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# Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve

November - December 2016

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## Chairman's Message

by Cathie Foster

October was a happily busy month for the Friends. We spent many hours planning and preparing for several big events, two of which are under our belts as I write this summary of the first, the Fall Wildflower Festival. You will read about the second, Owl-o-Ween, later in the newsletter, and the Volunteer Appreciation and Friends Annual Meeting is just days away on November 5.

The Fall Wildflower Festival on October 15 started with a few hours of light rain, but that didn't stop 501 visitors from showing up, many wisely sporting rain ponchos and umbrellas. With a nice mix of indoor and outdoor activities it was easy to enjoy the festival while waiting for the rain to let up.

In the auditorium, volunteer presenters shared their knowledge of outdoor photography, edible plants, and landscaping with native plants.

On the classroom porch, we were bee-dazzled by the demonstration beehive as we learned about the intricate workings of a beehive and explored all the beekeeping gear. Honey was again available for tasting as well as for sale, some folks not even waiting until they got home to enjoy their purchase. It was finger-lickin' good! New this year was beeswax candle-making using sheets of real beeswax. A

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wonderful addition to the festival that is sure to be repeated.

Next door in the classroom, a crew of volunteers, including a wonderful group of teens, taught kids of all ages about the butterfly life cycle and the importance of plants through the Caterpillar Petting Zoo, starter pots for native plants and fanciful nature crafts. They were busy throughout the day.

The Exhibit Hall was abuzz with first-time and repeat visitors checking out the exhibits and displays, as well as our Nature Store. In the foyer, many stopped to learn how to make paper flower bouquets from magazine pages, another new activity for this event. It was a great hit and will certainly be part of next year's festival.

Even before the rain stopped, groups gravitated to the ever-popular Butterfly-Workx butterfly tent to marvel at the magical sight of dozens of butterflies all in one place. It was aflutter with activity all day.

The Wildflower Quest gave folks a chance to explore the trails searching for that next plant to identify, with helpful hints from volunteer trail guides. Wildflower Questers were rewarded with new knowledge of the wildflowers found at Brooker, hearty congratulations, stickers, stamps, and \$1 Gift Certificates that could be spent that day at the festival.

As always, our Native Plant Sale drew many who were eager to "go native" with their landscaping. Our native plant experts were on hand to offer advice on proper plant placement and care to ensure success.

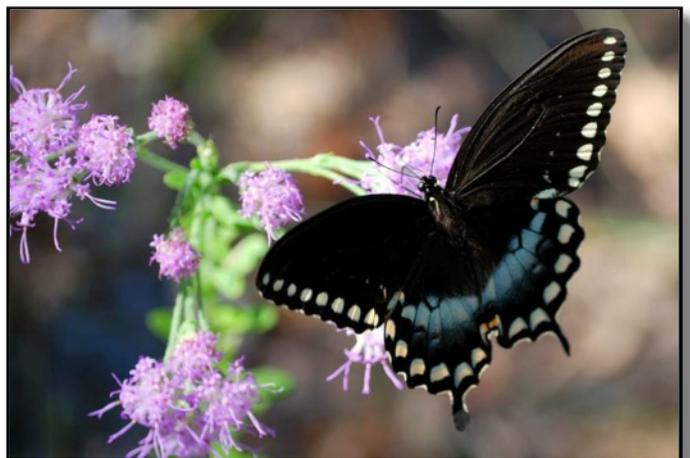
At the end of the day I was overwhelmed by such a feeling of gratitude for the generosity of all who made this day possible, the sponsors who helped us keep this a free event and the 55 volunteers who gave hundreds of hours before, during and after the event.

It's an amazing feat! Heartfelt thanks to every one of you!

Cathie

### Save the Dates Upcoming Friends Events

- Nov. 5 BCP Book Club
- Nov. 5 Friends Annual Meeting & Volunteer Appreciation Celebration
- Nov.13 Music in the Woods Series: Merigiare String Quartet
- Dec. 3 BCP Book Club
- Dec. 3 Wreath Making Workshop
- Dec. 3 Native Plant Holiday Mini Workshop
- Jan. 8, 2017 Off the Beaten Path hike: Cypress Swamp Stomp



Spicebush swallowtail, photo by Mike Young.

Calling all Friends & Volunteers!  
You are invited to the  
**Friends Annual Meeting  
& Volunteer Appreciation**

**Saturday, November 5, 2016  
10:00 am - 12:00 noon**

- 10:00 Breakfast pancakes cooked to order by staff.  
Fresh fruit, egg casseroles, sausage,  
coffee, & OJ provided by the Friends.  
10:30 Presentations! Awards! Elections! Prizes!

RSVP by email: [fobcp@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:fobcp@tampabay.rr.com)  
Or by phone: 727-934-2680

**Music Jamboree - 10/9**

We had a beautiful day for our latest Jamboree held at the music pavilion! Look for the next one on a Sunday afternoon in January! (Check the website for events) Everyone is welcome to bring their acoustic instrument and join in the fun!



Friends  of Brooker Creek Preserve

## ACRE ADOPTIONS FOR BROOKER CREEK PRESERVE DURING SEP-OCT

Thank you to those listed below who care  
about the restoration and ecological health of  
Brooker Creek Preserve  
through the *Adopt an Acre* program!

Laurie Angyn

*In Memory of Charlie Harris*

Given by Cathie Foster, Barry Andress, Evan Earle, & Marion Yongue

Catesby lily, photo  
by Craig Huegel



See page 21 for Adopt an Acre Form and information.

### Our First Two Beehives are Up and Buzzing!



Friends Beekeeper, Bob Burkard,  
tends our bees and teaches county  
workshops on beekeeping.



Our beehives!  
Starting small  
with just two.



Once established, our  
bees will be producing  
"Brooker Creek Honey"  
to sell in our Nature  
Store!

## Our Final Return the Preserve Work Day for 2016 (9/17)

by Evan Earle Jr.

Saturday, September 17th, was our latest Friends Of Brooker Creek Preserve (FOBCP) Return The Preserve (RTP) Work Day.

And what a way to wrap up 2016! We were joined by members of the Mitchell High School Key Club, volunteers from Hillsborough Academy Of Math and Science (HAMS), and FOBCP volunteers. What a team! This FOBCP RTP Work Day was special in that it aligned with the International Coastal Clean Up. Keep Pinellas Beautiful provided supplies for the day: water coolers, sunscreen, lip balm, sunglasses. Thank you KPB. We always appreciate partnering with you!



What an AWESOME team!  
Wagons Ho!

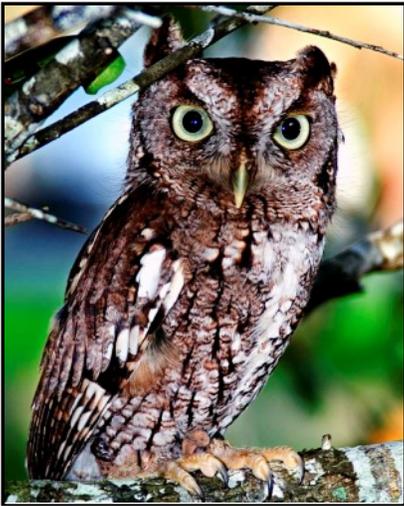
While some of you may think "Same old, same old" we think "BRING IT ON.". Every RTP Work Day is an introduction to volunteers who have never been to Brooker Creek Preserve. Our volunteers, both new and returning, never fail to jump right in to make the day a success. Yep, you guessed it. Caesarweed, grapevines, greenbrier. The trio of terror. Well, they didn't scare this group. We worked around the classroom to remove Caesarweed (bagging it up to hopefully prevent spreading it further). We removed a ton of grapevine and greenbrier. This always turns into fun because our volunteers, especially the students, seem to take the removal of these vines as a personal challenge. If they aren't pulling down a 1/2 mile of grape vine, they are digging up a greenbrier tuber the size of a football. In the end, the area receiving our "makeover" looks so much better and the pile of debris at the edge of the parking lot is so much bigger!



What an AWESOME trash pile!

It is truly a pleasure and an honor to be able to lead our RTP Work Days. It may not look like it when we're done, but for me, it is fun, inspiring, and rewarding. Remind me I said that the next time you see me at the end of an RTP Work Day and I look like the "after" part of a laundry detergent commercial. I have met so many wonderful, energetic, fun people. Our RTP Work Day volunteers are the hardest working people in Tampa Bay. I love the fact that we have people from Pasco, Hillsborough, and Pinellas Counties. On this RTP Work Day, we even had a volunteer from Hernando County! This just shows that Brooker Creek Preserve is a regional gem and destination. Our RTP volunteers put a shine on that gem!

We take off November and December so everyone can enjoy their holidays with family and friends. But I sure hope you will take the opportunity to visit Brooker Creek Preserve during this time. Take a moment to look at the results and benefits of the very hard work of the RTP Work Day volunteers and what they accomplished in 2016. It is amazing. Thank you to each and every volunteer! 2017 will be here soon enough. I look forward to another great year of working with volunteers as we do our part to return the preserve to its natural beauty.



## OWL-O-WEEN - an awesome day!

Over 650 attended our first Owl-O-Ween held Oct. 22, 2016. Co-hosted by Clearwater Audubon Society, the event was a huge success!

Clearwater Audubon brought eight owls that were displayed all day. Each owl had a handler, an Audubon member who knew not only the natural history of the species, but also knew the history of that particular owl and had established a relationship with it. Owl photo by Skip Holmes.

Face painting was a big hit! Over 100 faces were painted by both adult and teen artists. Photos by Karl Nichter and Barb Hoffman.



Volunteer Isabelle Sapp manned the Scavenger Hunt. How many owls can you find in the Ed Center Exhibit area? Answer = 17, but some of those owls were sure hiding well! Photo by Karl Nichter.



Volunteer Greg Reich enjoyed a pancake breakfast before manning the parking lot for the day. Photo by Barb Hoffman.

Rapt attention was given to Volunteer Jackie Labus who read owl stories to the children. Photo by Karl Nichter.





Volunteers Ray Poyner and Ric Hoover, assisted by Audubon member, John Hood, helped families build Screech Owl Nest Boxes. Over 30 nest boxes were completed and ready for folks to take home. A huge thanks to Ray for purchasing the materials and pre-cutting the wood prior to the event. Photos by Karl Nichter and Barb Hoffman.



Many thanks to East Lake Sunrise Rotary Club for providing five volunteers for the Owl Pancake Breakfast! Photos by Karl Nichter.



Please register on Event Brite as there is limited seating.

Friends  of Brooker Creek Preserve  
presents

## MUSIC IN THE WOODS SERIES

with

# Meriggiare String Quartet

*Italian for: "To escape the heat of the midday sun by resting in the shade"*



Nina Kim

Lindsey Jones

Josh Dampier

Edevaldo Mulla

**Sunday, November 13, 2016 2:00—4:00 pm**

**Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center**

**This concert will be held inside the auditorium**

**Register at: [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com)**

**search for Music in the Woods Meriggiare String Quartet**

**\$5/person donation requested**

**Questions: [fobcp@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:fobcp@tampabay.rr.com)**

**or**

**727-934-2680**

Friends  of Brooker Creek Preserve



## **Wreath & Ornament Making Workshop Using Natural Materials**

Saturday, December 3, 2016  
10:00 am—12:00 noon  
Music Pavillion  
Brooker Creek Preserve  
Environmental Education Center  
All ages welcome!



Learn to make beautiful holiday wreaths from grapevines and ornaments from cabbage palms and other natural materials gathered from the woods. Each participant will go home with a completed wreath suitable for hanging and ready for the holidays! This class caps at 20.



\$10 members  
\$15 non-members

RSVP

[fobcp@  
tampabay.rr.com](mailto:fobcp@tampabay.rr.com)

or 727-934-2680



# Native Plant Holiday Mini Workshop



At the Brooker Creek Preserve

Saturday, December 3, 2016 9 am to 2 pm

Registration is required. To register, please [visit Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/native-plant-holiday-celebration-tickets-26568804008)

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/native-plant-holiday-celebration-tickets-26568804008>

Free Admission with registration, Public Invited

9 am - regular Saturday hike limit 20

10:00 am – 11:30 am

Auditorium:

**Introduction to Plant Identification** with James Stevenson including a hike

Classroom:

**Using Native Plants in the Landscape**, some Basics of Designing and Maintaining the Natural Landscape' Bruce Turley Wilcox Nursery

11:30 am - 12:30 lunch, bring a dish to share, announcements then mix and mingle and enjoy.

12:30 pm – 2 pm

Auditorium:

**How Roots Work** - Dr. Craig Huegel – hike following

Classroom:

**Designing Your Natural Landscape, a Hands-on Primer** limit 20

RSVP call Katy at 727-726-1455

Gazebo:

Grape vine Wreath making with The Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve  
free to participating members \$15.00 for non-members

Pinellas, Suncoast, Citrus, Nature Coast, and Hernando FNPS chapters: Friends of the Brooker Creek Preserve, Pinellas/UF IFAS Extension Map & Info: <http://goo.gl/maps/zr7fg> <http://www.fnps.org/chapters/chapters>

NOTICE: A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Florida Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free within the state (800-435-7352, reg. no. CH4271). Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state.

Friends  of Brooker Creek Preserve

 **UF** IFAS Extension  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

 Pinellas County



Pinellas Chapter  
Florida Native Plant Society



## Program Descriptions

### Classroom

#### ***'Using Native Plants in the Landscape 10 AM***

some Basics of Designing and Maintaining the Natural Landscape'

#### ***Designing Your Natural Landscape, a Hands-on Primer 12:30pm***

work on your landscape plan. Bring several drawing of your yard to work on bring several drawing of your yard, pencils and erasers

Bruce Turley sis Former board member of the Pinellas Chapter FNPS, Currently, Vice President of the Florida Association of Native Nurseries. Employed by Wilcox Nursery and Landscape for 39 years and owner for 17 years. Designing landscapes most of those 39 years and looking forward to the possibilities of teaching native landscape concepts in my later years and helping a new generation of native plant gardeners and native landscape professionals.

### Auditorium

#### ***Introduction to Plant Identification 10AM***

Join a local Extension specialist and examine the basics of plant identification, from using simple keys to identifying critical characteristics that will help any would-be botanist in the field. An emphasis will be placed on flowering plants, but ferns will be included as well. Registration is required and all materials will be provided. Recommended for adults.

James Stevenson is an Extension Specialist with the University of Florida IFAS Extension Services in Pinellas County. He works out of the Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center in Tarpon Springs. James teaches classes on a variety of natural resource conservation topics, including: plant identification, botany, entomology, ecology and particular groups of native plants such as ferns, wetland wildflowers and epiphytes. Exploring the natural world has been James' passion since he was a child growing up in Clearwater. After graduating from Clearwater High, James went on to get his Bachelor's degree in Plant Ecology from the University of the South in Seawane, TN. From there he found himself working in botanical gardens around the world; from North Carolina to England, Germany, Israel and Spain. Before returning to Florida in 2006, James had spent a decade in the UK, working on his advanced degree at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and as the Assistant Curator at the University of Oxford Botanic Garden. James doesn't really understand gardening in Florida, so he now grows orchids and watches birds.

#### ***"How Roots Work"12:30pm***

Roots exist largely sight unseen, yet they may be the most important plant organ in terms of maintaining plant growth and survival. Roots are far more complex than we might guess. They not only anchor a plant in place and draw water from the ground, they play a pivotal role in defending plants from danger, in finding and forming relationships with necessary microorganisms, and in communication. Dr. Huegel will explore the largely hidden world of plant roots and provide insight into how they function.

Craig N. Huegel, PhD is an ecologist who has focused much of his professional career on educating the public about the interconnection between native plants and wildlife. He was a founding member of the Pinellas Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society and is active with FANN - the Florida Association of Native Nurseries. He has written five books on native plants, the last three published by the University Press of Florida (UPF), writes a popular blog on native Florida wildflowers, and grows wildflowers at his home in Seminole as Hawthorn Hill Native Wildflowers. Dr. Huegel's newest book, A Gardener's Guide to How Plants Work, is scheduled to be published by UPF in spring 2018. Dr. Huegel teaches botany and a variety of other ecological courses in the Baccalaureate Biology Program at St. Petersburg College, Clearwater.



Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve  
**OFF THE BEATEN PATH**

**A nature-based fundraising hike series!**

**Description:** This series of four hikes will take place in beautiful areas tucked away within Brooker Creek Preserve in sites that are closed to the public. Our guide, Dr. Craig Huegel, a Wildlife Ecologist with St. Petersburg College, can identify everything, from the tiniest moss to the tallest tree including animal prints, bird calls, lichens, and more. He is full of stories and very patient in answering questions. The hikes will be not only educational, but a lot of fun as well! The hikes will begin at 9:00 a.m. and be about 3-4 hours long. Bring water and lunch.

**Cost:** \$80 donation for the series or \$25 donation per hike with a 10% discount for members of Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve

**Sites Off the Beaten Path:**

**Jan. 8, 2017 - Cypress Swamp Stomp** - Located in the central part of the preserve, this site features orchids, ferns, and epiphytes. It may be wet, it may be dry, so be prepared for either as we plunge into the depths of the swamp!

**April 9, 2017 - Sandhill Scramble** - The only true sandhills of Brooker Creek Preserve. This site is in the northern end of the preserve and will feature an abundance of spring wildflowers.

**July 9, 2017 - Interior Wildlands** - We will be in parts of the Preserve so remote that cell phones won't work, areas so pretty you won't believe you are in Pinellas County!

**Oct. 8, 2017 - In Search of Catesby's Lily** - Located in the eastern part of the preserve, we will search for the endangered Catesby's Lily. In so doing, we will see a profusion of beautiful fall wildflowers in full bloom.

**Reservations Required:** Reserve your spot by emailing [fobcp@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:fobcp@tampabay.rr.com). Sign up early! Only 20 spots are open for these fabulous hikes *off the beaten path!* Questions? Email [fobcp@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:fobcp@tampabay.rr.com) or call 727-934-2680.

## Metallic Green Bees By: Craig Huegel

Last issue, I wrote about bumblebees so I thought I'd continue along this vein by writing about one of my other favorite groups of native bees - the metallic green bees. If you spend any time watching the pollination of flowers in your landscape or elsewhere, you've most likely noticed the activity of green metallic bees. They easily stand out with their flashy green bodies and they dazzle you as they dance from flower to flower. These are the easiest to pick out in this group and some of them are very common in natural and urbanized areas here in Pinellas County. The colors among these bees can vary slightly from bright green, to a brassy yellow and even bright blue in some areas! Most of the metallic green bees can be seen almost the whole year as well, starting in February and March and going until November and even December in some areas if it stays warm enough. Metallic green bees are members of a larger family of New World sweat bees, the Halictidae, which range from Canada to Argentina. All told, there are about 60 recognized species in Florida in four genera: the *Augochlorella*, *Augochloropsis*, *Augochlora*, and *Agapostemon*.

Metallic green bees nest in the ground and are solitary nesters, although it is not uncommon for females to share their nest entrance with other females. In such cases, the main burrow entrance will be shared, but once underground the burrow will branch off for each of the females. Each female constructs her own portion of the nest, digs her own brood cells, and collects pollen and nectar to fashion the pollen ball upon which it will lay a single egg. In good habitat, it is also common that individual bees nest in close proximity to each other. They excavate deep vertical nests in the ground or in earthen banks. In Florida, metallic green bees have two generations per year: the summer generation which is almost all female and the fall-spring generation which includes both males and females. Fertilized females from the fall-spring generation over-winter from late fall until early spring. These females accumulate a layer of fall fat that allows them to survive the winter. Cold weather kills the fall-spring males, which do not have this fat layer.

Fall-spring females from the previous year emerge in early spring and lay eggs in cells in their underground nests. They provide each cell with a pollen ball to feed the developing larva. The early spring-laid eggs give rise to the summer generation, which is mostly



Above, a female metallic green bee on a false foxglove



Left, a male metallic green bee on *Eryngium aquaticum*. Photos by Craig Huegel.

female. The summer generation, which emerges and nests in summer, lays eggs that produce the fall-spring generation. Surprisingly, the fertilized eggs laid by the summer generation give rise to fall-spring females while the unfertilized eggs develop into fall-spring males. The fall-spring generation emerges in fall and includes both males and females. And so the cycle continues, from one year to the next.

Metallic green bees are floral generalists; they visit a large number of different flower species. Despite their lack of specificity, generalists like them can be important pollinators in gardens and in the wild. Metallic green bees are short-tongued, so they favor flowers with a relatively open architecture and easily accessible nectar, which serves as food for adults. Like all foraging insects, they appreciate the convenience of plants with many small flowers clustered together. This in part explains why you'll notice them visiting plants in the aster family and the buckwheats (e.g. genus *Eriogonum* and *Polygonella*). Both of these plant groups and a few other favorites feature many small simple flowers that produce high-quality nectar.

You'll recognize metallic green bees by their unique coloration. Our local females are often metallic green all over while the males have a yellow-and-black striped abdomen (the rear segment of the body) and metallic green head and thorax. They are medium sized bees (about 0.3 to 0.6 inches long) somewhat smaller and slenderer than European honeybees. You're likely to see the females busily visiting flowers, collecting pollen on the brushy hairs of their hind legs. The males will be seen nectaring (sipping nectar) or slowly cruising flowers in search of females. Watch for these beautiful energetic bees in the pollinator garden at Brooker Creek Preserve. If you want to provide them a place to raise their young, make sure you have a few bare sandy places in your landscape in which they can excavate their underground nests.



Narrow-leaf sunflower, above, and Gulf fritillary on graceful blazing star, right. Photos by Patti Young.

## **Nature Store News**

By Kathleen Nichter

The Nature Store financial year follows the County year of October to September, so we just finished the year as I write this. We had another wonderful year, finishing with an increase in sales over last year!

The Friends' Nature Store has all the staffing, scheduling, accounting, stock ordering, and other business needs of any retail operation, and all of them are done by volunteers. As we grow, these business needs increase. Our volunteers take the time from their already busy lives to come in and make sure the store is open and welcoming, and all the behind-the-scenes business "stuff" is done. Even when the store itself isn't open to the public, volunteers come in to water the plants in the Native Plant Nursery, deliver items, and a few times a year count the inventory.

This means that every penny spent in the store after the costs of the store items goes directly to support Brooker Creek Preserve. Thank you to everyone who stopped in to see us, and a big thank you to the team of store volunteers who make this possible.

## **News from the Wildflower Garden**

by Pam Brown

We added some nice wildflower plants that were purchased from Craig Heugel at our September workday. The Palafoxia, Liatris (blazing star) and Goldenrod were all blooming in time for the Wildflower Festival on October 15<sup>th</sup>. These along with the other flowers in the garden put on a nice show for the attendees. The Narrow-leaf Sunflowers were not quite open, but the Gulf Muhly grass looked spectacular.

We will not have a work day in November or December due to the proximity to the holidays. I look forward to getting back to work in the New Year on January 28 from 9 - 11 am (winter hours). Consider joining us. Bring gardening gloves, tools, hat and wear closed toed shoes. We will provide coffee and breakfast snacks.

## Pam's Gardening Thoughts

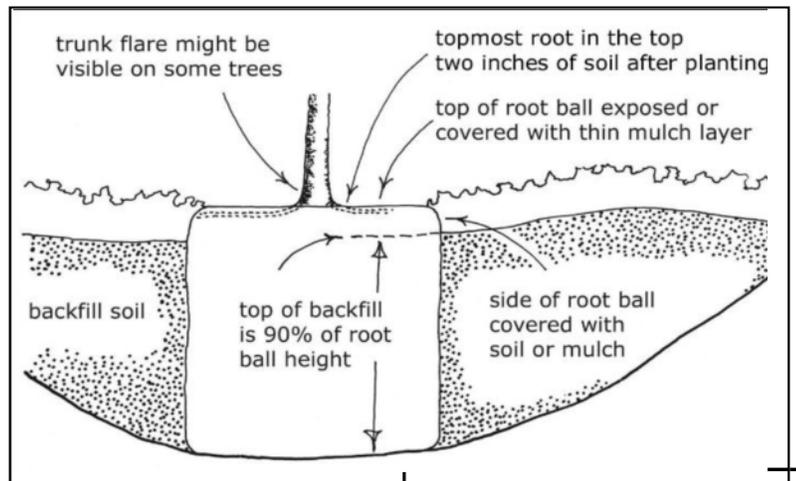
Fall is a good time to plant trees in the landscape. Remember to consider the mature size of the tree and whether there are power lines near when choosing a tree for your landscape. Allow sufficient space for each tree that you plant. The information below was gleaned from University of Florida/IFAS Extension publications:

1. Dig a hole not quite as deep as the root ball but two to three times wider.
2. Soil amendments are not necessary. Put the original soil back in the hole.
3. Fill the hole with water and then let it drain.
4. Prepare the root ball.

If the plant is root bound, cut the outside layer of roots with 4 vertical cuts evenly spaced around the root ball. Continue the vertical cuts across the bottom of the root ball.

If the plant is not root bound, then just gently pull the outside roots away from the root ball.

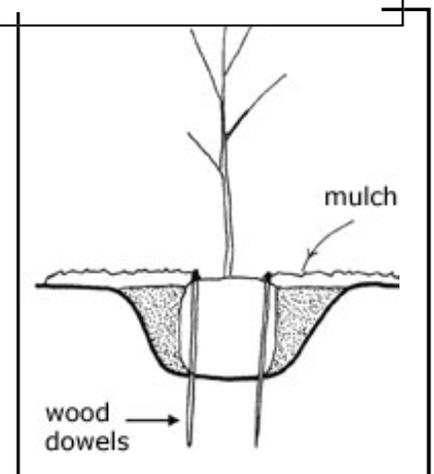
5. After the water has drained from the hole, place the root ball in the center of the hole.  
**Most important:** plants should be planted so that the top of the root ball is 1 - 2 inches above ground level.
6. Fill the hole with the same soil that came out of the hole. Water as you add soil to the hole. Pack the soil down gently.
7. Build a water basin with soil 3 - 6" high around the plant just outside the root ball. Fill this basin each time you water.
8. You can add mulch up to the water basin, but do not put mulch over the root ball.
9. Water the plant very well, at least twice. Fill your basin with water each time.
10. Water daily for the first month. After that, water weekly until it is established (3 - 6 months).
11. **Tip: Never place any soil over the root ball.** See picture →



Containerized trees might require staking to keep the root ball in place as the tree is established since the root ball is light compared to the above ground tree. Two or three (2 shown) wood dowels driven through edge of root ball and into the soil will suffice. These do not have to be removed because they simply rot in place. There is no danger of this system girdling the trunk since nothing is attached to the trunk.

For more information, visit:

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/files/EP/EP11200.pdf>



## Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve Book Club

by Jon Burr

In October we discussed an amazing book, *Yesteryear I Lived in Paradise*, by a local resident, Myrtle Scharrer Betz (1895-1992), about her life starting in the early part of the twentieth century. She grew up and lived on Caladesi Island, a barrier island across St. Joseph Sound west of Dunedin. I never remember meeting Myrtle Scharrer Betz, the author, but I probably did on more than one occasion as I lived and grew up near Dunedin. Neighbors of mine and parents of friends of mine are listed in the book in support of its publication. This book was probably one of the best liked of any book we have read. The discussion was heartfelt. Of the many remarkable things about Myrtle, one was that she rowed across the sound and back to attend school, roughly two miles each way! If you have not read this amazing story I so recommend it.



Photo by Karl Nichter

Coming up, to end the year, are two more "local" books. On Saturday, November 5, at 9:30 in the Ed Building conference room, we will discuss *Seashells, Gator Bones, and the Church of Everlasting Liability, Stories from a Small Florida Town in the 1930's*, by Susan Adger. The title is well suited for this book. Spoiler Alert: I'm guessing that this town is not far from Dover, Florida. I can't think of a genre to place this book in, Garrison Keillor in a funky mood: a noir Lake Wobegon? Come to the book club and help me describe this book. Actually it fits well with this election year.

And to end the year, on Saturday, December 3, we discuss Daryl May's book, *Chasing Shadows*. Daryl was a friend of my brother's. Daryl was a Pinellas County sheriff's deputy and a local entertainer (plays good guitar and sings mighty good when he's not telling jokes or stories). Author of several books and at least one comedy LP, he has written this book mostly about his experiences



here in Pinellas County. It's possible that we will have one or both of these authors at their book club meeting. Come to the meeting and find out: first Saturday of the month at the Brooker Creek Preserve Ed Center at 9:30 in the conference room.

Tiger swallowtail, photo by Mike Young.

## Volunteer News and More!

By Julia Myers, Education Support Specialist, Brooker Creek Preserve



First the BCP staff would like to sincerely thank all of the amazing volunteers and FOBCP members that made Wildflower Festival and Owl-O-Ween a huge success! Volunteers went above and beyond two weekends in a row! You all welcomed so many new happy faces to the Preserve and we can't thank you enough for your support.

The poster is for the 'Annual Volunteer Appreciation Celebration'. It features a large yellow starburst in the center containing the text 'Saturday November 5th 10am-12pm'. Above the starburst, the text 'Annual Volunteer Appreciation Celebration!' is written in a large, green, sans-serif font. To the left of the starburst, there is a black silhouette of a bird in flight with the text 'You're Invited!!' in yellow. Below the starburst, there are two colorful, abstract shapes resembling stylized figures or flames. At the bottom of the poster, there is a paragraph of text: 'Please join us to celebrate YOU!!! This year's Annual Volunteer Celebration &amp; Friends Annual Meeting will include a pancake breakfast by Chef Lara &amp; Julia, prizes and more! Arrive early to mingle, drink coffee and check out the prize table. James will also be presenting his "What's That Wading Bird" program at 1:00pm if you'd like to stick around after the party!! We look forward to showing you all our appreciation!'.

Lopsided Indiagrass, photo by Julia Myers.



Sundays have been going great! We have already been getting more visitors on Sundays than we do on Fridays. We look forward to adding some new Sunday programs and hikes in the future. Thank you to all the volunteers that have helped with our first 3 Sundays! We do still need more Sunday volunteers however so please let me know if you are interested.

Here is a little update on the new position in the Education Center. The application process is now closed and it looks like we will have a lot of great candidates to choose from! The position will be for another Education Support Specialist that will be here three days a week with one of those days being Sundays. We plan to begin interviewing in November and look forward to welcoming a new member to our team!

# Volunteer News, continued

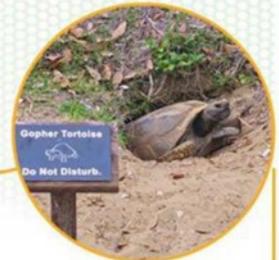


Oak Hammock, photo by James Stevenson.

Mating pygmy rattlesnakes, by Julia Myers.



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



UF IFAS Extension  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



**UF/IFAS EXTENSION**  
Invites You to attend the 2016

## WILDLIFE WEDNESDAY

### WEBINAR SERIES

**WHEN: EVERY 3<sup>RD</sup> WEDNESDAY**  
June through November 2016

**TIME: 12:15-1:00 PM EST**

#### Dates and topics:

- June 15: Backyard Habitat: Ten Tips for Success
- July 20: Creating Wildlife Habitat Near Water
- Aug. 17: Why Invasive Species Matter
- Sept. 21: Creating Backyard Habitat for Endangered Wildlife
- Oct. 19: Creatures of the Night: Recognizing Backyard Visitors
- Nov. 16: Backyard Bird Habitat

Wildlife Wednesday webinars will provide tips and tools on how to improve home yards to better support local wildlife with an emphasis on habitat needs. They will showcase relevant information and examine how we can learn to coexist with wildlife.

**REGISTER HERE**  
[www.Polknr.eventbrite.com](http://www.Polknr.eventbrite.com)

**More Information:**  
Shannon Carnevale  
UF/IFAS Polk County Extension  
scarnevale@ufl.edu • 863-519-1051  
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@POLKNR  
@PINELLAS\_EXT\_NR  
#WILDLIFEWEDNESDAY

**FREE EVENT**  
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Hummingbird moth. Photo taken at the Fall Wildflower Festival by Barb Hoffman.



Don't forget to "like" the BCP Environmental Education Center on Facebook - [Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center](#)

## WANTED!

Mulching Mower to aid in land management!  
Only \$500,000!



## 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. 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](mailto:alfabarry3@gmail.com).



Friends  of  
Brooker Creek Preserve

**ADOPT AN ACRE**



*A program to enhance restoration  
and land management programs in  
**Brooker Creek Preserve***

The **ADOPT AN ACRE** program was established by the Friends in 2016 to give individuals the opportunity to help keep intact the ecological Integrity of the Preserve.

100% of funding will be used for:

- Removing exotic and invasive plants
- Restoring the natural flow of water
- Fire management
- Restoring natural plant communities

Acres make great gifts for birthdays, anniversaries, memorials and more!

Upon receipt of the donation, the donor or honoree's name will be placed on the **ADOPT AN ACRE** display inside the Environmental Education Center for one year. A certificate will be sent to the honoree acknowledging the adoption.

Donor  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_in honor of \_\_in memory of \_\_for myself

Honoree  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to adopt \_\_\_\_\_ acres @ \$100/acre

Total Due: \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: FOBCP

Mail to: 3940 Keystone Road  
Tarpon Springs, FL 34688

Questions? [fobcp@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:fobcp@tampabay.rr.com)

FEID #59-3302182 tax-exempt, non-profit corporation

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## NOVEMBER 2016

THURSDAY		FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
3 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15		4 Guided Hike 9-10:30 <i>(Florida Forests)</i>	5 Brooker Book Club 9:30-10:30 Guided Hike (Ecosystems) 9-10:30 <b>Friends Annual Meeting &amp; Volunteer Appreciation 10-12</b> Program: <i>What's that Wading Bird?</i> 1-2	6 Education Center Open 11am-4 pm
10 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15		11 <b>CLOSED</b> <i>(Ed Center)</i>	12 Beginning Bird Hike 8-10 am 4H 2-4	13 Education Center Open 11am-4 pm <b>Music in the Woods 2-4</b> <b>Merigiare String Quartet</b>
17 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15		18 Guided Hike 9-10:30 <i>(Native Plants)</i> Family Fun Fridays 10-11:30	19 Guided Hike 9-10:30 <i>(Footprints on the Land)</i> Program: <i>Tracking Wildlife</i> 10:30-12	20 Education Center Open 11am-4 pm
Wed 23 <b>Night Hike</b> <b>6:30-9:00</b>	24 <b>CLOSED</b> <i>(Ed Center)</i>	25 <b>CLOSED</b> <i>(Ed Center &amp; Hiking trails)</i>	26 Photography Hike 8:30-10:30 Guided Hike 9-10:30 <i>(Our Wildest Place)</i>	27 Education Center Open 11am-4 pm

Hiking Trails are open every day, **except** Christmas Day and the day after Thanksgiving, from 7:00 am until one hour before sunset

## DECEMBER 2016

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15	2 Guided Hike 9-10:30 <i>(Florida Forests)</i>	3 Guided Hike (Ecosystems) 9-10:30 FNPS Holiday Mini-Workshop 9-2 <b>Wreath-Making 10am-12 noon</b> <b>\$10 FOBCP members/\$15 non-members</b>	4 Education Center Open 11am-4 pm
8 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15	9 Guided Hike 9-10:30 <i>(Native Plants)</i>	10 Beginning Bird Hike 8-10 am Birding 101 10:30-12	11 Education Center Open 11am-4 pm
15 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15	16	17 Guided Hike 9-10:30 <i>(Footprints on the Land)</i>	18 Education Center Open 11am-4 pm
22 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15	23	24 Guided Hike 9-10:30 <i>(Our Wildest Place)</i>	25 ED CENTER CLOSED HIKING TRAILS CLOSED
29 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15	30	31 Guided Hike 9-10:30 <i>(Our Wildest Place)</i>	<b>January 1, 2017</b> ED CENTER CLOSED HIKING TRAILS OPEN

Hiking Trails are open every day, **except** Christmas Day and the day after Thanksgiving, from 7:00 am until one hour before sunset

Friends events are noted in **green**.

**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.

**Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve Board of Directors:**

**Officers**

Chair: Cathie Foster  
Vice Chair: Robert Burkard  
Secretary: Pam Brown  
Treasurer: Jane Myers

**Directors**

Art Director: open  
Beekeeper: Robert Burkard  
Business Director: Barbara Hoffman  
Fall Wildflower Festival Chair:  
Cathie Foster  
Financial Advisor: Bob Host  
Grants: Allyn Childress  
Guiding Documents: Walt Hoskins  
Land Use Chair: Dr. Craig Huegel  
Music in the Woods: Jane Myers  
Nature Store Manager: Kathleen Nichter  
Newsletter Editor: Dr. Craig Huegel  
Night Hikes: Mark Yeager  
Owl-O-Ween: Barb Hoffman  
Publicity Chair: Barbara Schultz  
Return the Preserve Work Days:  
Evan Earle, Jr.  
Wildflower Garden: Pam Brown  
Wildlife Safari - Cathie Foster

**Further Leadership**

Book Club: Jon Burr & Kathleen Nichter  
Membership: Jeff Myers  
Newsletter Publisher: Cathy Vogelsong  
Website Master: Cathy Ordiway

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