Chairman's Message

These past 18 months have certainly changed us . . . our daily lives, our interactions, even our ways of thinking, for me anyway. I am not one given to despair, but once in a great while, after hearing just too much about Covid, crazily destructive weather and fires, and people behaving badly in so many ways, I find myself getting philosophical and wondering: Are we, as intelligent humans, learning anything from this strange experience we are living through? Will that learning help us make wise and appropriate decisions for the future? Is there hope?

Upcoming Friends Events

November - December 2021

- Nov. 13 Music in the Woods: The 2PM Band (p. 9)
- Dec. 4 Readers Club (p. 12)
- Dec. 12 Off the Beaten Path Hike: Cypress Swamp Stomp (p. 10) (Registration required)
- Jan. 8 Readers Club (p. 11)
- Jan. 15 Return the Preserve Work Day (p. 8)
- Jan. 23 Music in the Woods: Meriggiare String Quartet (p. 9)
- Jan. 29 Wildflower Garden Work Day (p. 11)

In one of those rare moments, I happened across a review of Jane Goodall's new book, The Book of Hope. Jane Goodall is one of my heroes, and then there's that title. I couldn't help but order it. It arrived just a few hours ago so I can't give you a review, but as I always do when I start a new book, I read the dust jacket flaps and leafed through the pages, reading snippets here and there. These phrases jumped out at me:

"Use the gift of our lives to make a better world."

"Rise to the challenge. Play your part."

"Hope is contagious. Your actions will inspire others."

These sentiments brought me back to what I truly believe, and that is: Of course there is hope! It lies in every positive action we take, and is multiplied greatly when we bring others along with us. When I think about what we do as the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve, I know that our actions, small as they are in the big scheme of things, are useful, powerful and necessary. Under the

umbrella of our overall mission to support and protect "our" 9,000 acres of greenspace, the Friends:

- advocate for County efforts to maintain the ecological integrity of the Preserve.
- invite the public to not only experience the wonders of Brooker Creek Preserve, but to also actively help us keep it and/or restore it to a healthy ecosystem.
- support programs and activities that educate others about the importance of protecting native plants and animals.
- model and encourage sustainable practices, as much as possible, in the activities and programs we offer.

As the Friends goes forward in planning for futures activities, we do so with hope. Hope that our actions will inspire others to take similar actions and that our collective actions will make a difference. We are always so grateful for the continued support from you, our members. We couldn't do this without you!

Cathie

Dear Anonymous Donor,

In August, the Friends received your very generous \$7,000 donation. We were overwhelmed and overjoyed! Your donation came to us through a charitable organization as an anonymous gift to be used as needed. I hope you are reading this newsletter and know how very grateful we are for such a generous gift to the Friends. Please know we will use it wisely.

With heartfelt thanks on behalf of all the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve.

Cathie Foster, Chairman, FOBCP



ACRE ADOPTIONS FOR BROOKER CREEK PRESERVE

Many thanks for the following Acre Adoptions:

One acre In honor of Evan Earle, given by Evan, Sr. and Ruth Ann Earle

One acre In honor of Ranger Tom Reed for his retirement, given by the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve Board of Directors

One acre In memory of Sue Thomas, from Barb and Eddie Hoffman

Native Plant Sale

On October 2, in lieu of our annual Fall Wildflower Festival, the Friends of BCP held a Native Plant Sale that ended up being an amazing success! We sold all 200 plants in less than three hours and cleared almost \$800. Thanks to Sweet Bay Nursery in Parrish, FL for giving us a great deal on the plants and to the following volunteers for making it happen!

Lisa Boing Janet McNew
Pam Brown Dixie Mills
Addie Foster Chuck Parsons
Cathie Foster Katy Roberts
Mona Gardner Cathy Vogelsong
Barb Hoffman Julie Wade









AUDITORIUM GALLERY Opening Reception - 9/12/21



AUDITORIUM GALLERY at the Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center

by Lynn Whitelaw

Have you visited the Auditorium Gallery since it reopened? We are grateful to the Honor Society of Sickles High School in the Citrus Park area of Tampa for their generous support as Gallery Sitters for the current **Jeff Nabors**: Our Uncommon Ground - Paintings and Drawings exhibition. These wonderful students have faithfully manned the viewing hours of the Gallery by greeting visitors, answering questions, and introducing them to the exhibition. Many of the students are seniors this year and we wish them continued success in their academic pursuits as they apply and plan for college at the end of the school year.

Stop by the Gallery on Saturday (11 am - 4 pm) or Sunday (1 pm - 4 pm) to thank these great supporters of Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve and to take in the beauty of Jeff Nabors art exhibition before it closes Jan. 5th.

2021-2022 EXHIBITION SCHEDULE

For the 2021-2022 exhibition year in the Auditorium Gallery, which runs from September to August each year, we are excited to announce a great roster of exhibitions in support of the creative spirit of artists who explore the beauty and perspectives of nature. This season includes two acclaimed artists in our community, Jeff Nabors and Joseph Weinzettle, a return of our annual Plein-Air event, where painters and photographers spend two days challenging themselves to document the beauty of Brooker Creek Preserve, and the lastly a return to the opportunity for FoBCP members to share images they have taken of the Preserve with all of us. We round out the summer with a viewing of the new additions to the growing collection of the FoBCP Art Collection. Enjoy!

Jeff Nabors: Our Uncommon Ground

Paintings and Drawings

Sept. 12, 2021 - Jan. 5, 2022

Joseph Weinzettle: Swamps of North Pinellas

Paintings and Drawings

Jan. 16 - Apr. 10, 2022 / Artist Reception: Sunday, Feb. 13, 1-3 PM

2022 Brooker Creek Preserve Plein-Air Weekend

Apr. 22 (Earth Day) - Apr. 24, 2022; On view through May 8 Reception, Awards Ceremony, and Sale, Sunday, Apr. 24, 1-3 pm

FoBCP Member's Photography Exhibition and Invitational

May 15 - July 24, 2022 / Opening Reception: Sunday, May 15, 1-3 pm

Selections from the FoBCP Art Collection

July 31 - Oct. 2, 2022

"NEW" at the Nature Store - Plants and Books!

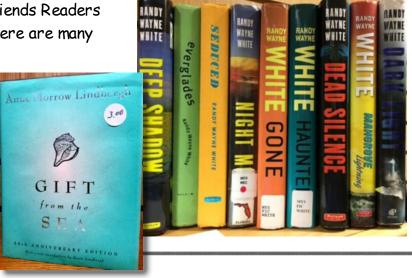
Plants are back! Our Plant Porch offers a select number of plants native to the area. The selection at any time depends upon the season and availability of the plants. Plants are reasonably priced and ready for you to plant in your home garden. Turn your friends and neighbors on to native plants!



"New" Used Books! We received <u>nine boxes</u> of terrific used books, donated by one of our Friends Readers Club members, Bonnie Georgiadis. There are many

field guides and nature books; most in wonderful condition, some like new. We had to bring in another book shelf to display them all! These books are priced to sell, so come in and take a look!

Thank you, Bonnie!



Beekeepers Club

Sunday October 31 was a perfect day for the FOBCP Beekeepers Club's first official meeting of this fiscal year. Cool and dry, sunny with a light breeze - perfect! Our head beekeeper Bob



Burkard, and a couple of helpers, have maintained the hives and made sure the bees are healthy and happy over the past 18 months. But the Beekeepers Club is up and running again, and the bees are as busy as ever. We found lots of good honey that will be ready to extract in the next month or so. The club typically meets to work in the apiary and learn about beekeeping on the last Sunday of the month. For more information about joining the Beekeepers Club contact us at 727-934-2680 or

info@FriendsOfBrookerCreekPreserve.org



Take A Walk Outdoors

By: Craig Huegel

It's been a long hot summer, punctuated by periods of heavy rain at times that have made many of the trails at Brooker Creek Preserve wet and a bit difficult to walk on. That is not true now . . . With the first weeks of fall well behind us and with winter still more than six weeks ahead, the weather is now perfect for a walk - or

as John Muir would have called it: a saunter, along the public walking trails here. The temperatures and humidity have dropped to reasonable levels, the trails have mostly dried up, and the birds and wildflowers are back. Fall is the best time to explore the Preserve for these reasons.

If you take the loop trail from the Education Center, across the boardwalk that crosses the Creek itself, and then up and

Skipper on Florida paintbrush (Carphephorus corymbosus)



Queen on Liatris tenuifolia

around the uplands back to the parking lot, you will see an array of purple and yellow wildflowers and a diversity of bees and butterflies that pollinate them. The purples will mostly be species in the Carphephorus genus - Florida paintbrush, vanilla plant and deertongue, as well as the thin spires of blazing star (Liatris tenuifolia.). The yellows are likely silkgrass (Pityopsis graminifolia), true goldenrods (Solidago spp.) and flat-topped goldenrod (Euthamia spp.). All of these are pollinator magnets and should still be hubs of great activity. As we approach December, however, this activity will disappear until spring arrives in early March. Now is the time to witness it.

The same is partly true for the birds. Most of the fall migrants have now left for the tropics, but the winter residents, the birds that migrate to the Preserve to spend these upcoming months with us before heading north again, are back. This is true in our own yards as well. Common species like catbirds are back and they can be heard and seen if you walk the trails and pay attention to the sights and sounds around you. Watch for the palm and pine warblers too.

Literally hundreds of scientific studies published throughout the world show the positive impacts a walk in the woods provides us. It's not so much about burning excess calories, but about improving mental health and lowering things like blood pressure. People that spend time outdoors, even just sitting in it, live longer healthier lives. I encourage you to saunter a bit in the weeks ahead. If you do, bring a camera and a pair of binoculars.

Return The Preserve Work Day Returns By Evan Earle, Jr.

It has been a busy start to the Fall season for our Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve (FOBCP)

Return The Preserve (RTP) Work Days. We had two very successful RTP Work Days recently.

On Saturday, 09/11/2021, the Sickles High School National Honor Society partnered with the FOBCP to tackle the ever-present problem of caesarweed. These 24 volunteers did a great job as we removed 12 huge garbage bags, equating to 180 lbs. of caesarweed, from some really hard to reach areas around the buildings and off of the boardwalk. And a lot of these were "baby" plants, so eliminating them before they can seed is so important! Super job Sickles High NHS!





On Saturday, 10/16/2021, the East Lake High School National Honor Society volunteered with the FOBCP and once again we focus on caesarweed. We had a dozen volunteers remove 53 bags, or 795 lbs., of caesarweed and primrose willow from along the boardwalk and around the Classroom Building. Thank you East Lake High NHS!

As you enjoy the boardwalk back to the Classroom and Education buildings, take a minute to see the payoff thanks to our friends at Sickles High School and East Lake High School. What you won't see is quite as much caesarweed!

We also want to thank our partners at Keep Pinellas Beautiful who provide the supplies for our RTP Work Days as well as disposable water bottles and t-shirts. And they help to promote our events!

We hold our RTP Work Days the first month of each quarter, on the third Saturday. For 2022, our RTP Work Days are planned for: January 15, April 16 (we will be honoring Earth Day), July 16, and October 15. Please join us as we work together to Return The Preserve to its natural environment and beauty.

Music in the Woods Series: The 2PM Band Saturday, Nov. 13, 3:00 pm

Our Music in the Woods series is back! Our first event will be outdoors at the music pavilion on Saturday, November 13. Please bring a chair and sit and enjoy music in the woods!

"The 2PM Band" 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, mandolin, and violin, 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."

Music in the Woods Series: The Meriggiare String Quartet Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022, 2:00 pm

The Music in the Woods Series continues on Sunday, January 23, 2022 with the Meriggiare String Quartet.

This event will take place in the Brooker Creek Preserve Auditorium at 2:00 pm and feature the following musicians: Nina Kim Mulla, Edevaldo Mulla, Michelle Painter and Jonas Benson.

Please join us for an afternoon of beautiful Music in the Woods.





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 educational, and a lot of fun as well! The hikes will begin at 9:00 am, and be about 3-4 hours long. Bring water and lunch.

<u>Cost:</u> \$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.

<u>Sept. 26, 2021 – In Search of Catesby's Lily</u> – 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.

Dec. 12, 2021 - 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!

<u>March 20, 2022 – Sandhill Scramble</u> – 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.

<u>July 17, 2022 – Interior Wildlands</u> – 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!

Reservations Required:

Sign up early! Only 20 spots are open for these fabulous hikes *off the beaten path!* Questions? To register, call 727-934-2680 or email

info@friendsofbrookercreekpreserve.org

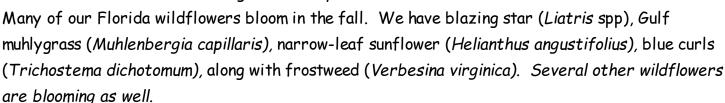


News from the Wildflower Garden

By Pam Brown

I am not very good at taking selfies, but I am including a picture of the three faithful workers in the garden from September. The three of us were here working hard. (Left to right, Laurie Angyn, Pam Brown and Dixie Mills)

October is when the wildflower garden really shows off.



We will not have regular workdays in November and December due to the holidays. We will resume on the last Saturday of January with our winter work hours of 9:00 to 11:00 am. If you would like to join us, please register by emailing me at <u>pamperedgardeners@gmail.com</u>. We limit the number to five workers, and children 10 or more years old, due to the fragility of the plants in the garden. Bring your gardening tools, gloves, hat, and bug repellant, and wear closed-toed shoes. We will provide a light snack along with coffee and tea.

Pam's Thoughts

If you are looking for a spectacular fall blooming wildflower for your garden, narrow-leaf sunflower (Helianthus angustifolius) is a great choice. This plant also goes by the name swamp sunflower. It does thrive best in an area with moist soil, but will grow in drier areas. It blooms profusely in October. This picture I have included is from one plant that I put in the ground last year near where my air-conditioning unit drips. I let the seed heads mature last year after blooms faded and I had a plethora of seedling plants come up this year. I gave many away when they were small because they were so dense. They can grow quite tall, so this year I pruned each plant back by about half in late June. This resulted in shorter plants, but still prolific blooms. Blazing star (Liatris spp), another showy fall blooming wildflower, can look spectacular planted along with this sunflower. Another plus, neither the deer nor the rabbits seem to want to eat them, which is not true of many of my other wildflowers.



Narrow-leaf sunflower

Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve Readers Club

By Jon Burr

Saturday morning, December 4th, we will restart the Readers Club. We will meet in the Ed Center in the conference room at 9:30. The book to be discussed is



Olustee America's Unfinished Civil War Battle, author Greg Ahlgren.

And for the new year: On Saturday Jan. 8 (the first Saturday is New Year's Day) we will discuss The Three Marjories, Marjorie Stoneman Douglas, Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, Marjorie Harris Carrand Their Contributions to Florida, by Sandra Wallus Sammons, published by the Pineapple Press.

There is room at the conference table for more participants. We have a number of selections in mind for the coming year but are always desirous of suggestions for books to read and discuss.

For the remainder of the first half of 2022 these are our book selections:

February 5 — Cat Tale: The Wild Weird Battle to Save the Florida Panther 2020, by Craig Pittman. We've read other books by Craig.

March 5 — The Wild Heart of Florida, 1999, Ripple and Cerulean, eds.

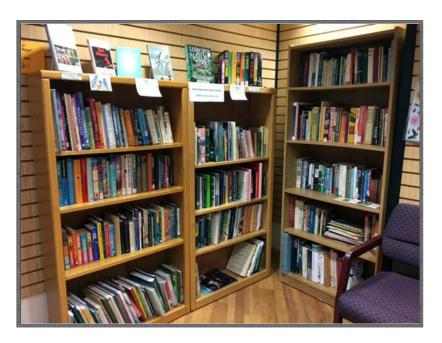
April 2 — Journal of Light, The Visual Diary of a Florida Nature Photographer, 2004, John Moran.

May 7 — The Wilder Heart of Florida, 2021, Davis and Poole eds.

June 4 - Oranges, 1967, John McPhee

Have a happy upcoming holiday season. Looking forward to seeing you next year at 9:30 on the first Saturday of the

> The newly-enlarged Used Book Nook in the Friends Nature Store (see page 6).



Volunteer News

Education Center Updates & More

By Julia Myers, Education Support Specialist, Brooker Creek Preserve







Welcome to our new rangers: We have TWO new rangers to welcome to the team! John McGlown (pictured left) has been a

ranger with the County for over 20 years and comes to us from Fred Howard Park, and Randy Goggin (pictured right) is joining us from Phillipe Park. Both are looking forward to meeting everyone. Be sure to say 'Hi' if you see them out and about!

Learn about Stormwater with Lara: Part of Lara's new Adopt-A-Drain pilot program involves educating Pinellas County residents on stormwater so we can reduce the amount of pollutants reaching our waterways. Do you have a community group or HOA that would like to learn more about stormwater? Let Lara know!

Holiday Hours: In November, the Environmental Education Center will be closed in honor of Veterans Day on Thursday, November 11, and for Thanksgiving on November 25 and 26. The Preserve is also closed on Friday, November 26. In December, the Environmental Education Center will be closed on December 24, 25 and 31. The Preserve is also closed on December 25.

Brooker Creek Volunteers: We seriously have the BEST volunteer team, and we couldn't be more grateful. Every BCP volunteer always give 110%, regardless of how busy or slow we are. We appreciate all of your continued efforts in making every visitor's experience special and memorable.











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 <u>or</u> honoree address (circle one):							
I wish to adopt (\$35 each):							
☐ Gopher Tortoise☐ Gray Squirrel					□ Alligator □ Bobcat		
Total Due: \$ Questions?			nfo@friendsofbrookercreekpreserve.org or 727-934-2680				
Check endorsed to:	FOBCP. M	ail to: FOBCP, 39	40 Keystone	Road, Tarpon	Springs, FL 346	88	
FFID #59-3302182 to	ıv-evemnt non-n	rofit corporation					

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

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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				

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Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve - Mission Statement: The mission of the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve is to provide public support for the Preserve through fund raising, volunteer programs, and education to ensure that the Preserve remains a natural wilderness for future generations.

Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve - Land Use Position Statement: The Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve support land uses within the boundaries of Brooker Creek Preserve which have a main purpose that furthers the preservation, conservation, restoration or protection of the land and resources of the Brooker Creek Preserve.

Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve:

www. Friends Of Brooker CreekPreserve.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 News-letter 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.

Board of Directors Officers

Chair: Cathie Foster

Vice Chair: Robert Burkard Secretary: Kathleen Nichter

Treasurer: Jane Myers

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: Fall Wildflower Festival/

Wildlife Safari

Barbara Hoffman: Membership/

Owl-O-Ween

Walt Hoskins: Guiding Documents

Dr. Craig Huegel: Land Use/Newsletter Editor/Off-the-Beaten-Path Hikes

Jane Myers: Music Events

Kathleen Nichter: Nature Store Book-

keeper/Readers Club

Chuck Parsons: 4th Grade Coordination

Ray Poynor: Craftsman Barbara Schultz: Publicity

Cathy Vogelsong: Newsletter Publisher Julie Wade: Communications/Outreach Mark Yeager: Night Hikes/Star Party

Further Leadership

Jon Burr: Readers Club

Sandra Miraglia: Nature Store Committee

Jeff Myers: Financial Manager Cathy Ordiway: Website Master Lynn Whitelaw: Art Gallery Curator

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