


Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve

May - June 2017

Chairman's Message

by Cathie Foster

Another beautiful spring day, another exciting and successful Wildlife Safari. Our first Safari, in 2011, brought in about 400 people. This year we had about 1200 people, including close to 600 young children! Kids of all ages walked the easy Wildlife Safari trail where they encountered a series of six Wildlife Safari stations. As always, each station featured animals who make Brooker Creek Preserve and Florida their home. Many thanks to the licensed, expert wildlife handlers who joined us this year to share their knowledge and love of Florida's wildlife:

- Tampa Bay Bats - bats
- Boyd Hill Nature Preserve - raptors
- Betty Rossie - turtles and tortoises
- Suncoast Herpetological Society - snakes
- Reptile Discovery Program - baby alligator
- Wildlife Haven Rehab - baby opossums, raccoons and squirrels

As a bonus this year, we had an additional station set up at the end of the Bird Path, where Safari volunteers had a spotting scope trained on a bald eagle's nest high up on one of the power lines. Visitors were excited to be able to observe the parents, as well as their chick, throughout the day.

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The Return the Preserve Work Day on April 22 celebrated the 47th anniversary of Earth Day. See page 3. Photo by Barb Hoffman.

Don't forget to "like" Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center on Facebook and share the page with your friends! We are also on Instagram now, you can follow us under @brookercreekpreserve.

Save the Dates Upcoming Friends Events

- May 6 FOBCP Book Club
- May 6 Wildfire Prevention Day
- May 6 Beekeeping: Getting Started
- May 13 Migratory Bird Day at BCP
- May 20 Return the Preserve Work Day
- May 27 Wildflower Garden Work Day
- June 3 FOBCP Book Club
- June 11 Ken Rowe Birdathon
- June 17 Return the Preserve Work Day
- June 17 Beekeeping: Healthy Hives
- June 24 Wildflower Garden Work Day
- July 9 Off the Beaten Path:
Interior Wildlands
- July 23 Music Jamboree
- Nov. 11 Music in the Woods

Donation Thanks!

Many thanks to Rotary Club of East Lake Sunrise for their very generous grant of \$1000. The check was presented at Rotary's recent "Cruisin' the Park" Charity Car Show and Festival on April 29 at John Chesnut Park. We have big plans for this big check, including the purchase of beekeeping hives and equipment for our soon-to-be-established Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve apiary. We sincerely appreciate Rotary's continued support!



Congratulations to Friends Board Member, Evan Earle, for receiving a 2017 Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's Future of the Region Award Certificate! Evan was honored for creating and organizing the Friends "Return the Preserve" program. Evan, along with many fellow volunteers, have removed exotic and nuisance vegetation from Brooker Creek Preserve every month for almost four years. Pictured here, from left to right, are Sean Sullivan (TBRPC Executive Director), Cathie Foster (Friends Chairman), Evan Earle, Barb Hoffman (Friends Business Director), and Patrick Roff (TBRPC Chairman).
Way to go, Evan!



Return the Preserve Work Day by Evan Earle Jr.

Well, 2017 has not slowed down one bit and neither have our Friends Of Brooker Creek Preserve (FOBCP) Return The Preserve (RTP) Work Days. March and April saw two more outstanding clean ups thanks to a lot of hard working people!

In March, the Rotary Club Of Tarpon Springs showed up in force, in spirit, and in number! They were joined by volunteers from Mitchell High School as well as individuals who were there to donate their time and energy. All I had to do was point out a vine covered tree and then get out of the way. The group focused on a mature tree bordering the delivery loop sidewalk, covered in grape vine and cat briar. And those that didn't tackle vines were off removing St. Augustine grass from among the muhly Grass off the sidewalk from the delivery loop to the auditorium. We had volunteers of all ages giving it their all.

What a tremendous job! We cleared out the tree and the area surrounding it. Now the tree can reach for the sun and the area around it is open for native plants and wildlife to return. And the patch of muhly grass looks better than every. Way to go Team March! March may come in like a lion and leave like a lamb, but you were roaring both coming and going. I encourage

March 18, 2017



everyone to wander over to this area of the Preserve and check out the tremendous accomplishments from our Mach RTP Work Day.

April 22, 2017
Earth Day

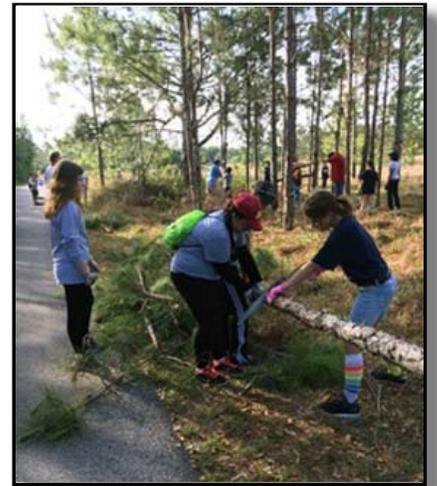
In April, we changed things up. We moved our RTP Work Day to coincide with Earth Day and commemorated the 47th anniversary of this special day with an equally special RTP Work Day. We removed slash pines that had been tagged by Pinellas County Parks & Conservation Resources from the entry loop area. You may be asking yourselves "What? They removed trees on Earth Day?"

Yes we did! These were seedlings and saplings that had become overcrowded. By removing these trees, we are supporting the ultimate goal of returning the entry loop area to a healthier, more natural state.

With lots of volunteers with Mr. Greg Long from Hillsborough Academy of Math and Science joined by many other individuals who were there to celebrate with us, we made short work of those trees. I never realized how much kids like to saw! We filled two trailers full of trees of varying size (and a special SHOUT OUT to Ray Poynor who was so generous in letting us use his trailer for this RTP Work Day). A loud "TIMBER" was heard more than once as we removed some larger saplings. So with all of the tagged trees removed or cut down, we turned our attention to areas of grape vine overgrowth on the exit road. You will have no problem finding the areas that were cleaned up in April. The before and after is abundantly clear. I can think of no better place to celebrate Earth Day than Brooker Creek Preserve. Working with these great students and volunteers made me feel very grateful for what we have and what we are doing to preserve and protect it. And we coined a new phrase for our vine pulling efforts: "Free The Tree!" I love it. Thank you Team April!

I want to thank the Friends Of Brooker Creek Preserve for their generosity in providing pizza for both our March and April RTP Work Days. After a hard morning of work, we have been gathering in the picnic shelter off of the main parking lot to enjoy pizza that really hits the spot. Thanks to Keystone Corner and to San's Pizzeria and Restaurant for working with us to fill our large Saturday morning pizza orders with such delicious pizza.

If you looking for a hands on opportunity, I invite you to join us for our ongoing Return The Preserve Work Days. Thanks to generous, active volunteers, we are helping to return the Preserve to its natural state!



Off the Beaten Path: Sandhill Scramble - April 2, 2017 By: Craig Huegel

Barb Hoffman and I first came up with the idea of offering these hikes "off the beaten path" as a fundraising opportunity that would also be fun for the participants. I have to admit that I had another somewhat more underhanded reason - it gave me the opportunity each year to visit some of my favorite places in Brooker Creek Preserve that were not open to me since I became a member of the general public. The area of the "Sandhill Scramble" is definitely one of those.

The region north of Keystone Road and north of the cattle pasture and well fields contains some of the most unique uplands within Brooker Creek Preserve. After you cross the last cattle gate and enter the intact native communities, the elevation rises almost imperceptibly and the habitat changes from pine flatwoods to longleaf pine sandhill. There is very little of this habitat in the main portion of the Preserve, south of Keystone Road and almost none remains in the rest of Pinellas County. That is what makes this region so special.

We had a perfect day to hike on April 2. The weather was just a bit crisp and the skies were clear. Despite having a few last minute cancellations, five intrepid hikers were ready for me, waiting at the gate as I drove in. The open pasture is always a great place to see wildlife early in the morning and we were greeted by sandhill cranes, wild turkey, a variety of wading birds, and several gopher tortoises.

With the gate open, we carpooled up to the end of the paved road and began our walk. Early April is normally the best time to see our native sky-blue lupine (*Lupinus diffusus*), but this has been an early spring and these and many other of the spring wildflowers were a bit past their peak bloom. What we did see were various blueberries, huckleberries, and lyonias as we headed north towards the sandhill region. We also were lucky enough to see a medium-sized coral snake that was in the middle of the trail ahead of us. It's been years since I've seen this shy and reclusive snake, and we got a good look before it headed back into the vegetation.

The sandhill community is characterized by an understory dominated by wiregrass instead of saw palmetto and this makes it easy to leave the trail and explore the area cross-country. We wandered through here looking for wildflowers, butterflies, and gopher tortoise burrows. There was a lot to find, though many of the wildflowers of this area bloom mostly in the fall. The birds were out, however. Bluebirds are always a constant here and I



Sky-blue lupine (*Lupinus diffusus*)

eventually called some up for all of us to see. These, a variety of warblers, blue-gray gnatcatchers, a swallow-tailed kite, and singing Eastern towhees were all present for us as we walked the area. Several of us in the group were birdwatchers so we had enough binoculars to share with everyone.

As we wrapped the hike up and had a quick lunch together near the access gate, I think all of us felt that we had just had a wonderful morning. If you haven't joined us yet for one (or all) of our Off the Beaten Path hikes, I would encourage you to do so. Each of the four hikes in our series is unique and allows us to explore places within the Preserve that are not open to the public. I look forward to each and every one of them and I love sharing these places with you.

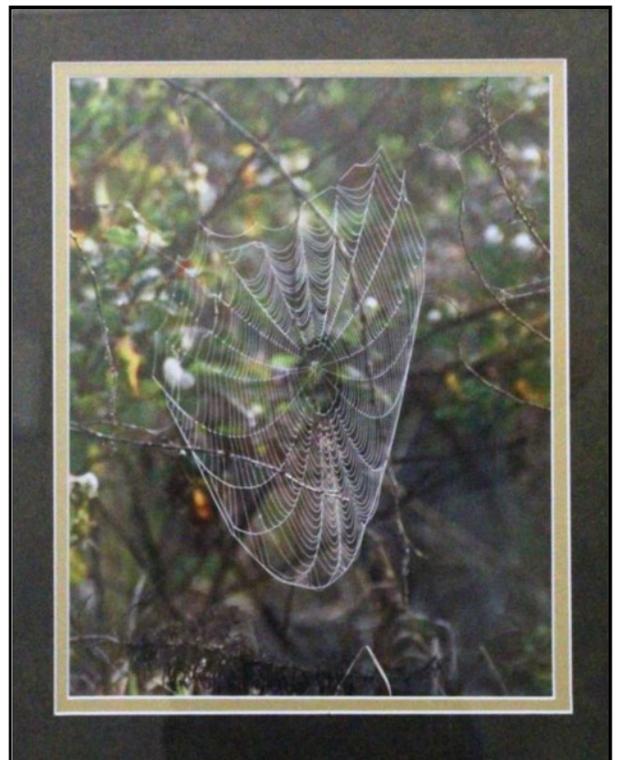
The hike on **July 9** will take us deep into the central core of the Preserve. It will be wet and we will slog through spots along the trail - where the water will be knee high. Along the way, we will see beautiful displays of wildflowers and butterflies and regions of open wet pine flatwoods that are not found elsewhere on the property. I hope you will join us.

Friends of BCP Sponsor Art Awards

The Tarpon Springs Paint and Photo was an event where artists chose spots around the Tarpon Springs area to paint and photo for three days. Awards were given for the best paintings and best photos including two \$100 awards for the best painting and the best photo done in Brooker Creek Preserve, sponsored by the Friends.



Elaine Hahn, "Morning Stroll," oil
- 1st Place Painting



Sue Thomas, "Home Sweet Home" - 1st Place Photography

Wildlife Safari - April 8, 2017, continued from page 1

As a bonus this year, we had an additional station set up at the end of the Bird Path, where Safari volunteers had a spotting scope trained on a bald eagle's nest high up on one of the power lines. Visitors were excited to be able to observe the parents, as well as their chick, throughout the day. Observant visitors also had the chance to see a very large alligator sunning himself for most of the day on the bank as they crossed the bridge over the creek. What a treat!



Watching the large alligator

We could never have offered this event without the 40 volunteers who gave of their precious time before, during and after the event. It takes many hands, many hours and tons of dedication to produce an event like Wildlife Safari. We all agree it is well worth it.

And, finally, thanks to our sponsors who contributed financially. In the end, we cleared over \$2500! More importantly, we were able to provide the community with an opportunity to connect with "real Florida" in one of our favorite places in Pinellas County - Brooker Creek Preserve!



The Welcome Table - FOBCP volunteers Julie Wade (left) and Chayil Branda handed out passports to the children and explained the safari.



Station 1 - Bats. Francine Prager of Tampa Bay Bats, with assist from FOBCP volunteer Karl Nichter.

Station 2 – Raptors. Amy, Jason (holding an American kestrel), and Marc (holding Phantom, the barred owl) came from Boyd Hill Nature Preserve.



Station 3 – Turtles and tortoises. Betty Rossie, educating a crowd gathered around her station.

Thanks to the The Burr Family for sponsoring the station set up to view the bald eagle nest.

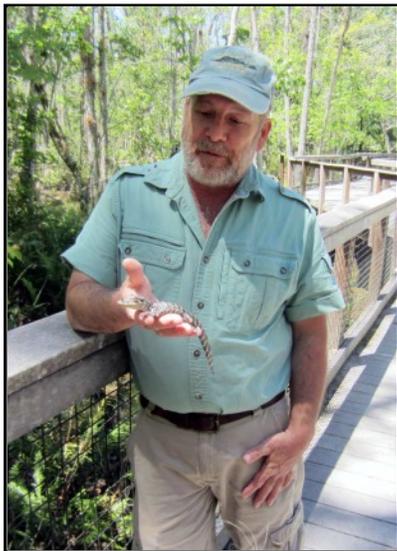


Barb proudly displays Hoffman Architects' contribution to the Safari. Photo by Karl Nichter.

Water station. Thank you!



Station 4 - Snakes. Doreen, from the Suncoast Herpetological Society, lets an excited group of children touch the red rat snake. Doreen, right, photo by Karl Nichter.



Station 5 -Alligators. Bruce Shwedick of Reptile Discovery Programs, holding 5-month old alligator "Okeechobee." Photo by Julia Myers.



Station 6 - Raccoon babies. Anita, Poppie and Marilyn, of the Wildlife Haven in Tarpon Springs. Display their rescued babies. Marilyn's photo by Karl Nichter.



Wildlife Safari prize station – volunteers Pat Coughlin (left below), and Isobel Sapp enjoy a quiet moment after awarding hundreds of magnifying glasses to children who completed their passports. (Photo of Isobel by Julia Myers).



Volunteers Kathleen and Sandra were very busy in the gift shop.





THANK YOU 2017 SPONSORS!

Laurie Angyn
Lois Barth
The Burr Family
Doug Eiland, MD-Radiology Associates of Tarpon Springs
Hoffman Architects
Jane, Jeff, and Sherry
Keep Pinellas Beautiful
Nichter Photography
Pampered Gardeners, LLC
Louis T. Petersen
Barbara Schultz, Prudential Advisors
Waddell & Reed Microaccounting

Jane, feeding lunch to the hungry volunteers.



Wildlife Safari photos by Cathy Vogelsong unless noted.

WILDFIRE PREVENTION DAY

Saturday May 6th AT Brooker Creek Preserve
9:00 to 11:00 a.m. 3940 Keystone Road
Tarpon Springs, FL 34688

East Lake Fire Rescue will be hosting a Wildfire Prevention Event along with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Florida Division of Forestry, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office and our Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). Over the past decade, The East Lake Fire Rescue District has seen noticeable growth along the Brooker Creek Preserve urban-interface. This area represents a large liability to our community and the district. During this event, members from the above mentioned organizations will demonstrate and educate all attendees on the proper steps homeowners can take to keep their home protected from wildfires. Our goal is to address risks within our community and prevent devastations caused by wild land fires. If you cannot make the event, please check out the website www.elfr.org to obtain information on wildfire prevention.

Register at: <https://wildfireprevention.eventbrite.com>



Friends  of Brooker Creek Preserve

ACRE ADOPTIONS FOR BROOKER CREEK PRESERVE

Brooker Creek Preserve's Adopt an Acre Program was established to enhance its restoration and land management programs. We thank the donors listed below who have chosen to commemorate others by adopting an acre of the Preserve. See page 23 for the Adopt an Acre Form and additional information.

Introduction to

BEEKEEPING

A Hobby with Sweet Rewards
3 Part Series!



April 22 ~ 10am-12pm

Part 1: INTRO TO HONEYBEES: This program will introduce you to the basics of honey bees, their biology and the guiding principles of beekeeping.



May 6 ~ 10am-12pm

Part 2: GETTING STARTED: We will cover what it takes to get started with a focus on the equipment and tools necessary for beekeeping. We will review the components of the "modern" bee hive and explain Florida's rules & guidelines.



June 17 ~ 10am to 12pm

Part 3: HEALTHY HIVES: We will review how to maintain healthy honeybee colonies, discuss how to recognize pests and diseases, and have an in- depth discussion on what you can do to support your bees, with a focus on organic beekeeping practices.

UF | IFAS Extension
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA
An Equal Opportunity Institution



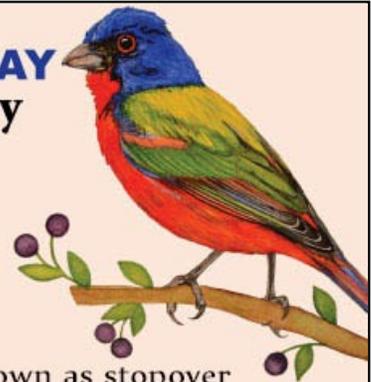
2017 **HELPING BIRDS ALONG THE WAY** International Migratory Bird Day

Migratory Bird Day at Brooker Creek Preserve!

Saturday, May 13 10am to 2pm

Birds rely on resource-rich, strategically located places, known as stopover sites, during migration. Brooker Creek Preserve is an important stopover site...and so is your own backyard! Join Clearwater Audubon and Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve for an educational seminar about migration in Florida and how you can help birds successfully migrate with an energy-filled landscape of your own. Woodland walks will follow to point out the types of plants birds need. The Friends Nature Store will have plants for purchase as well!

Register at : <https://migratorybirdday.eventbrite.com>



Kitchen Botany



You may know more than you think about botany from everyday interactions with plants in the kitchen! We will explore where our fruits, vegetables, herbs and spices really come from and how many of them were “domesticated” from wild plants. Presented by James Stevenson, UF/IFAS Pinellas County Extension Specialist.

Saturday, May 20th @ 10:30am

<https://kitchenbotany.eventbrite.com>



Ranger Naturalist: Bright Futures Opportunity at Brooker Creek Preserve



Please join us for this **information session** to learn what the Ranger Naturalist Program at Brooker Creek Preserve is all about!

Date: Tuesday, May 16

Time: 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Place: Brooker Creek Preserve Auditorium

3940 Keystone Road, Building 3

Tarpon Springs, FL 34688

Register at: <https://rangernaturalistorientation.eventbrite.com>

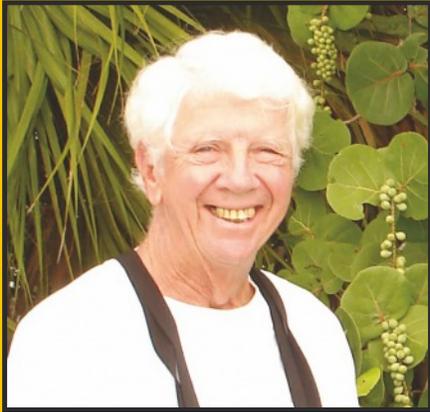
The Ranger Naturalist Program at Brooker Creek Preserve is supported through the University of Florida IFAS/Extension in Pinellas County. High school students (ages 15-18) will work with faculty and staff to develop an enjoyable and meaningful volunteer experience.

Our Mission is to provide a service learning opportunity for youth to build interpretive skills, workforce preparedness, and environmental awareness.

The Ranger Naturalist Program will run from June 26th – 30th 2017 from 10:00 a. m. – 3:00 p. m. each day. 25 Bright Futures Hours will be earned if participants attend each day (recommended). E-mail James Stevenson for an application at jstevenson@pinellascounty.org
There is A \$20 non-refundable reservation fee for chosen applicants.



The 3rd Annual



Ken Rowe Birdathon

At Brooker Creek Preserve

Sunday June 11, 2017

5:30 am – 11:30 am Birding, 12:00 – 1:00 pm Lunch & Prizes

Birders of all levels are welcome and encouraged to attend! Teams of 2-4 people, \$10/person, includes lunch. Teams are encouraged to invite youth birders to join their team and may include them as extra members over the cap of four. Prizes will be awarded in a variety of categories including most species per team and many more... Birding will take place by teams at their own pace at a choice of several areas within the Brooker Creek Preserve boundary, most not open to the public. Maps indicating entry/parking sites, including "hot spot" locations, will be provided to participants. Data collected will be used to help monitor breeding bird populations. Team leaders must RSVP by June 9.

This event is sponsored by Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve.

3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs, 34688

For questions or to sign up: Call 727-934-2680 * Email fobcp@tampabay.rr.com





Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve
OFF THE BEATEN PATH

A nature-based fundraising hike series!

Description: This series of four hikes will take place in beautiful areas tucked away within Brooker Creek Preserve in sites that are closed to the public. Our guide, Dr. Craig Huegel, a Wildlife Ecologist with St. Petersburg College, can identify everything, from the tiniest moss to the tallest tree including animal prints, bird calls, lichens, and more. He is full of stories and very patient in answering questions. The hikes will be not only educational, but a lot of fun as well! The hikes will begin at 9:00 a.m. and be about 3-4 hours long. Bring water and lunch.

Cost: \$80 donation for the series or \$25 donation per hike with a 10% discount for members of Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve

Sites Off the Beaten Path:

Jan. 8, 2017 - Cypress Swamp Stomp - Located in the central part of the preserve, this site features orchids, ferns, and epiphytes. It may be wet, it may be dry, so be prepared for either as we plunge into the depths of the swamp!

April 2, 2017 - 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. (*Note change of date)



July 9, 2017 - Interior Wildlands - We will be in parts of the Preserve so remote that cell phones won't work, areas so pretty you won't believe you are in Pinellas County!

Oct. 8, 2017 - In Search of Catesby's Lily - Located in the eastern part of the preserve, we will search for the endangered Catesby's Lily. In so doing, we will see a profusion of beautiful fall wildflowers in full bloom.

Reservations Required: Reserve your spot by emailing fobcp@tampabay.rr.com. Sign up early! Only 20 spots are open for these fabulous hikes *off the beaten path!* Questions? Email fobcp@tampabay.rr.com or call 727-934-2680.



Summer Camp 2017
Brooker Creek Preserve
(Tarpon Springs, Florida)

Herpetology Camp



Back for its 12th year, this popular, hands-on, science-based nature day camp is designed for children with a strong interest in nature. Campers will explore the fascinating world of amphibians and reptiles side-by-side with herpetologist George L. Heinrich. Through up-close encounters with a variety of animals, such as gopher tortoises, frogs, lizards, and snakes, campers will learn about the ecology and conservation of amphibians and reptiles.

Dates: 10-14 July 2017 (9:00 am-4:00 pm)

Ages: children ages 7-11

Registration: \$175.00/camper

limited to 30 campers

registration is now open and is on a first-come, first-served basis

no before or after camp care is available

Music Jamboree - Sun., July 23

Dust off that guitar, fiddle, banjo or other acoustic instrument and bring it down to the Auditorium for a jam session, Sunday July 23, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. Meet other musicians and learn some new songs.

Music lovers of all ages are encouraged to come, listen and enjoy. Photo by Jane Myers.



Upcoming Music in the Woods - Nov. 11

Mark Your Calendars! The trio "2PM" will be playing at our outdoor music pavilion on Saturday, November 11, 2017, from 4:30 - 7:00.



Iris, photo by Julia Myers.



Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve

New Members

Pamella Burrows

Linda Daniels

Ron and Nancy Hughes

Phil Kesel

Sierra McKay

Liza Ryan

Joan Scazzaro

One of the artists participating in the Tarpon Springs Paint and Photo event, painting at Brooker Creek. Article, page 6. Photo by Sue Thomas.

News from the Wildflower Garden

By Pam Brown

Our last two Saturday workdays have been spent cleaning up the garden and deadheading spent flowers. With the drought conditions this past winter, there was a big contrast to the lush flowering that we saw last spring after a wet winter. The garden looks a bit parched this year. Due to reseeding, the Gulf muhly grass has naturalized a bit too much in the garden. We thinned the plants to give room for some of the other plants to flourish. We also added two new beautyberry shrubs at the edge of the garden to replace a couple that have died. We hope to have some plant signs to provide the names of the plants in the gardens in the next few months.

Come and join us for our Saturday workday the last Saturday of each month. We meet from 8 am to 10 am during the hot months of the year - April through October. Bring a hat, gardening gloves and tools, along with bug spray, and wear closed-toed shoes. We will provide breakfast snacks, coffee and juice.

Pam's Gardening Thoughts

This past winter, and now spring, have been very dry.

We are currently nearly five inches below normal rainfall for the year. If you are looking for flowering plants to bring some color to your landscape, blanket flower (*Gaillardia pulchella* and *G. aestivalis*) and dune sunflower (*Helianthus debilis*) are natives that are very drought tolerant.

Both species of blanket flower are annuals or short-lived perennials from twelve to eighteen inches tall and wide. They have brightly colored flowers with a long bloom season, from spring until late summer and then sporadic until frost. The blooms usually have bi-colored petals of red and yellow, but the amounts of each color can vary considerably. Give this flower a sunny location and plenty of room to spread as it re-seeds aggressively.

Dune sunflower is salt tolerant and usually considered a coastal plant, but it grows just as well inland. It is perennial and, as most sunflowers, has cheerful yellow blooms nearly all year long. There are three subspecies of native dune sunflower and the one to plant in our area is West Coast Dune Sunflower (*Helianthus debilis* subsp. *vestitus*). By choosing to plant the subspecies that is native to our west coast areas, the ecotypes will be preserved. Provide a site with full sun and well-drained sandy soil. Avoid moist or regularly watered areas. These plants spread readily so give them plenty of space. Plants should be spaced about three feet apart.



blanket flower,
photo by Pam Brown



dune sunflower (beach
sunflower), photo by
Craig Huegel

Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve Readers Club 2017 By Jon Burr

Sometimes you get it a little wrong. When we picked the books for March and April 2017 we chose two Florida authors, both Florida newspaper folk, writing about



Photo by Karl Nichter

Florida. We knew them to be writers with humorous outlooks. Never mistake irony as always humorous. We did one of the writers a serious disservice. In March we read, *Best State Ever, A Florida Man Defends His Homeland*, by Dave Barry: LOL stuff. These were "accurate" but rollicking stories about Florida and some of the loonier people and places in the state. Barry has always been a favorite of mine and boy did he deliver. We had a great discussion with lots of LOLs.

Then there was the mistake. In April we discussed *Oh Florida, How America's Weirdest State Influences the Rest of the Country*, by Craig Pittman. We had previously read one of Pittman's books - an expose of an illegal orchid smuggler in Florida - and basically found that book a little plus of "meh." Carl Hiaasen, on the cover of *Oh Florida*, called the book hilarious. I don't know what Hiaasen read but the book was almost top to bottom depressing. Our mistake was reading the two books back to back as our expectations were not set for the really serious shortcomings of most of the people Pittman wrote about. I almost feel like I should apologize to Craig, who's a really nice guy, for juxtaposing his book with Barry's. For the newcomers to Florida in our group, their opinion was that Florida, however, doesn't have the edge on scallywags and con men. Basically we all felt the book suffered from following the Berry book, that it was a good read, but should have been saved for another time. The Future:

May 2017 we discuss a young adult book (who wouldn't want to be a young adult again) by Carl Hiaasen called *Hoot*.

June 2017 we read *Moon Pool*, by A. Merritt. Merritt and his wife Eleanor lived at Randolph Farms off Indian Rocks Road in central Pinellas and are buried across the street in the Serenity Gardens Memorial Park. *Moon Pool* was written about one hundred years ago and it will be interesting to see how prescient Merritt was about the science of that time.

July 2017 *Seduced* by Randy Wayne White. We previously enjoyed a novel from White from his Doc Ford series. This is one from his Hannah Smith series.

August 2017 *Forever Island*, by Patrick Smith. Patrick Smith is best known for *A Land Remembered* which we read several years ago. He did several other novels, including this one about Native Americans in the Everglades.

September 2017 *Storm of the Century: The Labor Day Hurricane of 1935* by Willie Drye. This book is in celebration of the peak month of hurricane season.

October 2017 Any novel by Tim Dorsey. Dorsey's novels have been compared to Carl Hiaasen.

November 2017 *Death in the Everglades: the murder of Guy Bradley*, America's first environmentalist martyr, by Stuart B. McIver.

December 2017 *Between Two Rivers: Stories from the Red Hill to the Gulf* edited by Susan Cerulean. These are stories of northern Florida by thirty leading naturalists and writers. There is still room at the table. We have an enjoyable time of discussion and sharing.

Nature Store News By Kathleen Nichter

We now carry Bee-Haven raw, natural Florida honey. Bee-Haven is family owned and operated farm in central Florida. The store began stocking it the end of last year in three sizes: 2 ounce sampler, 1 lb., and 2 lb. and three types: Allergy Blend, Orange Blossom, and Gallberry.

Here are answers to some of the most asked questions:

Which one should I buy?

Whichever one you like. We offer tastes of each of the three types to help you decide.

What is Allergy Blend?

Raw honey contains local pollens. This blend contains a variety of pollens such as palmetto, mangrove, oak, and many others, all listed on the label. Many people find that using raw honey helps them with our local seasonal allergies.

What is Gallberry?

Gallberry is a small, evergreen holly bush that grows in the coastal regions of the Gulf of Mexico. We have gallberry bushes growing at the Preserve. Many people find the Gallberry honey tastes slightly less "sweet" than Orange Blossom or Allergy Blend. Do your own taste test and decide.

Is this a seasonal item or will you be carrying it all the time?

All the time! Please remember, though, that as a small store we do sometimes run out of stock on some items and it may take a little time to restock them. We are making every effort to keep all sizes and all flavors in stock.



Volunteer News and More!

By Julia Myers, Education Support Specialist, Brooker Creek Preserve

Thank you Volunteers for making the 2017 Wildlife Safari such a success!



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



Remember!

When ordering items from Amazon, if you use Amazon Smile, a donation will be made by Amazon to Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve! The Preserve has a unique charity-link to take customers directly to our smile.amazon.com site:

smile.amazon.com/ch/59-3302182

WANTED!

Mulching Mower to aid in land management!
Only \$500,000!



An Invitation from Barry

Barry Andress, our Golf Cart Guy, invites you to take a tour with him in the golf cart along the paved 2-mile driveway loop at Brooker Creek Preserve. The golf cart provides a quiet ride and a new way to see the beautiful landscape and possibly some wildlife. Barry knows some natural history and Preserve history, and is happy to share his knowledge with you. Please email Barry to set up a date and time: alfabarry3@gmail.com.




Friends of
Brooker Creek Preserve

ADOPT AN ACRE



*A program to enhance restoration and land management programs in **Brooker Creek Preserve***

The **ADOPT AN ACRE** program was established by the Friends in 2016 to give individuals the opportunity to help keep intact the ecological integrity of the Preserve.

100% of funding will be used for:

- Removing exotic and invasive plants
- Restoring the natural flow of water
- Fire management
- Restoring natural plant communities

Acres make great gifts for birthdays, anniversaries, memorials and more!

Upon receipt of the donation, the donor or honoree's name will be placed on the **ADOPT AN ACRE** display inside the Environmental Education Center for one year. A certificate will be sent to the honoree acknowledging the adoption.

Donor
Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

Email: _____

___in honor of ___in memory of ___for myself

Honoree
Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

I wish to adopt _____ acres @ \$100/acre

Total Due: _____

Make check payable to: FOBCP

Mail to: 3940 Keystone Road
Tarpon Springs, FL 34688

Questions? fobcp@tampabay.rr.com

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

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

BROOKER CREEK PRESERVE

Cool calendar for your refrigerator!

May 2017

**Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve events*

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
4 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15	5	6 Wildfire Community Preparedness Day 9-11 am Guided Hike (<i>Ecosystems</i>) 9-10:30 *Friends Readers Club 9:30-10:30 Intro to Beekeeping-Part 2 10:00-12	7
11 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15	12	13 Beginning Bird Hike 8-10 am Migratory Bird Day 10-2	14 Mother's Day/Mother Nature Hike 9-10:30 Education Center and * Nature Store <i>open 11 am-4 pm</i>
18 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15	19	20 *Return the Preserve Work Day 8-11 Guided Hike 9-10:30 (<i>Footprints on the Land</i>) Kitchen Botany 10:30-12	21 Education Center and * Nature Store <i>open 11 am-4 pm</i>
25 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15	26 Family Fun Friday 10-11 am	27 Photography Hike 8:30-10:30 *Wildflower Garden Work Day 8-10 Guided Hike (<i>Our Wildest Place</i>) 9-11	28 Education Center and * Nature Store <i>open 11 am-4 pm</i>

JUNE 2017

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15	2	3 Guided Hike (<i>Ecosystems</i>) 9-10:30 *Friends Readers Club 9:30-10:30 The Solar System and Telescopes 10:30-11:30	4 Education Center and * Nature Store <i>open 11 am-4 pm</i>
8 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15	9	10 Beginning Bird Hike 8-10 am Orchids and Epiphytes of BCP 10:30-12	11 *Ken Rowe Birdathon 5:30 am - 1:00 pm Education Center and * Nature Store <i>open 11 am-4 pm</i>
15 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15	16	17 *Return the Preserve Work Day 8-11 Guided Hike 9-10:30 (<i>Footprints on the Land</i>) Intro to Beekeeping-Part 3 10:00-12	18 Education Center and * Nature Store <i>open 11 am-4 pm</i>
22 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15	23 Family Fun Friday 10-11 Intro to Plant ID 10:30-12	24 *Wildflower Garden Work Day 8-10 Guided Hike 9-10:30 (<i>Our Wildest Place</i>)	25 Education Center and * Nature Store <i>open 11 am-4 pm</i>
29 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15	30 Family Fun Friday 10-11	July 1 Guided Hike (<i>Ecosystems</i>) 9-10:30	July 2 Education Center and * Nature Store <i>open 11 am-4 pm</i>

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

Friends events are noted in **green**.

Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve - Mission Statement: The mission of the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve is to provide public support for the Preserve through fund raising, volunteer programs, and education to ensure that the Preserve remains a natural wilderness for future generations.

Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve - Land Use Position Statement: The Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve support land uses within the boundaries of Brooker Creek Preserve which have a main purpose that furthers the preservation, conservation, restoration or protection of the land and resources of the Brooker Creek Preserve.

Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve:
www.FriendsOfBrookerCreekPreserve.org
Email: fobcp@tampabay.rr.com
Voicemail: (727) 934-2680

Brooker Creek Preserve:
Phone: (727) 453-6900
Website: www.brookercreekpreserve.org
Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center is located at 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs, Florida, 34688. Phone: (727) 453-6800
Hours: Thurs. - Sat. 9am - 4pm, Sun., 11am - 4pm.

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

Preserve Hiking Trails open 7 days a week, 7:00am to 30 minutes before sunset. Closed the day after Thanksgiving and Dec. 25.

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

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

Pinellas County PCR Mission statement: The mission of the Parks and Conservation Resources Department is to maintain and protect the inherent value of the County's natural, cultural and recreational resources through sustainable access, education, and stewardship that enhance quality of life for our community and future generations.

Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve Board of Directors:

Officers

Chair: Cathie Foster
Vice Chair: Robert Burkard
Secretary: Pam Brown
Treasurer: Jane Myers

Directors:

Accountant: Bob Host
Art Director: open
Beekeeper: Robert Burkard
Business Director: Barbara Hoffman
Fall Wildflower Festival Chair:
Cathie Foster
Grants: Allyn Childress
Guiding Documents: Walt Hoskins
Land Use Chair: Dr. Craig Huegel
Music in the Woods: Jane Myers
Nature Store Manager: Kathleen Nichter
Newsletter Editor: Dr. Craig Huegel
Night Hikes: Mark Yeager
Owl-O-Ween: Barb Hoffman
Publicity Chair: Barbara Schultz
Return the Preserve Work Days:
Evan Earle, Jr.
Wildflower Garden: Pam Brown
Wildlife Safari - Cathie Foster

Further Leadership

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

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

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