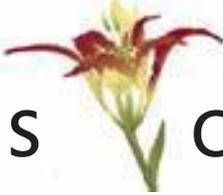


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Newsletter of the  
**Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve**

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March - April 2012

**Editor's Note:** Beginning with this issue, The Friends newsletter will now include a separate section for Volunteer News. See page 9.

### **Chairman's Message**

By: Barb Hoffman

The Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve was established as a Citizen Support Organization (CSO) twenty years ago; the same time that the volunteer program came into being. We have different, but equally important functions and we have been working for the Preserve ever since. As a CSO, we are not a direct extension of Pinellas County government (as the volunteers are), but a private-partnership with it. We can provide advocacy, for example, and we can operate in a way that is not possible as county employees. Our independence allows us to raise funds to augment Preserve programs and purchase supplies and equipment needed by the County. Over the past twenty years, we have purchased the food and awards presented at the annual Volunteer Appreciation event held specifically for Preserve volunteers. We have paid for many items that the volunteers use regularly in the course of their volunteer duties; tools, boots, binoculars, and bug spray, and we have funded nearly every educational program conducted at Brooker Creek Preserve this past year. In tight budget times, our ability to augment County efforts becomes even more important.

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During the past several years, we have expanded youth environmental education by reinstating the popular Summer Camp program and by working with the School Board to bring the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade environmental studies program to the education center. We have held several major events for the public that have brought more than a thousand folks to the Preserve for the first time; the Fall Wildflower Festival and the Wildlife Safari. We provide speakers to area citizen's groups such as Rotary and Kiwanis.

In other respects, we operate much the same way as volunteers. We care deeply about the Preserve in all its dimensions. We lead hikes for the public, we maintain Preserve areas such as the butterfly/wildflower garden, we get involved in surveying birds and other natural resources, and we work side-by-side with County staff. We just are not looked at as County staff like volunteers are. While volunteers are protected on the job by Workers Compensation Insurance, Friends carry their own general liability insurance. And, we collect annual dues from our members. To be a member of the Friends requires a paid membership with levels from \$15 to \$500. All of those dues are used to support the Preserve as we do not maintain offices or have paid staff.

Of course, a great many volunteers are Friends members too - and vice versa. Many of us understand and appreciate the work both of our groups provide to the Preserve, and the need for both of us to operate in our own unique and independent way. I would like to extend an invitation, however, to those of you that are not currently Friends members to join us. We could use your help and your membership will make us all stronger. As you look over this and future newsletters, we hope you will better understand our mission and see programs that you might want to get involved in. Join us and spread the word. Our mutual growth in the years ahead will reap great rewards for the place we all are dedicated to - Brooker Creek Preserve.

**Barb**

**Friends of Brooker Creek  
3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs,  
FL 34688. Please use this on any  
correspondence.**

### **Volunteers Needed for Wildlife Safari!**

(See page 13) Please look for the request for volunteers coming to your email box soon!

### **Volunteers Needed for Tree Survey!**

Please look for the request for volunteers coming to your email box soon!

### **Needed: Golf Cart**

The Friends require a golf cart for a variety of needs at Brooker Creek:

- To quietly move equipment from one place to another during events
- To transport people from the parking lot to the Education Center during events
- To enable physically handicapped people access to longer trails
- To enable us to give "first class" tours of the facilities to VIP's and potential donors

We do not need a fancy cart, just one that carries at least four people and is a good work horse. If you have a new or newly-used one that you are willing to donate, please call Barb Hoffman at 727-934-2680. We will consider advertising on the golf cart in exchange for the donation. As always, donations to the Friends are 100% tax-deductible.

### **Brooker Creek 8-Mile Hike**

Join fellow Friends members on an 8-mile hike through Brooker Creek Preserve. This hike covers nearly the entire Preserve and traverses a variety of habitats. It is not an easy hike and may be extremely difficult through some sections including very sandy areas and possible standing water. There is no water or sanitary facilities. You must carry your own water, snacks, and lunch. The hike will be led by Dr. Craig Huegel, and will last a good six hours. We will start at the Ed Center parking lot and end near Tampa Road, then carpool back to the Ed Center...or vice versa (TBD). This event is free and for Friends members only. You must RSVP for this event.

## Lichens

By: Craig Huegel

Lichens are everywhere throughout Brooker Creek Preserve, yet few of us stop to take a look, fewer of us recognize them for what they are, and virtually none of us attempt to identify them by species. Yet, they are fascinating and extremely valuable components of every ecosystem. And, they are often quite beautiful.

Lichens are not plants. They are collectives of up to three different organisms that operate as one. All lichens are composed of a fungus. Most include the most common type of fungi, the Ascomycete group, that includes such other fungi as leaf mold, brewer's yeast, and truffles. Fungi are extremely adept at eking out a living decomposing organic matter such as rotting leaves and logs. Many also emit chemical compounds that can dissolve certain types of rock to make major elements available.

But, fungi are not photosynthetic and most lichens live on the bark of trees or on exposed rocks and soil where augmenting one's diet through photosynthesis would be a significant help. To be able to do this, the fungi of lichens capture and hold photosynthetic organisms. Most of the time, that means a green algae; sometimes it means a blue-green bacteria; rarely it means both. Lichen fungi are specially modified to encircle and hold algae and/or bacteria. The fungi provide them protection and some nutrition by decomposing things and the green algae and/or blue-green bacteria augment the fungi's diet by creating food through sunlight. Blue-green bacteria are also experts at converting atmospheric nitrogen into forms usable by plants.

I am not aware of any exhaustive list detailing all of the various species of lichens in Florida, but there are well over 100 different kinds. Because the organisms operate as one, we can refer to each collective as a single species, but the combinations of different fungi, green algae, and blue-green algae are quite complex.

Two lichen species may have the same fungus as the main host, but harbor different green algae - two separate species.

As you might guess, lichen reproduction gets complicated. For the most part, they reproduce asexually; most often a piece breaks off and picks up somewhere else. At other times, however, the fungi part produces special "bumps" which contains a small piece of the algae and/or blue-green bacteria inside in the same way your hand would encircle a baseball. These specialized structures are called soredia and they look like dust to the naked eye. At other times, the fungi produce spores just like they would if they were living solo. When this happens, the new fungi must capture algae on their own if they are to become a new lichen - and, as you might guess, most do not and eventually perish.

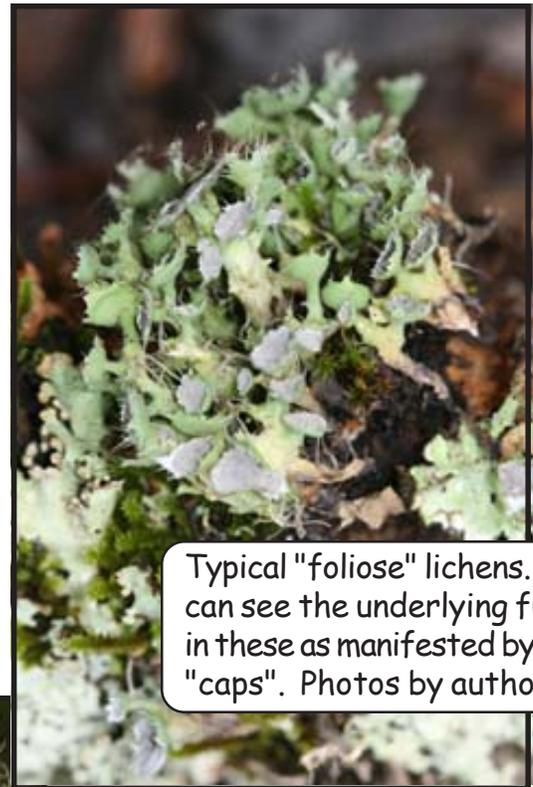
Lichens come in all kinds of colors, though they only contain green algae and/or blue-green bacteria. The bright red to pinkish lichens common to Brooker Creek Preserve (baton rouge lichens), for example, are red/pink because of pigments that mask the green color of the underlying algae.

Lichens also come in all kinds of shapes. Some are crusty looking; lichens that are only about one-cell thick. These are "crustose" lichens. Others have frilly, leafy edges. These are the "foliose" lichens. The third group includes those that look like wispy beards or occur as balls on the ground (the so-called reindeer moss). These are "fruticose" lichens.

Lichens grow nearly anywhere, including the "leftover" spots of the natural world that are too harsh or limited for most other organisms. They are pioneers on bare rock, desert sand, cleared soil, dead wood, animal bones, rusty metal, and living bark. Able to shut down metabolically during periods of unfavorable conditions, they can survive extremes of heat, cold, and drought. Most lichens grow very, very slowly, often less than a millimeter per year,

and some lichens are thought to be among the oldest living things on Earth. Lichens with known, slow growth rates have been used to estimate the dates of geological events such as the retreat of glaciers. As adaptations for life in marginal habitats, lichens produce an arsenal of more than 500 unique biochemical compounds that serve to control light exposure, repel herbivores, kill attacking microbes, and discourage competition from plants. Among these are many pigments and antibiotics that have made lichens very useful to people in traditional societies.

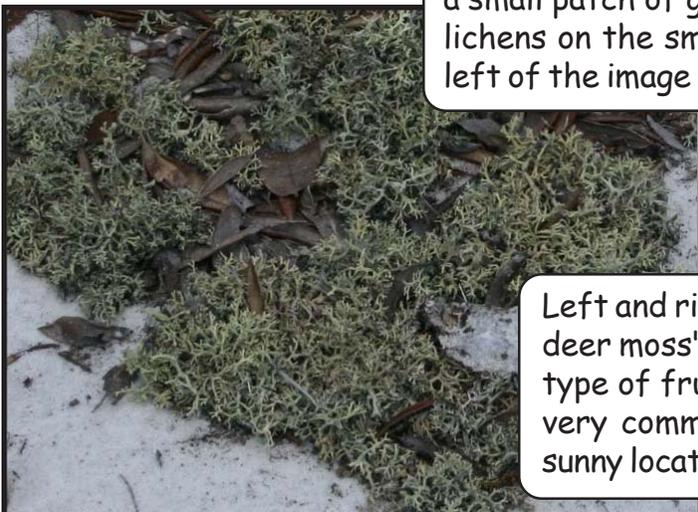
So, as you walk about the Preserve, look closely at the trunks and branches of tree, the rocks, and even the boardwalks for evidence of lichens. As you do, I bet you will become fascinated by the great diversity you find and more intrigued by these fascinating life forms.



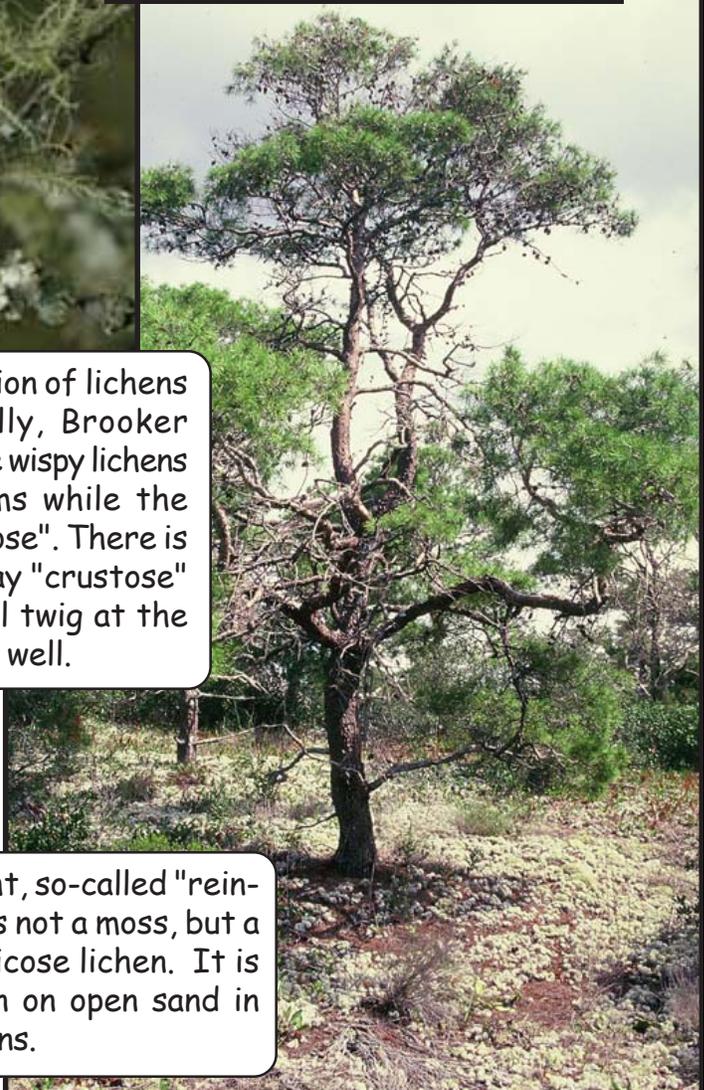
Typical "foliose" lichens. You can see the underlying fungi in these as manifested by the "caps". Photos by author



Above left, collection of lichens on a Carolina holly, Brooker Creek Preserve. The wispy lichens are fruticose forms while the leafy ones are "foliose". There is a small patch of gray "crustose" lichens on the small twig at the left of the image as well.



Left and right, so-called "reindeer moss" is not a moss, but a type of fruticose lichen. It is very common on open sand in sunny locations.



## Comedy Improv Night

By: Craig Huegel

As all of you know, the Friends Board of Directors has been charged with finding creative ways to raise funds for the Preserve. Over the past few years, we have organized several very successful public -outreach programs that have raised funds, but more importantly have raised awareness of Brooker Creek Preserve and its ecological significance. On February 25, we took a different approach and tested out a purely social event to see if it too might eventually be another successful way to raise funds; a night of improvisational comedy with an environmental bend.

Each of us on the Board invited a few friends and all of us brought a dish to pass. A cash bar was set up to provide the opportunity for drinks beyond ice tea and lemonade. For about an hour, we socialized and got to know each other a bit better and then at 8 pm the comedy started. Dear Aunt Gertrude, an Improvisation Comedy Troupe from Tampa, took us through a variety of skits that often involved us in the audience. They had us providing everything from sound effects to moving the limbs of the comedians as they kept us laughing and wondering what was next. When they finished an hour later, I believe all of us were satisfied that the evening had been a success. Then it was time to fill out evaluation forms - because the real reason all of this was organized was for us to gauge whether we should repeat it for real at some future date as a major fund raising event. The evaluation forms from all of our guests will give

us the information we need to fine-tune this when we do it "for real."

It is likely that all of you will see this on a future calendar. If and when you do, we hope you will join us and invite your friends as well. All of us are involved already in helping Brooker Creek Preserve, but this will certainly be one of the most fun! So watch for it!

Comedy troupe lines up to begin the evening.



Membership Chair, Carrie Root, deftly guides her comedian through a skit.

## News from the Wildflower Garden

By: Pam Brown

Our work day in January consisted mostly of removing all of the dead seed heads from the flowers. We sprinkled seeds that were present around the garden. There was not much going on, but we did see new growth at the base of many of the plants, and there were several violets in bloom. Barbara, Lori, Pat and Pam worked in the garden. And, we did have one fellow who answered our "few good men" call. Evan spent his time clearing out the vines and oak seedlings in the area where we want to eventually plant a native shrub demonstration. Remember, we meet on the last Saturday of each month to continue our maintenance of this garden area. Please consider coming out to help from 9 am. to 11 am. There will be breakfast snacks, coffee and juice. Being your tools and gloves. Hope to see you there!



Above, Laurie Angyn, Pam Brown, and Pat Coughlin. Left, Evan Earle removing vines.

## Pam's Gardening Tip of the Month

By: Pam Brown

If you have shrubs that were damaged during the couple of light freezes we had this winter, now is the time to prune them for recovery. Look closely at each plant from the base and up the branches to see where new green growth is sprouting. Prune back to this place on each stem, generally choosing an outward facing bud. Make pruning cuts at a 45 degree angle about one quarter inch above the bud or sprout. You do not need pruning paint; it does more harm than good. Some plants may look dead, but will most likely sprout from the roots if not along the stem, be patient.

**Breakfast with Butterflies**  
Please join us the last Saturday of every month to work in the Wildflower Garden! 9:00-11:00 a.m. Coffee, OJ, and breakfast treats provided! Bring your own garden tools!



## Final Off the Beaten Path Hike Difficult, Beautiful, Enjoyable!

By: Barb Hoffman

The final *Off the Beaten Path* hike to the Anclote River was long and arduous...but also beautiful, educational, and a lot of fun!



The hike began at the "Four Lakes Campground" within the Preserve, a beautiful oak hammock near the intersection of East Lake Road and Trinity Blvd. From there, hikers crossed East Lake Road and soon skirted the edge of a very large, and often deep, cypress swamp. Luckily, this particular January day was warm! True to the series name, this hike was not only off the beaten path, but followed no path whatsoever. We traversed the swamp and then walked beneath the canopy of an upland oak

hammock until we eventually had to cross a powerline corridor and the yard of a private residence adjacent to Old East Lake Road. From here, we re-entered County preserve land, hiked an upland peninsula along the extensive needlerush marsh adjacent to the Anclote River, and eventually reached the River itself.

Hikers and their families were invited to camp at Four Lakes the night before if they desired. Four hikers opted to camp, and several family members joined them resulting in a total of 14 campers. We had a huge campfire, made s'mores, sang songs, told stories, ate dinner, and watched the stars. By 9:30, we were in our tents and sleeping bags, listening to the barred owls and the quiet.



The campground is available to groups who volunteer in the Preserve, like scout troops, and the Friends. There is no cost to camp there, but there are no facilities save a fire ring and picnic table. Groups must rent a portable toilet, bring everything they need, and bring everything back out including all garbage.



From the top, Craig Huegel leads, Barb Hoffman and Carrie Root cooking dinner, Cathie Foster and Tom Reese knee-deep on the trail, Brad Wilkin's shoe blew out, a casualty (trophy?) of the hike. Photos by Cathie Foster and Barb Hoffman.

## Final Off the Beaten Path Hike



Group photos by Barb Hoffman.



Lower left - sawgrass at the edge of the cypress swamp.  
Upper right - baton rouge lichen on cypress tree.  
Lower right - lichen collection on a log in a cypress swamp. Photos by Frank Brandt



### Important Phone Numbers for Injured or Abandoned Wildlife

Small animals: Wildlife Haven 727-515-3723

Large animals: Pinellas County Sheriff

Emergency: 911

Non-emergency: 727-582-6200

To report poachers: Pinellas County Sheriff 727-582-6200

## Volunteer News

### New Faces at Brooker

Hello Everyone! My name is **Lara Miller** and I am the new Natural Resource Extension Agent up at Brooker Creek Preserve. I have met quite a few of you since I started in January, but I wanted to introduce myself to the rest of you who I have yet to meet. I am very excited to be stationed at Brooker and it will be my job to develop educational programs at the Center. I am new to Pinellas County and I am excited to learn all about the Preserve! I have seen some of the most amazing things since I have started here and I cannot wait to see what else is in store for me and what I can do for all of you. And now, it is my pleasure to announce another new addition to the Brooker Creek Team, Julie Vogel.

**Lara Miller**



**Julie Vogel**

Hello! My name is **Julie Vogel** and I am the new Educational Support Specialist for Brooker Creek Preserve. I have been welcomed by many enthusiastic volunteers, dedicated staff, and smiling visitors. On my first day I even got to observe a water moccasin consuming a frog for lunch!

Photos by Frank Brandt

### Gift Shop Update

By Kathleen Nichter

The Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve Gift Shop opened a little over four months ago, and thanks to the work, help, and suggestions of volunteers continues to be a success. Thanks to all of you, our sales for the period mid-October (when we opened) to the end of December exceeded \$1,000, which covered all of the initial start-up expenses and even produced a small profit. As promised, all money stays at Brooker Creek Preserve. The almost \$300 in profit saw immediate use in increasing the variety of our merchandise.

The Gift Shop Committee works to find new products and vendors to feature. We want to use as many local vendors as possible. Our guidelines are simple: the products must relate somehow to Brooker Creek Preserve. The new Quick Reference Guides feature guides authored by locals George Heinrich of Heinrich Ecological Services and Jeanne Murphy and Brian Lane of Sensing Nature®. The suggestions from volunteers, and relayed to us by volunteers from guests, resulted in the addition of the Snake Paint set and an expanded variety of ear rings. While we can't act on all suggestions immediately, they are all considered and kept in mind when new merchandise is chosen, or we re-order existing merchandise.

Thank you to all of you who volunteer and make this Shop a success. Each sale we make puts a little more money to work preserving the wildest place in Pinellas County.

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

**Brooker Creek Preserve  
Environmental Education Center  
Upcoming Events  
3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs.  
(727) 453-6800  
[www.brookercreekpreserve.org](http://www.brookercreekpreserve.org)**

### **March 2012 Programs**

**March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29**

**Book Time @ Brooker.** 10:30-11:15 am

Children ages 3 to 5 connect to the wonders of the natural world through a story and a craft, game or other hands-on activity. Free; advance registration required.

**March 3, 24, 31**

**Brooker Creek Guided Hike.** 9:00-10:30 am  
See how the land has changed over time and the ecological footprints left by those changes. Wear closed-toe shoes; bring water and a hat. Best for ages 6 and older. Free; advance registration required.

**March 3 -- Pre-historic Florida (Wild Florida Series - Program 3).** 10:00 am-noon

Journey back into Florida's past when the saber cat, giant sloth, mammoth, giant tortoise and bison roamed the Sunshine State. Join Sensing Nature for this 3-part Brooker Creek Preserve Wild Florida series. Free; advance registration required.



**March 10 -- Brooker Bird Hike for Beginners.** 8:00-10:30 am. Join us for a Beginning Bird Hike to learn how to identify common birds as we meander along a one-mile trail. Bring water and binoculars if you have them. Free; advance registration required.

**March 10 -- Prevent Forest Fires with Smokey the Bear.** 10:00-11:00 am. Meet Smokey the Bear and his friends from the Division of Forestry as they talk about wildfires in Florida and the effects of these fires to local ecosystems and the wildland urban interface (WUI). Free; advance registration required.

**March 10 -- Discover Wildlife with Children.** Stop by the classroom anytime between noon and 3 pm. to participate in a variety of self-guided nature games and activities. A Brooker Creek Education Center volunteer will be available to answer questions. Free; advance registration required.

**March 17 -- Native Plants of Brooker Creek Hike.** 9:00-10:30 am

Join us on a special hike led by the Brooker Creek hike guides to learn about the diverse native plant life found in the preserve and the natural communities they inhabit. Wear closed-toe shoes, bring water and a hat. Best for ages 6 and up. Free; advance registration required.

**March 17 -- "Beyond Birding®" (Birds of Brooker Creek - Program 1).** 10:00 am-noon

Why is their bill curved? How does their color help them catch their prey or help them avoid becoming prey? Why are they found in some habitats and not others? Join Sensing Nature for an interactive birding presentation focusing on bird adaptations, habitats and their ecologic role at Brooker Creek. Leave your birding "checklists" at home! After the indoor presentation, participants will experience Florida's natural wonders on a nature walk. Free; advance registration required.

\*Advance Registration can be completed here: <http://brookercreekpreserve.eventbrite.com/>

**March 18 -- 8-mile Hike through Brooker Creek Preserve.** 9:00 am-3:00 pm. \*A Friends-only Adventure!\* Hike the Wildlands Trail with fellow Friends members. This is a difficult trail in some places and requires hikers to carry lunch and lots of water. There are no facilities and no water on the trail. We will carpool to Oldsmar where the hike begins, and walk north to the Ed Center parking lot. Hikers must be a member of the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve to participate. Free; email [fobcp@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:fobcp@tampabay.rr.com) to register.

**March 24 -- Garden Birds, Big and Small.** 1:00-2:00 pm. Plants can provide food, water and shelter for resident and migrating birds and turn a drab backyard into a wildlife oasis. Some of the best habitats are found right in people's backyards, hosting anything from a hummingbird to an osprey or a bald eagle. Join us and learn about strategies that work for attracting birds to your yard.

**March 31 -- Owl Cast Cafe (Birds of Brooker Creek Preserve - Program 2).** 10:00 am-12:00 pm. From small screech owls to large horned owls, learn from a Sensing Nature biologist how these stealth hunters benefit both nature and us through their chosen diets. Join Sensing Nature for this 3-part Birds of Brooker Creek series. Free; advance registration required.

### **April 2012 Programs**

**April 5, 12, 19, 26**

**Book Time @ Brooker.** 10:30-11:15 am  
Children ages 3 to 5 connect to the wonders of the natural world through a story and a craft, game or other hands-on activity. Free; advance registration required.

**April 7, 28**

**Brooker Creek Guided Hike.** 9:00-10:30 am  
See how the land has changed over time and the ecological footprints left by those changes. Wear closed-toe shoes; bring water and a hat. Best for ages 6 and older. Free; advance registration required.

**April 7 -- The Feathers of Florida (Birds of Brooker Creek - Program 3).** 10:00 am-12:00 pm  
From the plume trade to future trends, learn how Florida's coastal birds have shaped our country's conservation successes. Join a Sensing Nature biologist to explore how Pinellas County residents are making a difference and how you can too! After the indoor presentation, participants will experience Florida's natural wonders on a nature walk. Free; advance registration required.

**April 14 -- Brooker Bird Hike for Beginners.** 8:00-10:30 am. Join us for a Beginning Bird Hike to learn how to identify common birds as we meander along a one-mile trail. Bring water and binoculars if you have them. Free; advance registration required.

**April 14 -- Celebrate Earth Day with the Pinellas Energy Efficiency Project.** 10:00-11:00 am. Did you know that Florida's homes use 6% of all the energy consumed in the United States? Join experts from the University of Florida to discover ways to save energy and money in your home; and save the Planet at the same time! Learn low-cost and no-cost ways to improve your home's efficiency without giving up comfort. Incentives for home improvements will also be discussed. Free; advance registration required.

**April 14 -- Discover Wildlife with Children.** Stop by the classroom anytime between noon and 3 pm. to participate in a variety of self-guided nature games and activities. A Brooker Creek Education Center volunteer will be available to answer questions. Free; advance registration required.

**April 21 -- Wildlife Safari.** 9:00 am -4:00 pm  
Join in the fun at this educational and fun adventure for children through 12 years old! The children begin with a blank Wildlife Passport, then walk along a one-mile loop of adventure with live owls, snakes, baby raccoons, turkey chicks, and more! As kids visit each Wildlife Station, their Passport gets stamped.

At the end, they get a safari t-shirt and a special prize from the Treasure Tent for completing the journey. Cost is \$5 per child (due at the event).

**April 21 -- "Guiding Nature - Mitigation, Restoration and Enhancement" (Restoring Nature's Balance® - Program 1)** 10:00am-12:00pm. What is mitigation, restoration and enhancement? We all want our natural environments to thrive, so what should you know about them? Learn some of the important aspects about land management and improvement tools such as prescribed fire and how they are vital to our natural areas. Ready to go outside and see for yourself? This program includes a habitat hike of restoration in action! Free; advance registration required.

**April 28 -- It's Not the Camera, It's the Photographer!** 9:00am - 11:00am

The best camera is the one you have with you. Any camera can take great photographs but it is the photographer that makes them great. Bring your camera and join local photographers Karl and Kathleen Nichter as they explain photography basics. Then join them for a walk along the Brooker Creek boardwalks to practice taking nature photographs. This two hour program is for beginners and best suited to adults and children 12 or older. Free; advance registration required.

**April 28 -- Amazing Ospreys.** 1:00-2:00pm  
As residents all along our coastal areas, these "fish-hawks" thrive on the Pinellas County's shallow coastal water resources. Barbara Walker from Clearwater Audubon will talk about the different challenges of these special birds with an exciting slide presentation. Free; advance registration required.

## Toad-ally Terrific Field Camp at Brooker Creek Preserve



The Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve is offering two one-week field camps for young adventurers. This science-based nature day camp is designed for children ages 9 - 11 with a strong interest in experiencing a hands-on, up close investigation of the various plants and animals that inhabit Brooker Creek Preserve. An optional overnight camp-out is planned for Thursday night.

**Dates:**

June 18-22 (Monday-Friday)

June 25-29 (Monday-Friday)

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Ages: children ages 9-11

Registration: \$150.00/camper

For more information or to register  
please call **727-934-2680**

or email

[info@friendsofbrookercreekpreserve.org](mailto:info@friendsofbrookercreekpreserve.org)

Friends  of Brooker Creek Preserve

Hey Kids!  
If you are between the ages of 4-12  
Bring an adult and join the...



Saturday, April 21, 2012  
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Join in the fun at this educational and fun adventure for children through 12 years old! The children begin with a blank Wildlife Passport, then walk along a one-mile loop of adventure with live owls, snakes, baby raccoons, turkey chicks, and more! As kids visit each Wildlife Station, their Passport gets stamped. At the end, kids get a safari t-shirt and a special prize from the Treasure Box for completing the journey. Cost is \$5 per child. This event is co-sponsored by Pinellas County, IFAS, and Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve.

Questions? Call 727-934-2680  
Email [fobcp@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:fobcp@tampabay.rr.com)

# Sponsorship Form



Saturday, April 21, 2011

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

For kids ages 4-12

Thank you for sponsoring this fun and educational adventure for kids. Your business name and logo will be placed on a sign in a prominent location as a sponsor of one of the wildlife stations along the safari. Wildlife stations cost \$200 each. You may choose to sponsor one station by yourself [ \$200 ] or share a sponsorship with another sponsor [ \$100 each ].

Sponsorship Donation Amount: \_\_\_\_\_ \$200 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100

Name of Business: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Please email your logo to: [fobcp@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:fobcp@tampabay.rr.com)

Check payable to: Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve

3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs, FL 34888

Questions? Call Barb Hoffman 727-410-0939

## **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.

**Current mission statement of the Parks Department** - it is at least three years old and does not reflect the many changes in staffing and resources over that time. The newly formed Parks and Conservation Resources Department has not yet developed mission/vision statements.

The mission of the Pinellas County Park Department is to provide a continuing program of acquisition, development, maintenance, and protection of park areas for healthful outdoor activities.

### **Friends of Brooker Creek website:**

[www.FriendsOfBrookerCreekPreserve.org](http://www.FriendsOfBrookerCreekPreserve.org)

### **To contact The Friends:**

Email: [fobcp@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:fobcp@tampabay.rr.com)

Phone: (727) 934-2680 (please leave a message and your phone number for a return call)

### **Brooker Creek Preserve:**

Phone: (727) 453-6900

Website: [www.brookercreekpreserve.org](http://www.brookercreekpreserve.org)

**The Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center** is located at 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs, Florida, 34688.

Phone: (727) 453-6800

Center Hours: Thurs. - Sat. 9 am - 4 pm

Preserve Hiking Trails open 7 days a week (except for day after Thanksgiving and Dec. 25), 7:00 am to sunset.

Horse Trails open 7 days a week, all year, sunrise to sunset.

Friends Trail is now open. The bridge is fixed and ready for hikers!

### **Friends of Brooker Creek Officers**

Chair: Barbara Hoffman

Vice Chair: Cathie Foster

Vice Chair: Allyn Childress

Secretary: Chuck Parsons

Treasurer: Carson Morrow

### **Board Members**

Business Affairs: Robert Host

Publicity Chair: Barbara Schultz

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Newsletter Editor: Dr. Craig Huegel

Birdman & Historian: Ken Rowe

Wildflower Garden: Pam Brown

Past Chairman: Walt Hoskins

**This newsletter is published every other month.** Please submit articles to Newsletter Editor Dr. Craig Huegel (727) 422-6583 or email [Huegelc55@aol.com](mailto:Huegelc55@aol.com)

Newsletter Publisher/Artist: Cathy Vogelsong

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