

Newsletter of the
Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve

September - October 2014

**Chairman's Message -
Foundation Creation Part 2**

By Barb Hoffman

Many thanks to everyone who contributed their thoughts and ideas for needs at Brooker Creek Preserve! Although we were looking for needs that go beyond the financial scope of the County staff and Friends budget, the list you created included so many wonderful ideas that can be implemented either right away or in the very near future, as opposed to waiting for big dollars. So the list has been subdivided into Foundation, Friends, and Staff, with each item checked based on which entity is responsible. Those that are checked for Friends and Staff are those that can be incorporated within a small timeline, if the need fits Preserve guidelines. Those checked for Foundation are big ticket items that will require big dollars. The list is comprehensive; it includes everything you submitted.

If we haven't heard yet from YOU, and you have something new and different than what is already on the list, then please email your ideas before the end of September to fobcp@tampabay.rr.com.

What's next? The board of directors is busy putting dollar values for each need and selecting the top ten needs. At the beginning of next year, 2015, we will first request major donations from the board to fund the needs. Then the request will come to you, the volunteers and membership, to financially give what you can to support the Preserve. Once that is finished, we will have an accounting of exactly

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what more is required, and this is the financial need we show to potential Foundation members. It is a long process, but tried and true. We are grateful for Board member, Len Gravitz (retired fundraiser), for leading us along this financial adventure.

Barb

DRAFT NEEDS (as of 7-16-14)

Category	Need	Foundation	Friends	PC Staff
Ecological Health/ Land Mgt	Feccon Forestry Mulching Mower (FFMM)	x		
	Employee to run FFMM	x		
	FFMM maintenance	x		
	Full Time Land Manager – controlled burns, invasive species	x		
	Wilde Tract (and all lands north of Keystone) connected and restored	x		
	Loop Site restoration		x	
	Restore natural sheet flow; fill old trails to grade	x		
	Control of exotic vegetation	x		
	Removal of "Mount Brooker" and other mounded sites	x		
	Prescribed Fires	x		
	On-site ranger and/or more perimeter patrols to secure against fire and hunting	x		
	Overpass/wildlife corridor across Keystone Road	x		
	Consolidate ownership	x		
	Add land to the Preserve whenever possible	x		
Enhance Four Lakes shorelines; eliminate exotic vegetation there	x			
Outreach/ Communication	Networking with other Friends groups in Tampa Bay watershed		x	
	Encourage youth, teens, young adults to volunteer/join Friends		x	
	Quarterly magazine		x	
	Scholarships for teachers		x	
	Staff	x		
	Yard signs – visit Brooker Creek Preserve			x
	Magnetic signs, bumper stickers, window clings, bus wraps			x
	More items with Preserve name (front license plates, license plate holders)			x
	More signage in area around Preserve, especially coming from the East			x
	Increase connection with city of Tarpon Springs, their Chamber, etc.		x	x
	Appeal to morning shows like Fox13 Charlie Belcher to highlight special events			x
	Encourage other groups to meet at Preserve at least once/year (Rotary, Audubon, Native Plant Society, Sierra Club, etc.)			x
	Connect with Homeowners Associations and Realtors; have Preserve/Friends brochure included in welcome packets			x
	Nature-themed DVD's available for check-out			x
Video documentary of the Preserve	x			
Research	Partnerships with SPC, Eckerd College, USF			x
	Species Surveys (not just endangered but all)	x		
	Scholarships for college students	x		
	Staff	x		
	Corporate sponsors	x		
	FOBCP Water Quality & Biodiversity Research Center	x		
Weather stations at north and south ends		x		
Education	Coordination with public and private schools, colleges			x
	Ed Center open 7 days a week (at least 5; at least Sundays)	x		
	Environmental Education Staff	x		
	Trail cameras with motion sensors			x
	Web cams at hot spots			x
	Plant IDs along Ed Center trail			x
	More educational signage on trails			x
	Add technology to new/existing signage (QR codes)			x
	Invasive Species Exhibit for Ed Center	x		
	Exhibit upgrades/repairs* and annual budget to continue	x		
	Portable display boards			x
	Solar power	x		
	Program/Speaker Budget	x		
	Corporate sponsors	x	x	
	Wildlife rehab center like Boyd Hill	x		
	Animals in the Ed Center displays			
	More summer camps			x
	Connect with Pasco schools (they have bus access across county lines)			x
*Fix the talking vulture			x	
Benches on trails facing out for rest and viewing fitted with audio/visual electronics to identify/explain the panorama	x			

	Two-mile tram path within loop area	x		
	Higher pay for staff	x		
	Trail conditions monitored with daily updates			x
	More informational signage and directional signage			x
	More workshops for adults & older kids		x	
	Nature crafts		x	
	Trail docents/roving naturalists			x
	Speakers bureau with top speakers and adequate housing	x		
Public Use	Wilderness Trail reroute		x	
	Pinellas Trail extension			x
	Composting toilet near trailhead	x		
	Composting toilet further south on trail	x		
	Overnight facilities, low maintenance	x		
	A cabin or two and/or rustic campground like Starkey	x		
	Observation tower	x		
	Canopy tree walk	x		
	Off-site parking with transportation			x
	More music events; keep Music in the Woods		x	
	Craft fair		x	
	Art exhibits for local artists in auditorium		x	
	Recycling receptacle for plastic bottles in parking lot			x
	Benches by kiosk at boardwalk	x		
	Farmers Market in parking lot		x	
	Canoe/kayak launch	x		
	Hiking trails north of Keystone Road	x		
	Hardened path from parking lot to boardwalk			x
	Enhanced and easier wheelchair access for trails			x
	Shoe brushes to remove seeds prior to hiking		x	
	Boardwalk over wet sites on hiking trails	x		
	Parking lot redone for safety	x		
	Hardward cloth over some screened areas & anti squirrel			x
	Picnic tables or benches in shelters	x		
	Shelters for cyclers	x		
	More trails east of parking lot	x		
	Eliminate noise:			
	Purchase or stop Silver Dollar Gun Range	x		
	Eliminate use of all gas equipment			x
	Rule that everyone uses inside voices			x
	Manage/eliminate airplane noise			
	Install equipment to locate noise sources	x		
Volunteer Support	Scholarships		x	
	Equipment		x	
	Appreciation Events		x	
	Golf cart		x	
Nature Store	Increased stock	x		
	Signage - Keystone entry, store entry, on boardwalk		x	
	Advertising	x		
	Eco-friendly home items for sale (household cleaners, personal hygiene products, etc.)		x	
	Open 7 days a week	x		
Friends Support	Golf cart maintenance budget	x		
	Fundraiser sponsorships		x	
	Increased membership		x	
	Executive Director position	x		
	Events sponsorships		x	
	Hire professional fundraiser/consultant		x	
	Highlight camping as perk/benefit of Friends membership		x	
	Estate planning/bequests; start with article in our newsletter		x	
	Adopt-a-something program (critters within Preserve)		x	
	Storage spot for FOBCP equipment and vehicles	x		

Save the Dates Friends Events for 2014

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

Sept. 14	Off the Beaten Path Hike
Sept. 27	Return the Preserve Work Day
Oct. 8	Paint & Photograph Brooker Creek Preserve Opening Reception
Oct. 9-12	Paint & Photograph Brooker Creek Preserve - a Plein Aire Event!
Oct. 18	Fall Wildflower Festival
Oct. 25	Return the Preserve Work Day
Nov. 1	Nature Journaling Workshop
Nov. 8	Friends Birthday Bash!
Dec. 6	Natural Wreath & Ornament Making Class
Dec. 7	Off the Beaten Path Hike

We need your help!

Please consider financially supporting one or all of our three big events! The overall sponsorship form is on page 7. All donations are 100% tax deductible. Thank you!

Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve New Members:

Pany Beyko
Robert Burkard
Patti deAndino
Patricia Ganson
Carol Livingstone

Seeking New Membership Chair!

Many thanks to Brenda Klindt for doing the membership for an interim period, but now we need someone to step up to take on this very important position! It takes about 6 hours per month, and you must be a detail-attentive person. Contact Barb at fobcp@tampabay.rr.com if you would like to submit your name. Thank you!

Wildflower Festival

Festival planning is well underway. The volunteer sign-up sheet will be posted in the break room soon and we will be providing lunch vouchers for all volunteers.

Thank you all for your time and effort toward making the Fall Wildflower Festival the delightful event it is!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US!



Brooker Creek Preserve
Environmental Education Center

10 years!



Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve - **20 years!**

Observing Nature through Drawing – 6-week course

Thursdays, September 4 - October 9, 2014, 10:00 am – 12:30 pm

Program: Learn to see the natural landscape as a source for technical daring. This **6 week course** is designed to enhance the student's skill in observation with the goal of strengthening understanding of natural subject matter. Emphasis will be given to developing drawing skills as well as composition. Students will investigate the natural environment and experiment with various drawing techniques. Learn how to simplify the natural landscape into essential shape, tone, texture, and line, creating a personal visual drawing vocabulary.

Instructor: Linda Berghoff, Artist & Instructor, St. Pete College

Limited to 10 students (minimum of five), age 14 and older

Cost: Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve Members, \$100.00, not including materials
Non-members, \$125.00, not including materials

Observing Nature through Art Journaling – 6-week course

Friday class, 9/5/14 through 10/10/14

Saturday class, 9/6/14 through 10/11/14

Goal: Develop visual narrative and explore the journal/ sketchbook as an art form. This **6 week course** teaches the skill of creating intimate drawings from nature focusing on direct observation. Students will learn about basic drawing materials and concepts. Through personal experimentation, students will create richly textured expressive images based on fundamental drawing exercises. Harmony between image, form and concept will be stressed. Demonstrations and experimental techniques will be presented throughout the class. All skill levels are welcome.

Instructor: Linda Berghoff, Artist & Instructor, St. Pete College

Limited to 10 students (minimum of 5), age 14 and older

Cost: Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve Members, \$100.00 not including materials.
Non-members, \$125.00 not including materials.

For questions or to sign up, please contact
Linda Berghoff (727) 505-5067, luv4art1@verizon.net



PAINT & PHOTO BROOKER CREEK PRESERVE

Paint & Photo Brooker Creek Preserve is a wonderful opportunity for plein air (open air) painters and photographers to work on site for any or all of three days in 2014: October 9, 10, 11.

Where: Brooker Creek Preserve, an 8,500 acre Pinellas county property, a beautiful pristine wilderness area that harbors native plants and animals just as it did before Europeans arrived here. The trails wander through a variety of habitats. You may set up on the boardwalks or unpaved trails to work. Bathroom facilities are nearby. Wagons to cart your supplies will be available, and a golf cart & driver can take you further out on a trail if you wish. The Preserve is open daily from 7:00 am to one hour before sunset. Special concessions can be made for those who wish to stay past the closing time.

Event Hosts: The Tarpon Springs Art Association and the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve will share event organization and expenses. They will provide a light lunch for artists working at the Preserve during the lunch hour during the three days.

Opening Reception: Wednesday, October 8, 5:00 pm., Leepa Rattner Museum of Art. Sign-in and stamping of canvases will take place at 5:00 pm followed by a Meet & Greet reception.

Closing Reception/Finale: Sunday, October 12, 5:00-7:00 pm, Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center Auditorium, including delicious food and wine. All work will be on display, and for sale if you wish. Cash awards in several categories will be presented. The work will stay up through October 18, the day of the Preserve's well-attended Fall Wildflower Festival.

Cost: \$25.00, non-refundable, includes everything. The event hosts will take a 20% commission on any work sold. Early registration is encouraged to assure participation.

Questions: Contact Heather - hريسley@tampabay.rr.com or (727) 937-7125

Please mail the form below and a \$25 check made out to TSAA to:
Tarpon Springs Art Association, Attn: Heather, P.O. Box 1177, Tarpon Springs, FL 34688

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Cell Phone _____ Email _____

T-shirt Size (S, M, L, XL) _____ (circle) Artist *or* Photographer



Fall Wildflower Festival

Brooker Creek Preserve
Saturday, October 18, 2014
9:00 am - 4:00 pm

FREE! FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

EXHIBITS - open all day

- **Butterfly Experience** — Be surrounded by butterflies! Enjoy a walk-through tent with over 250 live butterflies! Learn about their life cycle and enjoy their beauty *up close and personal!*
- **Honeybee Observation Hive** - on the classroom porch
- **Exhibit Hall & Nature Store**
- **Nature Crafts for Kids & Caterpillar Petting Zoo** - in the classroom

PRESENTATIONS in the Auditorium

9:30 and 1:30: *Wildflower Photography* - Karl & Kathleen Nichter

10:30 and 12:30: *Landscaping with Wildflowers* - Dr. Craig Huegel

11:30: *Edible Plants - What You Can Eat, What to Avoid* - Katy Roberts

PRESENTATIONS in the Classroom

10:30 and 1:00: *Life Cycle of the Butterfly* (for kids) - Cindy Peacock

PRESENTATIONS at the Picnic Shelter near the plant sale

Every hour on the hour - *How to Care for Your Native Plants* - Pam Brown

Wildflowers for Sale!

Wildflower Quest! (last hunt out at 3:00 pm)

Naturalists on the Trails to Answer Questions!

Food Available! Come Rain or Shine!



Sponsored by: Friends  of Brooker Creek Preserve

For information: 727-934-2680 or fobcpwff2014@yahoo.com

Event Location: **Brooker Creek Preserve**
3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs, FL 34688

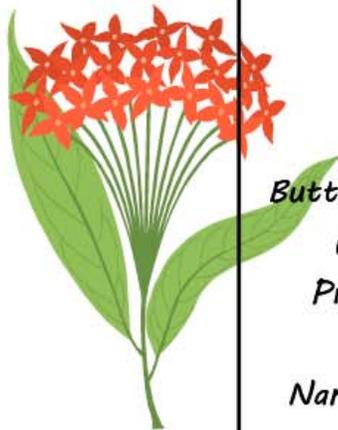
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Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve
***** Fall Sponsorship Opportunities *****

PAINT & PHOTO BROOKER CREEK PRESERVE
October 9-12, 2014

A **three-day on-location paintout and photo shoot** is scheduled with a wine & cheese reception and award presentation on Sunday, October 12, in the beautiful Preserve auditorium. The public is encouraged to attend. This is a co-operative effort between the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve and the Tarpon Springs Art Association. Artists and photographers will leave the Preserve with images that will impress wherever they go. Sponsors will have an opportunity to view and celebrate the works done and to purchase artwork as well.

- \$500.00 - Patron** (Top Award in your name, 10% off purchases)
- \$250.00 - Patron** (Award in your name, 10% off purchases)
- \$100.00 - Sponsor** (Program & t-shirt recognition)
- \$ 50.00 - Friend of the Arts** (Program Listing)



FALL WILDFLOWER FESTIVAL

Saturday, October 18, 2014

9:00 - 4:00

*Butterfly Tent, Wildflower Quest, Live Honeybee Hive,
Wildflower Plant Sale, Wildflower & Landscape
Presentations, Children's Craft Area, lots of fun!*

\$100 Festival Sponsor

Name & Logo on Event Signage and Friends Website

HAPPY BIRTHDAY BASH!

Friends (20 years old), Education Center (10 years old) , & IFAS (100 years old)

Saturday, November 8, 2014

10:00 am Presentations, Lunch at noon

Live folk/bluegrass music by Crystal Beach String Band

Birthday gifts for all Friends, volunteers, and special guests

Birthday Cake! Silent Auction! Delicious Lunch! Surprises!

\$1,000 Super Hero! (Name on banner and event signage - large)

\$500 Super Friend! (Name on banner and event signage - medium)

\$250 Super Duper! (Name on event signage)





Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve

Fall Sponsorship Opportunities Form

Important! All sponsorships are due by October 1

Contact Name _____

Business/Family

Name for Advertising _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email Address _____

Please select the sponsorship(s) you would like:

PAINT & PHOTO BROOKER CREEK PRESERVE

Amount

\$500 Top Patron _____

\$250 Patron _____

\$100 Sponsor _____

\$ 50 Friend of the Arts _____

FALL WILDFLOWER FESTIVAL

\$100 Festival Sponsor _____

FRIENDS BIRTHDAY BASH

\$1,000 Super Hero! _____

\$ 500 Super Friend! _____

\$ 250 Super Duper! _____

TOTAL AMOUNT

Please send check to: FOBCP, 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs, FL 34688
 Questions? Contact Barb at fobcp@tampabay.rr.com



Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve

Nature Journaling Workshop

Saturday, November 1, 2014

10:00 am - 4:00 pm



This **one day workshop** focuses on creating a "Nature Journal". Nature journaling touches a wide range of subjects from art and creative writing to science and empirical observation and can be a unique way to record experiences about the natural world. Creating a "Nature Journal" of personal observations and thoughts encourages exploration and provides a greater awareness of the evolving beauty that surrounds us. Participants will learn how to document their reflections about nature, creating something similar to a "field journal". Whether you are a budding naturalist, artist, or writer, **Brooker Creek Preserve** is the ideal setting to observe and record the beautiful world of nature. Demonstrations will be presented. All skill levels are welcome.

Instructor: Linda Berghoff, Artist & Instructor, St. Pete College
Limited to 12 students/14 and older (minimum 6 students)

Cost: Friends Members, \$50.00
Non-members, \$75.00

Please bring: Journal, roughly 5"x8" or larger (available at the Friends Nature Store at Brooker Creek Preserve or other art supply stores). All art materials will be provided.

Misc. Supplies: Drinking water or some type of beverage, lunch, paper towels/baby wipes, insect repellent, sunscreen, sun hat, trash bag, folding chair or stool (optional), and **closed-toe shoes**.

To sign up, contact the instructor, Linda, at luv4art1@verizon.net

Return the Preserve Work Day

By Evan Earle Jr.

Mission Accomplished. Our Return The Preserve Work Day in August was hot and steamy, but oh was it worth it. Once again, members of the Friends Of Brooker Creek Preserve showed up bright and early to tackle the overgrown grape vines near the boardwalk entrance at the parking lot. Mary Ann, Louis, Bill, Sheila, William, Gavin, Keanna, Barbara, and Marion wasted no time in clearing vines from the trees. What a great team! Anyone doubting their hard work on Saturday morning need to check out the pile of debris they generated. A dozen trips with the pick up truck created quite a testament of cut grape vines!

Thanks to the amazing efforts of everyone who has participated in our Return The Preserve Work Days, we have just about cleaned out the trees at the boardwalk entrance at the parking lot. Today, the oaks and bays are open to the fresh breeze and bright sunlight. It's almost as if they know they've been given a new chance and they are reaching for the sky in thanks! The palmetto, beauty berry, and the rest of the understory are free to grow and add to the palette. We have taken a wonderful first, small step towards



Here is a six legged Friend Of Brooker Creek Preserve. It is an *Anisomorpha buprestoides*, the so-called two striped walking stick. Hopefully she is happy with the makeover we gave to her home.



The Return The Preserve Work Days for September and October are:

Saturday 9/27

Saturday 10/25

Check the website for more information

returning Brooker Creek Preserve to its natural beauty. But what a big reward for that small step! Our visitors are now welcomed by the real Brooker Creek Preserve.

I want to thank each and every person who has participated in our Return The Preserve Work Days. I want to thank the Friends of Brooker Creek for the opportunity to lead these events. It has been a team effort from the very beginning and I have met some wonderful people. I look forward to many more Return The Preserve Work Days as we continue to contribute to the success of Brooker Creek Preserve.



Laurel Wilt and the Death of Bay Trees

By: Craig Huegel

As you watch the evening news, you can't help but be struck by the eruption of new diseases that threaten human health on this planet. Today's pathogen is ebola, and our global economy and wide-ranging travel patterns make it a concern worldwide. All of us are now interconnected and things that happen in one locality are never simply confined there. The same global epidemics also threaten plants and one of the worst right now is laurel wilt which threatens to kill every member of the bay family - at least here in the Southeast.

Laurel wilt is a fungal disease that is carried and then transmitted to members of the bay family by a small sap-feeding insect, the red bay ambrosia beetle. The beetle and the fungal disease it carries in its saliva, are not native to the U.S., but to Asia. In Asia, trees in the laurel family have developed resistance to laurel wilt - having been exposed to it for many centuries. Our laurels, however, have never seen this disease and have not, therefore, developed a resistance to it. At this time, it would appear that nearly 100% of all laurels infected by laurel wilt, die within a short amount of time. The fungus causes damage to the water-conducting cells inside the plant (the xylem) and this eventually makes it impossible for the plants to move water up the stem and into the leaves. The plants wilt and then die for lack of water, even in saturated soils.

Because of our global economy, vegetation, wood, and wood products arrive in this country from all over the world, constantly. Although we try to maintain some control over diseases and pathogens, via quarantining such shipments, a great many things sneak through. That seems to be the case for laurel wilt.



red bay with laurel wilt



healthy red bay

In 2002, as part of the USDA Forest Service Early Detection & Rapid Response Pilot Project, three specimens of the red bay ambrosia beetle were captured in detection traps near Port Wentworth, Georgia. This was the first record of this Asian species in North America. Later in 2002, in coordination with APHIS, additional traps were placed in the Port Wentworth area to delimit a possible establishment, but no further catches of this beetle were made. Due to the small number of beetles collected and the location of the traps near warehouses, it was thought likely that the beetles had come directly from solid-

wood packing materials and had not become established in native vegetation.

In 2003, significant red bay mortality on Hilton Head Island, South Carolina was reported to the South Carolina Forestry Commission (SCFC). Much speculation ensued about the possible causes of red bay decline and mortality, including drought and water table

fluctuation. In late 2004, an investigation by USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station staff eventually found the beetles and an unknown wilt fungus in red bay trees on Hilton Head. After initial inoculation experiments, the combination of the fungus and beetle was suspected to be the primary cause of red bay death.

Red bay (*Persea borbonia*) is not the only plant affected by laurel wilt; it kills everything in the laurel family. That includes other *Pereea* spp. bays, such as the swamp bay common to Brooker Creek Preserve and the silk bay, found in Florida scrub habitats. It also includes other genera in the family - spicebush, sassafras, lancewood, and avocado. It is very possible that, in the next decade, laurel wilt will wipe out Florida's avocado industry. It is also possible that it will wipe out the two butterflies that use laurels as larval food plants in Florida - the spicebush and palamedes swallowtails. The fate of these plants and these butterflies is in real jeopardy at this time.

There are serious efforts being made to find a treatment for this disease as well as efforts to find disease resistant specimens. With millions of dollars at stake with avocados, for example, there is money being invested in research, but nature often takes an upper hand over dollars. Just as chestnut blight wiped out the American chestnut in the 1800's, and Dutch elm disease wiped out most of the nation's American elms in the 1950's and '60's, endemics of foreign disease seem to be something we will always have to contend with as we look to a global economy to supply us with a broader range of cheaper goods 12 months a year. When I was at a State Park just south of Jacksonville about 2 years ago, the slopes of the dune forest were pockmarked with dead bays. Every one of them was dead and their brown wilted leaves were evident everywhere you looked. The shape of that future forest is likely to never be the same. This disease became evident in Brooker Creek Preserve about 6 months later and it is now killing the bays here. As you walk the trails, you will notice large trees with dead, brown leaves. At this time, there are still healthy ones to be found. Let's hope that our forest will keep some of those trees over time.



Above, Tom Trimmier takes a close-up photo of a very large clump of Tampa Butterfly Orchid in full bloom, so beautiful!

Four Lakes Hammock Hike

About 15 folks enjoyed the Four Lakes Hammock hike on July 12. Four Lakes Hammock is closed to the public except for special events. It is the site of the only campground in Brooker Creek Preserve.



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 with 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.

Hikes Off the Beaten Path:

Sept. 14 - In Search of the Catesby's Lily - Located in the eastern part of the Preserve, we will search for the threatened Catesby's Lily. In so doing, we will see a profusion of beautiful fall wildflowers in full bloom.

Dec. 7 - Interior Wildlands - 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.

Cost: \$80 donation for the series or \$25 donation per hike

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.

Hello from the Brooker Bookers! by Laurie Angyn

With our discussion in early September of *Silent Spring*, we will conclude our quarter on ocean studies. The selections reviewed over the summer were "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea", "The Sea King: Jacques Cousteau" and "Silent Spring". Over the course of the year we have discussed novels, biographies and non-fiction works about the realms of space, the earth's atmosphere, our oceans and for the last quarter of the year, terra firma.



The remaining selections for 2014 are:

- September 6: "Silent Spring" by Rachel Carson
- October 4: "Journey to the Center of the Earth" by Jules Verne
- November 1: "Surviving Galeras" by Stanley Williams and Fen Montaigne
- December 6: "Florida's Geological Treasures" by Iris Tracey Comfort

News from the Wildflower Garden

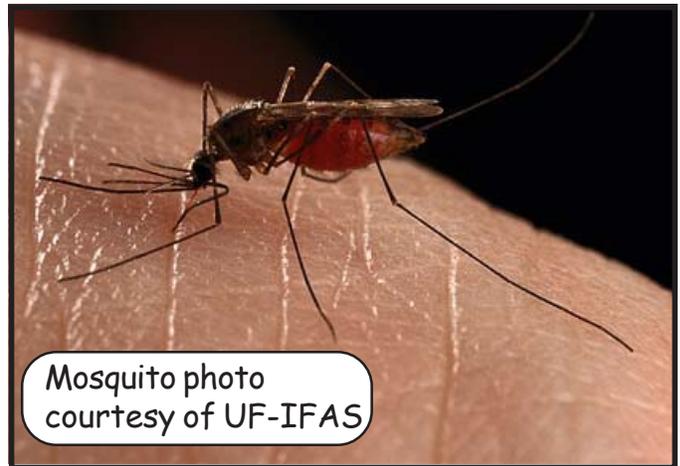
by Pam Brown

We have been mostly pulling weeds and deadheading spent flowers this summer. We have also been removing Blanket flower plants that, while native to Florida, are not native to Brooker Creek Preserve. These plants are seeding out into other areas of the preserve, which is not desirable. Thank you to all of the volunteers who have been braving the bugs, heat and humidity to keep the garden looking good. Our September meeting on the 27th will be our last chance to get the garden in tip top shape for the Wildflower Festival on October 18th.

We meet on the last Saturday of each month and everyone is welcome to join us. Our summer work hours for April through October are 8:00 am to 10:00 am. Please bring your own gloves and gardening tools. We will provide breakfast snacks. I hope you can join us.

Pam's Gardening Tip

Mosquitoes have been especially vicious this summer. These insects carry several diseases, so protecting yourself when out in the garden is a must. Minimize areas of exposed skin by wearing long-sleeved shirts, long pants, boots, and hats. Tucking in shirts, tucking pants into socks, and wearing closed shoes instead of sandals may reduce risk. Repellents such as DEET, Picardin, Oil of lemon eucalyptus and IR3535 can be applied to the skin to keep mosquitoes away. These two links provide much more information about insect repellants: <http://www.cdc.gov/media/pressrel/r050428.htm>, <http://www2.epa.gov/insect-repellents>



Nature Store News By: Kathleen Nichter

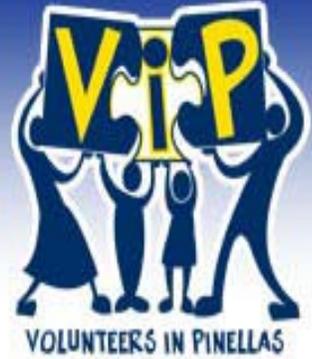
The Nature Store visitors continued to browse our store this summer, in smaller numbers as is usual when the weather turns hotter and tourist season slows. We did have more sales this summer than last, which shows that we are attracting local residents also. We received many used book donations, and now have a couple of shelves of fiction from several Florida authors. Second Nature, our used hiking and camping equipment area, started out with many donations. We have had brisk sales on these items already. If you have books about nature, Florida, etc. that you wish to donate, or used hiking and camping items, we would appreciate receiving them.

We continue to evaluate the items we carry and find new items that meet our mission to sell items that relate to Brooker Creek Preserve, and use local vendors whenever possible. As we move into September, we will be considering new products and stocking up on those that have proven popular over our almost three years in business. Thank you for your continued support, and let me know if you have any suggestions for items to carry.

Volunteer News and More!

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

Expect to
 Make a
 Difference!



The Wish List Is Getting Checked Off

The wish list you all are working on and contributing to, is fantastic!!! I know this is still in the works, but I wanted to update you all on a few happening related items on the list:

1. Plant ID signs along the education center trail are coming soon! I've got the signs in my office and we are working to get the posts and other materials donated by some home goods stores. (see photo to right)

2. Tired of looking at empty cages in the Exhibit Hall? Good news! My intern, Jasmine who was featured in the last newsletter helped me to stock them with fake snakes and associated educational signage. I've overheard a few people thinking the snakes were real! No mice necessary here :-)



3. The talking vultures are back! Ivory, our exhibit technician, has been working hard to get the vultures back up in running and he will continue working on this exhibit and others throughout the year to get them operating.

4. COMING SOON: I will be ordering a trail camera to capture the life of Brooker when nobody is around. I am also working with Pinellas County Communications on creating short, educational video clips which will be accessed via a QR code along the Education Center Trail

Volunteer News, continued:

Teacher Training Summer Camp: Another Success!

On behalf of the organizers and participants of this year's Exploring Environmental Education Curriculum Options (ECO) Teacher Training Summer Camp, we would like to thank the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve for their continued support!!! Each day focused on different topics with Day 1 highlighting local human resources teachers can utilize in the classroom as well as curriculum designed to teach students how to use their senses out-of-doors; Day 2 was focused on fire in southern ecosystems, Day 3 was Agriculture in the Classroom; Day 4 was a new Florida Black Bear curriculum; and Day 5 finished with nature literacy utilizing Project Learning Tree curriculum. To sum it up, here are some quotes from participant evaluations:

"Incredibly valuable"

"Excellent training"

"I had such an amazing time and I really appreciate this opportunity!"



"Thank you ALL so much for this amazing opportunity!"

"I hope to come back for many more in the future!"

"Wonderful mix for adding curriculum and STEM connections for classroom."



"Best training I've been to yet!"

Volunteer News, continued:

Brooker Creek Preserve is FAMOUS!!!

Thanks to the help of Pinellas County Communications, FOX 13's Charley Belcher came out to do four LIVE segments to highlight Brooker Creek Preserve for Good Day Tampa Bay. For reasons unbeknownst to me, they only archived three of the four segments and Barbara Hoffman's was not uploaded online, but I can assure you she did a fantastic job!!! If you want to check out the other segments, you can do so online at the following links:

<http://www.myfoxtampabay.com/clip/10444276/brooker-creek-preserve-750am>

<http://www.myfoxtampabay.com/clip/10444494/brooker-creek-preserve-850am>

<http://www.myfoxtampabay.com/clip/10445000/brooker-creek-preserve-930am>

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](#)



**Brooker Creek Preserve
Environmental Education Center
3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs.
All programs require advance registration
(727) 453-6800
www.brookercreekpreserve.org**

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

September 2014 Programs

Thursdays 9/4 - 10/9, 10:00 am -12:30 pm
Observing Nature through Drawing - 6 Week Course: Learn to see the natural landscape as a source for technical daring. This 6 week course is designed to enhance the student's skill in observation with the goal of strengthening understanding of natural subject matter.

From The Florida Native Plant Society: Join our friendly group, at our free all-Pinellas monthly meeting, 7 p.m. Wednesday, September 3rd (first Wednesday, each month) at Moccasin Lake Nature Park: 2750 Park Trail Lane, Clearwater, for an interesting meeting and a preview of our Landscape Tour. Refreshments, plant auction, upcoming talks and events. 727-322-3954.

Emphasis will be given to developing drawing skills as well as composition. Students will investigate the natural environment and experiment with various drawing techniques. Learn how to simplify the natural landscape into essential shape, tone, texture, and line, creating a personal visual drawing vocabulary. Thursdays, September 4 - October 9 from 10:00 am - 12:30 pm. Cost: Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve Members, \$100.00, not including materials. Non-members, \$125.00, not including materials; registration required. For questions or to sign up, please contact Linda Berghoff (727) 505-5067, luv4art1@verizon.net. Brooker Creek Preserve, 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs.

Thurs., Sept. 4, 11, 18, 25, 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.

Fridays, 9/5 - 10/10, 10:00 am - 12:30 pm
Observing Nature through Art Journaling - 6 Week Course: Develop visual narrative and explore the journal/ sketchbook as an art form. This 6 week course teaches the skill of creating intimate drawings from nature focusing on direct observation. Students will learn about basic drawing materials and concepts. Through personal experimentation, students will create richly textured expressive images based on fundamental drawing exercises. Harmony between image, form and concept will be stressed. Demonstrations and experimental techniques will be presented throughout the class. All skill levels are welcome. **There will be two separate classes. One class will be held on a Friday and the other class will be held on a Saturday, 10:00am-12:30pm.** Friday class is 9/5 through 10/10, Saturday class is 9/6 through 10/11. Cost: Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve Members, \$100.00, not including materials. Non-members, \$125.00, not including materials; registration required. For questions or to sign up, please contact Linda Berghoff (727) 505-5067, luv4art1@verizon.net.

Saturdays, 9/6 - 10/11, 10:00 am-12:30 pm
Observing Nature through Art Journaling - 6 week course. See info above.

Sat., Sept. 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. This club is geared toward adults. The theme for 2014 is science. The book this month is *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson. Please note that registration is required due to a limited amount of seats. Please meet in the conference room inside the Visitors Center. Books are not provided. Free.

Sat., Sept. 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 hat recommended. Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult; those younger than 6 may find the hike challenging. Registration required.

Wed., Sept. 10, 10:30 am - noon
Wetland Wildflowers: Florida's freshwater wetlands are home to some amazing wildflowers. Specialists will introduce participants to these denizens of the swamp! Participants don't have to worry about feet getting wet while meeting these beautiful and interesting plants. Sponsored by experts from UF/IFAS Pinellas County Extension Services. Free. Dunedin Public Library, 223 Douglas Avenue. Dunedin.

Thurs., Sept. 11
Alternative Vegetable Gardening: Participants can join extension agents for an overview of alternative vertical and horizontal growing techniques anyone can use for their home balcony, patio, deck, or garden this Fall. Extension Agents are available **2:00 to 3:30 p.m. and 6:15 to 7:45 p.m.** Free. Palm Harbor Library, 2330 Nebraska Ave., Palm Harbor.

Sat., Sept. 13, 10:30 am - noon
Orchids and Epiphytes of Brooker Creek Preserve: Explore the fascinating world of orchids and "air plants" found on the preserve. This class will introduce participants to identification skills and will include a walk to discover these plants in their natural habitat. Free; registration required.

Sat., Sept. 13, 8:00 - 10:30 am
Birds of Brooker Hike: Participants can join this beginning 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; registration required.

Sun., Sept. 14, 9:00 am - noon

Off the Beaten Path: In Search of Catesby's Lily: The second in a series of four hikes will take place in beautiful areas tucked away within Brooker Creek Preserve in sites that are closed to the public. Located in the eastern part of the preserve, participants will search for the endangered Catesby's lily. Single hikes are a \$25 donation or \$80 for all four hikes.

Fri., Sept. 19, 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. This will be a learning experience for everyone! Participants are encouraged to be ready with questions. Free; registration required.

Sat., Sept. 20, 10:00 am - 12:30 pm

Dragonfly Discover Walk: Join local dragonfly expert Paul Trunk to explore some of the habitats at Brooker Creek Preserve looking for dragonflies. The preserve is an excellent area that is home to approximately 20 plus species of odonates. Participants will learn about the natural history of dragonflies and their importance to a healthy ecosystem. Binoculars and a camera are recommended for participants.

Sat., Sept. 20, 9:00 - 10:30 am

Footprints on the Land 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 hat recommended. Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult; those younger than 6 may find the hike challenging. Free; registration required.

Sat., Sept. 20, 10 am - noon

Climate: Change the Conversation: Sea level rise, shifting seasons, extreme weather, coastal resilience, mitigation and adaptation. These climate change buzzwords are common in daily life, but what they really mean and how will

they impact life? Participants are encouraged to join in a conversation and learn. Free; registration required.

Sat., Sept. 27, 8:30 - 10:30 am

Guided Photography Hike: Participants can 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. **Recommended for adults and children 12 and over.** Free; registration required.

Sat., Sept. 27, 8:00 - 11:00 am

Wildflower Garden Club: The Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve will be out getting their gardening hands dirty in the preserve's wildflower garden. Participants should bring garden gloves and hat. Morning snacks are usually provided. Free; registration required.

Sat, Sept. 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, and 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.

October 2014 Programs

Thurs., Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 10:30-11:15am

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.

Fri., Oct. 3, 9:00 - 11:00 am

UF/IFAS Extension 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. This will be a learning experience for everyone! Binoculars and camera are recommended. Any questions the hike guide cannot answer will be researched in the resource room upon return to the Education Free; registration required.

Sat., Oct. 4, 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. This club is geared toward adults. The theme for 2014 is science. The book this month is *Journey to the Center of the Earth* by Jules Verne. Please note that registration is required due to a limited amount of seats. Please meet in the conference room inside the Visitors Center. Books are not provided. Free.

Sat., Oct. 4, 10:30 am - noon.

A Protective Predator: The Florida Black Bear: Participants are invited for an interesting interpretative presentation about the natural history of the Florida Black Bear by Sensing Nature wildlife biologist Jeanne Murphy. Participants can learn how bears actually protect other species even though they are carnivores, where they live, what their population size is and their current conservation status. Free; registration required.

Sat., Oct. 4, 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 hat recommended. Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult; those younger than 6 may find the hike challenging. Registration required.

Fr., Oct. 10, 9:00 - 11:00 am

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 adult participants. Free; registration required.

Sat., Oct. 11, 1:00 - 2:30 pm

Life of Lichen: Participants are invited to explore these unusual organisms during a classroom/outdoor activity. Participants will study the natural history of lichen, then take a stroll to view them around the Environmental Education Center. Identification tips, interesting facts and more await participants. Free; registration required.

Sat., Oct. 11, 8:00 - 10:30 am

Birds of Brooker Hike: Participants can join this beginning 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; registration required.

Sun., Oct. 12

Plein Air Art Competition Reception: The Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve have teamed up with the Tarpon Springs Art Association to host a plein air (on location) event, October 9 - 11, with a Reception on October 12. Painters and photographers may work on any or all of these three days. All work must be done at the Preserve. Free; registration required for artists.

Fri., Oct. 17, 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. This will be a learning experience for everyone! Participants are encouraged to be ready with questions. Free; registration required.

Sat., Oct. 18, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Fall Wildflower Festival: Join the family fun as Brooker Creek Preserve celebrates its fall wildflowers! Wander through a butterfly tent with 250 butterflies, see live honeybees hard at work, learn about wildflowers through a variety of presentations, brave the scavenger

hunt on the hiking trails and enhance your own yard with wildflowers available for sale! A special craft area for children will be featured as well. Don't miss out on this fun, free, family event! 9am to 4pm. Free.

Sat., Oct. 25, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Country Jubilee: The 35th Heritage Village Country Jubilee is the first place to search for gifts for the upcoming holiday season. Giant flea market and book sale a special feature. Handmade holiday crafts, paintings, jewelry, stained glass and wooden treasures are among the offerings as well as musical entertainment, tours of historical homes, and demonstrations of traditional crafts. Free. Heritage Village, 11909 125th St. N., Largo. (727) 582-2123. www.pinellascounty.org/heritage.

Sat., Oct. 25, 10:00 am - 12:30 pm
Dragonfly Discover Walk: Join local dragonfly expert Paul Trunk to explore some of the habitats at Brooker Creek Preserve looking for dragonflies. The preserve is an excellent area that is home to approximately 20 plus species of odonates. Participants will learn about the natural history of dragonflies and their importance to a healthy ecosystem. Binoculars and a camera are recommended for participants.

Sat., Oct. 25, 8:00 - 11:00 am
Wildflower Garden Club: The Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve will be out getting their gardening hands dirty in the preserve's wildflower garden. Participants should bring garden gloves and hat. Morning snacks are usually provided. Free; registration required.

Sat., Oct. 25, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Observing Nature through Mixed Media Drawing - 1 Day Workshop: This one day workshop focuses on building observational skills with the goal of strengthening understanding of natural subject matter. Students spend the morning observing, documenting, and collecting objects on the grounds surrounding the Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center. These

objects and investigations become basis for developing visual skills for completed drawings. Whatever natural objects students collect and draw will be the basis for a completed work of art to take home. Instructor demonstrations in a variety of wet and dry mediums will help guide students with each drawing. Cost: Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve Members, \$50.00, including materials. Non-members, \$75.00, including materials; registration required. For questions or to sign up, please contact Linda Berghoff (727) 505-5067, luv4art1@verizon.net.

Sat., Oct. 25, 10:30 am - noon
Perilous Plants: Learn about common poisonous plants in our landscape from Urban Horticulture Extension Agent Theresa Badurek. Whether you are concerned about children and pets or just curious- this is a great way to learn more. Be aware, not afraid! Free.

Sat., Oct. 25, 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, and 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., Oct. 25, 8:30 - 10:30 am
Guided Photography Hike: Participants can 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 over.** Free; registration required.

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, conserva-

tion, 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

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