


Newsletter of the
Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve

September - October 2012

**Save the Date! Fall Wildflower Festival
- Saturday, October 27, 2012!**

Butterfly tent, wildflowers for sale, wildflower hunt, beehive exhibit, wildflower presentations, and more! Volunteers will be needed for this one-day fun and educational event! Can you help us? Please email: fobcp@tampabay.rr.com if you can.

Chairman's Message

By Barb Hoffman

We are so lucky to have Brooker Creek Preserve. I tell people that it is a living history museum, a piece of natural environment that once covered all of Pinellas County. Brooker Creek Preserve is all that remains.

I write this from the ANCA (Association of Nature Center Administrators) Summit in Wallops Island, Virginia where nature center folks from all over the country are meeting for four days and learning about all sorts of interesting ways to best run their nature center. Of the 120 people here, I am one of two attendees that represent a board of directors; all others are paid staff of their nature centers. I am learning so much, and networking with people who share the same missions, problems, situations, excitement, and fears. From rather dreary subjects like insurance to the fine art of asking money from donors, this conference is full of so much great information and good people, all sharing the love of nature and the joy of sharing it with the public. It has been an awesome four days, and I thank our board of directors for sending me here.

Chairman's Message

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My message to you is quick and to the point:

* Please consider volunteering four hours per month in our gift shop, very easy duty, on either a Thursday, Friday, or Saturday. If you cannot do it, please share the need with someone you know who may be able to share this small bit of time. This is very important.

* Share your love of Brooker Creek Preserve with friends by giving them a gift membership for their birthday or anniversary. The holidays are approaching and a gift membership would be a different and generous way to share your love of nature.

* Go hike a trail, especially in October when the wildflowers will be in full bloom and the Preserve will be alive with color. What an amazing place.

Barb

Celebrating 150 Years

By Lara Miller, Natural Resource Agent

As of fall 2010, Extension staff has been running the Education Center at Brooker Creek Preserve along with amazing support from our volunteers! For those of you that are not familiar with Extension, let me briefly explain what it is. Extension is a partnership between state, federal, and county governments to provide scientific knowledge and expertise to the public. The University of Florida (UF), together with Florida A&M University (FAMU), administers the Florida Cooperative Extension Service.

One hundred and fifty years ago, President Abraham Lincoln signed into law the Morrill Act. This Act created the land-grant university system, made higher education more accessible to more people, and promoted agricultural science and the mechanical arts. In other words, the Morrill Act made the establishment of the University of Florida possible. Then in 1914, the passing of the Smith-Lever Act established today's Agricultural Experiment Stations and the Extension Service which allowed for the creation of the Pinellas County Extension.

You may be wondering why there was such a strong emphasis on agriculture, when here in Pinellas County we are so urbanized. At the time the Smith-Lever Act was signed into law, land use was drastically different than what we see today. The 15 minute video in the Object Theater at Brooker Creek Preserve's Environmental Education Center explains the different land uses Pinellas County has seen since the early 1900s.



1946 Central Florida Farming Extension 4-H winning poultry team

Join us on Saturday, September 22nd at Brooker Creek Preserve as we celebrate 150 years since the creation of land-grant universities. There will be a guided hike starting at 9:00 am which you can register for [here](#). Following the hike and throughout the day, informational handouts will be made available explaining more about the creation of our land-grant university system and the establishment of the Extension Service.

Friends of Brooker Creek
3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs,
FL 34688. Please use this address on
any correspondence.



Fall Wildflower Festival Brooker Creek Preserve

Saturday, October 27, 2012, 9:00 am -- 4:00 pm

Free! Fun for the Whole Family! Come rain or Shine!

EXHIBITS -- open all day

Butterfly Encounter – Be surrounded by butterflies! Enjoy a walk-through tent with 500 plants and over 250 live butterflies! Hand feed butterflies, learn about their life cycle, and enjoy their beauty *up close and personal!*

Honeybee Observation Hive -- Exhibit Hall -- Hands-on Classroom

PRESENTATIONS

9:30 and 1:15 **Wildflowers of Pinellas County - Pam Brown**

10:15 and 2:00 **Landscaping with Wildflowers - Craig Huegel**

11:00 and 2:45 **Edible Plants – What You Can Eat, What to Avoid - Katy Roberts**

11:45 and 3:15 **Bees, Bugs and Butterflies – The Amazing Wildflower Pollinators - Cindy Peacock**

12:30

Wildflower Photography - Kathleen and Karl Nichter



Wildflowers for Sale!

Wildflower Scavenger Hunt!

Roving Naturalists on the Trails to Answer Questions!



Sponsored by: Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve

For Information call: 727-934-2680 or fobcpwildflowerfest2012@hotmail.com

Event Location: Brooker Creek Preserve

3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs, FL



Volunteers needed for Fall Wildflower Festival!

In each of the past two years, this event has brought 900 visitors to Brooker Creek in one day, and it can only be successful with the help of volunteers. Volunteers will work 2-hour shifts, wear the green BCP t-shirts and smiles, and enjoy free lunch provided in the volunteer break room.

Volunteers are needed for:

- * **Classroom** - which will be open to showcase the animal furs and bones
- * **Gift Shop** - which will be open for business
- * **Wildflower Scavenger Hunt** - roving naturalists to point out wildflowers and answer questions, and people to staff the scavenger hunt table
- * **Greeters** - to man the kiosk at the entrance to welcome patrons and answer questions

If you would like to volunteer, please email fobcp@tampabay.rr.com. Thank you!!

WE NEED YOU! PLEASE SIGN UP FOR A 4-HOUR/MONTH SHIFT IN THE GIFT SHOP!



Dogface sulphur nectaring on rosinweed. Photo by Craig Huegel.

News from the Wildflower Garden

By Pam Brown

If you haven't visited lately, the Wildflower Garden is looking fabulous. Volunteers are continuing to keep it looking neat. At the last Saturday in August workday we started planting native shrubs in the area adjacent to the Wildflower Garden. This area will serve as a demonstration of natives that make good landscape plants in our yards. We also added additional Sunshine Mimosa ground cover to the field next to the gazebo to fill in this area. Remember that the annual Wildflower Festival is coming up on October 27. So, plan to join us on Saturday September 29 from 8 to 10 a.m. to get the garden in tip top shape for the festival. Remember to bring you own tools and gloves. We will provide water and breakfast snacks.

Sponsors needed for Butterfly Tent!

Back by popular demand, the Butterfly Tent, supplied by Greathouse Butterfly Farm, will be the showcase of the Wildflower Festival. The tent and its butterflies rent for \$2,500 per day, so sponsorships are greatly needed. Sponsors will be listed on signage at the tent entry and cost \$100 each. Sponsors can be businesses, individuals, families, in honor of someone, or in someone's memory. Please email fobcp@tampabay.rr.com if you would like to be a sponsor. Deadline for sponsorships is October 13.

Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve Book Club

We are delighted to announce a new program - the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve Book Club! We will meet the first Saturday of each month in the conference room of the Educational Center at Brooker Creek Preserve from 9:30 am to 10:30 am. There is room for up to 11 participants.

The theme is Florida. The book list includes novels by Florida authors, past and present, archeology, biography, politics and history. Our first meeting will consist of introductions and deciding on a few things to make our hour enjoyable. We may extend this first meeting by 15 minutes so that we can also discuss our first book, *Crossing the Creek: the Literary Friendship of Zora Neale Hurston and Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings* by Anna Lillios.

Others on the list:

- October: Reubin O'D. Askew and the Golden Age of Florida Politics by Martin A. Dyckman
- November: Totch - A Life in the Everglades by Loren G. "Totch" Brown
- December: Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neal Hurston
- January: Vanishing Florida: A Personal Guide to Sights Rarely Seen by David T. Warner
- February: Digging Miami by Robert S. Carr (Archeology)
- March: From Yellow Dog Democrats to Red State Republicans: FL Politics from 1940 by David R. Colburn
- April: The Yearling by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings
- May: Rose Cottage Chronicles - Civil War Letters of the Bryant-Stephens Families of Northern FL
- June: Sunshine Paradise: A History of Florida Tourism by Tracy J. Revels
- July: Star Island - by Carl Hiaasen
- August: Land of Sunshine, State of Dreams: A Social History of Modern Florida by Gar R. Mormino

Friends member and Preserve volunteer, Laurie Angyn, will be the facilitator, and she is really looking forward to it!

The first meeting will be on Sept 1. To register, go to The Eventbrite page at BrookerCreekPreserve.org



BCP Environmental Education Center --Staying in the Loop

Don't forget to like us on facebook - [Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center](#)

Feel free to join [Timely Topics](#) and [Thinking Green](#) blogs written by various Pinellas County Extension agents on relative issues and topics related to our community

Have a question, but can't find the answer? Visit www.AskExtension.org or stop by the Education Center and drop your question into the "Ask an Agent" box.

Brooker Creek Preserve Earthcache

By Lara Miller, Natural Resource Agent and Michael Barr, Brooker Creek Preserve Intern

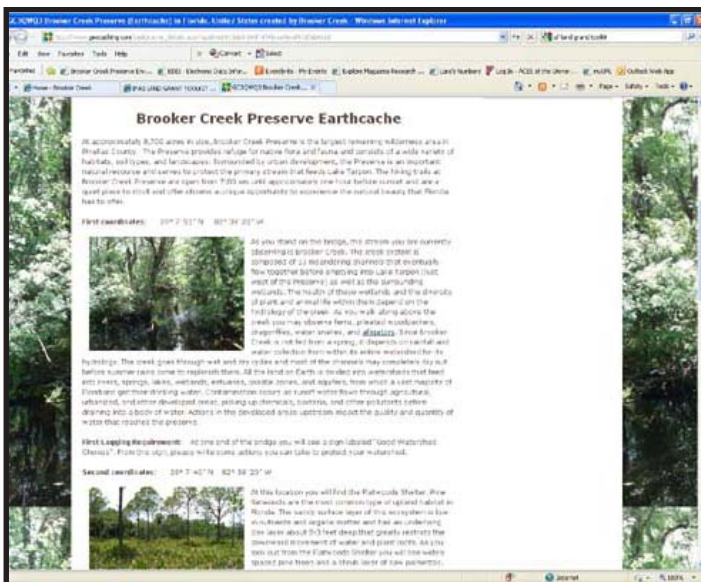
Looking for a fun new reason to get outside and explore nature? The Brooker Creek Preserve Earthcache is for anyone interested in a fun, family-friendly outdoor scavenger hunt. It is a great way to experience some of the natural beauty that Pinellas County has to offer. The Earthcache is part of Geocaching.com, which is a real-world, outdoor treasure hunting game using GPS-enabled devices. Participants use GPS coordinates to navigate to a certain location and attempt to find the Geocache located there. An Earthcache, like the one located at Brooker Creek, is a special type of Geocache that does not have a physical "treasure" at the coordinates but rather is meant to show visitors an interesting natural feature and teach a certain Earth science lesson. Earthcaches are a great way to discover some beautiful and unique places that you wouldn't normally visit and learn more about our amazing world.

The Brooker Creek Preserve Earthcache takes visitors on a tour of some of the won-

derful natural sites found at the preserve. Brooker Creek Preserve is the largest remaining wilderness area in Pinellas County and consists of a wide variety of habitats and landscapes. The Earthcache includes a pleasant, shaded walk through the diverse ecological communities that are found at the Preserve including wetlands, pine flatwoods, and oak hammocks. Along the way, visitors will be able to observe the native plants and animals that take refuge within the preserve. Information on these habitats and wildlife is included on the Brooker Creek Earthcache page. Also included on the Earthcache are a series of scavenger hunt type questions meant to teach visitors a little about these environments. The answers to these questions are found at three different GPS coordinates located at three different areas of interest along one of the trails at the preserve.

If you love experiencing and exploring nature, participating in an Earthcache can be an exciting new way to take you to new and fascinating places that you might never have known about or gone to otherwise. Brooker Creek Preserve is truly a special place that showcases the natural beauty of Florida. Going through this Earthcache can be a fun way to experience nature whether you are an experienced geocacher or if this is your first time hearing about Earthcaches. If you are interested in participating, the Brooker Creek Preserve Earthcache page can be found at: http://www.geocaching.com/seek/cache_details.aspx?guid=e1913eb9-160f-474b-aa9e-ef916feb4e1d

Stay up to date on news and information affecting our environment by following your Pinellas County Natural Resource Extension Agent on Twitter.



Coping With Wildlife Damage

By: Craig Huegel

There are few more-frustrating landscape issues than having to cope with the damage caused by feasting herbivorous wildlife; especially rabbits and white-tailed deer. Often, these animals are unwelcome visitors and the plants they consume were not planted for them like those in a butterfly garden. Rabbits and deer make their appearance in a landscape when it seems welcoming and their habitat needs are being met. For rabbits, this can be as simple as having some hiding cover and some food to eat. White-tailed deer have larger home ranges and occur only in the north end of Pinellas County - in and surrounding Brooker Creek Preserve and John Chesnut Park. For deer, the majority of their habitat is provided inside these natural areas. What lures them outside is food higher in nutrition and taste than what they might find otherwise.

Rabbits are everywhere. Swamp rabbits (*Sylvilagus aquaticus*) are generally found near wetland habitats throughout Florida while cottontails (*S. floridanus*) are found everywhere in uplands. Both rabbits are pretty much the same size and color. What distinguishes them is that cottontails have a bright white "cottony" tail and ears that are about twice as long as a swamp rabbit. I have gone through great pains to landscape my suburban mid-County lot to benefit wildlife. In the past year, cottontails have appeared and targeted a number of my landscape plants. I have grown to loathe them (in my yard), but my wife, Alexa, reminds me that my wildlife-friendly landscape is to blame. She's right, of course, but there are plants I simply can't grow because they are there. Over the years, I have made notes of what those plants are, but I have also learned that plants they love in my yard are not



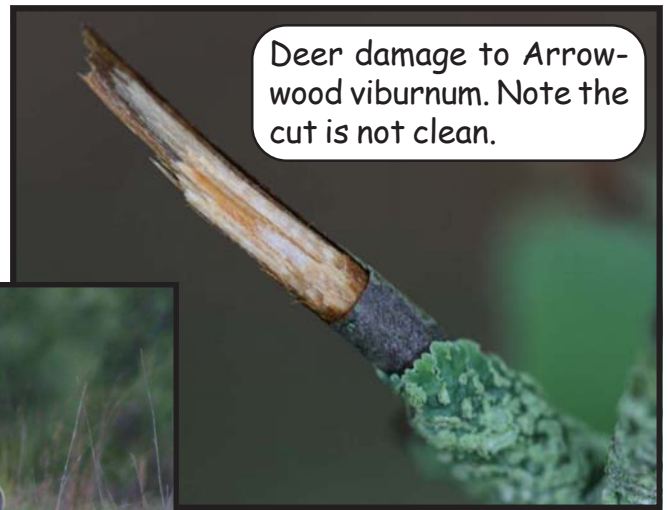
Rabbit damage to Walter's aster. The stems are cleanly cut as if by a pruning shears.

Deer and rabbits also feed very differently from each other. It is obvious when looking at a chewed plant which of the two has fed on it. Rabbits have very specialized upper and lower incisors that work just like a good pruning shears. If a stem has been cleanly sheared off, it is the work of rabbits (or possibly a rodent). Deer are ungulates, like cows and horses, and they lack upper incisors. They only have lower ones. When deer find a plant they want to feed on, they bite it with their lower incisors and twist it off against their upper palette.

There is not a clean cut when deer feed on a plant; the end left behind is jagged.

Deer and rabbits will feed on plants they choose to eat. You have limited choices with which to fight them. Repellants are not likely to work over time. Enterprising business folks have developed repellants that they would be more than happy to sell you... it's just that no repellant will keep a deer or rabbit away IF it wants to eat the plant badly enough. Repellants rely on the natural fear these animals have to new/strange smells. Just about anything that smells that is not routinely met with in their normal routine works - until that smell becomes routine. Most repellants fail to work after a couple of weeks no matter how judiciously they are applied. The same is true for noisemakers, balloons, and other visual or auditory repellants. Once the repellant becomes a routine occurrence, it fails to be a repellant.

Fences can work, but must be structured correctly - and, they are expensive and often unsightly. Rabbit fences are far simpler than deer fences. Rabbits are not great leapers, but they can squeeze through fairly narrow gaps. In my own landscape, I finally put up a rabbit-proof fence around one small area of my wildflower planting. The area is circular with a diameter of 20 feet. The fencing I chose was hardware cloth about 3 feet tall. This simple solution cost me about \$100; a high price for such a small area, but it was worth the peace of mind I now have knowing that my native asters, phlox, and rain lilies will flower and set seed. I have been trying to make that happen unsuccessfully for 2 years and my small native wildflower nursery will someday recoup that initial investment by my newfound ability to propagate these species. The rest of my landscape is simply too large to fence for rabbits. My only solution is to avoid planting



Deer damage to Arrowwood viburnum. Note the cut is not clean.

what they love most and accepting the damage I get in those areas.

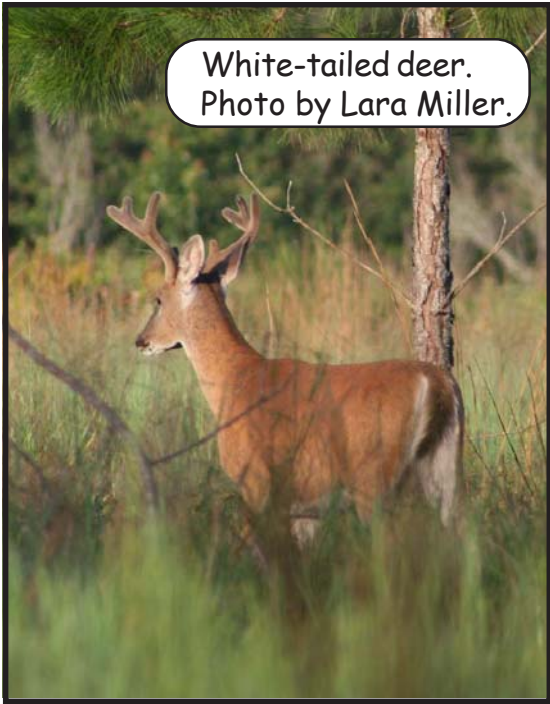
Deer are even more difficult to exclude. Apple orchards and other agricultural operations that rely on crops favored by deer almost always resort to using fencing to maintain their livelihood. Deer fences, however, need to be a minimum 8 feet high to keep deer out, and constructed of high-tensile wire (8 strands, 1 foot apart) and electrified or woven wire. Electrified fences are less expensive to initially install, but require regular maintenance. They also cannot be used in neighborhoods with young kids. An 8-foot security fence is expensive. Though some designs may not be completely unsightly, they certainly do not tell neighbors that you'd like to get to know them.....

Deer and rabbits have food preferences, however, and it is possible to avoid planting those species they love most. It's like putting candy out in the middle of a Kindergarten class and then leaving the room for an hour. You know what the outcome will be; IF you plant deer and rabbit "candy" in your landscape they will eat it as soon as your back is turned. If these animals are a reality in your neighborhood, you either need to accept the damage or the fact that you cannot plant certain plants.

Coming up with a list of rabbit plants is extremely difficult because they have such varied tastes. In my home native plant landscape, they love a variety of wildflowers and virtually ignore others. What they really love is almost everything that is an aster - true asters, grassleaf goldenasters, ironweed, coreopsis, and basic black-eyed susan. They also love phlox, rain lilies, violets, and native wild petunia. They ignore other wildflowers, however, and I use these widely in my wildflower plantings outside of the fence. Good choices are blazing stars, Florida paintbrush, twinflower, and sunflowers. I have not had them decimate any of my woody plantings, except very small saplings of plants in the rose family - plums, cherries, hawthorns, and roses.

Deer are not likely to feed on your wildflowers, though they may eat just about anything when it is young and actively growing. Like many herbivores, deer will feed on many legumes - plants in the pea and bean family. You are not likely to have problems in your alfalfa field here in Florida, but you may find them eating ground covers such as perennial peanut or sunshine mimosa. Most deer damage in Florida comes from them browsing on the new growth of trees and shrubs. This can be especially devastating to young sapling trees and shrubs below about 5-6 feet tall. Deer truly love everything in the rose family. This includes far more than roses. It includes plums, hawthorns, cherries, and India hawthorne. Also high on their list are plants in the blueberry family - blueberries, azaleas, and mountain laurel. Many of our most widely planted non-native ornamentals are "deer candy." Below is a partial list of what is most susceptible to deer browsing in Florida landscapes, but the bottom line is this: if you have tried to use it in your landscape and the deer have eaten it to extinction, use something else. I truly believe that both deer and rabbits develop a taste from certain plants from experience. If they have never tried it, they may not. If they have and they enjoyed the experience, they will do so forever. Realize that wildlife are like people - we don't all enjoy the same foods.

The following list of deer plants was largely taken from a web article by Martin B. Main, Joe Schaefer and Ginger M. Allen entitled: *Ornamental plants susceptibility to damage by deer in Florida*. The full article can be read online at: http://verdego.com/07/ornamental-plant-susceptibility-to-damage-by-deer-in-florida/#postTabs_ul_565.



Ornamental Plant Susceptibility to Damage by Deer in Florida

Shrubs

Frequent / Severe Damage

- Firebush
- Bouganvillea
- Carissa Holly
- Hibiscus
- Pittosporum
- Roses
- Indian Hawthorne
- Azaleas

Rare / Minor Damage

- Bird of Paradise
- Bottlebrush
- Croton
- Ixora
- Boxwood
- Oleander
- Philodendron
- Ginger
- Ligustrum
- Viburnum
- Podocarpus
- Wax Myrtle
- Plumbago

Ornamental Plant Susceptibility to Damage by Deer in Florida

Trees

Frequent / Severe Damage

Black Cherry
Pear
Citrus
Red Maple
Schefflera
Willow

Rare / Minor Damage

Bottlebrush
Sabal / Cabbage Palms
Crape Myrtle
Eucalyptus
Flowering Dogwood
Ligustrum
Magnolia
Yaupon Holly

Ornamentals

Frequent / Severe Damage

Impatiens
Portulaca
Dahlias
Bulbine
Day Lily
Shrimp Plant
Agapanthus

Rare / Minor Damage

Bush Daisy
Coreopsis
Dusty Miller
Petunia
Verbena

*Expect to
Make a
Difference!*



Volunteer News

November 3rd is our End of the Year Volunteer Meeting! Plans are in the works for the best meeting yet! We even have a special Gopher program scheduled just for you. Please mark your calendars now as we would like all those who can attend to do so. More details to come soon?

NEW VIP AWARDS for volunteer hours dedicated since October 1, 2011:

40 hours- cap or visor
100 hours- cooler tote and beach pass
500 hours- rolling duffle bag
1,000 hours- Vivitar binoculars or Dorset watch!

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



**Brooker Creek Preserve
Environmental Education Center
Upcoming Events**
3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs.
(727) 453-6800
www.brookercreekpreserve.org

September 2012 Programs

Sept. 6, 13, 20, 27

Book Time at Brooker. 10:30-11:15 am
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; advance registration required.

Sept. 1, 15, 22, 29

Brooker Creek Guided Hike. 9:00-10:30 am
See how the land has changed over time and the ecological footprints left by those changes. Closed-toe shoes, water and a hat recommended. Best for ages 6 and older. Free; advance registration required.

Sept. 1, 10:00 am - noon

Florida's Alien Wildlife, Exotics in the News.
Giant dog-killing toads, twenty-foot pythons. Should residents worry that Florida is being overrun by these or more exotic animals? Join a Sensing Nature biologist and learn how to battle these exotic critters that grab media headlines. Afterwards enjoy an easy hike while experiencing the wonderful habitats along Brooker Creek's trails. Continue learning how

the exotics compete with true Florida natives and what can be done to help boost native species. Attend one, two or all three programs. Participants attending all three programs will receive a snake ID poster. Adults and families welcome. Free; advance registration required.

Sept. 8, 10:00 - 11:00 am

Bald Eagles of Pinellas. Join Barbara Walker from Clearwater Audubon as she talks about our magnificent national bird. Free.

Sept. 8, 8:00 - 10:30 am

Birds of Brooker Hike. Learn how to identify birds seen and heard at this special hike identifying common birds of Brooker Creek Preserve. Meander along this one-mile trail gathering information on the birds seen. Binoculars will be helpful. Bring water.

Sept. 8, 1:00 - 2:30 pm

Florida 4-H Discovering Nature With Your Child. Join us for fun, activity-based learning adventures! On the second Saturday of each month, an Extension naturalist will lead you and your family through a fun activity specially designed by 4-H to help you understand the wonders of the Natural World. Free; advance registration required.

Sept. 8,

Adult Ecology: Plant ID Series - Identifying Grasses, Sedges, and Rushes

Grasses and sedges are one of the most difficult groups of plants to identify. Through a brief presentation and field trip, participants will learn to identify some common grass, sedge, and rush genera. Basic botanical terms will be used. The focus will be on distinguishing characteristics of a few common genera, rather than distinguishing between each species. Once participants are familiar with the general differences between the genera, they will be able to drill down to species with a good field guide. Free; advance registration required.

Sept. 11 (9 am - 3 pm) and Sept. 12 (9 am - 5 pm). **Tri-County Water School 2012.**

This 2-day water school is designed to educate

community leaders, natural resource managers and decision makers about current and future concerns regarding water quality, quantity and conservation in Pinellas Pasco and Hillsborough counties. This interactive program aims to encourage improved public policy decisions relative to water issues in these counties and throughout Florida. Registration fee of \$20 includes lunches, materials and field trips.

Sept. 29, 10:30 am - noon

Big Birds for Beginners. Curious about the large birds that can be seen in Pinellas County? Want to learn how to identify them? Join Lynn Sumerson as he explains large birds and how they can be easily identified. Free; advance registration required.

October 2012 Programs

Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25

Book Time at Brooker. 10:30 - 11:15 am
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; advance registration required.

Oct. 6, 20, 27

Brooker Creek Guided Hike. 9:00 - 10:30 am
See how the land has changed over time and the ecological footprints left by those changes. Closed-toe shoes, water and hat recommended. Best for ages 6 and older. Free; advance registration required.

Oct. 6

Gopher Tortoise: Icon of the Uplands
Brooker Creek Preserve is home to one of the three largest remaining gopher tortoise populations in Pinellas County. George L. Heinrich of Heinrich Ecological Services will introduce the important role played by this keystone species during this family-oriented presentation. Free; advance registration required.

Oct. 13, 8:00 - 10:30 am

Birds of Brooker Hike: Learn how to identify the birds seen and heard at this special hike

identifying common birds of Brooker Creek Preserve. Meander along this one-mile trail gathering information on the birds seen. Binoculars will be helpful. Bring water.

Oct. 13, 1:00 - 2:30 pm

Florida 4-H Discovering Nature With Your Child. Join us for fun, activity-based learning adventures! On the second Saturday of each month, an Extension naturalist will lead you and your family through a fun activity specially designed by 4-H to help you understand the wonders of the Natural World. Free; advance registration required.

Oct. 13

Pinellas Energy Efficiency Project 2.0

Sign-up today for our advanced energy-saving class. Learn how much energy is wasted in the home every day, around the clock. Participants receive free equipment and materials to help cut energy costs, and save money each month. NOTE: Please select only one ticket per household, but feel free to bring the whole family! Free; advance registration required.

October 20

Bats: Myth and Reality. Bats are among the world's most fascinating and beneficial animals. Yet after centuries of misinformation and myths we needlessly fear and often persecute them. This program debunks these myths and introduces attendees to the many important contributions these mammals make to ecosystem and human health. Discussion points include lifestyle, diet, disease, and conservation efforts, and the program is concluded with an introduction to live Florida bats. Learn the facts and protect bats! Free; advance registration required.

Oct. 27, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Wildflower Festival. The event includes a honey beehive exhibit, wildflower scavenger hunt, wildflower presentations and wildflowers for sale. Get up-close and personal with butterflies in a huge butterfly tent. Great for both children and adults. Sponsored by The Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve. Free.

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.

Current mission statement of the Parks Department - it is at least three years old and does not reflect the many changes in staffing and resources over that time. The newly formed Parks and Conservation Resources Department has not yet developed mission/vision statements.

The mission of the Pinellas County Park Department is to provide a continuing program of acquisition, development, maintenance, and protection of park areas for healthful outdoor activities.

Friends of Brooker Creek website:

www.FriendsOfBrookerCreekPreserve.org

To contact The Friends:

Email: fobcp@tampabay.rr.com

Phone: (727) 934-2680 (please leave a message and your phone number for a return call)

Brooker Creek Preserve:

Phone: (727) 453-6900

Website: www.brookercreekpreserve.org

The Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center is located at 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs, Florida, 34688.

Phone: (727) 453-6800

Center Hours: Thurs. - Sat. 9 am - 4 pm

Preserve Hiking Trails open 7 days a week (except for day after Thanksgiving and Dec. 25), 7:00 am to sunset.

Horse Trails open 7 days a week, all year, sunrise to sunset.

Friends Trail is now open. The bridge is fixed and ready for hikers!

Friends of Brooker Creek Officers

Chair: Barbara Hoffman

Vice Chair: Cathie Foster

Vice Chair: Allyn Childress

Secretary: Chuck Parsons

Treasurer: Carson Morrow

Board Members

Business Affairs: Robert Host

Publicity Chair: Barbara Schultz

Land Use Chair: Dr. Craig Huegel

Membership Chair: Dr. Carrie Root

Newsletter Editor: Dr. Craig Huegel

Bird Feeders & Historian: Ken Rowe

Wildflower Garden: Pam Brown

Past Chairman: Walt Hoskins

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

Newsletter Publisher/Artist: Cathy Vogelsong

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