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# Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve

November - December 2020

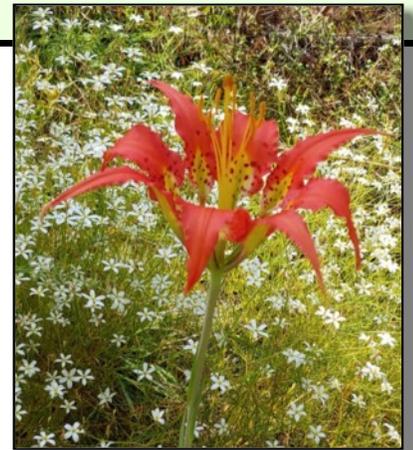
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## Chairman's Message

Hello Fellow Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve! October is over and we surely missed our two fall festivals, the Fall Wildflower Festival and Owl-o-Ween. But a few of us took advantage of a beautiful morning on October 3, the day the Wildflower Festival was to have taken place. Our mission was to scout out wildflowers along the Ed Center and Flatwoods trails - our own Wildflower Quest. We weren't disappointed! In addition to Paintbrush, Goldenrod and Lopsided Indiangrass, among many other lovely specimens, we were thrilled to count at least 13 Catesby's lilies.

All events and programs are cancelled until further notice due to Covid-19. Please enjoy the hiking trails at the Preserve which remain open. Rest rooms and water fountains are always available.

You will recognize this state-threatened flower as a part of our Friends logo. We chose this large, showy flower because, to the best of our knowledge, in Pinellas County it is only found at Brooker Creek Preserve. And only for a few weeks in late summer/early fall. This is a species that depends on fire or mechanical understory control to thrive and bloom, so it came as no surprise that we found so many along the south side of the Flatwoods Trail, an area that was burned about 16 months ago. What a treat!! And a reminder that, although we don't have typical "seasons" here, our landscape is ever-changing, providing a new view each time we stop to observe.



As always, I am open to your thoughts and ideas. Feel free to contact me. *Cathie*  
Email: [info@FriendsOfBrookerCreekPreserve.org](mailto:info@FriendsOfBrookerCreekPreserve.org) (Note: new email address for the Friends. )  
FOBCP business phone: 727-934-2680

Even though the buildings are closed and our outreach and educational events are shut down due to Covid, the Friends' number one issue of importance continues to exist: the ecological health of the Preserve. Each year, the Friends donates a sum of money to the county towards this endeavor. County staff, hired specifically to manage the land, are always in need of funding, so we are happy to help provide it. In this light, we have started a new program - **Adopt An Animal**. The money it generates will go to land management to make food and shelter more available to our native wildlife. Each animal adoption is only \$35 and ALL of the proceeds go toward a variety of land management tools. Please see the **Adopt An Animal** page in this newsletter and consider an adoption for yourself or as a gift to someone special in your life.

Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve  
Approved Budget 2020 - 2021

**INCOME**

**Operating Income**

Memberships	10,500
Nature Store	10,000
Iron Ranger	1,500
Donation Boxes	200
Other Donations	

**Subtotal Operating** 22,200

**Major Events**

Fall Wildflower Festival	-
Spring Wildlife Safari	4,000
Owl-O-Ween	-
Music in the Woods	3,700

**Subtotal Major Events** 7,700

**Activities**

Off the Beaten Path Hikes	750
Plein Air	-
Art Classes	-
Wreath Making Classes	
Guided Hike Donations	-
Night Hike Donations	400
Headwaters Hike	
Birdathon	300
Beekeeping	200
Gallery	-
Activity Support	-

**Subtotal Activities** 1,650

**Total Income from Operations** 31,550

**EXPENSE**

**Major Events**

Fall Wildflower Festival	-
Spring Wildlife Safari	3,500
Owl-O-Ween	-
Music in the Woods	3,700

**Subtotal Major Events** 7,200

**Nature Store**

Cost of Sales	5,000
Expenses	1,000

**Subtotal Nature Store** 6,000

**Activities**

Night Hikes	400
Adult Ecology Workshops	-
Art Classes	-
Off the Beaten Path Hikes	-
Birdathon	300
Beekeeping	800
Activity Support	1,000

**Subtotal Activities** 2,500

**Brooker Creek Preserve Support**

IFAS Annual Report	-
Education Programs	1,000
Wildflower Garden	200
Return the Preserve	1,000
ANCA Summit	-
ANCA Membership	130
Repairs/Maintenance/Signage	1,000
Education Materials	100
Outreach	400
Exhibit Hall / Gallery	200
Other Preserve Support	2,420

**Subtotal BCP Support** 6,450

**Membership**

Annual Meeting	300
Publications	100
Family Campout	100
Software	600
Administration	100

**Subtotal Membership** 1,200

**Public Relations**

Tarpon Spr. Chamber of Commerce	850
Iron Ranger Repairs	200
Website	500
Other	1,500

**Subtotal Public Relations** 3,050

**Administration**

Telephone	250
Bank Fees	100
Office Expenses	150
Postage	50
Filing Fees/Permits	100
Insurance	4,000
Professional Fees	300
Other	200

**Total Administration** 5,150

**Total Expenses** 31,550

**Net Income/(Loss)** 0

**News from the apiary:** Although our **Beekeepers Club** has not been able to meet, beekeepers Bob Burkard and Barb Hoffman have been checking the hives regularly. They report that the bees are bringing in pollen and producing lots of honey, which will be extracted within the next month. From time to time we must purchase new bees. If you thought a bee is a bee is a bee, think again! All of our bees are Italian bees, as are most bees used in apiaries in the U.S. But our most recently purchased bees are a subset of Italian bees know as Cordovan bees. They are a bit smaller and are a brighter yellow, without the typical black striping. They are also much calmer and gentler, although more likely to rob from other hives. There is so much to know and learn about beekeeping and it is all so interesting! If you'd like to know more about our Beekeepers Club, please contact us at 727-934-2680 or email us at [info@FriendsOfBrookerCreekPresrve.org](mailto:info@FriendsOfBrookerCreekPresrve.org)



Note, the bright yellow areas on these bees is pollen. As bees gather pollen they use their legs to brush the pollen to the "pollen baskets" on their hind legs, where it is held tightly as they fly back to the hive. The pollen color can vary depending on the type of flower. We have seen a variety of shades from pale yellow to bright orange!



Heartfelt thanks to those who continue to show your appreciation for Brooker Creek Preserve and the Friends by making donations to our Iron Ranger in the parking lot, even throughout the closure of the buildings and suspension of programs.



Kudos and many thanks to Pinellas County for installing this new water fountain/water bottle filler on the Classroom Building porch. The porch area is open to the public during regular Preserve hours, providing visitors and hikers with restrooms and a place to get cold water. Last month the existing water fountain was converted to this fountain/bottle filler combination, making it easier for folks to refill bottles. The water is cold, filtered, and oh-so refreshing. Thanks Pinellas County!!

## Our Wildflower Garden Misses Us!

A shout out to our **Wildflower Garden** volunteers, led by Pam Brown, and our **Return the Preserve** volunteers, led by Evan Earle. These two groups meet regularly to maintain the flora growing around the Education Center buildings. In addition to planting new native plants as needed, their tasks largely include removing non-native invasive plants and even keeping aggressive native plants from taking over. They have not been able to do this important work since March, as



is evidenced by the non-native, invasive caesarweed and Peruvian primrose willow growing in many spots along the boardwalk. Pretty as they are, these two specimens do not belong in Brooker Creek Preserve or anywhere else in Florida! This fall our Wildflower Garden, a showcase of plants native to the area, has been awash with purple muhly grass, blue curls and blazing star, bright yellow narrowleaf sunflower and goldenrod, and feathery beige broomsedge, a native a perennial grass. But just as it happens in groups of humans where someone stands out as the most dominant, in our garden broomsedge has become a bit overwhelming. Clearly our Wildflower Garden and the areas around the Education Center

buildings need us! We look forward to getting back to this important work in the near future.



Below, Peruvian primrose willow and caesarweed, both non-native invasives.

Above, our Wildflower Garden, overgrown with broomsedge.



Photo on page 1, Catesby's lily, surrounded by white rose gentian (*Sabatia brevifolia*).



  
 Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve  
**ADOPT AN ANIMAL - \$35/adoption**



*A program to enhance restoration and land management programs to help provide improved habitat for wildlife in **Brooker Creek Preserve***

The **ADOPT AN ANIMAL** program was established by the Friends in 2020 to give individuals the opportunity to help keep intact the ecological integrity of the Preserve. Funding will be used for:

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

Animal adoptions make perfect gifts for birthdays, anniversaries, memorials, and more!

Upon receipt of your donation, the honoree will be sent by mail an adoption package with an adoption certificate, a fact sheet about the adopted animal, and a cuddly plush animal chosen for adoption. The donor will receive a thank you letter that can be used for tax purposes.

Donor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

in honor of      in memory of      for myself

Honoree Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Send packet to this address. This is the donor or honoree address (circle one):

\_\_\_\_\_

I wish to adopt (\$35 each):

- |  |                                    |                                  |                                |                                 |                                    |                              |
|--|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gopher Tortoise | <input type="checkbox"/> Deer Buck | <input type="checkbox"/> Raccoon | <input type="checkbox"/> Eagle | <input type="checkbox"/> Otter  | <input type="checkbox"/> Alligator | <input type="checkbox"/> Owl |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gray Squirrel   | <input type="checkbox"/> Deer Fawn | <input type="checkbox"/> Opossum | <input type="checkbox"/> Bat   | <input type="checkbox"/> Coyote | <input type="checkbox"/> Bobcat    | <input type="checkbox"/> Fox |

Total Due: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Questions? [info@friendsofbrookercreekpreserve.org](mailto:info@friendsofbrookercreekpreserve.org) or 727-934-2680

Check endorsed to: **FOBCP**. Mail to: FOBCP, 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs, FL 34688

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

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

[info@FriendsOfBrookerCreekPreserve.org](mailto:info@FriendsOfBrookerCreekPreserve.org)

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**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:  
[info@FriendsOfBrookerCreekPreserve.org](mailto:info@FriendsOfBrookerCreekPreserve.org)  
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

### Officers

Chair: Cathie Foster  
Vice Chair: Robert Burkard  
Secretary: Kathleen Nichter  
Treasurer: Jane Myers

### Directors:

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Craftsman: Ray Poynor  
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Land Use: Dr. Craig Huegel  
Music in the Woods: Jane Myers  
Nature Store Bookkeeper:  
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Newsletter Publisher: Cathy Vogelsong  
Night Hikes: Mark Yeager  
Owl-O-Ween: Barb Hoffman  
Publicity: Barbara Schultz  
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Evan Earle, Jr.  
Wilderness Trail: Dr. Craig Huegel  
Wildflower Garden: Pam Brown  
Wildlife Safari: Cathie Foster

### Further Leadership

Financial Manager: Jeff Myers  
Book Club: Jon Burr & Kathleen Nichter  
Gallery Curator: Lynn Whitelaw  
Website Master: Cathy Ordiway

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

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