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# Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve

September - October 2017

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## Chairman's Message

by Cathie Foster

Last year at about this time, I explained the Friends' request that the County purchase a forestry mulching mower. You may have noticed the "wanted" ad for this big red machine in previous newsletters. The mower would be used to cut, chop and mulch vegetation, including trees, in areas where the growth is unnaturally dense, and to create and keep firebreaks clear. (*FOBCP Newsletter July-August 2016*) For the past three years, this work has been done by a private contractor through an agreement with the County and under the direction of the County Land Manager. Although the contract included work in all of our Parks and Preserves, most of the work has been done at Brooker Creek Preserve.

In May 2017, the Board of County Commissioners voted to award a new five-year contract to a private company to continue this type of work in our parks and preserves. For this we are very grateful. As anyone who lives near the Preserve knows, adequate and maintained firebreaks between the Preserve and homes is crucial to neighborhood safety in the event of a wildfire. In the inner areas of the preserve this work is equally crucial in order to control interior fires, whether prescribed or caused by other means, and to knock back invasive vegetation, dense understory growth, and dead vegetation (fuel loads). The decision to hire out the work, rather than to purchase a mower, was a fiscal one. For many good

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reasons the decision makes sense, and, again, we are thankful to know that this important work will continue for another five years. Another piece of good news: A new full-time position has been added to the North County's Land Management staff, which currently consists of just one person.

So, regarding land management and the ecological health of the almost 9,000-acre Preserve, things are, happily, moving in the right direction. Does it meet all of the needs we see? Again, moving in the right direction, but we know that in order to truly, adequately, responsibly manage the Preserve's natural resources, increased land management practices are a must. Think of a 20-room mansion. If you only dust one room a day, those rooms will get pretty dusty after a while. And if, as the dust accumulates, you never dust more than one room a day, you'd never get caught up. We believe that the current rate of acreage being treated by the mower is inadequate to meet the overall needs of the Preserve. We will continue to advocate for an increase in the number of acres being treated each year by the mower and an increase in the use of prescribed fire. The two must go together as much as possible.

All that the Friends does, from our own events and programs to the support we provide to the Education Center and the Preserve in general, is in keeping with our mission to provide education to "ensure that the Preserve remains a natural wilderness for future generations."

## Save the Dates Upcoming Friends Events

- Sept. 2 FOBCP Book Club
- Sept. 30 Wildflower Garden Work Day
- Oct. 1 to Dec. 10 Gallery Exhibit:  
Lisa Fitch, Photography
- Oct. 7 FOBCP Book Club
- Oct. 7 Fall Wildflower Festival
- Oct. 8 Off the Beaten Path Hike::  
In Search of Catesby's Lily
- Oct. 15 Music Jamboree
- Oct. 21 Return the Preserve Work Day
- Oct. 28 Owl-O-Ween
- Nov. 4 Friends Annual Meeting
- Nov. 11 Music in the Woods
- Dec. 10 Merigiare String Quartet

## WANTED NO LONGER... GOT ONE...FOR 5 YEARS!



Thank you, County Commission, for approving the lease of this much needed budget item!



## Thank you Kathleen!

Thank you, Kathleen Nichter, for being our Store Manager - a volunteer position(!) - for seven years! You have been the Manager since Day 1 in 2011, and have grown the store into the large, wonderful, productive, and awesome place it is today! It wouldn't have happened without you! We so appreciate you, and all you have done! [Kathleen is stepping down as Store Manager, but will still be involved. She and her husband, Karl, hope to have more time to camp and travel].

Friends  of Brooker Creek Preserve

### **ACRE ADOPTIONS FOR BROOKER CREEK PRESERVE**

We thank the donors below who have chosen to adopt an acre of the Preserve.

**Laurie Angyn**

**Barbara Genthner Moritz**

**Barb & Eddie Hoffman**

**Barb Hoffman in honor of Lois Weber's 90th Birthday**

**Louis Petersen**

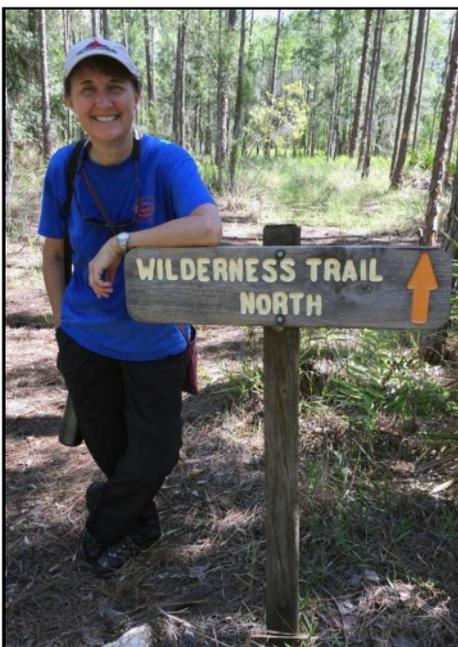
See page 19 for the Adopt an Acre Form and additional information.

## Off the Beaten Path: Interior Wildlands - July 9, 2017

Sixteen hearty explorers traversed the Preserve interior on the Off the Beaten Path hike held July 9, 2017. All sixteen agreed that it was the hottest day of the year which made the shady and mostly underwater trails cool and inviting. A nice variety of summer wildflowers were found along with some hidden areas of exotic vegetation which was reported to County staff.



The intrepid hikers actually enjoyed the flooded trails. It was a hot day, and the tannin-laden water felt inviting and cool.



During almost every *Off the Beaten Path* hike, our leader, Dr. Huegel, walks someone's shoes apart. This time it was hiker, Devish Tiwary (above left), who lost BOTH soles of his sneakers. Devish was a good sport, however, and opted to complete the entire hike when he had the choice of using a short cut back to his car. "I didn't want to miss anything!" Devish remarked.

Hiker Lorie Drewke drove all the way from Gainesville, FL to attend the hike, "And so glad I did," she said. "I couldn't believe I was in Pinellas County!"

## The Coast to Coast Trail is Open! - July 20, 2017

A spur from the Pinellas Trail linking Brooker Creek Preserve to all of Pinellas County is open! This new trail leads from the East Lake Road/Keystone Road intersection east past the entrance to the Preserve, crosses Keystone Road, continues east to Hillsborough County, then turns north through the Preserve to the Pasco County line. Bicycle riders and walkers may now bike or walk to Brooker Creek Preserve...and beyond!

This trail closes Gap 1 of the Coast to Coast Trail which will traverse the entire state of Florida from the Gulf of Mexico in Pinellas County to the Atlantic Ocean near Cape Canaveral. The Pasco County section is due to be completed next year and, once done, will link Brooker Creek Preserve, Starkey Wilderness Park, and the Suncoast Parkway.



The ribbon-cutting ceremony took place on July 20 and speakers included our Friends Business Director, Barb Hoffman, along with County commissioners and other VIP's who worked together to make this trail happen.

Barb Hoffman thanked the County staff and commissioners for their part, and DOT for the funding. Following the ribbon cutting, bicyclists took off on the new trail.



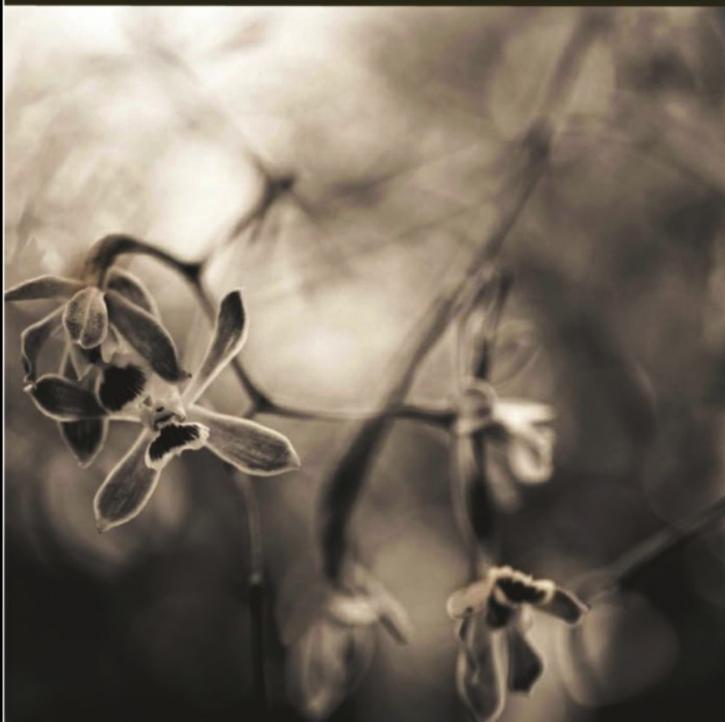
The Friends and Keep Pinellas Beautiful together set up a drink and snack station at the Preserve entrance for all participants. Manned by Friends board members, Julie Wade (pictured here) and Evan Earle, the snack station featured bananas, granola bars, water, and free reusable Keep Pinellas Beautiful water bottles.



All photos by Friends member, Sue Thomas.

# **Illuminating Tranquility**

*Collecting Stories From Experience*



**Lisa Fitch, Photographer**

*exhibit*

**October 1**

*through*

**December 10  
2017**

*the gallery at*

**Brooker Creek Preserve  
Environmental  
Education Center**

*Opening Reception (and meet the artist)*

**Public Welcome!**

**Sunday, Oct. 1, 2017 • 2-4pm**

*Gallery open*

**Saturday 9am-4pm / Sunday 11am-4pm**

**Some Fridays – please call**

**727-934-2680 • [fobcp@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:fobcp@tampabay.rr.com)**

**Information on the artist \$ [www.lisafitchfineart.com](http://www.lisafitchfineart.com)**



**Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve**

*Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center  
3940 Keystone Road • Tarpon Springs, FL 34688*

# *Fall Wildflower Festival*

at Brooker Creek Preserve  
Saturday, October 7, 2017  
9:00 am - 4:00 pm

**FREE!**

**FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!**



## **ONGOING ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE**

- **Wildflower Quest!** —Take the challenge! (last hunt out at 3:00 pm)
- **Butterfly Experience** — Be surrounded by butterflies! Enjoy a walkthrough tent with over 250 live butterflies! Learn about their life cycle and enjoy their beauty up close and personal!
- **Native Wildflower Sale** — (near parking lot)

## **PRESENTATIONS in the Auditorium**

9:30 and 1:30 Wildflower Photography - Karl & Kathleen Nichter  
10:30 and 12:30 Landscaping with Wildflowers - Dr. Craig Huegel  
11:30 Edible Plants - What You Can Eat, What to Avoid - Katy Roberts  
2:30 The Importance of Pollinators - Pam Brown

## **PRESENTATIONS in the Classroom**

Honeybee Observation Hive/Beekeeper Dress-Up  
Beeswax Candle-Making  
Nature Crafts for Kids & Caterpillar Petting Zoo  
10:30 and 1:00: Butterfly Life Cycle - Cindy Peacock

**Exhibit Hall and Nature Store Open!**  
**Food available for purchase!**  
**Naturalists on the Trails to Answer Questions!**  
**Come Rain or Shine!**

Friends  of Brooker Creek Preserve  
This event is sponsored by Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve.  
3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs, 34688  
Questions? Call 727-934-2680  
Email [fobcp@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:fobcp@tampabay.rr.com)



# Fall Wildflower Festival

Brooker Creek Preserve

Saturday, October 7, 2017

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

***FREE! FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!***

## Sponsorship Form

Sponsorships—\$100 each

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Name as you would like it to appear on advertising and the event signage:**

\_\_\_\_\_

Sponsorship forms (or just a promise) are due no later than **September 30.**

Make checks payable to: *Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve*

Mail to: 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs, FL 34688

For information or questions: 727-934-2680 or [fobcp@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:fobcp@tampabay.rr.com)

Friends  of Brooker Creek Preserve

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 ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. REGISTRATION NUMBER CH. 16077

**Fall Wildflower Festival 2017**  
**Volunteers Needed!**

Saturday October 7

AM shift (8:30-12:30)

PM shift (12:30-4:30)

For more information please contact Cathie at

[fobcp@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:fobcp@tampabay.rr.com)

or 727-934-2680

# HAPPY Owl-Oween

Saturday, October 28, 2017  
Brooker Creek Preserve

Live owls on display all day 9:00 - 3:00

Meet "Hoot" the Roaming Owl 9:00 - 3:00

Owl Storytime for Children 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 1:00 & 2:00

Owl Facepainting 10:00-2:00

Owl Pancake Breakfast (\$5/person) 9:00 - 3:00

Owl Pellet Science 9:00 - 3:00 (\$5/person)

Owl Nest Box Building 9:00 - 3:00 (\$25/person)

Owl Prowl Night Hike 7:00 pm (\$5/person)

3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs, 34688

Questions? Call 727-934-2680 | Email [fobcp@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:fobcp@tampabay.rr.com)

Hosted by

Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve and Clearwater Audubon Society

Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve

Clearwater  
Audubon  
Society



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 threatened 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](mailto: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](mailto:fobcp@tampabay.rr.com) or call 727-934-2680.

## Music Jamboree - Sundays, Aug. 20 and Oct. 15

The Jamboree held on August 20th was a lot of fun! We had guitars, mandolin, violin, bongos, djembe, maracas, tamborines and even a Penny Whistle! The group of all ages sounded like they had been playing together for quite a while.

The next Jamboree will be held on Sunday, October 15th, from 2 - 4:00 in the outdoor music pavilion (unless the weather puts us inside the Auditorium). Bring your acoustic instruments and join the fun! Brad Myers, a local musician from Dunedin, will lead the jam. If you plan to listen only, bring your lawn chair or blanket and enjoy the music in the woods!



## Music in the Woods - Sat., Nov. 11

Music in the Woods Series presents the harmonic, contemporary folk music of the trio "2PM". Saturday, November 11th, 4:30 - 7:00 p.m. at the Brooker Creek Nature Preserve Outdoor Music Pavilion. \$5 donation requested for guests over 15 years old.

Bring lawn chairs, blankets, picnic dinner and enjoy listening to this talented group in a beautiful, woody setting! (sorry no alcoholic beverages or pets are allowed). If raining the event will be moved inside the Auditorium at the Preserve.



## Merigiare String Quartet - Sunday, Dec. 10

Save the Date! We are once again honored to host an excellent string quartet at the Preserve!

Merigiare String Quartet will be playing in the Auditorium on Sunday, December 10th, 2:00 - 4:00. We were happy to host them last November and it was marvelous!

## Return the Preserve Work Day:

by Evan Earle Jr.

Well the quarterly schedule for our Return The Preserve Work Days got off to a wet start. Our July 2017 RTP Work Day was rained out. I know! Rain? In July? In Florida? I was just as shocked as you. But to be honest, I cannot possibly complain about it raining because it seems like we can always use a good rain in the summer.



While we weren't able to conduct our normal awesome work day, by no means are we throwing in the towel. We will meet again on Saturday, October 21st to do battle with yet another exotic invasive or overgrowth super villain. Fear not. We will return!

So I will take this opportunity to invite you to look around the next time you visit Brooker Creek Preserve. For those of you who have donated your blood, sweat, and tears (could I cram another cliché into this article?) over the years of our RTP Work Days, dating back to when we started in 2014, take the time to look around at the amazing work you have accomplished. Look at the oak hammocks and islands in our parking lot and how well they are doing. Check out the much happier grass out there as well - it's a lot happier with less pepper vine to contend with. Think of all the miles and piles of grape vine and cat brier you have removed. Look at the return of native plants like beautyberry that are prospering thanks to you. Look for the animals that are benefiting from your hard work - gopher tortoises digging new burrows, deer grazing in areas that were once choked off by vines, birds enjoying berries and bugs where there was once a monoculture.

And I do not take the word "you" lightly. All of this success is due to you. Your time. Your hard work. Your willingness to donate your Saturday mornings. None of this is possible without you. So thank you for helping us Return The Preserve to its natural environment.

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.

### 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](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/59-3302182)

## A Bit of Early History of Brooker Creek Preserve

By: Craig Huegel

Recently, I was asked by a "Friend" to relate a bit of the history surrounding Brooker Creek Preserve. It's not the first time over the years that I've been asked this type of question. It seemed timely to write a bit of this down for the newsletter. Very little of the Preserve's history is actually written down in the various websites devoted to it.

The land that is now Brooker Creek Preserve did not start out to be a preserve. That happened much later. The first County purchases were made to be used for more practical purposes. In the 1960's and 70's, the East Lake area was relatively undeveloped and land was inexpensive. Boot Ranch was a real ranch and few people actually had built houses in the region - except for those on Lake Tarpon.

Pinellas County had historically an agricultural-based economy, but that changed rapidly in the 1970's and '80's. During the period from 1970 to 1990, the County's housing units doubled from 228,771 to 458,341. Simultaneously, agricultural acres (mostly citrus) declined in the decade between 1976 to 1986 from 3,770 acres to 394. By 1990, 81 percent of the County's land had been developed.



Brooker Creek, photo by Patti Young.

It was in this context of rapid change that the Preserve was born; not for preservation of natural lands, but as a means to deal with runaway growth. It became evident early in this period that the County's water resources were inadequate. Saltwater was intruding into existing wellfields and making our freshwater undrinkable. Therefore, the County leased the Eldridge-Wilde wellfield in the corner of northeastern Pinellas County and northwestern Hillsborough County, and the wellfield was put into operation in 1956. Sometime after this (I cannot find the exact date), the County also purchased lands south of Keystone Road to allow for wellfield expansion in the future, should it be needed.

With such a small land base and a rapidly growing population, it also became apparent that the County's landfill space was inadequate and expanding it would severely curtail the County's economic engine - land development. The solution was to build an incinerator capable of turning much of the waste stream into

electricity. Pinellas County opened its state-of-the-art Resource Recovery Plant in north St. Petersburg in 1983, but it also envisioned a day when our ever-swelling human population would make this inadequate. Sometime, about the time they opened the current plant, Pinellas County purchased land just south of Keystone Road and adjacent to the newly developing Whispering Lakes subdivision for a future second plant.



BCP pine flatwoods, photo by Jonathan Burr.

When you drive into the entrance of Brooker Creek Preserve off Keystone Road you are seeing the earliest stages of what would become preserved land. This region has been impacted by previous land uses. It was not intended to be anything like it is today. This was inexpensive land meant to be used for consumptive uses.

Early efforts to use the County's purchased lands, south of Keystone Road, for water production were a rather quick failure. Saltwater intrusion became evident soon after pumping began. The production wells were shut down, to be saved for a future date when technology might make them economically feasible. In much the same scenario, the planned Resource Recovery Plant meant to sit immediately off Keystone Road in land that now constitutes the Preserve's entrance, was vehemently opposed by the public. After further study, the County made the decision that the current plant would need to be adequate countywide into the future. This land too became surplus. It's under this scenario that the first inklings of a preserve were born. I will write about that in the next issue.

### **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](mailto:alfabarry3@gmail.com).



## News from the Wildflower Garden By Pam Brown

At our June work day we planted some additional wildflowers that I obtained from Craig Huegel's nursery. We added some rain lilies (*Zephyranthes simpsonii*), Florida false sunflower (*Phoebanthus grandiflorus*) and some additional Tickseed (*Coreopsis leavenworthii*) that my neighbor grew from seed. In addition, we cleared out some areas that were overgrown and weedy. In July we mostly deadheaded plants that were finished blooming and pulled weeds. Our August and September workdays will be spent making the garden ready for the Wildflower Festival on October 7<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you to the several new volunteers who helped in the garden over the last several months. And, I really appreciate those of you who are faithful regulars. I am always so appreciative of volunteer help maintaining the garden. Our next workdays are August 26<sup>th</sup> and September 30<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 -10:00 a.m. (summer hours). Bring your gardening tools, gloves, hat, bug spray and wear closed-toed shoes. We will provide breakfast snacks and coffee. I hope to see you there!



Rain lily (*Zephyranthes simpsonii*)

## Pam's Gardening Thoughts

Consider planting some wildflowers for the pollinators. Bees and a number of other insects serve as pollinators of not only vegetables and fruit, but many of the trees and bushes that provide food for various wildlife species. The Florida Wildflower Foundation website (<http://flawildflowers.org/>) has lots of educational information to get you started growing wildflowers. Here are basic recommendations from their website for starting a Florida wildflower garden:

- Choose plants correct for your site's conditions and climate zone.
- For sunny gardens, choose a site that gets four or more hours of sun.
- For shade garden, select a site with light daily or afternoon shade.
- Select plants that bloom in different seasons.
- Use native grasses or ground covers to fill space.
- Let seeds dry and set naturally to produce new plants.

Skipper on garberia



This website also has a downloadable publication "10 Easy Wildflowers for Butterflies and Bees" (<http://flawildflowers.org/planting/>) to get you started growing. You might consider picking up some plants at the annual Wildflower Festival here at Brooker Creek Preserve on October 7<sup>th</sup>. Come early for best selection, they tend to go fast!

## Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve Readers Club 2017

By Jon Burr

Why read a book? For the Friends of Brooker Creek Readers Club, I think the answer is because of the pleasure of sharing the experience

of the particular book or topic of the month. Now you don't have to talk to someone about the book you just read - particularly if it'd be a spoiler, although I have come to understand that some people read the ending first.



The August book, *Forever Island* by Patrick Smith was the second by this author that we had read. It was a bittersweet, cautionary tale of the vicissitudes of development in Florida and its impact on the lives of some long time homesteaders. We had a good time discussing a novel that we all liked. Small turnout, but it's summer and many of the "regulars" were vacationing.

Why read a book? Well, in this case it's probably because it's on the list. And the list for the books for the remainder of the year are:

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. Tim 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. Come tell us why you read books. We meet in the Ed Center the first Saturday of the month at 9:30.

## Nature Store News

By Kathleen Nichter

Our used book and magazine area continues to grow. I see frequent visitors (including myself by the way) checking it out each visit to the store to see what books or magazines of interest they might find. We appreciate the donations to this area. If you are decluttering your bookshelves, and find any novels, non-fiction, or reference books that relate at all to Florida, nature, or history, please consider donating them to the store.

This will be my last Nature Store News as Store Manager. In July 2011 I met Barbara Hoffman for coffee, and from that meeting the Friends' Nature Store took shape and grew each year to its present size. It started and remains all volunteer managed and operated, and all proceeds stay at Brooker Creek Preserve funding various programs. After six years, I feel that it is time to turn the management of the store over to a new person. I will remain involved, but not on the day to day basis as in the past. Watching this idea take shape and evolve to its present form has been a wonderful experience for me. Thank you everyone for your help and support these past six years and I know the store will continue to thrive and grow!



Picture taken recently of the female and male Golden Orb Weaver Spider above the plants for sale outside the Nature Store. Photo by Tom Trimmier, volunteer.

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



## Volunteer News and More!

By Julia Myers, Education Support Specialist, Brooker Creek Preserve



### Herpetology Camp

**We will be adding additional hikes starting in October!** The hike guide training graduates have been working hard this summer and many have been training with Sheree on Sunday mornings. We are looking forward to adding Guided hikes on Sundays as well as ranger naturalists to interact with the public a couple times a week!



**Thank you to the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve** for sponsoring George Heinrich's "Why Snakes are Cool" program in July. Again this was our biggest program of the year, bringing in 143 guests to learn all about Florida's snakes. Oh, and they all visited the Education Center after the program too!

### Lara's Eco Teacher Training Grads, Summer 2017

**Don't forget to "like" us** (Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center) **on Facebook**. If you already have, feel free to share our page and encourage your friends to like us as well! We are getting closer to our goal of 2000 likes this year.



  
**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](mailto:fobcp@tampabay.rr.com)

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## BROOKER CREEK PRESERVE

Cool calendar for your refrigerator!

September 2017

\*Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve events

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	1	2 Guided Hike ( <i>Ecosystems</i> ) 9-10:30 <b>*Friends Readers Club 9:30-10:30</b> Basic Mushroom ID 10:30 am -12 pm	3
7 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15	8	9 Beginning Bird Hike 8-10 am What's That Wading Bird? 10:30 am -12	10 Dragonfly Discovery Walk 9 - 10:30 am Music with Mar 11:30-12:15
14 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15	15	16 Guided Hike 9-10:30 am ( <i>Footprints on the Land</i> ) Birds in Classical Music 10:30 am-12 Film: Ocean Frontiers III 2-3:30 pm	17
21 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15	22	23 Guided Hike 9-11 am ( <i>Our Wildest Place</i> ) Tampa Bay: Paradise Lost (and Found Again) 10:30-12	24
28 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15	29 Family Fun Friday 10-11	30 <b>*Wildflower Garden Work Day 8-10 am</b> Nature Photography Hike 8:30-10:30 am Guided Hike 9-11 am ( <i>Our Wildest Place</i> )	October 1

## October 2017

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
5 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15	6 Guided Hike 9-10:30 am ( <i>Florida Forests</i> )	7 <b>*Fall Wildflower Festival 9am-4pm</b> <b>*Friends Readers Club 9:30-10:30 am</b>	8 <b>*Off the Beaten Path Hike</b> 9 am- 1 pm \$25/person
12 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15	13 Guided Hike 9-10:30 am ( <i>Florida Native Plants</i> )	14 Beginning Bird Hike 8-10 am Spiders 10:30am-12:00	15 <b>*Music Jam 2-4 pm</b>
19 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15	20	21 <b>Return the Preserve Work Day 8-11 am</b> Guided Hike 9-10:30 ( <i>Footprints on the Land</i> )	22
26 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15	27	28 <b>*Owl-o-Ween (ongoing activities 9am-3 pm)</b> Nature Photography Hike 8:30-10:30 am Guided Hike 9-11 am ( <i>Our Wildest Place</i> ) <b>*Owl Prowl Night Hike 7:00 pm</b>	29

For program details go to <http://www.brookercreekpreserve.org/programs-classes.htm> Click "Calendar of Classes/Programs/Hikes"

**Ed Center and \*Nature Store Hours:** Thurs. - Sat. 9 am - 4 pm & Sun. 11 am-4pm (closed on County observed holidays)

**Hiking Trails** are open every day from 7:00 am until one hour before sunset (Actual time posted at Preserve entrance and trailheads)

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](http://www.FriendsOfBrookerCreekPreserve.org)  
Email: [fobcp@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:fobcp@tampabay.rr.com)  
Voicemail: (727) 934-2680

**Brooker Creek Preserve:**  
Phone: (727) 453-6900  
Website: [www.brookercreekpreserve.org](http://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](mailto: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.

## Board of Directors

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

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Business Director: Barbara Hoffman  
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Fall Wildflower Festival Chair:  
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Grants: Allyn Childress  
Guiding Documents: Walt Hoskins  
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Nature Store Manager: Kathleen Nichter  
Newsletter Editor: Dr. Craig Huegel  
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Owl-O-Ween: Barb Hoffman  
Publicity Chair: Barbara Schultz  
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Wilderness Trail - Dr. Craig Huegel  
Wildflower Garden: Pam Brown  
Wildlife Safari - Cathie Foster

### Further Leadership

Book Club: Jon Burr & Kathleen Nichter  
Gallery Curator - Lynn Whitelaw  
Membership: Jeff Myers  
Newsletter Publisher: Cathy Vogelsong  
Website Master: Cathy Ordiway

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