


Newsletter of the
Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve

July - August 2010

FABULOUS UPDATED NEWSLETTER!

This is the first edition of our newly enhanced, updated newsletter - totally awesome! This newsletter comes to you through many hours of dedication by our new editor, Dr. Craig Huegel, and graphic designer, Cathy Vogelsong. Both Craig and Cathy have full time jobs in other fields (Craig is a wildlife biologist and Cathy is a registered nurse) and have volunteered to create this beautiful bimonthly newsletter for the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve. Thank you, Craig and Cathy! We are so appreciative of your time, devotion, and efforts! We love it! - From the Board of Directors

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Brooker Creek Preserve Pine Flatwoods,
photo by Jonathan Burr

Frog & beautyberry fruit, photo
by Karl & Kathleen Nichter



This newsletter is published every other month. Submit articles to Newsletter Editor Dr. Craig Huegel (727) 422-6583 or email Huegelc55@aol.com

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

By: Barb Hoffman

The word from the County is that, with efforts to reorganize and cut the budget, management of all Pinellas County environmental lands, including Brooker Creek and Weedon Island Preserves, will be transferred to the department which also manages Pinellas County's parks at the start of the new fiscal year in October. The current Environmental Lands Division will be disbanded. Thankfully, County Administrator, Bob LaSala, views Brooker Creek Preserve as a commodity that must be maintained to ensure its ecological health; he has promised to do so a number of times in conversations with others and me. This means that land management efforts, including prescribed fire and exotic plant removal, will continue despite the budget cuts. Research and education, however, have been and continue to be on the chopping block.

I have said before, and continue to believe, that the Exhibit Hall of the Environmental Education Center can be "manned" completely by volunteer staff. This is how other museums around the world subsist. Volunteers and the Friends also can be the manpower behind education, research, and maintenance if provided with some staff for guidance and leadership. It's been done before. It can be done again.

In the meantime, Brooker Creek Preserve remains an awesome, vibrant, thriving wildland teeming with native plants and wildlife. Come visit!! Bring your families and friends!

With the changes that are likely to occur in October, the Friends will be taking on a larger and more important role in the Preserve. We will need each of you to stay involved and we are looking for more of you that might have extra time to assume some added responsibilities. As your Board, we are busy now planning for the future with the following agenda:

- Pushing to get the 6-mile wilderness trail open once per month to hikers;
- Having the Preserve listed in popular travel guides and getting more exposure in newspapers;
- Moving a large portion of the countywide 4th-grade environmental education program to Brooker Creek Preserve;
- Reducing the carbon offset of Brooker Creek Preserve visitation - one way is to push for a bike trail and/or sidewalk along keystone Road;
- Doing at least one big fun-raiser (fundraiser) per year;
- Organizing adult education workshops and locating interesting guest speakers;
- Pushing for a wildlife corridor to connect Brooker Creek Preserve with Starkey Wilderness Park in Pasco County;
- Pushing to get the exhibit hall open on Sundays with volunteers;
- Establishing and maintaining bird feeders at the Education Center;
- Maintaining the butterfly garden at the Education Center.

Please feel free to call or email me anytime with your thoughts, comments, and ideas.

Barb

Preserve News

By: Steven J. Harper, PhD
Director, Environmental Lands Division

I've been asked by members of the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve, as well as by volunteers and citizens, about the changes occurring to the Preserve and Education Center as a result of the drastic reduction to the County's budget. Compiling a county-wide budget is a challenging and time-consuming task, involving many steps and difficult decisions, especially when cuts are required. The proposal as of now is to dissolve the Department of Environmental Management and to relocate its core functions to other departments. For the Environmental Lands Division (the group in the department responsible for the preserves, management areas, and centers), it is proposed that the staffing level be further reduced and its core functions be assumed by Culture, Education, and Leisure (which manages the County parks among other responsibilities). This change is likely to be included in the budget proposed by the County Administrator on July 13, which will then be acted upon by the Board of County Commissioners. What does this change mean for the day-to-day operations and management of the environmental lands and facilities under our care? It is too soon to provide a detailed answer to this question, as plans are still being formulated. One certain result will be a reduction in the amount of work that can be completed. We simply will not be able to maintain the same level of service as we have in the past. With fewer staff and limited resources, the primary strategy will be to focus efforts on core services. For the education centers, that will mean continuing to provide opportunities for citizens and visitors to learn about and appreciate the natural and cultural resources of the region. For the preserves and other environmental lands, priorities will include fire management, exotic control, and ecosystem restoration. Another certainty the future holds will be a continued reliance on our devoted volunteer corps and partners such as the Friends. The time and talent provided by these

groups allowed us to achieve many successes over the years. Your dedicated efforts and enthusiastic support will be needed more than ever in the future.

To contact The Friends:

Email: fobcp@tampabay.rr.com

Phone: (727) 934-2680

(please leave a message and your phone number for a return call)

www.FriendsOfBrookerCreekPreserve.org

Pinellas County Schools Environmental Education Program Scheduled to move to Brooker Creek Preserve!

Currently, all 4th graders in Pinellas County have the opportunity to attend a one-day environmental education program during the school year at either Sawgrass Lake Park, if they go to a school south of Ulmerton Road, or Cypress Woods Nature Preserve at Cypress Woods Elementary School for students in schools north of Ulmerton Road. Although the education program is fantastic, the current site at Cypress Woods is less than ideal. The 67-acre wooded site actually is a grown-over pasture composed of cypress swamp, retention ponds, and one small portable classroom with no chairs or desks. The Brooker Creek site offers: (1) a large classroom with tables, chairs, storage, and state-of-the-art equipment, (2) healthy, mature, ecological communities for nature study including a maple swamp, oak hammocks, pine flatwoods, and a natural creek, (3) boardwalks and nature trails with interpretive signage and easy access loops, and (4) an interactive exhibit gallery. Most important, the students can return to Brooker Creek Preserve with their families and friends to enjoy the trails, wildlife, and facilities any time they want. Moving the north county program to Brooker Creek Preserve is a win-win scenario for Pinellas County and Pinellas County Schools - what a great partnership!

Judith Buhrman Memorial Event

By Craig Huegel

Judith Buhrman passed away July 2, 2009 after battling lung cancer for several years. If you are relatively new to our Chapter, Judith's name may be new to you, but for the rest of us she was a dear friend and the real energy behind our formation and growth. She served as our first president, a large percentage of our Speaker's Bureau, and her hand was in nearly everything we did those first years. Judith also was the first president of the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve, a huge part of St. Petersburg Audubon, and active in a great many environmental causes during her time in Pinellas. A year has passed and it seemed time to do something significant for her and for all of us that miss her. To honor her memory, we are having an event to celebrate her life and legacy

on **Saturday July 3** at the Brooker Creek Preserve Education Center and we are hoping that you all will take the time to join us. Everyone is invited. The event is sponsored by The Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve, The Pinellas Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society, Judith's family, and St. Petersburg Audubon. The event starts at 9 am. We will take a short hike in the Preserve and return to the Education Center where there will be plenty of time for catching up with old friends and to view photos etc. of Judith's legacy. A short program will start at 11 am followed by lunch. The event is free and open to everyone that cared about Judith or would like to know more about her. If you plan to attend, please RSVP by email fobcp@tampabay.rr.com or phone (727) 934-2680. Please plan to join us.

Judith Buhrman

August 7, 1939 - July 2, 2009



Environmental Activist, Author, Knowledge Seeker,
Classical Music Aficionado, Opera Singer,
Science Buff, Volunteer, Friend, Wife & Mother

Founding Member & First Chairman
Pinellas Chapter, Florida Native Plant Society

Founding Member & First Chairman
Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve

Active Member & Membership Chair
St. Petersburg Audubon Society

Judith Buhrman Memorial Celebration

Saturday, July 3, 2010

Brooker Creek Preserve
Environmental Education Center Auditorium

9:00 am Hike

11:00 am Presentation

12:00 noon Lunch

~ Sponsored by ~

Family & Friends of Judith
Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve
Pinellas Chapter, Florida Native Plant Society
St. Petersburg Audubon Society

Kindly RSVP!

Email: fobcp@tampabay.rr.com

Phone: 727-934-2680

What's Blooming?

By: Craig Huegel

The month of June is Florida's official start to summer though, for most of us, the season feels like it begins much earlier. June brings reliable temperatures in the low 90's, brutally high relative humidity and, in most years, afternoon rains. While April and May are generally dry, June thunderstorms bring with them the rain needed by most plants to actively grow once more. For some, it also means an opportunity to flower.

Though fall is the time to catch most of Florida's wildflowers, pay attention to Florida's summer bloomers as you visit Brooker Creek Preserve. Some are rather small and inconspicuous, but if you take a close look at them, you will see some exquisite colors and forms. Two of my favorites are common along most of the Preserve's pineland trails; the candyroots (*Polygala* spp.). So named because their roots supposedly smell sweet (Note: it is not legal to pick any of the Preserve's plants), the tiny orange and yellow candyroots sport brightly colored drum-like flower heads. These flowers attract the attention of small native bees for pollination and are most abundant in the moister, lower pockets among the palmettos.

As you walk the pineland trails throughout the Preserve, you will also see numerous clusters of meadow pinks (*Sabatia* spp.) and meadow beauties (*Rhexia* spp.). Both of these groups are very common in the moist pinelands and edges of marshes and both tend to have bright pink flowers, though one of the most common meadow beauties is actually white. Meadow pinks are in the gentian family and most of the species found in Brooker Creek Preserve have 5 petals. Meadow beauties generally have 4 petals and all produce urn-shaped seed capsules after the flowers are pollinated. Though meadow beauties and meadow pinks bloom for many months, their flowering season kicks off in high gear beginning with the June rains.

Candyroot
Polygala lutea



Candyroot
Polygala nana



Large-flowered
meadow pink
Sabatia grandiflora



Meadow beauty
Rhexia spp.



As you enter the Preserve, look out over the open field just south of the place where the roadway splits into one-way directions and you are likely to see the tall thin wands of one of Florida's unique wildflowers; phoebanthus (*Phoebanthus grandiflorus*). This member of the sunflower/daisy family is only found in the Florida peninsula and is a true Florida endemic. Like most sunflower-type wildflowers, it spreads by producing underground stems. Over time, large areas can become dominated by this bright yellow wildflower.



Phoebanthus
Phoebanthus grandiflorus

Another conspicuous bloom within the Preserve at this time of year is the shiny white flower of loblolly bay (*Gordonia lasianthus*). Loblolly bay is an evergreen tree extremely common around the outer edges of forested wetlands. A member of the tea family, its flowers resemble those of the camellia, and they are slightly fragrant.



Loblolly bay
Gordonia lasianthus

Although some folks feel a tendency to stay out of the woods during the heat of summer, there are a great many things worth venturing out to see at this time of year. I encourage all of you to take some time to walk the Preserve's many trails to see some of its many treasures.

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR NEEDED!

Do you have about 6 hours per month to spare? Do you consider yourself an organized person? Do you care about Brooker Creek Preserve? Then we have a job for you! We are in need of a new membership chairperson. We are so thankful to have had Jon Burr fill this position for about two years - thank you, Jon! To perform the duties of chairperson, having a computer and knowledge of Microsoft Excel are both necessary. If interested, please contact Barbara Hoffman at fobcp@tampabay.rr.com. Thank you!!



Gulf fritillary, photo by Karl and Kathleen Nichter

The Gopher Tortoise

By: Craig Huegel

Brooker Creek Preserve protects the largest population of state-listed threatened gopher tortoises remaining in Pinellas County. Tortoises differ from turtles partly by their upland nature (most turtles spend a large part of their time in and around water) and the gopher tortoise is a relict species from a time when most of Florida and the Southeast was comprised of open arid grassland. As our climate changed thousands of years ago, species such as the gopher tortoise and scrub jay remained only in those areas of the state that still mimiced this type of habitat.

Gopher tortoise populations are scattered throughout the coastal plain of the southeastern United States, with most being found in north-central Florida and southern Georgia. The species has been severely reduced in southern Alabama and Mississippi, southeastern Louisiana, southeastern South Carolina, and along Florida's southeast coast and throughout much of the Florida Panhandle. In Florida alone, gopher tortoise populations have dwindled to an estimated 30 percent of their original numbers.

Gopher tortoises, or "gophers" as they are commonly called, live in dry habitats, such as

longleaf pine-scrub oak sandhills and clayhills, live oak and red oak hammocks, sand pine scrub, wire grass flatwoods, dry prairies, and coastal dune ecosystems. Tortoises can also live in some man-made environments, such as pastures, old fields and grassy roadsides. Three conditions are needed for healthy tortoise populations: well-drained sandy soils for digging burrows, sufficient low plant growth for food, and open, sunny areas for nesting.

Gopher tortoises feed mainly on low-growing plants that require abundant sunlight to grow well. Although wiregrass, broadleaf grasses and legumes are the most important foods, tortoises also eat gopher apples, pawpaws, blackberries, saw palmetto berries, and other fruits when available.

A gopher tortoise's life revolves around its burrow, which can be up to 40 feet in length and 10 feet in depth. The tortoise digs its burrow with its shovel-like front legs. The width of the burrow is approximately the same as the tortoise's length, allowing the tortoise to turn around anywhere in its burrow.

Gopher burrows are the lifeblood of dry, sandy uplands. Because these environments are desert-like, the burrows, which remain at fairly constant temperatures and high humidity throughout the year, provide an escape from the cold, heat and dryness for the gopher and other animals. They also act as refuges for other animals from the periodic, regenerative fires that occur in these scrubby, dry habitats.



Tortoise burrows provide shelter for more than 360 species of animals, including indigo snakes, gopher frogs, Florida mice, skunks, opossums, rabbits, quail, armadillos, burrowing owls, snakes, lizards, frogs, toads, and many invertebrates. Many of these "commensals" use tortoise burrows to escape predators, adverse weather conditions, and fire; some cannot exist without the burrows.

Gopher tortoises take a long time to mature. In northern Florida, female tortoises reach adulthood at 10 to 15 years of age, when the shell length is about nine inches. Recent studies indicate that tortoises farther north require as much as 21 years to mature. At maturity, male tortoises can often be distinguished by the concavity of the plastron (lower shell).



Photo by Karl & Kathleen Nichter

Tortoises normally mate during April and May. Several weeks after mating, female tortoises lay 3-15 eggs, usually in the sand mounds in front of their burrows or in some other, nearby sunny place. The incubation period of eggs varies from 70 to 90 days in Florida to more than 100 days in Georgia. A mature female generally produces one clutch of eggs annually. However, because of high losses of nests to predators, her eggs may actually survive as infrequently as once in every 10 years. Armadillos, raccoons, foxes, skunks, alligators, fire ants, and other predators destroy more than 80 percent of gopher tortoise nests.

After hatching, young tortoises either live in their mother's burrow or dig a small tunnel near her burrow. Many hatchlings are eaten by predators. Once they are too big to be swallowed easily, other than man, dogs, raccoons,

and possibly coyotes, and are thought to live in excess of 40 years.

The gopher tortoise is declining throughout its range. Recent studies project that this species may not exist outside protected areas by the year 2000 unless something is done to reverse this decline. The long-term management of Brooker Creek Preserve's upland habitats through the use of prescribed fire is absolutely vital to maintain the right habitat conditions this species (and all the others that rely on its burrows) to survive. As you hike the trails of the Preserve, you may witness a tortoise in the early morning or late afternoon (or see its burrows with their sandy apron near the burrow entrance). Understand how lucky we are to still have healthy populations of this interesting species living here with us.

(Note: A large part of this article was taken from a document published by the Gopher Tortoise Council, Publication date: 1991.)

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Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center Upcoming Events

All programs are free unless otherwise noted. Please call (727) 453-6800 for information and reservations.

July-August Guided Hikes

Every Saturday, from 9:00 to 10:30 am, led by Education Services Volunteers, Environmental Lands Division. Take a walk through time each Saturday morning on a guided hike along the Education Center Trail. Join us for this 0.75-mile walk as we look at how the land has changed over time and discuss the ecological footprints left by those changes. Sturdy closed-toe shoes are a must, and water and a hat are recommended. Pre-registration is required by 12:00 noon on the Friday before the hike. Free. All ages welcome - **children younger than 6 may find this hike challenging.**

BCPEEC July Programs

Trail Mystery Scavenger Hunt

Saturday, July 3, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Education Services Staff, Environmental Lands Division. Celebrate Independence Day on the trails at Brooker Creek Preserve! Explore the mysteries of Brooker Creek by finding clues along the trail - be sure to check the trail signs for additional clues. Win a prize when you solve all the clues! Free. **All ages** welcome.

Judith Buhrman Memorial Event

Saturday, July 3

9:00 am - hike

11:00 am - presentation

12:00 noon - lunch

Brooker Creek Preserve Education Center

Please RSVP by email fobcp@tampabay.rr.com or phone (727) 934-2680.

Book Time at Brooker Creek: *Eliza and the Dragonfly* Thursday, July 8, 10:30 - 11:15 am

Education Services Volunteers, Environmental Lands Division. This program is designed to connect pre-school children to the wonders of the natural world. This week features *Eliza and the Dragonfly* by Susie Caldwell Rinehart. Come join Eliza as she follows the lifecycle of a dragonfly from pond dwelling nymph to a beautiful flying being. This program also includes a craft, game or other hands-on activity related to the story. Pre-registration is required. Spaces are limited so register early! Free. Recommended **ages: 3 - 5.**

Open Classroom - Discovering Nature with Your Child Saturday, July 10, 12:00 - 3:00 pm

Education Services Volunteers, Environmental Lands Division. Who lives in that skin? What is the difference between a carnivore and an herbivore? Whose tracks are those? Stop by our classroom anytime between 12:00 pm and 3:00 pm to participate in a variety of self-guided nature games and activities that answer these questions and many more. Pre-registration is not required for this open activity. Free. **All ages** welcome.

Teacher Training Workshop

Saturday, July 17, 8:30 am - 3:30 pm

Education Services Staff, Environmental Lands Division. Brooker Creek Preserve is the perfect place to connect classroom concepts to the natural world. This workshop provides teachers with the training and materials necessary to design and lead learning experiences tailored to their classroom curriculum goals. Workshops are intended for teachers willing to lead their own field trips and are required of those teachers interested in using the Center's equipment and facilities other than public trails and the exhibit hall. Pre-registration is required. Call and ask for the educator in charge of this workshop for more information or to register. Free. Great **for teachers of all grade levels.**

Brooker Basics: Wetland Ecosystems

Saturday, July 17, 2010 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Education Services Volunteers, Environmental Lands Division. The Brooker Basics Workshops

are a series of programs offered year-round to give participants a general overview of the variety of environments and organisms that can be found at the Brooker Creek Preserve. Each program consists of two components - a short classroom presentation and a field session. The focus of this workshop is on the wetland ecosystems found in Brooker Creek Preserve including freshwater marshes and cypress swamps. Sturdy closed-toe shoes and long pants are required as participants can expect to get wet and muddy. Water, hat and insect repellent are recommended. Pre-registration is required and space is limited. Free. Best for adults, suitable for age 12 and up.

Book Time at Brooker Creek: *All Around Me I See* Thursday, July 22, 10:30 - 11:15 am
Education Services Volunteers, Environmental Lands Division. This program is designed to connect pre-school children to the wonders of the natural world. This week features *All Around Me I See* by Laya Steinberg. A child on a walk discovers the natural world is a magical place. When tired from her walk, she naps and dreams she is a bird, a bee and other things she has seen. This program also includes a craft, game or other hands-on activity related to the story. Pre-registration is required. Spaces are limited so register early! Free. Recommended ages: 3 - 5.

Archaeology Scout Day at Brooker Creek
Saturday, July 24, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society
Join us for a hands-on opportunity to earn the Scout Archaeology Merit Badge through this archaeology workshop. This morning workshop presented by the Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society is packed full of activities to satisfy most of the merit badge requirements. Activities include "sifting through the past", exploring a modern trash heap, creating pottery, and learning about area archaeological sites. Participants who visit a site prior to the session and bring a written report or demonstrate knowledge of a site will complete their badge on that day. Cost per participant for the workshop is \$15. Intended for Scouts.

Insect Safari

Saturday, July 31, 1:00 - 2:30 pm
Education Services Volunteers, Environmental Lands Division. What makes an insect an insect? Where are the best places to find insects? We learn the answers to these questions in the classroom before going outside to test our new knowledge. Each group learns how to use an insect net and magnifier to get "up-close" views of these fascinating creatures. Join us for this fun, hands-on family program. Pre-registration is required and space is limited. Free. Recommended for ages 6 - 10.

BCPEEC July Programs

Where Have All The Frogs Gone?

Saturday, August 7, 10:00 - 11:00 am
Neal Halstead, University of South Florida
Populations of frogs and other amphibian species are declining rapidly around the world. Like canaries used by old-fashioned coal miners, amphibians may be giving us signals about the health of the planet's wetlands. Pollution is considered the second greatest threat to aquatic and amphibious species in the United States, yet very little research has been dedicated to study its overall impact. Join Neal Halstead as he discusses cutting edge research that may help us understand environmental problems and develop solutions to enhance the likelihood of a sustainable existence for humans and wildlife. Pre-registration is required. Free. Best for adults.

Meet the Artists - *Life, One Frame at a Time*

Saturday, August 7, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Anne Marie Podgurski and Jim "Moose" Rood,
Photos By Moose, Ruskin, FL. Anne Marie Podgurski and Jim "Moose" Rood, with fifty years of photography experience between them, began working together just five years ago. However, one would think they had been teamed for a lifetime. Attention to detail, diverse interests and dedication to each endeavor enable them to capture the special beauty of Florida. From young birds to dazzling sunsets, they record the candid moments that remind us

about the wonder of nature. Join us for a chance to meet the artists and learn more about their work at a special three-hour social. Visitors can enjoy this exhibit during normal Center hours beginning August 5, 2010 through September 25, 2010. Pre-registration is not required for this open house. Free. **All ages** welcome.

Book Time at Brooker Creek: Fireflies!

Thursday, August 12, 10:30 am - 11:15 am
Education Services Volunteers, Environmental Lands Division. This program is designed to connect pre-school children to the wonders of the natural world. This week features *Fireflies!* by Julie Brinckloe. Fireflies blinking in the backyard are a timeless joy of childhood summers. This beautifully presented tale reflects the classic theme of setting something free in order to keep it close to your heart. The program also includes a craft, game or other hands-on activity related to the story. Pre-registration is required. Spaces are limited so register early! Free. Recommended **ages 3 - 5**

Friend of Brooker Creek Board Meeting

Thursday, August 12, 6:30 pm.

Members welcome

Open Classroom - Discovering Nature with Your Child

Saturday, August 14, 12:00 - 3:00 pm
Education Services Volunteers, Environmental Lands Division. Who lives in that skin? What is the difference between a carnivore and an herbivore? Whose tracks are those? Stop by our classroom anytime between 12:00 pm and 3:00 pm to participate in a variety of self-guided nature games and activities that will answer these questions and many more. Pre-registration is not required for this open activity. Free. **All ages** welcome.

Spiders: Eight-legged Wonders

Saturday, August 21, 1:00 - 2:00 pm
Education Services Volunteers, Environmental Lands Division. From horror films to nursery rhymes, spiders have been the subject of myth and mystery throughout the ages. Yet, spiders

are among the most diverse and specialized of the world's creatures. Join us for an afternoon of spider tall tales and myth busting. We will meet live spiders and learn what they eat, where they live, and how they spend their day. Pre-registration is required for this program. Free. **All ages** welcome.

Book Time at Brooker Creek: Where Does the Wind Blow?

Thursday, August 26, 10:30 - 11:15 am
Education Services Volunteers, Environmental Lands Division. This program is designed to connect pre-school children to the wonders of the natural world. This week features *Where Does the Wind Blow?* by Cindy Rink. Where does the wind come from? Where does it go? This beautifully illustrated story reminds us there are experiences that connect all of us who call this planet home. The program also includes a craft, game or other hands-on activity related to the story. Pre-registration is required. Spaces are limited so register early! Free. Recommended **ages 3 - 5**.

Nature Arts and Crafts

Saturday, August 28, 1:00 - 2:30 pm
Education Services Volunteers, Environmental Lands Division. School has started and before you know it the holidays will be upon us. Bring your creativity and join us to get a jump on your holiday gifting and decorating at this nature craft workshop. Each family member can choose a nature craft to complete and take home. You will also have a chance to see samples and take home helpful instructions. Spaces are limited so register early. The cost for the program is \$3.00 per person. Recommended **for families with children age 6 and up.**

Save the Date!

Friends Adopt-a-Mile road clean-up along the preserve where it borders with Keystone Road. *September 11, 8:00 am*

Annual Meeting Friends of Brooker Creek
November 13

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.

Pinellas County Environmental Lands Division - Mission

The mission of the Environmental Lands Division of the Department of Environmental Management is to provide sound stewardship to the County's wild lands and opportunities for the appreciation of their intrinsic value.

Pinellas County Environmental Lands Division - Vision

Pinellas County Preserves and Management Areas are designated wild areas that will be managed for the conservation, protection, and enhancement of natural and cultural resources while allowing for sustainable passive public recreational uses that are compatible with approved management plans and applicable ordinances and laws.

Friends of Brooker Creek Officers

Chair: Barbara Hoffman
Vice Chair: Cathie Foster
Vice Chair: Allyn Childress
Secretary: Chuck Parsons
Treasurer: Carson Morrow

Board Members

Business Affairs: Debbie Reker
Volunteer Liason: Dave Seidel
Publicity Chair: Barbara Schultz
Land Use Chair: Dr. Craig Huegel
Membership Chair: vacant
Newsletter Editor: Dr. Craig Huegel
Birdman & Historian: Ken Rowe
Beverly Billiris
Walt Hoskins

Friends of Brooker Creek website:
www.FriendsOfBrookerCreekPreserve.org

To contact The Friends:

Email: fobcp@tampabay.rr.com
Phone: (727) 934-2680
(please leave a message and your phone number for a return call)

Brooker Creek Preserve:

Phone: (727) 453-6900
Website: www.brookercreekpreserve.org

The Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Center

is located at 3940 Keystone Road,
Tarpon Springs, Florida, 34688
Center Hours: Thurs. - Sat. 9 am - 4 pm
Phone: (727) 453-6800

Preserve & Hiking Trails: Thursday - Sunday 7:00am - 1 hour before sunset

Horse & Friendship Trails will remain open 7 days per week

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

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