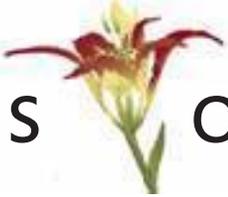

Newsletter of the
Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve



September - October 2013

Chairman's Message

By Barb Hoffman

I am thrilled to share with you the news of a new partnership we now have with the Leepa Rattner Museum of Art (LRMA). Located on the St. Petersburg College Tarpon Springs Campus, the mission of LRMA "is to collect, conserve, exhibit and protect the works of art entrusted to its care and stewardship. Through its exhibitions, programs and expanding collection of 20th and 21st century art, the Museum strives to engage and inspire our diverse community by providing opportunities for education, enlightenment, interpretation, and research to students, scholars and visitors." (LRMA website). Along with permanent exhibitions, LRMA hosts temporary displays by contemporary artists. As art and nature go hand in hand, LRMA and Brooker Creek Preserve will provide a mutually beneficial, symbiotic relationship together.

We begin our partnership with a joint effort of promoting and celebrating the art of photographer, Clyde Butcher. Clyde Butcher is well known for his beautiful black-and-white

photographs of Florida landscapes. He links his photographs to his philosophy about land preservation as follows (from his website):

"You have to find a way to get through to people and let them understand the importance of nature. Without nature, there'd be no air, no clean water, and nothing to eat. I feel my images create an emotion that reach out to people and help them see their surroundings in a different way that encourages them to save those wild places where peace can fill the soul."

Butcher looks to the wilderness to answer questions that are probably very different from questions scientists ask. For Butcher, wilderness is a sacred necessity. He believes the mysterious spiritual experience of being close to nature is restorative and that discovering the intimate beauty of the natural world is healing to the human soul.
(cont., p.2)



Shiny Iyonia. Photo by Barb Hoffman

Upcoming Friends Events

Sept. 22, 5:00-8:00, Equinox Concert Series - Music in the Woods

Sept. 28, 9:00-12:00, Adult Ecology Workshop -Dragonflies!

Oct. 19, 3:00-next day, Fall Family Campout at Four Lakes Hammock

Oct. 26, 9:00-4:00, Fall Wildflower Festival

Nov. 2, 11:00-2:00, Friends Annual Meeting & Volunteer Appreciation

Nov. 7-8, Clyde Butcher's Florida, Art & Natural History Tour

Dec. 7, 6:00, Gallery Opening Reception at Leepa Rattner Museum of Art: Clyde Butcher - Preserving Eden

Chairman's Message, continued:

The LRMA will be hosting an exhibition of Clyde Butcher's photography from December 8 through Feb 16, 2014. Members of LRMA and FOBCP are invited to the exhibition opening on Dec. 7, and Clyde Butcher will give a lecture at LRMA on Dec. 8 at 2:00 pm. During the exhibit, LRMA will promote Brooker Creek Preserve as a place of "sacred necessity," as Clyde Butcher would describe it. We hope many Friends will enjoy the Clyde Butcher exhibit while many museum folks will concurrently enjoy Brooker.

Prior to the exhibit opening, LRMA and the Friends are co-hosting a trip to south Florida to visit Clyde Butcher's gallery, other museums, and sites of amazing natural history. Museum staff and bird experts will be in attendance to provide guidance and interpretation. See the flyer in this newsletter for more information. I hope you will join us!

Barb

Let's Go Camping!

Saturday, Oct. 19, check in starting at 3:00 pm, check out the next day by 3:00 pm. This is a Friends-only event. Family of Friends are welcome.

Four Lakes Hammock Campground, part of Brooker Creek Preserve, is a beautiful oak hammock perfect for camping. It is very near the intersection of Trinity Blvd and East Lake Road. The campground can only be used by groups who volunteer for the Preserve. The campsites are about a 2-minute walk from where we park our cars, and we will have wagons to help move equipment.

Bring your own camping gear, camp chairs, and food. There are picnic tables and we will set up some portable tables. There is a campfire ring and a portable restroom, but no shower facilities and no running water. We plan to do all the usually camping things - sing, tell stories, listen to the night sounds, hike in the morning, and play some outdoor games.

If the weather is awful (rainy, really cold, snowing), we will reschedule. You must RSVP for this event! Contact fobcp@tampabay.rr.com to RSVP or if you have any questions.

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Leepa-Rattner Museum *of Art*



Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve and the Leepa-Rattner Museum of Art

Clyde Butcher's Florida - A Special Art and Natural History Tour Sponsored by LRMA

November 7 – 8, 2013

November 7 Departure from the Leepa-Rattner Museum of Art

Thursday Deluxe Motor coach Transportation
Drive to Naples for Lunch (included)
Visit to Big Cypress Gallery Ochopee, Florida
Arrive and check in to our hotel, the Inn on 5th in Naples for one night.
Evening Dinner at a restaurant near the hotel (included)

November 8 Breakfast near the Hotel. Check out.

Friday Visit the Naples Museum of Art
Visit Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary
Lunch (Included)
Time for a Nature Walk through the Sanctuary
Return home by motor coach



Rate - \$499.00 per person in a double room. Single Occupancy is an additional \$110.00

Includes: One night at the Inn on 5th in Naples
Deluxe Motor coach with Driver entire time
One Breakfast, Two lunches, One Dinner
Entrances to Big Cypress Gallery, Naples Museum of Art, Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary
\$50.00 donation to the Brooker Creek Preserve included in the rate.
Escorted by Museum Personnel Some Surprises too !!

Deposit of \$100.00 due to Carlson Maritime Travel by September 15 and Balance due October 7.

For more information please contact **John Lulias:**

Carlson Maritime Travel john@scarlsontravel.com Telephone: 727.945.1930

Carlson Maritime Travel

10000 Tarpon Ave. * Tarpon Springs, Fla. 34689 ph: 727.945.1930 * Fax: 727.945.1919

Email: john@scarlsontravel.com web: www.scarlsontravel.com

FST License: #ST37783

Legal Travel Service Provider to CUBA



Announcing the first of the Equinox Series of
Music in the Woods
featuring the delightful folk music of



CRYSTAL BEACH STRING BAND

Sunday, September 22, 2013

(The Fall Equinox)

5:00–8:00 pm

Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center

3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs, FL

Outdoor Music Pavillion (or the auditorium if it is raining)

\$20 donation requested to

Friends  of Brooker Creek Preserve

This is also a pot-luck dinner, so bring a dish to share!

Make sure to bring lawn chairs or a blanket to sit on.

There will be a drop-off spot for your stuff and nice folks to help carry it.

Water will be available for purchase or you can bring your own drinks.

(Sorry, no pets or alcoholic beverages allowed.)

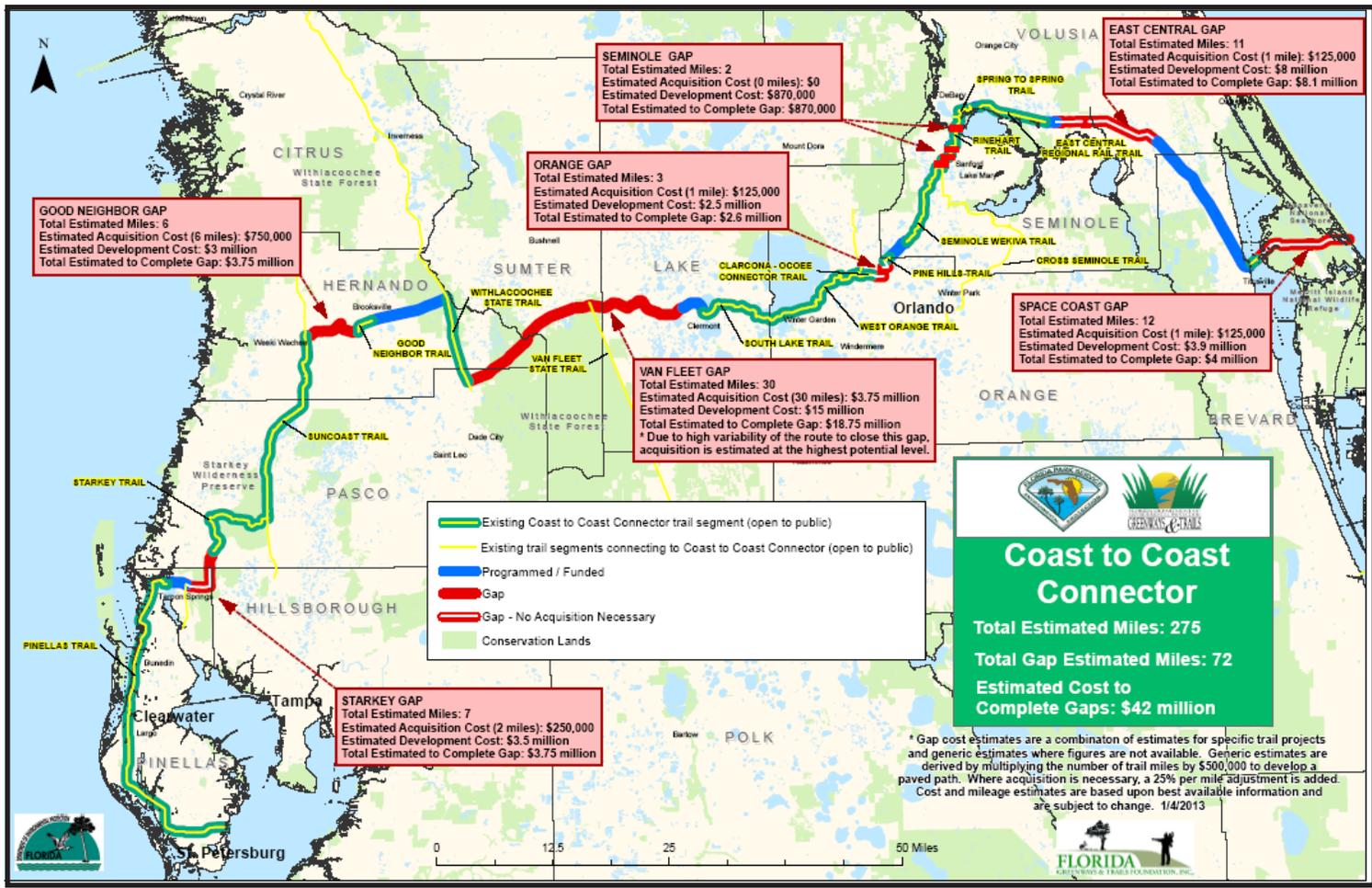
Questions: fobcp@tampabay.rr.com or 727-934-2680

Closing the Gaps of the Coast to Coast Trail

The Friends hosted the latest quarterly meeting of the Florida Greenways and Trail Foundation. This two-day workshop was held at Brooker Creek Preserve with the evening reception at the home of our chairman, Barbara Hoffman. The mission of this Foundation is to advocate for and create a statewide system of trails and greenways to advance health, recreation, transportation, and tourism. One of the Foundation's tasks is to create a Coast to Coast Bicycle/Pedestrian Trail that traverses the entire state of Florida, from Titusville to Tarpon Springs. Some of this trail is already built, but several gaps exist (see map). Gap 1, known as the Starkey Park Gap, goes from the Pinellas Trail where it ends at East Lake Road, east to the Hillsborough County Line, north through Brooker Creek Preserve, then under the Duke Energy power lines to Starkey Park. The cost for this is estimated at \$3.75 million. There was money in the state's budget to close all the gaps but, unfortunately, was vetoed by Governor Scott. The Foundation is working hard to lobby for future funding, and the Friends is doing all it can to help. Closing Gap 1 will allow people to get to the Preserve entrance via bicycle or by walking/running - a well-known goal for the Friends.



From the Wildflower Garden: Rosinweed





Fall Wildflower Festival

Brooker Creek Preserve

Saturday, October 26, 2013

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
Exhibit Hall
Crafts for children



PRESENTATIONS

9:15 and 1:15 Landscaping with Wildflowers
10:15 and 2:15 Wildflowers of Pinellas County
12:15 Edible Plants – What You Can Eat, What to Avoid
11:15 Wildflower Photography



Wildflowers for Sale!

Wildflower Scavenger Hunt!

Roving Naturalists on the Trails to Answer Questions!

Come Rain or Shine!

Sponsored by: Friends  of Brooker Creek Preserve

For Information call: 727-934-2680 or fobcpwildflowerfest2012@hotmail.com

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



Fall Wildflower Festival

Brooker Creek Preserve

Saturday, October 26, 2013

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

FREE! FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

Butterfly Tent Sponsorship Form

Sponsorships—\$100 each

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Name as you would like it to appear on advertising and the sign at the entrance to the butterfly tent:

Make checks payable to: *Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve*

Mail to: 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs, FL 34688

For information or questions: 727-934-2680 or fobcp@tampabay.rr.com

Friends  of Brooker Creek Preserve

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Blazing Stars

By: Craig Huegel

Blazing stars (*Liatris* spp.) are one of my favorite wildflowers. Also known as "gayfeathers", they occur in most habitats throughout Florida, but are most abundant in sunny, sandy locations. Florida has more species than any other state or province in North America (17) and quite a few that are endemic (4) - found nowhere else in the world.

Blazing stars are perennials that die completely back to their underground corm in early winter (there are a few exceptions that keep their basal leaves). Corms are outwardly similar to bulbs, but they are woody instead of scaly like an onion bulb. Over time, corms expand in size and produce multiple sets of leaves and flower stalks. In early spring, the corms produce a set of thin basal leaves that form a circular "skirt" at ground level. At this stage, it is nearly impossible to distinguish the various species from each other. The leaves are grass-like and about 1-2 inches long. From spring to early summer, this is all that you will see of blazing stars.

Upright flower stalks make their appearance sometime in summer. They arise from the center of each leaf whorl and they extend straight upwards - usually with tiny needle-like leaves appressed along the stem. As they mature, flower buds form along the upper length of the stem. Different species produce different numbers of flowers and have different bloom times, but most have flowers that are bright lavender in color. These flowers are actually produced in small heads and each of the many heads has anywhere from four to a dozen tiny blooms.

Blazing stars are often featured in cut flower arrangements because their blooming period lasts so long and

Chapman's blazing star
L. chapmanii



because they bloom from the top of the stalk first, and then proceed downwards. By blooming first at the top of the stalk, you can trim off the spent flowers and keep the rest looking new. Blazing stars are excellent nectar sources for pollinating insects such as butterflies and bees. There is always activity around them when they are flowering.

In a wildflower garden, blazing stars are a keystone perennial component. We use lots of them in our home garden and they are featured prominently in the wildflower garden at the Brooker Creek Preserve Education Center. Some are quite easy to grow, but a few are more difficult. Much of this is related to their tolerance of soils that remain moist/wet for extended periods. The more difficult species are those that require extremely well-drained sand.

Several species are found at the Preserve naturally. **Chapman's blazing star** (*L. chapmanii*) is the first to bloom, usually in late August and early September. Chapman's blazing star is one of those species that only occurs in the most excessively well-drained sands and is,

therefore, not common at Brooker Creek Preserve. This species has a relatively thick stalk and can stand between 2-4 feet tall, depending on growing conditions. It is almost always done flowering by the time the others begin.

Graceful blazing star (*L. gracilis*) is one of the most tolerant of varying soil conditions. It has much smaller deeper purple flowers than Chapman's blazing star and these heads are held away from the stalk on noticeable stems. It also has very noticeable "hairs" along these stems

Graceful blazing star
L. gracilis, right
Scrub blazing star
L. tenuifolia, below



and leaves. This species can stand as tall as six feet. Graceful blazing star is the species most commonly encountered within the pine flatwoods of Brooker Creek Preserve. It normally begins blooming in late September through October.

The third species, widely distributed in the Preserve, is **scrub blazing star** (*L. tenuifolia*). As its common name implies, this species is also found mostly in well-drained sandy habitats. It can be encountered in areas of pine flatwoods that are of slightly higher elevation and in the portions of the Preserve that are historically sandhill and scrub habitats. Look for this near the entrance where the roadway splits, for example, in late fall. Scrub blazing star is the last species to bloom, usually late



October into November. Scrub blazing star has an exceedingly thin stem and leaves and the flowers are also tiny.

The tall bright lavender flower stalks of blazing stars should be evident during this year's Wildflower Festival on 26 October. I hope you can join us for this wonderful event. And, if you are looking to add some to a home landscape, it is very possible that there will be some for sale at this event too.

News from the Wildflower Garden

By Pam Brown

With the rains of summer the Wildflower Garden is looking great. Wildflower Garden Club volunteers continue to keep it looking neat. I was out of town for our August club meeting. Many thanks to Laurie Angyn who graciously agreed to lead the crew in weeding and dead heading in my absence. Remember that the annual Wildflower Festival is coming up on October 26. So, plan to join us on Saturday September 28 from 8 to 10 a.m. to get the garden in tip top shape for the festival. Remember to bring your own tools, hat and gloves. We will provide water and breakfast snacks. I hope to see you there.

Pam's Gardening Tip

Is it too hot outside to garden? I think so. Hopefully we will get a break soon. How about spending some time planning what you might want to plant or refurbish in the landscape once the weather cools. You might want to remove some grass that was ravaged by insects during the summer and replace it with a nice native ground cover. I just discovered River Sage (*Salvia misella*). It likes shady spots that stay a bit damp. It can be damaged from frost or freeze, but I am still excited to plant what I bought in an area in my back yard near the preserve. For more information, visit Craig Huegel's blog at: <http://hawthornhillwildflowers.blogspot.com/2010/11/southern-river-sage-salvia-misella-syn.html>.

Volunteer News and More!

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



Featured Volunteer: Ric Hoover

He is here on days the Education Center isn't open to the public. He is here before the sun rises in the morning. He is probably here more often than I am. He is Ric Hoover. The Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve and the Brooker Creek Preserve staff would like to recognize Ric Hoover for his dedicated efforts towards upkeep of the Preserve. Ric was also recognized by the Parks and Conservation Resources Bureau Director, Paul Cozzie. Mr. Cozzie said, "Ric: Thank you for all of your hard work. I know that project (entrance signs) couldn't have been an easy task, especially this time of year! I really appreciate your connection to, and concern for, Brooker Creek Preserve."



Ric completed the following work on the four entrance signs:
All were cleaned of mold and mildew.
All wooden letters removed, painted, and replaced. Some repaired from splitting.
All signs cleaned and painted.
Planters in front of signs cleaned and painted. Spotlight bases cleaned and painted.
West yellow oval removed, new wood obtained, painted with primer (front and back, two coats) replaced.
"Sucker" shrubs on east side removed in front of sign.
Signs can be read from Keystone Road now.

The project was done without funding from the County; funding was from private donations. In addition to the entrance signs, Ric also repainted all of the trail signs and trail markers starting back in April, an extraordinary effort totaling 404 hours (equivalent to \$7,615.40 of work). Needless to say, Ric Hoover is much deserving of praise for his hard work and commitment to the Preserve. THANK YOU!

Important Dates:

October 26 -- (All day): Wild-flower Festival! Volunteers are needed to help out with this event. Please keep your eye out for the Sign-Up sheet that will be located in the Break Room. Laurie Angyn is in charge of this event and if you have questions please direct them to her (l_angyn@yahoo.com).

November 2 -- Volunteer Celebration! 10:00am-12:00pm. Please add to your calendars. We are going to have a pancake brunch!

Volunteer Announcements:

1. We are in the process of collecting as many Customer Service Satisfaction Surveys from visitors during the month of September. Please encourage all visitors to complete a survey when they enter/exit the Exhibit Hall. These surveys will be submitted to the county as a measure of our customer service for the year. This is a very important evaluation tool for us to show the County how awesome all of our volunteers are! Surveys are located at the front desk.

2. September is the last month to accumulate "2013" volunteer hours towards an annual beach pass. If you think you have 100 hours, and have not yet received a beach pass, please let Julie know (jvogel@pinellascounty.org).

Preserve Update:

Approximately 150 acres were burned in the Preserve north of Keystone Road. Learn about the benefits of prescribed fires on Lara's blog at: <http://pcethinkinggreen.blogspot.com/2013/07/people-are-prescribed-medicine.html>

Exotic species removal work was contracted out for northern and southern portions of the preserve.



Volunteer News, page 2

The majority of the trails are underwater, with the exception of the Education Center Trail. Recent sightings at Brooker Creek:

A New Addition to the Team:

Theresa Badurek, Urban Horticulture Extension Agent and Master Gardener Coordinator joins the Brooker Creek Preserve Extension Team. Theresa Badurek joined the University of Florida/IFAS team at the Pinellas County Extension office in 2010 as the Urban Horticulture Extension Agent/Master Gardener Coordinator. Her program gives residents the tools they need to create and maintain Florida-Friendly landscapes and gardens. As the Master Gardener Coordinator she also works with the volunteer team to inspire, educate, and motivate existing and new Master Gardener volunteers. These Master Gardeners are leaders in carrying this environmental stewardship message to the County. Ms. Badurek now joins us at Brooker Creek Preserve to continue her work with Extension sharing environmentally responsible landscape and garden solutions with Pinellas County residents.

Ms. Badurek's educational background begins with a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Central Florida. Her studies there were concentrated on botany and Florida ecosystems. She then earned a master's degree in landscape architecture at the University of Florida, where she focused on the use of design to advance environmentally-friendly practices. In addition to her role as community educator, she maintains an arborist license and has a green building (LEED) accreditation. Welcome to Brooker Creek Theresa!





If you would like to join our active volunteer group at Brooker Creek Preserve, please call us at (727) 453-6800.

Program Updates:

1. Advanced Plant ID which started in June and finished up in August went great! James will graduate 28 participants from this six-part (12 hour) course. Participants received a text book and class material and are now prepared to independently identify native Florida plants.
2. Herpetology Summary Camp was fantastic with 36 excited kids learning all about reptiles and amphibians in our area! Special thanks to George Heinrich for continuing to put on summer camps at Brooker Creek Preserve.
3. Teacher Training Summer Camp was a success! After a week-long, hands-on, intensive learning experience, 20 teachers are fully equipped to incorporate environmental education curriculum into their classrooms. (see pictures above)

Nature Store News

By Kathleen Nichter

Our first summer in the store location at BCP surpassed all expectations. Sales exceeded last summer, with people starting to consider us as a source for native plants and gifts. Thanks go to our hard-working volunteers, who can get a little lonely this time of year with visitors fewer and farther between.

We are slowly expanding our new book section, both reference books and children's books. If you have any suggestions for titles please let us know.

We still have some openings for volunteers, so if you can give 4 hours on a Thursday, Friday, or Saturday morning or afternoon, it would be much appreciated. The location is beautiful, the visitors friendly, and the all around atmosphere fun.



Dragonflies!

**Natural History
and Species Identification**

by

Paul Trunk

Pinellas County Educator and Dragonfly Expert

Saturday, September 28, 2013

9:00 am Classroom Lecture

10:00 am - noon Field Identification

Brooker Creek Preserve

Environmental Education Center Auditorium

\$20 per person

\$15 for Friends members

Ages 12 and up are welcome

**This program is part of the
Adult Ecology Workshop Series
organized and sponsored by**

Friends  of Brooker Creek Preserve

To register, please contact the Friends at:

fobcp@tampabay.rr.com

727-934-2680

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Hello from the Brooker Bookers!

by Laurie Angyn

On August 3, the book club met and discussed the last book in the Florida themed series, Land of Sunshine, State of Dreams by Gary Mormino. The book and the discussion covered the broad range of events, good and bad, that have ultimately shaped Florida and our lives.



We rated this year's selections and found that seven of the 12 made it as our first, second and third favorite choices. The majority of the seven were non-fiction and the three books by or about Zora Neale Hurston and Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings made the top three rankings. All the the top favorites pointed to the importance of how we lived and live our lives in Florida.

Results of our non-scientific poll follow. Most votes as a top first, second or third choice went to:

* Digging Miami by Robert S. Carr (one first, two third place votes)

* Next were the classic novels, Their Eyes Were Watching God, by Z.N. Hurston (one first, one third place vote) and The Yearling by M.K. Rawlings (two second place votes)

* Totch - A Life in the Everglades by Loren G. "Totch" Brown (one second, one third place vote)

* Crossing the Creek: The Literary Friendship of Zora Neale Hurston and Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings by Anna Lillios (one second place vote each)

* Rose Cottage Chronicles - Civil War Letters of the Bryant-Stephens Families of Northern Florida and Sunshine Paradise: A History of Florida Tourism (one first place vote each)

On September 7, we will discuss A Land Remembered by Patrick Smith. Historical fiction set in, guess where! Books for the remainder of 2013:

October 5 The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lachs by Rebecca Skloot

November 2 The Control of Nature by John McPhee

December 7 Skunkworks: A Personal Memoir of My Years at Lockheed by Ben R. Rich

Book Club Selections for 2014:

Quarter and Domain	Month	Book Type	Title	Author
Q1 Space	January 4	Fiction	2001: A Space Odyssey	Arthur C Clark
	February 1	Biography	Forever Young: A Life of Adventure in Air and Space	John W. Young & James R. Hansen
	March 1	Non-fiction	Mining The Sky: Untold Riches From The Asteroids, Comets, And Planets	John S. Lewis
Q2 Atmosphere	April 5	Fiction	Around the World in 80 Days	Jules Verne
	May 3	Biography	To Conquer the Air: the Wright Brothers and the Great Race for Flight	James Tobin
	June 7	Non-fiction	Change Clarified	Simon j Rosser
Q3	July 5	Fiction	The A-Z of Global Warming: Climate	Jules Verne
Water	August 2	Biography	Jacques Cousteau: The Sea King	Brad Matsen
	September 6	Non-fiction	Silent Spring	Rachel Carson
Q4	October 4	Fiction	Journey to the Center of the Earth	Jules Verne
Earth	November 1	Biography	Surviving Galeras	Stanley Williams & Fen Montaigne
	December 6	Non-fiction	Roadside Geology of Florida	Multiple Authors



**Brooker Creek Preserve
Environmental Education Center**

Upcoming Events

**3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs.
(727) 453-6800**

www.brookercreekpreserve.org

September 2013 Programs

Thurs., Sept. 5, 12, 19, 26

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.

Sat., Sept. 7, 21, 28

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 on this 0.75-mile walk. Closed-toe shoes, water and hat recommended. Best for ages 6 and older. Free; advance registration required.

Sat., Sept. 7, 9:00 am - noon

Citizen Scientist Workshop: Free training to engage volunteers in the collection of local ecological information and an introduction to Nature's Notebook, a project of the USA National Phenology Network. Class will include both indoor and outdoor components so come prepared to make some observations outside. Free; advance registration required.

Sat., Sept. 14, 8:00 - 10:30 am

Birds of Brooker Hike: Join this hike to identify 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. Free; advance registration required.

Sat., Sept. 21, 10:30 am - noon

Birds of Prey: Several live birds of prey will

be used to illustrate aspects of predator-prey relationships, adaptations that ensure success as predators, and their role in maintaining healthy, balanced ecosystems. The basic natural history of each species is also discussed along with the impact of humans on their habitats and populations. Free.

Wed., Sept 25, 2:00 - 3:00 pm

Creatures of the Night: Lara Miller, a natural resource extension agent for Pinellas County, will discuss the creatures of the night. All of our nocturnal critters form a vital part of our natural environment but are largely ignored. Come learn more about these fascinating creatures. Recommended for adults. Free. Garden Club of St. Petersburg, 500 Sunset Dr., S., St. Petersburg. (727) 582-2630; www.eventbrite.com/event/5260325776/eorg.

Fri., Sept. 27, 9:00 - 11:00 am

Wildlife Hike: Join an experienced naturalist as you hike along boardwalks and natural trails at Brooker Creek Preserve. This will be a learning experience for everyone! Come prepared with your binoculars, cameras, and questions! Any questions your hike guide cannot answer will be researched in the Resource Room upon return to the Education Center. Free; advance registration required.

Sat., Sept. 28, 8:30 - 10:30 am

Guided Photography Hike: 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 Brooker Creek Preserve, then hike the boardwalk and trails looking for those shots that reflect the season. Recommended for adults and children 12 and older. Free; advance registration required.

Sat., Sept. 28, 8:00 - 10:00 am

Wildflower Garden Club: Join the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve and get gardening hands dirty in the preserve's wildflower garden. Bring garden gloves and hat. Morning snacks are usually provided. Free; advance registration required

October 2013 Programs

Thurs., Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

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.

Fri., Oct. 4, 9:00 - 11:00 am

Forestry Hike: Join a local natural resources agent and hike along two miles of boardwalks and natural trails at Brooker Creek Preserve. Come prepared with binoculars, cameras and questions. Inquiries can also be researched in the resource room upon return to the education center. Free; advance registration required.

Sat., Oct. 5, 19

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 on this 0.75-mile walk. Closed-toe shoes, water and hat recommended. Best for ages 6 and older. Free; advance registration required.

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

Botany Hike: Join a Brooker Creek naturalist to explore the fascinating plants found on the preserve while identifying wildflowers, ferns, epiphytes, trees and more. The ecology of various plant communities will also be examined. Best suited for adults. Come prepared with your camera and questions. Free; registration required.

Sat., Oct. 12, 8:00 - 10:30 am

Birds of Brooker Hike: Join this beginning bird hike and learn how to identify the county's common birds while meandering along a one-mile trail. Bring water and binoculars. 8 to 10:30 a.m. Free; advance registration required.

Sat., Oct. 12, 10:30 am - noon

Discovering Tracks, Scats and Signs: Join a Sensing Nature guide and learn about tracking wildlife and other nature clues that will unveil wildlife's presence. Apply this new knowledge during an easy hike to become acquainted with some of Florida's wildlife and their associated

animal tracks, scats and signs. Free; advance registration required.

Sat., Oct. 19, 10:30 am - noon

Explore the Ferns of Brooker Creek Preserve: Brooker Creek Preserve is home to many of Florida's fabulous ferns. Explore the fascinating world of these ancient plants during a classroom/outdoor activity. We will study the natural history of ferns then take a stroll to meet these plants around the Environmental Education Center. Identification tips, interesting facts and more await participants. Free; advance registration required.

Fri., Oct. 25, 8:30 - 10:30 am

Guided Photography Hike: 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 Brooker Creek Preserve, then hike the boardwalk and trails looking for those shots that reflect the season. Recommended for adults and children 12 and older. Free; registration required.

Fri., Oct. 25, 9:00 - 11:00 am

Wildlife Hike: Join an experienced naturalist as you hike along boardwalks and natural trails at Brooker Creek Preserve. This will be a learning experience for everyone! Come prepared with your binoculars, cameras, and questions! Any questions your hike guide cannot answer will be researched in the Resource Room upon return to the Education Center. Free; advance registration required.

Sat., Oct. 26, 10:30 am - noon

Bats: Myth and Reality: Bats are among the world's most fascinating and beneficial animals. Yet after centuries of misinformation and myths we needlessly fear and often persecute them. This program debunks these myths and introduces attendees to the many important contributions these mammals make to ecosystem and human health. The program will end with an introduction to live Florida bats. Sponsored by the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve. Free; advance 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, 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 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.

Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve Board of Directors:

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