

# Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve

November - December 2013

## Chairman's Message

By Barb Hoffman

As we close out another very successful year in terms of education programs and events, we need to stay mindful of the parts of Brooker Creek Preserve that we cannot see, those beyond the trails and the Education Center. The Preserve is in dire need of land management, prescribed fire, invasive species control, and habitat restoration. We estimate that such practices would cost about \$250,000 per year. If you hear or know of any grant opportunities or large corporations looking to spend money for the environment, please let me know. While Pinellas County has set aside a great many wonderful preserves and parks (Brooker Creek Preserve being the largest and most diverse), they require an active land management program to maintain their ecological health. Let's do all we can to make that happen at the Preserve. Please keep your eyes and ears open.

**Barb**

### Chairman's Message

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Above, coyote track  
Right, bobcat track

### Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve

**New Members:** Elizabeth Boing, Peter Robison, Amanda Westbrook

**New Huegel's Eagles:** Lara Miller, Julie Vogel

Don't forget to "like" the BCP Environmental Education Center on Facebook - [Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center](https://www.facebook.com/BrookerCreekPreserveEnvironmentalEducationCenter)

Have a question, but can't find the answer? [www.AskExtension.org](http://www.AskExtension.org) or stop by the Education Center and drop your question into the "Ask an Agent" box.

The logo for the Leepa-Rattner Museum of Art, featuring the name in white and red text on a black background.

# Leepa-Rattner Museum of Art



## Come Celebrate the Amazing Photography of Clyde Butcher!

The Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve and the Leepa Rattner Museum of Art celebrate together the photography of Clyde Butcher. We hope you can attend one or more of these events!

### Clyde Butcher's Florida Photographs PRESERVING EDEN

Circulated by the South Florida Museum

On display Dec. 8 - Feb. 16 at the Leepa Rattner Museum of Art  
located on the St. Petersburg College Tarpon Springs Campus

Clyde Butcher has earned recognition as the foremost landscape photographer in the United States. Documentary filmmaker Ken Burns has described him as "a national treasure." Butcher is a Florida resident best known for his large-format, black and white landscapes of Florida's wilderness areas and his commitment to save Florida's fragile environments through greater awareness. This exhibition, organized by the South Florida Museum in Bradenton, includes 35 photographs varying in size from 8 x 14 in. to 5 x 8 ft. accompanied by contextual panels and quotes. Interpretive panels on the Loxahatchee Wildlife Refuge and The Everglades, along with a first edition copy of *The River of Grass* by Marjory Stoneman Douglas, and two video components, including a documentary with Clyde Butcher and his wife, Niki, enhance the visitor's understanding of the conservation themes in the exhibition.

Programming for *Clyde Butcher's Florida Photographs - Preserving Eden* has generously been sponsored through a grant from the Florida Humanities Council and includes public talks by the artist, collaborative programs with St. Petersburg College (Tarpon Springs), Brooker Creek Preserve, and the Institute for Strategic Policy Solutions (Seminole Campus, SPC).

**Saturday, December 7**

***Clyde Butcher's Florida Photographs: Preserving Eden***

**Members' Opening Reception**

**Leepa Rattner Museum of Art, St. Petersburg College,  
Tarpon Springs**

6-7 p.m. LRMA Patron Members' Preview

7-9 p.m. LRMA and FOBCP Members free; \$10 for non-members

Clyde Butcher's 2014 Calendars are available in the Leepa Rattner Museum of Art gift shop!



# Leepa-Rattner Museum of Art



*Clyde Butcher with His Camera*  
Color photograph by Max Kelly



**Sunday, December 8**

***Clyde Butcher's Florida Photographs: Preserving Eden***

**An Afternoon with Clyde Butcher**

2 p.m., St. Petersburg College Fine Arts Auditorium and LRMA  
Galleries; free

Clyde Butcher will spend an afternoon at LRMA and provide visitors with a wealth of knowledge about his renowned career in photography and his passionate interest in environmental preservation. He will begin the program with a PowerPoint lecture in the Fine Arts Auditorium and then take visitors on a gallery walk-through of *Clyde Butcher's Florida Photographs: Preserving Eden*. Butcher will then be available at the end of the program to sign his published books including *Big Cypress Swamp: The Western Everglades* and *Clyde Butcher: Florida Portfolio II*, which will be available for purchase. (Please note that seating is limited for this program.)

*Funding for this program was provided through a grant from the Florida Humanities Council with funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of the Florida Humanities Council or the National Endowment for the Humanities.*

**Saturday, December 14**

**An Art and Nature Encounter**

11 a.m.-4 p.m., Leepa-Rattner Museum of Art and Brooker Creek Preserve; \$15 for LRMA and Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve members, \$20 for non-members; \$5 for children 17 and younger

LRMA and Brooker Creek Preserve have partnered to offer an all-ages program celebrating Clyde Butcher and his quest to preserve wilderness areas in Florida. Attendees will be treated to a LRMA tour of the special exhibition *Preserving Eden* and a hands-on art activity followed by a hearty and healthy boxed lunch in the Fine Arts Building Lobby, where *Loxahatchee River #1* by Clyde Butcher will be on view. After lunch, guests are invited to drive to Brooker Creek Preserve on Keystone Road in Tarpon Springs for a 1:30 Guided Photography Hike (bring your camera) with photographers Karl and Kathleen Nichter or a 1:30 Guided Nature Hike. Afterwards, hikers can explore Brooker Creek Preserve's award-winning Environmental Education Center and Exhibit Hall. Advance reservations and payments are required by December 11 and may be made by calling 727-712-5226.

## Friends Campout Weekend (October 19-20)

Such a fun, relaxing, educational experience!

Seven campers set up their tents among the beautiful oak hammock, primitive campsite area at Four Lakes Hammock in Brooker Creek Preserve. Four Lakes Hammock is closed to the public and available only to groups who volunteer at the Brooker Creek Preserve. The campers enjoyed pumpkin carving, Dutch oven cooking, and tips on how to assemble the perfect bonfire.



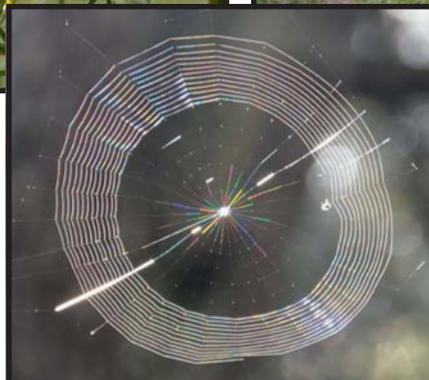
Nine participants gathered around the campfire at nightfall for bonfire hot dogs, s'mores, Dutch oven cherry cobbler with ice cream, story telling, and listened to the night sounds.



Eleven hikers participated in the Sunday morning nature hike along the Four Lakes Hammock trail. The combination of knowledge, by those who participated, provided a very informative, educational experience for all.



Photos by Mike & Patti Young (Camping Hosts)



# Brooker Creek Preserve 2013 Fall Wildflower Festival

by Laurie Angyn

We could not have asked for a better day to have the FoBCP Fall Wildflower Festival. The weather was splendid and the 35+ amazing volunteers who donated their time, energy and effort were magnificent. At the end of the day more than 800 visitors shopped for native plants, searched for elusive flowers in the popular wildflower scavenger hunt, learned about Pinellas County wildflowers - how to landscape with them, how to photograph them, which ones not to eat! They also experienced 300 butterflies up close and enjoyed the tranquil beauty of the trails.

New this year was the Kid's Craft Zone. Kids of all ages put together planters, bugs, and caterpillars. They also learned about caterpillars and other insects at two 15-minute presentations. The Kids Craft Zone was busy all day!

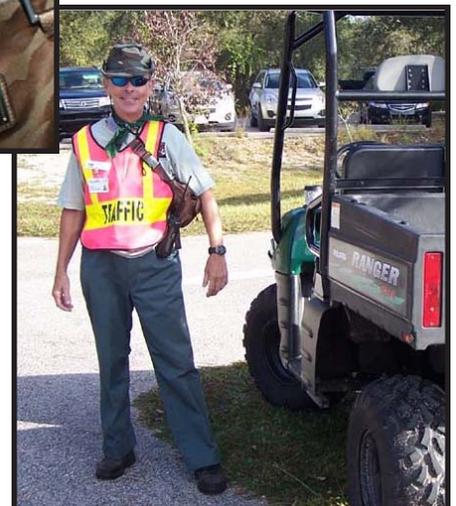
The FoBCP extend their sincere thanks to each and everyone who helped make this the amazing success it was.



# Many Thanks to the Sponsors of the 2013 Butterfly Tent!



Anonymous (2)  
Burr Family  
Carson Family Care Center  
Council of North County Neighborhoods  
Evan Earle, Jr. and Marion Yongue  
East Lake Sunrise Rotary Club  
Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve  
Garden Club of Tarpon Springs  
Hoffman Architects, PA  
Microaccounting  
Jeff and Jane Myers  
Nichter Photography  
Palm Harbor Garden Club  
Pampered Gardeners, LLC  
Chuck & Kim Parsons  
Radiology Associates of Tarpon Springs, Doug Eiland, MD  
Reker Family  
Waddell & Reed Financial Advisors  
Julie Wade  
Brad Wilkins Family



## Volunteer News and More!

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



### What an Incredible Year!

The County runs on a fiscal year from October-September and we have accomplished a lot since October of 2012:

Our annual visitation into the Environmental Education Center (all of those tally marks you make) have increased 5.8% from last year bringing us from 18,109 annual visitation up to 19,161!

You all have contributed 5879 volunteer hours, totaling a value of \$110,819.15!!!

We have had 257 educational programs and school groups at the Preserve, drawing in 7740 visitors.

We reached our goal of 500 Likes on Facebook!

We have added Theresa to our incredible team to offer even more programs.

Thank you so much for making everything that happens at Brooker Creek Preserve possible!

#### Plans for 2014:

Achieve over 20,000 visitors into the Education Center

Increase the number of programs offered

Reach 1,000 likes on Facebook

Continue to provide excellent customer service

We would like to hear from you! What would you like the Brooker Creek Preserve team to work towards in 2014? Email your ideas to [brookercreek@pinellascounty.org](mailto:brookercreek@pinellascounty.org).

### Where in the World is Lara?

While I claim I am the only full-time staff at Brooker, the reality is I am the only full-time staff *stationed* at Brooker who works for the University of Florida/IFAS Extension in Pinellas County. Some give me the title of Executive Director or Manager (all of which I love), but the reality is I am the Natural Resources Extension Agent for UF/IFAS Pinellas County Extension, charged with providing my services throughout the entire county.

The days I am not my most-awesome office at Brooker, are just days I am working somewhere else in the county or country. Trust me when I say that I wish every day could be spent at Brooker Creek Preserve. I am truly blessed and honored to be based out of the Education Center, but I have to give full credit to Spencer, Julie, and James for keeping this place up and running and supporting me in my role as an Extension Agent.



## How You Can Help

Tell all of your friends and relatives about this amazing place!

Share upcoming programs with other organizations you are involved with (HOAs, churches, community groups, etc.)

Like us on Facebook! Keep on smiling



A newly hatched striped mud turtle.

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



The alligator is back. Photos by Lara Miller.



Glass lizard!!!

## Feeding Birds During The Winter

By: Craig Huegel

With a change of weather now in the air, it is only a matter of time before the holidays are upon us and our thoughts turn to things such as feeding birds... Ok, kind of a leap there, but it is true that many of us think more about feeding birds in the winter than at other times of the year. Food is easy to come by during summer and fall. It declines after that and birds, even in Florida, discover that food becomes harder and harder to find.

For many of us, feeding birds means using bird feeders. Literally millions of Americans regularly use bird feeders and hundreds of millions of dollars are spent on bird feed. It is an industry that dominates the environmental side of the economy, but much of the money spent has little positive influence on the birds themselves. Bird feeding is effective only when it does two things: 1) It supplies something that is needed, and otherwise lacking, and 2) It is targeted at the species that actually need it.

Realize that bird feeders only target birds that eat bird seed. It ignores every other type of

bird that eats something else. In the north, where winter temperatures can drop below freezing, a great many seed-eating birds are present and can benefit from bird seed - as long as the correct type of seed is used, but here in Florida, only a very few species rely on bird seed. Insect- and fruit-eating birds do not feed on bird seed to any appreciable extent.

Most bird seed mixes do not contain an appreciable percentage of seed that most birds



Yellow-rumped warbler in wax myrtle. Photo by David Williamson.

actually eat. Sunflower seed, for example, is often used in very low percentages. The red and white millets that dominate most bird-seed mixes are fed on by only a few birds, and most of these are non-natives that do not need our help: English sparrows and pigeons. Standard bird feeders can actually cause more problems than solutions as other nuisance wildlife, like rats and gray squirrels, monopolize the seed and increase in numbers.

Most birds that spend their winters in Florida switch from a mostly insect-based diet to one based largely on small fruit. Insects do not reproduce much in winter, so the caterpillars and grubs that are fairly easy to find at other times become a difficult target. Grass and wildflower seed has largely been dispersed by mid-winter. What remains in reasonable numbers are the fruit of various trees and shrubs that ripened in fall, but remain available. Some plants, like beautyberry, produce large numbers of small fruit, but these are not held deep into winter for wildlife to eat. Those not

eaten by early winter dry up and fall to the ground. That means that the best bird-feeding program relies on plants that produce small fruit that are held into late winter if not eaten first.

Look to your landscape to work as your bird feeder. Incorporating trees and shrubs that produce large numbers of bird fruit that last through the winter, can make a huge difference in keeping birds around your home, and will also enhance your landscape's aesthetics. The list below includes some of the best native species for this purpose. Some, like hollies and wax myrtles, are dioecious - meaning that each plant is either a male or a female. For those types of plants, you will want a majority of females to maximize the numbers of fruit produced in your landscape. If your nursery does not sex these plants in their pots, ask for help in sexing them before you make your purchase.



Above, littlehip haw fruit.  
Left, Yaupon holly.  
Photos by Craig Huegel

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Latin Name</u>	<u>Form</u>	<u>Evergreen?</u>	<u>Dioecious?</u>
Dahoon holly	<i>Ilex cassine</i>	Tree	Y	Y
Yaupon holly	<i>Ilex vomitoria</i>	Shrub	Y	Y
Wax myrtle	<i>Myrica cerifera</i>	Shrub	Y	Y
Wild coffee	<i>Psychotria nervosa</i>	Shrub	Y	N
Parsley haw	<i>Crataegus marshallii</i>	Tree	N	N
Carolina cherry laurel	<i>Prunus caroliniana</i>	Tree	Y	N

## News from the Wildflower Garden

by Pam Brown

The Wildflower Garden looked spectacular in September and October. The *Liatris* and *Rosinweed* bloomed September into October along with *Blue curls* and *Porterweed*. By the time of the Wildflower Festival on October 26<sup>th</sup> the *Narrow-leaf Sunflower* and *Gulf Muhlygrass* were in full blazing glory as well. I want to thank everyone who attended the Wildflower Garden Club this year and helped make this the best year ever for the Wildflower



Garden. With your help and the abundant rain during the summer the garden has been especially lovely. You are all the best!

Our next meeting of the Wildflower Garden Club for working in the garden will be on November 30<sup>th</sup>. Remember that November is when we move to our winter hours of 9:00 to 11:00 am. Please bring your hat, gloves and tools and join us for some gardening fun. We normally provide breakfast snacks. The garden club meeting for December is cancelled due to the proximity to Christmas. The January meeting will be on January 25, 2014.



Many thanks to **Paul Trunk** for the great workshop on

### **Dragonflies!**

**Natural History  
and Species Identification**

*Part of the Adult Ecology Workshop Series*  
Saturday, September 28, 2013, 9:00-noon

**Summary of Species Observed:**

- Blue Dasher
- Eastern Pond Hawk
- Black Saddlebags
- Carolina Saddlebags
- Halloween Pennant
- Great Blue Skimmer
- Regal Darner
- Twilight Darner
- Common Green Darner
- Wandering Glider
- Hyacinth Glider
- Illinois River Cruiser
- Blue Dragonlet



## Pam's Gardening Tip

Now that the weather has cooled our ornamental landscape plants are going dormant along with the grass. You will only need to water every two weeks during the winter and no fertilizer at all is needed. Plants are not rapidly growing so these extra nutrients are not necessary. In addition, grass usually only needs mowing every two weeks or more depending on the variety. So, enjoy a few months respite from heavy gardening chores.

### 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.

## Hello from the Brooker Bookers!

by Laurie Angyn

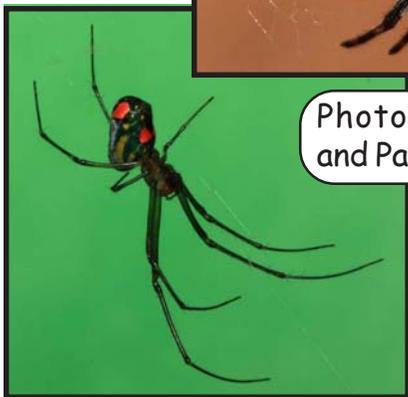
Next book is *The Control of Nature* by John McPhee will be discussed on Nov 2. Three perspectives on how we try to prevent the inevitable.

On Dec 7 - we expect the engineers to put down their slide rules and turn out for a review of *Skunk Works* by Ben Rich.

In January we start the New Year with *2001: A Space Odyssey* by Arthur C. Clark



Photos by Mike and Patti Young



### Wreath-making Workshop

Saturday, December 14, 10-noon

All ages welcome!

Learn to make beautiful holiday wreaths from native grapevines and other natural items gathered from the woods! Each participant will go home with a completed wreath suitable for hanging and ready for the holidays! \$10 members, \$15 non-members. RSVP by emailing [fobcp@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:fobcp@tampabay.rr.com) or calling 727-934-2680. Class caps at 20.

### Live Native Christmas Trees for Sale!

Starting Saturday, Nov. 30

In pots, ready for planting after the holidays!

Located in the Friends Nature Store

Open Thursday-Saturday, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

### Nature Store News

By Kathleen Nichter

Sales at the nature store for the Wildflower Festival exceeded last year. We saw a lot more traffic, and a lot of interest in our stock.

We closed our fiscal year and sales and income exceeded expectations. I will report on those next time, after the report is presented to the Board of Directors. A very big Thank You to the volunteers who staff the store, and all those people who donate used books, new books, and other items for sale. All of you made the Nature Store success possible.

We plan to continue our tradition of native live Christmas trees, so consider buying one for this holiday season. If you don't have a place to transplant it, you can donate it back to us and it will be planted at Brooker Creek Preserve.



**Brooker Creek Preserve**  
**Environmental Education Center**  
3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs.  
(727) 453-6800  
[www.brookercreekpreserve.org](http://www.brookercreekpreserve.org)

### **November 2013 Programs**

**Fri., Nov. 1, 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., Nov. 2, 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. Geared toward adults, the book list includes works by Florida authors, past and present, with archeology, biography, politics and history storylines. The book selected for discussion in November is *The Control of Nature* by John McPhee. Free; advance registration is required as seating is limited,

**Sat., Nov. 2, 12:30 - 2:00 pm**

**Life of Lichen:** Brooker Creek Preserve is home to many of Florida's fascinating lichens. Explore these unusual organisms during a classroom/outdoor activity. 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; advance registration required.

**Sat., Nov. 2, 16, 23, 30**

**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.

**Thurs., Nov. 7, 14, 21**

**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., Nov. 8, 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 a camera and questions. Free; registration required.

**Sat., Nov. 9, 10:30 am - noon**

**Owls, Owls, Owls:** Join Barbara Walker from Clearwater Audubon for a "show and tell" about owls. This program will include live animals and is great for the whole family. Free; advance registration required.

**Sat., Nov. 16, 10:30 am - noon**

**Talk About Turkeys:** There couldn't be a more appropriate time to learn about a beautiful bird that plays a significant role on our ecosystem and economy. Join Upland Gamebird Research Biologist, Danny Caudill with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission as he presents information on the wild turkey. Learn about turkey habitats, breeding behaviors, nesting and more. Free; advance registration required.

**Sat., Nov. 16, 10:30 am - noon.**

**Landscaping for Wildlife:** Florida has a diverse wildlife population but rapid growth throughout Florida is destroying native wildlife habitat. Our communities do not realize that landscapes and maintenance practices can be part of the loss of birds, butterflies and other wildlife. Join this class to learn how to create a habitat that encourages wildlife. Free; advance registration required for this program best suited for adults.

**Fri., Nov. 22, 9:00 - 11:00 am**

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

**Sat., Nov. 23, 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., Nov. 30, 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.

### December 2013 Programs

**Thurs., Dec. 5, 12, 19, 26, 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; advance registration required.

**Sat., Dec. 7, 21, 28, 9:00 - 10:30 am**

**Brooker Creek Guided Hike:** 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., Dec. 7, 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. Geared

toward adults, the book list includes works by Florida authors, past and present, with archeology, biography, politics and history storylines. The book selected for discussion in December is *Skunkworks: A Personal Memoir of My Years at Lockheed* by Ben R. Rich. Free; advance registration is required as seating is limited,

**Sat., Dec. 7, 10:30 am - noon**

**Orchids and Epiphytes of Brooker Creek**

**Preserve:** Join BCP naturalist James Stevenson to 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. Best suited for adults. Free; advance registration required.

**Fri., Dec. 13, 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 a camera and questions. Free; advance registration required.

**Sat., Dec. 14, 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. Free; advance registration required.

**Sat., Dec. 14, 10:30 am - noon**

**Tree ID:** Join a local natural resource agent to learn the basics on how to identify area trees. The presentation includes a guided tree identification 0.75-mile walk. Closed-toe shoes, water and hat recommended. Best for ages 6 and older. Free; advance registration required.

**Sat., Dec. 28, 9:00 - 11:00 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.

**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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Vice Chair: Allyn Childress  
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**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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