Chairman’s Message
By Barbara Hoffman

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US! 20 YEARS OLD AND GOING STRONG!
I sure hope you can attend our Birthday Bash Saturday, November 8. This is a Preserve Celebration for you - the Friends, staff, and volunteers of the Preserve. We have put together a really interesting program about the Ed Center and Preserve, plus there will be a barbeque, live music, silent auction, presents, a few surprises, and birthday cake - wow - all for you! Please come!

We have received some wonderful birthday presents this year:
-- A golf cart from Tarpon Springs and East Lake Sunrise Rotary Clubs
-- A set of beautiful, historical Brooker Creek prints from members Evan & Ruth Earle to hang in the auditorium
-- Reconfiguration of the south end of the Wilderness Trail
-- Beautiful weather for the very successful Wildflower Festival
-- Beautiful weather for our very successful Wildlife Safari
-- A very long and comprehensive list of Preserve needs created by all of us
-- Night hikes, accompanied by blinking fireflies and howling coyotes
-- The promise of more controlled burns in the Preserve
-- The Iron Ranger
-- A very nice profit through the Nature Store
-- The very conspicuous absence of grape vines in and around the main parking lot

Many of the items above were truly gifts, but others resulted from the hard work and dedication of numerous board members and

(Chairman’s Message, continued page 2)
(Chairman’s Message, continued)
volunteers. Many thanks to everyone who came out to volunteer and support our events. We are ever so grateful for the time and energy expended in support of our beautiful Preserve.

Barb

Goodbye to Laurie Angyn
We say goodbye to Laurie Angyn after (1) two years serving on the Friends Board of Directors, (2) three years organizing the Fall Wildflower Festival, and (3) two years organizing and leading the discussion for the Friends Book Club. Laurie’s "real" job is demanding more of her time and she can no longer spend the many hours in these volunteer capacities. You will still see Laurie behind the front desk at the Preserve on the 5th Saturdays. We will miss her business sense when it comes to Board decisions and, of course, her sweet, sweet smile. Thank you for all you have done, Laurie, we will miss you!

Barb Hoffman at the ANCA Summit

Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve New Members:

Nancy Bickne
Christina & Bross Davy
Kevin & Mary Ann Doty
James Gary
Carol Krause
Jackie Labus
Barbara Latvin
Jim & Gail McNulty
Sean Tennant,
Cathy Walters & Mike Mellak
Please come!

**2014 BIRTHDAY BASH!**

*A Triple Birthday Celebration*
Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center - 10 years old
Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve - 20 years old
University of Florida IFAS Extension Service - 100 years old

Saturday, November 8, 2014
Brooker Creek Preserve Auditorium
10:00 am - 12:00 noon
Welcome by Commissioner Susan Latvala

How the Preserve Came About by Jake Stowers, Asst. County Administrator, retired

Design of the Education Center, by Ed Center architect, Eddie Hoffman

The Challenges of Building in the Preserve by Ed Center builder, Josh Bomstein

The Importance of the Preserve by Dr. Craig Huegel, wildlife ecologist

Volunteer Appreciation, Milestone Awards, Friends Annual Meeting

12:00 Barbeque Outside in the Tent
Ribs & chicken with all the fixin’s, vegetarian options, too!
Music by Crystal Beach String Band,
Birthday cake, silent auction, presents for everyone, tons of fun!

This event is exclusively for YOU—Brooker Creek Preserve Volunteers, Friends Members, Staff, & Special Guests

Please come and celebrate the Preserve!

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

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Many thanks to our birthday sponsors!

**CREATIVE CONTRACTORS, INC.**

**HOFFMAN ARCHITECTS, P.A.**

**METAL INDUSTRIES FOUNDATION**

**RADIOLOGY ASSOCIATES OF TARPON SPRINGS,**

**DOUG EILAND, M.D.**
Visit the Friends Nature Store for your one-stop Christmas shopping! The store has gifts for children and adults, and your purchases support Brooker Creek Preserve. Consider giving a membership as a gift along with a little something from the store. What a great way to say you care about the Preserve!

Many thanks to Jon Burr and Kathleen Nichter for taking over leadership of the Friends Book Club! Great books are planned for 2015 (see page 11). Please join them the first Saturday of each month, 9:30-10:30. Bring your own coffee!

Save the Dates
Friends Events for 2014

First Saturday each month: Book Club
Last Sat. each month: Wildflower Garden Club

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Wreath-Making Workshop Using Natural Materials

Saturday, December 6
10:00 am—12:00 noon
Music Pavillion
Brooker Creek Preserve
Environmental Education Center
All ages welcome!

Learn to make beautiful holiday wreaths from grapevines and cabbage palms and other natural materials gathered from the woods. Each participant will go home with a completed wreath suitable for hanging and ready for the holidays!

$10 members
$15 non-members

RSVP by emailing fobcp@tampabay.rr.com or by calling 727-934-2680. The class caps at 20.

Sponsored by: Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve
Off the Beaten Path
In Search of the Catesby Lily
(September 14, 2014)

Fourteen adventurous folks joined Dr. Craig Huegel for the fundraiser Off the Beaten Path hike, “In Search of the Catesby Lily”. They lucked out because they found four, along with a huge array of other wildflowers blooming in the Preserve. As usual, Craig not only provided us with an amazing amount of natural history, but also walked our shoes off, as noted by the hand-held sole of one hiker Mark Spiegel (below)!

Above, the Catesby Lily. Left, hike leader, Craig Huegel, expounding on the virtues of all things wild. Photos by Monika Hille
Brooker Creek Preserve was saturated with 43 painters and photographers over a three-day period from October 9 through October 11. A plein air painting is done on location, capturing the atmosphere of the moment. The painting must be competed on site with no work done in the studio. It is the artists' reactions to the scene before them, with adrenalin pumping, and knowing that time and the light are constantly moving. The intent is to capture nature and its effect on the artist as truly as possible.

The artists were delighted with the paintable and photographic possibilities the Preserve provided. We congratulate all the artists, and sincerely thank them for participating in this outdoor adventure!

**Painters**

JOHN BAYALIS  
MARGARET BAYALIS  
VALERIE BRANDAU  
BILL CASTLEMAN  
PHOEBE CHIDESTER  
MICHELLE COLBURN  
DAVID DEL TORO  
KATHY DETRANO  
CATHY DEVINE  
FRANCINE DITTON  
RUDY DRAPIZA  
CHRISTINE ECKERFIELD  
TERRI GONZALEZ  
GAIL GREENE  
PATRICIA HADDAD  
RHONDA HANCOCK  
JUNE HARBEN  
FRANK HIPP  
BESS KING  
LYNN KOPALA  
PHILIP KRIER  
JANE LAWSON  
SUSAN MCCUBBIN  
CATHY MORGAN  
SHERRY ORR  
MINDY PAIGHT  
HEATHER RISLEY  
LORI SCHAFFERT  
JIM THRONE  
LYNNETTE VAUGHAN  
WALTER (BUD) WEAVER  
SUSAN WEVERS  
JANA WITHERS  
JANICE WOJCIEK

**Photographers**

ROBERT COSSACK  
MARK DOBRZENIECKI  
BRITTANY FIRNS  
LISA FITCH  
TRISH GREGORY  
ERICKA HEMPHILL  
JACQUELINE LINDBERG  
LEROY SCHREINER  
LINDA STUMP

**Patrons**

HOFFMAN ARCHITECTS, PA  
LEEPA RATTNER MUSEUM OF ART

**Sponsors**

JUDY FALLON, MARKETING BY DESIGN  
GFWC WOMAN’S CLUB  
OF TARPON SPRINGS, INC.  
JAY SAENGER,  
GEORGETOWN SHIRT COMPANY  
NICTER PHOTOGRTAPHY  
JULIE WADE  
ANONYMOUS

**Friend of the Arts**

MIKE NASH  
PUBLIX SUPER MARKETS  
WALMART STORE NO. 3415
Thank you to the Leepa Rattner Museum of Art for providing a beautiful welcoming reception. A heartfelt thank you to Judy Fallon for her creative graphic work, to Bess King for all her help and insight as well as managing our "wet paint" area, to Cathie Foster for her organization, and to Leah Slavensky for her creative and bountiful reception table.

(A Plein Air Event, continued)

Thank you to the Leepa Rattner Museum of Art for providing a beautiful welcoming reception. A heartfelt thank you to Judy Fallon for her creative graphic work, to Bess King for all her help and insight as well as managing our "wet paint" area, to Cathie Foster for her organization, and to Leah Slavensky for her creative and bountiful reception table.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PAINT & PHOTO BROOKER CREEK PRESERVE WINNERS!

PHOTOGRAPHY
Best of Show
Mark Dobrzeniecki
2nd Place
Ericka Hemphill
3rd Place
Trish Gregory
Honorable Mention
Brittany Firns
Leroy Schreiner
Linda Stump

PAINTING
Best of Show
David Del Toro
2nd Place
Frank Hipp
3rd Place
Margaret Bayalis
Honorable Mention
John Bayalis
Cathy Devine
Phil Krier
Sherry Orr
Jana Withers

Judges

The judge for the Painting portion of our event was Joseph Weinzettle. Joseph includes drawing, painting, and collage in his list of media. He often works in plein air. Joseph has a BFA from Cooper Union and a MFA from the University of Mississippi. He has received three Puffin Foundation grants as a result of his studies in West Africa and was awarded a Pollack Krasner Foundation Grant to further his study and experimentation with traditional drawing materials. Joseph teaches drawing at the Pasco Arts Center and Dunedin Fine Arts Center.

The judge for the Photography portion of the exhibit was David Wright. David has worked as a professional photographer for more than 15 years and operates Photos by J. David. He is very familiar with photographing the local flora and fauna as well as more formal situations. David gives greatly of his time to non-profits.

Event Organizers
Tarpon Springs Art Association
Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve
P.O. Box 1177
Tarpon Springs, FL
3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs, FL 34688
Wildflower Festival 2014
(October 18, 2014)

Because of the effort, time and caring of our amazing volunteers, at least 699 guests enjoyed a delightful event on Saturday, October 18 at the preserve. The fabulous events at the preserve would not be possible without the help and support of volunteers! Thank you!

New this year, were the hourly ‘Plant Talks’ adjacent to the Native Plant Sale. Talks were held on the hour throughout the day to include demonstrations on how to plan that plant. Thank you, Pam and Katy!

The Native Plant Sale was huge this year. Lisa and Barb and a crew of assistants were busy all day long. Nice Work!

Over fifty guests enjoyed a variety of presentations in the auditorium to include wildflower photography, wildflowers of Pinellas and edible plants. Thank you, Karl and Kathleen, Dr. Craig Huegel and Katy Roberts.

The ButterflyWorkx tent housed over 300 butterflies and was packed all day long.

The Wildflower Quest was not only enjoyed by our young visitors - I saw quite a few adults on the trails filling in the guide. Thank you, Jerry and Carson!

Nature Crafts for Kids and the Caterpillar Petting Zoo was a huge hit this year. Held in the classroom, Cindy Peacock and her team of assistants had stations set up for the youngest visits to color or make bugs, butterflies and a small wildflower planter. Cindy also put on two 15 minute presentations for kids.

This year we had the Observation Beehive and it was busy all day long.

Big thanks to Nancy and Mark and Julie - our roaming naturalists on the trails - helping guide the Wildflower Questers.
We had no parking problems at all thanks to Greg Reich and Lou Peterson.

Each guest was greeted by the best greeters in north Pinellas! Thank you, Bob, Jan, Barb, Ron, Dave, Vicki and Lanny.

Indispensable to events like this are those who say - put me where you need me. Our floaters - Evan, Marion, Cathie, Mary Ann, Mary Jasmine, Kristin, Daniel and Andrew were great.

Over 230 hours were devoted in ONE DAY to make the festival happen.
Thank you all!

(Fall Wildflower Festival, continued)

MANY THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!

APG
Barry & Cathie
Council of North County Neighborhoods
Creative Contractors, Inc.
Evan Earle, Jr. and Marion Yongue
Flagship Community Bank
Garden Club of Tarpon Springs
Hoffman Architects, PA
Dennis & Judith Koehn
Scott & Karen Moorhead
Morrow Family
Nichter Photography
Palm Harbor Garden Club
Pampered Gardeners, LLC
Chuck & Kim Parsons
Louis Petersen
Pinellas Chapter, Florida Native Plant Society
Radiology Associates of Tarpon Springs, Doug Eiland, MD
Waddell & Reed Financial Advisors
Julie Wade
Lois Weber
Anonymous (2)
Return the Preserve Work Day
By Evan Earle Jr.

One for the money,
Two to show.

Three to Get Ready
And in September there were three of us and we were READY! Ready to tackle more grapevines, more smilax, more invasives. We have shifted our sights to the “islands” within the parking area. At first glance, you might not think they are in need of attention, but your Return The Preserve Work Day volunteers can assure you that there are indeed vines to be removed.

Our September RTP Work Day took place on Saturday, Sept. 6th. Renie Ward, Marion Yongue, and I tackled two of the islands of oak trees in the parking lot. And while there were only three musketeers on this day, we still put a hurtin’ on those grape vines. Just check out the pile of debris we had by the end of our project. Renie was a lean, mean, vine removing machine. Marion was, like his beloved USF Bulls, unstoppable. Me? I was just happy to try and keep up with those two. In the end, we were tired, we were hot, we were pretty dirty (definitely candidates for a laundry detergent commercial). But we were also very happy because the before and after on our work speaks volumes. The trees not only look healthier, they look happier.

And Four To Go
And go we did! In October, our Return The Preserve Work Day took place on Saturday, October 25th and we had four brave musketeers this time around. The weather was absolutely beautiful and made for a great morning. Barbara Hoffman, Louis Petersen, Marion Yongue, and I continued tackling (and in some cases that is meant literally) the grape vines, smilax, and other overgrowth in the parking lot. We cleaned out two islands on this day. And by the end of our work day, I would have sworn those islands were Caladesi or Anclote! Once again, we pulled, we chopped, we pulled some more. At this point, we have vine removal team work down to a science. Should you ever be walking through the parking lot and hear “One, Two, Three! Pull! YAY!” Well, that’s us. That’s our mantra when it comes to really big, really stubborn vines. Lou was a trooper. His help (especially with those really big, really stubborn vines) is just tremendous. All of you know Barbara and how she tackles projects. I don’t know that Barb has a bad side, but if I’m an overgrown grapevine, I don’t ever want to be on it. Marion deserves the RTP Trooper award. Because he is certainly a trooper and has supported all of our RTP Work Days with enthusiasm. I can’t thank him enough.

Our Return The Preserve Work Day is just one of the many fun (did I just call this “fun”?) opportunities available to everyone looking to get involved at Brooker Creek Preserve and with the
Hello from the Brooker Bookers!
by Laurie Angyn

Over the course of the year we have discussed novels, biographies and non-fiction works about the realms of space, the earth’s atmosphere, and our oceans. For the last quarter of the year, our subject is geology. The remaining selections for 2014 are:

November 1: "Surviving Galeras" by Stanley Williams and Fen Montaigne
December 6: "Florida’s Geological Treasures" by Iris Tracey Comfort

Our discussions are always enjoyable and sometimes we even talk about the books! Look for the next year’s book in the next 4 to 6 weeks.

Tentative Book Club Reads for 2015
Co-leaders: Jon Burr & Kathleen Nichter

Jan 3: "A Trip to Florida for Health and Sport" by Cyrus Parkhurst
Feb 7: "Weeki Wachee Mermaids: Thirty Years of Underwater Photography" by Lu Vickers, Bonnie Georgiadis
Mar 7: "Walkin Lawton" by John Dos Passos Coggin
Apr 4: "Tales of Old Florida" by Frank Oppel, Tony Melsel (Chapters 1-13)
May 2: "The Trouble with Panthers" by William Cuyler Hall
Jun 6: "Florida's Big Dig: The Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway" by William Crawford
Jul 11*: "Tales of Old Florida" by Frank Oppel, Tony Melsel (Chapters 14-27)
   *Note July 11th: The Fourth is on the first Saturday.
Aug 1: "Deep Shadow" by Randy Wayne White
Sep 5: "Alligators in B Flat" by Jeff Klinkenburg
Oct 3: "Tales of Old Florida" by Frank Oppel, Tony Melsel (Chapters 28-40)
Nov 7: "Back Country Lawmen" by Bob H. Lee
Dec 5: "Home Grown in Florida" by William McCheen, ed.
Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve

Back by popular demand...

OFF THE BEATEN PATH
A nature-based fundraising hike series!

Description: This series of four hikes will take place in beautiful areas tucked away within Brooker Creek Preserve in sites that are closed to the public. Our guide, Dr. Craig Huegel (SPC Biology Professor), can identify everything, from the tiniest moss to the tallest tree including animal prints, bird calls, lichens, and more. He is full of stories and very patient in answering questions. The hikes will be not only educational, but a lot of fun as well! The hikes will begin at 9:00 a.m. and be about 3-4 hours long. Bring water and lunch.

Cost: $80 donation for the series or $25 donation per hike with a 10% discount for members of Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve.

Sites Off the Beaten Path – only two left:

Dec. 7 – Interior Wildlands - Sorry, this hike is FULL! 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!

March 8, 2015 – 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.

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.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US!

Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center 10 years!

Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve - 20 years!
News from the Wildflower Garden
by Pam Brown

The garden put on a good show of blooms for our annual Wildflower Festival. Fall is such a lovely time for wildflowers in Florida. At our meeting of the Wildflower Garden Club in October we had a good group of volunteers. We planted some of the flowers left from the Festival plant sale - Yellow Top and Blazing Star. We also planted the seedlings that we grew from some of the seeds from the garden last year behind the windows of the Education Center. Hopefully they will mature and provide some blooms in this area next season.

November starts our winter hours for working in the Wildflower Garden. We will meet from 9 - 11 a.m. through April on the last Saturday of each month except December. Please plan to join us and bring gardening tools, gloves, hat and bug repellent. We will provide coffee, juice and snacks.

Pam’s Gardening Tip

Fall is a good time to plant in Florida as long as ample water is provided to establish what you plant. I am very fond of planting native shrubs because they are usually of value to pollinators and wildlife. If you need a large, dense, evergreen shrub, Marlberry (Ardisia escallonioides) is a great choice. It grows well in acid or alkaline pH soils in part shade to full sun. It does prefer well drained soil and is drought tolerant once established. Marlberry matures to about fifteen feet tall and eight feet wide. The intermittent white blooms attract pollinators and butterflies and are followed by small red-purple fruit favored by birds. This plant takes pruning well and can be growing into a nice hedge or screen.

Nature Store News
By: Kathleen Nichter

The Nature Store completed its third year of operations on September 30. In three years, we have grown from a few items in the lobby, to filling the retail space left by the prior for-profit stores. This past year our sales exceeded $15,000, a 24% increase over last year. We will be turning over income of over $6,000 to the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve to support programs at Brooker Creek Preserve. In addition, we have donated over $200 worth of store inventory as thank you gifts for presenters, souvenirs for teachers who participated in teacher training, silent auctions, etc.

We have a group of very devoted volunteers who staff the store, help the customers, stock shelves, and pretty much anything else that needs to be done. Thank you so much to those volunteers for their time and dedication, and thank you to all of you who support the Nature Store.

The Nature Store nursery has for sale four six-foot, beautiful, live slash pines in pots that you can decorate and use for a green, sustainable living Christmas tree! At only $30, these trees are a bargain, and can be planted in your yard after the holidays.
James’ Advanced Plant ID is BACK!
Only . . .
It’s at Weedon Island this time ;-)!
This 6-part plant identification series will introduce participants to the basics and not-so-basic steps required to positively identify plants. $30 price for this series will cover the cost of a notebook and a copy of How to Identify Plants by H.D. Harrington which participants will keep. In each 2-hour session, participants will have lecture, hands-on and field experiences. Each session will build on the previous; attending the entire series is recommended. The six classes, beginning Feb. 14, 2015, will be 10:00 am to noon: Feb. 14 and 28, Mar. 14 and 28, and Apr. 11 and 25.

Upon completion of the entire course, participants will receive a Certificate of Completion from the University of Florida. Registration is available online at: http://bit.ly/AdvancedPlantID

4-H Brooker Creek Explorers Give Thanks!
The 4-H Brooker Creek Explorers are in search of new club members (ages 5-18) and fundraising opportunities and the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve made this possible. The Explorers set up a table at the Wildflower Festival where the kids promoted their club and also had handmade bracelets and bookmarks available in turn for a donation. Thanks to the generous support of many Wildflower Festival attendees, the club raised $216.06! The Explorers will be meeting in November to determine exactly how the money will be spent, but I have a feeling another camping adventure at Brooker is on the top of the list ;-)
(Volunteer News, continued)

**Birds of Prey Program Needs Your Help!**

Thanks to the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey's successful grant submission to Duke Energy, they are bringing their program to Brooker! On Saturday, November 22, the Audubon group will present a fun and interactive program with live birds. Participants will learn how birds of prey interact with the environment and how water, energy and habitat conservation affects them, but they cannot do it without your help. They are looking for volunteers to assist with the various stations they will have set up for the program. If you are interested in assisting with this, please contact Lara ASAP at laras317@ufl.edu. THANK YOU!

**Thank You for another GREAT Year!**

In 2014, our volunteers contributed 6,651 hours, which is an equivalent of $141,267.24 of service to this community! On top of that we had 20,577 visitors in the Education Center and we offered a total of 177 educational programs reaching 7,140 people! You all are FANTASTIC! Keep up the AWESOME work.

We would also like to see how these programs have impacted you. If you attended a program in 2014, please consider completing this survey to assess our success and help us develop programs for the future. To take the survey, so to [https://jfe.qualtrics.com/form/SV_4VH9mIvRE4wX8kB](https://jfe.qualtrics.com/form/SV_4VH9mIvRE4wX8kB)

**Looking Ahead to 2015**

Make sure to take a look at all of the programs we already have scheduled for 2015. We are offering two programs every Saturday from January through April! This is our prime season and there is no better way to increase our numbers than to offer more programs. And, if you haven't already, remember to "Like" us on facebook at [www.facebook.com/BrookerCreekPreserve](http://www.facebook.com/BrookerCreekPreserve) and help us reach our goal of 1000 "Likes"!

If you would like to join our active volunteer group at Brooker Creek Preserve, please call us at (727) 453-6800. Don't forget to "like" the BCP Environmental Education Center on Facebook – [Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center](http://www.facebook.com/BrookerCreekPreserve)

Audubon Center for Birds of Prey • 407-644-0190 • fl.audubon.org

[Image of Audubon Center for Birds of Prey]

**Bird Bash at Brooker Creek Preserve**

*November 22, 2014*

*1-3pm*

*All Ages Welcome*

*Event is Free*

- Learn how you can conserve water, energy and birds (WEB)
- Kids crafts and games
- School supply prizes
- Bird meet and greet

Audubon will host the Bird Bash at Brooker Creek Preserve.
3040 Keystone Rd. Tarpon Springs, FL
[www.brookercreek.org](http://www.brookercreek.org)

This program is made possible by the generosity of Duke Energy®
Brooker Creek Preserve
Environmental Education Center
3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs.
All programs require advance registration
(727) 453-6800
www.brookercreekpreserve.org

All classes are at Brooker Creek unless otherwise noted. Upcoming Programs now includes relevant UF/IFAS Extension program offered throughout Pinellas County.

November 2014 Programs
Thurs., Nov. 6, 13, 20, 10:30 - 11:15 am
Book Time at Brooker: 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; registration required.

Sat., Nov. 1, 9:30 - 10:30 am
Brooker Book Club: Hosted by the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve, the Brooker Book Club meets the first Saturday of each month. The theme for 2014 is science. This month’s book is “Surviving Galeras” by Stanley Williams and Fen Montaigne. This club is geared toward adults. Registration is required due to a limited amount of seats. Meet in the conference room inside the Visitors Center. Books are not provided. 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Free.

Sat., Nov. 1, 10:30 am - noon
Talk about Turkeys: Join Upland Gamebird Research Biologist Danny Caudill with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for a presentation on the wild turkey. Learn about turkey habitat, breeding behaviors and nesting. There couldn’t be a more appropriate time to learn about this beautiful bird that plays a significant role on the local ecosystem and economy.

Sat., Nov. 1, 9:00 - 10:30 am
Explore the Ecosystems: Brooker Creek Preserve certified guides will lead the hike along the 0.75-mile Education Center Trail. Observe the forested wetland, oak hammock and pine flatwood ecosystems. Closed-toe shoes, water and a hat are recommended. Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult; those younger than 6 may find the hike challenging. Free.

Fri., Nov. 7, 11:00 am - noon
Introduction to Florida-Friendly Landscaping™: Brian Niemann, Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Extension Agent, will discuss design and maintenance considerations for landscaping, how to choose the right plant for the right place and efficient outdoor water usage. Free. Call (727) 724-3070 to register. Aging Well Center. 1501 N. Belcher Road, Clearwater.

Fri., Nov. 7, 9:00 - 11:00 am
Woods Walk: Participants can join a local natural resources agent on a hike along two miles of boardwalks and natural trails at Brooker Creek Preserve. Binoculars and camera are recommended. Any questions the hike guide cannot answer will be researched in the resource room upon return to the Education Center.

Fridays, Nov. 7, 21, 26, 6:00 - 8:00 pm
Night Hike: Hikers can join the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve for a one-mile hiking experience along the Education Center Trail at night. These special hikes are open to the public and limited to 20 people per hike. Experienced guides will lead the group. A $3 per person donation is requested; registration required.

Sat., Nov. 8, 12:30 - 2:00 pm
Botany 101: Participants will investigate the fascinating and complex Plant Kingdom in an introduction to Botanical Science. Both classroom and outdoor activities included. Recommended for adults. Free.
Sat., Nov. 8, 8:00 - 10:30 am  
**Birds of Brooker Hike:** Participants can join this bird hike and learn how to identify the county’s common birds while meandering along a one-mile trail. Water and binoculars are recommended. Free.

Thurs., Nov. 13 (two classes scheduled)  
**Pruning by Master Gardeners:** Master and aspiring gardeners will look at plant objectives from pruning, the proper time to prune, examples of how not to prune and the consequences of bad pruning. Two classes scheduled: 2 to 3:30 p.m. and 6:15 to 7:45 p.m. Free; registration required. (727) 582-2603. Palm Harbor Library, 2330 Nebraska Ave., Palm Harbor. http://tinyurl.com/lyl3tpm.

Fri., Nov. 14,  
**Botany Hike:** Participants can join a Brooker Creek naturalist to explore the fascinating plants found on the preserve. The hike will include identifying wildflowers, ferns, epiphytes, trees and more. The ecology of various plant communities will also be examined. Best suited for adults. Free.

Sat., Nov. 15, 9:00 - 10:30 am  
**Footprints on the Land Guided Hike:** Certified guides will lead a hike along the Education Center Trail. Participants can learn of the many “footprints” that can be found during this 0.75-mile walk. Sturdy closed-toe shoes are a must; water and a hat are recommended. Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult, those younger than 6 may find the hike challenging. Free.

Fri., Nov. 21, 9:00 - 11:00 am  
**Wildlife Hike:** Participants can join an experienced naturalist on a hike along boardwalks and natural trails at Brooker Creek Preserve. Participants are encouraged to be ready with questions. Free.

Sat., Nov. 22, 10:30 am - noon  
**Birds in Classical Music:** Lynn Sumerson demonstrates how, why and by whom birds were used as the theme in classical music by using very brief examples with musical accompaniments. Free.

Saturdays, Nov. 22, 29, 9:00 - 10:30 am  
**Our Wildest Place Guided Hike:** Brooker Creek Preserve certified guides lead the hike along the Education Center Trail. Participants will learn why the Preserve has been called “Our Wildest Place” during this 0.75-mile walk. Sturdy closed-toe shoes are a must; water and a hat are recommended. All ages are welcome although children younger than 6 may find the hike challenging. Children younger than 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Free.

Sat., Nov. 22, 9:00 am - noon  
**Extended Guided Hike:** Volunteer hike guides will lead participants on a 2.8 to 4-mile walk through Brooker Creek Preserve. Hike trails will be determined by trail condition. Sturdy closed-toe shoes are a must; water and a hat are recommended. Hike guides will meet participants in the lobby of the Exhibit Hall 10 minutes before the scheduled start time of 9 a.m. Pets are not permitted. All ages are welcome. Children under the ages of 16 must be accompanied by an adult and those younger than 10 may find the hike challenging. Free.

Sat., Nov. 29, 8:30 - 10:30 am  
**Guided Photography Hike:** Participants will hike Brooker Creek Preserve in search of that perfect shot. This program provides opportunities for photographers of all levels to hone their skills. In a brief classroom session, local photographers and master naturalists, Karl and Kathleen Nichter, highlight the seasonal features that help participants capture the natural beauty of the preserve. Then, hike the boardwalk and trails looking for those shots that reflect the season. Recommended for adults and children 12 and older. Free.

Sat., Nov. 29, 8:00 - 11:00 am  
**Wildflower Garden Club:** The Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve will be getting their gardening hands dirty in the Preserve’s wildflower garden. Participants should bring garden gloves and hat. Morning snacks are usually provided. Free.

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**Did you know?**

The donations we receive in the donation boxes in the Education Center are earmarked for programs at the Preserve. Nearly all natural history programs at the Preserve are sponsored by the Friends using this funding.
December 2014 Programs

Tuesdays, Dec. 4, 11, 18, 10:30 - 11:15 am
**Book Time at Brooker:** 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.

Fri., Dec. 5, 9:00 - 11:00 am
**Woods Walk:** Participants can join a local Natural Resources Agent on a hike along two miles of boardwalks and natural trails at Brooker Creek Preserve. Binoculars and camera are recommended. Any questions the hike guide cannot answer will be researched in the resource room upon return to the Education Center. Free.

Fridays, Dec. 5, 19, 6:00 - 8:00 pm
**Night Hike:** Hikers can join the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve for a one-mile hiking experience along the Education Center Trail at night. These special hikes are open to the public and limited to 20 people per hike. Experienced guides will lead the group. A $3 per person donation is requested.

Sat., Dec. 6, 9:00 - 10:30 am
**Explore the Ecosystems:** Brooker Creek Preserve certified guides will lead the hike along the 0.75-mile Education Center Trail. Observe the forested wetland, oak hammock and pine flatwood ecosystems. Closed-toe shoes, water and a hat are recommended. Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult, those younger than 6 may find the hike challenging. Free.

Sat., Dec. 6, 9:30 - 10:30 am
**Brooker Book Club:** Hosted by the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve, the Brooker Book Club meets the first Saturday of each month. The theme for 2014 is science. The book this month is “Florida's Geological Treasures” by Iris Tracey Comfort. This club is geared toward adults. Registration is required due to a limited amount of seats. Meet in the conference room inside the Visitors Center. Books are not provided. Free.

Sat., Dec. 6, 10:00 am - noon
**Wreath-Making Workshop Using Natural Materials:** Participants can learn how to make beautiful holiday wreaths from grapevines, cabbage palms and other natural materials gathered from the woods. Each participant will go home with a completed wreath suitable for hanging for the holidays. Participants will meet at the Music Pavilion at 10 a.m. All ages are welcome. Cost: $10 Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve Members, $15 non-members. RSVP by email to fobcp@tampabay.rr.com or call 727-934-2680. The class is limited to 20 participants.

Sat., Dec. 6, 10:30 am - noon
**Turtle Science: Why Turtles are Cool:** Participants will be introduced to the fascinating world of turtles and turtle science. Turtles are the most endangered group of animals on earth; guests will learn about their diversity, conservation and the latest research findings. Live animals and bioartifacts will be included. This is a family-orientated presentation given by George L. Heinrich of Heinrich Ecological Services. Free.

Fri., Dec. 12, 9:00 - 11:00 am
**Botany Hike:** Participants can join a Brooker

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From the Pinellas Chapter, Florida Native Plant Society

**ORCHIDS!** Come to our free Wed., Dec. 3rd. 7pm (first Wednesday, each month) meeting of the Pinellas Chapter of Florida Native Plant Society.

**NOTE:** Our December meeting is our festive **Annual Holiday Conservation Celebration,** at Pinellas County Extension, 12520 Ulmerton Rd. - normally at Moccasin Lake Nature Park: 2750 Park Trail Lane, Clearwater. We'll have a fascinating talk on beautiful wild native Florida orchids (not imports/hybrids) by professional naturalist & author Roger Hammer; also exhibits, refreshments, plant sale, upcoming talks and events. 727-322-3954.
Creek naturalist to explore the fascinating plants found on the preserve. The hike will include identifying wildflowers, ferns, epiphytes, trees and more. The ecology of various plant communities will also be examined. Best suited for adults. Free.

Sat., Dec. 13, 8:00 - 10:30 am
Birds of Brooker Hike: Participants can join this bird hike and learn how to identify the county's common birds while meandering along a one-mile trail. Participants should bring water and binoculars. Free.

Sat., Dec. 13, 10:30 am - noon
Aquatic Life of Brooker Creek Preserve: Participants will explore the underwater world of the Preserve. Both classroom and outdoor activities included. Prepare to get wet. Free; registration required. Class is limited to the first 25 registrants due to the nature of the activities. Those registered must cancel their reservation if unable to attend.

Fri., Dec. 19, 9:00 - 11:00 am
Wildlife Hike: Participants can join an experienced naturalist on a hike along the boardwalks and natural trails at Brooker Creek Preserve. Participants are encouraged to be ready with questions. Free.

Sat., Dec. 20, 9:00 - 10:30 am
Footprints on the Land Guided Hike: Certified guides will lead a hike along the Education Center Trail. Participants can learn of the many "footprints" that can be found during this 0.75-mile walk. Sturdy closed-toe shoes are a must; water and a hat are recommended. Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult; those younger than 6 may find the hike challenging. Free.

Sat., Dec. 27, 8:00 - 11:00 am
Wildflower Garden Club: The Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve will be getting their gardening hands dirty in the Preserve's wildflower garden. Participants should bring garden gloves and a hat. Morning snacks are usually provided. Free.

Sat., Dec. 27, 9:00 - 10:30 am
Our Wildest Place Guided Hike: Brooker Creek Preserve certified guides lead the hike along the Education Center Trail. Participants can learn why the preserve has been called "Our Wildest Place" during this 0.75-mile walk. Sturdy closed-toe shoes are a must; water and a hat are recommended. All ages are welcome although children younger than 6 may find the hike challenging. Children younger than 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Free; registration required.

Sat., Dec. 27, 8:30 - 10:30 am
Extended Guided Hike: Volunteer hike guides will lead participants on a 2.8 to 4-mile walk through Brooker Creek Preserve. Hike trails will be determined by trail condition. Sturdy closed-toe shoes are a must; water and a hat are recommended. Hike guides will meet participants in the lobby of the Exhibit Hall 10 minutes before the scheduled start time of 9 a.m. Pets are not permitted. All ages are welcome. Children under the ages of 16 must be accompanied by an adult and those younger than 10 may find the hike challenging. Free.

Chickasaw Plum by Barb Hoffman
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.

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:
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. Store 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

Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve - Officers
Chair: Barbara Hoffman
Vice Chair: Cathie Foster
Vice Chair: Allyn Childress
Secretary: Chuck Parsons
Treasurer: Carson Morrow

Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center

Brooker Creek Preserve - Directors:
Director Emeritus: Ken Rowe
Land Use Chair: Dr. Craig Huegel
Membership Chair: Jeff 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 Festival Chair: Laurie Angyn
Wildflower Garden: Pam Brown
Wildlife Safari Chair: Brad Wilkins

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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.

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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.

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