



Newsletter of the
Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve

September, October 2009

The County budget results are in...

The good news: the Preserve will remain open, without any new gate fees.

The bad news:

- Hours of access will be severely restricted,
- Programs will be cut, and
- Multiple staff positions have been cut or reassigned.

Please express your appreciation to the staff and volunteers on your next visit to the Preserve. Many of the staff will be leaving September 30th. The staff that remain, and the volunteers, deserve our support and encouragement as the tough new fiscal year begins.

Save the Date: Saturday, November 7th, 9 am – 1 pm **The Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve Annual Meeting**

Tour: We are hoping to arrange a tour of the new Wilde tract – we will post details on our website as they become available.

Speaker: Dr. Steve Harper, the new Director of the Environmental Lands Division, will give us his vision for the coming year.

Chair's Message: Focus on Fundraising!

Refreshments: Food and drinks will be provided.

Board Elections: If you or someone you know would be interested in serving on the Friends board, please let us know at fobcp@tampabay.rr.com.

Thank you – see you in November!

Allyn Childress, Chair

For additional information on the operating hours of the Preserve and the Education Center, See page Two.



Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve

K/R Volume # 2 Number 3

This newsletter is published every other month.

Submit articles to:
Newsletter editor: Ken Rowe
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The Board of Directors meet every other month on the second Thursday evenings and occasionally every month.

Officers

Chairperson: Allyn Childress
Vice Chair: Cathie Foster
Vice Chair: Barbara Hoffman
Secretary: Kathleen Nichter
Treasurer: Karl Nichter

Board Members:

Immediate Past Chairman:
Walt Hoskins
Membership: Jon Burr
Helen Bietry
Beverly Billiris
Jane Gallucci
Chuck Parsons
Debbie Reker
Martin Schachter
Dave Seidel
Newsletter Editor Ken Rowe

To contact the Friends

E-Mail;

fobcp@tampabay.rr.com
727-934-2680

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

www.friendsofbrookercreek-preserve.org

NEW HOURS OF OPERATION, EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1ST

Brooker Creek Preserve

Open Thursday through Sunday with hours following the current seasonal schedule.

Closed on official County holidays.

The horse trails and Friends trail will remain open seven days a week and on holidays.

Brooker Creek Preserve

Education Center

Open Thursday through Saturday, 9 am – 4 pm.



“I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and to see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, that when I came to die, discover that I had not lived.”

Henry David Thoreau

Walden

Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve

A Volunteer Education Program at the Preserve

By Jon Burr

The Friends provided support for an intensive, four day class, September 17th through the 20th, 2009, for volunteers at the Preserve to become Certified Interpretive Guides (CIG). The class was taught by the Preserve's own April Frederick. Class work included homework, a lengthy test – fortunately open book -- and a ten minute presentation. The hard part was keeping it to ten minutes.

The CIG program is one of the Certification programs under the auspices of the National Association for Interpretation (NAI). Their goal is to inspire leadership and excellence to advance heritage interpretation as a profession. The volunteers at the Brooker Creek Preserve are very fortunate to have April Frederick, who is a Certified instructor for the NAI, on the Ed Center staff to not only provide instruction such as this program but to conduct hike guide classes and continuing education to the existing and future hike guides who assist visitors to the Preserve. The Friends not only provided support for this class but continue to help April with her on-going effort to have the very best interpretive guides at Brooker Creek Preserve. This photo is of the class.





Adopt-A-Mile, Keep Pinellas Beautiful

On Saturday, September 19, 2009 Barbara Hoffman, Hank Dykstell, Evan Earle, Marion Yongue, and I did a clean-up along approximately one mile of Keystone Road in front of Brooker Creek Preserve.

I want to thank Barb, Hank, Evan, and Marion as well as all of the others who have done it before: that is, such people as Marge Rowe, Jon Burr, Liz Burr, Dave Seidel, Pat Coughlin, Cathie Foster, Karen Moorhead, Scott Moorhead, Ben Mercadante, M. J. MacDonald. If this old man (me) has omitted your name, please contact me Thank you all.

Can anyone please give me suggestions as to what to say or how to appeal to people to get a better response from the members of The Friends Of Brooker Creek Preserve to become participants in this project? I would love to spread the joy around.

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