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# Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve

January - February 2020

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## Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve Annual Meeting & Brunch

Sunday, January 12, 2020

11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Brooker Creek Preserve Auditorium

11:00 am Brunch provided by the  
Friends Board of Directors

11:45 am Business meeting:  
- Election of Directors  
- Presentation of 2020 Budget  
- Highlights of 2018-2019  
- Questions and Comments

RSVP kindly requested

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

phone: 727-934-2680

## Save the Dates Upcoming Friends Events

- Jan. 4 FOBCP Readers Club 9:30-10:30 am
- Jan. 5 Beekeepers Club 9 am
- Jan. 11 Anclote Key Lighthouse Tour & Beach  
Barbecue 9:30 am - 3:30 pm
- Jan. 12 Annual FOBCP board meeting  
11:00 am - 1:00 pm
- Jan. 19 Off the Beaten Path:  
Cypress Swamp Stomp 9 am
- Jan. 25 Return the Preserve Work Day 9 am
- Jan. 25 Wildflower Garden work day 9-11 am
- Jan. 26 Gallery Reception:  
Victoria Block 1-3 pm
- Feb. 1 FOBCP Readers Club 9:30-10:30 am
- Feb. 2 Beekeepers Club 9 am
- Feb. 29 Wildflower Garden work day 9-11 am
- Feb. 29 Star Party/Night Hike  
6:30 - 10:30 pm
- Feb. 29 Night Hike
- Mar. 1 Meriggiane String Quartet 2 pm
- Mar. 22 Off the Beaten Path:  
Sandhill Scramble 9 am

**Chairman's Message** By Cathie Foster  
Closing out our fiscal year means it's time for another get-together to share the year's highlights, along with some tasty food and good company at our FOBCP Annual Meeting. We truly enjoy meeting the members who make up our wonderful organization, so I hope you will join us!

**Please join us! A Friends-only exclusive event!**



## **Historic Anclote Key Lighthouse Tour & Beach Barbeque** **Saturday, January 11, 2020**

**(Rain date: January 25, 2020)**

**9:30 am - 11:00 am - Boat ride to Anclote key**

**11:00 am - 12:30 pm - Lighthouse Tour**

**12:30 - 2:00 pm - Barbeque Lunch on the Beach**

**2:00 pm - 3:30 pm - Boat ride back to Marina**

**Please join us for a lighthouse adventure as Capt. Bob Hubbard with Island Paradise Charters takes us in his 40-passenger pontoon boat from the Magnuson Hotel Marina in New Port Richey three miles offshore to Anclote Key State Park, a 5-mile long island accessible only by boat. We will land at the south end, then take a short walk along a boardwalk to the lighthouse. Knowledgeable guides will give a brief history and answer questions about the island and the lighthouse. Those willing can climb the lighthouse and view the surroundings as very few people get to see. Upon returning to the boat, Captain Bob will have a delicious beach barbeque ready for us to enjoy. There will be time to explore, take photos, go birding - whatever suits your fancy!**

**\$60.00 per person - includes everything!**

Friends  of  
Brooker Creek Preserve

For questions and to RSVP:  
[fobcp@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:fobcp@tampabay.rr.com)  
727-934-2680



## The Friends In Cuba

Craig N. Huegel

The Friends invaded Cuba from November 19-23 in our first-ever fundraising trip and it was very successful. Organized by Suzanne Carlson, owner of Carlson Maritime Travel, 19 of us took a leap of faith across the Caribbean and landed in Havana, Cuba to begin our 5-day, 4-night excursion to many of Cuba's most spectacular natural areas, botanical

gardens and sustainable agriculture sites. Our trip was to take us across much of the eastern half of the island on back roads, tucked comfortably in a tour bus and with our Cuban guide.

Along the way, we saw much of Cuba's countryside and people - things not always possible in strictly programmed guided tours offered by other tour companies. Of course, this whirlwind journey also meant that we spent time on the bus - but that also gave us some time to get to know each other. It was a compromise that I appreciated.

Time on the bus also meant the possibility to see more places.

Our time in Havana after landing in mid-morning was rather brief. We exchanged our US currency for that of our host country and stopped for a short visit at Revolutionary Square where dozens of brilliantly painted American cars of the 40's and 50's were displayed by their owners and offered up for photos and short rides - for a small tip . . .

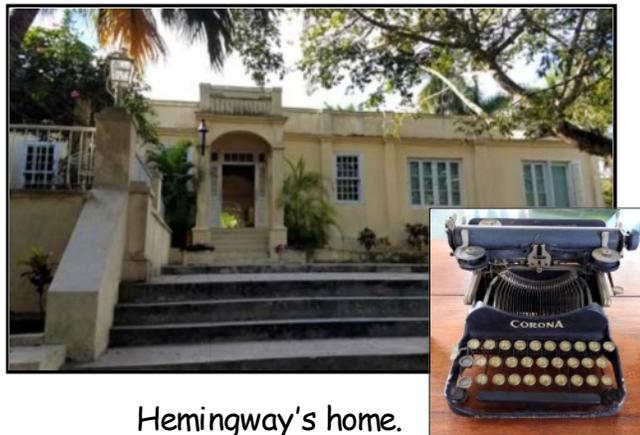
Everything in Cuba seems to be available for a tip. As gasoline and auto parts are in short supply and expensive, many of these cars do not run on original parts. We were told that some are even powered by such things as washing machine motors. Regardless, the sight of all these beautiful old cars was something special.



Abel, our guide,  
and our bus driver.



From here, we stopped at Finca la Yolandra - an urban organic fruit orchard located in the suburbs. Here, Yolandra and her staff tend a very wide variety of native & not-native fruit trees. We had lunch here on a beautiful veranda and then departed for an extended tour of Ernest Hemingway's Havana home. Hemingway's home here is painstakingly maintained and supplied with a large number of interpretive guides to talk about his time and influence there - again for tips . . .



Hemingway's home.

From here, we drove to the first of the wonderful accommodations we stayed at during our four nights in Cuba - Las Terrazas. Las Terrazas was built in an area that was historically devastated ecologically by past land-use practices of European agriculture. After planting more than 6 million trees by hand over the 2400-acre site, the site now is a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and home to a wide variety of sustainability projects. The hotel was built to house tourists visiting this place and it too has a lot of sustainability built into it. We stayed here the first two nights, had incredible meals, and sampled a bit of island rum and music in the evening.



On days 2-3, we ventured out from Las Terrazas to tour several wonderful natural areas and gardens. The Soroa Orchid Garden was in the mountains and contained some spectacular scenery. It was also our first good "taste" of Cuban bird watching. One of my highlights, however much I love orchids and birds, was our visit to Finca Marta



Finca Marta, above, and a West Indies woodpecker at the Soroa Orchid Garden



- a most incredible organic farm about 35 miles from Havana. Our host and owner of this most-amazing operation was Fernando Funes. If any of you have ever seen the movie, *Little Big Farm*, you would most certainly appreciate the effort and vision of this energetic man. We lunched here on organic greens and sustainably raised pork - along with some of the best honey I've ever had the good fortune of sampling.

Day 4 took us to the far southern edge of the island, to



perhaps its most famous wildlife refuges - Playa Larga in the Zapata Peninsula. Like the Everglades here in Florida, Playa Larga is a vast wetland along the coast with upland islands as well. Here, we were met by two of the park's naturalists and they helped interpret our experience as we drove down the narrow

The baobab tree, our bus, and the flamingos.

dirt road to the end of the peninsula, walked about, and returned. The birds were often spectacular, but I think our favorite

sight was the flocks of natural flamingos feeding in the shallow mangrove flats. We also got to see a Cuban black hawk feeding on a newly captured crab. Lunch was had along the coast of the Bay of Pigs at a privately operated "paladar" - a relatively new development in Cuba where government-run everything is changing a bit for the entrepreneur. We also toured the Cienfuegos Botanical Gardens which has been declared a National Monument. It houses more than 2000 species of plants, including a most-amazing baobab, and a great many birds we had not yet encountered.



Our last day was spent at my favorite place - El Nicho Waterfalls, located in the Escambray Mountains and within the Gran Parque Natural Topes de Collantes, Cienfuego. Nothing like leaving the best for last. The Escambray mountains are spectacular. Emerging from these mountains at this location is a clear mountain river that features several cascading waterfalls and pools to swim in. Though the water is chilly, several of us were up to the challenge and took a dip in the pools.



The spectacular Cuban mountains.

After this, we were required to dry off a bit, get organized and take the bus to Santa Clara airport for our afternoon departure back to Florida. In Santa Clara, we took a short detour to visit the monument of one of Cuba's most-respected heroes - Che Guevara. It was a surprisingly sobering experience.

Thanks to everyone that joined us for this trip. It helped to raise funds to support the mission of the Friends and it also helped us to make friends and lifetime memories. If we choose to organize a fundraising trip next year, I hope that you will consider joining us. We've created a public Facebook page to share our photos and experiences. To see it, please go to the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve Cuba Trip

- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/723057404867547/>

Photos by Lisa Broward, Cathie Foster, Denay Gultepe, Kathie Maxwell, Craig Huegel, Bogna Sturzbecher, and Barbara Weiss



The Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve will receive a \$1 donation for every \$2.50 Community Bag sold at Winn-Dixie, 1171 South Pinellas Avenue, Tarpon Springs FL in the month of January. Thank you, Winn Dixie!

*Welcome to our new Friends member:*

**Yvonne Deming**

## **Return The Preserve Work Days In 2020** by Evan Earle, Jr.

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year! I hope everyone enjoyed themselves as we said good bye to 2019 and hello to 2020! Wow! 2020? is that possible? Well, time and tide wait for no one. We are ready to make 2020 another successful year for our Return The Preserve Work Day!

Here is our 2020 schedule: January 25\*, April 18, July 18, October 17

\* Start time is 9:00 am for this Jan. 25 RTP Work Day. All others will start at 8:00 am.

January 25th is a truly special RTP Work Day because we are going to be partnering with Pam Brown and our Native Wildflower Garden team. We'll be working together to get our beautiful Native Wildflower Garden ready for 2020. If you have never stopped to look at the great work Pam and her volunteers have accomplished, I can't say it loud enough - **GO VISIT OUR WILDFLOWER GARDEN!** There is always something new to see and enjoy. Personally, I love the cycles of the garden. As the plants and flowers bloom, we have natural beauty to enjoy all year long with different species showing off at different times.

If you have a school or civic group that would like to conduct your own RTP Work Day, don't hesitate to contact me at [earlejr@gmail.com](mailto:earlejr@gmail.com). We have done this many times and every time we have fun. And we accomplish a lot!

I am looking forward to another year sore muscles and some blisters, but even more, I'm looking forward to seeing what our volunteers accomplish as we work to Return The Preserve to its natural environment and beauty.



# AUDITORIUM GALLERY

by Lynn Whitelaw, Gallery Curator

## PAST EXHIBIT: Tarpon Springs Art Association Annual Members' Exhibition



Over 100 people attended the opening reception and awards program for the Tarpon Springs Art Association's Annual Members' Exhibition, Sunday, December 8. Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve hosted the exhibition in the Auditorium Gallery this year since the Tarpon Springs Cultural Center, where TSAA traditionally have their exhibit, is currently closed for renovations.

TSAA President Trish Gregory conducted the awards program and Tarpon Springs Mayor **Chris Alahouzos** presented the awards to the winners. Ann Larsen, retired director of the Leepa-Rattner Museum, was the Judge this year and awarded first, second and third awards in each of the seven media categories. TSAA member Suzanne Natzke won Best in Show for her watercolor, *Shadowy Overlook*. Additionally, the TSAA members decorated the Auditorium for the holidays with wreaths and a Christmas Tree complete with small ornament-size paintings that were for sale.

The exhibit was on view through December 29 and TSAA members volunteered as gallery sitters for the higher than expected attendance for this exhibition.



## UPCOMING EXHIBIT: VICTORIA BLOCK: *TREE INSPIRATIONS*

Drawings + Prints + Paintings

On View: January 26 through March 22, 2020

Opening Reception: Sunday, January 26, 1 to 3 PM

Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve is pleased to present **Victoria Block: *Tree Inspirations*** as the first exhibition of 2020 in the Auditorium Gallery. Victoria is an American-born artist who lives in Montreal, Canada, but winters each year in Pinellas County. A multi-media artist, Block works in drawing, painting, printmaking, ceramic installation and mixed media assemblage. For her exhibition in the Auditorium Gallery, some of her tree inspirations are based on observations made during visits to the Preserve last winter. She says of her approach, "my view of nature is an emotional interpretation ... I evoke places that people love in their memories."

Block's highly personal landscapes vary by medium. Her large paintings are bright in color with loose renderings of trees, thickets and grasses created by dense textural layers of oil paint mixed with gesso and sand. Her detailed drawings in pen and ink are meditative and often include subtle inscriptions such as poems and inspirational writings hidden within the overall patterns. Likewise,

her prints are created through a simple printmaking process combined with ink drawing. Block says of these works, "I want to show layers of figures and creatures like phantoms in tree bark, thinking of all that trees have witnessed moving around them while they are so stationary - so still."



*Dragon Tree, 2019*  
Ink on canvas  
4 x 3 ft.



*Monday in August, 2018*  
Oil on canvas  
4 x 9 ft.



## RELATED EVENT:

### **PRINTING WITHOUT A PRESS: A Workshop by Victoria Block**

**Saturday, February 15, 10 AM to 1 PM, Cost: \$30**

Artist Victoria Block will teach a printmaking workshop on Saturday, Feb. 15 in the Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center Classroom. This introductory class, from 10 AM to 1 PM, requires no printmaking experience and is based on a simple printing process that resembles linocut, but without lengthy carving or need for a printing press. The class is open to all artistic levels and is ideal for learning to make anything from simple cards to more complex mixed media artwork.

To register for **Printing Without A Press** email [fobcp@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:fobcp@tampabay.rr.com) or call 727-934-2680. All materials are provided, and final projects include printing in several colors. Cost for the workshop is \$30 and limited to 15 participants. Bring a snack if you wish, but Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve will provide drinks and light refreshments.



*Trunk, 2019*  
Print, oil pastel on canvas  
4 x 3 ft.



Friends  of Brooker Creek Preserve  
**2020 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 (SPC Biology Professor), 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 of four hikes or \$25 donation per hike with a 10% discount for members of Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve

**Sites Off the Beaten Path:**

**Jan. 19, 2020 - Cypress Swamp Stomp** – Located in the central part of the Preserve, this site features orchids, ferns, and epiphytes. Plan to get wet, or maybe not get wet, as we plunge into the depths of the swamp!

**March 22, 2020 – 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.

**July 19, 2020 – 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!

**October 11, 2020 – 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.

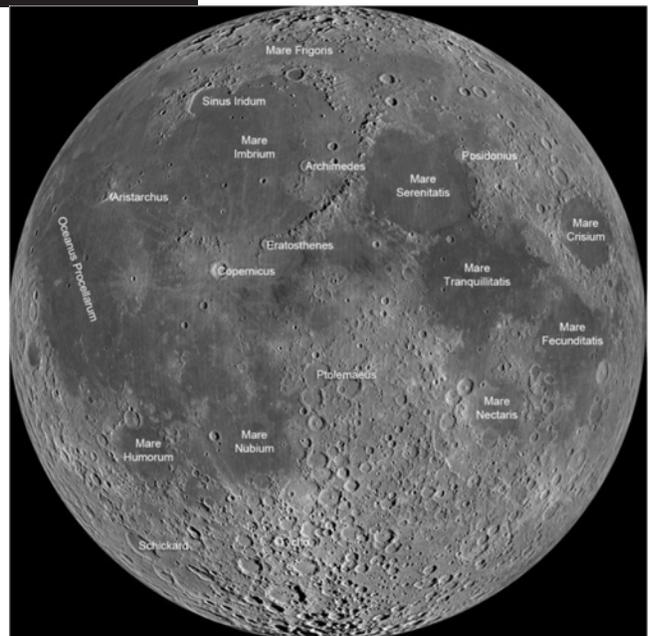
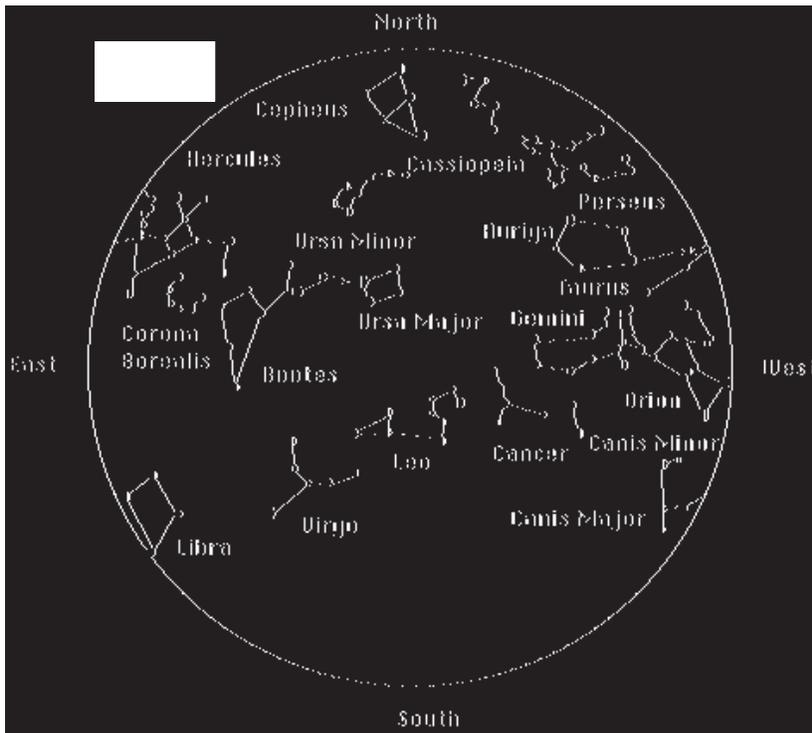
**Reservations Required:** Reserve your spot by emailing [fobcp@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:fobcp@tampabay.rr.com). Sign up early! Only 20 spots are open for these fabulous hikes *off the beaten path!* Questions? Email [fobcp@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:fobcp@tampabay.rr.com) or call 727-934-2680.

# Night Hike & Star Party!

Saturday, February 29, 2020

6:30 – 10:30 or so

Join us as we observe the night sky with the St. Petersburg Astronomy Club. Observe the stars through telescopes provided. Night hikes will be conducted as well along the .75 mile Ed Center Trail through the woods. Please bring a chair, water, insect repellent, and your own telescope if you have one. As always, pets, smoking, and alcohol are not allowed. Arrive between 6:30 and 7:00 p.m. – the front gates will be open only during this time. A \$3 per person donation is requested; registration is required. Register by calling 727-934-2680 or online at:



Friends  of Brooker Creek Preserve  
presents

## MUSIC IN THE WOODS SERIES

with

# Meriggiare String Quartet

*Italian for: "To escape the heat of the midday sun by resting in the shade"*



Albert Magcalas

Nina Kim

Cheuk-Yan Leung

Pedro Maia

**Sunday, March 1, 2020 2:00—4:00 pm**  
Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center  
This concert will be held inside the auditorium

Register at: [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com)  
*search for Music in the Woods Meriggiare String Quartet*

\$5/person donation requested

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

or

**727-934-2680**

## Music in the Woods: Florida Cracker Cowboys - Nov. 10



The Music in the Woods event in November was a lot of fun! The Florida Cracker Cowboys put on a great show and we all enjoyed their "bluegrass with a twist"! The weather couldn't have been better! Thanks to these very talented musicians!



Our next music event will be the **Merigiare String Quartet** in the auditorium on Sunday, March 1st at 2:00. Do not miss it! (See flier on page 12).

Beehives in Cuba, photo by Bogna Sturzbecher.



Friends  of Brooker Creek Preserve



### BEEKEEPERS CLUB

The Friends Beekeepers Club is open to anyone who is interested in beekeeping. Those of us already in the club are very new to the hobby and are learning as we go. Bob Burkard, Beekeepers Club President, is very knowledgeable about beekeeping. We have now built TEN hives, each hosting between 10,000 and 20,000 bees.

Meetings are held the first Sunday of each month at 9:00 am. We meet at the Bee Shed at Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center, gather equipment, and then go to the apiary located about two miles away. Everyone shares in all work. Annual dues for the club are \$25 per person. You must also be a member of *Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve* in order to join the Beekeepers Club. The Friends Beekeepers Club is an affiliate of *Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve*. If you would like to join the **Friends Beekeepers Club** or simply have questions, please email [fobcp@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:fobcp@tampabay.rr.com).

## News from the Wildflower Garden By: Pam Brown

The garden will just be waking up from its short winter nap in late January to early February. On the 25<sup>th</sup> of January we will be working in the Wildflower Garden to renovate some overgrown areas. We have several plants that are tending to take over and we will be thinning these and possibly replanting them in other areas near the garden. We will be partnering with the "Return the Preserve" work group to do this renovation. Meet at the

Emerald hummingbird, Orchid Botanical Garden, Cuba. Photo by Kathie Maxwell.



## Pam's Gardening Tip - Providing Houses for Birds

Just before spring is a good time to consider providing nesting areas for birds in your landscape. Adding birdhouses in your yard can provide nesting and roosting shelter for birds and possibly other wildlife that will use these shelters if they are not occupied. The types of birds that nest in birdhouses (nest boxes) are called "cavity-nesters". These birds excavate holes in dead trees or utilize existing cavities either natural, bird-made or man-made. Cavity-nesting birds include woodpeckers, owls, chickadees, great-crested flycatchers, bluebirds, nuthatches, kestrels, wood ducks, among others.

In urban areas, cavity-nesting birds may not be able to find enough natural cavities for nesting. That makes birdhouses valuable habitat for these birds. Some cavity-nesters, like woodpeckers, chickadees, and nuthatches excavate their own nests in dead or dying trees. Most of the others use a cavity that has been excavated by a primary cavity-nesting bird, or they use a natural cavity if they can find one. Secondary cavity-nesting birds are the species most likely to use your birdhouse. If at all possible, provide dead tree snags for use by primary cavity-nesters, and provide birdhouses for secondary cavity-nesting species.

You will need to do some research to determine what size birdhouse you need to attract the birds you see in your landscape or are interested in. For recommendations on building birdhouses and nest boxes, see the free publication "Helping Cavity-Nesters in Florida" at <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/uw058>. This publication will help you decide on the best birdhouse design for the each species, and the proper placement of the birdhouse in your yard. For additional information, see "[Attracting Wildlife University of Florida](#)".

In our highly urbanized environment where much of the native surroundings have been removed or changed, providing for wildlife will help ensure their long term survival.

## Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve Readers Club

By: Jon Burr

November's book was "Journeys through Paradise", by Gail Fishman. The scheme of the book was that the journeys of famous biologist through the South were briefly described and then Gail wrote about her efforts to trace the original route of that individual. The author's wanderings are either a distraction or a delight depending on your want. I think most readers did not find these 'wanderings' a distraction and some felt it made the book more enjoyable. (It was nice to know how the Catesby lily was named.) I think the book was well received.



In December we discussed Gloria Jahoda's "The Other Florida." I think this is the first book that we've read which was so universally enjoyed. We had previously read her book about the Hillsborough River at our March 2019 meeting. While I liked the March book I really loved this book. I think her writing is some of the best I've had the pleasure of reading. A mid-westermer, she came to Tallahassee when her husband got a teaching job at FSU in the early 1960's. I suspect she was a good listener and had an accommodating way about her as she seemed to have gained the trust and goodwill of those particular North Florida denizens who can be standoffish until they decide you're just good people.

We start the New Year with an old standard still well worth the reading and probably more cogent now than when it was originally written: Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring". We discussed this book five years ago. All irony intended: it is a book that has significance for the elephant in the room.

Come join us the first Saturday of each month. 9:30 am, in the small conference room at the Ed Center. There is lots of room at the table and all are welcome. Books are not provided but are chosen with some notion of availability and avoidance of the truly obscure.

### 2020 Selections

**January:** *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson (a reread of Sep 2014)

**February:** *Son of Real Florida* by Jeff Klinkenberg

**March:** *The Sea Around Us* by Rachel Carson (compare and contrast)

**April:** *The Gulf: The Making of an American Sea* by Jack E. Davis (thru chapter 9)

**May:** *The Dolphin in the Mirror* by Diana Reiss

**June:** *The Gulf: The Making of an American Sea*, by Jack E. Davis (chapter 10-end)

## Volunteer News

### Education Center Updates & More

By Julia Myers, Education Support Specialist, Brooker Creek Preserve

### That's a wrap 2019! Thank You Brooker Creek Preserve Volunteers

for another wonderful Year! Volunteers are the face of the Preserve and continue to go above and beyond to make sure each visitor has a memorable experience. We are incredibly grateful to have such a passionate and dedicated team!

**Year-in-review:** Our fiscal year for the county is from October 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup>. In fiscal year 2019, Brooker Creek volunteers contributed a total of 8,392 hours, which is an equivalent of \$238,838.56 of service to our Preserve! In FY19, BCP volunteers offered 21 educational programs and 63 guided hikes reaching a total of 1,232 visitors. BCP volunteers also continued to lead our weekly book time for our littlest visitors, with over 500 in attendance in FY19. On top of that we welcomed 36,698 visitors in the Education Center this year, a 9.5% increase from last year! In total, the Ed Center offered 554 programs that reached 20,429 visitors. You all are amazing, thank you for everything you all do to help us keep those numbers on the upward trend! Keep up the AWESOME work.

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



# Birds of Prey

A photograph of a brown owl perched on a person's gloved hand. The owl is looking directly at the camera with large, light-colored eyes. The background is a lush, green forest. The person's hand is wearing a white, textured glove. A laptop is visible in the lower right corner of the photo.

Several LIVE birds of prey will be used to illustrate aspects of predator-prey relationships, adaptations that ensure success as predators, and their role in maintaining healthy balanced ecosystems. The basic natural history of each species is also discussed along with the impact of humans on their habitats and populations. Great for all ages! Presented by the Friends of Boyd Hill Nature Preserve.

**Saturday, January 4th**  
**10:30 a.m.**

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

**Pinellas County**

**BROOKER CREEK PRESERVE**  
Our Wildest Place

# Photography Workshop

Digital cameras come with many features, and the camera manufacturers are adding more and more with each new version. Join photographers Karl and Kathleen Nichter to explore what digital cameras can do beyond the basic settings, and what using those settings can do for your photography. We will start with the most basic settings, continue with some of the more advanced, and throw in tips and tricks. We will try to answer your questions and comments as they come up. Bring your camera and manual if you have it!

UF/IFAS Pinellas Extension

## Introduction to Plant Identification

Saturday, January 18 at 10:30am

In the Auditorium!

Join a local Extension specialist and examine the basics of plant identification, from using simple keys to identifying critical characteristics that will help any would-be botanist in the field. An emphasis will be placed on flowering plants, but ferns will be included as well. Registration is required and all materials will be provided. Recommended for adults. Free!

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

Auditorium!

January 11  
10:30am



## Identification of Florida Turtles

Saturday, January 25  
10:30am to 12pm



Have you ever watched turtles basking on a log and wondered which species you were observing? Turtles are visible elements in many ecosystems and, for the most part, can be easily identified. Florida's wide variety of habitats support 28 of the 62 species known to occur in the United States, the most turtle-rich country.

Attendees will learn basic identification techniques that will enhance their ventures into the field. Presented by George L. Heinrich, field biologist & environmental educator specializing in Florida reptiles.

Heinrich Ecological Services  
Exploring the Nature of Florida



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

Friends of  
Brooker Creek Preserve



  
**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)

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

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## BROOKER CREEK PRESERVE

*Cool calendar for your refrigerator!*

**January 2020**

**\*Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve events**

THURSDAY 2	FRIDAY 3	SATURDAY 4	SUNDAY 5
		*Friends Readers Club 9:30-10:30 Birds of Prey 10:30-12:00	*FOBCP Beekeepers Club 9:00 - noon
9	10 Botany Walk 9:00-11:00 Wild Things (pre-K stories & songs) 10:00-10:45	11 Beginning Bird Hike 8:00-10:00 Photography Workshop 10:30-12:00	12 Wetland Explorer's Tour 9:00-10:30 a.m. *FOBCP Annual Meeting and Brunch 11:00 - 1:00
16 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15	17 Family Fun Friday 10:00-11:00	18 Guided Hike 9:00-10:30 Intro to Plant ID 10:30-noon *Night Hike 6-8 pm <i>Pre-Registration Required \$3/person</i>	19 Sunday Bird Hike 8:00-10 :00
23 and 30 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15	24	25 *Wildflower Garden /RTP Work Day 9:00 -noon Guided Hike 9:00-10:30 am Turtle ID 10:30 -noon	26 Wetland Explorers Tour 9:00-10:30 *Art Reception (Victoria Block) 1:00-3:00

## February 2020

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
		1 *Friends Readers Club 9:30-10:30	2 *FOBCP Beekeepers Club 9:00 - noon
6 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15	7	8 Beginning Bird Hike 8:00-10:00 A Land Remembered 10:30-noon	
13 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15	14 Botany Walk 9:00-11:00 Wild Things-preK stories 10:00-10:45	15 *Printmaking Workshop 10:00-1:00 <i>Pre-Registration Required \$30 per person</i> Frogs! 10:30-noon	16
20 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15	21 Family Fun Friday 10:00-11:00	22 BCP Volunteer Appreciation 10:00-noon	23
27 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15	28	29 *Wildflower Garden Work Day 9:00-11:00 *Star Party (St. Pete Astronomy) 6:00 - 9:00 pm \$3 donation	March 1 *FOBCP Beekeepers Club 9:00-noon *Music in the Woods 2:00-4:00

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 posted time, usually 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](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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Wilderness Trail: Dr. Craig Huegel  
Wildflower Garden: Pam Brown  
Wildlife Safari: Cathie Foster

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

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

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