
Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve

July - August 2023



Butterfly orchid (*Encyclia tampensis*)

Chairman's Message

By Cathie Foster

I so often talk about how the Friends, as a volunteer group itself, relies on volunteers to accomplish our goals; from behind-the-scenes work, to running our Nature Store, to organizing events and activities. And this has been so for the past almost 30 years. FOBCP Director and former Manager of Brooker Creek Preserve, Craig Huegel, has written a heartfelt tribute to volunteers, past and present, who have been and remain so crucial to our mission. I can't say it any better. *Cathie*

Volunteers, By: Craig Huegel

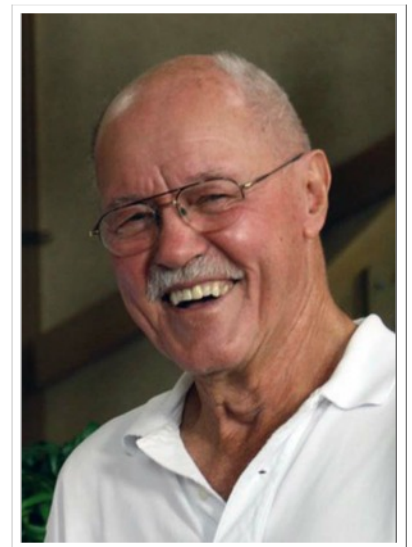
Over the past years, I have written mostly about nature-oriented topics. This article is different. It's about the importance of volunteers. When I first arrived at Brooker Creek Preserve in 1992, it was a property of a bit more than 4,700 acres with a long history of neglect. There had been no program of land management and definitely no person or organization that cared about its wellbeing. I used to refer to it as the "wild west" as there were no rules and no one to enforce them if there had been any. Off road vehicles created and then beat the trails up during the rainy seasons until they were sometimes a foot or more below natural grade. These became long linear muddy disturbances that impacted the natural hydrology of the property. They also created pathways for a wide variety of invasive plants such as Brazilian pepper, cogongrass, and the like. Access deep within the Preserve also allowed for illegal dumping; everything from used vehicles, tires, and box springs to simple household trash. Folks hunted wherever they wished and treated the land the same. The most memorable "event" for me during those early days was the person who had organized a mud-bogging contest within the property and was charging others an admission fee to participate.

Those days are now largely past. We've generally gained some control over what occurs within our borders. Some of that comes from the simple respect the public has come to over the years as they've had access to the land and programs. It's enabled them to see its value. Some of it has come from the creation of a law enforcement presence that has deterred those not swayed by that. Most of it has come, however, because of volunteers.

In the earliest days of Brooker Creek Preserve, there was no staff other than myself to do everything that needed to be done; what was done was done solely by volunteers. My volunteer corps swelled to about 200 individuals. Together, we took out at least 20 tons of trash from everywhere within the borders of the property - some of it in very inaccessible places. We marked trails and created interconnecting segments to existing ones and then we created a guided hiking program. These volunteers served as our first ambassadors and made it possible for the public to experience the Preserve. At that time, there was no bridge or boardwalk across Brooker Creek itself. We waded it. Katy Roberts served as my volunteer invasive species control director and she guided other volunteers to places regularly to tackle our worst invasive species problems. Ken Rowe began a regular series of forays into all parts of the Preserve to record birds within our borders. With about 200 active volunteers doing everything imaginable, coordinating them (there were no cell phones then and most people had yet to get a home computer) would have been impossible without a coordinator. Jill Cutler served that role for many years as my volunteer Volunteer Coordinator and Jeanne Johnson volunteered a great many office and field hours as well.

Brooker Creek Preserve would not have been possible without volunteers. It was not built by staff and it still does not function the way it was envisioned without a deep and committed corps of volunteers. Over the years, I've lost dear friends that made the Preserve what it is; David Seidel, Chuck Dedman, and just lately Hank Dykstal among a great many others. Some have simply moved away, but others have died after decades of giving. It just seemed time to recognize their contributions because often what they've given us has been behind the scenes and done without fanfare.

Hank Dykstal was a fenceline monitor for more than 3 decades. He performed his volunteer job religiously from the day I initiated this program and into his early 90's and less than a year shy of his recent passing. We still have fenceline monitors and they're a good example of volunteerism done without public recognition. During the first year of my time at Brooker Creek Preserve, it became very apparent that we needed to erect a perimeter fence that allowed wildlife the ability to pass over, under or through the barrier but clearly demarcated our border for the public. I spoke to that effect at a County Commission meeting in 1992 fully expecting the Commissioners to balk at the idea.



Hank Dykstal

It was a very costly project. This was not a fence around developed property with good access and relatively dry conditions. This was miles of fencing through largely inaccessible territory and a lot of very wet cypress swamps. After I spoke, I made this clear to the Commissioners and commented that I could understand their reluctance to fund this. To my surprise, Charles Rainey, who was Chair of the Commission at that time and who was not necessarily a staunch environmentalist, gave it the green light without hesitation. With a perimeter fence as many miles long as it was and in many places located far from anyone's visibility, it became obvious that we needed to routinely walk this fenceline and look for areas that had been damaged - naturally or by vandalism. I divided this fenceline into segments and recruited volunteers to monitor it. Among a great many others (to this day), Hank Dykstal volunteered to adopt one of these segments. We've lost so many of these original 200 volunteers now, but we've added new ones.

Hank's contributions and the contributions of so many others are the legacy that we as current volunteers and Friends-members build on. The original vision is maintained by us. I just wanted to take this opportunity, long overdue, to thank you for keeping that vision alive.



Rosinweed. in the Wildflower Garden

Friends  of Brooker Creek Preserve

**ACRE ADOPTIONS FOR
BROOKER CREEK PRESERVE**

With sincere appreciation for the Acre Adoptions:

One acre adopted in honor of
Sheree Scheuer

by the Friends Board of Directors
in celebration of her retirement and many years of
service in the Environmental Education Center

One acre adopted in memory of
Hank Dykstal

by the Friends Board of Directors
for his many years of dedicated volunteer
stewardship in Brooker Creek Preserve

AUDITORIUM GALLERY by Lynn Whitelaw

ON VIEW IN THE GALLERY: **NATURE INSPIRED**

24 Hands Printmaking Collective at Brooker Creek Preserve, Extended to Aug. 13, 2023



Left to Right: Marjorie Greene Graff, Tyrus Clutter, Elizabeth Coachman, Stephen Littlefield, Christine Renc-Carter, Rachel Stewart, Polly Perkins, Holly Bird, Ry McCullough



Cathie Foster
Barb Hoffman

The **24 Hands Printmaking Collective** exhibition in the Auditorium Gallery has been a great success, with good attendance and in sales of artwork (special thanks to our Gallery Sitters who have been wonderful ambassadors for the exhibit and in answering questions about Brooker Creek Preserve and the Friends group). The **Artist Reception** on June 4th was well attended, and the artists fascinated the audience with insight into their printmaking processes and passion for nature that is expressed in their art.

The FoBCP remains grateful to Marjorie Greene Graff for bringing us this opportunity to showcase some of the finest printmakers in the Tampa Bay area, and to each of the artists for their approach to nature, from realist to comical to aesthetic abstraction. If you have not seen the show, please stop by.

UPCOMING 2023-2024 ART EXHIBITIONS IN THE AUDITORIUM GALLERY

For the 2023-2024 exhibition year (September to August) in the Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center **Auditorium Gallery**, the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve is pleased to announce its roster of exhibitions in support of the creative spirit of artists who explore the beauty and perspectives of nature. This season includes exhibitions by two well-known nature artists: Aripeka artist and land conservationist Leslie Neuman, and Brooksville artist and BCP friend Elizabeth Coachman. Additionally, we will host our two annual exhibits: the FoBCP Members Photography Exhibition and Invitational and the two-day Plein-Air Weekend, exhibition, reception and awards program. For the summer exhibit we will showcase the growing Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve Permanent Art Collection that documents how artists have found inspiration in Preserve.

Please plan to attend and support these exhibitions and the participating artists. Each show is accompanied by an opening reception with refreshments, provided by the FoBCP, and brief comments from the artists. Artwork in the shows is often for sale to enhance your personal collection of nature-inspired art. Also consider volunteering as a Gallery Sitter - it is a great opportunity to share your love of the Preserve with new and interested visitors).

Unless noted, the Auditorium Gallery is open to the public 9 am-3 pm Saturdays and 11 am-3 pm Sundays, except for special events in the Auditorium.

For more information on these exhibitions contact:

Lynn Whitelaw, Gallery Curator

rlwhitelaw7@msn.com, 813-784-4225 (cell)



Elizabeth Coachman

Brooker Creek Preserves, 2023

Copperplate line etching, 7 x 5 in.



Rachel Stewart

Brooker Creek Wanderings, 2023

Monoprint, linoleum print and hand additions, 16 x 20 in.

AUDITORIUM GALLERY 2023-2024 EXHIBITION SCHEDULE

2023

Sept. 9 - Dec. 3 **Leslie Neumann: *Wetlands Conservation***
Opening Reception & Artist Talk: Sunday, Oct. 8, 1-3 pm

Dec 9, 2023 - Feb 18, 2024

FoBCP 3rd Annual Member's Photography Exhibition & Invitational
Closing Reception: Sunday, Feb. 18, 1-3 PM

2024

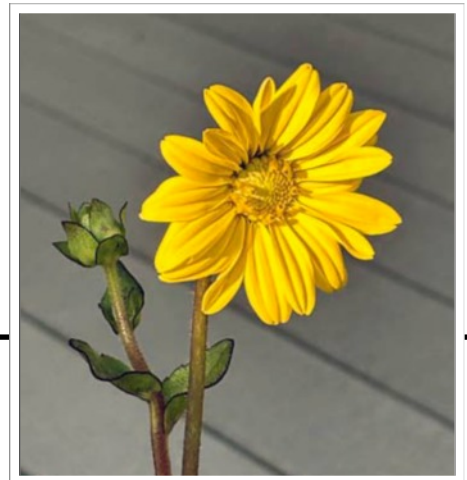
Feb. 23-24 **Brooker Creek Preserve Plein-Air Weekend** (Registration Required)

March 2-17 **2024 BCP Plein-Air Exhibition**
Reception & Awards Program: Sunday, Mar. 17, 1-3 pm

Mar. 23 - May 26

Elizabeth Coachman: *Brooker Creek Preserved: In Paintings and Prints.*
Reception & Artist's Talk: Sunday, March 31, 1-3 pm

June 2 - Aug. 25 **FOBCP Permanent Collection**
(no planned reception at this time; gallery open upon request)



Rosinweed photo
by Dixie Mills.

Upcoming Events

July 29 Wildflower Garden work day

July 30 Beekeepers Club

Aug. 26 Wildflower Garden work day

Aug. 27 Beekeeper Club



Thank you, Ranger Randy, for repainting our Nature Store sign! It looks great and we appreciate your effort.

Return The Preserve Work Day by Evan Earle Jr.

Our schedule for the Return The Preserve Work Days is April and October, but on Wednesday, June 14, we joined forces with our good partner Keep Pinellas Beautiful (KPB) to do a mini Return The Preserve Work Day, although there really wasn't anything "mini" about it. KPB was conducting the summer camp and one of the activities for the students was an invasive plant removal. We didn't have to travel far. The students removed over 10 large garbage bag of Boston ferns and caesarweed from around the classroom building. The before and after look for this area says it all. Thank you students and KPB for partnering with us to improve this area of the Preserve!

When you are walking on the boardwalk, stop at the turnoff to the classroom building and check out the area inside the boardwalk. You will see a cleaner, more natural environment vs. a carpet of Boston fern.



The Intelligence and Wonder of the Crows and Their Kin

by Randy Goggin

"Crows are bored. They suffer from being too intelligent for their station in life." (David Quammen)

The winter crows had crowded to the forests again - their cacophony of calls permeating the Preserve in their presence. They overpowered the song birds and red-shouldered hawks - frenetic in their Corvidae informational orgy. Black feathers. Hollow-boned frames fit for flight. Brains shaped for intelligence and complex social interactions. Their sleek forms never ceased from their motions: in the trees, in the air, on the leaf-littered earth. Five crows watched me from a staircase of branches, black marble eyes tracking my bipedal frame - deciding if I was a threat or something worthy of interest. Thoughts flashed like storms through their avian minds.

Two crow species inhabit the Florida peninsula: the fish crows, *Corvus ossifragus*, and the American crows, *C. brachyrhynchos*. American crows can be seen here at Brooker Creek Preserve, while fish crows are more often found out by the coast (e.g. on barrier islands and in the vicinities of lakes, rivers, and bays). American crows are the slightly larger species, and there are subtle differences in the shapes and sizes of their wings, beaks, and tails (see McGowan K. 2005). There are behavioral cues too that set them apart (e.g. differentiations in posture while producing their calls) (2005). But these visual characteristics are highly similar and often overlapping, so knowing their calls is the one sure way to ID them. Dr. Kevin J. McGowan, an avian behavioral ecologist out of Cornell University who has studied the social behaviors of crows, says this: "After thousands of hours of looking at crows, I think I am accurate in my visual ID to species only about 80% of the time" (2005).

In this age of the *Merlin* bird ID app and Cornell's *All About Birds* website, learning to identify the fish crows and American crows by their calls is an easily attainable goal. In fact, the following descriptions are a good place to start. American crows tend to communicate in drawn-out, higher pitched caaaws, while fish crows use short awns and guttural grunts, their calls more nasally than those of the Americans (however, note the similarities between the begging calls of American crows and the calls of the fish crows). Are you an American crow? you're supposed to ask in a mock McCarthy-esque inquisition. Neh-eh, the fish crow will defiantly grunt in response.

Crows belong to the Corvidae family: a group of songbirds that include the jays, magpies, ravens, and rooks. The corvids are some of the smartest creatures on the planet, rivaling even mammals in their intelligence and problem-solving skills (Bayern et al. 2018) (Owen J. 2004). Corvids exhibit a wide range of play behaviors, have funerals and wakes for their dead, go ice-fishing when baited lines are left in the water, and they can even discriminate between human faces, (Marzluff & Angell 2012) (Meinch 2021) (Starr 2017). In fact, crows can hold months- to years-long grudges against those they deem worthy of their wrath (2012) (2021), and they can pass along knowledge of those grudges to other crows too - enlisting recruits in their collective harassment (Starr

2017). Crows can also remember friendly faces, giving special attention to those who have treated them kindly (e.g. those who have fed them unshelled peanuts on a habitual basis) (2017) (Marzluff & Angell 2012). And they sometimes bring shiny objects and other prizes to those humans they favor (Starr 2017) (Stymacks 2018).

Crows utilize vehicular traffic for cracking open food items and prey (e.g. nuts, mollusk shells, and crustaceans) (Marzluff & Angell 2012) (Owen 2004). And in the Pacific northwest, they lay out smorgasbords of clams in anticipation of vehicles exiting incoming ferries (2012). American crows have used matchsticks as levers for opening locked containers in laboratory settings and in cities they use buildings as makeshift traps for sparrows - herding their prey into deadly and disorienting collisions (Marzluff & Angell 2005). San Francisco-based crows herd rock dove into oncoming traffic using similar strategies (2012). The fish crows launch sticks at nesting shorebirds in attempts to scare them off their eggs (2005), and other crows use sticks as jabbing weapons to gain advantages over larger or more aggressive birds (2012).

Even more amazing, the New Caledonian crows can make and used spears, probes, and hooked tools (Owen 2004) (Marzluff & Angell 2012). And they've made and used compound tools for solving puzzles in laboratory settings (i.e. assembling multiple, non-functional objects into a novel, functional tool), a skill that requires foresight, task coordination, and innovative planning (Bayern et al. 2018). In fact, the crafting and use of both hooked and compound tools places corvid tool-making abilities above that of all non-human primates (2018). What tools do American crows use here at the preserve? What innovations and unique, adaptive behaviors? How much do we miss as we rush off to some next task and destination?

The freakish intelligence of corvids emerges from their highly developed brains, particularly within the following three characteristics: 1) large brains in relation to the sizes of their bodies, 2) a higher density of neurons packed into their avian brains than in those of mammals (particularly within the pallium region), and 3) a highly developed forebrain region known as the nidopallium (or NCL), which functions in a similar way as that of the prefrontal cortex in humans (i.e. the brain region associated with higher cognition, rationality, and decision-making) (Meinch 2021) (Marzluff & Angell 2012). To underestimate these birds is to miss out on their wonder - a gift for those with eyes willing to see them.

Two crows flew in above the pine flatwoods forest - a stick gripped in each of their beaks. When a sentry sent out its warnings from the top of a snag, both crows spun back, landing in the trees. The sentry called with more fervor - more syllables added. I watched the nest-builders swaying on weight-tested branches, still holding their sticks, considering my presence. More crows loitered beneath a live oak just up the dirt road. Soon the nest-builders were tree-hopping their way to the others, descending to the ground, sticks dropped to the earth. The sentry ceased from its calls and flew off down the road. They stood in a circle - hopping, conversing - sometimes picking up objects which may have been worms. I searched pine crooks from the ground looking up, attempting to spot

their nest's hidden location. They grew quiet as they watched me crunch my way through the forest - refusing to reveal any of their secrets today.

The crows we see have deep ties to this land, with the first American crows beating the first humans across the Bering land bridge by over a million years (Marzluff & Angell 2005). All of our North American crow species owe their existence to that first ancestral population of migrants, and the American crows remain the dominant species today - having a territorial range that stretches clear across the contiguous United States and north into Canada. The fish crows too have established a sizeable territory, their range spanning the eastern and southeastern U.S. - the only species of crow to successfully share territory with their American crow cousins. Two factors likely allow the fish crows to survive as a species: their distinct calls and a differentiated mating season - both factors functioning to keep the two species from interbreeding (2005).

The crows are survivors. Humans have hunted and systematically executed American crows for centuries on this continent; even the U.S. forest service once bombed American crows with dynamite by the hundreds of thousands, a campaign of population control that was often fueled by ignorance and a lack of scientific understanding (2005). Due to their perceived identities as nuisance birds, their associations with death (e.g. scavenging human remains on battlefields and in plague-ridden lands), and human superstitions surrounding them, other corvids around the world faced a similar fate through the ages, having been systematically slaughtered for centuries in Europe and the Middle East (2005).

Many crows have adapted as we've transformed the world. They've exploited our farmlands, flocked to our suburbs and cities - seeking out food, shelter, and places to raise their offspring. They scavenge our garbage dumps, trash cans, and dumpsters, raid abandoned bags of half-eaten fast food with abandon. We've seen them foraging in our yards, in our worm-ridden gardens, in our harbors, and on the patios of our city's cafes. But when corvids thrive, we despise them for it, seeking ways to either kill them or chase them away. As humans destroy, alter, and transform this biosphere island in space, the corvids survive, adapting to our ceaseless, profit-driven ways - their behavioral repertoires expanded and reshaped over time.

I can't help but think back to when my daughter first considered the nature of crows. Liv was nine years old, and we were watching fish crows flying back and forth between our front yard and the pignut hickory tree up the street. As we watched them through the window, I pointed out to Liv how the crows first studied their surroundings before burying their seeds, seeing if any other birds might be watching. Liv grew excited at the thought of being the one to dig up what they'd hidden, as if their sources of stored nutrition were treasures meant for her alone. She raced out the door before I had a chance to stop her, making her way to the last hole she saw dug. The crows landed in the yard across the street to observe. As she dug up their seeds, she waved them in the air - retreating to where I stood when she noticed them staring.

They're watching me, Liv said. They are, and they remember human faces. That's weird. You've got their seeds. Put them back in their holes. I don't want to. They'll never forget what you did. They're creepy. I'm going back inside to play Skyrim. Leave the seeds, I told her. And she did. I tossed the seeds back out into the grass, but the fish crows ignored them, choosing other yards as sites for their caches instead. Later that day Liv brought up the subject of crows, how they all watched her, how smart they must be, what they were saying when they stood around grunting. I imagined the memory settling into the soil of her nine-year-old mind, like a seed I hoped would germinate and grow over time.

Crows can teach us as they adapt to our global, ecological devastation, our exploitation of the Earth, our lust for dominion. In the preserve we can see crows in a more natural state, different than the ones living in our suburbs and cities. Next time we see a group of crows engaged in some social interaction here at the preserve, may we stop and observe them, consider the wonder and complexity of their intelligent minds. May we consider their higher consciousness and advanced cognitions - both so different and so similar to our own. May we experience the wonder of the crow's existence on this planet, what their unique minds and behaviors have to offer our last wild places. As our cities expand, urbanized crow populations will likely keep growing along with them - their cultures evolving over time along with us. When humans one day finally kill each other off for good, the crows just may be the ones to rule the world in our absence.

Literature Cited

Bayern, Aversperg, & Miodulzewsky. 2018. "Compound tool construction by New Caledonian Crows." *Nature: Scientific Reports* 8, 15676. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-018-33458-z>

Marzluff J. & Angell T. 2005. *In the Company of Crows and Ravens*. Yale University Press, New Haven and London.

Marzluff J. & Angell T. 2012. *Gifts of the Crow*. Atria Paperback, New York, NY.

McGowan K. 2005. How do you tell a fish crow, *Corvus ossifragus*, from an American Crow, *Corvus brachyrhynchos*.

Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology Website. <https://www.birds.cornell.edu/crows/FishCrow.htm>

Meinch T. 2021. "The More We Learn About Crow Brains, the More Human-like Their Intelligence Seems." *Discover Magazine* (online). <https://www.discovermagazine.com/planet-earth/the-more-we-learn-about-crow-brains-the-more-humanlike-their-intelligence>

Starr M. 2017. 13 Surprisingly Weird Reasons Why Crows And Ravens Are The Best Birds, No Question. *Science Alert*. <https://www.sciencealert.com/crows-ravens-corvids-best-birds-animal-intelligence>

Stymacks. 2018. Why Ravens and Crows are Earth's Smartest Birds. *National Geographic* (online). <https://www.nationalgeographic.co.uk/animals/2018/03/why-ravens-and-crows-are-earths-smartest-birds>

Owen J. 2004. Crows as Clever as Great Apes. *National Geographic* (online). <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/article/crow-as-clever-as-great-apes-study-says>

News from the Wildflower Garden By Pam Brown

I was not able to work in the garden for the June workday, but Dixie Mills was able to spend some time dead-heading flowers and spreading the seed. The garden was thriving and blooming nicely after several rain events. There were lots of yellow blooms - Coreopsis, rosinweed, and coneflowers.

The next garden volunteer workdays are July 29th and August 26th. We are working the summer hours of 8:00 - 10:00 am. If you would like to join us, please register by emailing me at pamperedgardeners@gmail.com. Due to the fragility of the plants in the garden, we limit the number to five volunteers, including any children 10 or more years old. Bring your gardening tools, gloves, hat, and bug repellent, and wear closed-toed shoes. We will provide a light snack. We would love to see you in the garden!



. . . And more rosinweed.



Pam's Thoughts

We are still experiencing significant drought here in Pinellas County. Other areas of the Tampa Bay region seem to be getting more rain. On top of that we are experiencing record outdoor temperatures on a daily basis. This is really having an adverse effect on many landscape plants. It is hard to sufficiently wet the soil once it becomes so over dry. I hope by the time that this article is printed we will be seeing more summer-like daily rain patterns. I am still praying for rain.

Volunteer News

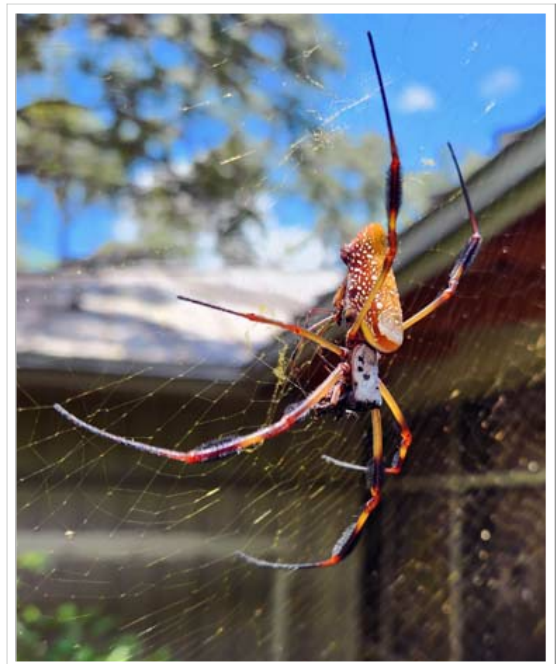
Education Center Updates

May/June 2023

By Julia Myers, Education Support Specialist, Brooker Creek Preserve



July is full of New Programs: We are excited for a busy month ahead! We have several new programs, including the debut of "Exploring the Possibility of Microbial Life on Mars" presented by our own Adam Robinson! Adam started volunteering here back in 2015 while he was still in school. Now he is an astrobiologist and a researcher with St. Petersburg College, and we can't wait to hear about his work. We are also welcoming the [Great American Bus of Interactive Education](#), thanks to our partnership with the East Lake Community Library. The bus offers multiple hands-on stations to teach youth about important environmental topics. In addition, our very own Karl and Kathleen Nichter will present their Nature Photography program with a new twist, photography with any camera (even your phone)!



Golden Orb Weaver
(*Trichonephila clavipes*)


Welcome and Farewell: Sheree's last day in the office was July 2nd. We are going to seriously miss her but are excited for her to enjoy this next chapter of life. The best part is - this isn't a goodbye, but a 'see you soon.' Sheree and her husband Garry have been on the BCP volunteer team since 2005 as volunteer hike guides and we look forward to seeing more of them in the future!

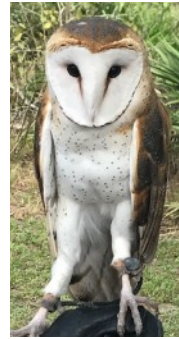
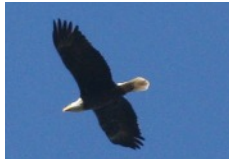
After a very difficult decision process, we are very happy to introduce Victoria Escandell as our new Education and Outreach Specialist! We had so many excellent applicants for our one-of-a-kind job opening, but Victoria rose to the top with her background at the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge on the East Coast. Her first day in the office will be July 6th. We can't wait for you to meet Victoria and welcome her to the Team!

Florida Youth Master Naturalist Exploration Week: Ed Center staff just wrapped up our very first week-long exploration into Florida's ecosystems with 20 incredible middle schoolers! The Florida Master Naturalist Program created a youth curriculum that we used to offer Brooker Creek's first 30-hour youth program in partnership with Pinellas County 4-H. The kids spent Monday through Thursday learning about our wetland and upland habitats and then we spent Friday at Honeymoon Island to cover the coastal portion. Thanks to everyone that helped make this possible and especially to our very own volunteer Rose Poyner for leading the wetland portion and sharing her middle school science teacher magic with us. The kids were brilliant and we are so proud of our new crew of Florida Youth Master Naturalist GRADUATES!



Pinellas Florida Waters Stewardship Program: Registration is now open! This multi-session program led by our Lara is an amazing opportunity to learn all about water resources in Florida and right here in Pinellas County. Each class takes place at a new location with guest speakers, tours and more. The program begins on August 9th and space is limited. Cost is \$125. Register and learn more about the program [HERE](#). As a graduate of this program, I can attest to how phenomenal it is, and highly recommend it to anyone on the fence about it.


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, 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 ENDORSMENT, 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

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 - 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:
info@FriendsOfBrookerCreekPreserve.org
Voicemail: (727) 934-2680

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

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

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

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

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

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

FOBCP Leadership 2023

Board of Directors

Officers

Chair: Cathie Foster
Vice Chair: Robert Burkard
Secretary: Allyn Childress
Treasurer: Ed Helvenston
Business Director: Barb Hoffman

Directors:

Pam Brown: Wildflower Garden
Robert Burkard: Beekeeping
Allyn Childress: Grants
Evan Earle, Jr.: Return the Preserve Work Days
Cathie Foster: Nature Store Manager
Barbara Hoffman: Membership/
Owl-O-Ween
Walt Hoskins: Guiding Documents
Dr. Craig Huegel: Land Use/Newsletter
Editor/Off-the-Beaten-Path Hikes
Chuck Parsons: 4th Grade Coordination
Ray Poynor: Craftsman, Night Hikes
Barbara Schultz: Publicity
Cathy Vogelsong: Newsletter Publisher
Julie Wade: Communications/Outreach

Further Leadership

Alexa DeJoannis: Readers Club
Mona Gardner & Dixie Mills: Nature Store
Bookkeepers
Cathy Ordiway: Website Master
Lynn Whitelaw: Art Gallery Curator

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

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