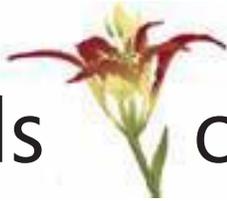

Newsletter of the
Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve



July - August 2015

Chairman's Message By Barb Hoffman

We are in the planning stages of having the folks from the Florida Wildlife Corridor expedition come to do a presentation for us this fall! Their work demonstrates that the future of preserving Florida's wilderness and wildlife habitat lies in providing connections between natural lands; creating a corridor across the state that provides wildlife with a means of remaining connected and humans a pathway for recreation and exploration. As we consider the importance of that, we need to keep in mind that we have our very own significant wildlife habitat right here in Pinellas County - Brooker Creek Preserve. We are so fortunate for this and I am so thankful that it exists. As I sit at home writing this, it is heartwarming to know, for example, that bobcats are raising families, orchids are in bloom in the deepest of swamps, young gray fox are learning to hunt, and owlets are learning to fly. The plants and animals do the hard part. All we have to do is let the Preserve exist and make sure it is managed appropriately

The Board voted to go ahead with beekeeping! We still need to purchase equipment and choose a location for beehives (not in the Preserve), so look for future requests for help with beehive construction and beekeeping! We will need a group of beekeeper volunteers to make this work - might this include you?

The Friends do a lot and I am overwhelmed and proud of how much we do, however, we are always open for comments and suggestions. Please call or email if you have something to share - an idea, a suggestion, or even a criticism. We do want to hear from you! Thank you for caring!

Barb

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Shelf Fungus, photo by Barb Hoffman

Raccoon by Lou Petersen



**Friends of Brooker
Creek Preserve
New Members:**

Ken & Dorie D' Ambrosio
Carol Andros
Liz Sismilich

An Invitation from Barry

Barry Andress, our Golf Cart Guy, invites you to take a tour with him in the golf cart along the paved 2-mile driveway loop at Brooker Creek Preserve. Even though we can traverse this same roadway in our cars, the golf cart provides a quiet ride and a new way to see the beautiful landscape and possibly some wildlife. Barry knows some natural history and Preserve history, and is happy to share his knowledge with you. Please email Barry to set up a date and time: alfabarry3@gmail.com.

A big thank you . . .

. . . to the trio of volunteers -- **Dixie Mills, Mona Gardner, and Janet McNew** -- who keep our native plant nursery stocked with plants. The sale of these brings in significant revenue and furthers our mission of extending the Preserve into the yards and neighborhoods of Pinellas County. This volunteer job is huge and entails driving two cars to a wholesale nursery about 80 miles away, choosing plants, loading plants, unloading plants, carting them to the nature store nursery from the Brooker parking lot, marking each pot with species name and price, and then cleaning their cars afterwards. They are amazing! Thank you, Dixie, Mona, and Janet!!!



Photos of Great Egrets and Red-bellied Woodpecker from the Birdathon by Ken D' Ambrosio.



Great Egret with prey



**Save the Dates
Friends Events for 2015**

July 4	Four Lakes Hammock Hike
July 18	FireWise Workshop
July 19	Music Jamboree
July 20-24	Herpetology Camp
July 25	Return the Preserve Work Day
July 25	Wildflower Garden Club
July 27-31	Wetland Adventure Camp
Aug. 3-7	Junior Naturalist Camp
Aug. 29	Return the Preserve Work Day
Aug. 29	Wildflower Garden Club
Oct. 2-4	Painting Nature Workshop
Oct. 17	Fall Wildflower Festival
Nov. 7	Friends Annual Meeting & Volunteer Appreciation
Nov. 15	Music in the Woods



Water moccasin
by Lou Petersen



American Alligator. Photo
by volunteer Richard Hicks.



Friends  of Brooker Creek Preserve
1st Annual
Ken Rowe Birdathon
Brooker Creek Preserve

Saturday, June 6, 2015
5:30 am - 11:00 am

Nine teams of 2-4 birders competed! 71 species were recorded!



Congratulations to the winning team with 64 species: *Team Duskywing*
Pete Plage, Eric Plage (Team Leader), Brian Ahern, and Ron Smith

Pictured with Barb Hoffman, Friends Chairman, and Ken Rowe, Honoree.

Many thanks to Alison Shepard for the beautiful, hand-crafted, ceramic trophies she created especially for this event!

- | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| American Crow | Eastern Meadowlark | Pine Warbler |
| American Kestrel | Eastern Screech Owl | Purple Martin |
| Anhinga | Eastern Towhee | Red-bellied Woodpecker |
| Barred Owl | Eurasian-collared Dove | Red-eyed Vireo |
| Black-bellied Whistling Duck | European Starling | Red-shouldered Hawk |
| Black-crowned Night Heron | Fish Crow | Red-tailed Hawk |
| Black Skimmer | Glossy Ibis | Red-winged Blackbird |
| Black Vulture | Gray Catbird | Sandhill Crane |
| Blue Jay | Great Blue Heron | Snowy Egret |
| Blue-gray Gnatcatcher | Great Crested Flycatcher | Summer Tanager |
| Brown-headed Nuthatch | Great Egret | Swallow-tailed Kite |
| Boat-tailed Grackle | Green Heron | Tri-colored Heron |
| Brown Thrasher | Killdeer | Tufted Titmouse |
| Carolina Chickadee | Laughing Gull | Turkey Vulture |
| Carolina Wren | Least Bittern | White-eyed Vireo |
| Cattle Egret | Little Blue Heron | White Ibis |
| Chimney Swift | Loggerhead Shrike | Wild Turkey |
| Chuck-will's Widow | Mottled Duck | Wood Duck |
| Common Gallinule | Mourning Dove | Wood Stork |
| Common Grackle | Northern Cardinal | Yellow-billed Cuckoo |
| Common Nighthawk | Northern Mockingbird | Yellow-crowned Night Heron |
| Common Yellowthroat | Northern Parula | Yellow-throated Vireo |
| Downy Woodpecker | Osprey | Yellow-throated Warbler |
| Eastern Bluebird | Pileated Woodpecker | |

Calling All Brooker Creek Preserve Friends & Volunteers!



A Special Hike at Four Lakes Hammock Just for YOU!

Saturday, July 4, 2015, 9:00 am

Four Lakes Hammock, part of Brooker Creek Preserve, is a beautiful area consisting of cypress swamp, oak hammocks, man-made lakes, and sandhills. It is very near the intersection of Trinity Blvd and East Lake Road. It is the site of the only campground within Brooker Creek Preserve. This date was chosen because the wild orchids growing there will be in full bloom!

There is a short hiking trail there, less than a mile in length, that is beautiful and very interesting. The hike starts at the campground, follows the nature trail, and ends at the campground. The hike will last about 1.5 hours; the adventurous can go on a second loop if they wish. Please note: there are no rest room facilities.

You must RSVP for this free event! Once you RSVP, directions on how to get there will be sent to you. Contact 727-934-2680 or fobcp@tampabay.rr.com to RSVP or if you have questions.

Friends  of Brooker Creek Preserve

Brooker Creek Preserve Music Jamboree!



Sunday, July 19, 2015

3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

All Ages Welcome!

Dust off that guitar, fiddle, banjo or other acoustic instrument and bring it to Brooker Creek Preserve for a jam session in our beautiful air-conditioned auditorium with gorgeous views of the woods. Meet other musicians and learn some new songs. Music lovers of all ages are encouraged to attend, listen and enjoy. The jam session will be lead by a local musician.

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

**Questions?
Call 727-934-2680
Email fobcp@tampabay.rr.com**

Park in the main parking lot which is about one-mile from the Keystone Road entrance. Then follow the boardwalk to the auditorium.

**Brooker Creek Preserve's Herpetology Camp --
July 20-24, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm**

Back for its 10th year, this popular, hands-on, science-based nature day camp is designed for children (ages 7-11) with a strong interest in nature. Campers will explore the fascinating world of amphibians and reptiles side-by-side with field herpetologist George L. Heinrich (Heinrich Ecological Services). Through up-close encounters with a variety of animals, such as gopher tortoises, frogs, lizards, and snakes, campers will learn about the ecology and conservation of amphibians and reptiles. The registration period is now open and a number of spaces have been filled. We encourage interested families to register soon as only one session will be offered at BCP. Additional information and registration at www.brookercreekpreserve.org



2015 Nature Summer Camps:

Wetland Adventure Camp -- July 27-31

Junior Naturalist Camp -- August 3-7

2015 Nature Summer Camps!

Exciting ♦ Life Experiences ♦ Fun

**Brooker Creek Preserve,
Tarpon Springs**



July 27-31, 2015: Wetland Adventure Camp

Meet all the things that walk, wiggle and unfurl within our magical Florida wetlands during this fun-filled week. Explore beautiful swamps, marshes and even the gooey mucks with Sensing Nature's professional biologists and certified UF Florida Master Naturalists. Dip net a dragonfly nymph, swamp tromp where ferns grow, learn the tales soils tell, discover the secrets of water and help make a difference for tomorrow's wetland critters.

Registration Deadline: July 13

August 3-7, 2015: Junior Naturalist Camp

Come test your investigative skills while identifying tracks, scats and signs of our native Florida wildlife with Sensing Nature's professional biologists and certified UF Florida Master Naturalists. "Read" the secrets that nature has left for your discovery. Learn the skills that biologists use for documenting our natural world including creating your own nature journal notebook, exploring the hidden treasures found in owl pellets, and testing your own observational awareness during our last day scavenger hunt challenge!

Registration Deadline: July 20

Summer Camp Ages: 7 – 12 years of age

Cost: \$150 per youth per camp

**Before-care & After-care is optional; additional \$20 per week per camper*

Hours: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Before-care Hours*: 7:30 AM – 9:00 AM

After-care Hours*: 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM



Register at www.SensingNature.com ♦ (727) 397-2306 ♦ Email jmurphy@sensingnature.com

FireWise Workshop

Saturday, July 18, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center

Increase your knowledge and understanding of fire in nature. Learn the benefits of prescribed fire and how you can protect your home in the case of a wildfire. Free. Registration required -- register online at <http://brookercreekpreserve.org>. If you have any questions, please contact Lara Milligan, lara317@ufl.edu or 727-453-6905. Thank you!

BURN HOTLINE

For information on wildfires and prescribed burns at Brooker Creek Preserve: 727-582-2876



Water Your Plants

By: Craig Huegel

The summer rains seem to have returned for the year. Showers sometimes build off the west coast in the morning and a few of us see some brief rains before 10 am, but the majority of our showers build in the middle of the state in the afternoon due to a union of solar heating and the increase of water vapor in the atmosphere. The rains we see in the area around Brooker Creek Preserve generally begin in places like Polk and Highlands Counties and move east through Hillsborough and Pasco Counties before reaching us. If the thermally produced Gulf breezes shift to the west, they allow the thunderstorms to move all the way to the coast; otherwise, they stall out in mid-County. I know this all too well living about a mile from the Gulf as I do. Far too often, I drive through torrential rains in Clearwater where I work only to be greeted by a totally dry yard at my home.

April and May are traditionally drier months (for reasons I won't go into) and by June we are eager for the return of rain - at least those of us that garden and worry about plants and the overall environment. One thing all of us "plant people" recognize is that plants need water to survive. When conditions get too dry, plants wilt. If they stay dry for too long, they

die. Simple formula all of us learn from experience, but I find that too few of us really understand what water really does for a plant. Water plays a very significant role in the daily life of plants and we really should understand why plants need water and how they use it.

Water is absorbed by roots in every vascular plant - ferns, pines, wildflowers, etc. Mosses get their water directly through their foliage, but most plants we pay attention to have roots. Roots are very complex organs, composed of a variety of plant tissues and developing relationships with a variety of soil fungi that allow them to function most efficiently. Water enters the root system through the fine network of root hairs and mycorrhizal fungi and eventually finds its way to the central root core composed of vascular tissue that roughly corresponds to our system of veins and arteries. The tubes that end up carrying water are xylem. Xylem is a continuous straw that conducts water one way to the top of the plant. Water does not move downward. No energy is exerted by the plant to suck this water upwards; the energy comes from the sun and the process of photosynthesis. When plants are actively photosynthesizing, they open the pores in their leaves (and green stems) to let in the carbon

dioxide they need to make simple sugars. When these pores are open, water originating at the roots is pulled upwards to provide the hydrogen needed to make the sugars. The excess hydrogen and oxygen are released out of these open pores as water vapor and pure oxygen. Photosynthesis only occurs with daylight, therefore water is only really used by plants from morning to sunset. If your plants look wilted during the middle of the day, but look fine next morning, it means that your plants are not able to pull enough water out of the soil to make up for what they are losing through their leaves. At night, with their pores closed, they can regain some of their water balance once more.

Water is pulled through a plant because of photosynthesis and it supplies the hydrogen component of the simple sugars (mostly glucose) that result. Most water, however, is just simply released back to the atmosphere. Somewhere between 90-95% of all the water pulled into the plant as liquid water by the roots is released through the leaves and green stems as water vapor. This may seem inefficient and it would be if this water was simply "wasted", but the water vapor pouring out of the pores during the daytime works much the same way as our sweat glands do to help cool us. Transpiration is plant sweat.

Water also provides the only real mechanism for plants to absorb nutrients. Every nutrient required by plants to grow and prosper enters through the roots in the water they are absorbing. There are some minor exceptions, but this is essentially true. Fertilizers, like *Miracle Grow*®, are fully water soluble so that plants can quickly absorb them through their roots. Non-soluble fertilizers, like leaf mulch, only become useful as plant food when they decay and have their nutrients released to the soil and added to the soil moisture. Nutrient-rich, non-soluble components of the soil do not provide fertility to a plant until they are broken down and then carried to the plant in the soil water column.

When you water a plant with your garden hose or irrigation system, you are not only providing it the water it needs for photosynthesis and to create "sweat", you are providing it the only pathway possible for it to absorb nutrients needed for growth and its basic metabolism. Water moving through the soil column picks up dissolved elements such as iron and potassium and these then enter the plant through the roots.

Water also is the means by which most plants maintain their shape. Woody plants eventually form wood that helps to keep their stems upright, but herbaceous plants only stand upright when they have the liquid water they need. The foliage of all plants becomes wilted when there is a shortage of water. Wilting occurs when the specialized cells, found only in plants, called vacuoles cannot maintain enough water pressure inside them to remain turgid. As these cells become "floppy", leaves start to fold and stems start to droop. We may think of wilting as something of little importance as it often gets corrected, we need to think of it from the plant's perspective. Wilted leaves lose the ability to maintain an aspect to the incoming sunlight that maximizes photosynthesis. Most plants hold their leaves in a horizontal position to the sun; wilted leaves become truly inefficient at intercepting sunlight and for every minute that a plant is in this condition is a minute stolen from it for growth, flowering, and reproduction. Herbaceous stems hold a plant upright to maintain this same type of efficiency. Water is the only thing that keeps the vacuoles turgid and this turgidity is vital to the overall health of the plant.

Our summer rains replenish soil moisture. All plants, regardless to where they grow require water at their roots. There is no such thing as a plant adapted to dryness - just plants adapted to need more water than others. Water provides a great many things to plants. Understanding that will help you be a better gardener and ecologist

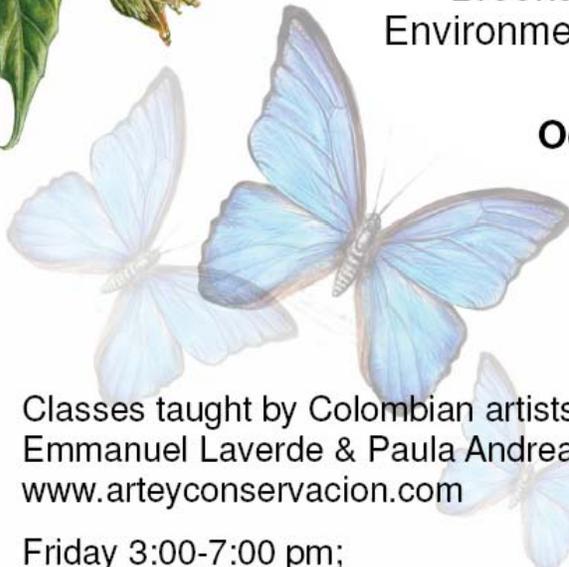


PAINTING NATURE WORKSHOP WATERCOLOR FOR BEGINNERS

Brooker Creek Preserve
Environmental Education Center

October 2-4, 2015

\$220 per person
Ages 15 and up



Classes taught by Colombian artists:
Emmanuel Laverde & Paula Andrea Romero
www.arteyconservacion.com

Friday 3:00-7:00 pm;
Saturday & Sunday 9:00-3:00 pm
You do not need experience to take this course.



The *Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve* is honored to host this two-and-a-half day workshop by the very famous Colombian artists, Emmanuel Laverde and Paula Andrea Romero. Their art and workshops focus on the relationships between art and nature and they cater to beginners as well as advanced painters. Their work has been published by Discovery News, National Geographic, and BBC News. They have exhibited and held workshops at the New York State Museum, Museum of Fuegian Art in Patagonia, Argentina, National Museum of Colombia, Bogota Botanical Garden, and much more.

This class is limited to 20 people.
RSVP by Sep. 18, 2015

For more information and to register, please contact
Claudia Lewis clewis.consulting@gmail.com or 727-542-3328

Friends  of Brooker Creek Preserve

Further information can be found at:
www.friendsofbrookercreekpreserve.org

Photo Caption Contest!

The Friends Nature Store committee is in the process of creating packs of notecards featuring photos of scenes or wildlife of Brooker Creek Preserve. The committee may use clever captions for the photos instead of the usual photo descriptions. Please send in your ideas for clever captions for the ten photos featured here. Make sure to tell us the photo number the caption goes with. Email your captions to: fobcp@tampabay.rr.com with "Caption Contest" in the subject line. The store committee will select the winners. Each winner will receive a free set of notecards once they are ready for retail. Be creative and have fun!



1. Pileated Woodpecker
by Ric Hoover



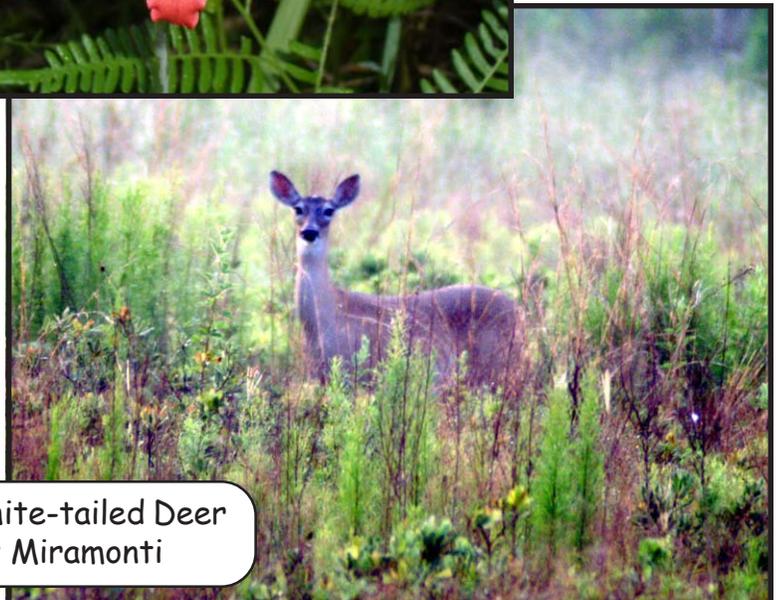
2. Dragonfly by
Mike & Patti Young



3. Catesby Lily by
Monika Hielle



4. Raccoon by
Craig Huegel

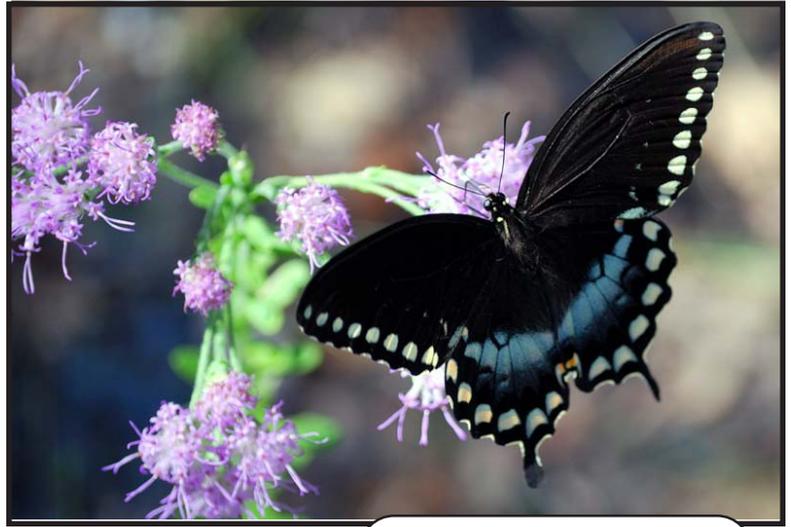


5. White-tailed Deer
by Ty Miramonti

Photo Caption Contest, continued:



6. Red-bellied Woodpecker
by Mike & Patti Young



7. Spicebush Swallowtail
by Mike & Patti Young

8. BCP Pine Flatwoods
by Jonathan Burr



9. Roseate Spoonbill
by Barb Hoffman



10. Grasshopper on Narrow-leaf
Sunflower by Ty Miramonti



Return the Preserve Work Day, May 30 -- The Helping Hands Of HAMS

By Evan Earle Jr.

The Friends Of Brooker Creek Preserve (FOBCP) again teamed up with volunteers from the Hillsborough Academy of Math and Science (HAMS) to remove St. Augustine grass from the area around the shelter on the Education Center Trail. And remove it we did. Students, parents, and teachers from HAMS joined the FOBCP and volunteers in digging up and hauling off countless carts full of the invasive grass. We even tackled a favorite target - overgrown grape vine.

As we worked, we saw several small critters and were amazed at their speed and agility as well as their excellent camouflage. We carefully side-stepped spiders, beetles, and grasshoppers as we dug and pulled, admiring their beauty while letting them go along their way.

Thanks to Mr. Greg Long at HAMS for working with the FOBCP and bringing out another great crew. Thanks to Petersen, Marion Yongue, and Ruth Earle for being part Day. Everyone contributed, got at least a little dirty, and had fun (at least I hope so).

The next time you are hike the Education Center Trail to the shelter, take a moment to look at the ground. If you say to yourself "I don't see anything!" then we were successful. Because where there was a carpet of St. Augustine, there is now natural ground with room and space for the natives to return.



Return the Preserve Work Day, June 27 -- "This Will Be Easy"

Famous last words. June's Return The Preserve (RTP) Work Day was anything but easy. What I billed as "easy" maintenance on an area we tackled 18 months ago when we started our RTP Work Days turned into another amazing job by Friends and volunteers. We focused on the area right next to the boardwalk entrance at the parking lot. That easy maintenance turned into intensive grapevine and smilax removal. Lots of cutting, digging, and hauling. That's our mantra. We cut, we dug, we hauled.

Two small words with a HUGE meaning: Thank You! Thank you to David and Susan, Evan (No I'm not talking in the third person), Louis, Phil, David and Shelly, and Marion. Some are first timers, some are veterans. All did a tremendous job. All helped to return the Preserve to its natural beauty. PS. Check out the addition to our badge of honor, i.e. the pile(s) of debris we have created at the exit to the parking lot. That is what your RTP teams are doing to help Brooker Creek Preserve.



Brooker Creek Preserve Book Club by John Burr

Well the last book we met to discuss June 6, 2015 was really bad! And we had one of the best discussions ever. It's not easy picking these books. Your co-hosts for this year are hard at work coming up with a list for next year:

and it ain't easy. Our initial idea is to stay with Florida themes, as local as possible. Some of the titles that one or more of us wanted to have on the list are not available at a reasonable cost, if at all. We're working on it.



Next time - Saturday July 11, 2015 at 9:30 am in the small conference room in the Ed Center - we will be discussing "chapters" 14 through 27 of Tales of Old Florida. Note this is the SECOND Saturday of the month, not the usual first Saturday due to the holiday on the 4th. Several meetings ago we talked amongst ourselves about the first 13 parts of this book. Each "chapter" is a reprint of an article (that's what blogs used to be called) written a hundred years or so ago about some part of the Florida scene at that time.

In August, we read and discuss Randy Wayne White's novel, Deep Shadow. White has written several novels in Florida settings. This book is copiously available for 1 cent (plus \$3.99 shipping) in the used section of Amazon-dot-com. So many copies available for such a low price may seem a little off putting (...the reviews are all over the place...) but that may make for an interesting discussion.

Book Club Reads for 2015

Jul 11*: "Tales of Old Florida" by Frank Oppel & Tony Melsel (Chapters 14-27)

*Note July 11th: The Fourth is on the first Saturday.

Aug 1: "Deep Shadow" by Randy Wayne White

Sep 5: "Alligators in B Flat" by Jeff Klinkenburg

Oct 3: "Tales of Old Florida" by Frank Oppel & Tony Melsel (Chapters 28-40)

Nov 7: "Back Country Lawmen" by Bob H. Lee

Dec 5: "Home Grown in Florida" by William Mcheen, ed.

Amazon Smile -- Did You Know?

Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve Inc whenever you shop on AmazonSmile. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.

Support Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve by shopping at: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/59-3302182>



Nature Store News

By: Kathleen Nichter

The Friends Nature Store now has a small refrigerator for cold drink sales! Many thanks to East Lake Sunrise Rotary Club for their grant money which made this possible!



News from the Wildflower Garden

by Pam Brown

These last two months the Wildflower Garden volunteers have been tidying up the garden and doing a bit more planting. Dixie Mills picked up some Blazing Star (*Liatris* spp.) for our May meeting. We planted half of them on the east side of the garden where there have not been many in the past. The other half was planted behind the Ed. Center windows. We keep trying to establish some wildflowers in this area. Lara promised a volunteer to water them, so hopefully they will thrive and bloom this fall. Come join us on the last Saturday of each month from 8 to 10 a.m. if you would like to volunteer in the Wildflower Garden. Bring your gardening tools, gloves, hat and bug repellent and wear closed toed shoes. We will provide coffee, juice and breakfast snacks.



Gulf Fritillary on Blazing Star by Mike & Patti Young

Pam's Gardening Tip

It seems that we are experiencing a hotter than normal start to summer. Remember to be safe if you are outside in the garden. Choose mornings or evenings when the heat is not so oppressive; wear sunscreen (SPF 30 or more), a wide-brimmed hat, light colored clothing, gloves, and insect repellent; and drink plenty of water to keep hydrated. When choosing sunscreen, look for those labeled 'broad spectrum'. These protect against both UVA and UVB rays, both of which contribute to skin cancer. Sunscreen should be re-applied about every two hours, especially if you are sweating. Familiarize yourself with the symptoms of heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Web MD has information on heat exhaustion (<http://www.webmd.com/fitness-exercise/heat-exhaustion>) and heat stroke (<http://www.webmd.com/a-to-z-guides/heat-stroke-symptoms-and-treatment>).

Volunteer News and More!

By Lara Milligan, Natural Resource Agent
Pinellas County Extension, University of
Florida/IFAS
and Julia Myers, Education Support Specialist
Brooker Creek Preserve



History of Brooker Creek Preserve

Save the date, August 8th! Barb Hoffman will be presenting a special program just for us! The History of Brooker Creek Preserve: This presentation is for volunteers and staff to fully understand the history of the Preserve: how it started, who bought it, how it grew, and who owns it now. For example, it was once a giant garbage dump loaded with old refrigerators, tires, cable, car parts, beer cans, and much more. It was once destined to be the North County Solid Waste Facility - the place where all household and industrial garbage would be sent for burial or incineration. This information is a must for everyone involved with the Preserve to fully understand and appreciate it. It will enable us to better answer questions from the public with accurate knowledge and awareness of Preserve history. We hope to see everyone August 8th at 10:30am.



The white M hairstreak butterfly gets its name from the white-bordered M-shaped pattern on the underside of the wing.



Featured Program: Why Snakes are Cool

presented by George Heinrich on July 25th at 10am. Please help us spread the word about this kid friendly program that will include live snakes!

Pictured, yellow rat snake

Attention Artists of All Kinds

Every year all of the Extension Agents, like Lara and Theresa gather for a conference at the end of August, and as part of the conference they do a silent auction to raise funds for Extension Education. So, for all of you talented artist out there, Lara would like you to consider donating an item to support her Extension Association...the Florida Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals (FANREP). Nothing crazy, just a photograph, painting, jewelry, something you think would be worthy to be on a silent auction table. If you are interested, simply drop off your item in Lara's office with your name on it. If you have questions, contact her at lara317@ufl.edu or 727-453-6905

(Volunteer News, continued)

Calling Volunteers and Friends!

We are looking to include more family friendly programs, activities & hikes. We have such a talented educated group here and we want to hear from you! Would you like to do a program or hike? Do you have ideas to better our family oriented programming? You know how we like to plan ahead, so please share any thoughts and ideas you have with us to make the New Year even better!

Summer Camps

Two summer camps will be held at the Preserve this summer! Herpetology camp with George Heinrich will take place July 20th -24th & Wetland Adventure camp with Sensing Nature will take place July 27th -31st. If there is a 7 to 12 year old in your life please see our website for more information & to register.

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.

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](#)

Visitors enjoying the observation hive at Bob Burkard's Beepkeeping program. Thank you Bob for an amazing program!!



Karl Nichter signing in guests for Entomology 101. A HUGE thank you to the Friends for our beautiful new tablecloth!



Butterfly orchid

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.

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. 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

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.

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Registration Info: FEID #59-3302182 tax-exempt, non-profit corporation

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