


Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve

September - October 2019

Chairman's Message

By Cathie Foster

Although this newsletter comes to you in the midst of ongoing summer heat and humidity, it really is a fall newsletter. In it you will find information about the many fall happenings at the Preserve. I hope just reading it makes you feel cooler! You will see details about these Friends events and more throughout the newsletter.

Paint for the Wild with Kelly Quinn -
September 8

Nathan Beard Art Exhibit Opening
Reception - September 15

Off the Beaten Path Hike - September 22

Fall Wildflower Festival - October 5

Owl-o-Ween - October 26

Owl Prowl Night Hike - October 26

Remember, there is a handy calendar at the end of the newsletter to remind you of events you might want to be part of. For event details and registration information (if required) please see our website www.FriendsOfBrookerCreekPreserve.org and click on *Environmental Education Center Events*.

HAPPY FALL to ALL!

Save the Dates Upcoming Friends Events

- Sept 7 FOBCP Readers Club 9:30-10:30 am
- Sept 1 Beekeepers Club 9 am
- Sept 8 Paint for the Wild 12-3 pm
- Sept 15 Art Gallery opening reception 1-3 pm:
Nathan Beard: Drawing Water
- Sept 22 Off the Beaten Path Hike:
In Search of Catesby's Lily 9 am
- Sept 28 Wildflower Garden work day 8-10 am
- Oct. 5 FOBCP Readers Club 9:30-10:30 am
- Oct. 5 Fall Wildflower Festival
- Oct. 6 Beekeepers Club 9 am
- Oct. 19 Return the Preserve Work Day 8-11
- Oct. 26 Owl-O-Ween
- Oct. 26 Night Hike "Owl Prowl" 7 pm
- Oct. 26 Wildflower Garden work day 8-10 am
- Nov. 10 Music in the Woods: Florida Cracker
Cowboys 4:30 - 7 pm
- Nov. 19-23 Eco-Tour to Cuba
- Nov. 30 Night Hike 6 pm
- Dec. 8 Opening reception 1-3: Tarpon Springs
Art Assoc. Annual Exhibition
- Dec. 28 Night Hike 6 pm

The Coast to Coast Trail has continued into Pasco County



The Coast to Coast Trail used to stop at the Pasco County line, about 200 yards beyond these signs, at the extreme northern border of Brooker Creek Preserve.



Now the trail continues north to Trinity Blvd., pictured above. Upon completion, the trail will link Brooker Creek Preserve with Starkey Wilderness Park.

Membership renewals - Something new!

We have finally taken the leap and have started using membership management software. This has been a long time coming . . . because it turns out you can teach old dogs new tricks, but there's a big learning curve!

Going forward, your membership renewal reminder notices will be generated automatically. Hopefully, it will all work seamlessly. But just in case there are glitches, please be patient while we work them out.

If you should receive a renewal reminder when you have already paid, or if anything else is amiss, please contact us to let us know. fobcp@tampabay.rr.com
OR 727-934-2680



Grey hairstreak nectaring on few-flowered milkweed, photo by Lisa

Upcoming Art Exhibitions at Brooker Creek Preserve Auditorium Gallery

By Lynn Whitelaw

The Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve is pleased to announce the schedule of exhibitions for the fall 2019 to summer 2020 year. Over the past three years artists and groups have been invited to show their work in the Brooker Creek Education Center Auditorium and Lobby. The purpose of these exhibits is to provide an opportunity for artists who use nature, and specifically Brooker Creek, to display their work. In past exhibition years, photographer Lisa Fitch, painters John Gurbacs and Taylor Ikin, the nature artists of the Tarpon Springs Art Association, a traveling Audubon Photography Awards, and our own Plein Air event artists have been shown in this space. With each exhibit, works are often for purchase and 10% of those sales goes back to support the Friends - a win, win!)

For the upcoming season, three accomplished contemporary artists working in the Tampa Bay area have been invited to show nature inspired work: Nathan Beard, Victoria Block and Joseph Weinzettle. In addition, the Tarpon Springs Art Association will host its annual members exhibit in December and two exhibits organized by the Friends, a second Plein Air event and another Members' Photography show will round out the schedule. Each exhibition is accompanied by an opening reception, hosted by the Friends, and often brief comments from the artist and background entertainment enhance the event. Please come out and support these exhibitions (also consider volunteering as a Gallery Sitter on Saturdays, especially this year when we expect larger attendance for our three invited artists - it is a great opportunity to share your love of the Preserve with new and interested visitors).

Kicking off the season are drawings and paintings by Nathan Beard, whose local, national and international exhibitions have made him one of the most highly regarded artists in the area. We are honored to show a current body of work that is inspired by his direct observations of nature, which are then meticulously crafted to evolve reflections, shadows, color and light into an exploration of abstractions in nature.

The works are fascinating, and several are specifically based on studies Nathan did at Brooker Creek this past spring. We hope to see you Sunday, Sept. 15 for the opening reception - come meet the artist!

For more information on these exhibitions contact: Lynn Whitelaw, Gallery Curator
rlwhitelaw7@msn.com
813-784-4225 (cell)



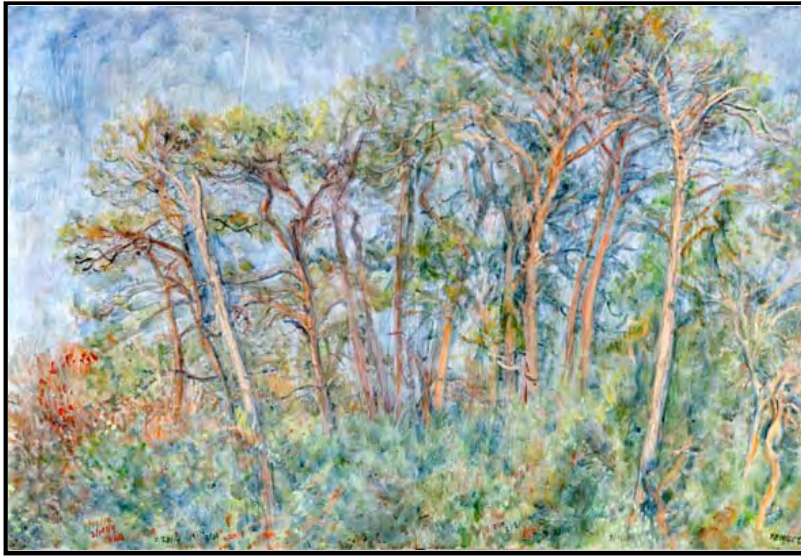
Nathan Beard, *Pond's Edge* 49

Acrylic on panel, 24 x 26 inches

AUDITORIUM GALLERY 2019-2020 EXHIBITION SCHEDULE

2019

- * Sept. 15 - Nov. 17 *Nathan Beard: Drawing Water*
Opening Reception: Sunday, Sept. 15, 1-3 pm
- Dec. 1 - Dec. 29 *Tarpon Springs Art Association Annual Exhibition*
Opening Reception: Sunday, Dec. 8, 1-3 pm



Joseph Weinzettle, *Tarpon Pines*

Silverpoint and oil on panel 24 x 36 inches



Victoria Block, *Tree Landscape*

Mixed media and stencil on canvas, 4 x 3 ft.

2020

- Jan. 19 - Mar. 22 *Victoria Block: Tree Inspirations*
Opening Reception: Sunday, Jan. 26, 1-3 pm
Print Workshop: Saturday, Feb. 15, (TBA)
- Mar. 28 - April 5 *Brooker Creek Preserve: Plein Air 2020*
Plein Air Event: Saturday, Mar. 28, 8 am - 4 pm
Closing Reception: Sunday, April 5, 1-3 pm
- April 19- June 14 *Joseph Weinzettle: En Plein Air*
Opening Reception: Sunday, April 19, 1-3 pm
- June 28 - Aug. 16 *FOBCP 2nd Annual Members' Photography Exhibition*
Opening Reception: Sunday, June 28, 1-3 pm

Volunteers Needed for FOBCP Art Gallery

What do I do? Greet gallery visitors and keep a tally sheet.

Explain a little about the gallery (training and cheat sheet provided)

It's a beautiful, peaceful atmosphere. Gallery visitors come in and out throughout the day. In between visitors, feel free to read, write letters, knit, do yoga, or just enjoy the view out the windows!

When? Weekends Sept 21 - Nov 17

Saturdays: 9 am-12:30 pm and 12:30 pm-4 pm

Sundays: 11 am-4 pm

Shifts are flexible. Let us know when you are available!

Contact: fobcp@tampabay.rr.com OR 727-934-2680



Friends  of Brooker Creek Preserve

Back by popular demand...

OFF THE BEATEN PATH

A nature-based fundraising hike series

Only 5 spots left!

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

Fall Wildflower Festival

at Brooker Creek Preserve
Saturday, October 5, 2019
9:00 am - 4:00 pm

FREE!

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!



Ongoing Activities Outside

- **Wildflower Quest!** —Take the challenge! (last hunt out at 3:00 pm)
- **Butterfly Experience** — Enjoy a walkthrough tent where you will be surrounded by live butterflies! Learn about their life cycle and enjoy their beauty up close and personal!
- **Native Wildflower Sale** — (near parking lot)


In the Classroom Building

Honeybee Observation Hive • Beekeeper Dress-up • Beeswax Candle-Making • Hourly Presentations
9:30 and 12:30 Wildflower Photography - Karl & Kathleen Nichter
10:30 and 1:30 Landscaping with Wildflowers - Dr. Craig Huegel
11:30 Edible Plants - What You Can Eat, What to Avoid - Katy Roberts

In the Auditorium

Nature Crafts for Kids
Butterfly Life Cycle

Exhibit Hall and Nature Store Open!
Snacks available for purchase!
Naturalists on the Trails to Answer Questions!
Come Rain or Shine!

Friends  of Brooker Creek Preserve

This event is sponsored by Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve.

3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs, 34688

Questions? Call 727-934-2680

Email fobcp@tampabay.rr.com



Fall Wildflower Festival

Brooker Creek Preserve

Saturday, October 5, 2019

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

FREE! FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

Sponsorship Form

Sponsorships—\$100 each

Your generous sponsorship helps us defray the costs of this free public event!

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Name as you would like it to appear on advertising and the event signage:

Sponsorship forms (or just a promise) are due no later than **September 28.**

Make checks payable to: *Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve*

Mail to: 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs, FL 34688



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 ENDORSMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. REGISTRATION NUMBER CH. 16077



Fall Wildflower Festival 2019
Volunteers Needed!
Saturday October 5

No experience necessary! Training included!

Complimentary lunch!

Entrance Greeters (parking lot kiosk)

Boardwalk Docents

Wildflower Quest Tables

Nature Crafts for Kids (great job for teens)

Roving Naturalist on the Trail – 2 per shift

And more!

We need YOU!

Typical shifts:

AM shift 8:30-12:30 (lunch 12:30-1:00)

PM shift 12:30-4:30 (lunch 12:00-12:30)

This is a great opportunity to get involved!

For more information or to sign up, please contact Julie at

the1midge@aol.com

or 612-850-0111

Friends  of Brooker Creek Preserve

**ACRE ADOPTIONS FOR
BROOKER CREEK PRESERVE**

Many thanks for the following Acre Adoptions for Sep/Oct 2019:

In memory of Muriel Harris (Barb Hoffman's Mom)

from Cathie Foster & Julie Wade

Please consider adopting an acre as a birthday gift, memorial or to honor a special person. See p. 20 for Adopt an Acre Form and additional information.

Continuing Partnership With Keep Pinellas Beautiful

On Thursday, July 18th, the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve (FOBCP) partnered with Keep Pinellas Beautiful (KPB) as part of their Watershed Exploration: Natural Habitats workshop that took place at the Preserve.

We conducted a Return The Preserve (RTP) Work Day with the middle school students attending the workshop. These students did a great job in removing skunk vine, pepper vine, and grape vine. How great? A dozen bags of vines in only a couple of hours. Excellent job!

Check out their good work around the classroom building and in the muhley grass in the parking area.

FOBCP enjoys partnering with KPB on events like this and we appreciate their support in the form of tools and supplies, water coolers, and more!



Return The Preserve Work Day: The Magnificent Seven - 7/20 By Evan Earle Jr.

On a very hot and muggy Saturday morning, seven dedicated volunteers showed up for our third Return The Preserve (RTP) Work Day of 2019. Our target? The pine saplings marked for removal by Lisa Baltus, Pinellas County Parks & Conservation Resources. Seven truck loads of pines later, we accomplished our goal. Seven volunteers. Seven truckloads. Are you seeing a theme here?

Our hope is that we have helped to create a better environment in the targeted areas. Check them out for yourself. We worked both sides of the entrance/exit loop where the road splits. A huge thank you to the very hard working team who lopped off the little ones and sawed down the larger ones. By larger, we're talking trees seven inches wide and 20 feet plus tall.

Thank you volunteers for a job very well done! We have one more RTP Work Day in October. Please join us as we work to return the preserve to its natural environment.



HAPPY Owl-Oween

Saturday, October 26, 2019
Brooker Creek Preserve

Live owls on display 10:00 - 2:00

Meet "Hoot" the Roaming Owl 9:00 - 3:00

Owl Storytime for Children 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 1:00 & 2:00

Owl Facepainting 9:00-3:00

Owl Pancake Breakfast (\$5/person) 9:00 - 3:00

Owl Pellet Science 9:00 - 3:00 (\$5/person)

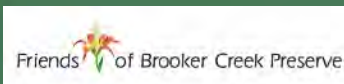
Owl Nest Box Building 9:00 - 3:00 (\$25/person)

Owl Prowl Night Hike 7:00 pm (\$5/person)



3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs, 34688
Questions? Call 727-934-2680 | Email fobcp@tampabay.rr.com

Hosted by
Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve and Clearwater Audubon Society



New Director- Cathy Vogelsong

As you probably know, Cathy is our esteemed and very talented newsletter publisher. She magically takes the many pieces of information we send her, in so many formats, and turns them into the beautiful newsletter you are now reading! She has a long-time love of nature, is extremely knowledgeable about plants and has that special place in her heart for Brooker Creek Preserve. We are so glad to add Cathy to our Board of Directors!

*Welcome to our new
Friends member:*

Rick Becker

Friends  of Brooker Creek Preserve

NIGHT HIKES!

Join the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve for a hiking experience along the Education Center Trail...*at night!* These special 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.

Saturday Oct. 26, 2019 7:00 pm *Owl Prowl*
Saturday Nov. 30, 2019 6:00 pm
Saturday Dec. 28, 2019 6:00 pm
Saturday Feb. 29, 2020 6:00 pm *Star Party!*

Pre-registration is required! Once you register, more information will come to you via email. Pre-register online by logging onto: <https://nighthikes.eventbrite.com>

These hikes are for adults and families only. Children must be accompanied by parents. Please leave your pets at home. Pets are not permitted in County Preserves.

Star Party! Join the Friends AND the St. Petersburg Astronomy Club to view planets, stars, and the moon with telescopes. Night Hikes will be conducted as well.

Questions? Email fobcp@tampabay.rr.com

Music in the Woods - Nov. 10

Music in the Woods is happy to once again host the FLORIDA CRACKER COWBOYS Sunday, November 10, at the outdoor music pavilion. (In the Auditorium if weather is rainy)

Come enjoy their folk rock music which will begin at 4:30 pm and end at 7:00. Feel free to bring a blanket, chairs and a picnic dinner with you.

A \$5 donation is requested for adults.



Paint for the Wild!

Sunday, September 8 from 12-3 pm



Join our next **Paint for the Wild** class and learn how to create your own rendition of a beautiful bluejay! You will be guided step by step on your creative journey in a judgment-free space.

Consider giving this fun art lesson as a gift!

All materials provided
No experience required
Enjoy an assortment of snacks
Explore the exhibits and Nature Store during breaks

Cost: \$45/person

Register online at <https://paintforthewild.com/>

***“Paint for the Wild”** generously donates a portion of registration fees to the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve (non-profit) to support our mission: 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.*

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

Water Water Everywhere by: Craig N. Huegel

The summer rainy season is fast upon us and Brooker Creek Preserve is, once again, fully hydrated. Though the rains this year seem to be a bit unusual in their scattered nature, but great intensity when they occur, we have had a pretty normal amount of total rain for June, July and August. Normal is good.

Water is a critical component for plants and they have adapted pretty much every system inside of them to it. Photosynthesis is driven by water, for example. The oxygen we breathe is a byproduct of the first stage of photosynthesis - the breaking of the molecular bond between oxygen and hydrogen in the water that's inside the plant. Water is critical for keeping the stomata (pores in the leaves and green stems) open that permits carbon dioxide inside the plant - where the carbon comes from that plants use to develop carbohydrates, fats and proteins. Photosynthesis is the process by which plants grow and an abundance of water is one of many things that allows plants to accelerate their growth during this period of the year.

Every nutrient that plants need for growth also comes from water. Nutrients have to be dissolved in water for them to enter a plant and they do so through the roots. You cannot fertilize (most) plants by using a foliar spray. Roots do that work except in a few very rare exceptions. That is why commercial fertilizers rapidly dissolve in water. To be useful, they have to be dissolved in the water that enters a plant through its root system.

Rainwater is slightly acidic. This dissolves many of the essential elements in the soil that plants need. Each time it rains or when water remains surrounding the soil granules, essential elements like potassium, phosphorus and magnesium get released in small doses and then a plant's root system absorbs them. Most soils, even natural Florida sands, have all the essential nutrients plants need to grow well.

Plant roots, therefore, have to be intricately attuned to the soils in which they are growing. Unlike animals, they can't move if things get too wet (or too dry). Over evolutionary time, therefore, they have developed very specific adaptations to the wet(ter) conditions that is part of a normal Florida summer. Roots are the breathing apparatus of a plant. They can't do that when soils



become completely saturated. Plants that don't belong in these habitats drown for lack of oxygen - just as we would. They may not do this immediately (though some do), but lose roots over time, wilt when they seemingly shouldn't, and eventually have all of their roots die and rot away. Plants that occur in seasonally wet locations often grow extra "breathing" roots on their stems that emerge from the stems slightly above the water/saturated soil line. These adventitious roots will die once the soil begins to dry back out, but they are vital when soils are wet. Other plants develop larger, oxygen-filled cells within their stems that are more efficient at transporting the limited oxygen that is available.

If you are out hiking in the Preserve at this time (and you should), reflect on the amazing ability of those plants to cope with conditions that would kill most animals forced to live on the ground and not allowed to move away. Water is what allows plants to grow at their maximum rate (I bet you're mowing your lawn a lot more right now), but it also can pose challenges that plants have evolved to cope with.

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.

Apiary Update: We separated two of our hives into two, so now we have 12 hives total. Fall is the big wildflower season in Florida, so our bees will be busy obtaining pollen and nectar from a host of wildflowers. As bees do not like to fly in the rain, a change of seasons to something drier will be welcome to them. However, as we write this, we plan to ready our hives for possible high winds from Hurricane Dorian during our Sep. 1 meeting.

News from the Wildflower Garden By: Pam Brown

The garden is quite lush with growth and flowers this time of year. Lots of coreopsis and rosinweed both blooming a cheerful yellow. The fall blooming blazing star seem to be sending up their bloom stalks earlier this year possibly since we have had so much rain.

After the Wildflower Festival on October 5 we may need to have a workday to remove some of the false indigo and muhly grass plants. They are becoming too numerous and crowding out some of the other wildflowers.

If you can help in the garden, our next workday is September 28. This is the Saturday before the Wildflower Festival and we will be making sure the garden is at its best. 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!

Pam's Thoughts

One of my favorite native shrubs is American beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*). It forms an open, rounded shrub that is five to eight feet tall and wide. The fuzzy light green leaves are combined with small pink flowers circling the stems spring into summer. These flowers are followed by small, densely clustered berries that turn from green to magenta by fall. These ripe fruits are usually devoured by birds over the next few months, persisting even after the leaves fall.

Beautyberry can be used massed together to form a screen or used singly as a specimen plant. The light green foliage works well naturalized among darker leaved plants. The size can be controlled by regular pruning by thinning out individual branches. Sheering should be avoided since this can remove flowers and developing fruits. Beautyberry should be heavily pruned in late winter to early spring since flowers and fruit are produced on new growth. I prune the one in my front yard down to about 12 inches in late February or early March. In addition, I prune the ends of the individual branches down to the developing fruit clusters once the fruit begins to ripen in August. This reduces the height somewhat and allows the colorful fruit to be fully visible.

This plant is nearly maintenance free and grows well in full sun or light shade on a variety of soils. No pests or diseases are of major concern. Caterpillars may occasionally chew the leaves of beautyberry. *Callicarpa americana* var. *lactea* has white berries and attractive foliage. The cultivar 'Russell Montgomery' has especially nice white berries.



Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve Readers Club

By: Jon Burr

July's book was "For Sale - American Paradise", by Willie Drye. I was not at the July meeting but I had read the book and noticed a certain NIMBY attitude. In the real world, if you don't own the land your favorite view is on you can't really complain if the real owner, who has been paying taxes on your favorite view, decides to do something with his property. I gather that the response to the book was 'tepid'. My thanks to Kathleen and Karl for facilitating the meeting in my absence.



If I'd been smart, I would have also stayed in Europe for the August meeting. All but one of us did finish reading their chosen book. A good comment was that they found the story overall a bit juvenile and the language gratuitous and that it did not add to the character development. The brief reader found the book vulgar and repulsive and was not shy about expressing that opinion. Another reader was happy that their selection was a short book. The selection was any book by Tim Dorsey. Tim lives in Tampa and writes about Florida.

Yes, the language in the novel is a bit strong and I confess to my insensitivity to the feelings of others. I won't apologize as they all have let me know I am not forgiven. I read Tim Dorsey's 'The Clownfish Blues'. It was a series of adventures by the main actor in many of his novels and his less than perfect citizen sidekick. Yes, the language was construction worker talk, at least like the workers I was around in my working days. My bad for not being alert to not everyone being willing to accept this somewhat everyday patois.

The two main heroes were smart, very capable of handling their own and pretty much in charge of their lives, and they were two young women. The main theme of the novel was retribution. It was a loose series of tales about bad people taking advantage of good people; bad people who usually don't get any punishment for their actions. Well, not the case in this novel. Justice was meted out, a few times maybe in a somewhat cruel and definitely unusual way.

In September we discuss the E. O. Wilson novel 'Anthill'. Dr. Wilson is a world renowned environmental advocate and is an expert on ants. In October you have a choice of any book by or about Archie Carr. We'll try to have someone acquainted with Archie at the meeting. Meetings are held the first Saturday of the month at 9:30 am in the Ed Center meeting room. All are welcome: there is plenty of room at the table.

Volunteer News

Education Center Updates & More

By Julia Myers, Education Support Specialist, Brooker Creek Preserve



Shout out to the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve! We seriously have the BEST

Friends group! We were recently able to purchase some 'wish list' items to enhance the Exhibit Hall and support our educational efforts, and we are sending a huge THANK YOU to the FOBCP for making that possible! The FOBCP financially support us in many ways and we are incredibly grateful for their aid. Thanks to their support we now have a new (much more attractive) chalk board style A-frame sign to use outside, aquarium hood lights for the Exhibit Hall, black lights (new moth night event coming soon), hand lenses for James' plant ID workshops, Family Fun equipment, 4-H support, touch table items, and a lot more! The FOBCP also made it possible to purchase a new trail camera (woohoo!) and we can't wait to share the images it captures with you. Our guest speakers for programs are also sponsored by the FOBCP. And of course, all the coffee, tea, and candies in the break room are all courtesy of the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve. We are so very lucky to have the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve, the generous support they provide to us is immeasurable! Thank you, Friends!!!

Big News! James and Lara have been working on a field guide for a loooong time and it is officially published!!! **This or That? A Beginner's Guide to Commonly Misidentified Animals and Plants in Florida**

is a unique identification field guide that uses descriptions and side-by-side photo comparisons to help distinguish between commonly confused species. It covers commonly misidentified birds, mammals, reptiles, invertebrates, plants, and also highlights invasive, threatened, and venomous species. We are so proud of James and Lara and it sure feels good to see this idea come to fruition! The guide is now available for sale from the UF/IFAS Extension Bookstore and will soon be available in the FOBCP Nature Store!



New interpretive kiosk display! Sending a big shout out to BCP volunteer Penny for making a wonderful new display for the kiosk sign at the end of the Bird Path Trail right next to the bird blind. Penny highlights the four main lizards that you are likely to see while hiking the Preserve and adds some fun lizard facts in as well. Be sure to check it out next time you go for a walk. Thanks Penny!

Trail Updates: great news, the Flatwoods Loop has reopened! There is currently a lot of standing water on it, but it is an excellent opportunity to see some of the area that burned and it's beautiful out there! The gates that prohibit people from entering the closed areas have been moved to the Blackwater Cutoff entrance and at the intersection of the Flatwoods Trail and Wilderness. Maps at the Front Desk have been updated.



Hiking the flatwoods loop.

Life of Lichen

Brooker Creek Preserve is home to many of Florida's fascinating lichens. Explore these unusual organisms during a classroom/outdoor activity. We will study the natural history of lichen, then take a stroll to view them around the Environmental Education Center. Identification tips, interesting facts and more await participants. Presented by James Stevenson, UF/IFAS Pinellas County Extension Specialist. Free!



Saturday
September 28
10:30am



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

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!

September 2019

**Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve events*

| THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY |
|---|--|--|--|
| 5 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15 | 6 | 7 *Friends Readers Club 9:30-10:30 Swamp Ecosystem 10:30-12:00 **Moth Mania 7:30-9:30 pm **Registration required | 8 *Paint for the Wild 12-3 pm <i>Registraton required at paintforthewild.com</i> |
| 12 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15 | 13 Wild Things (pre-K stories & songs) 10-10:45 | 14 Beginning Bird Hike 8-10 am Falcon Fascination 10:30-12 | 15 Dragonfly Discovery Walk 9-11 am *Art Reception (Nathan Beard) 1-3 pm |
| Wed 18 *FOBCP Board Meeting 6-8 pm | 19 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15 | 20 Family Fun Friday 10:00-11:00 | 21 Guided Hike 9:00-10:30 |
| 26 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15 | 27 | 28 *Wildflower Garden Work Day 8:00-10:00 am Photography Hike 8:30-10:30 Guided Hike 9:00-10:30 am Life of Lichen 10:30-12:30 | 22 *Off the Beaten Path Hike 9:00-1:00 \$25/psn donation \$22.50 for FOBCP members |

October 2019

| THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY |
|--|---|--|--|
| 3 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15 | 4 | 5 *Friends Readers Club 9:30-10:30 *Fall Wildflower Festival 9 am - 4 pm | 6 *Beekeepers Club 9:00 am |
| 10 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15 | 11 Native Plant Hike 9-10:30 Wild Things-preK stories 10-10:45 | 12 Beginning Bird Hike 8-10 am | 13 |
| 17 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15 | 18 Family Fun Friday 10-11 am | 19 *Return the Preserve Work Day 8-11 am Guided Hike 9:00-10:30 Galls 10:30-12 | 20 Dragonfly Discovery Walk 9-11 am |
| 24 and 31 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15 | 25 | 26 Photography Hike 8:30-10:30 *Owl-o-Ween 9am -3pm *Night Hike (Owl Prowl) 7-10 pm | 27 *Off the Beaten Path Hike 9:00-1:00 \$25/psn donation \$22.50 for FOBCP members |

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 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
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 Poyner
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 Bookkeeper:
Kathleen Nichter
Newsletter Editor: Dr. Craig Huegel
Newsletter Publisher: Cathy Vogelsong
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
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 CH 16077