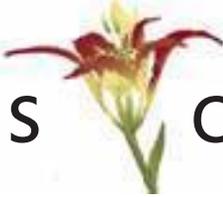

Newsletter of the
Friends  **of Brooker Creek Preserve**

May - June 2013

Chairman's Message

By Barb Hoffman

Over Easter weekend, I visited my 22-year-old daughter in Washington, DC. We enjoyed the men and boys choir who performed the afternoon vespers at the National Cathedral, a breathtaking Gothic building dripping with amazing stained glass, hand-carved stone, pointed arches, ribbed vaults... a fine example of great architecture. God's house. It was breathtaking. But as we sat absorbing the beautiful bounty of both sight and sound, I thought, this is a common feeling for me. Where do I feel this on a regular basis? The answer was immediate. In the pine flatwoods. In the swamp. In the mangroves. In a saltmarsh. Amidst a coral reef. Within a prairie. For me, these undeveloped places are my everyday cathedral. The birds and frogs are my choir. God's house. Do you feel this way, too? This feeling of immersion in someplace so beautiful that it takes your breath away? I get it every time I hike at the Preserve. It's one of many reasons Brooker Creek Preserve is so important to me.

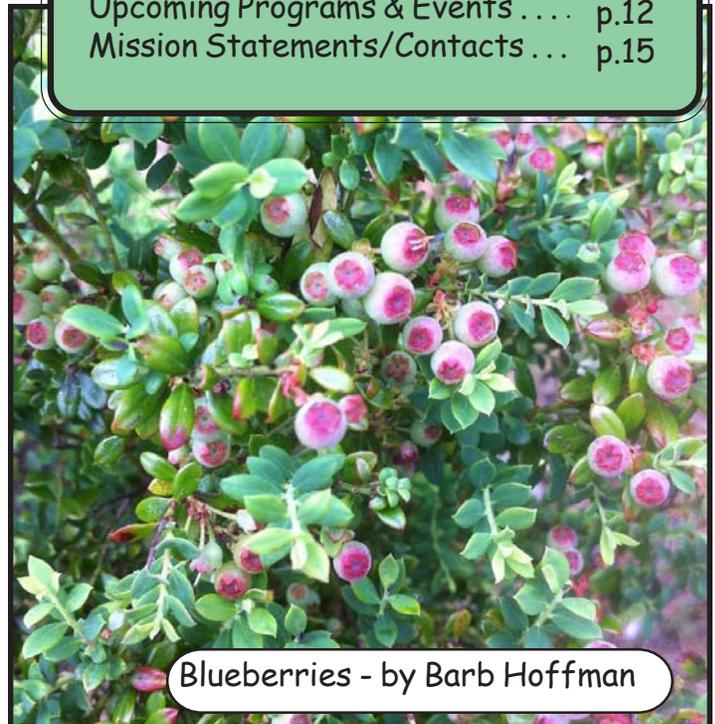
Barb

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

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.

Chairman's Message

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Blueberries - by Barb Hoffman



Summer Solstice Celebration and Fundraiser! Barbeque, Beach, Birding, and Boat Ride

Friday, June 21, 2013
5:30pm – 9:30pm

Sunset Dinner Cruise to North Bar
(The island to the north of Anclote Key)
With Captain Bob and his 40' Catamaran
One hour en route to the island, two hours on the
island, and one hour back to port.

Cruise starts in New Port Richey.
Room for 35 people so bring friends!
\$40 per person includes everything.
RSVP to hold your place – fobcp@tampabay.rr.com
All proceeds benefit Brooker Creek Preserve!

North Bar is an undeveloped island accessible only by boat.
It is home to a huge array of shorebirds and has beautiful
beaches for swimming and shelling.

Wildlife Safari a Great Success!

Our Wildlife Safari was held on Saturday, April 6, and what a fantastic day! Over 750 people attended, including 220 paying guests. Nearly every space in the parking lot was taken - wow - and the weather was perfect! Wildlife Stations were scattered along the .75 mile Ed Center Trail and included baby gopher tortoises, a screech owl, a red-shouldered hawk, a baby alligator, baby gray squirrels, baby raccoons, and a tray full of crawdads! New this year was the snake station where children could hold snakes and get their picture taken with them. Forty volunteers helped out for the event as well, donning the essential straw pith helmets and bandanas. Many, many thanks to the sponsors of this great event - each one was so needed and appreciated.



Volunteer, Greg Reich on traffic duty. This event filled the parking lot! Photo by Julie Vogel.

Volunteers Marlene Gravitz, Cathie Foster, and Linda Roberson had fun at the registration table. 220 children registered for this event! Photo by Julie Vogel.

kids and crawdads - These crayfish were a big hit! Friends Board Member and volunteer, Chuck Parsons, taught the children - and adults - all about their natural history. Most people were not aware that crayfish are native to Florida and are abundant in Brooker Creek.

Volunteer, Karl Nichter, leads a group as a Safari Guide. Photo by Julie Vogel.

THANK YOU, SPONSORS!

Many thanks to the sponsors of this event!
Through their generous support, Wildlife Safari was a huge success!



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Anonymous Donor 3
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Council of North County Neighborhoods
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Hoffman Architects
Microaccounting Group
Radiology Associates of Tarpon Springs,
Doug Eiland, MD
Rotary Club of East Lake Sunrise
Tarpon Springs Garden Club
Waddell & Reed

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Watercolor Lessons a Big Hit!

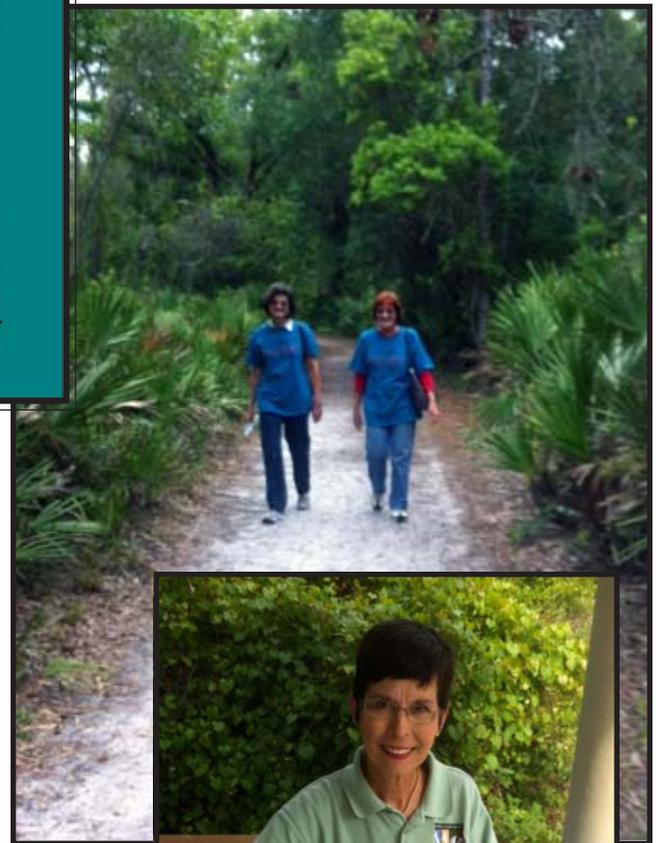
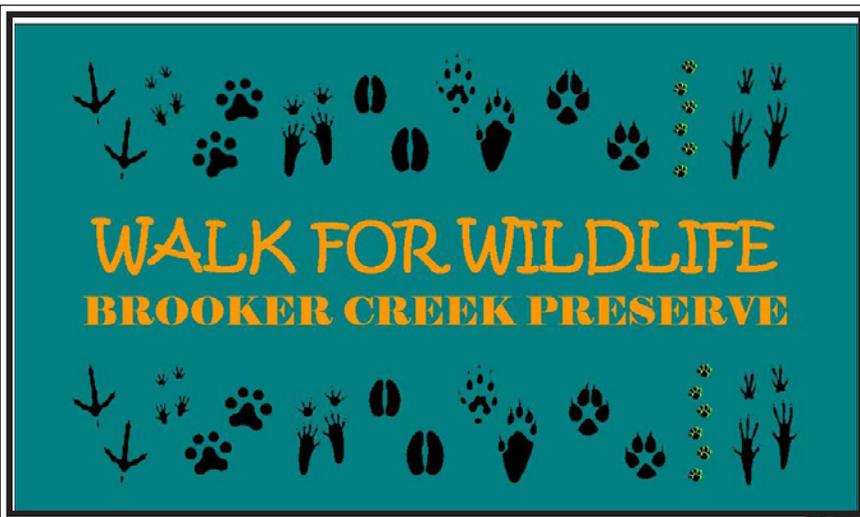
The first ever art lessons as a Friends event occurred on March 16 at Brooker Creek Preserve. The watercolor class, by Tarpon Springs artist, Carol Loiacono, was well attended and enjoyed by all students. The Friends plan to do more of these in the future.

Watercolor lessons by the swamp. Photos by Carrie Root.



Friends member, Sandra Miaglia, concentrates on her painting during the watercolor class.

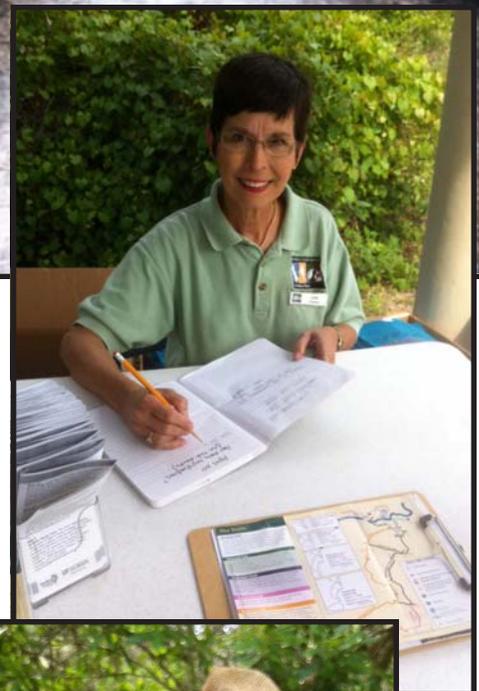




Walk for Wildlife

- Not Just Another "Walk in the Park"!

Despite the threat of rain and the gray skies, about 50 people came out to Walk for Wildlife in support of restoration efforts at Brooker Creek Preserve. Intended as a calm, passive fundraiser celebrating the beautiful trails at Brooker, the event was enjoyed by all. Some came for the quiet. Some came for photographic opportunities. Some came for the t-shirt. But those who came to see wildlife were rewarded by sites of deer, turkey, swallow-tail kites, red-shouldered hawks, big alligators, pygmy rattlesnakes, banded water snakes, pileated woodpeckers, giant tadpoles, armadillos, and more. Spring wildflowers were abundant and blueberry plants were full of ripening fruit. Roaming naturalists were on hand to answer questions and point out interesting things to see. It was not just another walk in the park... It was a walk for wildlife in



From top, photos by Patti & Mike Young:

Walking for wildlife and wearing the t-shirts, "Mary" and "Debbie" walked the four mile loop.

Friends member and volunteer, Julie Wade, at the registration table

Friends Board Member, Cathie Foster, and Volunteer Barry, enjoyed the day as roaming naturalists.

Bird Migration

By: Craig Huegel

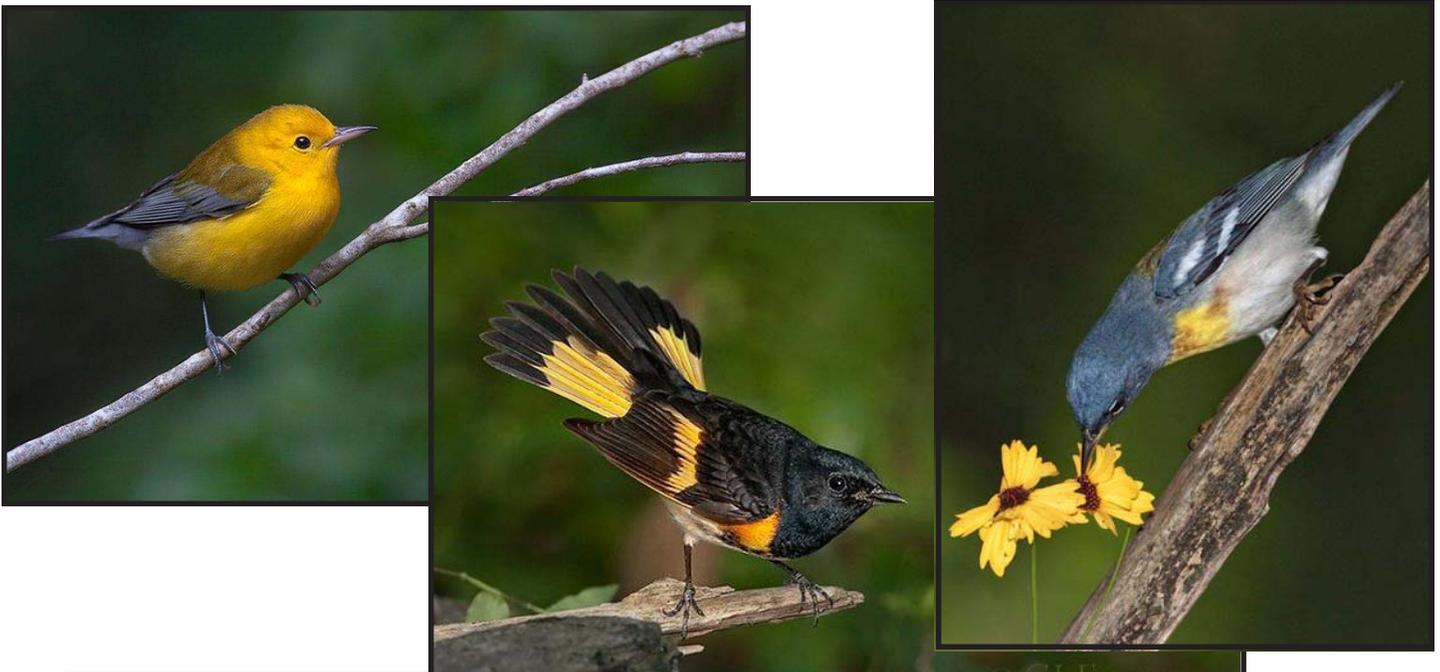
Each spring, one of nature's most amazing spectacles unfolds here in west-central Florida, the migration of birds heading north towards their breeding grounds. Migration in Florida generally occurs each year in March and April with different bird species passing through at different times during that period. As they pass through, each bird stays for a day, stokes up on food and water, and then leaves to journey a bit further north. If you are lucky, you may catch a glimpse of them during the short time they are here.

Migration is one of nature's greatest miracles. It is hard to fathom; birds spend their winter in Central and South America and then find their way along the same migratory pathway of more than 1,000 miles in the span of just a few weeks. During that odyssey, they must fly out over the Gulf of Mexico non-stop, and navigate all of this mostly during the hours of darkness.

Imagine the sheer impossibility of this and factor in the huge number of calories involved and you have some idea of the odds against success.

Birds do not have calendars to let them know when it is time to migrate; they rely on a wide variety of factors to provide clues that it is the right time to head toward their breeding grounds. Those factors are influenced by changing lengths of daylight, but it is far more complex than that. In the tropics, day length changes very little over the course of the calendar year, so the decision to move northward requires a complex integration of many factors. Birds use their internal time clock - a concept known as circadian rhythm, to help keep track of the time. Each species needs a different time clock, depending on how far they have to go and when they traditionally arrive on their breeding grounds. They are also very good at picking up the subtle clues given off by the environment around them on their wintering grounds.

Prior to heading north, it is imperative that they build up a reserve of fat - the biological



left to right, male prothonotary warbler, male northern parula warbler and male American redstart. Photos by Christina Evans.

fuel that will provide the energy they need to complete the journey. Birds that do not build up sufficient fat reserves either fail to make the trip or they arrive so emaciated that they fail to breed that year. They maintain some of that fat reserve by feeding extensively during migration, but as they cross over the Gulf of Mexico, they have no ability to replace the energy they use. Because of this, the west coast of Florida is a critical juncture for a great many migratory species. When they land here, they are famished. The habitat they find here, and the food that it contains, has a big influence on how successful they are overall. For that reason, Brooker Creek Preserve (and our own home landscapes) is a significant migratory bird area.

Many birds feed during the daytime and migrate at night when it is cooler. Because they save energy by flying in the evening, they must use senses other than sight to navigate the route. Birds can use the earth's magnetic field and gravitational pull to guide their direction north. Even when the sky is overcast, migrating birds do not go off course. Research in controlled flight cages have demonstrated how sensitive birds are to these invisible forces.

As April ends, most birds have either arrived here for the spring and summer or they have passed through. If you missed it this year, you always have the return trip this fall to make that up. And, as you catch a glimpse of one of these seasonal visitors, have some sense of wonder for all that is involved, appreciate the habitat value of wild places like Brooker Creek Preserve, and take some time to improve the habitat of your own yard. You can do a lot with only a small change in landscape approach.



White-eyed vireo. Photo by David Williamson

Kendra Wilson - a 7-year-old Inspiration!



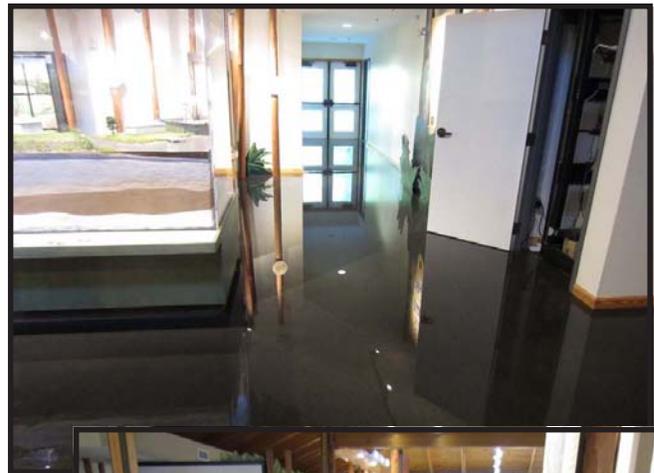
Kendra Wilson just became a member of the Friends. What's so cool about that? Kendra is seven years old. But that's not all. Kendra is doing a project for her school to raise awareness for the Preserve. She is simply letting people know that the Preserve exists, that there are hikes and classes, and they should check it out. She also has a personal goal of signing up 15 new Friends members by urging her relatives and neighbors to join. "Kendra has a natural love for animals" says her father, Dan. This is perfect for her. She is going to make a presentation to her class about the importance of keeping the Brooker Creek Preserve and saving land like this for wildlife."

Volunteer News

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

Water, Water, Everywhere

On Wednesday, April 10th a water pipe feeding into the AC unit of the Exhibit Hall was discovered to be cracked causing a significant and non-stop flow of water through the AC storage closet and out into the carpeted area of the Exhibit Hall. BCP staff and volunteers entered the building to find inches of standing water. Facility and emergency crews were called in to clean up the water and assess the damage. The building is still under the care of water emergency professionals. The Object Theater floor is in the process of being replaced, but damage to remaining exhibits is still unknown at this time. The Education Center was closed from April 10th through April 19th and re-opened to the public on a limited capacity on April 20th. The front desk area and Nature Store are open, but the carpeted exhibit area remains closed off. More details to come...



Wild Wednesdays Come to an End

Pinellas County Extension did a trial run of opening the two satellite offices (Brooker Creek Preserve and Weedon Island Preserve) on Wednesdays from February through April. Visitor numbers from these additional openings will be assessed and future actions will be determined from there. In the meantime, due to the highly successful turn-out of the special guided hikes on Wednesdays which have come to an end, we are going to continue with those hikes (Photography, Forestry, and Botany) on Friday mornings. Those special Friday hikes will begin in May.

Volunteer News, page 2

Our Hero

Some of you may have heard about the man who accidentally ran over his 2-year-old daughter with a lawn mower. Not 24 hours after working by his side at the scene of a flooding Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center, did this incident occur to Jerry Nugent, our go-to facilities guy. With the constant maintenance of the Brooker Creek facilities, we have come to know Jerry and his co-worker Karl on a personal level. Jerry is the sweetest man the BCP staff has ever met and we feel extreme sorrow for what he is going through. Jerry loves his wife and kids so much and it came across in regular conversations with him on his site-visits to Brooker. We remember how upset he was when he got the date wrong when one of his children was going to be on the 4th grade field trip at Brooker and he missed the opportunity to see them even if it was just for one minute...that is the kind of loving father Jerry is. Jerry's church has already set up a fund to raise support for his daughter, Ireland, the Ireland Nugent Fund. Donations can be made through his church: <http://www.trinityclearwater.org/>



BCP Staff Anniversaries

On January 6, 2012, Lara began her job as the UF/IFAS Natural Resources Extension Agent, and then on February 23, 2012, Julie joined us as the Educational Support Specialist followed by James in mid-May as the Extension Support Specialist. We cannot believe how quickly a year has come and gone and we could not be more excited to come to work at such an amazing and beautiful place.

Monarch and Thistle Photo by Brooker Volunteer, Ric Hoover



We look forward to many more years of fulfilling our mission of empowering citizens to improve their quality of life and establish a connection with their environment through research-based educational programs focused on natural, cultural and historical resources.

Volunteers

Thank you so much for your continuing support of the BCP staff and Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve, helping to make what we do possible! The Education Center would not be open if it wasn't for all of you and your dedication to our wildest place. Thank you for bringing smiles to our faces and providing an unforgettable experience to our many visitors.

Social Media

If you are on facebook or twitter, be sure to check us out!

Lara's Natural Resource Extension Page - <https://www.facebook.com/PCENaturalResources>

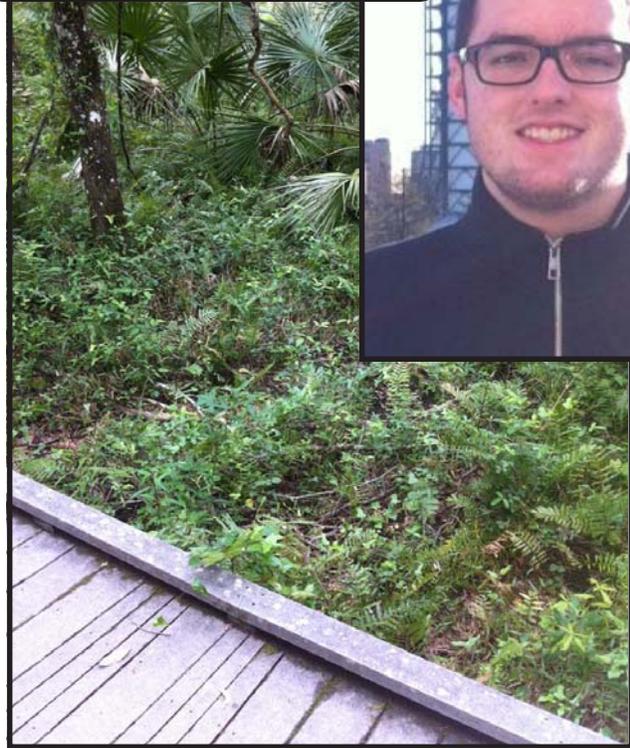
Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center's Page - <https://www.facebook.com/BrookerCreekPreserve>

Lara's Natural Resource Twitter Feed - https://twitter.com/Pinellas_Ext_NR

Caesar Weed Removal

Many thanks to Friends member (as part of the Eiland Family membership), Clint Eiland, for his many hours of hard work pulling and digging out caesar weed from its spot in a location just off the boardwalk near the classroom. Clint needed volunteer hours for high school, and we provided him a difficult, but important, project. Caesar weed is an exotic plant that belongs in the "Old World", not here. Its seeds stick well to clothing and fur and can be moved easily from place to place by people and animals. Caesar weed grows quickly and can take over an area in no time. Clint was covered in seeds after removing the plants, but made sure he disposed of the seeds in a dumpster destined for the incinerator, not back in the Preserve woods. Thank you, Clint, for a job well done!

Clint Eiland, and the cleaned up area along the boardwalk



Nature Store News, by Kathleen Nichter

High season in Florida combined with opening the Education Center on Wednesdays, and as a result the Nature Store, significantly increased the sales year over year. Wildlife Safari this year surprised us all. Last year store sales increased only slightly, this year the plush toys and books in particular sold briskly.

Donations to the used book area continue to be strong, as do the sales. If you have books or magazines you plan to give away, and they have any kind of nature or Florida theme, please consider donating them to us. Some science books donated recently were sold within a week. Our Nature Store Native Plant Nursery (thank you Barbara Hoffman) is being discovered and sales are increasing.

We will be taking time during the upcoming slower months to analyze what has occurred the last six months, and find ways to refine and improve our offerings. Suggestions for merchandise are appreciated. Our Nature Store Committee meets as needed to review suggestions and choose the merchandise that best meets our criteria.

As always, if you have any time, particularly on Saturdays, please consider volunteering for the store. We now use the Square credit card system, which requires just a swipe of a credit card to process a credit or debit sale. All the volunteers love the ease of it, and so do our customers.

Brooker Book Club News

By Laurie Angyn

We have enjoyed the books we have read in our Florida-themed collection and have had interesting and thought-provoking discussions about them. We have room for 11 and reserving a seat is easy - just go to the Brooker Creek Event sign up for the book club. <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/4035520350/eorg>. The book list is posted, provide your own book. You may sign up for multiple or just

one discussion. Feel free to bring your own coffee. We meet on the first Saturday of the month from 9:30 am to 10:30 or so.

Upcoming Books on our List:

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

News from the Wildflower Garden

By Pam Brown

The violets are finished blooming and now the lyre-leaf sage is blooming rampantly. I also saw a few verbena and gaillardia flowers. Our workday in February involved planting some Spider lily (*Hymenocallis latifolia*) bulbs available for purchase in the Nature Store. We planted them in the wetland area adjacent to the Ed. Center. In addition, we cleaned out some of the overgrowth in this area. We did not have a workday in March since I was on a tour of beautiful Costa Rica. Come join us and remember to bring your own tools and gloves. We will provide breakfast snacks. We meet monthly on the last Saturday from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. and spend a short amount of time learning about a different native wildflower before beginning our work. I hope to see you there.



Hymenocallis latifolia. Photo from Stetson University web page.

Pam's Gardening Tip

The lush new growth of spring is very tasty to many insects that feed on plants. Aphids are especially ravenous this time of year. If you see aphids when scouting your landscape, also look for any beneficial insects that might be feeding on them. Ladybugs and lacewings might be laying eggs so that the hatching larvae will have plenty of food. A strong blast from a hose will usually remove a heavy infestation of aphids from a plant. If you find later that the aphids are still busily consuming your plant, Neem oil is a good least toxic pesticide to use. Follow the directions on the label closely. Also, spray in the early evening when bees and other pollinators are not active. I do not know who said this but it certainly is worth repeating: "Remember, when you kill the beneficial insects, you inherit their job."

Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center will be open from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm on Wednesdays in April, in addition to Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

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

We have a great selection of programs coming up this summer! Check out all we have to offer and share these opportunities with a friend. Some highlights include: Exotic Species Day, Celebrate Forests Day, and Advanced Plant ID; these are all new programs we are excited to share with you, so join us for some fun and learning!

May 2013 Programs

Thurs., May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Book Time at Brooker, 10:30 - 11:15

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.

Sat., May 4, 18, 25

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 on this 0.75-mile walk. Closed-toe shoes, water and hat recommended. Best for ages 6 and older. Free; advance registration required.

Sat., May 4, 9:30 - 10:30 am

Brooker Creek Book Club: Hosted by the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve, the Brooker Book Club meets the first Saturday of each month. Geared toward adults, the book list includes works by Florida authors, past and

present, with archeology, biography, politics and history storylines. The book selected for discussion in May is *Rose Cottage Chronicles - Civil War Letters of the Bryant-Stephens Families of Northern Florida*. Advance registration is required as seating is limited. 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Fri., May 10, 10:00 - 11:30 am

Botany Hike: Join a Brooker Creek naturalist to explore the fascinating plants found on the preserve while identifying wildflowers, ferns, epiphytes, trees and more. The ecology of various plant communities will also be examined. Best suited for adults. Come prepared with your camera and questions. Free; advance registration required.

Sat., May 11, 8:00 - 10:30 am

Birds of Brooker Hike: Have you wondered what bird is singing in your backyard? Do you see and hear birds but don't know who they are? If so, join us for a Beginning Bird Hike to learn how to identify common birds as we meander along a one-mile trail. Bring water and binoculars if you have them. Free; advance registration required.



Pileated woodpecker working on his cavity in a dead maple along the Ed Center Trail. Photo by volunteer, Ric Hoover.

Sat., May 11, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Exotic Species Day: Environmental scientist Cynthia Grizzle and natural resource manager Brian Pavlina will discuss plant and animal species that have invaded the Tampa Bay area. There will be live animals and plants on display. Following the classroom session there will be a physical removal of invasive exotic plants around the education center buildings. Those wishing to participate should bring garden gloves, hat, bug spray and water. Free; advance registration required.

Fri., May 17, 10:00 - 11:30 am

Forestry Hike: Join a local natural resources agent and hike along two miles of boardwalks and natural trails at Brooker Creek Preserve. Come prepared with binoculars, cameras and questions. Questions can also be researched in the resource room upon return to the education center. Free; advance registration required.

Sat., May 18

Celebrate Forest Day: University of Florida's School of Forest and Resource Conservation specialists will present a wide variety of forest-related topics: a Forestry Hike from 9 to 10:30 a.m.; Forest Hydrology from 11 to 11:45 a.m.; Bugs of the Forest from 1 to 2 p.m. and Tree Identification from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Stay for one or all of the presentations from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Free; advance registration required.

Sat., May 25, 8:00 - 10:00 am

Wildflower Garden Club: Join the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve to get gardening hands dirty in the preserve's wildflower garden. Bring garden gloves and hat. Morning snacks are usually provided. Free; advance registration required.

Sat., May 25, 8:30 - 10:00 am

Guided Photography Hike: Following a brief classroom session, local photographers and master naturalists Karl and Kathleen Nichter will highlight the seasonal features that help participants capture the natural beauty of the preserve, participants will hike the boardwalk and trails looking for those shots that reflect

the season. Recommended for adults and children 12 and older. Free; advance registration required.

June 2013 Programs

Thurs., June 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. 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. Free; advance registration required.

Sat., June 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 on this 0.75-mile walk. Closed-toe shoes, water and hat recommended. Best for ages 6 and older. 9 to 10:30 a.m. Free; advance registration required.

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

Introduction to Plant Identification: Join a local Extension specialist and examine the basics of plant identification, from using simple keys to identifying critical characteristics that will help any would-be botanist in the field. An emphasis will be placed on flowering plants, but ferns will be included as well. Registration is required and all materials will be provided. Wear comfortable shoes, as part of the class will be outdoors. Free; advance registration required.

Sat., June 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. Geared toward adults, the book list includes works by Florida authors, past and present, with archeology, biography, politics and history storylines. The book selected for discussion in June is *Sunshine Paradise: A History of Florida Tourism* by Tracy J. Revels. Free; advance registration is required as seating is limited.

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

Birds of Brooker Hike: Join this hike to identify common birds of Brooker Creek

Preserve. Meander along the one-mile trail to gather information on the birds seen and heard. Binoculars will be helpful. Bring water.

Fri., June 14, 10:00 - 11:30 am

Botany Hike: Join a Brooker Creek naturalist to explore the fascinating plants found on the preserve while identifying wildflowers, ferns, epiphytes, trees and more. The ecology of various plant communities will also be examined. Best suited for adults. Come prepared with your camera and questions. Free; advance registration required.

Sat., June 15, 10:00 am - noon

Advanced Plant Identification: This six-part plant identification series introduces participants to the basics and not-so-basic steps required to positively identify plants. Participants will receive a notebook and a copy of How to Identify Plants by H.D. Harrington. Upon completion of the entire course, participants will receive a Certificate of Completion from the University of Florida. Wear comfortable shoes as part of the class will be outdoors. \$15 for this series; advance registration required.

Fri., June 21, 10:00 - 11:30 am

Forestry Hike: Join a local natural resources agent and hike along two miles of boardwalks and natural trails at Brooker Creek Preserve. Come prepared with binoculars, cameras and questions. Questions can also be researched in the resource room upon return to the education center. Free; advance registration required.

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

Birds in Florida Gardens: Join Lynn Sumerson for a program for those interested in attracting birds to their Florida gardens using Florida-native plants and identifying the birds to expect in the garden. Free; advance registration required.

Sat., June 29, 8:00 - 10:00 am

Wildflower Garden Club: Join the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve to get gardening hands

Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve

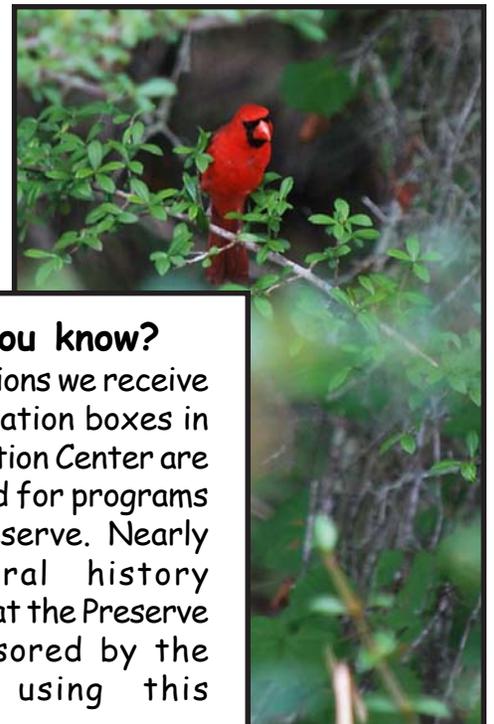
New Members: Jacob Karr, Terri Pendleton, Margaret Rosar, Irvin Rosen, Kendra Jade Wilson-Roberts

Huegel's Eagle: Sandra Miraglia

dirty in the preserve's wildflower garden. Bring garden gloves and hat. Morning snacks are usually provided. Free; advance registration required.

Sat., June 29, 8:30 - 10:00 am

Guided Photography Hike: 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 Brooker Creek Preserve, then hike the boardwalk and trails looking for those shots that reflect the season. Recommended for adults and children 12 and older. Free; advance registration required.



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.

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 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
The Ed Center and Nature Store are open Wednesdays during March, April, and May.

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.

Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve Board of Directors:

Officers
Chair: Barbara Hoffman
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