seen them out there! And those 12 billion recycled bottles, they too end up as trash eventually as recycled plastic is usually non-recyclable. And that's just in one year!



When I see numbers like that, my first reaction is that it's just so overwhelming! How can my personal commitment to use less plastic even make a dent in that? It's just a drop in the bucket. But, many drops over time will eventually fill a bucket. So, changing my perspective, instead of focusing on the many single-use bottles of water I see folks toting, I notice more and more people with reusable bottles. It's such a simple change in habit to make! And much more economical. In the bottled-water trade the real expense lies in the raw materials for making the bottles and in the cost of shipping those bottles to their destination. And did you know that 24% of bottled water sold in the U.S. is purified municipal water? So why not "cut out the middleman" and drink filtered tap water from a bottle that you can reuse?

Our Board of Directors has decided that we want to do our part in reducing the amount of plastic waste we generate. In the very near future, likely by the time you get this newsletter, we will replace the \$1 bottled water we have been selling in our Nature

Store with our BCP branded reusable water bottles that we will reduce in price from \$4 to just \$1. Those reusable bottles can be filled (and refilled, again and again!) with cold filtered water free of charge at the Friends' new water cooler which will be conveniently located in the Exhibit Hall next to the existing water fountains. It's our way of doing our part!

Read more about single-use plastics and bottled water:

<https://www.banthebottle.net/bottled-water-facts/>

<https://www.earthday.org/2018/03/29/fact-sheet-single-use-plastics/>

<https://healthfully.com/history-water-bottles-5242430.html>

<https://www.seriousseats.com/2017/07/how-bottled-water-became-americas-most-popular-beverage.html>

Learn about microplastics and their impact on the environment:

<http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/flagler/marine-and-coastal/microplastics/>

Attend Lara's Microplastics Citizen Science Workshop on August 4:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/microplastics-film-screening-citizen-science-workshop-tickets-47035499445>

Congratulations Lara!

Our own Lara Milligan has received a well-deserved promotion. She has worked hard this year in order to meet the requirements, while never missing a beat in her responsibilities as a county-wide UF/IFAS Extension Natural Resources Agent or in her leadership of the Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center staff. We know she will continue to do wonderful things!



Congratulations Lara, Sheree, James and Julia!

The Natural Resources Program at Brooker Creek Preserve was recently randomly selected for a review by the IFAS statewide review committee. Lara was interviewed extensively about the programming at Brooker, and stakeholders (including the Friends of BCP) were invited to provide input, as well. We were so very pleased, but not at all surprised, to hear that the program at Brooker received high praise from the review team. BCP staff is the BEST!



L to R, Lara Milligan, Sheree Scheuer, James Stevenson, Julia Myers.



Subadult Scissor-tailed Flycatcher along the C2C Trail, by Mona Gardner.

Friends Receive \$1,000 from East Lake Sunrise Rotary Club!



Thank you, Rotary Club of East Lake Sunrise, for the \$1,000 grant given to the Friends at Cruisin' the Park - 12th Annual Community Festival & Charity Car Show on April 21, 2018. Pictured here is our chairman, Cathie Foster, receiving the \$1,000 check from Rotary Member Tim Lima.

Julie Wade, Cathie Foster and Barry Andress had fun manning the Brooker Creek Preserve booth at the Rotary car show event.



*Welcome to our new
Friends members:*

Elaine Belle
Anansita Clementi
Mark Glidden
David & Marion Lindsay
Mary Mathews
Ryan McLaughlin
Robin Peacock
John Spiegel

Save the Dates Upcoming Friends Events

- July 1 Beekeepers Club 10:00
- July 7 Beekeepers Club 10:00
- July 7 Brooker Book Club 10:15-11:15
- July 21 Return the Preserve Work Day 8-11
- July 22 Beekeepers Club 10:00
- July 28 Wildflower Garden Work Day 8-10
- Aug. 4 Beekeepers Club 10:00
- Aug. 4 Brooker Book Club 9:30-10:30
- Aug. 19 Beekeepers Club 10:00
- Aug. 11 Paint in the Wild class 12-3
- Aug. 25 Wildflower Garden Work Day 8-10

**ACRE ADOPTIONS FOR
BROOKER CREEK PRESERVE**

Many thanks for the following acre adoptions in May and June:

In memory of Skip Mountain — from Barb & Eddie Hoffman

In Memory of Wilbert W. Genthner — from Barbara Genthner-Moritz

In memory of Tom Hansell and in honor of Joyce Hansell — from Julie Wade

In celebration of Jackie Labus' Birthday — from Sherry Hawley
and Jane & Jeff Myers



Please consider adopting an acre as a birthday gift, memorial or to honor a special person. See p. 21 for Adopt an Acre Form and additional information.

Tampa butterfly orchid, *Encyclia tampensis*. Photo by Craig Huegel.

See Article on page 13.

**4th Annual
Ken Rowe Birdathon
Brooker Creek Preserve
Saturday, June 2, 2018
5:30 am - 11:30 am**



Ten teams of 1-4 birders competed! 84 species were recorded!



**Congratulations to “The Cuckoos” - the winning team with 67 species:
Melissa James, Joanna Clayton (Team Leader), Tom Mast, & Cunyet Yilmaz**

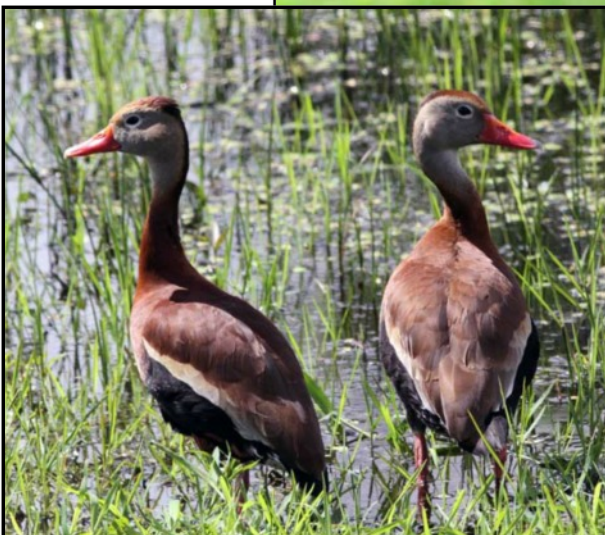
Many thanks to Alison Shepherd for the beautiful handcrafted trophies she made especially for this event!

| | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| American Crow | Eastern Bluebird | Pileated Woodpecker |
| American Egret | Double-crested Cormorant | Pine Warbler |
| American Kestrel | Eastern Kingbird | Purple Martin |
| Anhinga | Eastern Meadowlark | Red-bellied Woodpecker |
| Bachman’s Sparrow | Eastern Screech Owl | Red-eyed Vireo |
| Barred Owl | Eastern Towhee | Red-shouldered Hawk |
| Black-bellied Whistling Duck | European Collared Dove | Red-tailed Hawk |
| Black-crowned Night Heron | European Starling | Red-winged Blackbird |
| Black Vulture | Fish Crow | Rough-winged Swallow |
| Blue Jay | Glossy Ibis | Roseate Spoonbill |
| Blue-gray Gnatcatcher | Gray Catbird | Ruby-throated Hummingbird |
| Brown-headed Cowbird | Great Blue Heron | Sandhill Crane |
| Brown-headed Nuthatch | Great Crested Flycatcher | Screech Owl |
| Brown Thrasher | Green Heron | Short-tailed Hawk |
| Boat-tailed Grackle | Killdeer | Snowy Egret |
| Carolina Chickadee | Laughing Gull | Summer Tanager |
| Carolina Wren | Limpkin | Swallow-tailed Kite |
| Cattle Egret | Little Blue Heron | Tri-colored Heron |
| Chimney Swift | Loggerhead Shrike | Tufted Titmouse |
| Chuck-will’s Widow | Mallard Duck | Turkey Vulture |
| Common Gallinule | Mottled Duck | White-eyed Vireo |
| Common Grackle | Mourning Dove | White Ibis |
| Common Ground Dove | Northern Bobwhite | Wild Turkey |
| Common Night Hawk | Northern Cardinal | Wood Duck |
| Common Yellowthroat | Northern Mockingbird | Wood Stork |
| Coopers Hawk | Northern Parula | Yellow-billed Cuckoo |
| Double-crested Cormorant | Osprey | Yellow-throated Vireo |
| Downy Woodpecker | Peacock | Yellow-throated Warbler |

Bird-A-Thon — 6/2/18



Eastern Meadowlark, Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Photos by Mona Gardner.



Counterlockwise from top left: Florida Sandhill Crane, Black-bellied Whistling Ducks, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Tarflower. Photos by Jim McGinity.

Gallery Opening: John Gurbacs - 6/24/18

The Friends held their 3rd artist reception on Sunday, June 24th. The artwork of artist John Gurbacs will be on display in the Auditorium until August 28th, and the pieces are a must see!



FOBCP Gallery Curator Lynn Whitelaw and artist John Gurbac.



Members of the Friends Board of Directors provided a delicious spread of finger-food!



The second half of the the artist reception was a drum circle led by Steve Turner of Giving Tree Music. Everyone present really enjoyed drumming together. We sounded awesome and had a great time!



Photos by Jane Myers and Barb Hoffman.

Colors of Pinellas

Colors of Pinellas Art Show registration is now open. Are you an artist? This show provides an opportunity for employees, retirees, volunteers, and their families to participate in a professional art exhibition and compete for cash prizes! You must register by September 21st. All skill levels welcome. FYI- Our own Jane Myers won 2nd place last year!! Go here for more details and to register:

<http://www.pinellascounty.org/hr/emp-communications/artshow.htm>

Presenting ...

Second Place

Intermediate, Works on Paper

Jane Myers

Volunteer
Brooker Creek Preserve

"Peachy"



Colors of Pinellas

“Paint in the Wild” Class

Brooker Creek Preserve

Saturday, August 11 from 12:00pm - 3:00pm



Find new easel inspiration with Kelly of the Wild at Brooker Creek Preserve! Kelly Quinn is the artist-in-residence at The Florida Aquarium specializing in colorful, life-like images of Florida native wildlife and habitats. In this class, Kelly will guide participants as they create a colorful painting of their own in the air-conditioned Classroom Building.

This class is only for ages 18+.

No prior painting experience is necessary and all materials will be provided. Enjoy complimentary refreshments and snacks while painting and learning more about Brooker Creek Preserve.

Registration fee \$35 per person/\$30 for Friends of BCP members. To register, please contact the artist directly at KellyOfTheWild.com

Friends  of Brooker Creek Preserve

This event is sponsored by Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve.

3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs, 34688

For questions: Call 727-934-2680 * Email fobcp@tampabay.rr.com



BEEKEEPERS CLUB NEWS

The Beekeepers Club is up and running, or rather, buzzing! Dates and times of upcoming meetings are as follows:

Sunday 7/1/18 10:00 Build and paint new hives

Saturday 7/7/18 10:00 Work at Apiary: set up hive stands

Sunday 7/22/18 10:00 2nd day of building and painting hives

Saturday 8/4/18 10:00 Inventory equipment, build shelves, organize shed

Sunday 8/19/18 10:00 Work at Apiary: check on bees, treat if necessary

Saturday 9/1/18 10:00 Work at Apiary

Sunday 10/7/18 10:00 Work at Apiary

Saturday 11/3/18 10:00 Work at Apiary

Saturday 12/1/18 10:00 Work at Apiary

Red = regular meeting

Black = additional work session



Members visited the two hives located near the Preserve at the first meeting on May 19, 2018.

Welcome Founding Members!

Bob Burkard, President
Anansita Clementi and son, Kauai
Cathie Foster
Mark Glidden
Barb Hoffman
David Lindsay
Liz Lindsay



If you would like to join the **Friends Beekeepers Club**, please send a request to fobcp@tampabay.rr.com. Annual dues are \$25 per person. You must be a Friends member to join the Beekeepers Club. The Beekeepers Club is an affiliate of Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve.

Not only owls enjoy man-made owl nest boxes! Sean Vickory and his family built this nest box at Owlween and hung it on a tree in their backyard. It soon became a home for honey bees! Sean is happy it provides habitat for something and has had fun watching the hive grow. Friends beekeeper, Bob Burkard, explains that the bees will reside there for about a year, then they will move on.



Friends  of Brooker Creek Preserve

BROOKER READERS CLUB

Focusing on Florida Authors and Natural History

The first Saturday of each month (unless noted)

9:30 - 10:30 am

Conference room of the Environmental Education Center

Bring your own coffee!



Book Club Co-Leaders: Jon Burr & Kathleen Nichter
(Photos by Karl Nichter)

2018 Selections

July (10:15-11:15): *Railroading in Pinellas County* by Vincent Luisi

August: *Florida's Indians from Ancient Times to the Present* by Jerald T. Milanich

September: *Florida by Poetry* edited by Jones and O'Sullivan

October: *For Sale, American Paradise, How Our Nation Was Sold an Impossible Dream in Florida* by Willie Drye

November: *Everglades Lawmen* by James T. Huffstodt. True Stories of Game Wardens in the Glades

December: *The Florida Reader, Visions of Paradise from 1530 to the Present* edited by Maurice O'Sullivan and Jack C. Lane

See article page 17.

Orchids of Brooker Creek Preserve

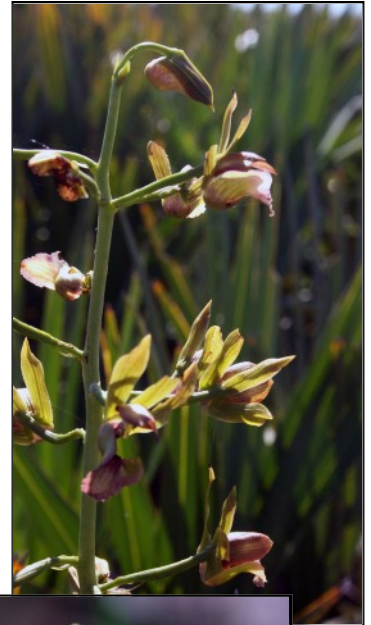
By: Craig Huegel

According to the Plant Atlas of Florida, maintained by the University of South Florida's Institute of Systematic Botany, 17 species of orchids have been vouchered for Pinellas County. To be verified in this way, a specimen has had to be collected at some point in time and placed in USF's herbarium. An additional species, wild coco (*Eulophia alta*), seemingly has not been vouchered, but occurs here. Of course, many of Pinellas County's most unique natural lands have long ago been converted to urban landscapes, making it quite likely that orchids once collected for the herbarium have since been extirpated. Having spent a considerable time hiking the County's Parks and Preserves, I have yet to find an orchid outside of Brooker Creek Preserve that also is not present here. This, of course, makes the Preserve especially significant and the wise management of these lands especially so.

Of the 18 species, five are most likely extirpated as they have never been documented in Brooker Creek Preserve and I know of no one who has seen them elsewhere in the County. These include: Many-flowered grasspink (*Calopogon multiflorus*), Pale grasspink (*Calopogon pallidus*), Spring coralroot (*Collarorhiza wisteriana*), Rose pogonia (*Pogonia ophioglossoides*), and Gentian noddingscaps (*Triphora gentianoides*). Four species of ladies tresses (*Spiranthes* spp.) have been documented in Pinellas and it is possible that these still remain - either in the Preserve or elsewhere. These are often difficult to distinguish from each other and take a trained eye to tell apart.

This leaves nine orchid species that have been relatively recently observed in Pinellas County - all of them within Brooker Creek Preserve. Five are still relatively common statewide and most of these are found in other natural lands within the County. Tampa butterfly orchid (*Encyclia tampensis*) is epiphytic and can be found growing on a wide variety of trees from Tarpon Springs to south St. Petersburg. There are extensive populations of this beautiful orchid in the Preserve - most commonly within its cypress swamps. The two false rein orchids (*Habenaria floribunda* and *H. repens*) are terrestrial species. Toothpetal false rein orchid (*H. floribunda*) is very common

in the understory of the Preserve's hammocks. Many can be seen from the boardwalk within the building complex that comprises the Education Center. The 3-foot tall flower stalks with greenish flowers are most evident in fall. Water spider false rein orchid (*H.*



Top to bottom -

Wild coco, *Eulophia alta*

Toothpetal false rein orchid,
Habenaria floribunda.

repens) is essentially an aquatic species with similar foliage and flowers. It occurs in the Preserve's wettest areas and is not likely to be encountered by anyone hiking the trails. I have found it growing along the Creek in remote parts of the Preserve. Bearded grass pink (*Calopogon barbatus*) is likely limited now to the Preserve and may well have become extirpated. A small population of less than a dozen individuals was discovered by biologists hired by Pinellas County to initially survey the Preserve's flora in 1987/88. I am not aware of anyone on staff who has documented this species after my departure in 2004 and since it is very fire dependent, the lack of fire over the past 15 years in this region may have doomed it.



Four orchids are state-listed threatened species and most certainly confined to Brooker Creek Preserve within Pinellas County. The jingle bell orchid (*Dendrophylax porrectus*) is uncommon, but found in several cypress swamps within the southern half of the Preserve. This tiny leafless orchid seems to require swamps with deep permanent water and most often occurs just above the waterline on buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*). Giant orchid (*Orthochilus ecistatus*) is a terrestrial species that seems to prefer open grassy uplands. I have not seen it south of Keystone Road or in the heavily grazed portions of the former Eldrige- Wilde property. It is not uncommon elsewhere in areas along the horse trail and near some of the Utilities Department facilities. Crested coralroot (*Sacoila lanceolata*) may no longer occur in Pinellas. I observed it once within Brooker Creek Preserve more than 20 years ago and not since. It is common in open upland fields that are routinely mowed or burned and it should be looked for in such habitats. The final listed species is snowy orchid (*Platanthera nivea*). During my 12-year tenure at the Preserve, this terrestrial orchid was always rare. Small populations, normally less than five individuals each, occurred in seasonally wet open pinelands - mostly near, and on both sides of, the diagonal powerline. It too requires fire to maintain its habitat and fire has not occurred in areas where I've encountered it for at least 20 years now.



Top to bottom -
 Bearded grass pink,
Calopogon barbatus
 Crested coralroot,
Sacoila lanceolata
 Snowy orchid,
Platanthera nivea.

Photos by Craig Huegel.

Most orchids are bell-weather indicators of habitat condition. The management of Brooker Creek Preserve is especially important for maintaining such species and, since the Preserve is the last stand for many of these in the County, proper management is even more critical. GPS was

not a reality when the initial surveys were first done so it is especially difficult to relocate some of these populations decades afterwards. If you encounter what you believe to be one of the orchids I have written about with concern, please inform someone on staff who may be able to document what you saw.

Return the Preserve

By: Evan Earle, Jr.

We didn't have an RTP Work Day in May or June due to our quarterly schedule. Our next Return The Preserve Work Day will be on Saturday July 21st. We will meet in the main parking lot at the gazebo at the entrance to the boardwalk starting at 7:45 AM. We'll work from 8:00 to 11:00.

Breakfast snacks and water will be provided.

July = HOT. Dress appropriately. Having said that, because we are working outside, the following is recommended:

- hats, gloves, and protective eyewear
- long sleeves, long pants (Ugh! Didn't I say it was going to be hot? Well, safety first!).
- Closed-toed shoes (flipflops and sandals are not allowed and are not a good idea)

July = HOT. Stay hydrated. We'll have water coolers available do help us do just that.

- Please bring clippers, loppers, hand saws, gloves, hat, and sunscreen.

Whether we are removing overgrown vines, pulling up exotic invasives, thinning pine saplings, or planting something, we work hard. So take a break when you need to!

Most importantly, our Return The Preserve Work Days are F-U-N. Despite the heat, sweat, and hard work. Whether or not it's your first time to Brooker Creek Preserve (Welcome!) or you are a returning volunteer (Welcome back!), it is a great opportunity to meet other folks who love the Preserve. It's also an opportunity to visit a part of the Preserve you may not have seen up close before. Thanks to you, our volunteers, we ALWAYS accomplish a lot and have a great Before and After impact. I hope you can join us!

Please join us. You can sign up on the Brooker Creek Website:

<http://www.friendsofbrookercreekpreserve.org>



Photos by Evan Earle, Jr.

News from the Wildflower Garden

By Pam Brown

During our May work session we planted two varieties of native milkweed and blue flag iris in our new Bog Garden area and scorpion tail just outside the bog. It looks like the area where the scorpion tail is planted might be too wet and it needs to be moved to a dryer area in the garden. Ric

Hoover and Pam are trying to devise a way to get water to the Bog Garden on a regular basis so that we do not have to rely on volunteers watering. If any of you have any ideas, please let us know.



We will not have a work session in June because Pam will be on vacation. Our next work sessions are July 28 and August 25 from 8:00 -10:00 a.m. (summer hours). If you can help, bring your gardening tools, gloves, hat, bug spray and wear closed-toed shoes. We will provide breakfast snacks and coffee. We appreciate all our volunteers and we hope to see you there!

Pam's Gardening Tip

Remember that Pinellas County has a fertilizer ordinance prohibiting the application of fertilizer containing Nitrogen or Phosphorus (the first two of the three numbers on the fertilizer bag) during the rainy season from June 1st through September 30th. This ban helps keep fertilizer which can lead to algae blooms and other pollution out of our waterways. You can purchase "summer blends" that contain Potassium and micro-nutrients that can be used during this time. Iron can be added to help green up your grass and has the added advantage of not producing succulent new growth that attracts chinch bugs and other lawn feeding insects. Or, you might consider replacing your lawn and landscape plants with natives that do not need chemical fertilizers.

Those flowers that were planted late winter into spring are probably looking a little sad now that the temperatures and humidity are rising. As replacements, consider planting native wildflowers. Some thrive in our hot summers and a few of my favorites are: blanket flower, tickseed (our state wildflower), scarlet sage, starry rosinweed, and rain lilies. Of course, planting some native milkweed is a good idea too. You might be able to pick some of these up at our Nature Store's plant sale area.

Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve Readers Club

By: Jon Burr

Live and learn. In May our task was to read any of the Travis McGee novels, the ones with a color in the title. This was a continuation of the year's loose theme of Florida-related book fare.

Since everyone read a different book, there was little to compare. I recall the general responses were that while this series was somewhat "formulaic" (is that a word?) everybody finished the novel they had chosen. Not sure we'll do that type of thing again. Of course the meeting dissolved into much enjoyable give and take. You must come!



June's book was a delight; probably everyone's favorite book so far. Jeff Klinkenberg's "Seasons of Real Florida." Tears, FOFL and head nodding recognition. (OK, for those of us who don't speak finger language [like finger food] FOFL means "fall on floor laughing". I had to look it up to make sure there weren't any unallowable definitions...) To me there is a kindness in Klinkenberg's writing that is sorely missing from most of today's printed words.

By the way, we could sure use some younger readers to help us with some of today's communication systems. Word.

**** NOTE: IN JULY, WE WILL MEET AT 10:15 INSTEAD OF 9:30. This is only for July.****

In July, we discuss the Vincent Luisi book about "Railroading in Pinellas County." Lots of pictures. I was born in Pinellas County a long time ago and have lived here all my life. Wow, does this book bring back memories! If you are relatively new to Pinellas I can't think of a better picture of the history of what it was like "back then." Remember steam engines?

August we discuss the book: "Florida's Indians from Ancient Times to the Present," written by Jerald T. Milanich. (Our sister Preserve - Weedon Island - will be a destination I think our readers will want to visit after reading this book.)

OK, for the remainder of the Florida-themed year we are planning to read:

September 2018: "Florida in Poetry" edited by Jones and O'Sullivan. Now wait. Poetry doesn't hurt. The arrangement of the book is sequential in time and gives a good, easy way to also gain an understanding of Florida history.

October 2018: Another book by Willie Drye: "For Sale, American Paradise, How Our Nation Was Sold an Impossible Dream in Florida." Drye wrote the book about the 1935 hurricane we previously read.

November 2018: "Everglades Lawmen", by James T. Huffstodt. True Stories of Game Wardens in the Glades.

December 2018: "The Florida Reader, Visions of Paradise from 1530 to the Present" by Maurice O'Sullivan and Jack C. Lane, editors. (My thanks to Gail M. for bringing this book to my attention.) This rounds out a Florida themed year. Please join us, there is room for more. In the remaining get-togethers for this year we will also be taking ideas on reading material for 2019. Come and give us your ideas.

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.



Amazon Smile

If you'd like to make a donation to Brooker Creek Preserve every time you shop using Amazon - please consider using Amazon Smile and designating Brooker Creek Preserve as your charity. The Preserve has a unique charity-link to take customers directly to our smile.amazon.com site:

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/59-3302182>

Ask your donors, volunteers, employees, and friends to bookmark this link so all their eligible shopping will benefit Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve Inc.

Volunteer News and More!

By Julia Myers, Education Support Specialist, Brooker Creek Preserve

On June 3rd BCP staff held a volunteer training entitled *The Face of Brooker Creek Preserve*. We had a BLAST! We started with a potluck feast and ended with a fun walk in the rain. We laughed, learned, shared stories, and most importantly we sharpened our interpretive skills and discussed tools to deliver the best experience possible to our visitors! Sheree has put together a notebook at the front desk that includes everything we went over at the training for you to reference. Be sure to check it out if you missed the training. This will help us all remember to S.H.I.N.E.! Thank you everyone for coming that was able to make it. Thank you to all Brooker Creek Volunteers for always going above and beyond and for sharing your passion for wild Florida with us!



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

Lara's Wildlife Wednesday Webinars are back! This is a free lunch-n-learn opportunity that you can participate in from a computer anywhere. Each monthly webinar, 45 minutes in length, will share information on wildlife found in Central Florida. The webinars will highlight some frequently encountered wildlife, ways to identify these different species, and discuss their role and importance in Florida ecosystems. You can register for all upcoming webinars at

<http://bit.ly/wwwregistration>.



Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve

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 since 1994 (ten years more than the Education Center) with a long history of love, devotion, 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 the annual Volunteer Appreciation.

Run a very lucrative Nature Store.

Remove exotics and nuisance plants.

Tend the Wildflower Garden.

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.

Any amount is acceptable – choose what fits you.

___ \$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 \$ _____

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

OR

Join online! Go to:

<http://www.friendsofbrookercreekpreserve.org>

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


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!

July 2018

**Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve event*

| THURSDAY | | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY |
|--|--|---|--|--|
| 5 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:30 | | 6 Literacy in Nature 10-11 am <i>(Children's Story and Craft)</i> | 7 Guided Hike 9-10:30 *Brooker Readers Club 10:15-11:15 | 8 |
| 12 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:30 | | 13 Literacy in Nature 10-11 am <i>(Children's Story and Craft)</i> | 14 Songbird Sunrise 5:30-7:30 am Beginning Bird Hike 8-10 am Why Snakes Are Cool 10:30-12 | 15 Dragonfly Discovery Walk 9-11 am |
| 19 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:30 | | 20 Junior Naturalist Walk 10-11 am | 21 *Return the Preserve Work Day 8-11 am Guided Hike 9-10:30 More Than Mushrooms 10:30-12 | 22 |
| 25 Water Exhibit 12:30-2 pm TODAY ONLY | 26 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:30 | 27 Family Fun Friday 10-11 am | 28 *Wildflower Garden Work Day 8-10 am Guided Hike 9-11 am Swamp Ecosystem 10:30-11:30 | 29 |

August 2018

| THURSDAY | | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY |
|--|--|--|---|--|
| 2 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:30 | | 3 | 4 Guided Hike 9:00-10:30 *Friends Readers Club 9:30-10:30 Microplastics Workshop 1-3 pm | 5 |
| 9 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:30 | | 10 | 11 Songbird Sunrise 5:30-7:30 am Beginning Bird Hike 8-10 am *Painting Workshop with Kelly of the Wild 12:00-3:00 <i>Registration required -\$35/person \$30 for Friends of BCP members</i> | 12 |
| 16 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:30 | | 17 | 18 Guided Hike 9:00-10:30 Brooker Creek Explorers 4H Info Meeting 2-3 pm | 19 Dragonfly Discovery Walk 9-11 am |
| 23 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:30 | | 24 Family Fun Friday 10-11 am | 25 *Wildflower Garden Work Day 8-10 am Guided Hike 9-11 am Spiders! 10:30-12 | 26 |
| 30 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15 | | 31 | | |

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 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.

Board of Directors

Officers

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

Directors:

Beekeeper: Robert Burkard
Business: Barbara Hoffman
Communications: Julie Wade
Craftsman: Ray Poynor
Fall Wildflower Festival: Cathie Foster
4th Grade Coordination: Chuck Parsons
Grants: Allyn Childress
Guiding Documents: Walt Hoskins
Land Use: Dr. Craig Huegel
Music in the Woods: Jane Myers
Nature Store: Cathie Foster
Newsletter Editor: Dr. Craig Huegel
Night Hikes: Mark Yeager
Owl-O-Ween: Barb Hoffman
Publicity: Barbara Schultz
Return the Preserve Work Days:
Evan Earle, Jr.
Wilderness Trail: Dr. Craig Huegel
Wildflower Garden: Pam Brown
Wildlife Safari: Cathie Foster

Further Leadership

Accountant: Bob Host
Book Club: Jon Burr & Kathleen Nichter
Gallery Curator: Lynn Whitelaw
Membership: Jeff Myers
Newsletter Publisher: Cathy Vogelsong
Website Master: Cathy Ordiway

Registration Info: 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