

Newsletter of the
Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve

November - December 2014

Chairman's Message

By Barbara Hoffman

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US! 20 YEARS OLD AND GOING STRONG!

I sure hope you can attend our Birthday Bash Saturday, November 8. This is a Preserve Celebration for you - the Friends, staff, and volunteers of the Preserve. We have put together a really interesting program about the Ed Center and Preserve, plus there will be a barbeque, live music, silent auction, presents, a few surprises, and birthday cake - wow - all for you! Please come!

We have received some wonderful birthday presents this year:

- A golf cart from Tarpon Springs and East Lake Sunrise Rotary Clubs
- A set of beautiful, historical Brooker Creek prints from members Evan & Ruth Earle to hang in the auditorium
- Reconfiguration of the south end of the Wilderness Trail
- Beautiful weather for the very successful Wildflower Festival
- Beautiful weather for our very successful Wildlife Safari
- A very long and comprehensive list of Preserve needs created by all of us
- Night hikes, accompanied by blinking fireflies and howling coyotes
- The promise of more controlled burns in the Preserve
- The Iron Ranger
- A very nice profit through the Nature Store
- The very conspicuous absence of grape vines in and around the main parking lot

Chairman's Message

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- A myriad of blooms in the Wildflower Garden
- The possibility of beekeeping and Brooker Creek honey

Many of the items above were truly gifts, but others resulted from the hard work and dedication of numerous board members and
(Chairman's Message, continued page 2)

(Chairman's Message, continued)
volunteers. Many thanks to everyone who came out to volunteer and support our events. We are ever so grateful for the time and energy expended in support of our beautiful Preserve.

Barb

ANCA Summit, Aug. 20-24

Chairman, Barb Hoffman, enjoyed spending four days in Kalamazoo, Michigan as part of the Association of Nature Center Administrators Summit, August 20-23 in Kalamazoo, Michigan. "I come home with so many great ideas to make Brooker Creek Preserve even better." she said. Each year, the chairman of the Friends attends the summit to mix and mingle with other nature center folks and take classes on a variety of topics. Barb also enjoyed hiking in the open prairie of central Michigan, "absolutely alive with color and sound" she said.

Barb Hoffman at the ANCA Summit



Goodbye to Laurie Angyn

We say goodbye to Laurie Angyn after (1) two years serving on the Friends Board of Directors, (2) three years organizing the Fall Wildflower Festival, and (3) two years organizing and leading the discussion for the Friends Book Club. Laurie's "real" job is demanding more of her time and she can no longer spend the many hours in these volunteer capacities. You will still see Laurie behind the front desk at the Preserve on the 5th Saturdays. We will miss her business sense when it comes to Board decisions and, of course, her sweet, sweet smile. Thank you for all you have done, Laurie, we will miss you!

Many thanks to Friends member, Jeff Myers, for volunteering to be our new Membership Chair! Thank you so much, Jeff! We need you!

Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve New Members:

- Nancy Bickne
- Christina & Bross Davy
- Kevin & Mary Ann Doty
- James Gary
- Carol Krause
- Jackie Labus
- Barbara Latvin
- Jim & Gail McNulty
- Sean Tennant,
- Cathy Walters & Mike Mellak

Please come!

2014 BIRTHDAY BASH!

A Triple Birthday Celebration!

Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center - 10 years old

Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve - 20 years old

University of Florida IFAS Extension Service - 100 years old

Saturday, November 8, 2014

Brooker Creek Preserve Auditorium

10:00 am - 12:00 noon

Welcome by Commissioner Susan Latvala

How the Preserve Came About by Jake Stowers, Asst. County Administrator, retired

Design of the Education Center, by Ed Center architect, Eddie Hoffman

The Challenges of Building in the Preserve by Ed Center builder, Josh Bomstein

The Importance of the Preserve by Dr. Craig Huegel, wildlife ecologist

Volunteer Appreciation, Milestone Awards, Friends Annual Meeting

12:00 Barbeque Outside in the Tent

Ribs & chicken with all the fixin's, vegetarian options, too!

Music by *Crystal Beach String Band*,

Birthday cake, silent auction, presents for everyone, tons of fun!

This event is exclusively for YOU—Brooker Creek Preserve

Volunteers, Friends Members, Staff, & Special Guests

Please come and celebrate the Preserve!

Questions? fobcp@tampabay.rr.com or 727-934-2680



Many thanks to our birthday sponsors!

CREATIVE CONTRACTORS, INC.

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METAL INDUSTRIES FOUNDATION

RADIOLOGY ASSOCIATES OF TARPON SPRINGS,

DOUG EILAND, M.D.



Visit the Friends Nature Store for your one-stop Christmas shopping! The store has gifts for children and adults, and your purchases support Brooker Creek Preserve. Consider giving a membership as a gift along with a little something from the store. What a great way to say you care about the Preserve!

Save the Dates Friends Events for 2014

First Saturday each month: Book Club
Last Sat. each month: Wildflower Garden Club

Nov. 8	Friends Birthday Bash!
Nov. 15	Return the Preserve Work Day
Nov. 22	Bird Bash with Audubon
Dec. 6	Natural Wreath & Ornament Making Class
Dec. 7	Off the Beaten Path Hike
Dec. 13	Return the Preserve Work Day

Many thanks to Jon Burr and Kathleen Nichter for taking over leadership of the Friends Book Club! Great books are planned for 2015 (see page 11). Please join them the first Saturday of each month, 9:30-10:30. Bring your own coffee!



Wreath-Making Workshop Using Natural Materials

Saturday, December 6
10:00 am—12:00 noon

Music Pavillion
Brooker Creek Preserve
Environmental Education Center
All ages welcome!



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

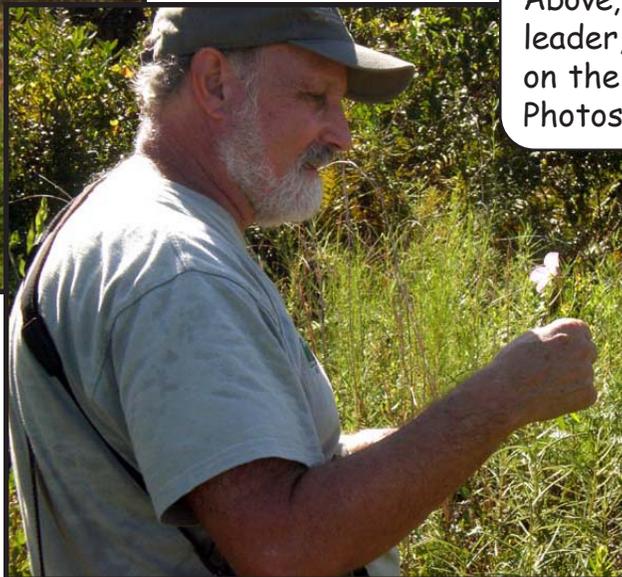
\$10 members
\$15 non-members

RSVP by emailing fobcp@tampabay.rr.com or by calling 727-934-2680. The class caps at 20.

Sponsored by: Friends  of Brooker Creek Preserve

Off the Beaten Path In Search of the Catesby Lily (September 14, 2014)

Fourteen adventurous folks joined Dr. Craig Huegel for the fundraiser Off the Beaten Path hike, "In Search of the Catesby Lily". They lucked out because they found four, along with a huge array of other wildflowers blooming in the Preserve. As usual, Craig not only provided us with an amazing amount of natural history, but also walked our shoes off, as noted by the hand-held sole of one hiker Mark Spiegel (below)!



Above, the Catesby Lily. Left, hike leader, Craig Huegel, expounding on the virtues of all things wild. Photos by Monika Hille

**Paint & Photo Brooker Creek Preserve
--A Plein Air Event
(October 9-11, 2014)**

Brooker Creek Preserve was saturated with 43 painters and photographers over a three-day period from October 9 through October 11. A plein air painting is done on location, capturing the atmosphere of the moment. The painting must be completed on site with no work done in the studio. It is the artists' reactions to the scene before them, with adrenalin pumping, and knowing that time and the light are constantly moving. The intent is to capture nature and its effect on the artist as truly as possible.

The artists were delighted with the paintable and photographic possibilities the Preserve provided. We congratulate all the artists, and sincerely thank them for participating in this outdoor adventure!



PAINTERS

JOHN BAYALIS	FRANK HIPP
MARGARET BAYALIS	BESS KING
VALERIE BRANDAU	LYNN KOPALA
BILL CASTLEMAN	PHILIP KRIER
PHOEBE CHIDESTER	JANE LAWSON
MICHELLE COLBURN	SUSAN MCCUBBIN
DAVID DEL TORO	CATHY MORGAN
KATHY DETRANO	SHERRY ORR
CATHY DEVINE	MINDY PAIGHT
FRANCINE DITTON	HEATHER RISLEY
RUDY DRAPIZA	LORI SCHAFFERT
CHRISTINE ECKERFIELD	JIM THRONE
TERRI GONZALEZ	LYNNETTE VAUGHAN
GAIL GREENE	WALTER (BUD) WEAVER
PATRICIA HADDAD	SUSAN WEWERS
RHONDA HANCOCK	JANA WITHERS
JUNE HARBEN	JANICE WOJCIK

PHOTOGRAPHERS

ROBERT COSSACK	ERICKA HEMPHILL
MARK DOBRZENIECKI	JACQUELINE LINDBERG
BRITTANY FIRNS	LEROY SCHREINER
LISA FITCH	LINDA STUMP
TRISH GREGORY	

PATRONS

**HOFFMAN ARCHITECTS, PA
LEEPA RATTNER MUSEUM OF ART**

SPONSORS

**JUDY FALLON, MARKETING BY DESIGN
GFWC WOMAN'S CLUB
OF TARPON SPRINGS, INC.**

**JAY SAENGER,
GEORGETOWN SHIRT COMPANY
NICHTER PHOTOGRAPHY
JULIE WADE
ANONYMOUS**

FRIEND OF THE ARTS

**MIKE NASH
PUBLIX SUPER MARKETS
WALMART STORE NO. 3415**

(A Plein Air Event, continued)

Thank you to the **Leepa Rattner Museum of Art** for providing a beautiful welcoming reception. A heart-felt thank you to **Judy Fallon** for her creative graphic work, to **Bess King** for all her help and insight as well as managing our "wet paint" area, to **Cathie Foster** for her organization, and to **Leah Slavensky** for her creative and bountiful reception table.



**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
PAINT & PHOTO
BROOKER CREEK PRESERVE
WINNERS!**

PHOTOGRAPHY

- Best of Show**
Mark Dobrzeniecki
- 2nd Place**
Ericka Hemphill
- 3rd Place**
Trish Gregory
- Honorable Mention**
Brittany Firns
Leroy Schreiner
Linda Stump

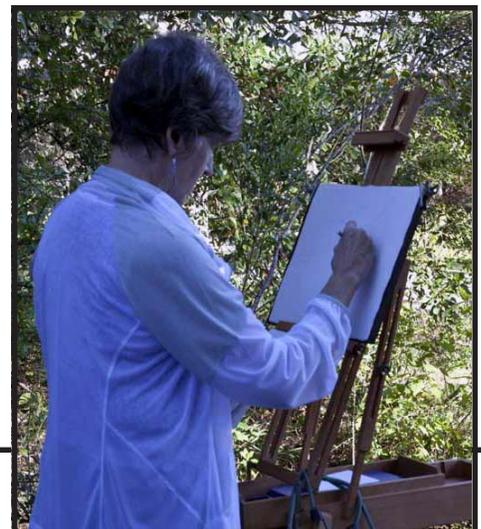
PAINTING

- Best of Show**
David Del Toro
- 2nd Place**
Frank Hipp
- 3rd Place**
Margaret Bayalis
- Honorable Mention**
John Bayalis
Cathy Devine
Phil Krier
Sherry Orr
Jana Withers

Judges

The judge for the Painting portion of our event was **Joseph Weinzettle**. Joseph includes drawing, painting, and collage in his list of media. He often works in plein air. Joseph has a BFA from Cooper Union and a MFA from the University of Mississippi. He has received three Puffin Foundation grants as a result of his studies in West Africa and was awarded a Pollack Krasner Foundation Grant to further his study and experimentation with traditional drawing materials. Joseph teaches drawing at the Pasco Arts Center and Dunedin Fine Arts Center.

The judge for the Photography portion of the exhibit was **David Wright**. David has worked as a professional photographer for more than 15 years and operates Photos by J. David. He is very familiar with photographing the local flora and fauna as well as more formal situations. David gives greatly of his time to non-profits.



Tarpon Springs

P.O. Box 1177

Art Association

Tarpon Springs, FL

Event Organizers



Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve

3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs, FL 34688

Wildflower Festival 2014 (October 18, 2014)

Because of the effort, time and caring of our amazing volunteers, at least 699 guests enjoyed a delightful event on Saturday, October 18 at the preserve. The fabulous events at the preserve would not be possible without the help and support of volunteers! Thank you!

New this year, were the hourly 'Plant Talks' adjacent to the Native Plant Sale. Talks were held on the hour throughout the day to include demonstrations on how to plan that plant. Thank you, Pam and Katy!

The Native Plant Sale was huge this year. Lisa and Barb and a crew of assistants were busy all day long. Nice Work!

Over fifty guests guests enjoyed a variety of presentations in the auditorium to include wildflower photography, wildflowers of Pinellas and edible plants. Thank you, Karl and Kathleen, Dr. Craig Huegel and Katy Roberts.

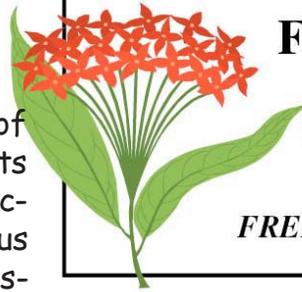
The ButterflyWorkx tent housed over 300 butterflies and was packed all day long.

The Wildflower Quest was not only enjoyed by our young visitors - I saw quite a few adults on the trails filling in the guide. Thank you, Jerry and Carson!

Nature Crafts for Kids and the Caterpillar Petting Zoo was a huge hit this year. Held in the class room, Cindy Peacock and her team of amazing assistants had stations set up for the youngest visits to color or make bugs, butterflies and a small wildflower planter. Cindy also put on two 15 minute presentations for kids.

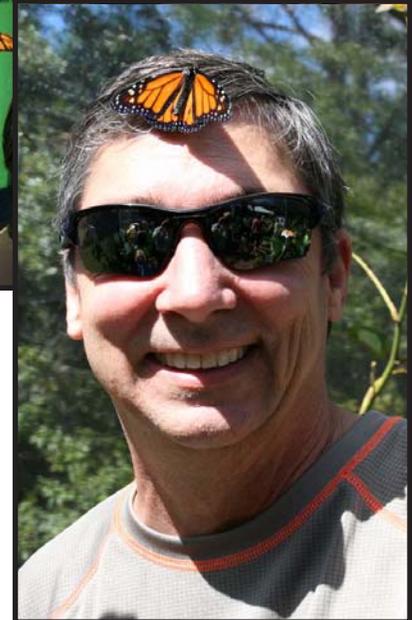
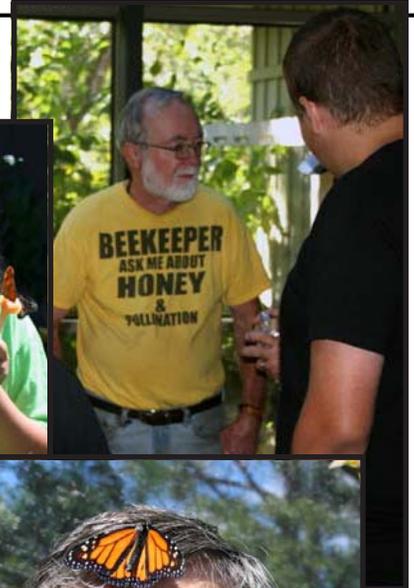
This year we had the Observation Beehive and it was busy all day long.

Big thanks to Nancy and Mark and Julie - our roaming naturalists on the trails - helping guide the Wildflower Questers.



Fall Wildflower Festival Brooker Creek Preserve Saturday, October 18, 2014 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

FREE! FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!





(Fall Wildflower Festival, continued)

We had no parking problems at all thanks to Greg Reich and Lou Peterson.

Each guest was greeted by the best greeters in north Pinellas! Thank you, Bob, Jan, Barb, Ron, Dave, Vicki and Lanny.

Indispensable to events like this are those who say - put me where you need me. Our floaters - Evan, Marion, Cathie, Mary Ann, Mary Jasmine, Kristin, Daniel and Andrew were great.

Over 230 hours were devoted in ONE DAY to make the festival happen. Thank you all!



Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve

**Fall Wildflower Festival
Brooker Creek Preserve
Saturday, October 18, 2014**

MANY THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!

APG

Barry & Cathie

Council of North County Neighborhoods

Creative Contractors, Inc.

Evan Earle, Jr. and Marion Yongue

Flagship Community Bank

Garden Club of Tarpon Springs

Hoffman Architects, PA

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Morrow Family

Nichter Photography

Palm Harbor Garden Club

Pampered Gardeners, LLC

Chuck & Kim Parsons

Louis Petersen

Pinellas Chapter, Florida Native Plant Society

Radiology Associates of Tarpon Springs, Doug Eiland, MD

Waddell & Reed Financial Advisors

Julie Wade

Lois Weber

Anonymous (2)



Return the Preserve Work Day

By Evan Earle Jr.

One for the money,
Two to show.

Three to Get Ready

And in September there were three of us and we were READY! Ready to tackle more grapevines, more smilax, more invasives. We have shifted our sights to the "islands" within the parking area. At first glance, you might think they are not in need of attention, but your Return The Preserve Work Day volunteers can assure you that there are indeed vines to be removed.

Our September RTP Work Day took place on Saturday, Sept. 6th. Renie Ward, Marion Yongue, and I tackled two of the islands of oak trees in the parking lot. And while there were only three musketeers on this day, we still put a hurtin' on those grape vines. Just check out the pile of debris we had by the end of our project. Renie was a lean, mean, vine removing machine. Marion was, like his beloved USF Bulls, unstoppable. Me? I was just happy to try and keep up with those two. In the end, we were tired, we were hot, we were pretty dirty (definitely candidates for a laundry detergent commercial). But we were also very happy because the before and after on our work speaks volumes. The trees not only look healthier, they look happier.

And Four To Go

And go we did! In October, our Return The Preserve Work Day took place on Saturday, October 25th and we had four brave musketeers this time around. The weather was absolutely beautiful and made for a great morning. Barbara Hoffman, Louis Petersen, Marion Yongue, and I continued tackling (and in some cases that is meant literally) the grape vines, smilax, and other overgrowth in the parking lot. We cleaned out two islands on this day. And by the end of our work day, I would have sworn those islands were Caladesi or Anclote! Once again, we pulled, we chopped, we pulled some more. At this point, we have vine removal team work down to a science. Should you ever be walking through the parking lot and hear "One, Two, Three! Pull! YAY!" Well, that's us. That's our mantra when it comes to really big, really stubborn vines. Lou was a trooper. His help (especially with those really big, really stubborn vines) is just tremendous. All of you know Barbara and how she tackles projects. I don't know that Barb has a bad side, but if I'm an overgrown grapevine, I don't ever want to be on it. Marion deserves the RTP Trooper award. Because he is certainly a trooper and has supported all of our RTP Work Days with enthusiasm. I can't thank him enough.

Our Return The Preserve Work Day is just one of the many fun (did I just call this "fun"?) opportunities available to everyone looking to get involved at Brooker Creek Preserve and with the



Our next Return The Preserve Work Days are:

Saturday 11/15

Saturday 12/13



Above, Evan with the massive smilax root cluster the team removed. The smilax almost won that contest!



(Return the Preserve Work Day, continued)

Friends Of Brooker Creek Preserve. They are truly a team effort. And whether it's a big team or a small team, the contribution of time, energy, and hard work is huge! To those who participated in September and October, and to everyone who has participated this year, thank you for making a difference. October was our ninth RTP Work Day in 2014! Step by

step, we are helping to restore Brooker Creek Preserve to its natural beauty.

Our next two RTP Work Days are planned for: Saturday, November 15th We will be gobbling up grape vines for Thanksgiving.

Saturday, December 13th "Grape vine pull. Grape vine pull. Grape vines go away." We'll be singing that to the tune of Jingle Bells. Not! Big and small, short and tall. We invite everyone to join us.

Hello from the Brooker Bookers!

by Laurie Angyn

Over the course of the year we have discussed novels, biographies and non-fiction works about the realms of space, the earth's atmosphere, and our oceans. For the last quarter of the year, our subject is geology. The remaining selections for 2014 are:

November 1: "Surviving Galeras" by Stanley Williams and Fen Montaigne

December 6: "Florida's Geological Treasures" by Iris Tracey Comfort

Our discussions are always enjoyable and sometimes we even talk about the books! Look for the next years book in the next 4 to 6 weeks.



Tentative Book Club Reads for 2015

Co-leaders: Jon Burr & Kathleen Nichter

Jan 3: "A Trip to Florida for Health and Sport" by Cyrus Parkhurst

Feb 7: "Weeki Wachee Mermaids: Thirty Years of Underwater Photography" by Lu Vickers, Bonnie Georgiadis

Mar 7: "Walkin Lawton" by John Dos Passos Coggin

Apr 4: "Tales of Old Florida" by Frank Oppel, Tony Melsel (Chapters 1-13)

May 2: "The Trouble with Panthers" by William Cuyler Hall

Jun 6: "Florida's Big Dig: The Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway" by William Crawford

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

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

Aug 1: "Deep Shadow" by Randy Wayne White

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

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

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

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

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 - only two left:

Dec. 7 - Interior Wildlands - **Sorry, this hike is FULL!** 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!

March 8, 2015 - 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.

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.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US!



Brooker Creek Preserve
Environmental Education Center
10 years!



Friends  of Brooker Creek Preserve - **20 years!**

News from the Wildflower Garden

by Pam Brown

The garden put on a good show of blooms for our annual Wildflower Festival. Fall is such a lovely time for wildflowers in Florida. At our meeting of the Wildflower Garden Club in October we had a good group of volunteers. We planted some of the flowers left from the Festival plant sale - Yellow Top and Blazing Star. We also planted the seedlings that we grew from some of the seeds from the garden last year behind the windows of the Education Center. Hopefully they will mature and provide some blooms in this area next season.

November starts our winter hours for working in the Wildflower Garden. We will meet from 9 - 11 a.m. through April on the last Saturday of each month except December. Please plan to join us and bring gardening tools, gloves, hat and bug repellent. We will provide coffee, juice and snacks.

Pam's Gardening Tip

Fall is a good time to plant in Florida as long as ample water is provided to establish what you plant. I am very fond of planting native shrubs because they are usually of value to pollinators and wildlife. If you need a large, dense, evergreen shrub, Marlberry (*Ardisia escallonioides*) is a great choice. It grows well in acid or alkaline pH soils in part shade to full sun. It does prefer well drained soil and is drought tolerant once established. Marlberry matures to about fifteen feet tall and eight feet wide. The intermittent white blooms attract pollinators and butterflies and are followed by small red-purple fruit favored by birds. This plant takes pruning well and can be growing into a nice hedge or screen.



Marlberry



The Nature Store nursery has for sale four six-foot, beautiful, live slash pines in pots that you can decorate and use for a green, sustainable living Christmas tree! At only \$30, these trees are a bargain, and can be planted in your yard after the holidays.

Nature Store News

By: Kathleen Nichter

The Nature Store completed its third year of operations on September 30. In three years, we have grown from a few items in the lobby, to filling the retail space left by the prior for-profit stores. This past year our sales exceeded \$15,000, a 24% increase over last year. We will be turning over income of over \$6,000 to the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve to support programs at Brooker Creek Preserve. In addition, we have donated over \$200 worth of store inventory as thank you gifts for presenters, souvenirs for teachers who participated in teacher training, silent auctions, etc.

We have a group of very devoted volunteers who staff the store, help the customers, stock shelves, and pretty much anything else that needs to be done. Thank you so much to those volunteers for their time and dedication, and thank you to all of you who support the Nature Store.

Volunteer News and More!

By Lara Miller
Natural Resource Agent
Pinellas County Extension
University of Florida/IFAS



James' Advanced Plant ID is BACK! Only . . .

it's at Weedon Island this time ;-)

This 6-part plant identification series will introduce participants to the basics and not-so-basic steps required to positively identify plants. \$30 price for this series will cover the cost of a notebook and a copy of How to Identify Plants by H.D. Harrington which participants will keep. In each 2-hour session, participants will have lecture, hands-on and field experiences. Each session will build on the previous; attending the entire series is recommended. The six classes, beginning Feb. 14, 2015, will be 10:00 am to noon: Feb. 14 and 28, Mar. 14 and 28, and Apr. 11 and 25.

Upon completion of the entire course, participants will receive a Certificate of Completion from the University of Florida. Registration is available online at: <http://bit.ly/AdvancedPlantID>

4-H Brooker Creek Explorers Give Thanks!

The 4-H Brooker Creek Explorers are in search of new club members (ages 5-18) and fundraising opportunities and the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve made this possible. The Explorers set up a table at the Wildflower Festival where the kids promoted their club and also had handmade bracelets and bookmarks available in turn for a donation. Thanks to the generous support of many Wildflower Festival attendees, the club raised \$216.06! The Explorers will be meeting in November to determine exactly how the money will be spent, but I have a feeling another camping adventure at Brooker is on the top of the list ;-)



(Volunteer News, continued)

Birds of Prey Program Needs Your Help!

Thanks to the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey's successful grant submission to Duke Energy, they are bringing their program to Brooker! On Saturday, November 22, the Audubon group will present a fun and interactive program with live birds. Participants will learn how birds of prey interact with the environment and how water, energy and habitat conservation affects them, **but they cannot do it without your help.** They are looking for volunteers to assist with the various stations they will have set up for the program. If you are interested in assisting with this, please contact Lara ASAP at lara317@ufl.edu. THANK YOU!

Thank You for another GREAT Year!

In 2014, our volunteers contributed 6,651 hours, which is an equivalent of \$141,267.24 of service to this community! On top of that we had 20,577 visitors in the Education Center and we offered a total of 177 educational programs reaching 7,140 people! You all are FANTASTIC! Keep up the AWESOME work.

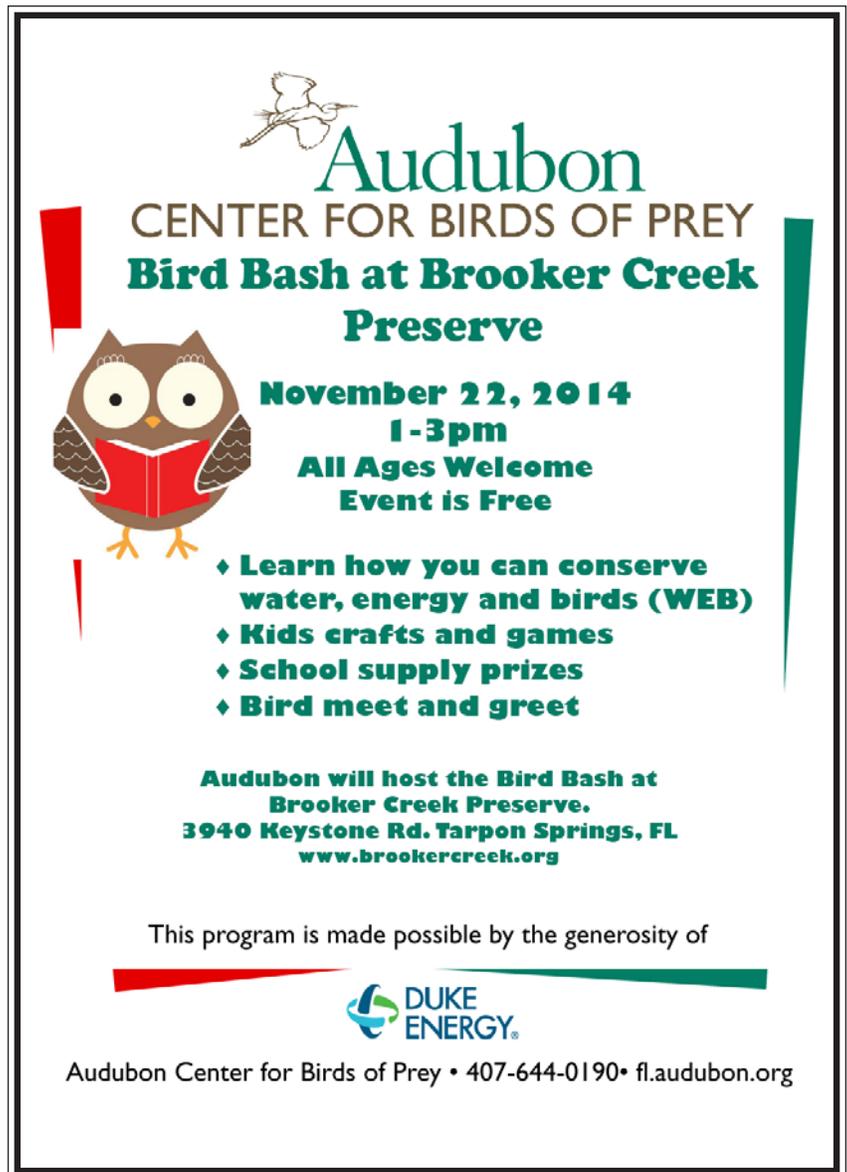
We would also like to see how these programs have impacted you. If you attended a program in 2014, please consider completing this survey to assess our success and help us develop programs for the future. To take the survey, go to https://jfe.qualtrics.com/form/SV_4VH9mIvRE4wX8kB

Looking Ahead to 2015

Make sure to take a look at all of the programs we already have scheduled for 2015. We are offering two programs every Saturday from January through April! This is our prime season and there is no better way to increase our numbers than to offer more programs. And, if you haven't already, remember to "Like" us on facebook at www.facebook.com/BrookerCreekPreserve and help us reach our goal of 1000 "Likes"!

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

Don't forget to "like" the BCP Environmental Education Center on Facebook - [Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center](http://www.facebook.com/BrookerCreekPreserveEnvironmentalEducationCenter)



The poster features a central illustration of a brown owl with large white eyes, wearing a red scarf and holding a red book. Above the owl is a small bird in flight. The text is arranged in a clean, organized layout with green and brown colors. The event details include the date (November 22, 2014), time (1-3pm), and that all ages are welcome and the event is free. A list of activities is provided with green diamond bullet points. The location and website are clearly stated at the bottom of the poster.


Audubon
CENTER FOR BIRDS OF PREY
Bird Bash at Brooker Creek Preserve

November 22, 2014
1-3pm
All Ages Welcome
Event is Free

- ◆ **Learn how you can conserve water, energy and birds (WEB)**
- ◆ **Kids crafts and games**
- ◆ **School supply prizes**
- ◆ **Bird meet and greet**

Audubon will host the Bird Bash at Brooker Creek Preserve.
3940 Keystone Rd. Tarpon Springs, FL
www.brookercreek.org

This program is made possible by the generosity of


DUKE ENERGY

Audubon Center for Birds of Prey • 407-644-0190 • fl.audubon.org



**Brooker Creek Preserve
Environmental Education Center
3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs.
All programs require advance registration
(727) 453-6800
www.brookercreekpreserve.org**

All classes are at Brooker Creek unless otherwise noted. Upcoming Programs now includes relevant UF/IFAS Extension program offered throughout Pinellas County.

November 2014 Programs

Thurs., Nov. 6, 13, 20, 10:30 - 11:15 am

Book Time at Brooker: Children ages 3 to 5 connect to the wonders of the natural world through a story and a craft, game or other hands-on activity. Free; registration required.

Sat., Nov. 1, 9:30 - 10:30 am

Brooker Book Club: Hosted by the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve, the Brooker Book Club meets the first Saturday of each month. The theme for 2014 is science. This month's book is "Surviving Galeras" by Stanley Williams and Fen Montaigne. This club is geared toward adults. Registration is required due to a limited amount of seats. Meet in the conference room inside the Visitors Center. Books are not provided. 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Free.

Sat., Nov. 1, 10:30 am - noon

Talk about Turkeys: Join Upland Gamebird

Research Biologist Danny Caudill with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for a presentation on the wild turkey. Learn about turkey habitat, breeding behaviors and nesting. There couldn't be a more appropriate time to learn about this beautiful bird that plays a significant role on the local ecosystem and economy.

Sat., Nov. 1, 9:00 - 10:30 am

Explore the Ecosystems: Brooker Creek Preserve certified guides will lead the hike along the 0.75-mile Education Center Trail. Observe the forested wetland, oak hammock and pine flatwood ecosystems. Closed-toe shoes, water and a hat are recommended. Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult; those younger than 6 may find the hike challenging. Free.

Fri., Nov. 7, 11:00 am - noon

Introduction to Florida-Friendly Landscaping™: Brian Niemann, Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Extension Agent, will discuss design and maintenance considerations for landscaping, how to choose the right plant for the right place and efficient outdoor water usage. Free. Call (727) 724-3070 to register. Aging Well Center. 1501 N. Belcher Road, Clearwater.

Fri., Nov. 7, 9:00 - 11:00 am

Woods Walk: Participants can join a local natural resources agent on a hike along two miles of boardwalks and natural trails at Brooker Creek Preserve. Binoculars and camera are recommended. Any questions the hike guide cannot answer will be researched in the resource room upon return to the Education Center.

Fridays, Nov. 7, 21, 26, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Night Hike: Hikers can join the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve for a one-mile hiking experience along the Education Center Trail at night. These special hikes are open to the public and limited to 20 people per hike. Experienced guides will lead the group. A \$3 per person donation is requested; registration required.

Sat., Nov. 8, 12:30 - 2:00 pm

Botany 101: Participants will investigate the fascinating and complex Plant Kingdom in an introduction to Botanical Science. Both classroom and outdoor activities included. Recommended for adults. Free.

Sat., Nov. 8, 8:00 - 10:30 am

Birds of Brooker Hike: Participants can join this bird hike and learn how to identify the county's common birds while meandering along a one-mile trail. Water and binoculars are recommended. Free.

Thurs., Nov. 13 (two classes scheduled)

Pruning by Master Gardeners: Master and aspiring gardeners will look at plant objectives from pruning, the proper time to prune, examples of how not to prune and the consequences of bad pruning. Two classes scheduled: 2 to 3:30 p.m. and 6:15 to 7:45 p.m. Free; registration required. (727) 582-2603. Palm Harbor Library, 2330 Nebraska Ave., Palm Harbor. <http://tinyurl.com/lyl3tpm>.

Fri., Nov. 14,

Botany Hike: Participants can join a Brooker Creek naturalist to explore the fascinating plants found on the preserve. The hike will include identifying wildflowers, ferns, epiphytes, trees and more. The ecology of various plant communities will also be examined. Best suited for adults. Free.

Sat., Nov. 15, 9:00 - 10:30 am

Footprints on the Land Guided Hike: Certified guides will lead a hike along the Education Center Trail. Participants can learn of the many "footprints" that can be found during this 0.75-mile walk. Sturdy closed-toe shoes are a must; water and a hat are recommended. Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult, those younger than 6 may find the hike challenging. Free.

Fri., Nov. 21, 9:00 - 11:00 am

Wildlife Hike: Participants can join an experienced naturalist on a hike along boardwalks and natural trails at Brooker Creek Preserve. Participants are encouraged to be ready with questions. Free.

Sat., Nov. 22, 10:30 am - noon

Birds in Classical Music: Lynn Sumerson demonstrates how, why and by whom birds were used as the theme in classical music by using very brief examples with musical accompaniments. Free.

Saturdays, Nov. 22, 29, 9:00 - 10:30 am

Our Wildest Place Guided Hike: Brooker Creek Preserve certified guides lead the hike along the Education Center Trail. Participants will learn why

the Preserve has been called "Our Wildest Place" during this 0.75-mile walk. Sturdy closed-toe shoes are a must; water and a hat are recommended. All ages are welcome although children younger than 6 may find the hike challenging. Children younger than 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Free.

Sat., Nov. 22, 9:00 am - noon

Extended Guided Hike: Volunteer hike guides will lead participants on a 2.8 to 4-mile walk through Brooker Creek Preserve. Hike trails will be determined by trail condition. Sturdy closed-toe shoes are a must; water and a hat are recommended. Hike guides will meet participants in the lobby of the Exhibit Hall 10 minutes before the scheduled start time of 9 a.m. Pets are not permitted. All ages are welcome. Children under the ages of 16 must be accompanied by an adult and those younger than 10 may find the hike challenging. Free.

Sat., Nov. 29, 8:30 - 10:30 am

Guided Photography Hike: Participants will hike Brooker Creek Preserve in search of that perfect shot. This program provides opportunities for photographers of all levels to hone their skills. In a brief classroom session, local photographers and master naturalists, Karl and Kathleen Nichter, highlight the seasonal features that help participants capture the natural beauty of the preserve. Then, hike the boardwalk and trails looking for those shots that reflect the season. Recommended for adults and children 12 and older. Free.

Sat., Nov. 29, 8:00 - 11:00 am

Wildflower Garden Club: The Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve will be getting their gardening hands dirty in the Preserve's wildflower garden. Participants should bring garden gloves and hat. Morning snacks are usually provided. Free.

Did you know?

The donations we receive in the donation boxes in the Education Center are earmarked for programs at the Preserve. Nearly all natural history programs at the Preserve are sponsored by the Friends using this funding.

December 2014 Programs

Tursdays, Dec. 4, 11, 18, 10:30 - 11:15 am
Book Time at Brooker: Children, ages 3 to 5, connect to the wonders of the natural world through a story and a craft, game or other hands-on activity. Free.

Fri., Dec. 5, 9:00 - 11:00 am
Woods Walk: Participants can join a local Natural Resources Agent on a hike along two miles of boardwalks and natural trails at Brooker Creek Preserve. Binoculars and camera are recommended. Any questions the hike guide cannot answer will be researched in the resource room upon return to the Education Center. Free

Fridays, Dec. 5, 19, 6:00 - 8:00 pm
Night Hike: Hikers can join the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve for a one-mile hiking experience along the Education Center Trail at night. These special hikes are open to the public and limited to 20 people per hike. Experienced guides will lead the group. A \$3 per person donation is requested

Sat., Dec. 6, 9:00 - 10:30 am
Explore the Ecosystems: Brooker Creek Preserve certified guides will lead the hike along the 0.75-mile Education Center Trail. Observe the forested wetland, oak hammock and pine flatwood ecosystems. Closed-toe shoes, water and a hat are recommended. Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult, those younger than 6 may find the hike challenging. Free

Sat., Dec. 6, 9:30 - 10:30 am
Brooker Book Club: Hosted by the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve, the Brooker Book Club meets the first Saturday of each month. The theme for 2014 is science. The book this month is "Florida's Geological Treasures" by Iris Tracey Comfort. This club is geared toward adults. Registration is required due to a limited amount of seats. Meet in the conference room inside the Visitors Center. Books are not provided. Free.

Sat., Dec. 6, 10:00 am - noon
Wreath-Making Workshop Using Natural Materials: Participants can learn how to make beautiful holiday wreaths from grapevines,

From the Pinellas Chapter, Florida Native Plant Society

ORCHIDS! Come to our free Wed., Dec. 3rd. 7pm (first Wednesday, each month) meeting of the Pinellas Chapter of Florida Native Plant Society.



NOTE: Our December meeting is our festive **Annual Holiday Conservation Celebration**, at Pinellas County Extension, 12520 Ulmerton Rd. - normally at Moccasin Lake Nature Park: 2750 Park Trail Lane, Clearwater. We'll have a fascinating talk on beautiful wild native Florida orchids (not imports/hybrids) by professional naturalist & author Roger Hammer; also exhibits, refreshments, plant sale, upcoming talks and events. 727-322-3954.

cabbage palms and other natural materials gathered from the woods. Each participant will go home with a completed wreath suitable for hanging for the holidays. Participants will meet at the Music Pavilion at 10 a.m. All ages are welcome. Cost: \$10 Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve Members, \$15 non-members. RSVP by email to fobcp@tampabay.rr.com or call 727-934-2680. The class is limited to 20 participants. .

Sat., Dec. 6, 10:30 am - noon
Turtle Science: Why Turtles are Cool: Participants will be introduced to the fascinating world of turtles and turtle science. Turtles are the most endangered group of animals on earth; guests will learn about their diversity, conservation and the latest research findings. Live animals and bioartifacts will be included. This is a family-orientated presentation given by George L. Heinrich of Heinrich Ecological Services. Free.

Fri., Dec. 12, 9:00 - 11:00 am
Botany Hike: Participants can join a Brooker

Creek naturalist to explore the fascinating plants found on the preserve. The hike will include identifying wildflowers, ferns, epiphytes, trees and more. The ecology of various plant communities will also be examined. Best suited for adults. Free.

Sat., Dec. 13, 8:00 - 10:30 am

Birds of Brooker Hike: Participants can join this bird hike and learn how to identify the county's common birds while meandering along a one-mile trail. Participants should bring water and binoculars. Free.

Sat., Dec. 13, 10:30 am - noon

Aquatic Life of Brooker Creek Preserve: Participants will explore the underwater world of the Preserve. Both classroom and outdoor activities included. Prepare to get wet. Free; registration required. Class is limited to the first 25 registrants due to the nature of the activities. Those registered must cancel their reservation if unable to attend.

Fri., Dec. 19, 9:00 - 11:00 am

Wildlife Hike: Participants can join an experienced naturalist on a hike along the boardwalks and natural trails at Brooker Creek Preserve. Participants are encouraged to be ready with questions. Free.

Sat., Dec. 20, 9:00 - 10:30 am

Footprints on the Land Guided Hike: Certified guides will lead a hike along the Education Center Trail. Participants can learn of the many "footprints" that can be found during this 0.75-mile walk. Sturdy closed-toe shoes are a must; water and a hat are recommended. Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult; those younger than 6 may find the hike challenging. Free.

Sat., Dec. 27, 8:00 - 11:00 am

Wildflower Garden Club: The Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve will be getting their gardening hands dirty in the Preserve's wildflower garden. Participants should bring garden gloves and a hat. Morning snacks are usually provided. Free.

Sat., Dec. 27, 9:00 - 10:30 am

Our Wildest Place Guided Hike: Brooker Creek Preserve certified guides lead the hike along the

Education Center Trail. Participants can learn why the preserve has been called "Our Wildest Place" during this 0.75-mile walk. Sturdy closed-toe shoes are a must; water and a hat are recommended. All ages are welcome although children younger than 6 may find the hike challenging. Children younger than 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Free; registration required.

Sat., Dec. 27, 9:00 am - noon

Extended Guided Hike: Volunteer hike guides will lead participants on a 2.8 to 4-mile walk through Brooker Creek Preserve. Hike trails will be determined by trail condition. Sturdy closed-toe shoes are a must; water and a hat are recommended. Hike guides will meet participants in the lobby of the Exhibit Hall 10 minutes before the scheduled start time of 9 a.m. Pets are not permitted. All ages are welcome. Children under the ages of 16 must be accompanied by an adult and those younger than 10 may find the hike challenging. Free.

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Guided Photography Hike: Participants will hike Brooker Creek Preserve in search of that perfect shot. This program provides opportunities for photographers of all levels to hone their skills. In a brief classroom session, local photographers and master naturalists, Karl and Kathleen Nichter, highlight the seasonal features that help participants capture the natural beauty of the preserve. Then, hike the boardwalk and trails looking for those shots that reflect the season. Recommended for adults and children 12 and older. Free.

Chickasaw Plum by Barb Hoffman



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, conserva-

tion, restoration or protection of the land and resources of the Brooker Creek Preserve.

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:
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. Store 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

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