


Newsletter of the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve

January - February 2016

Chairman's Message

By Vice-Chair Cathie Foster

Happy 2016 to you! Tradition holds that the New Year is a time to set goals and make changes or improvements in our lives. Our Board of Directors is made up of of talented and motivated individuals with varying backgrounds, who each play an important role in the many projects we undertake; and we all work together well. We have accomplished a lot this past year under Barb's leadership, as you read in our last newsletter. Its hard to improve on that, but, as Barb said in her last Chairman's Message, change is important. In the year ahead, the Board agreed that encouraging others to take on new roles as executive officers was a step we wanted to take in order to bring new faces to the leadership positions.

So in this new year, **we welcome these directors as our new Executive Officers:** Jane Myers (Treasurer), Pam Brown (Secretary), Bob Burkard (Vice-Chair), and me, Cathie Foster (Vice-Chair). You will see that as of this newsletter, we have no chairman. We have many directors who could competently fill this position, and we will elect one at our January Board meeting. Until then, Bob and I as vice-chairs, along with our past-chair, Barb, will keep things rolling smoothly.

Our goals for 2016 include continuing the many projects we currently have in place, including:

- Reconfiguring the 8-mile Wilderness Trail to make it people-friendly

Chairman's Message

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- Working to assist the County in conducting more prescribed fires within the Preserve (necessary for a healthy ecosystem)
- Working to assist the County in restoring the habitat in the vicinity of the Preserve's entrance area.
- Increasing membership
- Supporting the staff and volunteers of Brooker Creek Preserve
- Establishing our own beekeeping program
- Updating our brochure

New project goals for 2016 include:

- Beginning a capital campaign for fundraising
- Establishing a donor wall in the Education Center

And, as always, we welcome ideas from you.

On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, I want to thank you so very much for your support over the years and for your continued support in the future.

Cathie

**Save the Dates
Friends Events for 2016**

Jan. 2	BC Preserve Book Club
Jan. 9	Moon Star Party
Jan. 10	Eco-Printing Workshop
Jan. 17	Off The Beaten Path--Swamp Amble
Jan. 30	Wildflower Garden Club
Jan. 30	Return the Preserve Work Day
Feb. 6	BC Preserve Book Club
Feb. 20	Illustrated Nature Journaling
Feb. 20	Return the Preserve Work Day
Feb. 27	Wildflower Garden Club
Mar. 13	Music in the Woods

Welcome new Board Member, Terri Gonzolez! Terri will be in charge of art classes at the Preserve and maybe some other artsie events!



Full Time Rangers Now at the Preserve

We welcome the three rangers who are now full time at Brooker Creek Preserve! Rangers Tony Contarino, Gloria Gere, and Tom Reed share schedules that provide for at least one ranger to be on duty every day. The rangers will provide services such as empty trash cans, blow off boardwalks, maintain public use trails, patrol for litter, mowing, washing interpretive signs, assist Land Manager with other preserve tasks, and other duties as assigned. Their much needed help is welcome and appreciated! We are grateful to Paul Cozzie and other county staff whose decisions allowed for the rangers to be here.

New Rangers Tony, Gloria & Tom



**Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve
FY 2015-2016 Annual Budget**

This year's budget
for your interest!

Income

Unrestricted Income

Membership	\$ 7,000
Interest	\$ 1
Off the Beaten Path Hikes	\$ 1,000
Fall Wildflower Festival	\$ 2,500
Spring Wildlife Safari	\$ 1,900
Iron Ranger	\$ 1,000
Adult Ecology Workshops	\$ 400
Music in the Woods	\$ 655
Music Jamboree	\$ 150
Art Classes	\$ 300
Beekeeping	\$ -
Guided Hike Donations	\$ 350
Night Hike Donations	\$ 800
Speaker Programs	\$ -
Birdathon	\$ 400
Nature Store	\$ 6,000
Other/General Donations	\$ 1,000
Florida Wildlife Corridor	\$ 600
Total Unrestricted Income	\$ 24,056

Restricted Income

Ed Center Donation Boxes	\$ 1,200
Total Restricted Income	\$ 1,200

Total Income	\$ 25,256
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Expense

Membership Programs

Annual Meeting	\$ 300
Newsletter/In-House Public	\$ 200
Membership Admin	\$ 200
Total Membership Programs	\$ 700

Public Relations

Chamber of Commerce	\$ 650
Iron Ranger	\$ 300
Other & Fundraising	\$ 200
Total Public Relations	\$ 1,150

Brooker Creek Preserve Programs

Fall Wildflower Festival	\$ 2,800
Spring Wildflower Safari	\$ 2,200
Adult Ecology Workshops	\$ 200
Education Programs	\$ 3,250
Speaker Programs	\$ -
Off the Beaten Path Hikes	\$ 100
ANCA Summit	\$ 600
ANCA Membership	\$ 110
Family Campout	\$ 250
Music in the Woods	\$ 655
Music Jamboree	\$ 170
Eco Printing Event	\$ 25
Art Classes	\$ 150
Ken Rowe Birdathon	\$ 300
Other	\$ 250
Total BCP Programs	\$ 11,060

Brooker Creek Preserve Support

Volunteer Support	\$ 1,185
Scholarships/Awards	\$ -
Research/Grants	\$ 100
Wildflower Garden	\$ 150
Return the Preserve	\$ 360
Florida Wildlife Corridor	\$ 600
Other	\$ 200
Total BCP Support	\$ 2,595

Administration

Telephone	\$ 250
Bank Fees	\$ 150
Office Expenses	\$ 150
Postage	\$ 100
Filing Fees/Permits	\$ 100
Insurance	\$ 4,000
Audit	\$ -
Quickbooks Software	\$ 350
Professional Fees	\$ 200
Website	\$ 120
Other	\$ 100
Total Administration	\$ 5,520

Total Expenses	\$ 21,025
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Net Income (Loss)	\$ 4,231
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Friends Annual Meeting/Volunteer Appreciation -A Fun Time for All! (11/7/15)

Held Saturday, November 7, the two events, Friends Annual Meeting and Volunteer Appreciation, were jointly celebrated for the second year. The event began with the bench dedication.

New Benches!

Many thanks to Barbara Genthner-Moritz for the two new benches along the boardwalk at the Education Center! One bench was dedicated to her late husband and the other to her cherished pets. The benches were placed in strategic locations where they were needed. They are already well used!



Thank you, Barbara, for the new benches! Photos by Karl Knichter.



Barbara and her friends testing the bench near the parking lot. Photo by Barb Hoffman.

Then Lara and Julia cooked up delicious made-to-order pancakes with all the fixings. The pancakes were enjoyed with egg casseroles, sausages, fresh fruit, muffins, orange juice, and coffee provided by the Friends Board of Directors.



Photos by Cathy Vogelsong

Friends Annual Meeting/Volunteer Appreciation, continued



Did You Know?
The Friends donated 4,717 hours during fiscal year 2014/2015 for Friends events! Wow!



Following breakfast, Lara provided statistics regarding total number of volunteer hours. Lara and Julia then called up each volunteer and provided them with a personal thank you and a volunteer pin/gift earned from the County. Then, Barb Hoffman introduced each board member who, in turn, called up each volunteer who helped with Friends programs and proved each person with a personal note of thanks. Photo by Julia Myers.



Friends Annual Meeting/Volunteer Appreciation, continued



Photos by Karl Knichter.

All volunteers got to pick a prize from a table full of awesome gift certificates and items donated by local businesses and individuals.

MANY THANKS TO THE PRIZE SPONSORS OF THE FRIENDS ANNUAL MEETING/ VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

**Bunga Raya Restaurant
Crescent Oaks Country Club
East Lake Café'
East Lake Car Wash
Elizabeth's Gourmet Delights
Hoffman Architects
Dr. Craig Huegel
Keystone Corner
Marco's Pizza
Olive the World Bistro
Pampered Gardeners, LLC
San's Pizza
Smoothie King
Vetture's Restaurant
Mark & Nancy Yeager**



Nature Store Manager, Kathleen Nichter, gave Chairman Barb Hoffman a check for \$6,322.23 during the Friends Annual Meeting & Volunteer Appreciation. This check signifies the amount of profit from the Nature Store during fiscal year 2014-2015 - wow!



Barb Hoffman ended the event with a touching farewell speech. After serving six years as Chairman, she is stepping aside to allow someone else to take the reins. Barb will remain on the Board as the Friends Business Director.

Brooker Creek Preserve Headwaters Hike (11/15/15)

Nine hikers joined Dr. Craig Huegel for a beautiful hike around the area where Brooker Creek begins in southern Hillsborough County. Brooker Creek forms in a collection of cypress swamps near Lutz-Lake Fern Road that overflows when water levels are high."



Hikers stand at the actual headwaters spot. Photo by Nancy Yeager.



Sphagnum moss.
Photo by Craig Huegel.

We were amazed to see the multitudes of healthy pitcher plants (*Sarracenia minor*), insectivorous plants known to grow only in Florida bogs. This one is in flower.

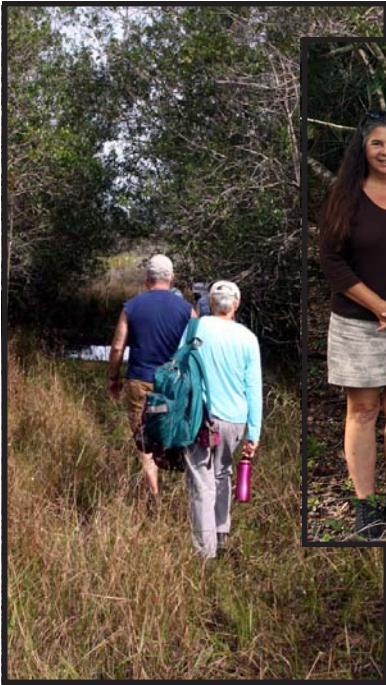


Growing amongst the pitcher plants were thousands of sundew, another insectivorous plant. Three photos by Barb Hoffman.

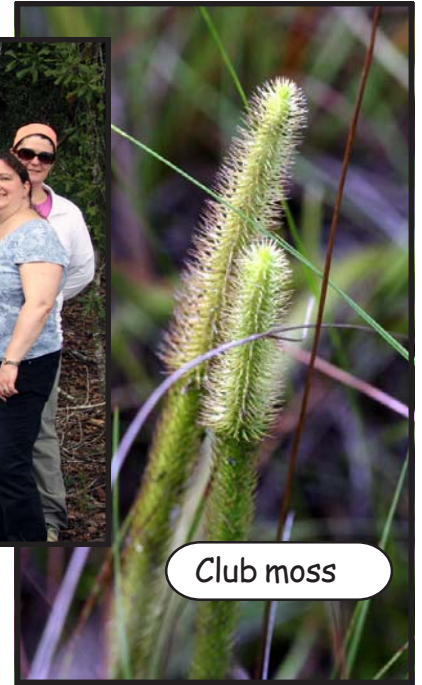


Seemingly all the Dahoon Holly trees were ripe with fruit, a very big berry year for the site.

Brooker Creek Preserve Headwaters Hike, cont.



Photos by Craig Huegel.



Club moss

Music in the Woods (11/15/15)

by Jane Myers

The Tarpon Springs High School Jazz Band concert was such a hit! An estimated 180 lucky attendees enjoyed the 27 students and their director, Mr. De Leon. We had perfect weather for the late afternoon/early evening event so that everyone could walk the boardwalk, check out the Nature Store and enjoy the beauty of the Preserve. The jazz band has so many new fans!



The Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve want to thank the band members and their parents for making the trip into the woods with all of their equipment! We'd also like to thank the many volunteers who helped make the evening enjoyable for all.

Photos by Barb Hoffman.

Wreath-Making Workshop a Success! -12/5/15

About ten students enjoyed the workshop that focused on how to make old Florida natural décor - wreaths from native grape vine and decorations from cabbage palm fronds. Everyone went home with beautiful finished products. Many thanks to the workshop teachers who provided help and know-how: Chuck Parsons, Ruth Earle, Sandra Miraglia, and Evan Earle, Jr.



Photos by Evan Earle.

Music Jamboree - 12/13/15

Where anyone may bring their acoustic instrument and join in the fun!

FOBCP had their 3rd Music Jamboree on December 13th! Our wonderful jam leader, Brad Myers, brought his mandolin, guitar and bongos and some helpful music sheets with the chords, so that anyone could sit alongside him and join in. We had a couple of new folks join in our band of 5 and a group of about 25 listeners. Please watch for the next one and think about sharing your musical talents with the group. We always have a good time!



We are happy to announce our next Music in the Woods event on Sunday, March 13, 2016, with the band, Oak Hay! Please mark your calendars for this wonderful bluegrass/folk trio at our scenic music pavilion.

The music will begin at 5 pm and end at 7 pm and we ask for a \$5 donation to help with our costs. Bring along a picnic dinner and a lawn chair! Sorry no alcohol or pets are allowed.



BURN HOTLINE

For information on wildfires and prescribed burns at Brooker Creek Preserve: 727-582-2876

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.



The Last Return The Preserve Work Day Of 2015 (10/31/15)

by Evan Earle Jr

On the last day of October, we held the last Return The Preserve (RTP) Work Day of 2015. Six of us, the Dirty Half Dozen, were there to tackle the never-ending supply of overgrown grape vines and exotics. And once again, my keen powers of observation and estimation were working just as well as always, i.e "This won't be too hard. We'll just do some maintenance and tackle a couple of the areas in the main parking lot. They don't look too bad." NEVER let me pick your lottery numbers if you want to win!

Three hours later, the five of us were tired and dirty. But oh did we make a difference! Much thanks to Lou Peterson, Deborah and Hannah Vogel, Greg Long, and Marion Yongue. Lou is ALWAYS such a tremendous help on our RTP Work Days. There are many a vine that have felt his wrath and the trees are so much better for his efforts. Deborah and Hannah were newcomers but you wouldn't know it. They pulled down grape vines and pulled out exotics like professionals. Hannah is the hardest working volunteer I've seen in a long time. We couldn't keep up with her! Way to go Hannah. Greg was there representing the Hillsborough Academy Of Math And Science (HAMS) and did he ever represent! HAMS should be proud of his contribution (and we very much look forward to future RTP Work Days with HAMS volunteers and the energy they bring). Marion was there again, working non-stop pulling down vines and hauling them to the dump site. And I have to give credit where credit is due. Marion always cleans up the areas in which we work. When we're done and I'm happy to just be able to stand, he rakes, sweeps, and then uses the blower to ensure we leave a clean parking lot or Boardwalk when we're done!

This ends the second year of our Friends Of Brooker Creek Preserve Return The Preserve Work Days. I am so grateful to all of the people who have volunteered their time to work with us. Through the heat of Summer and the "cold" of Winter, we have always had great people show up and work. And work hard! Looking back at where we started and how things look today, we're making real progress. We've removed overgrown grape vines, we've dug up and removed smylax, we have removed Ceasar weed, we have removed St. Augustine grass, why we even went into Brooker Creek itself to remove invasive apple snails. I love the hands on aspect of our Return The Preserve Work Days and the "before and after" difference. To each and every one of you who donated your time and your sweat equity, I thank you! I hope when your visit, you will stop and admire your work. Pat yourself on the back. You earned it! Because of you, we have taken steps to return Brooker Creek Preserve to its natural beauty!

ANNOUNCEMENT: Our next FOBCP RTP Work Day will be Saturday, January 30th. Beginning in February 2016, our **RTP Work Days will be on the THIRD SATURDAY of the month, starting on February 20th, 2016.** So rest up and then join us in 2016 as we continue our work to return Brooker Creek Preserve to its natural beauty.



New Moon Star Party!

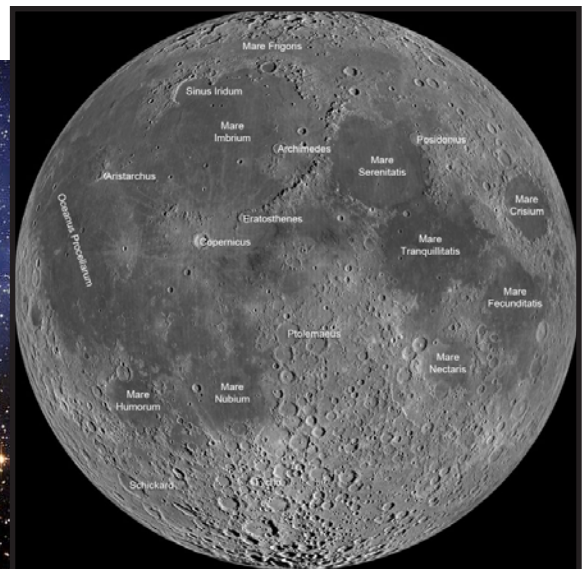
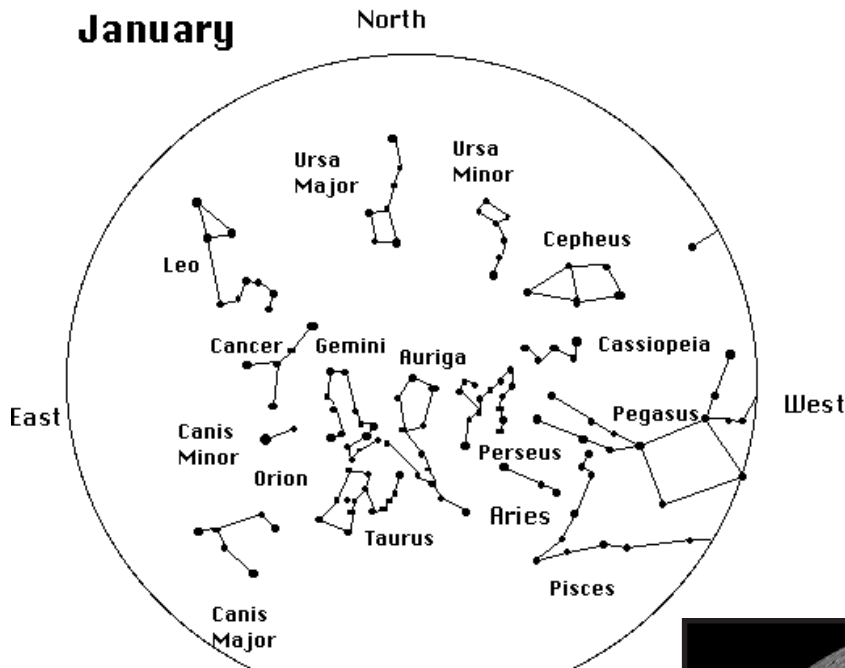
Saturday, Jan. 9, 2016, 6:30 - 10:00 pm
Arrive by 7:00 pm -- entrance gates will close at this time.

Join us as we once again stargaze with the St. Petersburg Astronomy Club. The Astronomy Club will provide telescopes and expertise. Night hikes will be conducted as well, along the 0.75 mile Ed Center Trail through the woods. Please bring a chair, water, and insect repellent. Bring your own telescope if you have one. As always, pets, smoking, and alcohol are not allowed. Arrive between 6:30 and 7:00 pm -- the front gates will be open only during this time. A \$3 per person donation is requested. Registration is required.



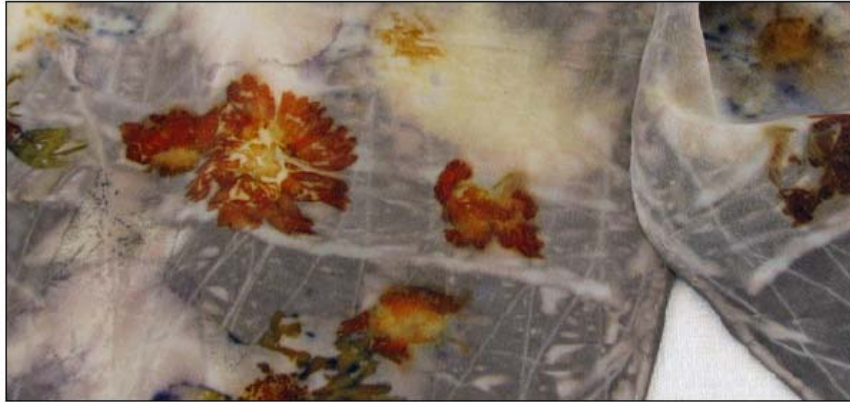
Register on the Eventbrite webpage:

<http://www.eventbrite.com/e/new-moon-star-party-tickets-17990753829>



Friends  of Brooker Creek Preserve

ECO-PRINTING WORKSHOP



Nature's prints on fabric

Sunday, January 10, 2016

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Brooker Creek Preserve

Environmental Education Center Classroom

Instructors:

Dr. Barbara Kazanis & Marian Borchers

\$20 per person + \$10 supplies - Class caps at 15

*Attendees will go home with a beautiful finished product
of silk or wool fabric suitable for wearing or hanging.*

RSVP Email fobcp@tampabay.rr.com

Or telephone (727) 934-2680

Friends  of Brooker Creek Preserve

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

Sites Off the Beaten Path:

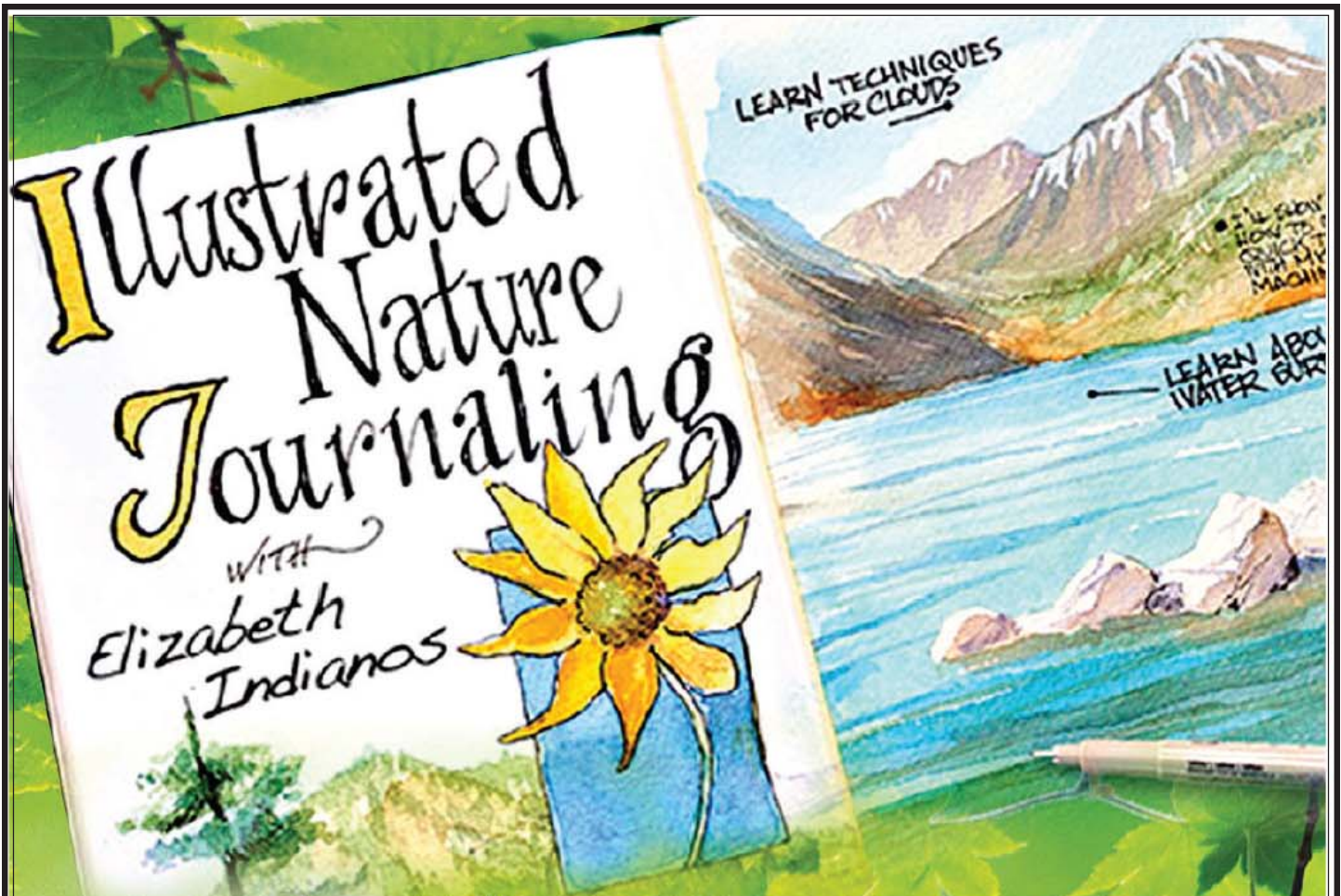
Oct. 18, 2015 – In Search of the Catesby Lily – Located in the eastern part of the Preserve, we will search for the **threatened** Catesby Lily. In so doing, we will see a profusion of beautiful fall wildflowers in full bloom.

Jan. 17, 2016 - Swamp Amble – Located in the southern part of the Preserve, this site features orchids, ferns, and epiphytes. The swamp should be dry this time of year, a treat for those who like adventure!

March 20, 2016 – Sandhill Scramble – The only true sandhills of Brooker Creek Preserve. This site is in the northern end of the Preserve and will feature an abundance of spring wildflowers.

June 12, 2016 – Wildlands Walkabout – We will be in parts of the Preserve so remote that cell phones won't work, areas so pretty you won't believe you are in Pinellas County!

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.



**Saturday, February 20, 11 am–2 pm.
Walk, Draw and Lunch in Nature.**

No experience necessary. Beginners to Advanced.

Bring your lunch and sneakers and jacket for a fun day of instruction, sharing, discussion and intro into basic drawing techniques and journaling appreciation. Pick the size, look and cover of your Journal or sketchbook at your favorite arts and crafts store. Unlined paper as small as 6 by 8" to 8.5 x 11" or 11x14" Camera cell phone to identify plants Felt tip pens, pencils, and erasers.

Optional: Colored Pencils, water colors, glue. Bring what you have from home.

Cost \$50

To register and purchase tickets go to the eventbrite website below
<http://www.eventbrite.com/e/journaling-workshop-tickets-19968889486>

**Questions: fobcp@tampabay.rr.com or
727-934-2680**

Friends  of Brooker Creek Preserve

Pollinators in Winter

By: Craig Huegel

With the holidays just past and real winter settling in, it seems like the perfect time to reflect a bit on a question I often get asked . . . Where have all the pollinators gone? Now, before you get all caught up humming that song made famous by Peter, Paul & Mary, understand that it is a good question. After all, it has been an unusually warm winter so far, in a part of the state that rarely sees below-zero temperatures. It seems a bit over-the-top to have our bees and butterflies acting like they do up north. Truth is, most do.

First of all, central Florida is far more like the temperate south than semi-tropical South Florida. Our foliage has far more in common with Georgia and Alabama than it does with Miami, Key West or the Bahamas. Our native pollinators have evolved for more than one hundred thousand years with our native vegetation, not the tropical landscape plants so commonly inserted now into this system. Most native plants either lose their leaves and quit flowering, or they curtail new growth significantly in winter months. This affects pollinators two-fold.

It doesn't take much imagination to understand that native pollinators would also curtail activity if there isn't much to pollinate. Butterflies feed on nectar while bees feed on both the nectar and pollen. Such food is naturally scarce in central Florida during the winter so, until early spring, so bees and butterflies choose one of several options. Some simply go into a state of "suspended animation" during this period, not really hibernation, but similar in many ways. The adults lower their metabolic rates, live off stored energy and wait. Others lay eggs and die in the late fall. Either the eggs overwinter as eggs, or the eggs hatch in caterpillars and they do not develop further until spring.



Dogface sulphur butterfly.
Photos by Craig Huegel.

The other consideration is that without much new growth in our native plants, there is little food for caterpillars. Most butterflies and moths lay their eggs on new growth. It is the part of the plant with the most nutrition. Older foliage is much higher in fiber and lower in proteins, making it almost impossible to get enough nutrition to complete their life cycle. It is much better to wait until spring than it is chancing it in winter.



Non-native honeybees pollinating
summer farewell

If you take a hike at Brooker Creek Preserve from now until mid-February, it is unlikely you will see many bees or butterflies. A few butterflies, like the cloudless sulfurs and monarchs, may stay active if their semi-tropical larval food plants remain active. Tropical milkweed, not the native species, has made it easier for monarchs to over-winter in central Florida. Sulfurs sometimes can do the same if the woody cassias on which they lay their eggs do not freeze. Few native bees can

gather enough nectar daily to keep the hive active until spring. Bees, almost universally, are inactive in the winter.

Plants that bloom in late fall risk a lot if they need pollinators to produce seed. The upside is that they don't have to share their pollinators with many other flowering species. The downside is that the pollinators they need may "disappear" if the weather turns cold a bit earlier than normal. Late flowers often fail to get pollinated and set seed.

Spring is often heralded by the arrival of certain songbirds or the flowering of certain wildflowers, but to me it is certified by the reappearance of butterflies and bees. When you see that swallowtail butterfly again, it is most certainly spring.



Bumblebee pollinating blazing star

News from the Wildflower Garden

by Pam Brown

The garden is resting for the winter, so most of the work we are doing involves clipping the seed pods and spreading the seed to assure plenty of new plants to keep the garden looking good. For the next couple of work days (last Saturday of each month) I would like to dig and relocate some of the Gulf Muhly grass that has become too dense. It would be great to have a couple of strong men to help with this project. If you would like to help, join us on the last Saturday of each month from 9 - 11 am (winter hours), bring your gardening tools, gloves, hat, sun screen and wear closed toed shoes. I will provide coffee and breakfast snacks.



Yaupon holly berries

Pam's Thoughts

Consider planting native plants in your landscape that produce fruit that will feed wildlife during the winter months. One of my favorites is the female Yaupon holly (*Ilex vomitoria*). This small, tree is an upright, spreading tree or large shrub, capable of reaching 15 to 25 feet in height with a similar spread. It has small, grey-green, leathery leaves densely arranged along smooth, stiff, light grey branches. Plants in the landscape require about 10-years to develop a distinct vase-shape. Yaupon holly is ideal for training into a small tree with lower branches removed to reveal the interestingly-contorted multiple trunks. The non-showy male and female flowers appear on separate plants and are followed on the female plants by the production of brilliant red berries (yellow on some cultivars) which are quite attractive to wildlife. The flowers attract many pollinators for several weeks. Purchase plants with berries on them (females) or buy trees which were propagated from cuttings of female plants. The small dwarf Yaupon hollies used in the landscape are all males, so there will always be plenty of pollen to assure berries on the females.

Brooker Creek Preserve Book Club

by Jon Burr

Bob Lee's, "Back Country Lawman (True Stories from a Florida Game Warden)" was our discussion book for November 2015. Interesting book about his experiences but probably not a book of interest to a wide audience. December's book was "Home Grown in Florida," ed. William McKeen. Delightful. Possibly one of the best books we read in 2015. The book club meets the first Saturday each month at the Ed Center at 9:30am. Meetings officially last for an hour. Please consider coming: we have room for a few more at the table.



Photo by Karl Nichter

Book Club Reads for 2016:

- Jan. 2: "Things I Remember" by J. B. Starkey. SWFWMD has a PDF of this for free and most local libraries probably have a copy.
- Feb. 6: "Alas Babylon" by Pat Frank. Set in Florida, this apocalyptic tale may again be more prescient than is desirable.
- Mar. 5: We discuss "Finding Home in the Sandy Lands of the South" by Francis ("Jack") Putz, a fascinating group of short observations about living in Florida. Very 'dip-able' reading (is that a word?)
- April 2: "Rain" by Cynthia Barnett. Ms. Barnett lives in Gainesville. She visited the Preserve October 20, 2015 to discuss her book, "Blue Revolution."
- May 7: "The Everglades River of Grass" by Marjory Stoneman Douglas. This stands with "Silent Spring" and "Sand County Almanac" as one of the monuments of environmental writing.
- June 4: Craig Pittman and Ray Arsenault's book "Scent of Scandal" is a local account of CITES law concerning endangered species. Some of the names in the book may ring a bell.
- July 2: We stay with a tad more controversial an issue with Carl Hiaasen, author of "Team Rodent."
- Aug. 2: We're doing something a little differently. For the August meeting please read any book about, or by, Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings.

Nature Store News by Kathleen Nichter

Some exciting changes are planned for the Nature Store for 2016. We have already added some furniture and done some re-arranging of the shelves. We will be doing more to make things easier to find and to have the space to carry more items.

Several people have suggested that we expand the new book section, both children and adult, and the folding nature guide section. I am checking with our vendors to find new titles that relate to what we have here at Brooker Creek Preserve in both areas.

We also plan to do more on special offers and special displays. We offered note cards boxed 10 to a box again this year with the holiday theme of holly. Last year it was the Red Cardinal. Both were very popular, and if you didn't get a chance to buy them I hope someone sent you one!

If you have any ideas or suggestions for the store, please let us know. If you are interested in joining our all volunteer team, we would love to have you.

**BROOKER CREEK PRESERVE
JANUARY 2016**

Cool calendar for your refrigerator!

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Preschool Booktime 10:30-11:15	1 ED CENTER CLOSED HIKING TRAILS ARE OPEN	2 Guided Hike 9-10:30 <i>(Ecosystems)</i> Book Club 9:30-10:30	3
Preschool Booktime 10:30-11:15	8 Guided Hike 9-10:30 <i>(Botany)</i>	9 Beginning Bird Hike 8-10 New Moon Star Party w/St. Pete Astronomy Club 6:30-10 pm <i>(\$3/person)</i>	10 Eco-Printing Workshop 1:00-4:00 <i>(\$20/person)</i>
Preschool Booktime 10:30-11:15	15 Guided Hike 9-10:30 <i>(Wildlife)</i> Family Fun Friday 10-12 <i>(Trees and Me)</i>	16 Guided Hike 9-10:30 <i>(Footprints on the Land)</i> Visiting Critters 10:30-12	17 Off the Beaten Path Hike: Swamp Amble 9am-1pm <i>(\$25/person)</i>
Preschool Booktime 10:30-11:15	22	23 Guided Hike 9-12 <i>(Extended Hike)</i> Life of Lichen 10:30-12	24
Preschool Booktime 10:30-11:15	29	30 Return the Preserve Work Day 8-11 Photographing Nature 8:30-10:30 Guided Hike 9-10:30 <i>(Our Wildest Place)</i> Wildflower Garden Club 9-11 Turtle Science 10:30-12 Night Hike 6-8pm <i>(\$3/person)</i>	31

FEBRUARY 2016

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Preschool Booktime 10:30-11:15	5 Guided Hike 9-10:30 <i>(Woods Walk)</i>	6 Guided Hike 9-10:30 <i>(Ecosystems)</i> Book Club 9:30-10:30 Frogs! 10:30-12	7
Preschool Booktime 10:30-11:15	12 Guided Hike 9-10:30 <i>(Botany)</i>	13 Beginning Bird Hike 8-10 Birds of Prey 10:30-12 Night Hike 6-8 pm <i>(\$3/person)</i>	14
Preschool Booktime 10:30-11:15	19 Guided Hike 9-10:30 <i>(Wildlife)</i>	20 *Return the Preserve Work Day 8-11 Guided Hike 9-10:30 <i>(Footprints on the Land)</i> Kitchen Botany 10:30-12 Journaling Workshop 11-2 <i>(\$50/person)</i>	21
Preschool Booktime 10:30-11:15	26 Family Fun Friday 10-12 <i>(Alien Invaders)</i>	27 Photography Hike 8:30-10:30 Guided Hike 9-12 (extended hike) Wildflower Garden Club 9-11 Invasive Species 10:30-12 Night Hike 6:30-8:30 <i>(\$3/person)</i>	28

Starting in February Return the Preserve Workdays are on the 3rd Saturday of the month.
Hiking Trails are open every day from 7:00 am until one hour before sunset

Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve - Mission Statement: The mission of the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve is to provide public support for the Preserve through fund raising, volunteer programs, and education to ensure that the Preserve remains a natural wilderness for future generations.

Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve - Land Use Position Statement: The Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve support land uses within the boundaries of Brooker Creek Preserve which have a main purpose that furthers the preservation, conservation, restoration or protection of the land and resources of the Brooker Creek Preserve.

Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve:
www.FriendsOfBrookerCreekPreserve.org
Email: fobcp@tampabay.rr.com
Voicemail: (727) 934-2680

Brooker Creek Preserve:
Phone: (727) 453-6900
Website: www.brookercreekpreserve.org

Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center is located at 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs, Florida, 34688.
Phone: (727) 453-6800
Center Hours: Thurs. - Sat., 9am - 4pm

Friends Nature Store is located in the Education Center. Hours: Thurs. - Sat., 9am - 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.

Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve Board of Directors:

Officers

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

Directors

Director Emeritus: Ken Rowe
Art Director: Terri Gonzolez
Beekeeper: Robert Burkard
Business Director: Barbara Hoffman
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Financial Advisor: Bob Host
Grants: Allyn Childress
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Music in the Woods - Jane Myers
Newsletter Editor: Dr. Craig Huegel
Night Hikes: Mark Yeager
Past Chairman: Walt Hoskins
Publicity Chair: Barbara Schultz
Restoration of Loop Area: Len Gravitz
Return the Preserve Work Days:
Evan Earle, Jr.
Wildflower Garden: Pam Brown
Wildlife Safari Chair: Brad Wilkins

Further Leadership

Book Club: Jon Burr & Kathleen Nichter
Membership: Jeff Myers
Nature Store Manager: Kathleen Nichter
Newsletter Publisher: Cathy Vogelsong
Website Master: Cathy Ordiway

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

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