
Friends  of Brooker Creek Preserve

March - April 2020

Welcome back from South
America, swallow-tailed kites!



Photo by Barb Walker.

Save the Date
Upcoming Friends Events

- Mar. 1 Music in the Woods: Meriggiare
String Quartet 2:00 pm
- Mar. 7 FOBCP Readers Club 9:30-10:30 am
- Mar. 15 Beekeepers Club 9 am
- Mar. 14 Night Hike 7:30 pm
- Mar. 21 Anclote Key Lighthouse Tour & Beach
Barbecue 10 am - 4:30 pm
- Mar. 22 Off the Beaten Path:
Sandhill Scramble 9 am
- Mar. 22 Paint for the Wild 12 - 3 pm
- Mar. 28 Plein Air 2020 Event
- Mar. 28 Wildflower Garden work day 9-11 am
- Mar. 29 Plein Air 2020 Reception 1-3 pm
- Apr. 4 FOBCP Readers Club 9:30-10:30 am
- Apr. 4 Wildlife Safari! 10 am - 2 pm
- Apr. 5 Beekeepers Club 9 am
- Apr. 18 Gallery Reception: Joseph Weinzettle
En Plein Air 2:00 pm
- Apr. 18 Music in the Woods: "2PM"
5:00 - 7:30 pm
- Apr. 18 Night Hike 8:00 pm
- Apr. 18 Return the Preserve Work Day 8 am
- Apr. 25 Wildflower Garden work day 8-10 am
- Jun. 27 Ken Rowe Birdathon

FOBCP Annual Meeting & Brunch 1/12

Annual Meeting Elections: Each year, approximately half of our FOBCP directors' two-year terms expire. This year we are so happy that these seven directors agreed to serve for another two-year term from February 1, 2020 through January 31, 2020:

Allyn Childress Kathleen Nichter
Bob Burkard Ray Poynor
Chuck Parsons Walt Hoskins
Jane Myers



Nature Store Profit 2019

FOBCP Nature Store Bookkeeper, Kathleen Nichter, happily presents FOBCP Vice-Chair, Bob Burkard, a "check" (the real one was already in the bank) for \$13,970.30, the Nature Store profit for the 2019 fiscal year.

Welcome to our new Friends members:

**Carolyn Kossar
Mike & Elizabeth Coachman**



**Many thanks to
Winn Dixie of Tarpon Springs
for the awesome donation of
\$55.00 as part of the
Community Bag Program!**

Off the Beaten Path: Cypress Swamp Stomp 1/19

By Craig Huegel

If you've never joined us for an Off the Beaten Path hike, I'd encourage you to do so sometime in the future. The next one is scheduled for Sunday morning, March 22, where we'll hike through some of the Preserve's most beautiful upland habitats. The one you just missed, however, is always my favorite walk of the series - an exploration of Brooker Creek Preserve's most amazing cypress swamp. Some folks seem leery to hike through such places. Swamps seem inherently "dangerous" or "uncomfortable", but I suspect driving down US 19 is much more so and many of us do that without much hesitation. The reality is that they are wet, but magical, places, and the folks that join us for this one each year would agree with me, I'm sure.



*A bladderwort
(Utricularia inflata)
floating in the swamp.*

On January 19, a hearty band of explorers joined us for what we call the Cypress Stomp. It was a perfect day for it as the weather was neither too warm nor cold and whatever "bugs" might have been present were still mostly taking their winter naps. The cypress dome that was our destination is perhaps the largest one within the Preserve and it holds its water levels pretty

well even in a somewhat dry winter. The water was comfortable - at least in my opinion, and accommodating. Even in the deepest portions, it rarely reached my knees. Of course, folks like Julie Wade were a bit more challenged . . . Cypress swamps are not stinky as some folks might suspect. The water is clean, but stained a bit from the natural tannins in the leaves that fall below the surface. No different than tea.



*A ground orchid (Habenaria floribunda),
and a phaon crescent butterfly.*

We spent the first hour immersed in the cypress dome, navigating between the large trees looking for rare epiphytic orchids and watching for birds. Along the way, we did find numerous Tampa butterfly orchids and a few of the less common jingle bell orchids. We also were treated to a trio of downy woodpeckers calling to each other and searching the bare limbs for insects. Of course, most trees in a cypress dome are leafless at this time of year. It does wonders for those of us bent on taking photographs.

Our middle destination was a natural live oak hammock that is in the center of this wetland. It is one of the most unique places in the Preserve as it may well be the only natural hammock within the property. The live oaks here are quite old and covered in various epiphytes - air plants as they are sometimes called. It is a beautiful sight and I always get a thrill walking beneath them. What I love most about this place, however, are the jack-in-the-pulpits. Although there are a few of these plants elsewhere within Brooker Creek Preserve (look for them along the boardwalk entrance to the education center), there literally are thousands in the understory of this hammock. Even though it was early, a few were blooming for us.



After crossing this area, we ventured back into the swamp for about another hour. We did not find the sole (and small) population of strap fern this time. This fern is common in wetlands south of us, but these are the only ones I'm aware of in Pinellas County and I like to verify that they are still there. Maybe we'll find them again next year as I suspect we simply skirted around the location that they occur in. Despite this, we had a great time and came out on the main road in time for a quick lunch and some time to reminisce about the day's adventures



Jack-in-the-Pulpit and strap fern.

The Off the Beaten Path series takes us to 4 places that are not open to the public. They are the only way of seeing some of my favorite parts of the Preserve and it is an important fundraiser for the Friends. To those of you that are signed up for future hikes, thank you for your support. You can sign up for the 3 individual hikes that remain, or you can support us even more by signing up for the whole series. Just click on the link along the right side of the Friend's website:

<http://www.friendsofbrookercreekpreserve.org/>

Return The Preserve Quarterly Work Day 1/25 by Evan Earle, Jr.

For our first Return The Preserve (RTP) Work Day, we could not have asked for more beautiful weather or outstanding volunteers. With close to 50 volunteers showing up, we had a very productive and fun morning. The RTP Work Day volunteers teamed up with Pam Brown to help clean out our Wildflower Garden. We removed overcrowded muhly grass and False Indigo to open up our Garden for new growth this spring. The muhly grass was transplanted to the area next to the sidewalk from the Delivery Loop, adding to an already thriving muhly. With students from Tarpon Springs Middle School, Sunrise Academy of Math And Science, Berkly Prep, as well as volunteers who showed up to support us, it was a very productive morning. Not only did we help with the Wildflower Garden, but we also removed bags and bags and bags of caesarweed and St. Augustine grass. And by bags and bags and bags I am talking close to 100 bags! Thank you Pam for inviting us to work with you. Thank you volunteers for a great job and a wonderful start to 2020.

HAMS Slams It, another RTP work day 2/22

We came. We saw. We weeded.

Volunteers from the Hillsborough Academy of Math And Science (HAMS) partnered with the Friends Of Brooker Creek Preserve (FOBCP) on Saturday, February 22nd, for a Return The Preserve (RTP) Work Day. Over 20 volunteers (students, parents, teachers) donated their time on what started out as a brisk Saturday morning. But we all warmed up quickly as we started removing caesarweed from the Friends Trail off of Lora Lane. New location, same hard work and outstanding results from our volunteers. TWENTY BAGS OF CAESARWEED were removed from the parking area and the beginning of the trail. Along with a smattering of Brazilian pepper, Norfolk Island pine, and queen palms.

It was a beautiful morning with a great group of people. Thank you Mr. Long and HAMS for your ongoing support and partnership with the FOBCP and our RTP Work Days! We look forward to next time as we work to Return The Preserve to its natural environment and beauty.

Connect the dots gone wild? Nope. But an effective demonstration of how Caesarweed travels. We spent a good amount time carefully removing Caesarweed briars from each other and disposing of them when we were done.

Next RTP Work Day - Sat., April 18, 8 am
In celebration of Earth Day
(it's not on Earth Day, but it's close).



Twenty bags of Caesarweed removed!



A QUICK BUT IMPORTANT REMINDER. We invite everyone to join our RTP Work Days, but you will need to register to participate. This can be done by emailing me at earlejr@gmail.com. It is important to register because we are capping the RTP Work Days at 30 people. In addition, we have a form that EACH volunteer must complete and bring with them to the event. Go to our FOBCP website at <http://www.friendsofbrookercreekpreserve.org/> — the quicklink to Return the Preserve Work Days will take you to our information page with another link to the required form.

AUDITORIUM GALLERY by Lynn Whitelaw, Gallery Curator

VICTORIA BLOCK: *TREE INSPIRATIONS*

Opening Reception 2/26

On view in the gallery through March 22.

Victoria Block, with Lynn Whitelaw, in front of *Monday in August 2019*, oil on canvas.



And thanks again to John Hoffman for providing music for our opening reception.



Victoria Block
Hidden (detail),
2017 Ink on canvas

UPCOMING ART EVENT: *PLEIN AIR 2020*

Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve is pleased to announce its 2nd annual plein air program - **Plein Air 2020 Art Event and Exhibition**. This activity is open to artists and photographers who are encouraged to use Brooker Creek Preserve to create nature-inspired works.

Following the day-long event on Saturday, March 28, the artwork (two per artist) will be placed on view in the Auditorium Gallery through Sunday, April 5, when there will be a closing reception and awards program. All the work will be available for purchase, unless designated by the artist, with a 10% donation given back to FOBCP.

Consider becoming a plein air artist and participate in **Plein Air 2020** or help us spread the word to artists in our area. Also attend the reception to support the artists - perhaps you might even find a favorite piece to purchase.

See flier on page 16 for more information.

PLEIN AIR 2020 at BROOKER CREEK PRESERVE

Saturday, March 28 - Plein Air Event
(Rain Date: Sunday, March 29)
Sunday, April 5 - Closing Reception & Awards

REGISTRATION & RELEASE FORM - \$20 per artist
Please bring this form and payment when you register on March 28.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone (cell): _____

Email: _____

Art Medium: _____

RELEASE & MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

I fully release and hold harmless Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve and Pinellas County for any injury or loss to myself, my possessions, and my artwork during the activities of **Plein Air 2020**.

I understand that I must check in at the boardwalk entrance kiosk at Brooker Creek Preserve on 3/28/20 (rain date 3/29/20) between 8:00 and 10:00 am.

I understand that I may submit up to two pieces of art and the pieces must be artwork done during event day within the boundary of Brooker Creek Preserve.

I understand that framed and wired paintings must be submitted by 4:00 pm and framed and wired photography must be submitted between 11:00 am and 1:00 pm the following day.

I understand that my artwork will be on display in the Auditorium Gallery at Brooker Creek Preserve until 4/5/20.

I understand that 10% of my artwork sales from this event gets donated to Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve.

I understand that my artwork must be removed by 4:00 pm on 4/5/20.

Signature

Date

PRINTING WITHOUT A PRESS: A Workshop by Victoria Block - 2/15

Ten participants attended the *Printing Without a Press* workshop on Saturday, Feb. 15 given by Montreal artist Victoria Block, whose exhibition is currently on view in the Auditorium Gallery. Attendees were introduced to a technique for creating inked print images that can be re-used for everything from simple note cards to complex mixed media art pieces. Victoria felt, "it was a very successful workshop because of the creative and talented group of artists who attended."



Victoria Block with prints made by her workshop students.



Workshop participants working on their print designs: (left to right): Tom Jones, Lynn Foskett, Pam Schrader, Marlene Bulas, and Maureen Perdomo.



Participant Janice Rush inking one of her prints.

Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve

2020 NIGHT HIKES!

Join the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve for a hiking experience along the Education Center Trail...*at night!* These special hikes are open to the public and limited to 20 people per hike. **A \$3 per person donation is requested.** Hikes are led by Mark Yeager, a Preserve volunteer who is knowledgeable about nocturnal wildlife. The hike is about one-mile in length and will take about 1.5 hours.

Saturday, March 14, 2020	7:30 pm
Saturday, April 18, 2020	8:00 pm

Pre-registration is required! Once you register, more information will come to you via email. Pre-register online by logging onto: [Night hikes](#)

These hikes are for adults and families only. Children must be accompanied by parents. Please leave your pets at home. Pets are not permitted in County Preserves.

Please join us! A Friends-only exclusive event!



New Date!

Historic Anclote Key Lighthouse Tour & Beach Barbeque Saturday, March 21, 2020

10:00 am - 11:30 am - Boat ride to Anclote key
11:30 am - 1:00 pm - Lighthouse Tour
1:00 - 3:00 pm - Barbeque Lunch on the Beach
3:00 pm - 4:30 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 walk 3/10 mile 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! Non-members are welcome, too!

\$60.00 per person - includes everything!



For questions and to RSVP:
fobcp@tampabay.rr.com

727-934-2680



Paint for the Wild!

Sunday, March 22 from 12-3 pm



Jewels in the Trees

Learn from instructor, artist Kelly Quinn, how to approach Florida inspired landscape with smaller subjects interacting throughout the piece! We'll use a combination of impressionism and contemporary realism to create a soft yet vividly colorful artwork with some of St. Pete's most iconic feathered friends!

All materials provided
No experience required
Enjoy an assortment of snacks
Explore the exhibits and Nature Store during breaks

Cost: \$45/person

Register online at <https://paintforthewild.com/>

"Paint for the Wild" generously donates a portion of registration fees to the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve (non-profit) to support our mission: 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

ACRE ADOPTIONS FOR BROOKER CREEK PRESERVE

Many thanks for the following Acre Adoptions for Jan/Feb 2020:

In memory of **Gary Vertescher** from Katy

Woman's Club of Tarpon Springs

In honor of **Five Wonderful Grandchildren** from Paul & Nancy Mellican

Louis T. Petersen adopted two acres in memory of his sister **Janice M. Petersen**

Hey Kids!

If you are between the ages of 4-12
Bring an adult and join the...

WILDLIFE SAFARI

Saturday, April 4, 2020

Arrive any time between 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

The Safari walk takes about one hour.

Join in the fun at this educational and fun adventure for children through 12 years old! The children begin with a blank Wildlife Passport, then walk with their families along a one-mile loop of adventure with live owls, snakes, baby raccoons, hawks, and more! As the children visit each Wildlife Station, their Passport gets stamped. At the end, they get a special prize for completing the journey. Cost is \$5 per child.

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



Sponsorship Form



Saturday, April 4, 2020
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

For children ages 4-12 and their families

Thank you for sponsoring this fun, educational, family-friendly adventure for kids. **In recent years this event has drawn over 1200 people to Brooker Creek Preserve.**

Your sponsorship pays for our Safari stations, prizes for our young adventurers and other event costs.

Your name and logo, if applicable, will be placed on a sign in a prominent location along the Safari trail as an event sponsor. Your name will also be included on our website, in our newsletter, and on the electronic display inside our Nature Store at the Preserve for the next year.

Sponsorships are \$200 each, or you may choose to share a sponsorship sign with another supporter (\$100 each).

Deadline for sponsorships is Friday, March 27.

Sponsorship Donation Amount: _____\$200 _____\$100

Name as you want it to appear on the sign:

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Contact Person: _____

Businesses: Please email your logo to: fobcp@tampabay.rr.com

Check payable to: Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve



Wildlife Safari - Saturday, April 4

Volunteers Needed!



This fun, educational event for kids and their families features animals native to Brooker Creek Preserve and is always a big hit! Want to join the fun? Have questions?

As always, lunch will be provided by the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve! If you can work the whole day, we'll make sure you get a lunch break!

Contact Julie at 612-850-0111 or at the1midge@aol.com or sign up in the Exhibit Hall break room.

Job Description	Shifts	Location
Greeter: Greet and count guests, direct them to the Safari start, answer questions.	9:00-12:00 12:00-2:30	Main parking lot
Registration Table: Sign people in, collect money, give out passports, answer questions.	9:30-12:00 12:00-2:30	Picnic shelter near parking lot
Prize Table: Hand out prize to each passport holder.	10:00-1:00 1:00-3:30	Ed Center Exhibit Hall
Safari Guides: help set up the station (am shift) help the wildlife experts carry their animals and equipment to and from the parking lot and their wildlife station assist the experts during the event, including giving them a break stamp the children's passports encourage the crowd to move on to the next Wildlife Station after about 5 minutes help take down the station, fold table, take down tent (pm shift).	9:00-12:30 12:00-3:30	Along the Education Center Trail
Lunch Set-Up/Attendants: Set up lunch for volunteers. Keep area clean. Clean up afterward	9:00-2:30	Auditorium/Kitchen/Screen Porch
Floater: Fill-in where needed	9:00-12:00 12:00-3:00	
Fri. April 3 Set-up: tents/tables/chairs	4-6 pm	Ed Center Trail
Post-event take-down: help take down tents, clean tables, general clean-up (many hands make light work!)	2-4 pm	Ed Center Trail



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

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
Sign up early! Only 20 spots are open for these fabulous hikes *off the beaten path!*
Questions? Email fobcp@tampabay.rr.com or call 727-934-2680.

Plein Air 2020

Brooker Creek Preserve

Saturday, March 28

(Plein Air Event) – All Day

Sunday, April 5

(Reception and Awards Program) 1- 3pm



Plein Air 2020 is sponsored by the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve to encourage the use of the Preserve as an inspiration for artists to create nature-inspired works of art. All artists (amateurs to professionals) are invited to participate in showing their talent and support for Brooker Creek Preserve by creating art inspired by the wildlife and natural landscape of the Preserve. All artwork must be created on March 28 within the Preserve grounds. Up to two pieces per artist may be submitted. The resulting works will be displayed in the Brooker Creek Preserve Auditorium Gallery for one week during which time judging will occur. Sale of artwork is encouraged and 10% from any sales is requested as a donation to Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve. The Reception and Awards program will take place from 1:00 to 3:00 PM on Sunday, April 5. All unsold artwork must be removed at the end of the event.

Cost to participate is a \$20 non-refundable fee. Early registration is strongly encouraged to assure participation. Cash prizes will be awarded for Best in Show (\$100), First (\$75), Second (\$50), Third (\$25), and Visitor's Choice (\$25).

Registration forms and more information can be found at:

www.friendsofbrookercreekpreserve.org

Friends  of Brooker Creek Preserve

3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs, FL 34688

For questions: Call 727-934-2680 * Email fobcp@tampabay.rr.com

UPCOMING EXHIBITION: Opening Reception Sat., April 18, 2:00 pm

Joseph Weinzettle: *En Plein Air* (Paintings and Drawings: 2014-2020)

Exhibit on view in Gallery April 12 - June 7, 2020

NOTE: the Weinzettle reception precedes the *Music in the Woods* concert - come enjoy both!

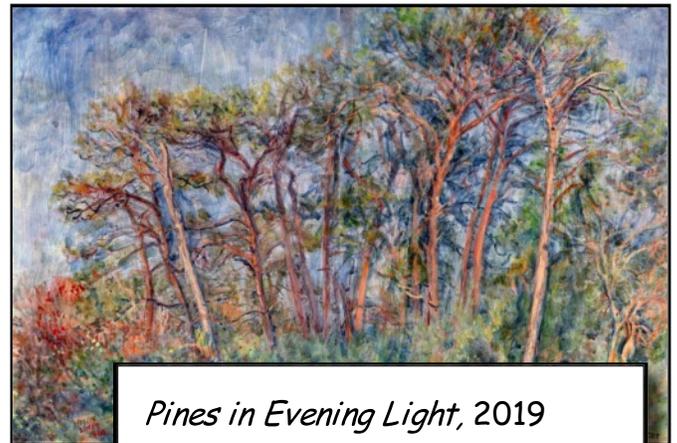
"My paintings may take weeks to months to complete depending on the scale and complexity. Occasionally I re-visit a painting the following year, when the surface is again workable. The underdrawing and painting are layered responses to the site conditions. Due to changes over time on site, the underdrawing and painted layers are often contradictory. This is part of the process, the organic nature of working en plein air. I want the viewer to share in the experience on site."

— Joseph Weinzettle

The drawings and paintings of Tarpon Springs artist Joseph Weinzettle are explorations of natural environments in Pinellas County, including Brooker Creek Preserve, and are conceived *en plein air*, meaning they are created directly on site to capture the nuances of changing light and atmosphere. Weinzettle's work is painstakingly conceived through the build-up of drawn and painted layers. He incorporates a variety of materials and techniques on his gesso and primed wood panels, including the use of oil paints, bamboo brush and ink, silverpoint, natural red chalk, and stand oils.

Joseph Weinzettle has lived on the west coast of Florida since 1992 and is well known and respected as both an artist and an instructor, teaching drawing at several area art centers. Originally from Pittsburgh, PA, Weinzettle received his Bachelor of Fine Arts from The Cooper Union in New York City in 1989 and his Master of Fine Arts in 1997 from the University of Mississippi.

Over the past twelve years, Weinzettle has been working in *plein air* landscape painting. He has received numerous awards and grants for his work, including the prestigious Pollock-Krasner Foundation and Gottlieb Foundation grants. In 2010, he was selected for an Artist-in-Residence program in the Everglades National Park. Weinzettle has had numerous solo exhibitions in Florida and his artwork is in both public and private collections, including the Leepa-Rattner Museum of Art. FoBCP is honored to show the *plein air* paintings of Joseph Weinzettle and thank him for the work he has created in Brooker Creek Preserve.



Pines in Evening Light, 2019
Oil on two panels, 24 in. x 36 in.



Silverpoint Swamp, 2019 (detail)
Silverpoint & oil on panel, 18 in. x 45 in.

Friends  of Brooker Creek Preserve
presents
MUSIC IN THE WOODS SERIES
with the
harmonic contemporary/folk music of
2PM



Saturday, April 18, 2020 5:00—7:30 pm
Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center
This concert will be held in Outdoor Music Pavilion

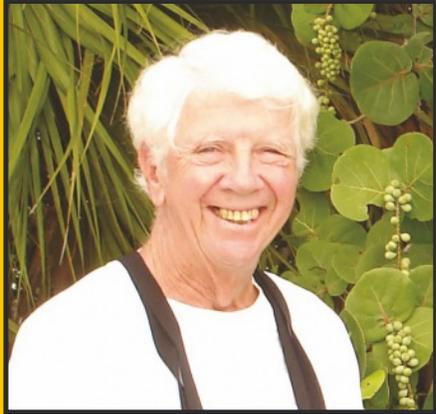
\$5/person donation requested, children under 16 FREE!

Bring drinks, picnic dinner and lawn chairs or a blanket.
(If raining, concert will take place inside the Auditorium.)
Sorry, no pets or alcoholic beverages.

Questions: fobcp@tampabay.rr.com
or
727-934-2680

"2PM" is Pete Price, Pete Hennings, and Mike Jurgensen, a trio of talented musicians who blend their varied musical talents into an eclectic mix of material, from original songs, to obscure covers, to well-known standards. With Price on guitar and bass, Hennings on guitar, bass, and mandolin, and Jurgensen on guitar and harmonica, these three performers combine tight instrumentation with pristine vocal harmonies to delight audiences of all musical tastes. "2PM" has released three CDs: "Keepin' Time", "Let's Just Play One More", and their most recent, "Writing on the Wall", released in 2017. The band will be releasing its fourth recording project in 2020.

The 6th Annual



Ken Rowe Birdathon

At Brooker Creek Preserve

Saturday June 27, 2020

5:30 am – 11:30 am Birding, 12:00 – 1:00 pm Lunch & Prizes

Birders of all levels are welcome and encouraged to attend! Teams of 2-4 people, \$10/person, includes lunch. Teams are encouraged to invite youth birders to join their team and may include them as extra members over the cap of four. Prizes will be awarded in a variety of categories including most species per team and many more... Birding will take place by teams at their own pace at a choice of several areas within the Brooker Creek Preserve boundary, most not open to the public. Maps indicating entry/parking sites, including "hot spot" locations, will be provided to participants. Data collected will be used to help monitor breeding bird populations. Team leaders must RSVP by June 25, 2020.

This event is sponsored by Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve.

3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs, 34688

For questions or to sign up: Call 727-934-2680 * Email fobcp@tampabay.rr.com



Sensing Nature Summer Camps

2020

Conducted by Professional Biologists & Florida Master Naturalists

Registration Opens February 4, 2020

Register at www.SensingNature.com

Email: jmurphy@sensingnature.com

Phone: (727) 397-2306

Time Traveler Camp

June 1- 5

Ages: 8 – 13 years of age

Registration Deadline: May 18, or when full

Hosted at Weedon Island Preserve, St. Petersburg

Jump back in time with Florida megafauna like giant sloths and megalodon sharks. Be ready to empty your pockets and test your dip netting and fish seining skills as Native Americans and our ancestors did for centuries. Then, put on your hiking boots, grab your naturalist guide, and get ready to hike Weedon's coastal forest like our early settlers did. Are you also ready for some crafts, stories, and other exciting activities involving time exploration? Join us and follow time through fossils, distinctive art, artifact fakers, movie productions, and more until we reach the present-day human and wildlife balance in which we now live.

Words of Nature Camp

June 22- 26

Ages: 8 – 12 years of age

Registration Deadline: June 8, or when full

Hosted at Weedon Island Preserve, St. Petersburg

Encourage your camper's love of reading and writing in a relaxed atmosphere where nature experiences add surprises and complement learning. Campers will read award-winning Florida stories from Florida authors, enjoy daily nature explorations, and will express their creativity through writing and drawing. While building on their love of reading and writing, campers will develop more confidence in their abilities.

Nurturing their creativity and potential through reading, writing, art, and other fun skills in the low stress atmosphere of the nature preserve will keep your camper excited about learning, may be just the way to reduce any academic "summer slide," while keeping them active having fun being a kid.



Saltwater Fishing Camps

June 29 - July 3, week 1

Ages: TBD

Registration Deadline: June 15, or when full

Hosted at Weedon Island Preserve, St. Petersburg

Experience hands-on fishing and valuable instruction regarding saltwater fishes, their habitats, and various fishing techniques with the goal of creating a new "school" of responsible anglers. Most aspects of fishing are covered, ranging from fish identification and fish biology to basic boat navigation and ethical angling techniques. Campers will leave our Sensing Nature camp with a greater appreciation for the sport of fishing as well as new angling skills. Campers are provided all the necessary fishing gear needed during camp activities.



Register at www.SensingNature.com ♦ (727) 397-2306 ♦ Email jmurphy@sensingnature.com

2020

Sensing Nature Summer Camps

Conducted by Professional Biologists & Florida Master Naturalists

Wetland Adventure Camp

July 20 - 24

Ages: 7 – 12 years of age

Registration Deadline: July 6, or when full

Hosted at Brooker Creek Preserve, Tarpon Springs

Meet the things that walk, wiggle and unfurl within our magical Florida wetlands during this fun-filled week. Explore beautiful swamps, marshes and even the gooey mucks with Sensing Nature's professional biologist and certified UF Florida Master Naturalists. Dip net a dragonfly nymph, swamp tromp where ferns grow, learn the tales soils tell, discover the secrets of water and help make a difference for tomorrow's wetland critters.



Saltwater Fishing Camps

July 20 - 24, week 2

July 27 - 31, week 3

Ages: 8 – 15 years of age

Registration Deadline: July 6, or when full

Registration Deadline: July 13, or when full

Hosted at Weedon Island Preserve, St. Petersburg

Experience hands-on fishing and valuable instruction regarding saltwater fishes, their habitats, and various fishing techniques with the goal of creating a new "school" of responsible anglers. Most aspects of fishing are covered, ranging from fish identification and fish biology to basic boat navigation and ethical angling techniques. Campers will leave our Sensing Nature camp with a greater appreciation for the sport of fishing as well as new angling skills. Campers are provided all the necessary fishing gear needed during camp activities.



Register at www.SensingNature.com ♦ (727) 397-2306 ♦ Email jmurphy@sensingnature.com

Friends  of Brooker Creek Preserve



BEEKEEPERS CLUB

The 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.

Meetings *typically* are held the second Sunday (new day!) of each month at 9:00 am. Upcoming meetings are March 15 and April 5. We meet at the Bee Shed at Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center, gather equipment, then head to the apiary located about two miles away. Everyone shares in all the work.



Bob Burkard (left) is our President and is very knowledgeable about beekeeping. We have 10 hives now, with each supporting between 10,000-20,000 bees!

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; a variety of levels for Friends memberships are available. The 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.

News from the Wildflower Garden

By: Pam Brown

Spring flowers are blooming in the garden - violets and lyre-leaf sage. In January our wildflower group received some excellent help from the Return the Preserve (RTP) volunteer group. We needed to do some renovation in the garden by removing some of the Gulf Muhly grass which had been rapidly crowding out parts of the garden. We also removed several false indigo plants that had grown from seedlings and were becoming too large for our small garden.

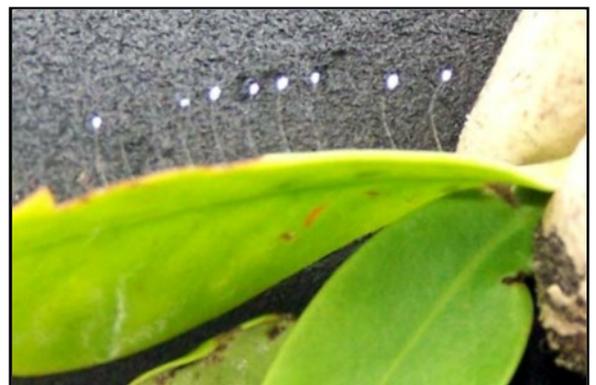
The RTP volunteers removed St. Augustine grass from the large area near the sidewalk from the drop-off area to the auditorium and planted the salvaged Gulf Muhly grass into this space. We are very grateful for all of the volunteers who came out to help with this project. It was a large group and they made short work of a large project! We had partnered several years ago with RTP to work on this same area. I am looking forward to the fall when all the Muhly grass will be in bloom.

Our next workdays in the Wildflower Garden will be on March 29 and April 25, 2020. If you can help in the garden, please bring your hat, gloves, tools, insect repellent, and wear closed toed shoes and join us for some gardening fun. We will provide breakfast snacks. We would love to see you there! We meet the last Saturday of each month from 9 - 11 am (winter hours) through March. Our summer hours are 8 - 10 am from April through October.

Pam's Gardening Tip

We have had an unusually warm winter and many plants are confused and have started spring growth early. My blueberries started blooming the beginning of January! The lush new growth of spring is very tasty to many insects that feed on plants. Aphids are especially ravenous this time of year. If you see aphids when scouting your landscape, also look for any beneficial insects that might be feeding on them. Ladybugs and/or green lacewings might be laying eggs near aphids so that the hatching larvae will have plenty of food. A strong blast from a hose will usually remove a heavy infestation of aphids from a plant. If you find later that the aphids are still busily consuming your plant, insecticidal soap and Neem oil are good, least toxic pesticides to use. Follow the directions on the label closely. Also, spray in the early evening when bees and other pollinators are not active so that you protect these important beneficial insects. I do not know who said this but it certainly is worth repeating: "Remember, when you kill the beneficial insects, you inherit their job."

Green lacewing eggs on the underside of a leaf.



Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve Readers Club

By: Jon Burr



In January we discussed Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring" This was the Readers Club's second go at a book we discussed five years ago. Five years ago! Seems like a much longer time. The book still seemed to hold our readers' interests. The importance of its author's work in eliminating a profitable but harmful substance from everyday use in the face of BM (Big Money) and its minions of defense for the use of DDT, is still recognized today. But there is a sneaking suspicion in my mind that Carson would be no match for Roundup's producers or against the brave new world of Chief Justice Robert's Citizen United and the dark money that seems to command an enormous political ownership, Greta Thunberg notwithstanding.

In February we discussed a book by one of our favorite 'local' writers. I was listening to Brubeck as I started to read 'A Son of Old Florida', Jeff Klinkenberg's latest book. Double dosed on nostalgia. If I'd been a little younger I might have been listening to "A Hard Day's Night". Either way - who is the audience for the Friends Newsletter? - I got all goose bumpy. If you need an ample serving of good (but not perfect) family life read this book. To me it was like sitting down with my oldest friend and reminiscing about how good times had been.

The beginning of 2020 the Friends of Brooker Creek Readers club is in re-visiting mood. "Silent Spring" was a re-read. February's Jeff Klinkenberg was the third by this author the Club has read. The March 2020 book is Rachel Carson's "The Sea Around Us" with the idea to compare and contrast January's Carson book. April's book for discussion is the first half of "The Gulf: The Making of an American Sea" by Jack E. Davis (thru Chapter 9).

There is plenty of room at the table in the conference room of the Ed Center so please join us, 9:30am the first Saturday of the month.

Upcoming 2020 Selections

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



We had a wonderful volunteer appreciation celebration

for Brooker Creek Preserve volunteers on February 22nd! Volunteers enjoyed a delicious brunch courtesy of Pinellas County Volunteer Services, a presentation by staff, cake, comraderie, and gifts courtesy of the FOBCP. BCP Staff looks forward to this day every year as volunteers

are the heart of the Preserve and we seriously have the BEST team around! The time and passion that our volunteers dedicate to the Preserve is priceless, and we couldn't be more grateful for every single one of them. It is our pleasure to recognize their achievements and highlight our accomplishments. Thanks, BCP volunteers!!!

Summer Camps: herpetology camp and wetlands adventure camp will both be returning this summer. The summer camps section of our website is now live and updated with 2020 summer camp dates and registration links.

Eagle Nest: We have TWO confirmed eaglets on the nest at the end of the bird blind!

Colors of Pinellas Art Show: Are you an artist? Pinellas County hosts an art show every year that is open to all county employees, volunteers, interns, and their family members. The artwork will be displayed at the downtown Clearwater Courthouse and all skill levels are welcome. Winners are eligible for cash prizes, there is no entry fee, and you may offer your art for sale. Must register by March 20th and submit art by April 7th. To register and get details:

<http://www.pinellascounty.org/hr/emp-communications/artshow.htm>

Follow the links for more information and to enroll.

Brooker Creek Preserve
Environmental Education Center
UF/IFAS Pinellas Extension:
Advanced Plant Identification -
3 part series

UF/IFAS Pinellas County Extension: 3 part
Advanced Plant Identification
Saturday, March 14, 21, & 28 10:00am - 2:00pm



- This three-part plant identification series will introduce participants to the basics and not-so-basic steps required to positively identify plants.
- During each 4-hour session, participants will have lecture, hands-on, and field experiences.
- \$35 for the 3-part series. Register online: <http://advancedplantid.eventbrite.com>

The Swamp Ecosystem

Youth Program!

Learn about one of Florida's amazing and unique ecosystems: the swamp, in a hands on and creative way! By pairing science with music and songwriting, this fun, family friendly program is designed to teach students all about Florida swamps, give them the opportunity to meet a LIVE resident of the swamp, and work together to create a song about what they learned!



Saturday, March 7

UF IFAS Extension UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA Pinellas County

Brooker Creek Preserve
Environmental Education Center
Insect Galls: Talk & Walk

For more information, go to the full [calendar of classes](#) at the BCP Environmental Education Center.

Insect Galls: Talk & Walk

Sunday, March 22 at 10:00AM



Let us introduce you to the intriguing world of galls! These alien-looking growths are found on plants around the world and are hiding tiny secrets: bugs! We will explore the common species of galling insects in Florida and the Tampa Bay area. Special attention will be given to the wasp family Cynipidae, one of the most specialized and fascinating groups of parasitic insects in the world. After an indoor presentation we will move outside for a gall hunt, exploring the native galls of Brooker Creek and how they contribute to local biodiversity! Recommended for adults.

Meet in the auditorium!

UF IFAS Extension UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA Pinellas County



Brooker Creek Preserve
Environmental Education Center
Youth Program: The Swamp
Ecosystem

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

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

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BROOKER CREEK PRESERVE

Cool calendar for your refrigerator!

March 2020

**Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve events*

THURSDAY		FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
5 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15		6	7 Wetlands Tour 9:00-10:30 *Friends Readers Club 9:30-10:30 Swamp Ecosystem 10:30-12:00 <i>(family friendly)</i>	8
12 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15		13 Botany Walk 9:00-11:00 Wild Things 10-10:45 (pre-K stories & songs)	14 Beginning Bird Hike 8:00-10:00 am Adv Plant ID #1 10am-2pm (<i>must pre-register</i>) *Night Hike 7:30-9:30 pm Pre-Registration Required \$3/person	15 *FOBCP Beekeepers Club 9:00-12:00
Wed 18 *FOBCP Board Meeting 6-8 pm	19 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15	20 Family Fun Friday 10:00-11:00	21 Springtime Nature Walk 9:00-10:30 Adv Plant ID #2 10am-2pm (must pre-register)	22 *Off the Beaten Path Hike 9:00-1:00 (must pre-register) \$25/psn donation All About Insect Galls 10:00-12 Paint for the Wild 12-3 pm <i>Registrar required at paintforthewild.com</i>
26 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15		27	28 *Plein Air registration and paint/photo Photography Hike 8:30-10:30 *Wildflower Garden Work Day 9:00-11:00 am Guided Hike 9:00-10:30 am Adv Plant ID #3 10am-2pm (must pre-register)	29

April 2020

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
2 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15	3 Wild Things 10-10:45 (pre-K stories & songs)	4 *Friends Readers Club 9:30-10:30 *Wildlife Safari (family event) 10:00 - 2:00	5 Bird Hike 8:00-10:00 *Beekeepers Club 9:00 am *Plein Air Art Reception & Awards Program 1-3 pm
9 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15	10 Botany Walk 9:00-10:30	11 Beginning Bird Hike 8-10 am	12 Easter Sunday Ed. Center is open 11-4
16 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15	17 Family Fun Friday 10-11 am	18 *Return the Preserve Work Day 8:00-11:00 (Must pre-register) Springtime Nature Walk 9:00-10:30 *Weinzettle Art Reception 2-4 pm *Music in the Woods 5-7:30 pm *Night Hike 8-10 pm (Must pre-register)	19 They Live Amongst Us (program) 1:00-3:00
23 and 30 Pre-School Book Time 10:30-11:15	24	25 *Wildflower Garden Work Day 8:00-10:00 am Photography Hike 8:30-10:30	26 Classical Music Walk 9-11 Dragonfly Discovery Hike 9:00-10:30

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
Email: fobcp@tampabay.rr.com
Voicemail: (727) 934-2680

Brooker Creek Preserve:
Phone: (727) 453-6900
Website: www.brookercreekpreserve.org
Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center is located at 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs, Florida, 34688. Phone: (727) 453-6800
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.

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