



Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve

July - August 2016

Chairman's Message

by Cathie Foster

In our May-June 2015 newsletter, Dr. Craig Huegel gave us an excellent explanation of the critical role fire plays in maintaining the health of Florida's natural areas (an excellent re-read). Because Brooker Creek Preserve is a valuable island of natural lands in a sea of development, appropriate and ongoing active management is absolutely necessary to ensure its good health and biological diversity.

To that end, Lisa Baltus, North County Land Manager, in conjunction with the Florida Division of Forestry, has planned and implemented many prescribed burns in various areas of the Preserve. It is truly wonderful that these burns are happening, but the average number of acres burned annually falls far below what experts agree would be optimal. Some areas of the Preserve haven't been burned in more than 30 years, allowing the "fuel load" (the trees and other vegetation) to build up significantly and even dangerously, considering that the Preserve shares boundaries with many neighborhoods..

Another way to reduce the fuel load is through mechanical treatment using a forestry mulching mower to cut, chop and mulch the vegetation to a fine texture that burns with less intensity and can be more easily controlled in subsequent prescribed burns or in the event of a lightning strike. This type of mower can also be used to

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treat areas of the Preserve that can never be included in a prescribed burn simply because of their proximity to homes. Additionally, this mower could be used to keep clear the 60 miles of existing fire breaks throughout the Preserve and to create 60 more miles of firebreaks still needed.

Recognizing the need for this type of land management, in 2014 the County Commissioners allocated \$315,000 annually for a three-year contract with a company to do this mechanical treatment in our parks and preserves.

Seventy-five percent of this work is done at Brooker Creek Preserve, the largest preserve in Pinellas County. We greatly appreciate this funding as it is a big step in the right direction, but in order to "catch up" and prepare the Preserve for safe and regularly occurring prescribed burns, much more is needed.

In 2014, the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve, with input from our members, volunteers and County staff, developed a list of needs for the Preserve. One of the top 10 items was the purchase of a forestry mulching mower. County staff responsible for managing Brooker Creek Preserve have agreed that a forestry mower, dedicated to the Preserve, could be used daily over many years to maintain our amazing 9,000 acre asset.

They have researched and identified a mower that would do the job. The cost is about \$500,000. The County Commissioners are currently making decisions about how to spend the \$7 million in BP settlement funds they have received, and they are developing a list of potential projects for the Penny for Pinellas, which will be up for renewal in 2020.

Save the Dates Upcoming Preserve Events

- July 2 BC Preserve Book Club
- July 16 Return the Preserve Work Day
- July 20 Wildlife Wed. Webinar Series - Creating Wildlife Habitat Near Water
- July 25-29 ECO Teacher Training Workshop
- Aug. 2 BC Preserve Book Club
- Aug. 17 Wildlife Wed. Webinar Series - Why Invasive Species Matter
- Aug. 18 Free Film Viewing
- Aug. 20 Return the Preserve Work Day
- Aug. 27 Wildflower Garden Club
- Oct. 15 Fall Wildflower Festival

WANTED!

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



Please join us in urging the County Commissioners to use some of these funds to purchase this sorely needed piece of equipment in order to properly manage this "Jewel of Pinellas" that we all value. To contact our Commissioners, please fill out this form: www.pinellascounty.org/Bpideas.

Cathie

Construction has begun for the Tri-County Trail for its course through the northeastern side of Brooker Creek Preserve! Once complete, this trail will link the Pinellas Trail with Starkey Park and beyond!



New sign on
Keystone Road

East Lake Sunrise Rotary Club makes sizable annual donations to several non-profits in the East Lake area. Shown here is Barb Hoffman accepting a check from East Lake Rotary President, Dan Depies, and Treasurer, Stephanie Ritchey.



Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve Jamboree!

Sunday, July 17th 3:30 - 5 p.m. - All Ages

Dust off that guitar, fiddle, banjo or other acoustic instrument and bring it down to the auditorium for a jam session. Meet other musicians and learn some new songs. Music lovers of all ages are encouraged to come, listen and enjoy. The jam session will be lead by local musician, Brad Myers.



Thank you, East Lake Sunrise Rotary Club for the \$1,000 donation!



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: _____

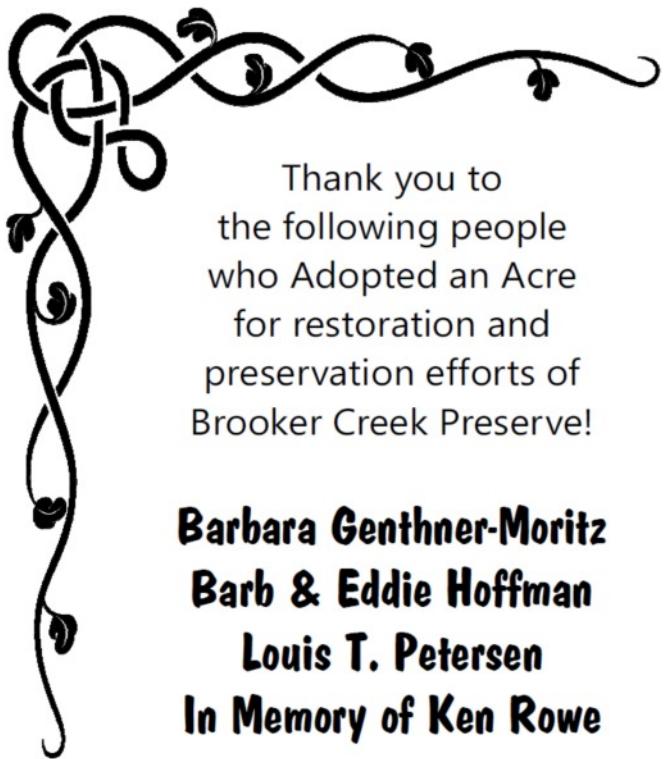
Make check payable to: FOBCP

Mail to: 3940 Keystone Road
Tarpon Springs, FL 34688

Questions? fobcp@tampabay.rr.com

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

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Golden Orb Weavers, abundant in the Preserve, are named for the yellow coloring of their webs. They are also known as Banana Spiders. Photos by Mike & Patti Young.



Many thanks to Alison Shepard for designing
and crafting the Birdathon trophies!



2nd Annual
Ken Rowe Birdathon
Brooker Creek Preserve

Saturday, June 11, 2016
5:30 am - 11:00 am



Eight teams of 2-4 birders competed! 76 species were recorded!



Congratulations to the winning team with 72 species:
Ron Smith, Eric Plage (Team Leader), Pete Plage, and Brian Ahern

Many thanks to Alison Shepard for the beautiful, hand-crafted, ceramic trophies she created especially for this event!

American Crow	Eastern Bluebird	Osprey
American Egret	Double-crested Cormorant	Pileated Woodpecker
American Kestrel	Eastern Kingbird	Pine Warbler
Anhinga	Eastern Meadowlark	Purple Martin
Bald Eagle	Eastern Screech Owl	Red-bellied Woodpecker
Barred Owl	Eastern Towhee	Red-eyed Vireo
Black-bellied Whistling Duck	Eurasian-collared Dove	Red-shouldered Hawk
Black-crowned Night Heron	European Starling	Red-tailed Hawk
Black-necked Stilt	Fish Crow	Red-winged Blackbird
Black Skimmer	Glossy Ibis	Rock Pigeon
Black Vulture	Great Blue Heron	Roseate Spoonbill
Blue Jay	Great Crested Flycatcher	Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Green Heron	Sandhill Crane
Brown-headed Nuthatch	House Sparrow	Snowy Egret
Brown Thrasher	Killdeer	Summer Tanager
Boat-tailed Grackle	Laughing Gull	Swallow-tailed Kite
Carolina Chickadee	Limpkin	Tri-colored Heron
Carolina Wren	Little Blue Heron	Tufted Titmouse
Cattle Egret	Loggerhead Shrike	Turkey Vulture
Chimney Swift	Mottled Duck	White-eyed Vireo
Chuck-will's Widow	Mourning Dove	White Ibis
Common Gallinule	Northern Bobwhite	Wild Turkey
Common Grackle	Northern Cardinal	Wood Duck
Common Night Hawk	Northern Mockingbird	Wood Stork
Common Yellowthroat	Northern Parula	Yellow-throated Warbler
Downy Woodpecker		

Off the Beaten Path - Wildlands Walkabout (6/12/16)

The fourth and final *Off the Beaten Path* hike for this season can be described by three words: wild, wet, and wonderful! Led by the awesome Dr. Craig Huegel, the hike was enjoyed by ten hearty hikers who literally sloshed through miles of water laden trails. We delighted in the amazing array of wildflowers and savored our lunch upon a dry hump of saw palmettos discovered just at the right time. The colors of summer were so evident as were the numerous sounds and scents. The water felt cool and soothing on this hot June day; no one complained about the aquatic condition underfoot. To the contrary, we all vowed to return next year, and we hope you will join us!

Watch for next season's hikes *Off the Beaten Path* and make your reservations.

Wild, wet, and wonderful!



Pink *Sebatia* was in full bloom.

The hikes of this series always result in someone's shoe falling apart. This time, it was Craig's! Craig is well known to "walk your shoes off" and, in this case, it was his own!

MAY THE FOREST
BE WITH YOU.



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

Return the Preserve Work Day (6/18)

by Evan Earle Jr.

While we did not have a Return The Preserve Work Day in May (Marion and I were enjoying a bucket list vacation visiting the redwoods in California), we were there in June. We wanted to wait until it was REALLY hot. And boy was it hot on Saturday June 18th!



There were two of us on this bright sunny day, Marion Yongue and yours truly. We figured, okay we'll just go back over some of the areas we've worked on previously and do some maintenance. Just pull up the new vines and exotics that have popped up since we cleaned out that area.

Uh huh. Maintenance. Easy. No sweat. Well, there was plenty of sweat. We worked on the area where we started our RTP Work Days way back in 2014, right next to the board walk entrance in the main parking lot. Well, those new vines and exotics had returned. While nowhere near the level of when we started in 2014, they had returned. And it was more than maintenance. Especially when it was just the two of us. But we persevered. Until about 9:00 when I waived the white flag and said "Let's find a shady area!"

So we started working on some of the oak hammock islands in the parking lot that had been cleaned out on previous RTP Work Days. I knew better than to even utter the words "maintenance" or "easy" or "not so bad". We cleaned out two of the islands, removing grape vines and smylax. In my opinion, these vines are like teenagers. They grow FAST and never seem to stop growing! In the end, we were happy with our efforts. We said that because we were too tired to feel anything else. As always, it was hard work, but it was rewarding work. My sincere thanks and appreciation to Marion for all of his hard work on this sunny June Saturday.

The next time you visit, I encourage you take a few minutes and check out the areas that have been worked on by the FOBCP and volunteers over the last two and a half years we've been holding our RTP Work Days. This area stretches from the boardwalk around the corner to the delivery drop off loop. We still have more to do, but what a difference from when we started!

We'll be back again in July. With lots of sunscreen, lots of water, and lots of enthusiasm. Whether it's two people or twenty two, our Return The Preserve Work Days are one small but valuable contribution to returning the preserve to its natural beauty.



The Powerlines of Brooker Creek Preserve

By: Craig Huegel

When I first looked at an aerial map of what was to become Brooker Creek Preserve in 1992, the one feature that stood out most was the main powerline and its diagonal partner. They stood out like a scar on the landscape and seemed to be blights on the natural landscape that epitomized the rest of the Preserve. In my naivete, I resolved to try to find a better approach to their management. I have since matured a bit and come to appreciate these areas for the habitat diversity they provide.

Trees cannot be permitted to grow in the powerline corridors as they would eventually interfere with the lines. Realize that these lines carry all the power that feeds the homes and businesses of Pinellas County. It is vital that the integrity of the lines be maintained. Without constant maintenance, the areas beneath the lines would eventually become forested like the rest of the

Preserve. They might look aesthetically more natural than they do in their present state, but they would simply be more of the same and that is the crux of the matter. We don't need more of the same to preserve the diversity of plants and wildlife of the Preserve.

Diversity is a wonderful thing. Natural areas are most valuable when there is a diversity of habitat types. Beneath the powerlines, areas that would naturally be uplands become dry prairie and forested wetlands become freshwater marshes. There is very little of this outside of the powerline corridors. There are whole suites of plant species that find their habitat needs met only beneath the powerlines, or that are very rare anywhere else. Marshes and prairies are some of the most diverse natural systems in North America. Far more plant species can be found in an acre of these habitats than can be found in a forested upland or wetland. Much of that comes from the increased light energy that reaches the ground in non-forested systems. Energy translates to diversity when everything else is held constant. The open powerline corridors are incredibly diverse vegetatively and this, in turn, provides habitat for an equally diverse fauna.

Over the years, I have found many of our rarest plants in the habitats beneath the powerlines. The only grass pink orchid (*Calopogon tuberosus*) ever documented occurred in the corridor. The



Rattlesnake
master



Few-flowered
milkweed

same is true for the state-threatened purple butterwort (*Pinguicula caerulea*). I searched for this plant for several years only to find it in front of me one day while walking in the vegetation beneath the main powerline. Nearly every snowy orchid (*Platanthera nivea*), much of our Catesby's lilies (*Lilium catesbaei*), and most of our documented wild coco orchid (*Eulophia alta*) have been found within the powerline corridor.

The corridor also provides essential habitat for some of our wildlife. The open wetlands, for example, are prime habitat for rails and bitterns. Nearly all of our records of these types of birds have come from the wetlands beneath the powerlines.

In the winter, the open water areas attract a diversity of waterfowl that would not be found in the forested wetlands of the Preserve. Of course, gopher tortoises love the open uplands within the corridor and white-tailed deer and turkey feed extensively in these areas.



St. John's-wort

All of this struck me once again as we stood in the diagonal powerline near the gate in the Ridgemoor subdivision during the most-recent Off the Beaten Path hike sponsored by the Friends. As we gathered up beneath the powerline and prepared to enter the hiking trails of the interior, the wet meadow we were standing in was ablaze in color provided by dozens of wildflower species, and at least a dozen species of butterflies were flitting about nectaring from these flowers. It was a beautiful sight, generated solely by the increased levels of sunlight present here and the active/intense management of the area designed to exclude the woody plants. The powerline corridors are vital to the overall diversity of Brooker Creek Preserve. They are anything but an environmental blight.

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.



Nature Store News

By Kathleen Nichter

The Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve worked with Waterford Press to put together a laminated pocket guide specifically for the Preserve! The guide has a beautiful photograph of the boardwalk on the front, and features the most common insects and animals a visitor is likely to see. I have had several comments already from volunteers and regular visitors that they love it. The guides sell in the Nature Store for \$7.00. These guides would also make a wonderful, and useful, souvenir of a Brooker Creek Preserve visit.

We are always looking for ideas for new items for the store that relate to Brooker Creek Preserve. The idea for the guides came from one of our store volunteers, so please, if you have an idea for something for the store let us know. The store committee reviews all the ideas, and due to budget not all can be acted upon, but we keep an active list for future purchases.



Many thanks to Ray Poyner for staining and hanging the new Nature Stores signs!

The Brooker Creek Preserve Pocket Guide to Familiar Animals is hot off the presses and for sale in the Nature Store!

Much appreciation goes to the anonymous donor who paid for 40% of the printing cost who described it as "...greater than great - magnificent!" Many thanks also go to the committee of folks who developed the species list and supplied photos: Skip Holmes, Barb Hoffman, Dr. Craig Huegel, Lara Milligan, Karl & Kathleen Nichter, and

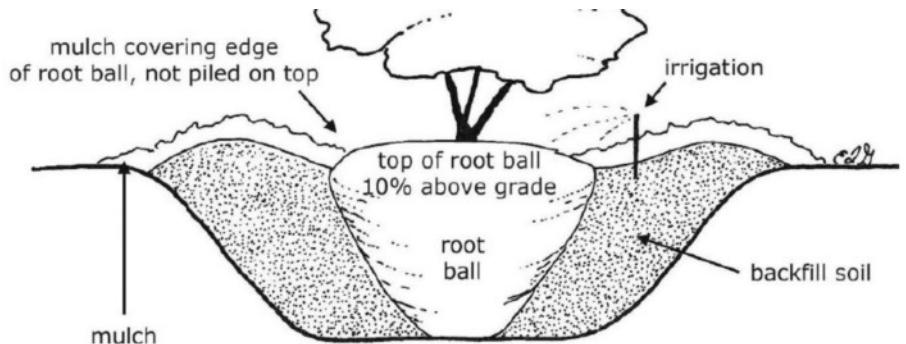
Jim Stevenson. Waterproof and full of good information, the guide sells for \$7, and all proceeds go to Preserve education and restoration! Waterproof and full of good information, the guide sells for \$7, and all proceeds go to Preserve education and restoration!



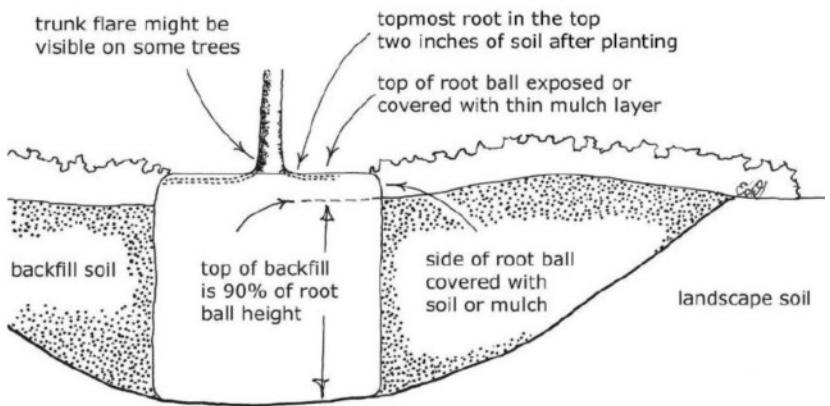
Pam's Gardening Tip

I don't know about you, but the early summer heat this year is keeping me from doing many gardening chores. However, if you are considering adding trees and/or shrubs to your landscape, the summer rainy season is a good time to plant. The extra rain is very helpful in getting plants established and the long days of sun encourage root and top growth. Properly planting involves more than just digging a hole and putting the plant in. The University of Florida has done a good bit of research on proper planting techniques and watering for establishment.

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep112>



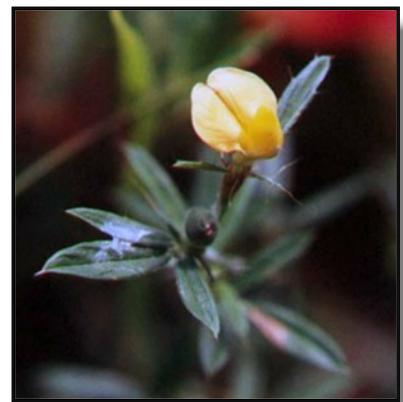
The July 30 Wildflower Garden work session has been canceled.



News from the Wildflower Garden

by Pam Brown

It seems that this spring has been a season of discovery in the Wildflower Garden. We find something new that we did not plant nearly every month. May was no exception. We found a Pencil Flower (*Stylosanthes biflora*) growing on the east side of the garden near the gopher turtle burrow. It is in the legume family. The tiny yellow flowers provide nectar for butterflies and the plant is also a larval plant for the Barred yellow (*Eurema diara*) butterfly. Two volunteers and I deadheaded the Lyre leaf sage and did some basic tidying up at our May workday. The heat was not too bad since we are now meeting for our summer hours of 8:00 to 10:00 am. Consider coming out to help the last Saturday of each month for some gardening fun. Bring your hat, gloves, sunscreen, and closed toed shoes. We will provide breakfast snacks and coffee.



Stylosanthes biflora. Photo by DanTenaglia, from the USF "Atlas of Florida Plants"

Brooker Creek Preserve Book Club

by Jon Burr

In May we discussed a book that mentions one of the Preserve's family, Dr. Bruce Rinker. Dr. Rinker was a very active participant in the Preserve. The book was "The Scent of Scandal" written by Craig Pittman. Craig has written many an article for the now Tampa Times then the St. Petersburg Times. The book was about the illegal importation of a rare orchid and the U. S. government's response. Dr. Rinker worked at Selby Gardens at the time but was not directly involved with the orchid group. (I sent Dr. Rinker a signed copy of the book and I recall his comment was something about is someone still making money off that orchid?) This book generated some of the best discussion we've had so far.



Photo by Karl Nichter

We had several new members as well as most of the regulars but there is room at the table for a few more. I think our experience has been that the discussions are as good if not better than the books. Next we discuss Carl Hiaasen's "Team Rodent." Come and discuss what money and stealth can do: The story of a mouse and central Florida. Please join us Saturday July 2, 2016, 9:30 at the Brooker Creek Preserve Ed Center conference room. Ahead should be two excellent meetings. August 6 is a special meeting. Attendees are invited to read any book by or about Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings. And in September (Saturday the 3rd) we discuss another Florida book: "The Everglades River of Grass" by Marjory Stoneman Douglas.

Book Club Reads for 2016:

July 2: We stay with a tad more controversial an issue with Carl Hiaasen, author of "Team Rodent."

Aug. 2: We're doing something a little differently. For the August meeting please read any book about, or by, Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings.

Sept.3: "The Everglades River of Grass" by Marjory Stoneman Douglas. This stands with "Silent Spring" and "Sand County Almanac" as one of the monuments of environmental writing.



Upcoming Event...

Fall Wildflower Festival

Saturday, October 15, 2016

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

FREE! FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

Volunteer News and More!

By Julia Myers, Education Support Specialist, Brooker Creek Preserve

- Welcome to our new Volunteers, Rob Biondo and Lucy Davis! We are excited to have you join the front desk volunteer team!
- Call to Environmental Educators! We are looking for more self-lead volunteers to help with our family programing and education. We are working on expanding our monthly Family Fun Friday Morning program to a weekly program. Please let Julia know if you are interested!
- Know any kids ages 7-12? There's still room in our Wetland Adventure and Junior Naturalist Summer Camps with FYCCN! Camps will be one week each, July 25th -29th & August 1st -5th.



Asclepias lanceolata



Orb weaver, with its dragonfly lunch



Sabatia grandiflora



Dip Netting at Family Fun Friday Mornings.

Photos by Julia Myers

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

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



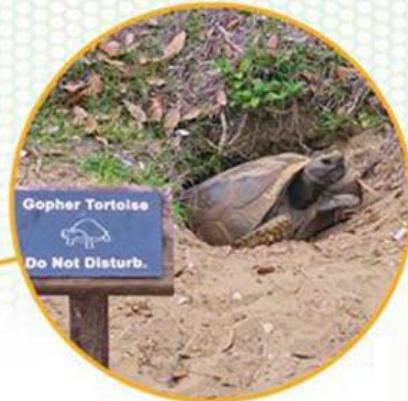
UF | IFAS Extension
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



UF/IFAS EXTENSION

Invites You to attend the 2016

WILDLIFE WEDNESDAY WEBINAR SERIES



WHEN: EVERY 3RD WEDNESDAY

June through November 2016

TIME: 12:15-1:00 PM EST

Dates and topics:

- June 15: Backyard Habitat: Ten Tips for Success
- July 20: Creating Wildlife Habitat Near Water
- Aug. 17: Why Invasive Species Matter
- Sept. 21: Creating Backyard Habitat for Endangered Wildlife
- Oct. 19: Creatures of the Night: Recognizing Backyard Visitors
- Nov. 16: Backyard Bird Habitat

Wildlife Wednesday webinars will provide tips and tools on how to improve home yards to better support local wildlife with an emphasis on habitat needs. They will showcase relevant information and examine how we can learn to coexist with wildlife.

REGISTER HERE

www.Polknr.eventbrite.com

More Information:

Shannon Carnevale
UF/IFAS Polk County Extension
scarnevale@ufl.edu • 863-519-1051

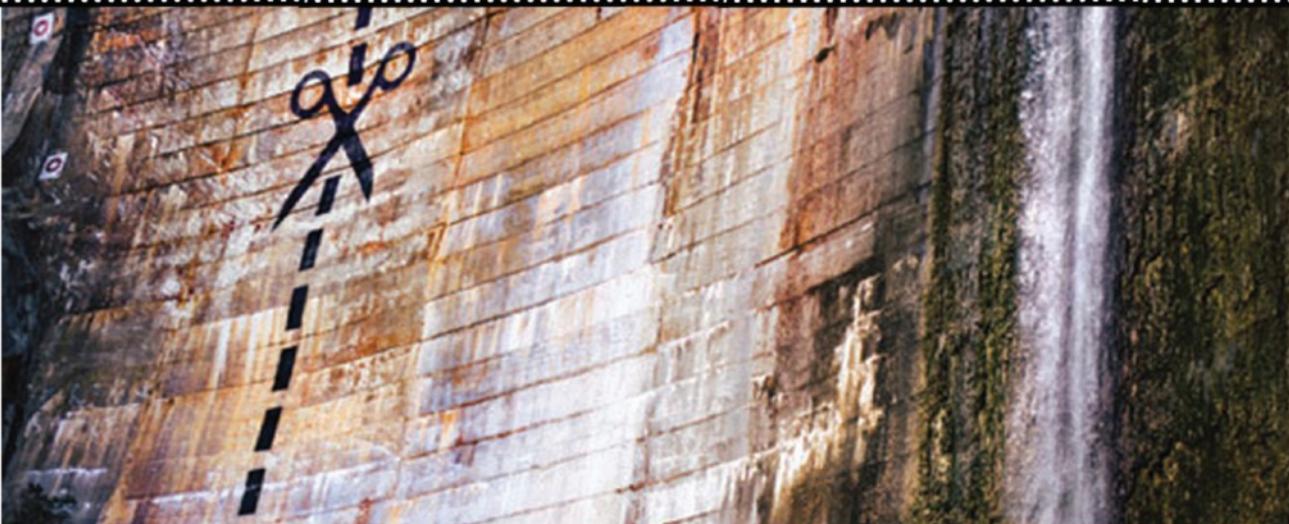
An Equal Opportunity Institution.



@POLKNR
@PINELLAS_EXT_NR
#WILDLIFEWEDNESDAY

**FREE EVENT
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

UF/IFAS Extension Pinellas County Presents:



A Free Film Viewing of **DAMNATION**

Changing ecosystems and changing minds come together in this journey across the United States. Learn about the change in our national attitude from pride in big dams as engineering wonders to the growing awareness that our own future is bound to the life and health of our rivers and discuss where we can go from here.

**Thursday, August 18th
@ 6:30pm**

**Brooker Creek Preserve
3940 Keystone Rd.
Tarpon Springs, FL 34688**

Register: brookerfilmdamnation.eventbrite.com

UF | IFAS Extension
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA
An equal opportunity institution.



ECO Teacher Training Workshop

Exploring Environmental Education Curriculum Options

July 25-29, 2016

Brooker Creek Preserve, 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs, FL 34688

In-Service Elementary & ESE Teachers

- Leave with a variety Florida Standards resources
- Learn from professionals in the environmental field
- Experience the opportunity to mentor pre-service students
- Discover ways to tie environmental topics into any subject!
- Earn professional development credits



Pre-Service Elementary & ESE Majors

- Leave with a variety Florida Standards resources
- Learn from professionals in the environmental field
- Gain insight through an established in-service mentor
- Discover ways to tie environmental topics into any subject!
- Add professional development experiences to your resume

Non-formal Educators

- Leave with a variety Florida Standards resources
- Learn from professionals in the environmental field
- Expand your outreach toolbox!

Nature wildlife STEM TREES Resources Get outdoors!

"Wonderful mix for adding curriculum
and STEM connections for classroom."

WATER Connections
Environmental Stewardship
Birds & Butterflies Toolbox
"Incredibly valuable"

our future
"Best training I've been to yet!"

Join us for a FREE, fun-filled learning experience!

July 25-29, 2016

Every Day from 9:00am – 3:30pm (lunch provided)

- Day 1 – Project Butterfly WINGS
- Day 2 – Project WILD
- Day 3 – Schoolyard Wildlife
- Day 4 – Flying WILD
- Day 5 – Project Learning Tree



Registration is available online:

<https://eco2016.eventbrite.com>

For more information please contact:

Phone: 727-453-6905

Email: lmilligan@pinellascounty.org

Cool calendar for your refrigerator!

BROOKER CREEK PRESERVE

JULY 2016

*Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve events

THURSDAY		FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
		1	2 Guided Hike 9-10:30 <i>(Ecosystems)</i> *Book Club 9:30-10:30	3
7 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15		8	9 Beginning Bird Hike 8-10 am Hummingbirds in Florida 10:30-12:00	10
14 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15		15	16 *Return the Preserve Work Day 8-11 am Guided Hike 9-10:30 <i>(Footprints on the Land)</i> Why Snakes are Cool 10:30-12	17 *Music Jamboree 3:30-5:00 Bring an instrument and jam with us.
20 *Friends of BCP Board Meeting 6:30-8:30 pm Auditorium	21 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15	22	23 Guided Hike 9-10:30 <i>(Our Wildest Place)</i> Bugs and Butterflies of Brooker 10:30-12	24
28 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15		29 Family Fun Friday <i>(Summer Science Sampling)</i> 10:00-12:00	30 Guided Hike 9-10:30 Tree ID 10:30-12	31

AUGUST 2016

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
4 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15	5	6 Guided Hike 9-10:30 <i>(Ecosystems)</i> *Book Club 9:30-10:30	7
11 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15	12	13 Beginning Bird Hike 8-10 am Keep Pinellas Beautiful 10:30-12	14
18 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15 Film Screening: <i>DamNation</i> 6:30-8:30 pm	19 Family Fun Friday 10-12 <i>(Go for Gopher)</i>	20 *Return the Preserve Work Day 8-11 am Guided Hike 9-10:30 <i>(Footprints on the Land)</i>	21
25 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15	26	27 *Wildflower Garden Club 8-10 Guided Hike (Wildest Place) 9-10:30 Mushroom ID 10:30-noon	28

Hiking Trails are open every day from 7:00 am until one hour before sunset

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

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

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

Brooker Creek Preserve:
Phone: (727) 453-6900
Website: www.brookercreekpreserve.org
Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center is located at 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs, Florida, 34688.
Phone: (727) 453-6800
Center Hours: Thurs. - Sat., 9am - 4pm
Friends Nature Store is located in the Education Center. Hours: Thurs. - Sat., 9am - 4pm
Preserve Hiking Trails open 7 days a week, 7:00am to 30 minutes before sunset. Closed the day after Thanksgiving and Dec. 25.
Horse Trails open 7 days a week, all year, sunrise to sunset.

This newsletter is published every other month. Please submit articles to Newsletter Editor Dr. Craig Huegel (727) 422-6583 or email Huegeln55@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
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Treasurer: Jane Myers

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Wildflower Garden: Pam Brown
Wildlife Safari - Cathie Foster

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

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