


Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve

September - October 2018

Chairman's Message

by Cathie Foster

As we finish out the lazier days of summer, the Friends Board of Directors is gearing up for a very busy fall, always our busiest time of year. You will see details about these events throughout the newsletter and on our website:

- Paint for the Wild with Kelly Quinn - Sept. 29
- Fall Wildflower Festival - October 6
- Expressions of Nature Opening Reception - October 7
- Owl-o-Ween - October 27
- Friends of BCP Annual Meeting - November 11

Additionally, 2019 marks the 15th Anniversary of the Environmental Education Center opening AND the 25th Anniversary of the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve! That, of course, calls for a HUGE celebration! The BCP staff and the Friends Board of Directors are working together now to plan a whole day of activities on February 23, 2019 to celebrate these milestones!

As we happily prepare for these wonderful events, we must also attend to our year-end business and fiscal responsibilities (our fiscal year ends September 30). At this time of year, between our Friends of BCP organization and the Nature Store, we are paperwork-busy, as well. For this reason, our Board of Directors would like to move our 2019 Annual

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Meeting (next year) forward to January 2020, a much calmer time of year. Going forward we would make January our Annual Meeting month. **Note: The 2018 Annual Meeting will still be held in November.**

Changing the Annual Meeting date for the future requires a membership vote to revise our by-laws, as that is where the Annual Meeting date is stipulated. We currently have a committee reviewing our by-laws to make sure that all else is aligned properly if the date is changed to January. These by-law changes will be reviewed at our September Board of Directors meeting, then distributed to our members with the official Annual Meeting announcement.

**Annual Meeting November 11, 2018,
9:00-10:30 Continental Breakfast:**

Because there will be such an elaborate Anniversary Celebration in February, the upcoming Annual Meeting will be a simpler affair. A light, continental breakfast will be followed by a business meeting (by-laws vote, election of directors, presentation of 2019 budget) and a brief review of the year. Following that, I hope you will stay and take advantage of the Education Center and trails. After all, that is why the Friends do what we do!



**Save the Dates
Upcoming Friends Events**

- Sept. 2 Beekeepers Club 9:00
- Sept. 1 Brooker Book Club 9:30-10:30
- Sep. 29 Paint for the Wild 12-3
- Sep. 29 Wildflower Garden Work Day 8-10
- Oct. 6 Fall Wildflower Festival 9-4
- Oct. 6 Brooker Book Club 9:30-10:30
- Oct. 7 Beekeepers Club 9:00
- Oct. 7 Expressions of Nature Gallery Exhibit
Opening Reception 1-3
- Oct. 20 Return the Preserve Work Day 8-11
- Oct. 27 Owl-O-Ween
- Oct. 27 Night Hike 7-9
- Nov. 11 Friends of BCP Annual Meeting 9-10:30

The beautiful barred owl (left) and great horned owl helped us celebrate last year's Owl-O-Ween. Photos by Sue Thomas.

Paint for the Wild with Kelly Quinn!

At our August paint class with **Kelly of the Wild** we had a full house! Twenty-eight artists of all ability levels created their own beautiful Blue Heron under Kelly's expert guidance.



Start with the background.



Fill in the heron.



Add depth and details.



Looking good!



Voila! 28 Blue Herons, each with its own personality!

Photos
by Kelly
Quinn
and
Cathie
Foster

We had such a good time painting together!

If you want to be part of the fun join Kelly and the Friends next month as we bring a new critter to life!

“Paint for the Wild” Class

Brooker Creek Preserve

Saturday, September 29 12:00pm-3:00pm

Class benefits the **Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve**

All materials are provided to create your painting

Enjoy an assortment of snacks & refreshments

Class time will be around 3 hours (including breaks)

Indoor classroom w/ natural lighting, air conditioning, and bathrooms

Registration: \$35 per person

Registration information coming soon at <https://paintforthewild.com/>

Fall Wildflower Festival

at Brooker Creek Preserve
Saturday, October 6, 2018
9:00 am - 4:00 pm

FREE!

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!



ONGOING ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE

- **Wildflower Quest!** —Take the challenge! (last hunt out at 3:00 pm)
- **Butterfly Experience** — Be surrounded by butterflies! Enjoy a walkthrough tent with over 250 live butterflies! Learn about their life cycle and enjoy their beauty up close and personal!
- **Native Wildflower Sale** — (near parking lot)

PRESENTATIONS in the Auditorium

9:30 and 12:30 Wildflower Photography - Karl & Kathleen Nichter
10:30 and 1:30 Landscaping with Wildflowers - Dr. Craig Huegel
11:30 Edible Plants - What You Can Eat, What to Avoid - Katy Roberts

PRESENTATIONS in the Classroom

Honeybee Observation Hive/Beekeeper Dress-Up
Beeswax Candle-Making
Nature Crafts for Kids & Caterpillar Petting Zoo
10:30 and 1:00: Butterfly Life Cycle - Cindy Peacock

Exhibit Hall and Nature Store Open!
Food available for purchase!
Naturalists on the Trails to Answer Questions!
Come Rain or Shine!



Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve

This event is sponsored by Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve.

3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs, 34688

Questions? Call 727-934-2680

Email fobcp@tampabay.rr.com



Fall Wildflower Festival

Brooker Creek Preserve

Saturday, October 6, 2018

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

FREE! FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

Sponsorship Form

Sponsorships—\$100 each

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Name as you would like it to appear on advertising and the event signage:

Sponsorship forms (or just a promise) are due no later than **September 29.**

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

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

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

Friends  of Brooker Creek Preserve

A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (1-800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. REGISTRATION NUMBER CH. 16077



Fall Wildflower Festival 2018
Volunteers Needed!
Saturday October 6

No experience necessary! Training included!

Complimentary lunch!

Entrance Table Greeter - 3 per shift

Boardwalk Docent – 1 per shift

Wildflower Quest Table – 2 per shift

Nature Crafts for Kids – 10 per shift (great job for teens)

Roving Naturalist on the Trail – 2 per shift

AM shift 8:30-12:30 (lunch 12:30-1:00)

PM shift 12:30-4:30 (lunch 12:00-12:30)

This is a great opportunity to get involved!

For more information or to sign up, please contact Julie at

the1midge@aol.com

or 612-850-0111

Many thanks to friends and family of

Jane Myers

who celebrated Jane's birthday by
donating a total sum of \$410 to the
Friends! WOW!

Happy Birthday, Jane, and thank you!

Special thanks to the friends of

Martin Schachter

who celebrated his birthday by
donating a total sum of \$498 to the
Friends! These funds will go toward
the taxidermy fees for an alligator to
be displayed in the Environmental
Education Center!

Happy Birthday, Marty, and thank you!

Gallery and Other Art-Related News

By Lynn Whitelaw, Friends Gallery Curator

Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve is pleased to announce an exhibition this fall of nature-inspired art created by members of the Tarpon Springs Art Association.

Over the years the TSAA and the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve groups have had a mutual interest in seeing the Preserve used as an inspiration for art. The annual *Paint and Photo Tarpon Springs - A Plein Air Event*, sponsored by the Tarpon Spring Art Association, includes two Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve Awards, one for painting and one for photography. In 2014, a TSAA exhibition was held in the Brooker Creek Auditorium as part of the plein air event for that year.

With a mission "to promote interest and community awareness of all forms of visual art, to provide opportunities for individuals to associate with other artists, and to share in and learn from artistic knowledge and experiences" the Tarpon Springs Art Association represents more than 140 artists working in a variety of media. In addition to the *Paint and Photo Tarpon Springs* event, the TSAA members exhibit in various venues in the Tarpon Springs community and provide demonstrations and workshops throughout the year.

For the *Expressions of Nature* exhibition, 24 works with nature-inspired images of Florida or Brooker Creek will be shown. TSAA Special Events Coordinator, Heather Risley, is curator for this show and has selected the works by invitation from the membership of the Tarpon Springs Art Association. All artwork is for sale (unless noted) and a booklet in the gallery will provide a checklist with biographies on each of the artists. The opening reception will be held on **Sunday, Oct. 7 from 1-3 pm** in the Auditorium Gallery and is open to the public.

Future Plein Air Art Event

As a related event, The Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve will be sponsoring a plein air art event in the Preserve in the near future. Painting will occur all day, with a reception and juried awards at the end of the day in the Auditorium to celebrate the art that has been created.

Participation in the plein air event will be open to everyone, from amateurs to professional artists.

More details and a registration form will appear in future newsletters and on the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve website. Please sign-up and encourage others to participate.



EXPRESSIONS OF NATURE

Members of Tarpon Springs Art Association –
Watercolor, Oils, Acrylic, Drawing,
Photography

exhibit on view

October 6th

through

**November 25th
2018**

the gallery at

**Brooker Creek Preserve
Environmental
Education Center**

Heather Risley – *Preserve Path*
Oil – 24"x18"

24 works with nature-inspired images of Florida and/or Brooker Creek Preserve. TSAA Special Events Coordinator, Heather Risley, is curator for this show and has selected the works by invitation from the membership of the Tarpon Springs Art Association.

Opening Reception

Sunday, October 7, 1-3 pm

Free / Open to the Public / Refreshments / Music

Gallery open

Saturday 9am-4pm / Sunday 11am-4pm

Some Fridays – please call

727-934-2680 • fobcp@tampabay.rr.com



Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve

Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center
3940 Keystone Road • Tarpon Springs, FL 34688

FOBCP Return the Preserve

By: Evan Earle, Jr.

Our next Friends Of Brooker Creek Preserve Return The Preserve Work Day is Saturday, October 20th. The weather will hopefully be a little cooler and drier from the heat and humidity we are "enjoying" right now.

If you haven't joined us at one of our FOBCP RTP Work Days, let me share our mission with you. Working with Preserve staff and FOBCP leadership, we identify an area of the Preserve that could use our hands-on help. This may be an area where invasive plants such as caesarweed or skunkvine have become a problem, crowding out native plants. It may be an area where natives such as grape, greenbrier, or peppervine have become overgrown to the point where they are inhibiting the growth of other native plants and trees. It may be thinning out marked/tagged pine saplings that are too crowded to allow for healthy growth.

Sometimes we get to plant something versus removing things. For example, in July we planted over 300 native wildflowers and plants at the entrance to the Preserve! We hope this latest project thrives to become a living "Welcome Sign" to visitors!

We meet in the parking lot near the gazebo at the entrance of the boardwalk at 8:00 a.m. and typically work until 11:00 a.m. It is a great opportunity to meet new people and welcome back returning friends and volunteers. It is a morning of hands-on work that will leave you a little dirtier than when you started, but the rewards are visible and inspiring. We have opened up areas of the Preserve that were blanketed with vines. Where once there was a wall of grapevines, today we see a natural area with a healthy, open tree canopy and a thriving understory. We have seen gopher tortoise, deer, and more return to some of the areas we have cleaned up and there is no better reward than that.

If you want more information, contact Evan Earle Jr at earlejr@gmail.com or at 727-515-9545.

Please join us. Thanks to volunteers like you we are making a difference in helping to return the Preserve to its natural environment and beauty.



Photos by Evan Earle, Jr.

Friends  of Brooker Creek Preserve

**ACRE ADOPTIONS FOR
BROOKER CREEK PRESERVE**

Many thanks for the following acre adoptions in July and August:

In memory of Larry Wilder — from Barb & Eddie Hoffman

In memory of Tom Hansell — from the Flandreau Family - Don, Karen, and
Children (2 acres)

In honor of Vinnie Langere — from Barb & Eddie Hoffman

Please consider adopting an acre as a birthday gift, memorial or to honor a special person. See p. 24 for Adopt an Acre Form and additional information.

HAPPY Owl-Oween

Saturday, October 27, 2018
Brooker Creek Preserve

Live owls on display 10:00 - 2:00

Meet "Hoot" the Roaming Owl 9:00 - 3:00

Owl Storytime for Children 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 1:00 & 2:00

Owl Facepainting 9:00-3:00

Owl Pancake Breakfast (\$5/person) 9:00 - 3:00

Owl Pellet Science 9:00 - 3:00 (\$5/person)

Owl Nest Box Building 9:00 - 3:00 (\$25/person)

Owl Prowl Night Hike 7:00 pm (\$5/person)

3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs, 34688

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

Hosted by

Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve and Clearwater Audubon Society



Friends  of Brooker Creek Preserve



Friends  of Brooker Creek Preserve

2018 NIGHT HIKES!

Join the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve for a hiking experience along the Education Center Trail...*at night!* These special hikes are open to the public and limited to 20 people per hike. **A \$3 per person donation is requested.** Hikes are led by Mark Yeager, a Preserve volunteer who is knowledgeable about nocturnal wildlife. The hike is about one-mile in length and will take about 1.5 hours.

Saturday, Oct. 27, 7:00-9:00 pm – Owl Prowl

Saturday, Nov. 10, 6:00-8:00 pm

Saturday, Dec. 8, 6:00-8:00 pm

More hikes will be scheduled for 2019 – stay tuned!

Pre-registration is required! Once you register, more information will come to you via email. Pre-register online by logging onto: <https://nighthikes.eventbrite.com>

These hikes are for adults and families only. Children must be accompanied by parents. Please leave your pets at home. Pets are not permitted in County Preserves.

Star Party! Join the Friends AND the St. Petersburg Astronomy Club to view planets, stars, and the moon with telescopes. Coming early 2019 – stay tuned! Night Hikes will be conducted as well.

Questions? Email fobcp@tampabay.rr.com

Welcome to our new Friends members:

Anansita Clementi

Tonya Ensell

Mark Glidden

David & Liz Lindsay

John Spiegel

Friends  of Brooker Creek Preserve



BEEKEEPERS CLUB

Beekeepers Club meetings are held on
Sundays at 9:00 am to work at the Apiary.

9/2/18

10/7/18

11/4/18

12/2/18



Friends  of Brooker Creek Preserve

Back by popular demand...

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 (SPC Biology Professor), 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. 13, 2019 - Cypress Swamp Stomp – Located in the central part of the preserve, this site features orchids, ferns, and epiphytes. Plan to get wet, or maybe not, as we plunge into the depths of the swamp!

March 24, 2019 – 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.

June 23, 2019 – 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!

Sep. 22, 2019 – In Search of Catesby's Lily – Located in the eastern part of the preserve, we will search for the threatened 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. Sign up early! Only 20 spots are open for these fabulous hikes *off the beaten path!* Questions? Email fobcp@tampabay.rr.com or call 727-934-2680.

Art at the Preserve: A Brief Review

A personal "take" on recent art at the Preserve by Jon Burr, Gallery Docent

The latest show was John Gurbacs' "Fractal Nature - Redux." (Yes, I had to look up *redux*. It basically means "restored.") John's idea for these paintings was that he noticed certain mathematical patterns like "fractals" or, say, "savesaver patterns" -- if you're old enough to have had a cathode ray computer screen -- were reminiscent of patterns he experienced in nature. Thus, many of these paintings have a split personality. In many, the upper half is the "mathematical" part (abstraction, if you will) and the lower half is John's depiction of a resonant (photo realistic) natural scene. (This order is reversed, however, in the photo illustration to the right, "Kangaroo Paw".) John is not shy with his colors. Another take on *redux* is that John's last show at the Preserve was in 2008 and then the gallery closed for some years: thus *redux* is Gurbacs "redone."



Kangaroo Paw, by John Gurbacs

This show is an interesting transition from this year's previous two Preserve auditorium gallery displays. The first of these three was a wonderful series of monotone photographs by Lisa Fitch. All were nature photographs, some of which were taken at the Preserve, presented in a circular matting. That show was followed by a presentation of color painting on YUPO paper the use of which was pioneered by the artist, Taylor Ikin. The subject matter was nature, again some of scenes from the Preserve. And then the Gurbacs.

Now here's the transition: first photographic art (Fitch), next realism recognizable as nature scenes but endowed with the flowing style of the painting on YUPO process (Ikin) and then a double-take photo realism/abstraction (Gurbacs). Obviously the next show should be pure abstract expressionism in all its neo-romantic qualities - art about the artist as much as the art. Perhaps not, since it would be difficult to keep a "nature" theme.

Thanks to Lynn Whitelaw, Friends of BCP Art Gallery Curator, who skillfully arranges these amazing shows. If you didn't get the opportunity to see the Gurbacs - or the other two - please keep an eye out for future art gallery presentations by the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve.

Short-Day and Long-Day Plants

By: Craig Huegel

Why do some plants bloom in the spring and why do others do so later in the year? The reason lies in a complex system plants have developed for sensing day length. This system has evolved over the millions of years that flowering plants have existed on earth. The sun is a reliable guide to base these judgments on. Unlike weather, which can be variable and fickle, the sun comes up in the east, sets in the west, and it provides a certain number of hours of sunlight each day whether it is cloudy or not. The number of hours of sunlight changes daily outside of the equator, but it does so in a very predictable manner.

Plants have a very sensitive system, controlled by hormones and light receptors, that measure the number of sunlight hours and they can base their life-necessary decisions on this. Evolution is an amazing thing. It tends to "weed out" behaviors that are not in an organism's best interest and sensing sunlight is of absolute importance to plants. For one, sunlight is plant food. Plants feed on sunlight. Photosynthesis allows plants to grow and to reproduce. Insufficient sunlight is the single-most reason why a plant does not bloom or doesn't produce the number of flowers we might desire.



Changing patterns of sunlight also determines when a plant decides to flower at all. This changing pattern of daylight during the year is not important to tropical plants as they have evolved in areas where the number of hours of sunlight doesn't change annually. If you have a landscape of tropical plants, as many Floridians do, you will notice that they may bloom at any time. Plants from more temperate climates, like most native plants except those from extreme south Florida, have set flowering times. This, of course, is true for all the plants native to Brooker Creek Preserve. Central Florida is still a temperate climate - even

Catesby's Lily (Lilium catesbaei) if we have a winter or two where we don't experience a freeze.

In temperate climates, plants are essentially divided into two groups - short-day and long-day species. In reality, these groups are more correctly divided into long-night and short-night plants. Sensing this is vital to their long-term existence as it determines when they make their choice to flower. Flowering produces fruit (seed, nuts, and soft fruit) and inside that fruit are the seeds that constitute the next generation. Flowering produces their progeny and timing this correctly is vital in determining when these seeds are sent off to the world, to sprout, and survive. Timing this incorrectly would send their progeny off into conditions that would make establishment difficult or impossible.

Right now, day length is growing shorter with each passing day. Short-day plants are sensing this and preparing to flower and set seed before winter really kicks in. Pollinators here generally are few and far between in late fall and early winter. Plants that rely on pollinators (about 85% of all flowering plants) need to flower before this decline in pollinators happens which is why so few flower after November. It is a race to time their bloom period with the presence of their pollinators, and still set and disperse their seed before a potential freeze in early winter.

Seed of fall-blooming plants generally lies on the soil surface until spring. The few that sprout quickly produce seedlings that are less cold sensitive than their parents. In my little home



Swamp azalea (*Rhododendron viscosum*)

nursery, seedlings of this type fare well through the freezing days that sometimes occur here while their parents often freeze to the ground. Most, however, remain dormant until February or March when the chance for a freeze here is minimal. Then as the days lengthen and temperatures warm, they get a head start on everything else. Even the embryos of these types of seeds have intricate systems to gauge changing daylight and temperature. As you walk the trails of Brooker Creek Preserve in the fall, you will notice a great flush of fall wildflowers that was not present in the summer or spring.

Spring-blooming plants, on the other hand, sense the lengthening of daylight (the increased shortening of night) and prepare to bloom as soon as spring has truly arrived. Most of our showiest native trees are long-day plants, as are the spring-blooming wildflowers such as violets. Blooming in the spring allows them to capture the attention of pollinators as soon as they become active too and their seed generally sprouts quickly so they have most of the growing season to grow and mature before winter.



Dotted skipper with Spanish needles.
Photos by Craig Huegel.

Relatively few flowering plants are actively flowering in the heat of summer. Those that do are largely daylight indeterminate species and may have protracted bloom seasons during the summer. By doing so, they capture the full attention of pollinators, but they have to decide when their seeds should sprout. They either must do so quickly before winter sets in or they must wait even longer than fall-blooming species to sprout in the spring.

Plants sometimes bloom out of season. Just like every other living being, there are outliers that make risky decisions that could work, but often don't. A long time ago when I was involved with a pine lily study at Brooker Creek Preserve, we documented lilies that bloomed into early January. What we found was that these late plants were not pollinated and did not set seed. Outliers are

important in a population, however, as they protect a population from environmental change. In a world where average temperatures are rising, these late bloomers may eventually find pollinators and this may ensure their future. That said, climate change will not affect daylight changes as the seasons progress and that will always be the wisest foundation to base a decision on about when to flower.

Get out and enjoy Florida's fall and its beautiful show of fall-blooming wildflowers.

Nature Store News By Cathie Foster

If you have visited our Nature Store throughout the summer, you may have noticed our honey supply dwindling. Good news! The honey shelf is now fully-stocked and we have plenty more on hand. We carry the well-known Orange Blossom Honey, as well as the popular Allergy Honey (a wildflower blend). Gallberry Honey is a lesser-known, but just as tasty, variety. At the Nature Store we are often asked what gallberry is. Gallberry (*Ilex glabra*) is a native shrub in the holly family. It grows in the pine flatwoods of the Southeastern U.S. and right here at Brooker Creek Preserve! You may notice it as you hike the nature trails. Its oval leaves are a bit waxy and shiny, and it produces a small, black, bitter berry-type fruit. In the spring, the bush blossoms with white flowers that drip nectar, attracting bees and other pollinators. Gallberry honey has a rich flavor, perfect for table-use or for baking. I encourage you to give it a try!



Gallberry fruit, photo by Craig Huegel.



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.



 Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve


BEEKEEPERS CLUB NEWS

We spent our time during July & August building and painting twelve new beehives.



David Lindsay connects the sides of the boxes.



Mark Glidden & Kyle Gliddon measure twice before cutting once.



Tonya Ensell applies a second coat of paint.



Lilian Brown attaches the sides of the new frames.



Sometimes we work in the classroom, other times we work outside by the Bee Shed.



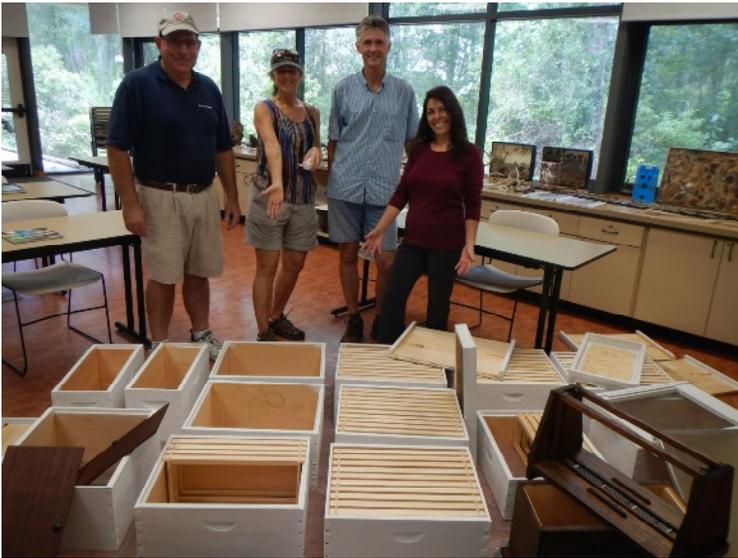
David Lindsay glues the frames.



(Right) Liz Lindsay applying stain onto the observation hive.



(Right) Club President, Bob Burkard teaches us how to do it all!



Voila! Twelve new hives ready for bees!



Everything must be transported back and forth between where we work, usually the classroom, and the Bee Shed.



Cathie Foster is suiting up!



We love visiting our apiary!



Everything here is done slowly, carefully, and quietly.



Currently we have three hives in the field, each with one queen and about 40,000-50,000 workers (her daughters).



The apiary grounds must be kept tidy. Cathie Foster is raking and Barb Hoffman is hot on the weed wacker. The bees didn't mind the noise or the disruption...and we were thankful!

Photos by Liz Lindsay, Lilian Brown, & Barb Hoffman. The club members wish to thank Beekeepers Club President, Bob Burkard, for his patience and willingness to share his knowledge about beekeeping! Thank you, Bob!

If you would like to join the **Friends Beekeepers Club**, please send a request to fobcp@tampabay.rr.com. Annual dues are \$25 per person. You must be a Friends member to join the Beekeepers Club. The Beekeepers Club is an affiliate of Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve.

News from the Wildflower Garden

By Pam Brown

Lots of yellow flowers are blooming now in the Garden. Our newly planted swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) are thriving and blooming with lovely pink flowers in the bog garden. Now all we need is for the Monarchs to find them.

Thank you to the couple of new volunteers who helped in the garden over the last several months. And, for those of you who are faithful regulars, I am very thankful. I am always so appreciative of volunteer help in maintaining the garden. We had some new plants to put in the garden for the August 25th workday. Our workday on September 29th is especially important since it is the last chance we have to get the garden in tip top shape for the annual Wildflower Festival on October 6th.

If you would like to volunteer in the Wildflower Garden, join us on the last Saturday of each month from 8 to 10 a.m. (summer hours). Bring your gardening tools, gloves, hat, sunscreen and bug repellent and wear closed-toed shoes. We will provide coffee, juice and breakfast snacks. I hope to see you there!

Note: No Wildflower Garden work day in October (due to Owl-O-Ween), or in November or December (due to holidays).



Above, butterflies in the Wildflower Garden, photo by Laurie Angyn. The new bog garden, by Pam Brown.

Pam's Thoughts

It has certainly been a hot summer. The older I get the less tolerant I am of the heat and humidity. Hopefully we will be seeing some cooler weather soon and I can get back out into my garden.

There are a couple of large native lilies that are wonderful additions to the landscape if you have the proper place and growing conditions.

Swamp Lily (*Crinum americanum*) is a large plant growing from a large bulb in the Amaryllis family. It grows in wetlands and along streams throughout the state, so if you have a wet area or swale in your landscape that gets sun most of the day, this could be a good addition to your landscape. The swamp lily is a perennial with strap like leaves up to 3 feet long and 3 inches wide. The flowers grow on a long flower stalk that is separate from the leaves. Two to six flowers occur at the tip of the flower stalk, are 4 to 6 inches long, are white, or white and pink, and are fragrant. Each flower has 6 petals. This plant blooms best if it's growing in standing water or given adequate flooding. If your site is dry and you want flowers, you may need to seek out a different plant.



Above, swamp lily, left, spider lily.

The **spider lily** (*Hymenocallis latifolia*) is also a Florida native with attractive foliage and fragrant white blooms. This clumping perennial has long, dark green leaves that grow directly from an underground bulb and reach a height of two to three feet. In summer and fall, the spider lily produces many gorgeous white flowers that are fragrant, long-lasting, and delicate.

It works well as a fast-growing ground cover, or can also be used in borders or as a specimen plant. Plant your spider lily in full sun or part shade in well-drained soil. This plant is very tolerant of drought, wet conditions, and even salt spray but it can't take cold temperatures, so it's ideal for the coastal Florida landscape. The plant will quickly re-grow after a frost however.

Both of these lilies can be consumed by ravenous Eastern Lubber grasshoppers in the spring. Be on the lookout for the small black grasshoppers with a red or yellow stripe. They need to be killed when they first hatch from the ground. Once they start molting and maturing they get harder and harder to control. They apparently do not have any natural enemies.



All photos courtesy of the University of Florida, unless noted.

Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve Readers Club

By: Jon Burr

In July, we discussed the Vincent Luisi book about "Railroading in Pinellas County." Lots of pictures. Everybody pretty much liked the book so we didn't have much controversy but did have a friendly discussion.



In August the discussion was about the book, "Florida's Indians from Ancient Times to the Present," written by Jerald T. Milanich. The explanation about the spelling of the Weedon vs Weeden names was very interesting. This book is recommended for anyone, young and old, who is interested in the peoples who lived here from 12,000 years ago until recently. I noted that the book had no index, which I think would have made a good book better.

Repeating from the last newsletter (what would a person do without "cut and paste"?), for the remainder of this Florida-themed year we are planning to read:

September 2018: "Florida in Poetry" edited by Jones and O'Sullivan. Now wait. Poetry doesn't hurt. The arrangement of the book is sequential in time and gives a good, easy way to also gain an understanding of Florida history.

October 2018: Another book by Willie Drye: "For Sale, American Paradise, How Our Nation Was Sold an Impossible Dream in Florida." Drye wrote the book about the 1935 hurricane we previously read.

November 2018: "Everglades Lawmen" by James T. Huffstodt. True Stories of Game Wardens in the Glades.

December 2018: "The Florida Reader, Visions of Paradise from 1530 to the Present" by Maurice O'Sullivan and Jack C. Lane, editors. (My thanks to Gail M. for bringing this book to my attention.) This rounds out a Florida-themed year.

Please join us, there is room for more. In the remaining get-togethers for this year we will also be taking ideas on reading material for 2019. Come and give us your ideas.

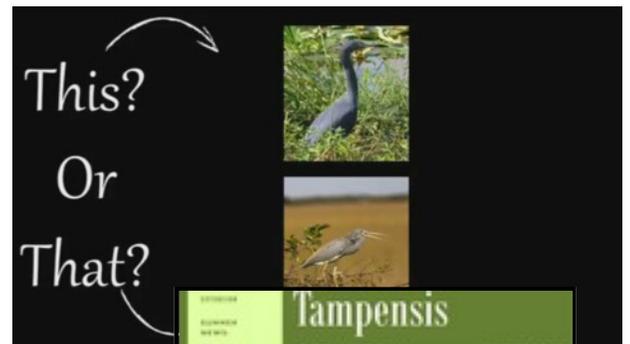
Volunteer News and More!

By Julia Myers, Education Support Specialist, Brooker Creek Preserve

We are almost through August and it is one of our slowest months, along with September. Despite that, we have had great attendance at many of our programs this month! Thank you front desk volunteers for adjusting accordingly to the ebb and flow of visitors throughout the year. Come October, we look forward to a significant increase in visitors!



The 'THIS OR THAT' video series is up! This series was created by James and Lara (with the help of Beth, Lara's intern) to help citizens and visitors correctly identify commonly mistaken species of plants and animals. There are a total of six short two minute videos, check them out! You can view the playlist on YouTube here: [This or That](#)



The Tampensis Newsletter written by our own James is now accessible online! This is a GREAT resource to explore if you are ever having a slow day on the front desk. You can now view all past editions anytime you want at: [Tampensis Newsletters](#)



September is Microplastics Awareness Month and we will be celebrating all month long! The Florida Microplastics Awareness Project is teaming up with UF to offer a series of webinars about plastic pollution. The webinars are on Thursday September 6th, 13th, and 20th at noon. They are each 30 minutes long and we will be watching them in the auditorium. Bring your lunch and watch with us! We will finish the month with a Microplastics film screening and citizen science workshop on September 27th at 1 pm. We'd love for you to join us and celebrate microplastics awareness month with us!



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



Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve

PLEASE JOIN US!

Who We Are: We are the citizens support group for Brooker Creek Preserve. We work hard to keep the Preserve ecologically healthy and open to the public.

Our Mission: We support the Preserve through fund raising, volunteer programs, hands-on involvement, and education to ensure that the Preserve remains a natural wilderness for future generations. We have been around since 1994 (ten years more than the Education Center) with a long history of love, devotion, and support for the Preserve, all 8,700 acres of it.

What We Do:

Organize and conduct events, festivals, night hikes, workshops, specialty hikes, campouts, and fundraisers.

Provide funding for the programs that occur at the Education Center.

Publish a bimonthly newsletter full of great information about the Preserve.

Apply for and obtain grants.

Fund volunteer needs including the annual Volunteer Appreciation.

Run a very lucrative Nature Store.

Remove exotics and nuisance plants.

Tend the Wildflower Garden.

Lobby and work with the county commission and state legislators for Preserve support.

We rely completely on memberships, grants, and donations to achieve our many missions. Please join us in making Brooker Creek Preserve the very best it can be!



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Please select your membership level.

Any amount is acceptable – choose what fits you.

___ \$48 Preserve Pal (\$4/month)

___ \$120 Preserve Partner (\$10/month)

___ \$240 Preserve Protector (\$20/month)

___ \$480 Preserve Guardian (\$40/month)

___ \$1,200 Preserve Sentinel (\$100/month)

___ Other \$ _____

All levels are tax-deductible; you will receive an official letter noting your membership donation.

Please mail a check endorsed to FOBCP to:

Membership, Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve
3940 Keystone Road
Tarpon Springs, FL 34688

OR

Join online! Go to:

<http://www.friendsofbrookercreekpreserve.org>

Through the online Paypal, you can do a single payment or schedule monthly giving.


 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

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

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BROOKER CREEK PRESERVE

Cool calendar for your refrigerator!

September 2018

***Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve events**

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
		1 Guided Hike 9-10:30 *Friends Reading Club 9:30-10:30 Big Birds for Beginners 10:30-12	2 *Beekeepers Club 9:00 AM
6 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15 am	7	8 Songbird Sunrise 5:50-7:30 am Beginning Bird Hike 8-10 am	9
13 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15	14	15 Guided Hike 9-10:30 Life of Lichen 10:30-12	16 Dragonfly Discovery Walk 9-11 am
20 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15 am	21 Family Fun Friday 10-11 am	22 Guided Hike 9-11:00 Tampa Bay Lost (and Found Again) 10:30-12	23
27 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15 am Microplastics Citizen Science Workshop 1-3 pm	28 Wild Things <i>(Stories and Songs for Pre-K)</i> 10-11 am	29 *Wildflower Garden Work Day 8-10 am Photography Hike 8:30-10:30 am Guided Hike 9-10:30 am Singing Insects 10:30-12 *Painting Workshop with Kelly of the Wild 12:00-3:00 <i>Registration required -\$35/person \$30 for Friends of BCP members</i>	

October 2018

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
4 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:30	5	6 *FALL WILDFLOWER FESTIVAL 9 am - 4 pm *Friends Readers Club 9:30-10:30	7 *Beekeepers Club 9 am *Art Exhibit Tarpon Springs Art Association Opening Reception 1-3 pm
11 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:30	12 Wild Things (pre-K stories & songs) 10-10:45	13 Songbird Sunrise 5:30-7:30 am Beginning Bird Hike 8:00-10:00	14
18 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:30	19 Family Fun Friday 10:00-11:00	20 Guided Hike 9:00-10:30 *RETURN THE PRESERVE WORK DAY 8-11 am	21 Dragonfly Discovery Walk 9-11 am
25 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:30	26 Wild Things (pre-K stories & songs) 10-10:45	27 Photography Hike 8:30-10:30 *OWL-O-WEEN 9 am- 4 pm *Night Hike 7-9 pm Pre-registration required \$3/person donation	28

For program details go to <http://www.brookercreekpreserve.org/programs-classes.htm> Click "Calendar of Classes/Programs/Hikes"
 Hiking Trails are open every day from 7:00 am until one hour before sunset.

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
Hours: Thurs. - Sat. 9am - 4pm, Sun., 11am - 4pm.

Friends Nature Store is located in the Education Center. Hours: Thurs. - Sat. 9am - 4pm, Sun., 11am - 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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