


Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve

November - December 2017

Chairman's Message

by Cathie Foster

As we move into the coming holiday months, I think we are all reminded to be thankful for the gifts we have; big and small, tangible and intangible.

Recently I read this quote, attributed to William Arthur Ward; "Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it." Think about that. When someone does something for you, they have given you a gift of sorts. The thanks you express for that is, in itself, a gift back to the original giver. So, this message is a gift of thanks from the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve.

First of all, we are thankful to the Pinellas County Commissioners and County staff, especially former County Administrator Fred Marquis and former Assistant County Administrator Jake Stowers, along with Pinellas County Utilities and SWFWMD. Back in the early 1990's, they had the foresight to work together to set aside the land that has become Brooker Creek Preserve. We now have almost 9,000 acres of protected Preserve land in the most densely populated county in Florida, as well as a beautiful Environmental Education Center!

We are also very thankful for the partnership forged between Pinellas County Department of Parks and Conservation Resources (PCR) and the UF/IFAS Extension in Pinellas County, who worked together to keep the Education Center open after the 2008 recession resulted in the elimination of many government programs and job positions. At that time the future of the Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center and its sister center at Weedon Island in St. Pete seemed very uncertain. The partnership

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between Pinellas County PCR, headed by Paul Cozzie, and UF/IFAS Extension, now headed by Jeffrey Gellermann and previously by recently-retired Mary Campbell, has continued to work well as both centers have remained open and are thriving!

Many thanks go out to the staff at the Education Center; Lara, James, Julia and Sheree, who share their love and knowledge of nature so enthusiastically through programs, hikes, and every day interactions with the public and volunteers.

Although you don't see them often, our rangers, Scott, Tony, Tom and Gloria, work tirelessly behind the scenes to keep the outside areas of the Education Center and our four miles of public hiking trails spruced up. You may see them mowing, trimming or painting signs, but mostly they work out of the limelight to keep the outside areas looking great. Even more elusive, but equally vital and deserving of thanks is Lisa Baltus, North County Land Manager for Parks and Conservation Resources. She is responsible for maintaining the ecological health of the thousands of acres of parks and preserves north of Ulmerton Road. The biggest of those areas is, of course, the nearly 9,000-acre Brooker Creek Preserve. Hats off you each of you!

Then there's the volunteer "staff", the amazing and dedicated group of folks who are paid entirely with gratitude (and candy). You are the ones who really make the programs, activities, and new ideas come to life! Under the guidance of the County staff and the Friends, you welcome and engage the public, lead hikes, provide programs on-site, provide outreach in the community, run the Nature Store, maintain trails, and countless other invaluable tasks. We extend our sincere gratitude to each and every one of you!



Sky flower, photo by Craig Huegel.

Save the Dates Upcoming Friends Events

- Oct. 1 to Dec. 10 Gallery Exhibit:
Lisa Fitch, Photography
- Nov. 4 Friends Annual Meeting
- Nov. 4 FOBCP Book Club
- Nov. 11 Music in the Woods: 2PM
- Nov. 25 Wildflower Garden Work Day
- Dec. 2 FOBCP Book Club
- Dec. 10 Music in the Woods:
Meriggiare String Quartet
- Jan. 20 Return the Preserve Work Day

And finally, huge thanks to our many members, donors, and sponsors who continue to assist the Friends financially. You wouldn't do that if you didn't believe strongly in our mission and all we do to support and enhance the work that goes on at Brooker Creek Preserve. And we couldn't do that without **your** generous support.

A heartfelt THANK YOU to each of you for your love of and commitment to Our Wildest Place!

Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve

Approved Budget 2017-2018

Total Income from Operations	59,000
Total Expenses	47,915
Net Income/(Loss)	11,085

INCOME	
Operating Income	
Memberships	11,000
Nature Store	25,000
Iron Ranger	1,100
Donation Boxes	1,000
Other Donations	6,500
Subtotal Operating	44,600
Major Events	
Fall Wildflower Festival	4,000
Spring Wildlife Safari	4,500
Owl-O-Ween	1,500
Music in the Woods	2,250
Subtotal Major Events	12,250
Activities	
Off the Beaten Path Hikes	1,000
Adult Ecology Workshops	100
Art Classes	-
Guided Hike Donations	100
Night Hike Donations	700
Birdathon	250
Music Jamboree	-
Subtotal Activities	2,150
Total Income from Operations	59,000

EXPENSE	
Major Events	
Fall Wildflower Festival	3,100
Spring Wildlife Safari	2,500
Owl-O-Ween	2,000
Music in the Woods	850
Subtotal Major Events	8,450
Activities	
Night Hikes	400
Adult Ecology Workshops	-
Art Classes	-
Off the Beaten Path Hikes	-
Music Jamboree	300
Birdathon	400
Beekeeping	3,000
Other	500
Subtotal Activities	4,600
Brooker Creek Preserve Support	
Volunteer Support	2,040
Education Programs	1,900
Research/Grants	-
Wildflower Garden	450
Return the Preserve	500
ANCA Summit	600
ANCA Membership	130
Repairs/Maint./Signage	2,750
Educ. Materials - IFAS	1,200
Exhibit Hall	1,900
Subtotal BCP Support	11,470

Nature Store	
Cost of Sales	10,750
Expenses	3,800
Subtotal Nature Store	14,550
Membership	
Annual Meeting	200
Publications	200
Family Campout	200
Administration	100
Subtotal Membership	700
Public Relations	
Tarpon Spr. Chamber of Comm	150
Iron Ranger	200
Website	120
Other	1,200
Subtotal Public Relations	1,670
Administration	
Telephone	250
Bank Fees	250
Office Expenses	50
Postage	25
Filing Fees/Permits	300
Insurance	4,400
Professional Fees	200
Other	1,000
Total Administration	6,475
Total Expenses	47,915

Gallery Exhibit: Lisa Fitch photography - Oct. 1



Our new FOBCP Gallery Director Lynn Whitelaw and photographer Lisa Fitch, with Cathie Foster and Barb Hoffman, and the gallery opening of Lisa's exhibit.



As It Is Now



Blissful Stillness



Falling into Flight

Among Lisa's pieces, the two at the left were taken at Brooker Creek Preserve.

Below, Lisa Fitch speaking at the reception. This was the first gallery show hosted by the Friends. Photos below and top left by Jane Myers, other photos by Cathy Vogelsong.



Fall Wildflower Festival — Oct. 7

By Cathie Foster

Over 800 people attended our annual Fall Wildflower Festival on Saturday, October 7. As always, the Festival is a free event with something for everyone! Kids young, old...and older, flocked to the huge **Butterfly Workx butterfly tent** to be surrounded by and tickled by (literally) a flurry of live butterflies.

The classroom porch was all about bees! Our own Friends beekeeper, Bob, and his assistant, Ryan, were busy all day long sharing the secrets of bees with the crowd. The honey sales table took in over \$400, while, nearby, kids were guided in the making of their own beeswax candle.

Lynn selling honey and passing out samples.



Bee assistant Ryan demonstrates the honey extractor. Right, Julie helps a junior beekeeper try on gear at the Fall Wildflower Festival. Both photos by Julia Myers,



Above, the welcome station, manned by volunteers Jim (left), Bob and Jan.



Volunteer Joyce shows Jasmine how to make a beeswax candle.



The Kids Craft Room was a-buzz all day as volunteers helped the younger crowd create a variety of nature-themed art projects and introduced them to live caterpillars up-close, as they explained the butterfly's life-cycle.

Throughout the day, visitors attended presentations by experts to learn about Pinellas County wildflowers; how to landscape with them, how to photograph them and which ones are edible (or not!).

The Wildflower Quest got participants out on the trails in a scavenger hunt-type search for native plants and wildflowers.



Nature Crafts for Kids stations, and the caterpillar petting zoo (left).



Shelf fungus and Florida paintbrush,, along the Quest trail.

Allyn (left) and Penny at the Wildflower Quest station. Thanks to Barb Hoffman for the "Wildflower (and cool) Plant Quest" sheets.



Nancy and Mark answered question near the end of the Quest trail.



Inspired by the wildflower theme of the festival, many folks visited the native plant sale to purchase plants for their own yards. By the end of the day, every plant had been sold! Right, the busy sales tent.



The Brook Creek trail was looking lovely. Note the wild pine airplant in the oak, flagged for the Quest. Wildflower Festival photos by Cathy Vogelsong, except as noted.

A huge event like this, of course, can only happen with the dedication and hard work of the many volunteers who gave over 300 hours of their time on the day of the event, in addition to the many hours spent planning for it. The Friends extend sincere thanks to each and every one of you. You are an amazing group! We also thank our many sponsors. We could not have done this event without all of you!



Zebra longwing, queen and monarch butterflies, on a scorpiontail plant in the butterfly tent..



Kaya at the \$1 table with volunteer Isobel, and, left, with a new friend. Photos by Julia Myers.



Friends  of Brooker Creek Preserve

Fall Wildflower Festival
Brooker Creek Preserve
Saturday, October 7, 2017

MANY THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!

Laurie Angyn
The Burr Family
Clearwater Audubon Society
Garden Club of Tarpon Springs
Hoffman Architects, PA
Jim and Ann Larsen
Microaccounting
The Myers Family
Nichter Photography
Pampered Gardeners
Chuck & Kim Parsons
Louis T. Petersen



Pinellas Chapter Florida Native Plant Society
Prudential Advisors - Barbara Schultz, Financial Advisor
Radiology Associates of Tarpon Springs-Doug Eiland, MD
The Reker Family
Rotary Club of East Lake Sunrise
Sherry, Jane and Jeff
Sue, Martha and Lois
Waddell & Reed Financial Advisors
Julie Wade

Off the Beaten Path: In Search of Catesby's Lily - Oct. 8



Fifteen hardy hikers enjoyed the search for Catesby's lilies with Craig Huegel. Photo by Barb Hoffman.



And they found over twenty beautiful lilies in full bloom! Photo by Craig Huegel.

Shop for everyone on your gift list this holiday at smile.amazon.com/ch/59-3302182 and Amazon donates to Friends Of Brooker Creek Preserve Inc.

**Support us when you shop
this holiday season**

Buy your gifts and holiday essentials at
smile.amazon.com. You shop. Amazon donates.



amazonsmile



Owl-O-Ween - Oct. 28

Owl nest boxes



Cathie and Barb at the station, photo by Julia Myers.



Volunteer Ray Poyner, above, precut all the wood for the nest boxes. Here he is helping a youngster put together her own owl nest box. Her parents were watching with pride!



John Hood, of Clearwater Audubon, also helped build boxes, photo by Cathie Foster.

Owl pancakes



Many thanks to our local Rotary Clubs for making owl pancakes for the event. Here is the afternoon team from Tarpon Springs Rotary Club. From the left, Patty Sendker, Ramona Pletcher, Sue Thomas, and Joan Tobey. Not pictured is Jessica, a high school Rotary foreign exchange student.



The team from East Lake Sunrise Rotary Club who did the morning shift making owl pancakes. From left to right, Rick Buschart, Jay Ozbun, Bob Host, Howard Raphan, Kelly Spencer, and Christina Green Rankin. Thank you all!





Owl photo ops

The children loved "Owliver" the man-sized owl who prowled the boardwalks.



Angelo and Julie with "Owliver."



Left to right, Adam, "Owliver," Bob, and Barry, Julie Wade and Evan Earle took turns in the costume.



And more Owl photos

Clearwater Audubon brought owls up close and personal with the public. At left is the beautiful Barred Owl . . .



...And the Barn Owl with a crowd of admirers, above . . .



. . . And the little Screech Owl gets a close-up

Real owl photos by Friends member & Rotary pancake flipper, Sue Thomas.



Owl face painting

Lauren painting Hannah, and Michael in face paint. Photos of face painting and coloring by Julia Myers.



And other owl activities

Coloring at owl story time.



The Still family explores owl pellets. Left, the owl scavenger hunt. Photos by Cathie Foster.



The Wildflower Garden was in full bloom for Owl-O-Ween!

Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve
New Member
Chris Huntoon

Music Jamboree - Oct. 15

We had an amazing music jam on October 15th! Our fantastic jam leader, Brad Myers, handled a group of very young violinists and vocalists like the music teacher he is.

Katherine Hintz, the instructor at Hintz Academy of Music, brought young violin students and singers to our jam and we had a blast! She also joined in and helped her students with the notes needed to play along with Brad. We also had a guitarist who also plays harmonica. The music was wonderful. The 50 people in attendance (parents and grandparents and others) really enjoyed the 2-hour jam! I think most of the people in attendance were at The Preserve for the very first time!



Photos by Greg Reich.

Return the Preserve Work Day: Saving The Best For Last — 10/21

by Evan Earle Jr.

We may have saved the best for last, our last Return The Preserve (RTP) Work Day of 2017 that is. This RTP Work Day was a little special. Our friends and partners at Keep Pinellas Beautiful (KPB) helped us with free reusable water bottles, shovels loppers, gloves, coolers of ice water, and Chick-fil-A gift cards, as we teamed up with them to support the International Coastal Clean Up! We started our RTP Work Day with a discussion of what we try to accomplish and how our efforts contribute to a cleaner, more healthy watershed containing a creek whose water eventually makes it all the way to the Gulf Of Mexico. It was a great way to start our RTP Work Day.

Thank you KPB!

Fortunately, we were blessed with nice weather (dare I claim that it was less humid and a little cooler?) and another outstanding turnout of volunteers. We were joined by friends from Hillsborough Academy of Math and Science, Pasco County, and more! Each and every one of them were eager to get started.

Thanks to some helpful guidance from the staff at Brooker Creek Preserve (thank you Lara and Julia), we focused on removing caesarweed from along the boardwalk near the creek and from around the Education Center. Hail Caesar! Um, NO! To borrow from Shakespeare (bet you didn't think you'd be reading Shakespeare today did you), "We came to remove Caesar, not to praise him." And remove we did. A dozen bags of caesarweed were carefully removed, bagged up, and placed in the dumpster so as to avoid spreading it. Big caesarweed, little caesarweed, somewhere in between caesarweed. Nothing was spared. In the process, Teresa, one of our volunteers, locked onto the catbrier growing in the area. She dug and pulled and tracked the vine down to its tuberous beginning. To say Teresa was persistent is an understatement. And the catbrier population is a little smaller thanks to her diligence!



I learned that, regardless of the assigned target, I can't have an RTP Work Day without some vines coming down. Our volunteers LOVE pulling down grape vines and catbrier vines. So I had to indulge them. As a result, we have some happier trees that are once again open and hopefully healthier. Our debris pile at the exit of the parking lot is the proof of their hard work. So THANK YOU Pam, Courtney, Sandra, Jeremy, Jacob, Jared, Teresa, Brandi, Emma, Jake, Nicole, Richard, Janessa, and Marion. We appreciate your time and your hard work!



Photos by Evan Earle Jr.

I want to give a special shout out to Jimmy Johns in Tarpon Springs. We ordered some of their delicious sandwiches for lunch and the owner, Jackie, was kind and generous in donating a free tray to add to our order. Jackie and her Jimmy Johns have been very supportive of our efforts. So, thank you Jackie! Everyone really enjoyed the sandwich assortment you prepared and we REALLY enjoyed the delicious, crisp pickles! Yum!

I can't think of a better way to spend an Autumn morning than working with volunteers at Brooker Creek Preserve. We give to the Preserve and the Preserve gives back to us. Don't believe me? I invite you to check out the muhley grass blooming right now. It is a beautiful sign of Autumn in Florida and there is plenty of it to admire and enjoy in our parking lot and in our Wildflower Garden outside the auditorium. It is the Treat of our Trick or Treat season!

Our next RTP Work Day and the first one in 2018 will be on the third Saturday of January, the 20th. It will be winter (according to the calendar anyway) so let's hope for some cool weather as we join forces once again to help Return The Preserve to its natural environment.

Please register at eventbrite.com

Friends  of Brooker Creek Preserve
presents
MUSIC IN THE WOODS SERIES
with the
harmonic contemporary/folk music of
2PM



Saturday, November 11, 2017 4:30 7:00 pm

Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center

This concert will be held in Outdoor Music Pavilion

\$5/person donation requested, children under 16 FREE!

**Bring drinks, picnic dinner and lawn chairs or a blanket.
(If raining, concert will take place inside the Auditorium.)**

Sorry, no pets or alcoholic beverages.

Questions: fobcp@tampabay.rr.com

or

727-934-2680

Meriggiare String Quartet - Sunday, Dec. 10

We are once again honored to host an excellent string quartet at the Preserve. The Meriggiare String Quartet will be playing in the Auditorium / Gallery on Sunday, December 10th, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. We were happy to host them last November and it was marvelous! This is a concert you don't want to miss.

\$5 per person donation requested. Light refreshment included.

Please register at www.eventbrite.com

Friends  of Brooker Creek Preserve

Music in the Woods Series

Meriggiare String Quartet

Italian for: To escape the heat of the midday sun by resting in the shade



Nina Kim

Lindsey Jones

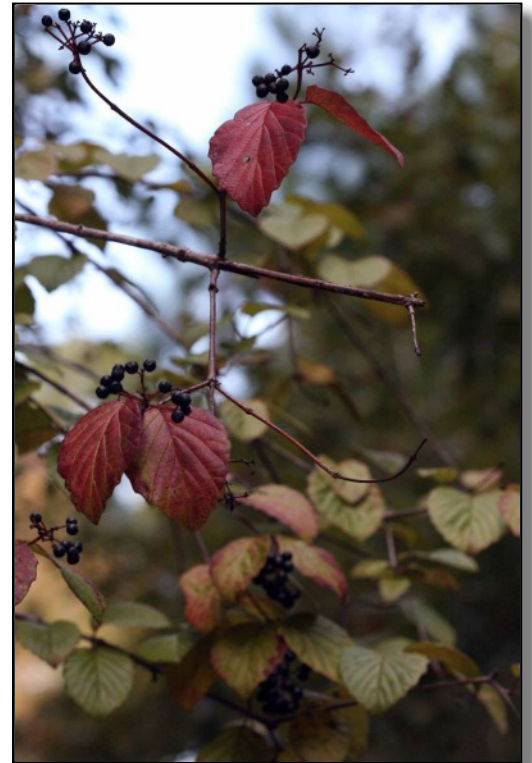
Josh Dampier

Edevaldo Mulla

Sunday, December 10, 2017, 2:00 - 4:00 pm

Fall Color By: Craig Huegel

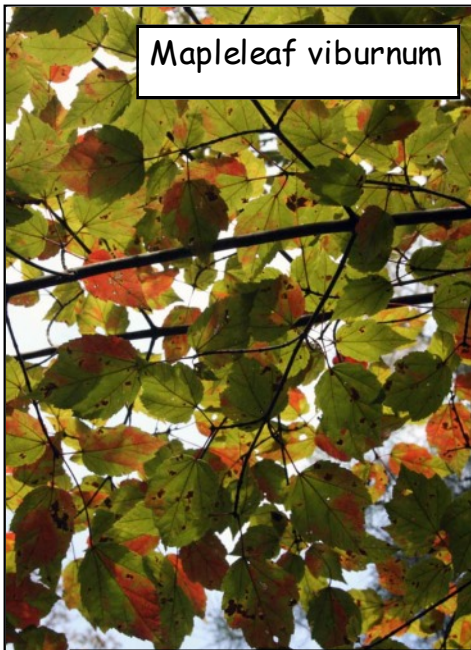
As Floridians, we rarely get the type of fall color in our foliage as states to our north. Some of us become part of the enormous exodus to fall-color states in order to view it. Make no mistake about it, the economic impact of fall-color viewing is staggering. The New Hampshire Division of Travel and Tourism Development projects the state will see 8.2 million visitors this fall, and they're expected to spend \$1.6 billion. In 2009, New Hampshire had 7.5 million fall tourists, spending a total of \$1 billion. Vermont had 3.6 million fall tourists and \$460 million in spending in 2011, the last year for which comprehensive figures are available, up from \$331 million in 2009 with roughly the same number of people visiting. Visits to state parks in the Green Mountain State are expected to surpass 950,000 this year, an increase of 8% and the highest visit count since 1989, according to state tourism officials. A conservative estimate is that fall color tourism contributes a minimum of \$1 billion per year to the economy of North Carolina, concentrated into the three month window of September thru November. Across the 24 states in the eastern half of the country that have good fall color, leaf peeping may contribute upwards of \$30 billion dollars. That's billions, not millions.



Arrowwood viburnum,
photos by Craig Huegel.

Fall color is something that seems to tie us to wild lands and it is certainly something we seem to yearn for each fall. So, where does this color come from? First of all, the colors we see, the reds, yellows and oranges come from pigments in the leaves that are present year round - at least until leaf fall. Carotenoid pigments are present in certain cells called chromoplasts and they assist chlorophyll in capturing sunlight for photosynthesis. They also act as a sort of sunscreen and protect leaves from the harmful wavelengths in sunlight that might otherwise cause "sunburn". Carotenoids are true pigments and they only come in color shades we witness in the fall. As each plant species has a different combination of the various carotenoid pigments, they exhibit different leaf color in the fall. Hickories are yellow, for example, while red maples (*Acer rubrum*) are red.

Carotenoids are present from spring to fall, but we only see them when the plant stops making chlorophyll in its leaves. Chlorophyll masks the presence of carotenoid pigments. As long as a leaf (or green stem) is manufacturing chlorophyll, it is not possible to see the carotenoid pigments that also are in those tissues. As chlorophyll dissipates from those tissues, the carotenoids slowly emerge and leaves go through a color transition.



Mapleleaf viburnum



Dwarf witch alder



Tulip tree

Although fall color is a result of a plant's "decision" to stop making chlorophyll and prepare for winter, this decision is based on two major environmental forces. The first is day length. Plants have a sophisticated system to detect the length of daylight they receive. What they really are detecting is the length of darkness. As days start to shorten, plants start making plans to get ready for winter. Leaf fall is also a complicated process and it takes several weeks to put everything in motion to have it occur normally. Sudden freezes, for example, catch plants off guard and leaves die instead of falling. They also don't have time to turn color.

Day length is not the only environmental factor that affects fall color, however. It also is tied to temperature. Temperatures that start to diminish in the fall months and sink below 50 degrees help trigger plants to stop producing chlorophyll. This has to be coupled with decreasing day length to work, but without this temperature trigger, leaves do not produce the same show of color that we see in places like New England and the Appalachians. This is why so many of our deciduous hardwood trees here in Pinellas County rarely produce significant color. We rarely get an extended burst of cool nighttime temperatures in late October and November. On those rare occasions when we do, it is amazing how certain trees, like bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) and blue beech (*Carpinus carolinensis*) light up.

A few of our native trees give us a bit of decent color in the fall, simply because they are genetically programmed to do so in our normal fall temperature regime. We don't notice it as well because these species are rarely present in large swaths. Perhaps the best is swamp tupelo (*Nyssa sylvatica*), a tree common to Brooker Creek Preserve's forested wetlands. Red maple and buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) also sometimes demonstrate some color in the fall. If you want more than this, you'll have to be one of the millions of others booking a trip to a place further north - hoping for cool fall nights to intensify the forest's color.

News from the Wildflower Garden

By Pam Brown

Fall is one of the best times for wildflowers in our area.

The Wildflower Garden put on a great show for the Wildflower Festival the first weekend in October. This is the first year that it really looked like a wildflower meadow! We have new plant identification signs in the garden thanks to Pinellas County Extension Agent Theresa Badurek and Master Gardener Emma Esbaugh. We are so grateful for these wonderful signs. We are sending a big, warm, "Thank You" to them both. The signs will be placed in the garden as plants bloom and stored for the next years bloom cycle once blooming is complete. If you have not visited lately, there might be a little bit of time left to see the blooms.

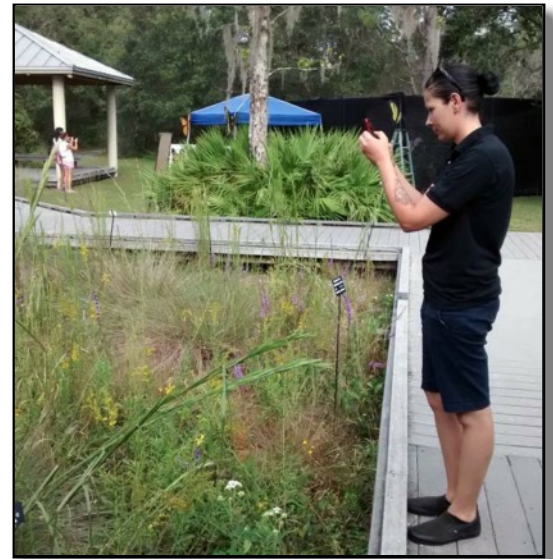
Our normal last Saturday of the month workday is suspended for November and December due to the holidays at the end of these months. We will resume on January 27th with our winter hours of 9 am - 11 am. Starting in January we will be constructing a small bog garden in a corner of the garden and could use a few good men to help with digging.

There will be breakfast snacks and we would love to see you if you would like to spend some time tending to the wildflowers. Wear closed-toed shoes, and bring gloves, gardening tools, bug spray and a hat.

Pam's Gardening Thoughts

I am so glad that it is finally cool enough to be outside working in the landscape. I thought our summer was brutal this year. Fall is a good time to plant bulbs in the landscape so the roots can establish before the weather warms in spring. Three of my favorite native flowering bulbs are listed below.

Rain lilies (*Zephyranthes atamasca* and *Z. simpsonii*) are native to Central Florida, North Florida and the rest of the southeastern United States. This lily, also commonly known as atamasco lily, booms in our area during the spring and summer with white, funnel shaped flowers that fade to pale pink. These flowers usually magically appear several days after a rain. There are numerous non-native species and their hybrids available, that range in color from white, yellow, pink, red and orange.



Karleen photographing the Wildflower Garden during the Fall Wildflower Festival. Below, one of the new signs that grace the garden.



Swamp lily (*Crinum americanum*) is an herbaceous perennial native to the southeastern U.S. that grows from a three to five inch, thick, fleshy bulb. The glossy leaves are bright green and reach a length of one to four feet. White or pink-striped flowers sit atop a tall cylindrical flower stalk. These striking, fragrant flowers appear in the spring, summer and fall seasons of the year. This is a large plant that needs plenty of room to grow.



Alligator lilies (*Hymenocallis* spp.) are closely related to swamp lilies. There are thirteen species native to Florida. The Alligator lily (*Hymenocallis palmeri*) is the most common. All have spectacular white blooms and prefer moist soil and dappled shade.

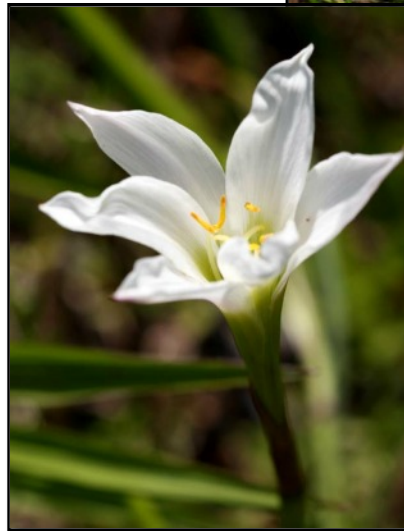
Since tulips and daffodils are not really an option to plant here in Central Florida, try some of our native bulbs instead. For more information see *Bulbs for Florida* on the Internet:

http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_bulbous_flowers



Swamp lily
(*Crinum* lily)

Rain lily
(*Atamasco* lily)



Simpson's rain lily,
photos by Craig Huegel.

An Invitation from Barry

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



Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve Readers Club

By Jon Burr

The Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve Reader's Club book for August was *Storm of the Century* by Willie Drye. I think we all liked the



Photo by Karl Nichter

book but I wouldn't claim extreme enthusiasm. The events in the Keys during the 1935 hurricane were tragic and probably avoidable as far as the Great Depression workers were concerned. The book did start out with two young people beginning a relationship just before the storm hit. Well, I couldn't wait to find out what happened and I looked them up on the 1935 Florida Census. (Many states took a population census half way between the ten year federal censuses.) The 1935 Florida census for Monroe County surprised me by having a column for survived or died in the hurricane: not a normal census procedure. Yes, they survived although her family was wiped out.

The September selection was the first selection I can recall that had absolute unanimous reaction from all of us. We all hated the books we each read by this author. There should now be a blank space as my momma told me if I can't say something nice...you know the rest. Our task was to read any book by a particular local novelist. Since he had published over two dozen novels it was pretty obvious that while he was a best seller he was not our reader's club favorite cut of t-bone. The facilitator who suggested this author was suddenly not available for the meeting but she felt her ears heat up. Actually we had an interesting discussion about the similarity - we all read different books - of the material and approach of the author. It seems some of the best meetings are when we least like the material. Notice I didn't mention the authors name but a lot of his books suddenly showed up in the used book section of the Preserve gift shop.

At the 2017 November's meeting, we discuss *Death in the Everglades: the Murder of Guy Bradley, America's First Environmentalist Martyr* by Stuart B. McIver. We may have a brief presentation by a guest speaker who just attended the 16th Annual Florida Writer's Conference. And December we have a book of stories of northern Florida edited by Susan Cerulean called *Between Two Rivers: Stories from the Red Hills to the Gulf*.

For a list of the first six months books for 2018 check the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve website.

There is still room at the table. We have an enjoyable time of discussion and sharing. We meet in the Ed Center the first Saturday of the month at 9:30.

Volunteer News and More!

By Julia Myers, Education Support Specialist, Brooker Creek Preserve

November Holiday Hours: The Ed Center will be closed in honor of Veterans' Day on Friday, November 10th, and for Thanksgiving, November 23rd and 24th. The Preserve is also closed Friday, November 24.

ØOctober kicked off our busy season! Beginning in October, we had two new Sunday Hikes added to our Guided Hike schedule. Trevor & Sherry H. will be leading a hike on the second Sundays of the month, *The Nature of Change*. Liz & Marisol will be leading a hike on the fourth Sundays, *Swamp and Sandhill Surprises*. Friday Hikes have resumed this month with Lara's Forest Hike and James' Native Plants hike. Also Penny is creating a new Wildlife Hike to offer on the third Friday of the month! We are kicking off our Roaming Naturalist program now too! A Sign-up sheet is located in break room. Please see Sheree if you are interested in training to be a Roaming Naturalist.

Volunteer Training Videos! The staff has put together volunteer training videos for all new volunteers. This will help us streamline our training process and make sure everyone is on the same page. We made three videos and they are all in a folder called "Volunteer Training Videos" on the front desk computer. Feel free to check them out in your spare time and freshen up your skills, we had a lot of fun making them!

Save the Date: Our annual Volunteer Appreciation Celebration will be on Sunday, January 7th at noon. We look forward to showing you all our appreciation, more details to come!



Glass lizard. Photos by Julia Myers.



Golden orb weaver spider.

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

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BROOKER CREEK PRESERVE

Cool calendar for your refrigerator!

November 2017

***Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve events**

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
2 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15	3 Guided Hike 9-10:30 <i>(Florida Forests)</i>	4 Guided Hike (<i>Ecosystems</i>) 9-10:30 *Friends Readers Club 9:30-10:30	5 Guided Hike 9:30-11:00 <i>(Nature of Change)</i>
9 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15	10 Veterans Day-County Holiday ED CENTER CLOSED HIKING TRAILS OPEN	11 Beginning Bird Hike 8-10 am Kitchen Botany 10:30-12:00 *Music in the Woods 4:30-7:00 pm <i>\$5/person donation/kids free</i>	12 Music with Mar <i>(for young children)</i> 11:30-12:15
16 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15	17 Guided Hike 9-10:30 <i>(Native Plants)</i> Family Fun Friday 10:00-11:00	18 Guided Hike 9-10:30 <i>(Footprints on the Land)</i> *Night Hike 6:00-8:00 pm \$3 donation	19
23 Thanksgiving ED CENTER CLOSED HIKING TRAILS OPEN	24 ED CENTER CLOSED HIKING TRAILS CLOSED	25 Photography Hike 8:30-10:30 Extended Hike 9:00-12:00	26 Guided Hike 9:30-11:00 <i>(Swamp and Sandhill Surprises)</i>
30 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15			

Cool calendar for your refrigerator!

December 2017

***Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve events**

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	1 Guided Hike 9-10:30 <i>(Florida Forests)</i>	2 Guided Hike (<i>Ecosystems</i>) 9-10:30 *Friends Readers Club 9:30-10:30 Birds in Classical Music 10:30 -12	3
7 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15	8 Guided Hike 9-10:30 am <i>(Native Plants)</i>	9 Beginning Bird Hike 8-10 am *Night Hike 6:00-8:00 pm <i>\$3 donation</i>	10 Guided Hike 9:30-11 <i>(Nature of Change)</i> *Music in the Woods Series Meriggare String Quartet 2-4 pm \$5/person Registration required
14 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15	15 Guided Hike 9-10:30 am <i>(Wildlife)</i>	16 Guided Hike 9-10:30 am <i>(Footprints on the Land)</i> What Grows Where? 10:30-12	17
21 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15	22	23 Extended Guided Hike 9:00-12	24
28 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15	29	30 Nature Photography Hike 8:30-10:30 Guided Hike 9-10:30 <i>(Our Wildest Place)</i>	31 Guided Hike 9:30-11 <i>(Swamp and Sandhill Surprises)</i>

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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