

Newsletter of the
Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve

November - December 2012

Chairman's Message

By Barb Hoffman

The Year in Review

We certainly are an active organization! As I look back on our accomplishments for 2012, I am amazed at the diversity of our projects and the amount of time and effort we devote. Here is a list of our projects in no particular order:

- **Trial Improv/Dinner** - a test as a future fundraiser - it was a complete success!
- **Wilderness Trail Hike** - over 8 miles from one end of the Preserve to the other. We became aware of the poor conditions of the second half of this trail and have lobbied successfully for permission to reroute the trail to create a trail more pleasurable for hikers.
- **Friends Nature Store** - a successful year showing over \$1,000 profit! We moved it to its new location and there is now room for growth!
- **Friends Book Club** - which meets once per month on the first Saturday, 9-11. Led by Laurie Angyn, this book club focuses on Florida authors and Florida politics and natural history.
- **New signs** along the loop drive - successfully lobbied for new signage that more effectively reflects the nature of the Preserve... AND provides correct information.
- **Wildlife Safari** - a successful event for the 2nd year bringing in 450 people in one day.
- **Fall Wildflower Festival** - a successful event for the 3rd year bringing in 650 people in one day.
- **Tri-County Trail Task Force** - the Friends were the catalyst and play an integral role in this Pinellas-Pasco-Hillsborough group of government planners and interested citizens to

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create a regional bicycle trail connecting Brooker Creek Preserve to the world.

-- **A World-Class Newsletter** - published every two months, filled with beautiful pictures of the Preserve, a calendar of events, great natural history information, volunteer news and opportunities, and much more.

-- **Youth Programs** beyond the Ed Center - through many meetings, we helped with the decision for Sensing Nature to provide youth programs beyond the walls of the Ed Center in partnership with Florida Youth Conservation Center Network.

-- **Wildflower Garden** - continued maintaining this very beautiful centerpiece of the Ed Center.

-- **Annual Meeting** - an annual celebration with a delicious lunch for all.

Look to the Future

We are excited about continuing all the above, but adding these to the list:

- Walk for Wildlife - a one-day fundraiser promoting our Brooker trails and wildlife protection.
- Family Campout - a Saturday-Sunday adventure for Friends families with tenting, a campfire, hiking, songs, stories, and, of course, s'mores at the Brooker campsite.
- Adult Field Trips
- *Off the Beaten Path* Hike Series - we took a year off, but excited to begin again
- Adult Ecology Workshops

I am so grateful for the many Friends we have, and happy to have YOU along this ride! Here's to a fantastic year behind us and to a wonderful year ahead!

Barb

A Birthday or Holiday Gift Idea!

Consider giving a membership as a gift! For \$50, a gift package will be mailed to the recipient. The package will contain a Brooker Creek Preserve t-shirt (you choose size and color), the book *Mysteries of Brooker Creek*, a Brooker Creek Preserve canvas tote bag, a set of 6 Brooker Creek Preserve post cards, and a Brooker Creek Preserve pin. A gift card recognizing your personal gift will be enclosed. We do all the mailing, and you get all the glory. We get a new member and you have done something good for the Preserve - a win-win combination! Email fobcp@tampabay.rr.com if you interested.

Nature Store News

Kathleen Nichter

We had an eventful time at the Nature Store the last two months. We moved, renamed the store, and saw sales increase with the coming of Fall.

The Move As most of you noticed, our merchandise outgrew the lobby area. The new section for books really showed us we needed more space. We spent a lot of time arranging things to get it all displayed without looking cluttered. On Monday, October 22, 2012 we made the move to the former store area. People now have room to browse, glance through the books, peruse the laminated field guides, and take their time.

The Name We always referred to the store as a gift shop. However, our stated merchandising position said that all merchandise must pertain to Brooker Creek Preserve. After some awkward explanations to people asking us to carry gift but not nature related items, and some oddly worded communications referring to the store as a "gift and nature shop", we decided the time had come to make a commitment. We are now the "Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve Nature Store".

Sales and the Wildflower Festival

After a very slow summer season for the store, cooler weather has returned and along with it the visitors to the Preserve. Sales in October broke our previous record with over \$850 in receipts. The Wildflower Festival accounted for \$432, a 60% increase over last year. Laminated field guides and the new selection of books proved very popular.

New Merchandise We added nature themed Christmas ornaments this year, and the first week in December we take delivery of nature themed ceramics including wall plaques, refrigerator magnets, and pendants for necklaces. Check us out for your holiday gift giving.

We need volunteers to staff the Nature Store. Right now we are very short on volunteers for Saturdays, historically our busiest day. We offer training, a nice environment, and a lovely view of the Preserve through all those windows. Some very energetic squirrels provide entertainment while competing with the birds for the bird seed on the boardwalk just outside the store. Let us know if you can help.

Come one, come all!
Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve
- ANNUAL MEETING -

CELEBRATE THE PRESERVE!

Saturday, Nov. 10, 2012
Brooker Creek Preserve
Environmental Education Center

Join us for a guided walk along the Ed Center and/or Flatwoods Trails.

11:00 a.m. Ed Center Auditorium

Lunch Enjoy a host of delicious, catered goodies— soups, salads, fruits, and home-made desserts!

Annual Summary & Look to the Future,

Barbara Hoffman, Chair

Preserve & Ed Center Updates,

Preserve Staff

Board Elections & Misc. Business



Hiking trails & Exhibit Hall will be open!
Get your holiday shopping started at our new Nature Store!



RSVP by 11/8/12!

Voicemail 727-934-2680

Email fobcp@tampabay.rr.com

Feel free to invite potential new members!



2012 Fall Wildflower Festival -- a huge success!

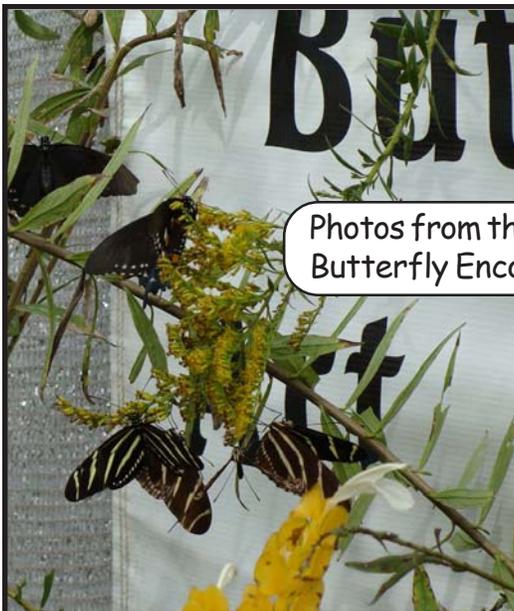
Over 650 people attended the Fall Wildflower Festival on Saturday, October 27! The festival had something for everyone - presentations, a plant sale, a wildflower scavenger hunt, a live honeybee hive, and the main attraction, a huge butterfly tent filled with 250 butterflies!

This event is completely organized and conducted by Friends members and Preserve volunteers who gave 203 hours of their time on the day of the event. Of course, many, many hours of volunteer time went into pre-event planning and organizing as well.

The event was chaired by Friends member and Preserve volunteer, Laurie Angyn, who did an outstanding job! We thank you, Laurie, for your leadership and organization skills, and we celebrate with you the event's success!



Thank you to the sponsors of the butterfly tent! We could not have this event without you!



Butterfly Encounter

~ sponsored by ~

Progress Energy

& Anonymous

Carrie Root, Ph.D.

Carson Family Care Center

Ecological Services Associates

Doug Eiland, M.D., Radiology Assoc. of Tarpon Springs

Evan Earle, Jr. and Marion Yongue

Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve

The Garden Club of Tarpon Springs, Inc.

Hoffman Architects, PA

In Memory of Ty Miramonti

The Morrow Family

Nichter Photography

Palm Harbor Garden Club

Pampered Gardeners, LLC

Kim and Chuck Parsons

The Reker Family

Waddell & Reed Financial Advisors

Julie Wade

Lois Weber

Wilcox Nursery and Landscape



Brooker Creek Preserve – part of the Florida Youth Conservation Center Network

The Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center is now an official partner with the Florida Youth Conservation Center Network (FYCCN). What is FYCCN? The website, www.fyccn.org, states:

"This bold new program jointly sponsored by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and the Wildlife Foundation of Florida leads the effort to reconnect Florida's children with traditional outdoor activities."

A statewide network of conservation centers, it is designed to encourage and empower kids to participate in traditional outdoor recreation. Experts teach them how to safely enjoy the outdoor heritage we have worked so hard to maintain. The FYCCN includes Wild Outdoor Hubs offering deep-woods experiences that connect to Near Outdoor Centers offering experiences closest to children in their everyday lives.

Already in operation, the FYCCN is proving to be a formidable weapon in the fight against too much time spent indoors

with electronic media and too little time spent outdoors with nature.

Today's children are increasingly disconnected from nature. They devote nearly eight hours a day to entertainment media and "media multi-tasking," while the number who spend time hunting and fishing continues to decline dramatically. This is a problem because we know that kids who do not directly engage in the outdoors are less likely to develop a strong stewardship ethic for conserving America's wildlife. To put it plainly, if they do not make the connection, they are not going to be concerned about the wild outdoors that our generation has protected.

We have to develop breakthrough approaches for understanding and overcoming the barriers to youth participation in traditional outdoor activities. Then we have to create destinations that are magnets for our young people. In other words, make them want to go outside. The Wildlife Foundation of Florida and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) have created a bold new program, the Florida Youth Conservation Centers Network (FYCCN) that will do just that.



A captive Brazilian Free-tailed Bat. This is a full-size adult, typical of the size of all bats in Florida.



These boys enjoyed being up close and personal with the bats.

BATS!

On October 20, the Friends sponsored a program on Bats of Florida. Given by Florida Bat Conservancy from Fort Myers, children and adults learned about the ecological importance of bats and how beneficial they are. For example, a single bat can eat 3,000 mosquitos in one night! Cindi Marks brought with her several bats that are now captive due to some sort of injury. She showed them to the audience and everyone got a chance to see bats up close and personal.

Using Wildflowers At Home

By: Craig Huegel

The Annual Fall Wildflower Festival has passed once again. Hopefully, you were one of the many hundreds that attended this year and maybe you were one of those that took home a few wildflowers to add to your landscape. If you were, I congratulate you on your wise choice to do so. I have had a fondness for wildflowers for most of my life, and have spent a good part of it working with wildflowers and encouraging others to use them effectively.

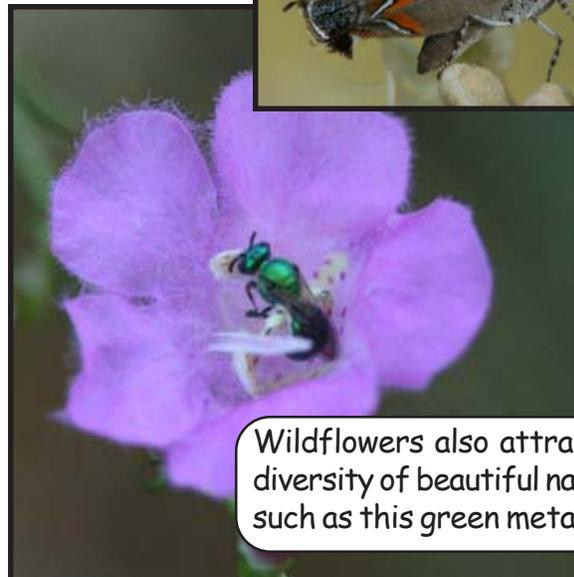
There are many good reasons to plant wildflowers in our home landscapes. For one, I admire their simple beauty. Though few wildflowers produce the show-stopping pizzazz of some of the common horticultural strains, there is just something elegant in my mind about their simplicity. As a very young child of no more than 3 or 4 years old, I went with my grandfather to purchase cut wildflowers for a special occasion. As we drove out of the city limits and into the surrounding countryside, I sensed something truly special was taking place. I retraced that trip many times into my early adulthood, even after the business had closed, and I will forever harbor a special place in my heart for black-eyed susans and purple coneflowers. I have them to this day around my home in Pinellas. Wildflowers do not have to be gaudy to be beautiful. They have inner beauty - a trait we undervalue far too much in today's society; beauty that comes from what they do, not just from what they look like.

What wildflowers do is provide us with an ecological value never considered by most non-natives commonly planted in Florida. They are much more than a "pretty face". Over the millions of years since flowering plants emerged on earth, they have done so hand-in-hand with pollinating insects. Less than 25% of all flowering plants are pollinated by wind. That means that 3 out of every 4 rely on animals; most of those being bees, wasps, butterflies, beetles, and pollinating flies. It is estimated

that the pollination services of native insects is worth more than \$4 billion annually to our nation's economy. It is 10 times that when you include the services of the European honey bee. But as great as this is, these numbers do not include the value they provide wildlife that rely on the seeds and fruit produced by native plants they also pollinate. Our life would be close to sterile if not for pollinators and pollinators depend on flowers.

Over the course of the last century, horticulturalists have gone out of their way to produce cultivated flowers that largely bypass pollinators to survive. Our roses no longer have fragrance; they are just showy. Double and triple hibiscus have gaudy floppy flowers not duplicated by the simple native species, but their size and conformation make it impossible for pollinators to reach their interior and pollinate them. The same is true for many flowers that have been standards of the annual

Attracting butterflies, like this red-banded hairstreak, are one of the perks to adding wildflowers to your landscape.



Wildflowers also attract a huge diversity of beautiful native bees, such as this green metallic bee.

trade - marigolds, zinnias, and the like. Mule marigolds are not produced by seed, but by tissue culture because their complex flowers make pollination by insects impossible.

We are in the midst of a pollinator crisis brought on by our reliance on new-age pesticides and by unchecked development that has put patches of native wildflowers out of reach from each other. Linking natural lands together by creating pollinator corridors is an idea with data to prove it works. Pollinators will cross between native lands if they are linked by developed landscapes that incorporate wildflowers. We can stem much of the devastating impacts recently seen to honeybees and native insects by adding wildflowers to our landscapes and by eliminating our use of pesticides.

I believe that wildflowers also give us a sense of place that is impossible with semi-tropicals and other non-natives. Folks like myself that arrive from the north often remark that Florida has no seasons... That is simply not true, but our seasonal changes are far more subtle than they are in Michigan and Massachusetts. That subtleness gets completely obscured in landscapes built around tropical plants. Native wildflowers do not bloom year round; they have distinct blooming seasons. In my landscape, I always know what season it is by what is in bloom, and I live in constant anticipation of what will be blooming in the days ahead. Too few of us create landscapes that create this kind of anticipation. I believe strongly that wildflowers are one of the best tickets to making us want to journey

into our landscapes, not just passively look at them from the outside.

Using the right wildflower in the right place also helps us reduce our need to water, fertilize, and spray. Such practices are not only costly, they are exceedingly detrimental to our ecology. Native wildflowers, used correctly, are adapted to Florida and they will thrive without much fussing. That just seems to make sense.

So, if you came home with some wildflowers, I congratulate you. If you didn't, you should give it some consideration. If you need some help in how to garden with them, I have written a book that might help: ***Native Wildflowers and other Ground Covers for Florida Landscapes***, University of Florida Press. It is available in most book stores and online book outlets. I

also write a blog on Florida wildflowers that you can read for free: <http://www.blogger.com>. Get the information you need, then purchase the right plants for your landscape goals. And, when you have done all that, explore your yard the same way you would venture into Brooker Creek Preserve.



This blazing star, (*Liatris spicata*), makes a superb wildflower for the home landscape



The wildflower garden at Brooker Creek Preserve makes a beautiful showing in fall and could be easily duplicated at home.

Update on Field Trip Position Announced in the last Newsletter

A new program funded by Florida Federation of Wildlife began about one year ago called the Florida Youth Conservation Center Network (you can view their website at www.fyccn.org). Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center recently became one of the centers for this program which aims to get children outdoors. In so doing, a local nature education company, Sensing Nature, will be organizing and conducting the field trips at Brooker for all youth through FYCCN. Sensing Nature also is doing the youth programs for Weedon Island Preserve. They have a staff of educators and the ability to handle groups over 100 students, an amount far more than the one person we considered employing at Brooker.

Having FYCCN as a partner with Brooker Creek Preserve will not only bring funding to Brooker but also more people and increased awareness. We are excited about this. Many meetings and much thought went into this choice. We are confident in Sensing Nature's ability and approach to teaching Brooker natural history, and we are delighted that one of the main goals for FYCCN is that the programs for youth be fun.

Even though FYCCN and Sensing Nature will be dealing with youth groups, our Friends group will be organizing and conducting adult groups. This is a recent decision. Although we have not nailed down the specifics, we will be charging a nominal fee for conducting the field trips. In turn, we will be giving the field trip leaders, who we hope to have a group of eight or so, a small stipend for doing the guidance. This will in no way be a full time position and will most likely be one or two field trips per month.

Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve Book Club

Our new Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve Book Club began in September! We meet the first Saturday of each month in the conference room of the Educational Center at Brooker Creek Preserve from 9:30 to 10:30 am. There is room for up to 11 participants. The theme is Florida. The book list includes novels by Florida authors, past and present, archeology, biography, politics and history. Friends member and Preserve volunteer, Laurie Angyn, is the facilitator. To register, go to The Eventbrite page at BrookerCreekPreserve.org. Upcoming books on our list:

- November: Totch - A Life in the Everglades by Loren G. "Totch" Brown
- December: Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neal Hurston
- January: Vanishing Florida: A Personal Guide to Sights Rarely Seen by David T. Warner
- February: Digging Miami by Robert S. Carr (Archeology)
- March: From Yellow Dog Democrats to Red State Republicans: FL Politics from 1940 by David R. Colburn
- April: The Yearling by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings
- May: Rose Cottage Chronicles - Civil War Letters of the Bryant-Stephens Families of Northern FL
- June: Sunshine Paradise: A History of Florida Tourism by Tracy J. Revels
- July: Star Island - by Carl Hiaasen
- August: Land of Sunshine, State of Dreams: A Social History of Modern Florida by Gar R. Mormino



News from the Wildflower

Garden By Pam Brown

Several new plants have been added to the Wildflower Garden. Two varieties of native milkweed, a pine hyacinth and native rain lilies were added in September along with dwarf Walter's viburnum, Florida privet, coontie, and privet cassia in the new Native Shrub Demonstration Area. The narrow-leaf sunflower and liatris (blazing star or gayfeather) are blooming spectacularly. We had a good group of volunteers (Pam, Laurie, Barb, Lois, and Pat) on September 28th getting the garden ready for the Fall Wildflower Festival.

Mark your calendar for the next volunteer workday in the Wildflower Garden on December 8th from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. We normally work in the garden the last Saturday of each month, but must deviate due to the Wildflower Festival and Thanksgiving weekend. We provide breakfast snacks and need you to provide your own gloves and tools.

Pam's Gardening Tip

Need a large interesting shrub or small tree for an understory area with some shade? Either of the native Florida star anise (*Illicium floridanum*) or Florida yellow anise (*Illicium parviflorum*) would be a good choice.

Florida star anise (*I. floridanum*) grows into a six to ten feet tall rounded shrub. It prefers part sun, but thins out in dense shade. Florida anise appreciates rich soil and ample moisture but will easily survive harsher conditions. It is an easy-to-grow, pest-free shrub. Once established it will need watering only during long periods of drought and pruning once a year to maintain its shrub form. It can be pruned and trained into a small, multi-trunked or single-trunked tree. The reddish-purple, starry, two-inch flowers appear in the spring. The cultivar 'Album' has white flowers. The star-shaped seed pods look like the common anise spice seed pods of the Asian variety of this plant, but they are not edible.

Yellow anise (*I. parviflorum*) is larger than star anise growing 15 to 20 feet tall with a spread of 10 to 20 feet. The growing conditions are similar to those for star anise. The small yellow bell-shaped flowers are sweetly fragrant and followed by the same inedible star-shaped seed pods. The leaves of both these plants have a hint of licorice when crushed. This plant is listed as endangered in the wild. Give yellow anise room to grow as it is too large to use as a foundation plant, even when pruned.

Laurie
deadheading.



Pat spreading mulch.



Yellow anise



Florida star anise



Volunteer News

By Lara Miller
Natural Resource Agent
Pinellas County Extension
University of Florida/IFAS



Saturday, November 3rd from 11:00am-1:30pm

November 3rd is our End of the Year Volunteer Meeting! All Brooker Creek Preserve volunteers are welcome to join us for a celebration of your efforts for 2012. A review of the year will be presented followed by plans for 2013 and updates from the Friends and more! Lunch will be provided by the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve and we thank them in advance for this. During lunch, environmental scientist, Cynthia Grizzle will give a presentation on the gopher tortoises just for you! We look forward to having you and celebrating another successful year at Brooker Creek Preserve's Environmental Education Center.

Great American Teach-In

Are you interested in volunteering your time to visit a classroom and teach students about Insect Phermones? If so, the Great American Teach-In takes place on Thursday, November 15th. Training for this event will be conducted by the 4-H Faculty, Jean Rogalsky and materials are derived from the Junior Master Gardener series. If you are interested in participating in this event, please contact Lara to RSVP (lmiller@pinellascounty.org) If you have a relationship with a particular school, then you are welcome to work with that school. Jean usually has many requests from the community so we can certainly help to place volunteers for this event. After you have been trained, you will be provided with the material necessary to work with the students in the schools.

Education Center Statistics

Between January 1, 2012 and September 30, 2012, the Education Center has seen 13,021 visitors! This would not be possible without the help and dedication of over 30 volunteers contributing 3,673 volunteer hours. Thank you for all that you do to make this a wonderful experience for all of our visitors!

Friends of Brooker Creek New Members

Michael Hughes, Renee Feinman, Ann Farior Johnson, Betsy and Scott Taylor, Bob and Linda Murphy, and Cynthia Miller, Barbara Genthner Moritz, Jerry and Wanda Kimsey

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

November 2012 Programs

Nov. 1, 8, 15, 29

Book Time at Brooker, 10:30 - 11:15

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.

Nov. 3, 17

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. Closed-toe shoes, water and hat recommended. Best for ages 6 and older. Free; advance registration required.

Nov. 10, 8:00 - 10:30 am

Birds of Brooker Hike: Join this special hike identifying common birds of Brooker Creek Preserve. Meander along the one-mile trail to gather information on the birds seen and heard. Binoculars will be helpful. Bring water.

Nov. 17, 10:30 am - noon

Introduction to Plant Identification: Join a local Extension specialist and examine the basics of plant identification, from using simple keys to identifying critical characteristics that will help any would-be botanist in the field. An emphasis will be placed on flowering plants, but ferns will be included as well. Registration is required and all materials will be provided. Wear comfortable shoes, as part of the class will be outdoors. Free; advance registration required.

Nov. 24, 9:00 - 11:30 am

Brooker Creek Extended Guided Hike: A trained volunteer guide will conduct a 2.8-to 4-mile walk to look at how the land has changed over time and discuss the ecological footprints

Photo by Mike Young



left by those changes. Insect repellent may be helpful. A hat, sunglasses and sunscreen along with sturdy closed-toe shoes are a must, and water and a hat are recommended. All ages are welcome; children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult; those younger than 10 may find this hike challenging. Free; advance registration required.

October 2012 Programs

Dec. 1

Living in Paradise - Looking for the Ancient People of Florida's Central Gulf Coast: The people native to the Americas, were forever changed at the moment of contact with the European invasion more than 500 year ago. Who were the people living on the Central Gulf Coast of Florida and how did they see their new world? Artists and storytellers, Hermann Trappman and Elizabeth Neily will explore these people, their environmental history relative to Florida and the archaeological evidence left by the first people of Florida. 10:30 a.m. to noon. Free; advance registration required.

Dec. 1, 15, 29

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. Closed-toe shoes, water and hat recommended. Best for ages 6 and older. Free; advance registration required.

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.

Dec. 6, 13, 20, 27

Book Time at 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.

Dec. 8, 8:00 - 10:30 am

Birds of Brooker Hike: Join this special hike identifying common birds of Brooker Creek Preserve. Meander along the one-mile trail to gather information on the birds seen and heard. Binoculars will be helpful. Bring water.

Dec. 8, 10:30 am - noon

Birds in Florida Gardens: Interested in how to attract birds to Florida gardens using Florida native plants? What birds to expect in your Florida garden? How do you identify them? Lynn Sumerson will explain why birds are attracted to gardens. Free; advance registration required.

Dec. 15, 1:00 - 2:00 pm

Birds of Prey - Adaptations for Success and Roles in the Ecosystem: This presentation will include several live birds of prey which will be used to illustrate aspects of predator-prey relationships, adaptations that ensure their success as predators and their role in maintaining healthy, balanced ecosystems. The basic natural history of each species will also be discussed, along with the impact of humans on their habitats and populations. Free; advance registration required.

Dec. 22, 9:00 - 11:30 am

Extended Brooker Creek Guided Hike: A trained volunteer guide will conduct a 2.8-to

4-mile walk to look at how the land has changed over time and discuss the ecological footprints left by those changes. Insect repellent may be helpful. A hat, sunglasses and sunscreen along with sturdy closed-toe shoes are a must, and water and a hat are recommended. All ages are welcome; children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult; those younger than 10 may find this hike challenging. Free; advance registration required.

Preserve and Education Center Closed for Holidays

All county governed parks and preserves are closed on the day after Thanksgiving (Friday, November 23rd) and December 25. The preserve will be open on Thanksgiving Day (Thursday, November 22nd) but the Educational Center will be closed.

BCP Environmental Education Center -- Staying in the Loop

Don't forget to like us on facebook - [Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center](#)

Feel free to join [Timely Topics](#) and [Thinking Green](#) blogs written by various Pinellas County Extension agents on relative issues and topics related to our community

Have a question, but can't find the answer? Visit www.AskExtension.org or stop by the Education Center and drop your question into the "Ask an Agent" box.

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

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

To contact The Friends:

Email: 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

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

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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

Newsletter Publisher/Artist: Cathy Vogelsong

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