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# Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve

July - August 2019

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## Chairman's Message By Cathie Foster

*Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve* named  
**Outstanding Environmental Nonprofit  
Partner**

*by Keep Pinellas Beautiful*

On June 13, FOBCP Director Evan Earle and I attended a wonderful awards luncheon hosted by Keep Pinellas Beautiful. We were honored and humbled to accept their recognition. The text of their presentation to us follows:

*"The Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve prove their dedication to the preservation of this natural oasis through their passion for educating and engaging the public in conservation activities. Among many other educational opportunities, they coordinate quarterly invasive plant removal projects to help restore Brooker Creek Preserve to its' natural state. Their efforts engage volunteers of all ages in preservation activities and provide them with a better understanding of the ecosystems that are present within the Preserve. The benefits of partnering with like-minded organizations are many. Keep Pinellas Beautiful is grateful for the Friends of Brooker Creek's willingness to work together on common goals and we value their commitment to share their expertise with our volunteers and staff."*

Keep Pinellas Beautiful is a volunteer-based nonprofit organization and certified affiliate of Keep America Beautiful. Their mission is "to conserve and beautify our natural environment by means of community engagement and education". They

## Save the Dates Upcoming Friends Events

- July 6 FOBCP Readers Club 9:30-10:30 am
- July 7 Beekeepers Club 9 am
- July 20 Return the Preserve work day 8-11
- July 27 Wildflower Garden work day 8-10 am
- July 28 Paint for the Wild 12-3 pm
- Aug. 3 FOBCP Readers Club 9:30-10:30 am
- Aug. 4 Beekeepers Club 9 am
- Aug. 31 Wildflower Garden work day 8-10 am
- Sept.22 Off the Beaten Path Hike:  
In Search of Catesby's Lily 9 am
- Oct. 5 Fall Wildflower Festival
- Oct. 19 Return the Preserve Work Day 8-11
- Oct. 26 Owl-O-Ween
- Nov. 19-23 Eco-Tour to Cuba



Fire at Brooker Creek Preserve, p. 2.

offer us tons of support for our **Return the Preserve Program**, supplying tools, gloves, bags and even volunteers, in addition to our own band of hard-working volunteers. Additionally, they are offering a 3-day summer youth workshop, *Watershed Exploration*, for grades 6-8 that will be held at Brooker Creek Preserve in July. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2019-watershed-exploration-natural-habitats-workshop-at-brooker-creek-tickets-55530614563?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

We embrace the very valuable partnership we have with this amazing organization. Learn more about Keep Pinellas Beautiful here. <https://www.kpbcares.org/>



### Keep Pinellas Beautiful Award (from left to right)

- Pat DePlasco, Director KPB
- Evan Earle, FOBCP Return the Preserve Chair
- Cathie Foster - FOBCP Chairman
- Wanda Dudley - Mayor, Kenneth City

**Fire** – In case you haven't heard, BCP trails are partially open again! Due to the wildfire that occurred in the Preserve early last month, the entire trail system had to be closed temporarily for safety reasons. Now that the fire is out, the **Ed Center Loop** and **Bird Path** trails are open again!

However, the rest of the trails remain closed as they undergo rehab efforts due to the firebreaks that had to be dug to contain the fire. If you come for a hike, and we hope you will, be sure to stay on the 2 trails that are currently open. The others are marked as closed and are off-limits until they are rehabbed. Speaking of fire, did you know, that although this one is keeping us away from some of our wonderful trails, that is about the only bad thing about it. If you are interested in learning more about the value of fire in our wildlands, read Lara's article here: [The Benefits of Fire](#)



## Auditorium Gallery: FOBCP Member's Photography Exhibition - 6/2

*Documenting "Out Wildest Place"* by Lynn Whitelaw, Gallery Curator

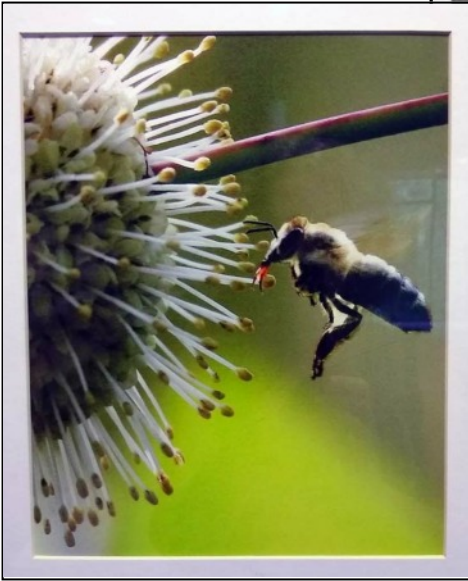
On Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> more than 60 people came out for the opening reception for the **Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve Photography Exhibition** to support this first-time opportunity for members to showcase their "captured" moments in the Preserve. We were pleased to have 11 participants provide 23 beautiful images of the unique flora, fauna and ecosystems of the Preserve, as well a tribute photograph to the late Ken Rowe. A special thank you to members Jon Burr, Lisa Fitch, Stuart Harrison, Barb Hoffman, Jane Myers, Jeff Myers, Karl Nicter, Kathleen Nichter, Marcello Rescala, Sue Thomas, and Lynn Whitelaw for their photo submissions.



Above, from left: Photography by Jon Burr, Lisa Fitch, Barb Hoffman. Right, Stuart Harrison.



From left, Karl Nicter, Jeff Myers, Jane Myers.



From left, photography by Kathleen Nichter, Marcello Rescala, Sue Thomas, and Lynn Whitelaw

The exhibition will be on view through Sunday, August 18 and many photographs are for sale, which includes a 10% donation back to the Friends. Please stop by the Auditorium Gallery to see these photographs before the show comes down and maybe select an image of Brooker Creek to add to your collection.



Thanks to Friends member Keith Ryder for the very generous donation of this comb binding machine. It's like new and will be put to good use!



# Special Return The Preserve Work Day With Keep Pinellas Beautiful and Nielsen — 6/18/19

By Evan Earle, Jr

On Tuesday, June 18th, the Friends Of Brooker Creek Preserve (FOBCP) partnered with Keep Pinellas Beautiful (KPB), and our corporate neighbors in Oldsmar, Nielsen, with almost 20 employees volunteering. Thanks to our friends from KPB, we were well stocked with tools and supplies. We removed caesarweed, tuberous sword fern, and skunkvine from areas around the classroom building, the education center, and the auditorium. Twenty bags of invasive plants were removed (and we repurposed feed bags in doing so)! Way to go Nielsen! These volunteers worked so quickly we even had time for a little maintenance clean up in the parking lot where they removed three piles of grape vines.

The FOBCP love partnering with our neighbors! And KPB is always great in providing supplies and support! Shout out to KPB employee Paul Mitchell who led this effort and was there bright and early with gloves, shovels, loppers, and reusable KPB water bottles.

Thank you Nielsen and KPB for making this special RTP Work Day, well, special!

Our next quarterly RTP Work Day will be on **Saturday, July 20**, from 8:00 and to 11:00. Please join us if you can as we work to return the preserve to its natural beauty.



Above, Paul Mitchell from KPB, and Cathie Foster from the FOBCP, with a Nielsen volunteer.



## Off the Beaten Path: Interior Wildlands - 6/23

We had a full house for our recent hike in the Off the Beaten Path hiking series, Sunday June 23. This series serves as an important fundraising opportunity for the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve, but it also is a special way for folks to experience some of the most beautiful areas of the Preserve - areas not open to the public except through hikes like these.

Sunday was our chance to hike some of the trails that once served as part of our regular guided walks, well before the Preserve was open to the public and before we had an education center. These trails are in the interior of Brooker Creek Preserve. They pass through some of the most significant wet flatwoods within its boundaries and skirt some wonderful cypress swamps. Wet flatwoods are not common within the Preserve. Unlike our typical flatwoods that are dominated by slash pines with an understory of saw palmetto, wet flatwoods have an understory of graminoids - grasses and grasslike plants. During the summer, they are simply too wet for saw palmetto so, as you might expect, the trails that pass through these areas have standing water during the wet summer months. We were often walking with water up to our shins, but were offered beautiful vistas as these areas are much more open than typical flatwoods where the palmettos cover up much of everything else in the understory. I look forward each time for this hike and I encourage all of you that haven't yet joined me on this hike to do so in the future.

The weather was warm - after all, it is June in Florida, but the shade of the pines and the coolness of the water around our feet made it enjoyable. The walk took us several hours. We walked at a slow, but steady pace and stopped frequently along the way. At times, we were forced to do so as the trail was sometimes difficult to find. This is part of the Wilderness Trail and some of our path had obviously not been walked on for at least a year - since the time of our last hike here.

The blazes that mark the trail were sometimes hard to see ahead of us, but



Our fearless hiking group. Above, a few-flowered milkweed (*Asclepias lanceolata*) going to seed.



we found them. In my opinion, it added to the charm of the hike. Where else in Pinellas County can you actually question where you are and feel like you are truly in the wilderness?

Our final hike in this series will take place 3 months from now as we search for blooming Catesby lilies and the great wealth of fall wildflowers that also will be flowering. There are just a few open slots left for this popular hike. I hope you will be one of those that fill these openings. We will likely renew this series in 2020. You can register through the Friends' website:

<http://www.friendsofbrookercreekpreserve.org/>

Dragonfly photo by Lisa Boing, OFTP.



Friends  of Brooker Creek Preserve

*Back by popular demand...*

## **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 (SPC Biology Professor), 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



**Sep. 22, 2019 – In Search of Catesby's Lily** – Located in the eastern part of the preserve, we will search for the threatened 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](mailto: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](mailto:fobcp@tampabay.rr.com) or call 727-934-2680.

# Paint for the Wild!

Sunday, July 28 12-3 pm

Go from a blank canvas to a finished painting, and discover new things along the way!



- All materials provided
- Relaxing atmosphere
- No experience required
- Enjoy an assortment of snacks & refreshments
- Explore the exhibits during breaks

**Cost: \$45** Register online at <https://paintforthewild.com/>

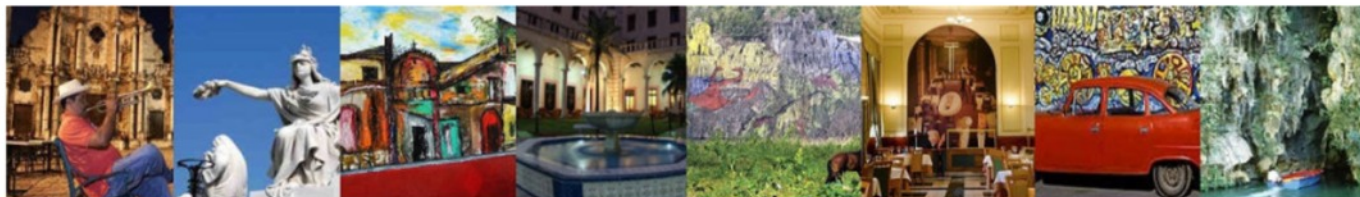
***“Paint for the Wild”* generously donates a portion of your registration directly to the Friends of Brooker Creek**



Click the link for trip details: [FOBCP Eco-Tour to Cuba](#)

## BROOKER CREEK PRESERVE PRESENTS: AN AMAZING CULTURAL ECO-TOUR TO CUBA!

4-Night, 5 Days – November 19-23, 2019



Visiting: ▶ Havana- ▶ Las Terrazas- ▶ Playa Larga- ▶ Zapata Peninsula- ▶ Salinas Park ▶ Cienfuegos Botanical Gardens ▶ El Nicho Waterfalls ▶ Santa Clara

As a travel destination, Cuba is well-known for its amazing culture, charming colonial villages, highly regarded vintage cars and immaculate beaches, but travelers who are environmentally conscious and gravitate towards ecotourism, can find more than clichés in Cuba. You can explore the largest Caribbean island which can offer more than any other island in the Caribbean Sea by its sources of biodiversity. Home to 263 protected areas and six UNESCO Biospheres, Cuba has a lot to offer ecotourists.

On Nov. 11th, the FOBCP Board unanimously voted to sponsor for next November an eco-tour to Cuba for FOBCP members. The 4-night, 5-day trip would also be a fundraiser with \$100 of the individual cost donated to the Friends as a tax-deductible donation. As a fund-raiser, the board is hoping for significant participation in this unique once-in-a-lifetime travel opportunity. The tour will be hosted by our own Dr. Craig Huegel. Our Cuban guides will introduce us to the diverse ecological wonders of Cuba, including the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve at La Terrazas, the swamp lands of the Zapata Peninsula, and the forests and waterfalls of the Gran Parque Natural Topes de Collantes in the Sierra Escambray mountain range. The eco-tour is being organized by the fully licensed and OFAC compliant Cuban travel specialists at Carlson Maritime Travel in Tarpon Springs.

### SOME OF YOUR HIGHLIGHTS WILL INCLUDE:

La Yoandra rare fruit tree farm, Havana \*Sustainable Biosphere, Las Terrazas, hiking, lecture Cuban Orchid Farm \*Finca Marta (organic farm) \*Zapata Peninsula – Playa Larga (Cuba's largest wilderness area) \*Salinas Park- Rare bird watching, Cuban Crocodiles \*Cueva de los peces (Caves of the fishes for swimming) \*Cienfuegos Botanical Gardens with private guide \*Gran Parque Natural Topes de Collantes/ El Nicho Waterfalls \*Che Guevara Museum \*Fully Escorted / Private Guides / Private Driver



*This group is being organized through a fully licensed Travel Service Provider. Carlson Maritime Travel, LLC is authorized to provide services in connection with travel to Cuba for U.S. citizens who are authorized to engage in travel-related transactions involving Cuba under either a general or specific license. CU-2014-307835-1 Dept. of Commerce License: D1118969*

## Mental Health By: Craig Huegel

This article is largely paraphrased from an article that originally appeared in **Frontiers in Psychology**: Pearson, D.G. and T. Craig. (2014); 5: 1178. *The great outdoors? Exploring the mental health benefits of natural environments*. The entire article can be read at this link:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4204431/>

There is growing evidence to suggest that exposure to natural environments can be associated with mental health benefits.

Proximity to green space has been associated with lower levels of stress and reduced evidence of depression and anxiety, while interacting with nature can improve the mental function of children with attention deficits and individuals with depression. A recent epidemiological study has shown that people who move to greener urban areas benefit from sustained improvements in their mental health.

### What makes an environment restorative?

Attentional restoration theory (ART) is an influential framework first proposed by Kaplan and Kaplan that claims urban environments suffer from an excess of bottom-up stimulation that serves to dramatically capture attention. People exposed to urban environments are forced to use their attention to overcome the effects of constant stimulation (described as *hard fascination*), and this in turn over time induces cognitive fatigue. In contrast, natural environments benefit from what the Kaplan's term *soft fascination*, which refers to scene content that automatically captures attention while simultaneously eliciting feelings of pleasure. Although there is no direct equivalent of hard and soft fascination in the scientific literature, the terms have been related to the concept of voluntary and involuntary attention. The process of soft fascination is seen to reduce the demand on executive-based attention, thereby allowing greater restoration of depleted attentional resources in comparison to the perception of urban environments. It has been proposed that natural environments can restore directed attention; a common resource that supports both executive functioning and self-regulation processes in cognition.

Other important features of restorative environments identified by ART include the experience of *being away*, in which a person feels a sense of escape from the stressful demands of daily life, and *extent*, in which a perception of vastness, and connectedness in an environment helps promote related experiences of "being away." Studies supporting ART have demonstrated improved performance on attention-demanding tasks following time spent in natural environments.

Intriguingly, attention restoration effects are also observed after participants simply watch films or photographs that depict natural scene content, implying that direct physical engagement with nature may be unnecessary to promote positive restoration effects.



ART has been widely cited in the literature as supporting superior health benefits of natural environments in comparison to urban environments. However, an important feature of ART that distinguishes it from more psycho-evolutionary frameworks is that the key informational elements such as *being away* and *fascination* that help determine restorative environments need not be *uniquely* associated with natural environments alone. For example, man-made structures such as monasteries can also be considered restorative environments. Although it has sometimes been argued that restorative experiences are overrepresented in natural environments when students are asked to describe their favorite places, they notably allow within their definition of "natural" reference to man-made features such as "cottage surrounded by trees next to a lake". Residential and leisure environments (e.g., museums, art galleries) have also been claimed to reduce demands placed on executive attention and thereby promote psychological restoration. Findings such as these suggest that restorative properties associated with exposure to natural environments may not derive from intrinsic properties of the scene content itself, but instead from much broader contextual, and associative factors. The majority of studies reported in the literature tend to compare natural scenes against urban scenes, whether in the form of physical real-world environments or virtual depictions in films and photographs. Critically, we argue that careful stimuli selection for these types of studies is vitally important. There is a tendency to treat the categories of "natural" and "urban/built" as being more clearly defined and identifiable than may actually be the case in everyday judgments. Indeed, in a study highlighting the importance of water in stimuli selection, it was pointed out that many studies in this area have demonstrated a bias toward the inclusion of aquatic scenes in the positive-natural category, and that urban scenes containing water were just as likely to elicit positive responses.

This is a fascinating article in my opinion and demonstrates what I've always believed - that time spent in nature is critical to our overall well being. The famed scientist/biologist, E. O. Wilson, writes extensively about our need to be connected to nature in works such as *Biophilia*. In my life, anyway, I know that I simply feel better after time spent outdoors. Summer is upon us and many of the folks I know tend to shy away from the outdoors because of the weather. I encourage you to not do this, but get out in places such as Brooker Creek Preserve - even if for a half-hour in the morning or evening. It is restorative.....





Photos left to right - meadowlark by Mona Gardner, wood stork by Ty Miramonti, and northern parula warbler by Marcelo Rescala.

Friends  of Brooker Creek Preserve



## BEEKEEPERS CLUB

The Friends Beekeepers Club is open to anyone who is interested in beekeeping. Those of us already in the club are very new to the hobby and are learning as we go. Bob Burkard, Beekeepers Club President, is very knowledgeable about beekeeping. We have now built TEN hives, each hosting between 10,000 and 20,000 bees.

Meetings are held the first Sunday of each month at 9:00 am. We meet at the Bee Shed at Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center, gather equipment, and then go to the apiary located about two miles away. Everyone shares in all work.

Annual dues for the club are \$25 per person. You must also be a member of *Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve* in order to join the Beekeepers Club. The Friends Beekeepers Club is an affiliate of *Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve*.

If you would like to join the **Friends Beekeepers Club** or simply have questions, please email [fobcp@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:fobcp@tampabay.rr.com).

## News from the Wildflower Garden

By: Pam Brown

The garden looked good even with nearly no rain in May. It is thriving now that we have had a good bit of rain in June. In May we decided to clean up the area under the large oak at the east side of the garden.

The native grape vines that were cleared out a couple of years ago had started to run rampant again. We removed a great mound of it.

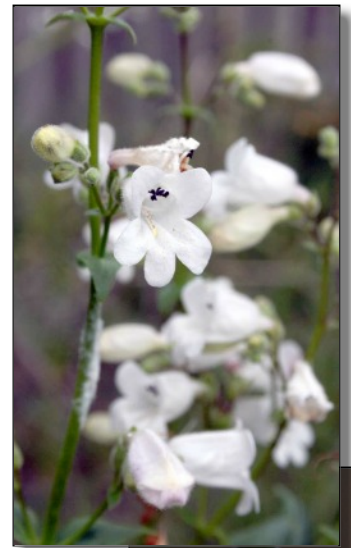
We noticed that there were two more volunteer wildflowers growing and blooming in the garden. We found a white Beardtongue (*Penstemon multiflorus*) in two separate places and a dainty Spring Ladies' Tresses (*Spiranthes vernalis*) growing and blooming near one of the swamp milkweed plants in the bog garden. I love finding surprises in the garden!

If you can help in the garden, our next workdays are July 27<sup>th</sup> and August 31<sup>st</sup>. The workdays are on the last Saturday of each month from 8:00 -10:00 a.m.



(summer hours). Bring your gardening tools, gloves, hat, sunscreen, bug spray and wear closed-toed shoes. We will provide breakfast snacks, orange juice and coffee. Hope to see you there!

Photos: *Penstemon multiflorus*, lady's tresses with crab spider, and a selfie (left to right, Dixie, Pam, Susan, and Laurie) after cleaning up under the oak in May.



## Pam's Thoughts

Have you ever noticed how many large live and laurel oak trees are planted into small urban landscapes? These trees, while native and important can become quite a nuisance when planted without sufficient room to spread their roots and canopies. Trees have a root spread of at least three times the height of the tree - that is a lot of ground to cover. When there is not enough space for the roots, especially the large stability roots that keep the tree standing upright, then driveways, sidewalks and sometimes building foundations can be broken and heaved up to provided the needed space for the roots.

Perhaps we should look at some smaller native trees as alternatives. There are some lovely trees that will provide some shade and also some blooms and fruit for the insects and birds. Two University of Florida publications found on the internet have listings for many native trees along

with their mature size, growing conditions and hardiness zones. *Native Trees for North Florida* (<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/EP/EP00700.pdf>) and *Native Trees for South Florida* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/EH/EH15700.pdf>) can provide you with the information that you will need to choose the best tree for your landscape conditions. It is important to observe your landscape for shade and sun patterns, water holding capacity of the soil and what other plants are in the area. Remember also, just because the plant is a Florida Native, that does not mean that it will grow under any conditions. Pay close attention to growing conditions for each tree you choose.

Some of my favorite smaller native trees are;

**Yaupon Holly** (*Ilex vomitoria*) - you will want to choose a female tree for berries since there are male and female varieties. Choosing a tree in late summer to early fall will assure that the tree has berries. When this tree is in bloom, it is a pollinator magnet - my tree literally buzzes during bloom time.

**Simpson's Stopper** (*Myrcianthes fragrans*) - This is a shrubby plant that can be pruned into a single or multiple trunk small tree. As the tree ages the bark exfoliates to show reddish-brown bark underneath. The small, fragrant spring flowers attract many pollinators and the red berries are favorites of birds.

**Bluejack oak** (*Quercus incana*) and **Myrtle oak** (*Quercus myrtilifolia*) are two small oaks that are well suited for smaller landscapes. They both can thrive in poorer soils.

**Sweet Acacia** (*Acacia farnesiana*) is a small, thorny, bushy tree with wonderfully fragrant small yellow flowers in the fall. Because of the thorns it should be planted away from walkways. The flowers are used in perfume making.

If you are looking for new trees to plant, be sure to do your research before choosing what to plant. And, if you have overhead utility wires, look up and consider the mature height and canopy spread of any tree you choose.

*Welcome to our new  
Friends members:*

**Lauren Murphy  
Marcelo Rescala  
George & Paula Delano**

## Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve Readers Club

By: Jon Burr

The book for May: If you want to read something that exudes warmth you won't do better than Jeff Klinkenberg's 'Dispatches from the Land of Flowers'. Written a century ago in the 1990's, Jeff is no goody two shoes but as 'all American' as a Norman Rockwell painting. I'm my happiest when something moves me to a little clutch in the throat, maybe a lack of dry eye: Jeff's my man. He spoke at the Preserve a few months ago. (Pushing a book, why not?) For me, reading about people and places I grew up knowing - I lived just up Douglas Ave from the Cast Net King - is always a treat. The book was well liked by all. Difficult to find any serious fault. The common statement was: "It's Klinkenberg, what's not to like."



On to June: Enter Susan Cerulean: 'Tracking Desire'. Cerulean apparently is trying (still) to work out some kinks in her life along with the realization of the manmade 'kinks' in the natural world. Her fixation on the swallow tailed kites and their slow diminution across America didn't seem to do her own search for an anchor in her life any favors.

One of the reasons I read books is to maybe help me nudge along some ideas toward a coherent understanding of what it is all about. Doing the 'dawn experience' at the Preserve some weeks ago I met a couple and the wife, when I mentioned the Friends bookclub, said she had gone to several different book clubs but they were all getting 'too heavy'. I mentioned that our book club mostly stayed with Florida history or wildlife with a novel now and then by a Florida related author. Now I finish reading Cerulean. Just maybe the kind of book that turned off my new acquaintance!

Where did the 'nudge' lead: Maybe we, the only sentient beings here, should have started way before now dealing with the problem. A hundred years ago? A thousand? (I think we may be a 'beta' test species for sentience).

All the women liked the book, all the men didn't. So then we had a great discussion about the role of culture and gender. I would recommend the book, though.

In July we discuss "For Sale - American Paradise", Willie Drye and in August any Tim Dorsey novel. Please join us. There is always room at the table. The Friends of Brooker Creek Readers Club meets the first Saturday of the month at 9:30 in the conference room in the Education Center.

## Volunteer News and More!

By Julia Myers, Education Support Specialist, Brooker Creek Preserve

**Fire Update:** The Preserve will remain partially open until further notice.

Visitors may hike the Ed Center Trail and

the Bird Path only. The rest of the trails are not accessible and will be undergoing rehab efforts.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation as far as we know.

**Shout out to our Lara!** She will be the new leader of the National Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals! In January she became the organization's youngest-ever president-elect and will be taking on the mantle in 2020. We are SO proud!

**Lara is introducing a new program in July for teens!** Teens for Trees is a free 3-day workshop for our next generation of tree stewards. We will provide an opportunity for young adults to meet experts in the field, learn real-world skills, and so much more. If you know any teens ages 14-18 please help us spread the word. Details at:

<https://teensfortrees.eventbrite.com>

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

**Our James just released his latest issue of**

**Tampensis!** If you don't receive it yet, well...you

should! Tampensis is a periodical 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

[jstevenson@pinellascounty.org](mailto:jstevenson@pinellascounty.org) to be added to the list!





# Kitchen Botany

You may know more than you think about botany from everyday interactions with plants in the kitchen! We will explore where our fruits, vegetables, herbs, and spices really come from and how many of them were “domesticated” from wild plants. Presented by James Stevenson, UF/IFAS Pinellas County Extension Specialist.

Saturday, July 27 @ 10:30am



# Capture the Moment: Photographing Nature

Have you wondered what all of those ‘other’ knobs and settings on your camera do? And what about all those options when you push the Menu button? The manual gives a short description, but how and when do you use them? And what difference does it make? Join professional photographers Karl and Kathleen Nichter for a tour of the most common settings on your camera, and what they do. We’ll throw in tips for using them, and some other photography basics too. Bring your questions and your camera!

Meet in the Auditorium!

July 20th  
10:30am

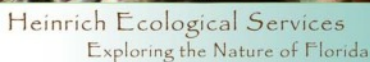


# Why Snakes are Cool

There are 46 native species of snakes in Florida and most occur in the central peninsula. Despite playing important ecological roles as both predators and prey, snakes remain highly misunderstood vertebrates. Only four venomous species occur in central Florida and these snakes present little danger when left alone. Herpetologist and environmental educator George L. Heinrich will present on why snakes are cool, emphasizing Florida snake diversity, natural history, conservation, and snake safety. A selection of live snakes will be available for viewing and handling if participants choose to do so (we hope that you will). This program is recommended for all ages. Free!

Saturday, July 13  
10:30 am

Register at: <https://whysnakesarecool.eventbrite.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](mailto:fobcp@tampabay.rr.com)

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## BROOKER CREEK PRESERVE

Cool calendar for your refrigerator!

\*Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve events

July 2019

For program details click [here](#)

THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		
4 <b>INDEPENDENCE DAY</b> <b>EDUCATION CENTER CLOSED</b> <b>ED CENTER HIKING LOOP OPEN</b>		5		6 <b>*Friends Readers Club 9:30-10:30</b>		7 <b>*Beekeepers Club 9 am-noon</b>		
11 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:30		12 Wild Things (pre-K stories & songs) 10-10:45		13 Songbird Sunrise 5:45 -7:30 Beginning Bird Hike 8-10 am Why Snakes are Cool 10:30-12		14		
17	18 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:30	19 Family Fun Friday 10:00-11:00		20 <b>*Return the Preserve Work Day</b> <b>8-11 am</b> Nature Walk 9:00-10:30 Nature Photography Program 10:30-12		21 Dragonfly Discovery Walk 9:00-10:30		
July 17-19 Watershed Exploration Workshop - Grades 6-8 9:00 am - 3:00 pm <b>Registration required</b>								
Mon 22 - Wed 24 Teens for Trees 9 am - 2 pm Ages 14-18 <b>Registration required</b>		25 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:30	26 Mosquito Mania 10:30-12 (ages 7-10) <b>Registration required</b>		27 <b>*Wildflower Garden Work Day</b> <b>8:00-10:00 am</b> Kitchen Botany 10:30-12:30		28 <b>*Paint for the Wild 12-3 pm</b> <b>Registration required at</b> <a href="https://paintforthewild.com">https://paintforthewild.com</a>	

## August 2019

THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
1 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:30		2		3 <b>*Friends Readers Club</b> <b>9:30 -10:30</b> Singing Insects 10:30-12		4 <b>*Beekeepers Club 9:00 am</b>	
8 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:30		9 Wild Things-preK stories 10-10:45		10 Songbird Sunrise 6:00 am -7:30 Beginners Bird Hike 8:00-10:00		11	
15 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:30		16 Family Fun Friday 10-11 am		17 Nature Walk 9:00-10:30 Brooker Creek Explorers 4H <i>Informational Meeting 2-3 pm</i>		18 Dragonfly Discovery Walk 9:00-10:30	
21 <b>*FOBCP Board Meeting</b> <b>6-8 pm</b>	22 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:30	23		24 Butterflies of Brooker Hike 9:00-10:30 Botany for Beginners 10:30-12:00 (ages 12+)		25	
29 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:30		30		31 <b>*Wildflower Garden Work Day</b> <b>8:00-10:00 am</b>		Sept. 1	

**Hiking Trails are open every day from 7:00 am until posted time, usually 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](http://www.FriendsOfBrookerCreekPreserve.org)  
Email: [fobcp@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:fobcp@tampabay.rr.com)  
Voicemail: (727) 934-2680

**Brooker Creek Preserve:**  
Phone: (727) 453-6900  
Website: [www.brookercreekpreserve.org](http://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](mailto: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

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

### Directors:

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Land Use: Dr. Craig Huegel  
Music in the Woods: Jane Myers  
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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  
Website Master: Cathy Ordiway

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

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