



Newsletter of the
Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve
June, July 2008

Brooker Creek Preserve Management Plan-2008

By Allyn Childress Chairperson and Cathie Foster Vice Chair

The Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve Land Use Committee has reviewed the **01 May 2008 draft of the *Brooker Creek Preserve Management Plan*** and has provided our comments to the Environmental Lands Division. We have also included our prior comments on the proposed land use map and language.

The Brooker Creek Preserve Management Plan draft does not contain the final land use language and map, nor is it the primary vehicle for the approval of those items. The Pinellas County Planning Department develops the land use documents and maps. The final proposed land use changes will be adopted into the county's comprehensive plan and will then be applicable within the BCP Management Plan. Our Land Use Committee is following this process and will continue to provide comments and input regarding land use. As the draft Management Plan is revised, we may review and comment on these changes as well.

You can read the draft Management Plan as well as our board of director's comments on our website: www.friendsofbrookercreekpreserve.org .

The final draft of the Management Plan will be posted on the county website by late June. The Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners will hold a work session on Thursday, August 7, 2008 at the Pinellas County Courthouse in Clearwater. The work session starts at 9:30 a.m. There will be an opportunity for public comment following the work session.

Final approval and adoption of the plan will take place at the Board of County Commissioners meeting on Tuesday, August 19, 2008. The regular meeting will begin at 3:00 p.m., with public comment beginning at 6:30 p.m.

For more information about County Commission meetings go to <http://www.pinellascounty.org/commission/default.htm> and click on "Guide to BCC Meetings" and "Public Participation" in the left sidebar. You will also find links to each commissioner if you wish to submit comments ahead of time.



Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve

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This newsletter is published every other month.

Submit articles to:
Newsletter editor: Ken Rowe
ksr28@verizon.net
727-781-0745

The Board of directors meet every other month on the second Thursday evenings and occasionally every month.

The board consists of the
Chairperson: Allyn Childress
Vice Chair: Cathie Foster
Vice Chair: Barbara Hoffman
Secretary: Chuck Parsons
Treasurer: Karl Nichter
Membership: Jon Burr
Immediate Past Chairman:
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Martin Schachter
Jane Gallucci
Rome Scerbo
Beverly Billiris
Ken Rowe

To contact the friends

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Phone# 727-934-2680

Leave a message and your phone number or see our website:

www.friendsofbrookercreekpreserve.org

The Friends of Brooker Creek

Preserve need your help.

We are now participating in the keep Pinellas Beautiful Program and Adopt A Mile.

We are picking up trash along Keystone Road in front of Brooker Creek Preserve.

Altogether it takes about an hour and a half of your time We will do this at least four times a year. We are planning one pickup September 27, 2008, and the first Saturday in December. We meet at 8:00 A.M. for O.J., coffee & donuts, safety orientation, and team assignments.

Several of the Board members did a trash pickup the 29th of March and another June 14th, and felt really good about what we have done. It would be great if members of the Friends would become involved.

Join The Team

Make your membership in the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve count. Be part of this effort.

Please call Ken Rowe at 727-781-0745 or e-mail him at:
fobcp@tampabay.rr.com.
Subject line "Keep Pinellas Beautiful"





Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve

I'm Lichen the Adult Classes, They Toad the Mark.

By Jon Burr

The last two adult classes sponsored by the Friends were as interesting as the previous class.

Richard (Rick) Lavoy, Education Coordinator, at the Archbold Biological Station in Lake Placid, Florida, presented a class on Reptiles and Amphibians. Per their website, "Archbold Biological Station is an independent, non-profit research facility, devoted to long-term ecological research and conservation."

Before going in the field (or wetlands) Rick led us through an excellent PowerPoint presentation with great photos and identification guides to the frogs, toads and lizards of Florida. A disk with the presentation was provided to each attendee as well as outline material on each species group. Rick also brought some examples of some of these animals found in Florida, including a sullen, big *Bufo Marinus* toad, an introduced species, that sat with a hard look in his plastic cage.

Out in the field – you know the first cypress dome when you enter the Preserve – we were introduced to the fine art of wading on top of accumulated vegetation, not solid ground, in search of resident amphibians. We didn't see any, but the effort was fun. Later we went to several of the drift fences, those long, sheet metal installations with large, empty plastic buckets buried at each end, to look for what animals may have fallen in overnight. We found a few small frogs and several skinks. After each specimen was released (the skinks run fast!), the buckets were then carefully covered so no unintentional captures might occur.

This was an excellent class, well presented with very useful support material.

The last class for this year, on Lichens, was conducted by Dr. Dana Griffin, Professor of Botany (retired), University of Florida. This was the best attended class of the three I went to. Dr. Griffin obviously enjoyed his work and the class room presentation was excellent. After giving an overview of the Macrolichens of Florida, the class walked the Ed Center trail and examined several of the species that were discussed in class.

Lichens are not an organism; they are an association between a fungus (the mycobiant) and one or more components (the photobionts) that are photosynthetic. Dr. Griffin made certain we understood this point by repeating it several times. The whole thing is called a thallus.

The most interesting part of the class for me was "keying" out two different species of lichen. I had never done this process, and it was fascinating. One of the lichens we had to identify required the use of fairly common reagents (supplied by Dr. Griffin) that when applied to a scraped portion of the specimen produced certain colors that confirmed which key line to continue investigating. A copy of "Keys to the Macrolichens of Florida" was provided to each participant.

The Friends are very happy to have had a part in this program. Each instructor was provided an honorarium. Any extra from the class fees went back to the Friends. The Friends wish to extend their thanks to the Ed Center staff who put these outstanding programs together.

Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve

SWALLOW-TAILED KITES

By Ken Rowe

The Research Department at Brooker Creek Preserve is doing a study of Swallow-tailed Kites in the area. The head of Research Dr. Steve Harper asks if you have sighted one or more Swallow-tailed Kites, to notify him that you have sighted them and where you saw them. If you would positively spot them at a nest, that would be even more important to notify him.

To contact him call 727-453-6900 and ask for Dr. Steve Harper or e-mail him at: sjharper@pinellascounty.org

In reality what you see as yellow in this picture is in fact white.



*****ALERT*****

Email Alert List—The Friends “Land Use Committee” is vigilant about being aware of land use issues that affect the preserve. They meet monthly, if not more, with county staff. Occasionally, situations arise that need public action. If you would like to be placed on the “**E-mail Alert**” list, please send an e-mail to the Friends (fobcp@tampabay.rr.com) and tell them so. Subject line “E-mail Alert”

This is a very quick and easy way to get important information out.

Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve

Progress Energy Corridor Update

By Cathie Foster

Vice Chair of the Friends of Brooker
Creek Preserve

In our last newsletter we issued two position statements: one regarding Senate Bills 1506 and 1544, the other regarding a possible Progress Energy corridor through Brooker Creek Preserve. To put it briefly, apparently the ideas in these two bills were incorporated into House Bill 7135, which passed. This bill contains many 'green' concepts. It sets up a cap and trade program for greenhouse gases to help limit the effects of climate change, requires utilities to adopt new energy efficiency measures, and directs the Public Service Commission to come up with rules increasing renewable energy supplies including provisions for alternative or renewable energy. Unfortunately, this bill also makes it easier for power companies to use public land for construction of power lines on public land.

The good news is that Progress Energy has selected a preferred transmission corridor

that avoids several environmentally sensitive areas, including Brooker Creek Preserve in Pinellas County, the Rainbow River in Marion County, and Starkey Wilderness Preserve in Pasco County.

As specific route options are defined – this fall and in 2009 – Progress Energy Florida will hold additional public informational meetings to share those options with residents.

In a news release, Progress Energy's president and chief executive officer Jeff Lyash said, "During the past year, we have actively solicited community input and suggestions about this project. We listened to that feedback. Overwhelmingly, people suggested we locate the new lines along or adjacent to existing lines wherever possible, to minimize the impact on nearby communities."

Please Receive your Friends Newsletter online.

Submit your e-mail address to Membership contact, Jon Burr, at:
fobcp@tampabay.rr.com. Subject line "E-mail Newsletter"

This will get you your newsletter more quickly and save the Friends the cost of printing and mailing it.

Do you want to go birding?

There are several of us who have been volunteering with the Research Department of the Environmental Lands Division doing Birding surveys at Brooker Creek Preserve and other environmental lands locations. Join the team. We have been starting every Wednesday morning at 7:00 A.M., and are finished by eleven or before. It is a great opportunity to improve your skills at bird identification.

Contact: Jon Burr at: fobcp@tampabay.rr.com. Subject line "Birding tabulation"

Friends  of Brooker Creek Preserve

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