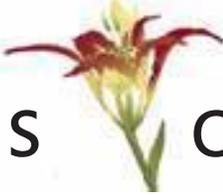


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# Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve

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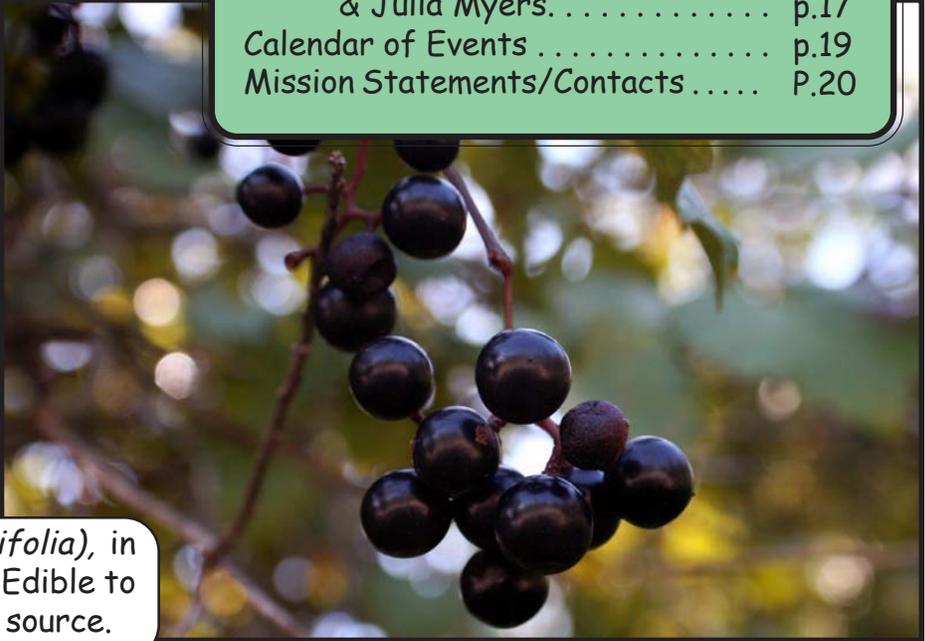
September - October 2015

## Chairman's Message By Barb Hoffman

### Are YOU an ambassador for Brooker?

You know how we all travel among many circles? We might belong to book clubs, PTA, church trustees, yoga groups, active college alumni, music groups, sports teams - the list is endless. Our day job also provides another circle of life for us. Think about all the groups you belong to. Have you told them about Brooker, what a wonderful, awesome place it is? If you haven't, I urge you to try. It is easy to work it into a conversation. I am a master at this. Regardless of the subject, I can bend the conversation to Brooker, and I can do it in a way that it isn't weird or wearisome - that takes some practice. Brooker is on my mind constantly. I live and breathe it. It is my passion. And I want everyone I know to understand and feel that passion, too. I encourage you to try talking about Brooker more. Speak from your heart. Why are you a Friend or volunteer? What makes this place so special to you? You ARE an ambassador for Brooker just by belonging to the Friends. Thank you for that. Please share that respect and affection with everyone. Encourage others to enjoy a Saturday presentation, a hike on the trail, or even become a member. We can always use more Friends like you.

**Barb**



Muscadine grape (*Vitis rotundifolia*), in fruit now all over the Preserve. Edible to humans and a great wildlife food source.

## Chairman's Message

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## Save the Dates Friends Events for 2015

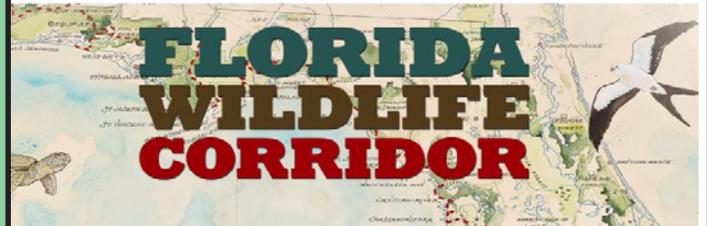
Sept. 5	BC Preserve Book Club
Sept. 19	Four Lakes Hammock hike
Sept. 26	Return the Preserve Work Day
Sept. 26	Wildflower Garden Club
Oct. 2-4	Painting Nature Workshop
Oct. 3	BC Preserve Book Club
Oct. 17	Fall Wildflower Festival
Oct. 18	Off the Beaten Path hike
Oct. 20	Cynthia Barnett Book Talk
Oct. 22	Florida Wildlife Corridor Dessert Reception
Oct. 31	Return the Preserve Work Day
Oct. 31	Wildflower Garden Club
Nov. 7	Friends Annual Meeting & Volunteer Appreciation
Nov. 15	Music in the Woods
Nov. 15	BC Headwaters Nature Preserve hike
Dec. 5	Wreath-Making Workshop
Dec. 13	Music Jamboree

See page 13 for more information

You are cordially invited to a

## Desert Reception

to hear the latest amazing adventures of the folks from



**Thursday, October 22, 2015**  
**7:00 - 9:00 pm**



## BURN HOTLINE

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

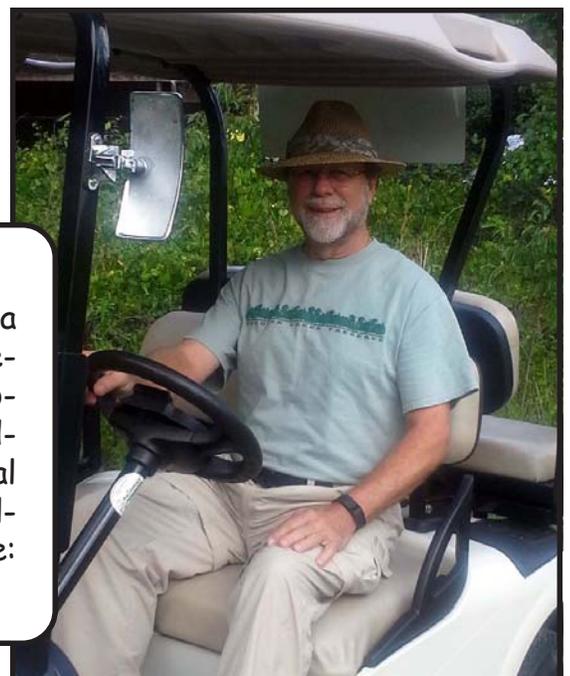


Don't forget to "like" the BCP Environmental Education Center on Facebook - [Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center](#)



## 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).



## Four Lakes Hammock Hike, 7/4 :



Folks who hiked Four Lakes Hammock on July 4.



Beautyberry (above) by Laurie Angyn and butterfly orchid (below) by Ken D'Ambrosio. Both photos taken on the hike.



## Music Jamboree 7/19, by Jane Myers

Our "indoor" version of the Friends of Brooker Creek Jamboree was held on July 19th in the beautiful Auditorium at the Preserve Education Center. The weather outside had been very rainy, steamy and hot, so the auditorium was a very comfortable venue. Once again we had 6 musicians, some who had never played together before - and they were wonderful! Thanks to Brad Myers for leading the group and bringing along his many instruments. Our next Jamboree is set for Sunday, December 13, 2015, outside under the pavilion beginning at 3:30 and ending at 5:00. FREE! So plan now to bring your acoustic instrument and join in the fun or just bring a chair and enjoy the music!



## Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve Beekeepers By: Bob Burkard

I am really excited that our FOBCP board voted "Yes" to move ahead with our beekeeping program and proud to be leading our beekeeping team. We have selected a site for our bees which is outside the Preserve, but close enough for our beekeeping group to easily get to our new apiary (a collection of beehives).

So, as we progress through the final approval steps of completing a contract with Pinellas County Parks and Conservation and conducting a site inspection with our Florida Apiary inspector, we are preparing for the arrival of our bees next spring. We will form our Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve Beekeeping group, prepare our apiary site, purchase and assemble equipment, and hold beekeeping classes with our members. While spring is half a year away, we have a lot to accomplish in this time. On a side note, we are also presenting *Introduction to Beekeeping* classes as part of the Pinellas County Parks and Conservation programs Brooker Creek Preserve.

We will schedule the following **Introduction to Beekeeping** classes as we form the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve Beekeepers group:

### **Session 1: Overview of Bees and Introduction to Honey Bees**

Introduction to Basics of Apiculture

Types of Bees

Races of Honey Bees

- Bee Biology
- Understanding the players in the hive, and how the hive operates as a collective with 50,000 individuals
- The Sting



### **Session 2: Getting Started in Beekeeping, the Basics of Apiculture**

Components of the Bee Hive

- Review of Equipment needed to Get Started
- Acquiring Honey Bees
- Typical hive throughout the year's changing seasons

### **Session 3: Hands-On Session - Assembling a Bee Hive**

Hands on session to assemble the components that make up a bee hive. This session is geared toward first time beekeepers who need basic instruction

### **Session 4: Keeping Your Hives Healthy**

We will take an in-depth look at the Maladies of Honey Bees and the Practices that Beekeepers employ to Prevent and Manage diseases and pests

We will Cover both Traditional and Organic Beekeeping Practices

# Venomous Snakes

By: Craig Huegel

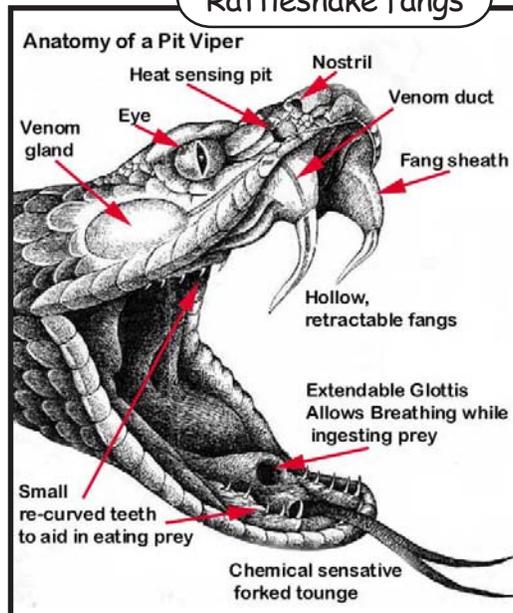
If venomous snakes were truly aggressive, you would hear about them far more than you do. In fact, the incidence of snakes biting people are quite rare considering how common they are and how many people live in Florida. There are upwards of 100 venomous snake bites annually in Florida, but the vast majority are the result of "human error"; nearly all bites are to males who have either been drinking and/or are showing off to someone else. The incidence of people being bitten while simply minding their business, hiking in the woods, is extremely small. For the most part, venomous snakes are not aggressive and have far better uses for their venom than biting someone they can't eat.

There are four species of venomous snakes in peninsular Florida and all are rather common in Brooker Creek Preserve. The pygmy and diamondback rattlesnake as well as the water moccasin are closely related and are known as "pit vipers" due to a heat-sensitive organ located in a pit on each side of their faces, below their eye. These specialized organs allow them to track their prey in the dark after they have bitten them. Pit vipers also have hollow fangs that are folded neatly inside their upper palette. When biting their prey, they unfold these fangs and pump venom from a small reservoir through the fangs into the wound. Venomous snakes, especially the adults, can regulate the amount of venom they release in a bite and tailor it to the size of their prey. There is no sense using more venom than is necessary to make a kill. As pit vipers are biting people only when they feel threatened, they rarely release a lot of venom. It is estimated pit vipers inject venom in only 60 percent of their human bites and that they only inject significant amounts in 20 percent.

Pit vipers all produce venom that harms people in a similar manner. Developed to kill prey and begin the digestion process outside the snake's body, the venom damages and destroys soft tissue, interfering with the body's ability to clot blood, breaking down muscle tissue, and in severe cases causing shock or a life-threatening allergic reaction. The bite of a pit viper that has released venom is almost immediately painful. It also is followed by immediate burning and swelling. As it is carried through the bloodstream, it causes muscle damage too. In severe cases, this damage is extensive and can be permanent. As most bites occur to limbs, damage is most severe to these parts and weakens as it proceeds towards the body trunk - thankfully.

The severity of the bite also varies somewhat by species. Large diamondback rattlesnakes are potentially the most dangerous, but random bites from them are rare. In most cases, these snakes advertise their presence and nervousness by rattling loudly. This sound carries effectively over some distance and allows you to stop and back away in order to diffuse the potentially dangerous situation. In all the years I have spent in the woods at Brooker Creek Preserve and elsewhere, I have only stumbled into this situation 2-3 times. I have to believe I have walked past hundreds that simply stayed out of sight, preferring to remain hidden.

Rattlesnake fangs



Because water moccasins are normally found in wetlands, they also pose a minimal risk to visitors walking the trails and boardwalks at Brooker Creek Preserve. In many places in the Deep South, however, water moccasins are the pit viper most responsible for bites to humans. Because they don't have a rattle to make noise with, water moccasins only can warn people by opening their mouth, exposing the bright white inner lining, and waving this

somewhat like a flag. If you are paying attention, this is a quite effective warning, but actually noticing this while trudging through a swamp is not always easy because your attention is distracted elsewhere.

Pygmy rattlesnakes have an extremely tiny rattle and the noise they generate is difficult to hear unless you are paying close attention and the woods are especially quiet. Thankfully, their small size also reduces the amount of venom they carry. To date, there have been no reported deaths due to the bite of a pygmy rattlesnake.

Many people seem to believe that snakebite equals death. This is not true. There also is a lot of misinformation about what to do if bitten. Medical experts no longer prescribe icing the bite or using a tourniquet and then cutting and sucking the venom out. The best thing to do is to remain calm (increased heart rates speed the venom more quickly through the bloodstream) and then seek medical treatment. The anti-venoms used today are highly effective as long as the person seeks care right away. There are no snakes native to Florida that kill in minutes and almost everyone is bitten within reach of emergency medical care.

The one exception to all this is the coral snake. Coral snakes are not pit vipers, but true vipers. Their fangs are arranged differently and their venom acts differently. Coral snake venom paralyzes the central nervous system and interferes with the body's ability to breathe. This nervous-system toxin works rather quickly to shut down a person's respiratory system and cause death. Thankfully, coral snake bite is extremely rare. Venom is not injected through hollow fangs, but delivered in the saliva after the snake has chewed a way in - usually the webbing between the fingers or toes. Coral snakes do not "strike" people, their bite almost always comes after continued contact such as when someone is handling one for extended periods.

Because coral snake bite is so rare, maintaining a stock of anti-venom is impractical (and expensive). Coral snake anti-venom is no longer being produced and very few hospitals still have a supply on hand. The take home message is: admire these beautiful animals from a distance and do not handle them!

Venomous snakes are an interesting part of the Preserve's fauna. They should be respected, not feared. Give them some space so they don't feel threatened and then admire them.

Water moccasin (Cottonmouth) snake, photo by Gail Parsons



Pygmy rattlesnake in nursery area of Nature Store, photo by Tom Trimmier



Coral snake, photo by Tom Trimmier



## Calling All Brooker Creek Preserve Friends & Volunteers!



### A Special Fall Hike at Four Lakes Hammock Just for YOU!

**Saturday, September 19, 2015, 9:00 am**

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

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

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



## PAINTING NATURE WORKSHOP WATERCOLOR FOR BEGINNERS

Brooker Creek Preserve  
Environmental Education Center

**October 2-4, 2015**

\$220 per person  
Ages 15 and up



Classes taught by Colombian artists:  
Emmanuel Laverde & Paula Andrea Romero  
[www.arteyconservacion.com](http://www.arteyconservacion.com)

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



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

This class is limited to 20 people.  
RSVP by Sep. 3, 2015

For more information and to register, please contact  
Claudia Lewis [clewis.consulting@gmail.com](mailto:clewis.consulting@gmail.com) or 727-542-3328

Friends  of Brooker Creek Preserve

Further information can be found at:  
[www.friendsofbrookercreekpreserve.org](http://www.friendsofbrookercreekpreserve.org)



# Fall Wildflower Festival

Brooker Creek Preserve

Saturday, October 17, 2015

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

***FREE! FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!***

## **EXHIBITS** - open all day

- **Butterfly Experience** — Be surrounded by butterflies! Enjoy a walk-through tent with over 250 live butterflies! Learn about their life cycle and enjoy their beauty *up close and personal!*
- **Honeybee Observation Hive** - on the classroom porch
- **Exhibit Hall & Nature Store**
- **Nature Crafts for Kids & Caterpillar Petting Zoo** - in the classroom

## **PRESENTATIONS in the Auditorium**

9:30 and 1:30: *Wildflower Photography* - Karl & Kathleen Nichter

10:30 and 12:30: *Landscaping with Wildflowers* - Dr. Craig Huegel

11:30: *Edible Plants - What You Can Eat, What to Avoid* - Katy Roberts

## **PRESENTATIONS in the Classroom**

10:30 and 1:00: *Life Cycle of the Butterfly* (for kids) - Cindy Peacock

## **PRESENTATIONS at the Picnic Shelter near the plant sale**

Every hour on the hour - *How to Care for Your Native Plants* - Pam Brown

## **Wildflowers for Sale!**

**Wildflower Quest!** (last hunt out at 3:00 pm)

**Naturalists on the Trails to Answer Questions!**

**Food Available! Come Rain or Shine!**



Sponsored by: Friends  of Brooker Creek Preserve

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

Event Location: **Brooker Creek Preserve**

3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs, FL 34688

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 ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. REGISTRATION NUMBER CH16077.



# Fall Wildflower Festival

Brooker Creek Preserve

Saturday, October 17, 2015

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:

\_\_\_\_\_

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

Friends  of Brooker Creek Preserve

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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 (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:**

Oct. 18, 2015 – In Search of the Catesby Lily – Located in the eastern part of the Preserve, we will search for the **threatened** Catesby Lily. In so doing, we will see a profusion of beautiful fall wildflowers in full bloom.

Jan. 17, 2016 - Swamp Amble – Located in the central part of the Preserve, this site features orchids, ferns, and epiphytes. The swamp should be dry this time of year, a treat for those who like adventure!

March 20, 2016 – 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 12, 2016 – Wildlands Walkabout – 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!

**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.

# SAVE-THE-DATE

*book talk with*

## Cynthia Barnett

*Author of Rain; Blue Revolution: Unmaking America's Water Crisis; and Mirage: Florida and the Vanishing Water of the Eastern U.S.*

*(at Brooker Creek Preserve)*

October

20<sup>th</sup>

*lunch-time*

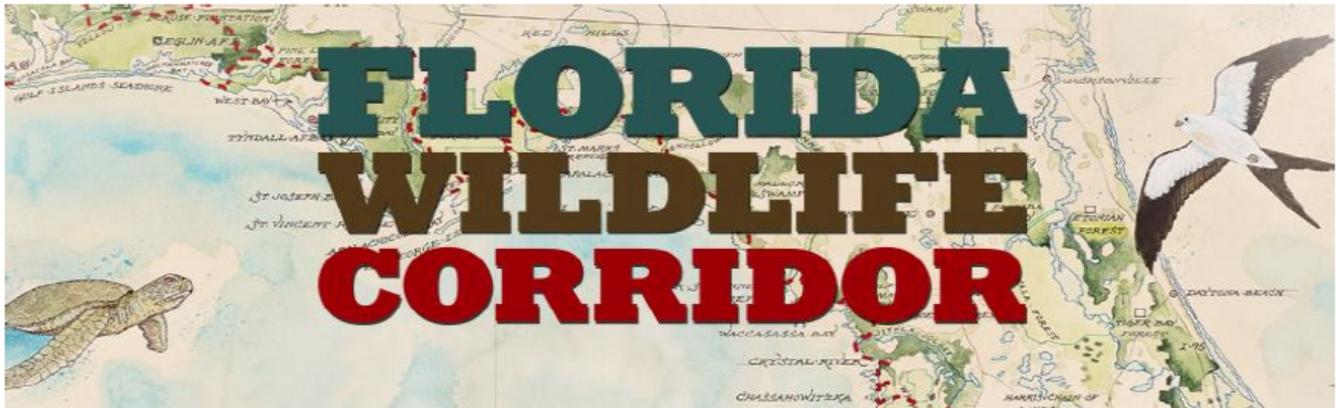


Flooded boardwalk at Brooker Creek, photo by Barb Hoffman.



You are cordially invited to a  
*Dessert Reception*

to hear about the latest amazing expedition along the



**Thursday, October 22, 2015**  
**7:00 - 9:00 pm**

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

Enjoy coffee, lemonade, delicious desserts,  
and an awe-inspiring one-hour presentation by  
**Mallory Lykes Dimmitt**  
**Co-leader of the Expedition and Executive Director**

**Expedition photos, books, and more**  
**will be available for purchase.**

**This event is free - donations appreciated!**



Friends of  
Brooker Creek Preserve

**UF** | IFAS Extension  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



**For questions or more information:**  
**fobcp@tampabay.rr.com or (727)934-2680**



# Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve

Join the Friends on a special field trip to

## **Brooker Creek Headwaters Nature Preserve**

a SWFWMD property located between  
Lutz-Lake Fern Road & Van Dyke Road in Hillsborough County

**Sunday, November 15, 2015**

**9:00 am - 1:00 pm**

**Hike Leader: Dr. Craig Huegel**

**\$15 Donation per person requested**

Public ownership of this 1,111 acre preserve ensures protection of important wildlife habitat and wetlands. The site serves as the headwaters of the Brooker Creek system. The property includes a mosaic of forested swamps, floodplains and low-lying uplands. The uplands include pine flatwoods, xeric oak hammocks, mixed hardwood, and pine prairies. We will hike together along some very interesting trails and see where Brooker Creek begins!

For more information about the site, go to:

<http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/recreation/areas/brookercreekheadwaters.html>

Questions and to RSVP: [fobcp@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:fobcp@tampabay.rr.com) or 727-934-2680

### **Nature Store News** by Kathleen Nichter

October starts the fifth year of operation for the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve Nature Store. Our original, and continuing, mission is to provide Brooker Creek Preserve related items to visitors as mementos of their visit, and also provide products to enhance their experience such as field guides, nature books for adults and children, and hiking supplies.

In August, the Nature Store Committee met. This committee of five people volunteers their time to seek out and present ideas for improving the store, and find items for inclusion in the store. Discussions about whether or not an item represents Brooker Creek Preserve can be lively, but always friendly and informative. One of the often asked comments is "Is this Brooker Creek or just Gift Shop"? We want you to think of the store a great place to purchase unique gifts, so we focus on items that represent the Preserve.

Our clay pendants and dishes, hand-crafted walking sticks, paper bead jewelry sets, fiber craft bird ornaments, photography, and other custom items are made by local artists who also volunteer at the Preserve. The toys and books we carry relate to the animals and ecosystems found in the Preserve. Not many shops carry a stuffed tortoise or opossum, but they are part of our nature and have a place in the store. Recently several of our stuffed animals went to a "photo shoot" for inclusion on our website. Who could resist these two? (Thank you to Karl Nichter for the photography.)



## Brooker Creek Preserve Book Club by John Burr



Saturday August 1st we met to discuss the novel "Deep Shadow" by Florida author Randy Wayne White. Everyone found something to like about the book. Some intended to read more books by this author. It was one of a series of Doc Ford books that, even using characters from previous novels, still stood alone. While this genre may not have been to everyone's taste, I think all managed to read it right through (not always necessarily the case).

Next we get a crack at Jeff Klinkenburg's "Alligators in B Flat." Jeff is a well known author and has had many, many articles published in the now Tampa Bay then St. Petersburg Times. We meet at the Ed Center at 9:30am: next meeting Saturday, September 5th.

Coming up -ta-dah—we finish our trip through "Tales of Old Florida" (eds. Frank Oppel and Tony Melsel) Chapters 28 through 40. Much of this was published in the late 1800's early 1900's. Too much attention was paid to Tarpon fishing back then but the style while "quaint" (scare quotes or maybe now called "code for") doesn't take away from the amount of information and sense of how things were then. "Tales of Old Florida" will be discussed (round table discussions) Saturday, October 3rd.

The books coming up are "Back Country Lawmen" by Bob H. Lee (Nov 7) and "Home Grown in Florida" by William McKeen (Dec 5). Please join us. We not only share our thoughts about the book but end up hiking the many varied paths that lead into the wilderness of the life of the mind (whew).

### Book Club Reads for 2015

- Sep 5: "Alligators in B Flat" by Jeff Klinkenburg
- Oct 3: "Tales of Old Florida" by Frank Oppel & Tony Melsel (Chapters 28-40)
- Nov 7: "Back Country Lawmen" by Bob H. Lee
- Dec 5: "Home Grown in Florida" by William Mcheen, ed.

### Calling Volunteers and Friends!

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

### Amazon Smile -- Did You Know?

Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve Inc whenever you shop on AmazonSmile. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service. Support Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve by shopping at: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/59-3302182>

## News from the Wildflower Garden

by Pam Brown

I was glad to see that the Wildflower Garden did not suffer from the flooding in the Preserve the end of July and beginning of August. There is a profusion of partridge pea, tickseed, rosinweed and black-eyed Susan in bloom. Lots of yellow! The volunteers did not meet in July to work in the garden due to the heavy rain on the 25<sup>th</sup>. We have some new plants to put in the garden for the August 29<sup>th</sup> meeting, and our workday in September is especially important since it is the last chance to get the garden ready for the annual Wildflower Festival on October 17<sup>th</sup>. 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. Bring your gardening tools, gloves, hat and bug repellent and wear closed toed shoes. We will provide coffee, juice and breakfast snacks.



Preserve flooding into yard (left) and water up to top of retaining wall (right) on Aug.3

## Pam's Gardening Tip

If your landscape flooded as a result of the 20 plus inches of rain at the end of July/beginning of August, you might have landscape plants that are suffering from too much water. Plants need water and roots need oxygen to remain healthy. However, when the soil becomes saturated or flooded from near constant rain over an extended period, air spaces in the soil are kept filled with water. This deprives the roots of the oxygen they need. In saturated soils, roots can stop functioning properly and could even die or rot. Even though the soil is filled with water, the roots cannot absorb it. So, the plants wilt and appear to need water.

Some symptoms that you might see with plants suffering from excessive water stress can include: leaves curling and drooping downward; browning or early fall color of leaves; leaves falling from the plant; reduced size of new leaves; and even gradual decline and death. I would take a wait and see attitude with these plants. Perhaps they will recover once the soil dries out a bit.

Many Florida native plants have evolved with periods of drought and heavy rains or flooding. They are then better able to withstand periodic flooding and still thrive. My backyard floods with water coming from the Preserve nearly every summer at some point with the area remaining underwater for about a week. I have replaced most of the plants in the backyard with natives that will withstand this flooding. Some of my favorites are Yaupon holly, Firebush, Wild coffee, Simpson's stopper, Yellow anise, and Saw palmetto. My large Live oak does not mind the flood either.



## Volunteer News and More!

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



### Lara's Wildlife webinar:

Our Lara has teamed up with Polk County's Natural Resources Agent to bring you a monthly Wildlife Webinar! Wildlife Wednesday Webinars will dispel myths and answer questions about native and invasive wildlife in Florida. It will be held on the third Wednesday of every month now through December from 12:15 to 1:00pm. To register go to: [polknr.eventbrite.com](http://polknr.eventbrite.com)

### Summer Hike Guides:

We want to give a huge thank you to the Summer Hike guides! You are all amazing and we appreciate your efforts to share & explore the preserve with others this summer. Regardless of how very hot, rainy, bright, or mosquito filled the trails are, you show up every Saturday morning with smiles ready to go! Our hikes receive outstanding feedback week after week. Thank you Garry & Sheree Scheuer, Barb Hoffman & Bob Burkard, Jerry Frensley & Shelley Wallek, Mark & Nancy Yeager, Bill & Gail Beardsley, and Joel Johnson.



Thank you Barb for your wonderful program on the History of the Preserve, we learned a lot!



### Why Snakes are Cool, 7/25:

Thank you Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve for sponsoring the wonderful snake program this summer with George Heinrich. This was our biggest program of the year! It completely sold out with 200 of 200 tickets registered. The morning of the program was one of our rainiest days here, the boardwalk from the parking lot to the Ed center had ankle high water and 120 people still came! All the guests thoroughly enjoyed the presentation and holding snakes. For more than half of them, it was their first time visiting Brooker Creek, what a success!

(Volunteer News, continued)



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

Our first Kid's Nature Discovery Day was a success. Thank you to the all the volunteers that made it possible! With 5 learning stations, the kids really enjoyed learning about nature. We can't wait to make it better for next summer!



Herpetology Summer Camp 7/20-24



**BROOKER CREEK PRESERVE**

*Cool calendar for your refrigerator!*

**SEPTEMBER 2015**

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
3 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15	4	5 Guided Hike 9-10:30 <i>(Ecosystems)</i> Book Club 9:30-10:30 Plant/Animal Identification 10:30-12	6
10 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15	11	12 Beginning Bird Hike 8-10:30 Birds of Prey 10:30-12	13
17 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15	18 Guided Hike 9-11 <i>(Wildlife)</i>	19 Guided Hike 9-10:30 <i>(Footprints on the Land)</i> Four Lakes Hammock Hike 9=11 Invasive Plants 10:30-12	20
24 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15	25 Guided Hike 9-11 <i>(Woodland Discoveries)</i>	26 Wildflower Garden Club 8-10 Return the Preserve Work Day 8-11 Photography Hike 8:30-10:30 Guided Hike 9-10:30 <i>(Our Wildest Place)</i> Tampa Bay Estuary 10:30-12	27

**OCTOBER 2015**

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15	2 Guided Hike 9-10:30 <i>(Woods Walk)</i>	3 Guided Hike 9-10:30 <i>(Ecosystems)</i> Book Club 9:30-10:30 Turtles in the Diet of Raptors 10:30-12 ***** 3-Day Watercolor Workshop (\$220/person) ***** 3-7 pm 9am-3pm	4 ***** 9am-3pm
8 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15	9 Guided Hike 9-11:30 <i>(Botany)</i>	10 Beginning Bird Hike 9-10:30	11
15 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15	16 Guided Hike 9-10:30 <i>(Wildlife)</i>	17 Guided Hike 9-10:30 <i>(Footprints on the Land)</i> Fall Wildflower Festival 9-4	18 Off the Beaten Path Hike 9-1 (\$25/person)
20 <b>(TUES)</b> Examining Our Water Crisis 11:30-1pm	22 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15 FL Wildlife Corridor Expedition 7-9pm	23 Guided Hike 9-10:30 <i>(Woodland Discoveries)</i>	24 Guided Hike 9-10:30 <i>(Our Wildest Place)</i>
29 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15	30	31 Wildflower Garden Club 8-10 Return the Preserve Work Day 8-11 Photography Hike 8:30-10:30 WP Guided Hike 9-10:30 <i>(Our Wildest Place)</i> Night Hike 7-9 (\$3/person)	25

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

**Directors**

Director Emeritus: Ken Rowe  
Beekeeper: Robert Burkard  
Fall Wildflower Festival Chair: Cathie Foster  
Financial Advisor: Bob Host  
Grants: Allyn Childress  
Land Use Chair: Dr. Craig Huegel  
Music in the Woods - Jane Myers  
Newsletter Editor: Dr. Craig Huegel  
Night Hikes: Mark Yeager  
Past Chairman: Walt Hoskins  
Publicity Chair: Barbara Schultz  
Restoration of Loop Area: Len Gravitz  
Return the Preserve Work Days:  
Evan Earle, Jr.  
Wildflower Garden: Pam Brown  
Wildlife Safari Chair: Brad Wilkins

**Further Leadership**

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

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

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