


Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve

May - June 2018

Chairman's Message: Wildlife Safari - Wildly Successful! by Cathie Foster

Our 8th annual Wildlife Safari was everything we hoped it would be! The weather was beautiful, the critters were a hit, the volunteers were enthusiastic, and the crowd seemed to be having a great time!

Although the Safari is designed for kids, everyone who walked the Safari trail had a great opportunity to see and learn about these animals right up close. A big shout out to all of the animal experts and their animals who spent the day with us introducing over 1200 Safari adventurers to the native animals that make Brooker Creek Preserve their home.

Tampa Bay Bats

Friends of Boyd Hill Nature Preserve

(raptors)

Betty Rossie (turtles)

Suncoast Herpetological Society (snakes)

Reptile Discovery Program (alligator)

Wildlife Haven Rehab (baby raccoons and opossums)

Clearwater Audubon Society (eagle nest watch)

A big round of applause goes out to the more than 40 volunteers who worked tirelessly to make this big day possible! Planning and setting up the event, greeting, registering and handing out Safari passports to the kids, guiding folks to the stations along the trails and along the boardwalks, handing out prizes to youngsters at the end

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of their trek, planning and providing lunch to volunteers, welcoming and interacting with the crowd in the Exhibit Hall and Nature Store and, finally, cleaning it all up at the end of a long day - this takes more than 300 volunteer hours! So, again, thanks to all of you who played such an important part in the Wildlife Safari this year. We had some new faces that we hope to see again next year!

And, of course, we sincerely thank our generous Safari sponsors. Their support makes it possible for the Friends to continue to offer this educational and fun-filled event to the public. You will see them listed on page 10, with lots of photos on pages 6 to 9.

We're looking forward to another great Wildlife Safari next year!



We would like to thank an anonymous donor who donated \$500 through an on-line program called "Network for Good!" We really appreciate you thinking about helping the Preserve in this way!

Welcome to our new Friends members:

Amanda Peas

David Miller

Susan & John Stoll



Deer outside the Ed Center, photo by Julia Myers.

- Save the Dates
Upcoming Friends Events**
- May 5 Brooker Book Club 9:30-10:30 am
 - May 12 Night Hike 8-10 pm
 - May 26 Wildflower Garden Work Day 8-10 am
 - June 2 4th Annual Ken Rowe Birdathon
 - June 2 Brooker Book Club 9:30-10:30 am
 - June 24 Art Exhibit: John Gurbacs
- Opening Reception 1-3 pm
 - June 30 Wildflower Garden Work Day 8-10 am
 - July 21 Return the Preserve Work Day

**ACRE ADOPTIONS FOR
BROOKER CREEK PRESERVE**

Many thanks for the following Acre Adoptions in March/April 2018:

In Memory of Tracey Sinnott from Barb & Eddie Hoffman

In Memory of Brent Wadsworth from Barb & Eddie Hoffman

A group of folks, the "*Movie Knights*," donated \$133 for an acre

In honor of Keira Graebner on her 10th Birthday!
- donated by her friends (photo below)

Please consider adopting an acre as a birthday gift, memorial or to honor a special person.
See p. 23 for Adopt an Acre Form and additional information.

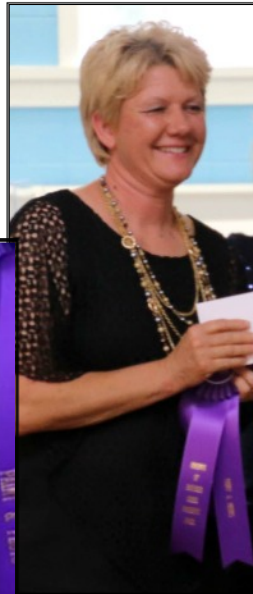
The girls pictured in the photo wanted to honor their friend Keira by donating money to our Adopt an Acre program. These girls donated \$260 for 2.5 acres to be restored!
Thank you for thinking about Brooker Creek Preserve to honor your friend!



Paint & Photo Tarpon Springs 2018 - the Brooker Creek Preserve Winners

The Friends sponsored the recent Paint & Photo Tarpon Springs event by donating two \$100 awards for best photograph and best painting done in Brooker Creek Preserve. This plein air event took place April 18-21 with artists from all over the country creating works of art wherever they wished in the Tarpon Springs area. About 40 artists competed, many within Brooker Creek Preserve.

Robin Popp from Trenton, FL received one of the two awards for her beautiful painting of a Brooker Creek Preserve wetland area.



Welcome all painters and photographers!
We invite you to
Brooker Creek Preserve!





Photo by Mike & Patti Young

Treat yourself, your work, and your soul
to a few days of peace, birdsong, and nature at its finest.
Open 7:00 am to one hour before sunset.
Rest rooms available and open all day.

Friends  of Brooker Creek Preserve
www.friendsofbrookercreekpreserve.org

Above, our ad in the plein air booklet enticing artists to come to Brooker Creek Preserve.

Sue Thomas from Tarpon Springs (and a Friends member) received the other of the two awards for her awesome photograph of a yellow-crowned night heron.



Kathy Jenkins from Pinellas Park received the Artists' Choice Award, an honor bestowed upon the artist whose work was selected by the artists themselves. Kathy's painting was also done in Brooker Creek Preserve.

Music in the Woods: Bonnie Whitehurst — Mar. 25

The Friends along with the UU Church of Tarpon Springs were so delighted to host Bonnie Whitehurst and her "History of Florida through Music" production on a beautiful Sunday afternoon in March. Bonnie played a variety of instruments, told wonderful and sometimes humorous stories about the music composers and where they came from. We all enjoyed her beautiful music and singing voice as we learned about Florida history.



Bonnie Whitehurst playing her harp.
Photos by Jane Myers.

Music Jamboree — Apr. 8

Our talented band leader, Brad Myers - "Mr. Brad" - was joined for part of the jam by a local musician. Those of us sitting out by the music pavilion really enjoyed their music and the gorgeous weather!. Thanks so much, Brad, for sharing your time and talents with us!

Wildlife Safari — April 7



The Welcome Table - FOBCP volunteers greeted, registered, and handed out passports to the participants.

Station 1 - Bats. Francine Prager, of Tampa Bay Bats, displays her critters with assist from FOBCP volunteer Hank.



Station 2 - Raptors. Donna, holding great horned owl "Nyx," and Gabe, holding "Rusty" the red-shouldered hawk, were from Boyd Hill Nature Preserve.



Station 3 - Turtles and tortoises.

Betty Rossie, answered questions about a juvenile gopher tortoise. A 50-year-old box turtle was also on display.



Station 4 - Snakes.

Vickie, from the Suncoast Herpetological Society, shows off the skin that the red rat snake shed the previous night, as volunteer Peter assisted.

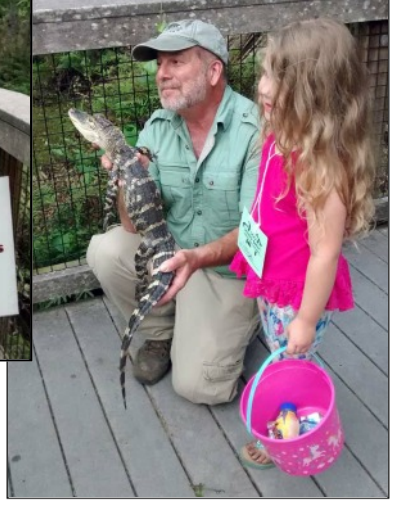


Barb proudly displays Hoffman Architects' contribution to the Safari. Photo by Karl Nichter.

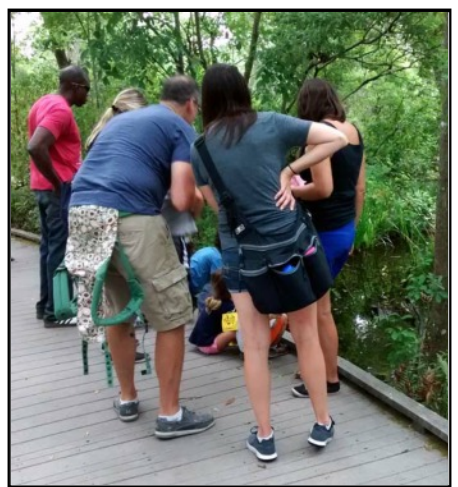
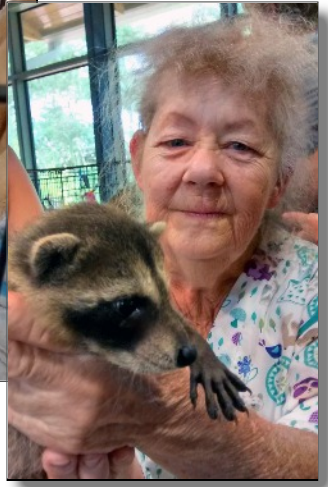


The Water station. Thank you!

Station 5 -Alligators. Bruce Shwedick, from the Reptile Discovery Program, held 2-year old alligator "Okeechobee" for photos with the children.



Station 6 - Raccoon and opossum babies. Marilyn, left, and Anita, of Wildlife Haven Rehab, showed off the babies.



Along the Safari trail, visitors spotted Preserve wildlife — an alligator in the creek (left), a pileated woodpecker, and a frog.



A beautiful day for a Safari!



Wildlife Safari prize station – volunteers Paul and Jean hand out prizes, and Danny stamped passports, at the end of the Safari.

Jane and Sherry fed a lovely lunch to the hungry volunteers.



Volunteers Nancy, left, and Katy were very busy in the Nature Store.

Wildlife Safari photos by Cathy Vogelsong unless noted.



THANK YOU 2018 SPONSORS!

The Burr Family

Pam Burrows

Doug Eiland, MD-Radiology Associates
of Tarpon Springs

Flagship Community Bank

Hoffman Architects, PA

Jane, Jeff, and Sherry

John Landers

Scott and Karen Moorhead

Microaccounting

Nichter Photography

Louis T. Petersen

The Reker Family

Barbara Schultz, Prudential Advisors

Sue, Martha and Lois

Waddell & Reed Financial Advisors

Julie Wade

Earth Day & Return the Preserve — April 21

By: Evan Earle, Jr.

Our Return The Preserve Work Day on Saturday, April 21st, was just a little bit special as we helped to celebrate the 48th Earth Day! It was a beautiful Saturday morning and 30 wonderful volunteers joined us. We worked on two distinct projects. We backed off on our focus on vine removal this time. Why? Well, thanks to Ranger Scott Coulter educating me and pointing out that Spring is when birds are nesting. Those trees and vines that are typically the target of our RTP Work Days often provide the perfect nesting sites for birds such as cardinals and even hummingbirds. So thank you Scott! Who says you can't teach an old dog new tricks?

So instead of vines, first, we thinned out the pine saplings inside the entrance loop road to help create a healthier, more natural environment for this part of the Preserve. We pulled and we lopped. Along the way we talked about wild blackberries, long eaf pines, slash pines, gopher tortoise burrows, gopher apple, blue lupine (everyone enjoyed learning how soft its leaves are), and more. We were even treated to a swallow-tailed kite flyover. Our RTP Work Days aren't just about hard work.

Second, a group of volunteers led by Marion Yongue, went "off road" and headed over to the Classroom Building to tackle an old "favorite" - caesarweed. This band of weeders did a number on the number of caesarweed growing between the Classroom Building and the creek. They pulled it out and bagged it up, properly disposing of it to avoid unintentionally spreading this exotic invasive. Thank you for your dedication to eliminating this unwanted guest!



A special shout out to Keep Pinellas Beautiful who partnered with us to provide reusable water bottles and t-shirts to all of the volunteers as well as tools and supplies to help us with our project. Thank you KPBI! You are a generous partner!

Another shout out to Jimmy Johns restaurant in Tarpon Springs who donated a tray of delicious subs for lunch. They were delicious and very much appreciated, demonstrated by the fact that there were NO leftovers! Thank you Jimmy Johns! You are great neighbors!



Personally, I truly enjoy our RTP Work Days. It is an opportunity to meet new friends and in some cases introduce those new friends to Brooker Creek Preserve. And our return volunteers, those hard working folks who come back again and again to support our projects, you help keep us going. Your dedication to the Preserve is inspiring!

I can honestly say I learn something new every time. I am amazed at what our volunteers accomplish every time. I always invite all of our volunteers to return to the Preserve to look at the results of their hard work, but more importantly to return to the Preserve and just enjoy it. Take a hike. Attend a class. Join a night hike! It's our wildest place! Thanks to their time, energy, and dedication, together we are helping to return the Preserve to a healthier, more natural state.



Photos by Evan Earle, Jr.

Good Neighbors

Many thanks to Jackie Hoover, owner of the Tarpon Springs Jimmy John's at 40715 US Hwy. 19 N, for her ongoing generosity and support to the FOBCP and our Return The Preserve Work Days.

Jackie has donated a tray of Jimmy Johns sandwiches for our lunch several times with a tasty variety that our volunteers always enjoy. Thank you Team Jimmy John's for your ongoing support and helping the FOBCP to give our RTP Work Day volunteers a rewarding and delicious lunch. It is great to have neighbors like you!



Many thanks to Gino and his crew at Palm Harbor Sign and Design in Palm Harbor. Each of our big events requires many signs, like those you see in the Wildlife Safari photos in this issue. Not only are the signs great, but Gino is always gracious when we "bless" him with our last-minute needs!

<http://www.palmharborsign.com/>

Celebration of Haiku Book Publication Honoring Bill & Pam Brown — April 29

Text and photos by Barb Hoffman



About 30 people attended the celebration of the publication of *Haiku of the South - Nature Nurturing the Sprit*. The celebration took place at Four Lakes Hammock, a campsite within Brooker Creek Preserve.



Bill & Pam enjoyed the s'mores we made for dessert, the fixings for which Cathie Foster provided. Barb Hoffman provided a homemade supper of vegan chili, vegan bean soup, and cornbread. Evan Earle's Mexican Coleslaw provided a tasty addition.

After a beautiful introduction by Cathie Foster, Bill Brown talked to us about the definition of haiku and his many inspirations for the poems he wrote. His volunteer time within the outlands of Brooker Creek Preserve, doing land management services and trail maintenance along with his best friend, the late Ty Mirimonti, provided a host of funny and wonderful experiences as well as stimuli for his poetry.



Bill & Pam, as author and illustrator, signed the haiku books that people either brought with them, or were given free for attending the event. Not pictured is Skip Holmes who did the layout for the book; unfortunately Skip could not attend the celebration.



Friends  of Brooker Creek Preserve

2018 NIGHT HIKES!

Join the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve for a hiking experience along the Education Center Trail...*at night!* These nocturnal hikes are open to the public and limited to 20 people per hike. A \$3 per person donation is requested. Hikes are led by Mark Yeager, a Preserve volunteer who is knowledgeable about nocturnal wildlife. The hike is about one-mile in length and will take about 1.5 hours.

2018

Saturday, Jan. 13, 6-8 pm

Saturday, Feb. 17, 6:30 pm **Star Party with St. Pete Astronomy Club**

Saturday, March 10, 6:30-8:30 pm

Saturday, April 14, 8-10 pm

Saturday, May 12, 8-10 pm

Pre-registration is required! Once you register, more information will come to you via email. Pre-register online by logging onto:

<http://www.eventbrite.com/e/night-hikes-tickets-15245149653>

These hikes are for adults and families only. Children must be accompanied by parents. Please leave "Fido" at home. Pets are not allowed in any county Preserve.

Special Night Hikes – If you have a group of ten or more people that would like to schedule a special night hike just for that group, please contact the Friends: fobcp@tampabay.rr.com or 727-934-2680.

Questions? Email fobcp@tampabay.rr.com



Oak hairstreak butterfly on summer farewell
(*Dalea pinnata*). Photo by Craig Huegel.

The 4th Annual



Ken Rowe Birdathon

At Brooker Creek Preserve

Saturday June 2, 2018

5:30 am – 11:30 am Birding, 12:00 – 1:00 pm Lunch & Prizes

Birders of all levels are welcome and encouraged to attend! Teams of 2-4 people, \$10/person, includes lunch. Teams are encouraged to invite youth birders to join their team and may include them as extra members over the cap of four. Prizes will be awarded in a variety of categories including most species per team and many more... Birding will take place by teams at their own pace at a choice of several areas within the Brooker Creek Preserve boundary, most not open to the public. Maps indicating entry/parking sites, including "hot spot" locations, will be provided to participants. Data collected will be used to help monitor breeding bird populations. Team leaders must RSVP by April 30, 2018.

This event is sponsored by Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve.

3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs, 34688

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



Spring Migration By: Craig Huegel

This is my favorite time of year as it is the time that migrating songbirds make their way across the Gulf of Mexico and into my yard (and into Brooker Creek Preserve) on their long journey north to their nesting grounds. Different birds end up in different parts of the country, but a good many of them make their first landfall in the U.S. on Florida's Gulf Coast. For a few short weeks, maybe 6 of them, waves of warblers, tanagers, buntings, orioles, grosbeaks and other colorful birds are here with us, offering opportunities to catch them in our binoculars.

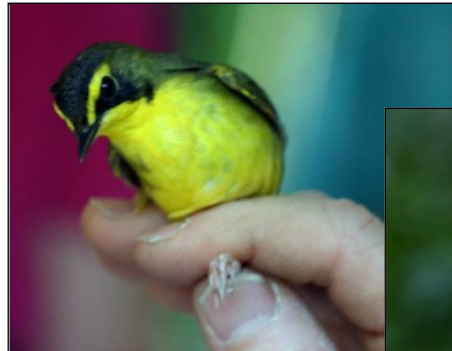
Migrating songbirds are looking mostly for two things while they are here - food and water. Many refuel in the daytime and depart once more after dark. Migrating in the dark makes them less visible to predators and provides them cooler temperatures that enable them to conserve a bit of energy. Some may stay several days after they land; others will move on as soon as it gets dark. Because of that, each bird-watching day will bring you new birds to observe. Each year, during this time, I resent having to leave for work.

Migrating songbirds feed almost exclusively on insects and other invertebrates. They require the high protein levels found in these kinds of foods in order to restock the energy supplies used during their flight the night before. Feeders with seeds will attract a few species, but it is the invertebrates in your yard that will work the best.

Invertebrates occur in the canopy of trees, under the bark of rough-barked trees such as oaks and pines, and in the leaf litter lying on the ground. Some canopy trees are better than others in providing caterpillars in the foliage. Oaks are especially useful for this, but so are cherries, plums, maples, pines, and hickories. Caterpillars in the foliage, however, are just one part of the overall story. Many other invertebrates are found in the crevasses of rough-barked trunks and limbs, and in dead twigs and small dead branches.

I mulch my landscape with the leaf litter and pine straw that my trees produce each year. You should never rake up this material and dispose of it. Organic mulches that decompose, like leaves and needles do, provide ideal habitat for worms, grubs, and other invertebrates that migratory birds are seeking. Ovenbirds and thrushes poke through this leaf litter in my yard each migration. They are rarely in the trees and shrubs.

Female Kentucky warbler (left), and a male black-throated blue warbler. Photos by Craig Huegel, taken while bird banding at Hammock Park, Dunedin.



The final piece of the puzzle, when it comes to food, is to not use insecticides. Though mole crickets and chinch bugs can play havoc on certain kinds of turf grass, the blanket spraying of insecticides produces the wholesale slaughter of every type of invertebrate present and creates a toxic food wasteland for birds in search of a meal. If you can't grow turf without the use of toxic chemicals, consider eliminating your turf, as I have done, and replace it with native plants that don't require these kinds of additives to thrive.

Nature Store News — Summer Reading for All!

by Cathie Foster

Our Nature Store is the perfect place to find mementos of a trip to our beautiful Preserve. Did you know it's also a place to find some great books? We have many new nature books and field guides for adults and kids near the front of the store. Not to be overlooked is our Used Book Nook in the back corner of the store. You never know what literary treasure you will find there. You can browse to your heart's content through the very reasonably priced collection of nature and Florida-themed fiction, non-fiction, garden guides, magazines and more! Come check it out!



News from the Wildflower Garden By Pam Brown

By the time you are reading this we should have completed construction of the bog garden in a corner of the Wildflower Garden. Hopefully this will allow us to plant some of the wildflowers that require soil with more moisture than what is available in the current garden. This will be a small area not more than six feet in diameter. We will be planting in the bog over the next couple of months as plants become available.



The garden has been a bit sparse of blooms this spring since the winter was so dry and then we had such a warm, dry February. We did see some violets and Lyre-leaf sage, but not the profusion we sometimes see. Coreopsis and Rosinweed are starting to bloom along with the False Indigo.

Thank you to the several new volunteers who helped in the garden over the last couple of months. And, I really appreciate those of you who are faithful regulars. I am always so appreciative of volunteer help maintaining the garden. Our next workdays are

May 26th and June 30th from 8:00 -10:00 a.m. (summer hours). Bring your gardening tools, gloves, hat, bug spray and wear closed-toed shoes. We will provide breakfast snacks and coffee. Hope to see you there!



Left to right, Ric Hoover, Laurie Angyn, Pam Brown, Samantha Croyle, Bill Brown, and Lindsey Painter. Photos by Pam Brown and Barb Hoffman.

Pam's Tip

I know that I have written recently about the decline in the honeybee population and the growing problem that this presents to agriculture, but this is an important subject that needs to be repeated. Besides providing tasty honey, bees provide a critical service by pollinating at least one-third of our food supply. More than 100 important agricultural crops are dependent on bees for pollination. Growers rely on these bees to pollinate their crops so bee keepers will truck many hundreds of hives to fields where crops are blooming. Honeybees are not native to North America; they were imported from Europe with the first settlers. There are many other native

bees and insects that also serve as pollinators. All of these pollinators are declining as well. Their native habitats are being destroyed to build housing and other infrastructure and much of this development includes planting many exotic plants in the landscape that will not support our native pollinators.

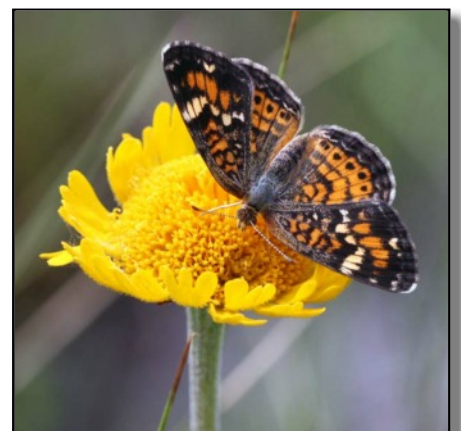
Pesticide use is one of the growing concerns regarding the pollinator population. When foraging bees or other pollinators come into contact with pesticides, those that aren't killed immediately can bring the contaminants back to the hive. In turn, these pesticides can kill larvae and adult bees through contaminated pollen and nectar. This is true of our native pollinators as well. By taking careful precautions with pesticides that are used in our landscapes, we can help benefit the health of all pollinators. The first step is to use pesticides only when necessary. If you must use pesticides, notice if the plant is blooming. Pollinators are most active at this time, so consider spraying before or after the bloom period. Also, avoid spraying between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. This is when honey bees and other pollinators are most actively foraging. And finally, try to use pesticides that are less toxic. Neem oil, insecticidal soap, and Organocide are natural pesticides that are not as harmful to bees as synthetic chemical pesticides. Imidacloprid and other neonicotinoids are common systemic pesticides that are incorporated into all parts of the plant including nectar and pollen. Use systemic pesticides only as a last resort.

Consider planting native plants to recreate some of the habitat that was lost when your home was built. Choose plants that produce fruit and flowers that will attract wildlife and pollinators. The Xerces Society (<https://xerces.org/>) has a lot of information about planting for pollinator conservation. In addition, The Pollinator Partnership has planting guides and other information at <http://pollinator.org/guides>. "Not enough space" you might say - well the Florida Wildflower Foundation has instructions for creating a "pollinator garden in a pot" at: <https://flawildflowers.org/pollinator-pot/>

The University of Florida has a variety of information on the Internet. Here are links to just a few: <http://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/orange-co/2017/10/12/simple-steps-create-pollinator-paradise-landscape/>; <http://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/pinellas-co/2017/06/20/the-buzz-on-pollinators/>; along with a list of resources for gardening for pollinators - <http://nfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/pollinator-conservation/>

As gardeners we all need to be aware of the fatal affect a pesticide use can have on pollinator populations. The ultimate goal is to have healthy plants and healthy pollinators. Hopefully, by applying some common sense knowledge, we can achieve both.

Pearl crescent butterfly on southeastern sneezeweed (*Helenium pinnatifidum*). Photo by Craig Huegel.



Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve Readers Club

By: Jon Burr

In March we had our second free-for-all reading-material discussion. One of the compelling reasons for having an umbrella topic - in this case anything about



Florida - was the difficulty finding single books available to all with relative ease. It seems that libraries don't have as many books as they used to. One of our first time guests had read several of the *Florida Gardening* magazine particularly liking an article by Craig Huegel! Name familiar? Another discussed a book on the Bartram brothers, early Florida botanist writers. One of our regulars read about Florida in the Civil War period and made some observations about how nothing had changed in selecting persons for leadership positions. It was generally concluded that the free-for-all format was a lot of fun and surprising in the range of items our readers found interesting.

In April we discussed Janisse Ray's book, *Pinhook*. The group all liked the book with the general reservation that it was a tad "choppy" (One could say we did not find wholeness in a fragmented book which is to parody the sub title). However, everyone had praise for another of her books: *Ecology of a Cracker Childhood* which we had read earlier.

Coming up: Tada: In May we discuss any of the John D. McDonald novels of the Travis McGee series, you know, the ones with a color in the title. And in June it's Jeff Klinkenberg, *Seasons of Real Florida*. This is a collection of articles originally published in the *St. Petersburg (now Tampa Bay) Times*.

In July, we discuss *Railroading in Pinellas County*, by Vincent Luisi. Not only are there a lot of great pictures this book it is a good history of Pinellas County. In my 76 years here I remember a lot of these now-gone buildings.

There's room at the table for more readers.

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.



Volunteer News and More!

By Julia Myers, Education Support Specialist, Brooker Creek Preserve

New Volunteer Opportunity: Want to help introduce our youngest visitors to the wonders of the natural world? Many of you know that Miss Jackie leads our weekly book time program for preschoolers from 10:30 to 11:15am. We are looking for a new volunteer to be her helper. Duties include helping Jackie plan upcoming books, organize crafts, help with weekly set-up, and assist children with activities during book time. If you are interested I can provide more details and answer any questions you have. Training for the new helper can start immediately.



Book Time

Did you know that James, our Extension Specialist writes a newsletter?! The monthly newsletter is called *Tampensis*, and it has just won an award with the Association of Natural Resources Professionals! Go James! This periodical is full of short articles about a timely topic related to plants, plant identification, and just cool stuff that we may have seen out and about in Pinellas' Natural Areas. If you would like to receive future issues please send your email address to jstevson@pinellascounty.org to be added to the list!



Fruit on Pinewoods Milkweed (*Asclepias humistrata*)



Jane Myers - Why I Volunteer. Photos by Julia Myers.

Lara's award winning ECO Teacher Training Workshop will take place this year from July 23rd to the 27th. This workshop explores environmental education curriculums and all volunteers are welcome to attend! Learn all about this awesome workshop here:

<https://eco2018.eventbrite.com>



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

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BROOKER CREEK PRESERVE

Cool calendar for your refrigerator!

May 2018

**Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve events*

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
3 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:30	4	5 Guided Hike 9-10:30 <i>(Habitats & Communities)</i> *Brooker Readers Club 9:30-10:30	6
10 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:30	11	12 Beginning Bird Hike 8-10 am Birds in Your FL Garden 10:30-12 *Night Hike 8-10 pm <i>\$3/person</i>	13 Special Guided Hike <i>Mothers Day/Mother Nature</i> 9:30-11 am
17 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:30	18 Family Fun Friday 10-11 am	19 Guided Hike 9-10:30 *FOBCP Beekeepers Club Kick-Off 9-12:00 Visiting Critters 1-2 pm	20 Guided Hike 9-11 am <i>(Dragonfly Discovery)</i>
24 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:30	25 Junior Naturalist Walk 9-10 am	26 *Wildflower Garden Work Day 8-10 am Nature Photography Hike 8:30-10:30 Guided Hike 9-11 am <i>(Our Wildest Place)</i> Bugs and Butterflies of Brooker 10:30-12:00	27
31 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:30			

June 2018

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	1 Literacy in Nature Family Fun 10:00-11:00	2 *4th Annual Ken Rowe Birdathon 5:30 am-1:00 pm <i>Registration required \$10/person</i> Guided Hike 9:00-10:30 *Friends Readers Club 9:30-10:30	3
7 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:30	8 Literacy in Nature Family Fun 10:00-11:00	9 Beginning Bird Hike 8:00-10:00 Spice Science 10:30-12:00 Citizen Science-Microplastics 1:30-2:30	10
14 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:30	15 Literacy in Nature Family Fun 10:00-11:00	16 Guided Hike 9:00-10:30 <i>(Nature's Hidden Wonders)</i> Discover Prehistoric FL 10:30-12:00	17
21 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:30	22 Family Fun Friday 10:00-11:00	23 Guided Hike 9:00-10:30 <i>(Our Wildest Place)</i>	24 *Art Exhibit-John Gurbacs Opening Reception 1-3 pm
28 Pre-School Book Time ?? 10:30-11:15	29	30 *Wildflower Garden Work Day 8:00-10:00	

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.

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