



Discover Paradise in Pinellas County: May through July 2012

EXHIBITS

Windows to Our Wildest Place: These hands-on educational permanent exhibits help visitors understand how natural Florida has changed over time and the ecological footprints left by those changes. Brooker Creek Environmental Education Center, 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday through Saturday; closed Sunday through Wednesday and holidays. (727) 453-6800; www.brookercreekpreserve.org.

Connecting People and Place: This is an art-inspired, permanent hands-on educational exhibit of the area's history, ecology and people at the Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center, 1800 Weedon Drive N.E., St. Petersburg. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday through Saturday; closed Sunday through Wednesday and holidays. (727) 453-6500; www.weedonislandpreserve.org.

ONGOING

Pinellas by the Decades: A Centennial Celebration - A History Lecture Series: Pinellas County began celebrating 100 years of independence from Hillsborough County on Jan. 1, 2012. As part of the centennial activities expected to take place through the end of 2012, the Pinellas County Historical Society plans an engaging series of multidisciplinary lectures, Pinellas by the Decades, to be held one Sunday a month at 2 p.m. See the website for special dates and themes. The Pinellas County Historical Society was founded in 1976 when the county donated the land for Heritage Village during the American bicentennial year. The society is a non-profit volunteer organization that supports Heritage Village's mission to collect, preserve and interpret the history of Pinellas County within the context of Florida history. Call (727) 582-2233 or visit www.pinellascounty.org/heritage.

Nature Walks along the trails at Fort De Soto Park: Free one-hour guided nature walks are offered along six different trails each Saturday and Sunday, except holidays. Visitors at the park will be absorbed in the abundance of history, natural beauty and the complexity of the ecology not immediately apparent to the occasional beachgoer. Emerging from the wealth of bird life, sea life, wild life and plant life is the majestic tapestry called Fort De Soto Park. The largest park within the Pinellas County park system, the park consists of 1,136 acres made up of five interconnected islands (keys). These keys are home to beach plants, mangroves, wetlands, palm hammocks, hardwoods and scores of native plants. Each of these species plays a vital role in the preservation and protection of the natural environment. The park is also home to more than 290 species of birds and beaches that provide refuge to the loggerhead sea turtles. 10 to 11 a.m. Fort De Soto Park, 3500 Pinellas Bayway S., Tierra Verde. For more information, call (727) 552-1862; www.pinellascounty.org/park.

Historical Writing Workshops: Award-winning author Angela T. Pisaturo returns to Heritage Village to host workshops on May 4, July 6 and Sept. 7 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Each three-hour workshop will be unique and will cover aspects of writing historical novels, from research to setting the scene. Cost for each workshop is \$15/historical society members \$13; extensive handouts provided. Advance registration recommended. Heritage Village, 11909 125th St., N. Largo. (727) 582-2233 or visit www.pinellascounty.org/heritage.

Summer Field Trips Available At Brooker Creek and Weedon Island Preserves: Special opportunities are available for teachers most Thursdays and Fridays during the June, July and August for self-guided field trips for students. Only one group allowed per day with a maximum number of 50 students in the group. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free. Field trips available at both Brooker Creek Preserve, 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs and Weedon Island Preserve, 1800 Weedon Drive N.E., St. Petersburg. (727) 453-6800 <http://brookercreekpreserve-schoolprograms.eventbrite.com> or <http://weedonislandpreserve-schoolprograms.eventbrite.com>

Jump Back in Time This Summer with “Passport Adventures” at Heritage Village: Designed especially with summer camps, recreation groups and church groups in mind, these special tours include indoor and outdoor activities. Junior docent teens ages 12 to 17 deliver this fun, energetic program for kids ages 4 to 11. Each child will create their own toy from the past to take home. Bring your picnic lunches, and shop for souvenirs at the gift shop. After the tour, maps are provided for self guided fun! Program is available Wednesday through Friday from 10 a.m.; 1 p.m. \$3/per child; groups of up to 60 children with adult supervision. Reservations required. Call 582-2125 to register. www.pinellascounty.org/heritage

MAY

May 1

Garden Tours: Enjoy a stroll through Botanical Gardens and discover how to incorporate some of Florida native and Florida-friendly plants in home landscapes. Observe how the same plants can survive under different light and water conditions. Tours, recommended for adults, are limited to groups of four to 10 people. 9 to 10:30 a.m. Free. Registration required, please visit : <http://pce-lawngarden.eventbrite.com>.

May 3

Book Time at Brooker: Children ages 3 to 5 connect to the wonders of the natural world through a story and a craft, game or other hands-on activity. 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. Free; advance registration required. Brooker Creek Preserve, 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs. (727) 453-6800; www.brookercreekpreserve.org.

May 3

Salty Topics, Dissolving Before Our Eyes: This is the fourth in the 2012 Winter/Spring Marine Science Speaker series. Dr. David Hastings, a faculty member and chemical oceanographer at Eckerd College will discuss ocean acidification and why it matters to Floridians. Recommended for ages high school to adult. 6:45 to 8 p.m. Free; advance registration required. Refreshments donated by Friends of Weedon Island. Weedon Island Cultural and Natural History Center at 1800 Weedon Drive N.E., St. Petersburg. (727) 453-6500; www.weedonislandpreserve.org.

May 5

Brooker Creek Guided Hike: See how the land has changed over time and the ecological footprints left by those changes. Closed-toe shoes, water and hat recommended. Best for ages 6 and older. 9 to 10:30 a.m. Free; advance registration required. Brooker Creek Preserve, 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs. (727) 453-6800; www.brookercreekpreserve.org.

May 5

Weedon Island Guided Hike: Learn about the ecosystems and the early residents of Weedon Island Preserve while hiking the coastal uplands and the boardwalks through mangrove forests. Best for ages 6 and older. 9 to 11 a.m. Free; advance registration required. Weedon Island Preserve, 1800 Weedon Drive N.E., St. Petersburg. (727) 453-6500; www.weedonislandpreserve.org.

May 5

Dog Training: Learn the basics of dog training in a seminar for all who have adopted dogs from Pinellas County Animal Services or other shelters in the county. Learn about housetraining, loose-leash walking and dealing with challenging dog behaviors. No dogs at the class please. 10 a.m. Free. Pinellas County Animal Services, 12450 Ulmerton Road, Largo. (727) 582-2600; www.pinellascounty.org/animalservices.

May 5

Wildlife Sentinel Restoring Nature's Balance: This second of three in the series invites participants to join a Sensing Nature guide to learn success stories about protecting our important Florida wildlife, including the bald eagle, Florida black bear, gopher tortoise, Florida panther and others. Learn ways these species have been helped, ways we still need to improve their protection, ways to discover other species that may need our help and ways to take action. After the indoor presentation, participants will experience Florida's natural wonders on a nature walk. Adults and families welcome. No dogs; please wear closed-toe shoes and appropriate clothing. 10 a.m. to noon Free. Advance registration preferred. Brooker Creek Preserve, 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs. (727) 453-6800; www.brookercreekpreserve.org.

May 5

Saturday Pet Adoptions: Volunteers from Pinellas County Animal Services have expanded their service to offer pet adoptions and adoption information on Saturdays either at a local pet store or Pinellas County Animal Services. 9 a.m. to noon. Today at Pinellas County Animal Services, 12450 Ulmerton Road, Largo. For information call Pinellas County Animal Services, (727) 582-2600; www.pinellascounty.org/animalservices.

May 5

Owl and Bat Prowl: As the sun fades below the horizon visitors will learn about the night skies' noise as the winged wildlife emerge from their roosts. Learn about creatures of the night on this evening prowl by investigating screech owl coos, bat clicks and other eerie evening sounds. Don't miss this chance to spend an evening with these winged warriors and possibly eavesdrop on bat conversations through technology. 7:45 to 9:30 p.m. Closed-toe shoes and appropriate clothing highly recommended. Free; advance registration required. Weedon Island Preserve, 1800 Weedon Drive N.E., St. Petersburg. (727) 453-6500; www.weedonislandpreserve.org.

May 6

Diggin' the Arts: The Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation's first ever collaboration with some of the area's leading art institutions, including the St. Petersburg Museum of Fine Arts, the Chihuly Museum, the Morean Art Center, Florida Craftsmen, Leepa-Rattner Museum of Art and the Dunedin Fine Arts Center. Diggin' the Arts brings more art to the gardens! 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free. Florida Botanical Gardens and McKay Creek Plaza, 12520 Ulmerton Road. Call (727) 582-2100 or visit www.flbgfoundation.org.

May 7

Kill-a-Watt™ Campaign: Through the Pinellas Energy Efficiency Project, Pinellas County and the Public Library Cooperative have come together to hold classes at select libraries and to make Kill-A-Watt monitors available for check-out. This gadget aims to make home assessments of personal energy consumption easier. This class will be held at St. Pete Beach Public Library, 365 73rd Ave., St. Pete Beach. 1 to 2 p.m. Free; advance registration required. For information call Pinellas County Extension, (727) 582-2100; www.pinellascountyextension.org.

May 10

Lawn/Landscape Maintenance BMPs: Required class for lawn and landscape maintenance industry (mowing, pruning and landscape debris management – those applying fertilizers must take the fertilizer/pesticide BMP class). 9 to 11 a.m. Cost is \$15; free to Pinellas County employees. Advance registration required. Please visit pinellascountywaterquality.eventbrite.com or call (727) 464-4425.

May 10

Garden Tours: Enjoy a stroll through gardens of Florida native and Florida-friendly plants. Learn how to incorporate some of these plants in home landscapes and observe how the same plants can survive under different light and water conditions. Tours are recommended for adults and limited in groups of four to 10 people. 9 to 11 a.m. Free. Florida Botanical Gardens, 12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo. Registration required, at www.pinellascountyextension.org.

May 10

Book Time at Brooker: Children ages 3 to 5 connect to the wonders of the natural world through a story and a craft, game or other hands-on activity. 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. Free; advance registration required. Brooker Creek Preserve, 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs. (727) 453-6800; www.brookercreekpreserve.org

May 10

Wee Time at Weedon: The second and fourth Thursday of each month, children ages 3 to 5 are treated to a variety of stories, crafts, games and hands-on activities that connect them to their environment. Today children will hear *Ellie & Ollie Eel: A Tale of a Fantastic Voyage* by Suzanne Tate relating amazing facts about eels, a fascinating type of fish. 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. Free; advance registration required. Weedon Island Preserve, 1800 Weedon Drive N.E., St. Petersburg. (727) 453-6500; www.weedonislandpreserve.org.

May 10

Butterfly Gardening: Learn a few tips and tricks to making yards irresistible to butterflies and inviting them to make their home in our county, from UF/IFAS Master Gardener Adrienne Andrews. Two classes offered at Palm Harbor Library, 2330 Nebraska Ave., Palm Harbor. Choose from 2 to 3:30 p.m. or 6 to 7:45 p.m. Free. Register by phone (727) 582-2603 to leave your name, telephone number, email address and time for preferred class.

May 11

Great Weedon Bird Quest: Take advantage of this guided hike to learn identifying marks and behaviors of birds on this guided hike. Binoculars are available. 8 to 10 a.m. Free; advance registration required. Weedon Island Preserve, 1800 Weedon Drive N.E., St. Petersburg. (727) 453-6500; www.weedonislandpreserve.org.

May 12

Birds of Brooker Hike: Visitors on this hike will discover and collect observational data on the diverse bird species found in the preserve. Wear closed-toe shoes, bring water and a hat. Bring along binoculars, spotting scopes and cameras. Best for adults. 8 to 10:30 a.m. Brooker Creek Preserve, 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs. (727) 453-6800; www.brookercreekpreserve.org.

May 12

Rain Harvesting: Learn how to save rainwater in a recycled plastic barrel. One or two rain barrels may be purchased at the time of registration. 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. Free; advance registration required. Brooker Creek Preserve, 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs. (727) 453-6800; www.brookercreekpreserve.org.

May 12

Animal Services Adoptions Available at PetsMart: Volunteers from Pinellas County Animal Services have expanded their service to offer pet adoptions and adoption information on Saturdays at local pet stores. 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Today at PetsMart, Largo Mall, 10500 Ulmerton Road, Largo. For information call Pinellas County Animal Services, (727) 582-2600; www.pinellascounty.org/animalservices.

May 12

Weedon Island Guided Hike: Learn about the ecosystems and the early residents of Weedon Island Preserve while hiking the coastal uplands and the boardwalks through mangrove forests. Best for ages 6 and older. 9 to 11 a.m. Free; advance registration required. Weedon Island Preserve, 1800 Weedon Drive N.E., St. Petersburg. (727) 453-6500; www.weedonislandpreserve.org.

May 12

Going Coastal – Saltwater Seining: Feet may get wet during this workshop while learning about what lives in our local marine. Participants will be in the classroom and out in the field in this workshop about invertebrates and fish that make the waters of Weedon Island Preserve their home. Attendants must be able to walk a mile round trip to the field sampling site. Bring closed toed wading shoes, a water bottle, sun protection and appropriate clothes that might get wet. 10 a.m. to noon. Free; advance registration required. Weedon Island Preserve, 1800 Weedon Drive N.E., St. Petersburg. (727) 453-6500; www.weedonislandpreserve.org.

May 12

Discovering Wildlife with Your Child: Who lives in that skin; what is the difference between a carnivore and an herbivore; whose tracks are those? Find out when stopping by the Brooker Creek Preserve's Environmental Education Center anytime between 1 and 3 p.m. to participate in a variety of self-guided nature games and activities. A center volunteer will be available to answer your questions. Free; advance registration required. Brooker Creek Preserve, 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs. (727) 453-6800; www.brookercreekpreserve.org.

May 13

Pinellas by the Decades 1972 to 1981: Municipal boundaries continued to expand as the Tampa Bay region became a popular area for tourism and settlement. Battles over water resources, the expansion of infrastructure and "condomania" gripped the peninsula. 2 p.m. Free. Heritage Village, 11909 125th St. N., Largo. (727) 582-2233 or visit www.pinellascounty.org/heritage.

May 15

Garden Tours: Enjoy a stroll through Botanical Gardens and discover how to incorporate some of Florida native and Florida-friendly plants in home landscapes. Observe how the same plants can survive under different light and water conditions. Tours, recommended for adults, are limited to groups of 4-10 people. 9 to 10:30 a.m. Free. Registration required, please visit : <http://pce-lawnandgarden.eventbrite.com>.

May 17

Book Time at Brooker: Children ages 3 to 5 connect to the wonders of the natural world through a story and a craft, game or other hands-on activity. 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. Free; advance registration required. Brooker Creek Preserve, 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs. (727) 453-6800; www.brookercreekpreserve.org

May 19

Native Plants of Brooker Creek Hike: Learn about the diverse native plant life found in the preserve and the natural communities they inhabit on this guided hike. Closed-toe shoes, water and hat recommended. Best for ages 6 and older. 9 to 10:30 a.m. Free; advance registration required. Brooker Creek Preserve, 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs. (727) 453-6800; www.brookercreekpreserve.org.

May 19

Rain Harvesting: Learn how to save rainwater in a recycled plastic barrel. One or two rain barrels may be purchased at the time of registration. 9 to 10:30 a.m. Free; advance registration required. Pinellas County Extension, 12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo. (727) 582-2100; www.pinellascountyextension.org.

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May 19

Annual Lakes and Ponds Education Day: This 3-hour workshop at Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and natural History Center, 1800 Weedon Drive N.E., St. Petersburg is intended for volunteers and citizens interested in the health and management of our water resources, specifically community lakes and stormwater ponds. The event will be held in a tradeshow format with featured presentations and is a great opportunity to learn about proper Florida landscaping. Free native plants and other items will be given to participants. 9 a.m. to noon. Free. Limited registration. Call (727) 464-4605 or (727) 453-3420 to register or email to coordinators at arivera@pinellascounty.org or mharrison@pinellascounty.org.

May 19

The Balancing Act[®]: A Sensing Nature guide will tell of the success stories about protecting important Florida wildlife, including the bald eagle, Florida black bear, gopher tortoise, Florida panther and others. Learn how these species are being helped and ways we still need to improve their protection, notice other species that may need our help and discover ways to take action. After the indoor presentation, participants will experience Florida's natural wonders on a nature walk. 10 to 11:30 a.m. Free; advance registration required. Brooker Creek Preserve, 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs. (727) 453-6800; www.brookercreekpreserve.org.

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May 19

Chickens 101 Workshop: This is an introductory workshop on the fundamentals of raising chickens such as local laws and resources, benefits of chickens, the basics (breeds, housing, feeding, health, chicken development), biosecurity and getting started. Presented by Dr. Robert Kluson, extension agent for agriculture and natural resources, Sarasota County Extension, with guest instructors George and Janice Lauterbach and Ira Kleinschmidt 1 to 4 p.m. Free. Pinellas County Extension, 12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo. (727) 582-2100; www.pinellascountyextension.org.

May 19

Discovering Tracks, Scats & Signs: Wildlife is out there even if not seen. A Sensing Nature volunteer will show the way. Learn about tracking wildlife and other nature clues that will unveil wildlife's presence. Apply the knowledge gained during an easy hike while becoming acquainted with some of Florida's wildlife and their associated animal tracks, scats and signs. 2 to 3:30 p.m. Closed-toe shoes and appropriate clothing highly recommended. Free; advance registration required. Weedon Island Preserve, 1800 Weedon Drive N.E., St. Petersburg. (727) 453-6500; www.weedonislandpreserve.org.

May 23

Lawn/Landscape Maintenance BMPs: Required class for lawn and landscape maintenance industry (mowing, pruning and landscape debris management – those applying fertilizers must take the fertilizer/pesticide BMP class). 9 to 11 a.m. Cost is \$15; free to Pinellas County employees. Advance registration required. Please visit pinellascountywaterquality.eventbrite.com or call (727) 464-4425.

May 23

Fertilizer/Pesticide BMPs: Training to obtain limited certification for urban landscape commercial fertilizer (LCULCF). BMP certification awarded upon passing the exam. 4 FDACS pesticide CEUs provided. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Brooker Creek Preserve, 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs. Cost is \$30; \$15 to employees of Pinellas County and the Pinellas County School Board and Pinellas County Master Gardener Volunteers (must present ID on day of class). Advance registration required. For information call (727) 582-2100; <http://pce-commercialhort.eventbrite.com>.

May 23

Repotting and Caring for Orchids: Master Gardener Terry Berube will demonstrate repotting and proper caring of orchids from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at the St. Petersburg Library, 3745 9th Ave. N., St. Petersburg. Free. Recommended for adults. Register by calling (727) 582-2603 and leave name, telephone number and email address.

May 24

Garden Tours: Enjoy a stroll through gardens of Florida native and Florida-friendly plants. Learn how to incorporate some of these plants in home landscapes and observe how the same plants can survive under different light and water conditions. Tours are recommended for adults and limited in groups of four to 10 people. 9 to 11 a.m. Free. Florida Botanical Gardens, 12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo. Registration required, at <http://pce-lawnandgarden.eventbrite.com>.

May 24

Book Time at Brooker: Children ages 3 to 5 connect to the wonders of the natural world through a story and a craft, game or other hands-on activity. 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. Free; advance registration required. Brooker Creek Preserve, 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs. (727) 453-6800; www.brookercreekpreserve.org

May 24

Wee Time at Weedon: The second and fourth Thursday of each month, children ages 3 to 5 are treated to a variety of stories, crafts, games and hands-on activities that connect them to their environment. Today children will hear *Are you a Dragonfly?* by Judy Allen and Tudor Humphries, introducing them to the world of the dragonfly. 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. Free; advance registration required. Weedon Island Preserve, 1800 Weedon Drive N.E., St. Petersburg. (727) 453-6500; www.weedonislandpreserve.org.

May 24

Landscape, Lawn and Ornamental: This class provides training and testing necessary to obtain a limited commercial landscape maintenance license or as a review and testing for the limited lawn and ornamental license. This class is NOT for renewal CEUs. \$60. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Brooker Creek Preserve, 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs. For information call (727) 582-2562; <http://pce-commercialhort.eventbrite.com>.

May 24

Roundup Pesticide License Training: This class provides training and testing necessary to obtain a limited commercial landscape maintenance pesticide license, or as a review and testing for the limited lawn and ornamental license. This class is NOT for renewal CEUs. \$75. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Brooker Creek Preserve, 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs. For information call (727) 582-2562; <http://pce-commercialhort.eventbrite.com>.

May 26

Photography Hike: A perfect opportunity for adult photographers to hone their skills. After a classroom session highlighting specific wildlife behaviors and focus tips, guides will assist participants in capturing the natural beauty outdoors. 8 to 10 a.m. Free; advance registration required. Weedon Island Preserve, 1800 Weedon Drive N.E., St. Petersburg. (727) 453-6500; www.weedonislandpreserve.org.

May 26

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May 26

Saturday Pet Adoptions: Volunteers from Pinellas County Animal Services have expanded their service to offer pet adoptions and adoption information on Saturdays, either at a local pet store or Pinellas County Animal Services. 9:30 a.m to 3 p.m. Today adoptions will be offered at PetSmart, Largo Mall, 10500 Ulmerton Road, Largo. For information call Pinellas County Animal Services, (727) 582-2600; www.pinellascounty.org/animalservices.

May 26

Creatures of the Night: Ever been awakened by the hooting of an owl or a howling coyote? How about finding a trash can that has been ravaged by a raccoon? There are many creatures of the night visiting backyards and this program will provide information about the most common critters. 10 to 11:30 a.m. Free; advance registration required. Brooker Creek Preserve, 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs. (727) 453-6800; www.brookercreekpreserve.org.

May 29

Garden Tours: Enjoy a stroll through Botanical Gardens and discover how to incorporate some of Florida native and Florida-friendly plants in home landscapes. Observe how the same plants can survive under different light and water conditions. Tours, recommended for adults, are limited to groups of four to 10 people. 9 to 10:30 a.m. Free. Registration required; please visit <http://pce-lawngarden.eventbrite.com>.

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JUNE

June 2

Dog Training: Learn the basics of dog training in a seminar for all who have adopted dogs from Pinellas County Animal Services or other shelters in the county. Learn about housetraining, loose-leash walking and dealing with challenging dog behaviors. No dogs at the class please. 10 a.m. Free. Pinellas County Animal Services, 12450 Ulmerton Road, Largo. (727) 582-2600; www.pinellascounty.org/animalservices.

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June 2

Junior Docents Bring History to Life at Heritage Village: Approved as a Bright Future volunteer location, Heritage Village's Junior Docent Program encourages teens ages 12 to 17 to learn the history of Pinellas County and the state by participating in the action-packed "Passport Adventures" program. Teens learn to provide historic house tours, demonstrate living history activities, play historical games and much more. Applications are now being accepted. 10 a.m. to noon at Heritage Village, 11909 125th St. N, Largo. Parents are encouraged to attend. (727) 582-2125 or email heritagevillage@pinellascounty.org for information or to receive an application packet.

June 2

Garden Birds, Big and Small: Plants can provide food, water and shelter for resident and migrating birds and turn a drab backyard into a wildlife oasis. Some of the best habitats for birds are found right in backyards, hosting anything from a hummingbird to an osprey or a bald eagle. Join Barbara Walker, Clearwater Audubon, to learn strategies that work for attracting birds to landscapes. 1 to 2 p.m. Free; advance registration required. Weedon Island Preserve, 1800 Weedon Drive N.E., St. Petersburg. (727) 453-6500; www.weedonislandpreserve.org.

June 5

Lawn/Landscape Maintenance BMPs: Required class for lawn and landscape maintenance industry (mowing, pruning and landscape debris management – those applying fertilizers must take the fertilizer/pesticide BMP class). 9 to 11 a.m. Cost is \$15; free to Pinellas County employees. Advance registration required. Please visit pinellascountywaterquality.eventbrite.com or call (727) 464-4425.

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June 9

Discovering Wildlife with Your Child: Who lives in that skin; what is the difference between a carnivore and an herbivore; whose tracks are those? Stop by our classroom anytime between 1 and 3 p.m. to participate in a variety of self-guided nature games and activities. A Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center volunteer will be available to answer your questions. Free; advance registration required. Brooker Creek Preserve, 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs. (727) 453-6800; www.brookercreekpreserve.org.

June 10

Pinellas by the Decades 1982 to 1991 – Building Bridges and Aspiring for the Major Leagues: During this decade many new bridges, physical and social, spanned the county and across Tampa Bay. The new Sunshine Skyway and the Bayside bridges promoted regional connections, while the pursuit of a major league baseball franchise sparked lively debates. 2 p.m. Free. Heritage Village, 11909 125th St. N., Largo. (727) 582-2233 or visit www.pinellascounty.org/heritage.

June 12

Garden Tours: Enjoy a stroll through Botanical Gardens and discover how to incorporate some of Florida native and Florida-friendly plants in home landscapes. Observe how the same plants can survive under different light and water conditions. Tours, recommended for adults, are limited to groups of four to 10 people. 9 to 10:30 a.m. Free. Registration required; please visit <http://pce-lawngarden.eventbrite.com>.

June 14

Book Time at Brooker: Children ages 3 to 5 connect to the wonders of the natural world through a story and a craft, game or other hands-on activity. 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. Free; advance registration required. Brooker Creek Preserve, 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs. (727) 453-6800; www.brookercreekpreserve.org.

June 14

Wee Time at Weedon: Children ages 3 to 5 are treated to a variety of stories, crafts, games and hands-on activities that connect them to their environment. This week's story, From Tadpole to Frog by Wendy Pfeffer, tells of the amazing transformation of frogs. 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. Free; advance registration required. Weedon Island Preserve, 1800 Weedon Drive N.E., St. Petersburg. (727) 453-6500; www.weedonislandpreserve.org.

June 16

Birds of Brooker Hike: Learn how to identify the birds seen and heard at this special hike identifying common birds of Brooker Creek Preserve. Meander along this one-mile trail gathering information on the birds seen. Binoculars will be helpful. Bring water. 8 to 10:30 a.m. Brooker Creek Preserve, 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs. (727) 453-6800; www.brookercreekpreserve.org.

June 16

Weedon Island Guided Hike: Learn about the ecosystems and the early residents of Weedon Island Preserve while hiking the coastal uplands and the boardwalks through mangrove forests. Best for ages 6 and older. 9 to 11 a.m. Free; advance registration required. Weedon Island Preserve, 1800 Weedon Drive N.E., St. Petersburg. (727) 453-6500; www.weedonislandpreserve.org.

June 16

Saturday Pet Adoptions: Volunteers from Pinellas County Animal Services have expanded their service to offer pet adoptions and adoption information on Saturdays either a local pet store or Pinellas County Animal Services. 9 a.m. to noon. Today adoptions will be offered at Pinellas County Animal Services, 12450 Ulmerton Road, Largo. For information call Pinellas County Animal Services, (727) 582-2600; www.pinellascounty.org/animalservices.

June 16

Antique Appraisal Fair: Presented by the Pinellas County Historical Society, local experts will be on hand to assist citizens on placing prices on treasures at this fundraising event supporting Heritage Village. For \$5 per item or \$12 for 3 items, those attending will be able to obtain an approximate appraisal on items that may be considered family heirlooms. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Heritage Village, 11909 125th St. N., Largo. (727) 582-2233 or visit www.pinellascounty.org/heritage.

June 18 to June 22

Toad-ally Terrific Field Camp: The Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve are offering field camps for young adventurers. This science-based nature day camp is designed for children ages 9 to 11 with a strong interest in experiencing a hands-on, up close, investigation of the various plants and animals that inhabit Brooker Creek Preserve. An optional overnight camp-out is planned for Thursday night. \$150.00 per camper. Advance registration required. Brooker Creek Preserve, 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs. For more information and to register please call (727) 934-2680; or email info@friendsofbrookercreekpreserve.org.

June 21

Garden Tours: Enjoy a stroll through gardens of Florida native and Florida-friendly plants. Learn how to incorporate some of these plants in home landscapes and observe how the same plants can survive under different light and water conditions. Tours are recommended for adults and limited in groups of four to 10 people. 9 to 11 a.m. Free. Florida Botanical Gardens, 12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo. Registration required, at <http://pce-lawnandgarden.eventbrite.com>.

June 21

Book Time at Brooker: Children ages 3 to 5 connect to the wonders of the natural world through a story and a craft, game or other hands-on activity. 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. Free; advance registration required. Brooker Creek Preserve, 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs. (727) 453-6800; www.brookercreekpreserve.org.

June 23

Brooker Creek Guided Hike: See how the land has changed over time and the ecological footprints left by those changes. Closed-toe shoes, water and hat recommended. Best for ages 6 and older. 9 to 10:30 a.m. Free; advance registration required. Brooker Creek Preserve, 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs. (727) 453-6800; www.brookercreekpreserve.org.

June 23

Weedon Island Guided Hike: Learn about the ecosystems and the early residents of Weedon Island Preserve while hiking the coastal uplands and the boardwalks through mangrove forests. Best for ages 6 and older. 9 to 11 a.m. Free; advance registration required. Weedon Island Preserve, 1800 Weedon Drive N.E., St. Petersburg. (727) 453-6500; www.weedonislandpreserve.org.

June 23

Rain Harvesting: Learn how to save rainwater in a recycled plastic barrel. One or two rain barrels may be purchased at the time of registration. 9 to 10:30 a.m. Free; advance registration required. Weedon Island Preserve, 1800 Weedon Drive N.E., St. Petersburg. (727) 453-6500; www.weedonislandpreserve.org.

June 23

Saturday Pet Adoptions: Volunteers from Pinellas County Animal Services have expanded their service to offer pet adoptions and adoption information on Saturdays, either at a local pet store or Pinellas County Animal Services. 9:30 a.m to 3 p.m. Today adoptions will be offered at PetSmart, Largo Mall, 10500 Ulmerton Road, Largo. For information call Pinellas County Animal Services, (727) 582-2600; www.pinellascounty.org/animalservices.

June 25 to June 29

Toad-ally Terrific Field Camp: The Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve are offering field camps for young adventurers. This science-based nature day camp is designed for children ages 9 to 11 with a strong interest in experiencing a hands-on, up close, investigation of the various plants and animals that inhabit Brooker Creek Preserve. An optional overnight camp-out is planned for Thursday night. \$150.00 per camper. Advance registration required. Brooker Creek Preserve, 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs. For more information and to register please call (727) 934-2680; or email info@friendsofbrookercreekpreserve.org.

June 25 to 29

Exploring the Past – Archaeology Summer Camps: These summer camps are designed for children with a strong interest in prehistory and history as well as learning how early people interacted with their environment. Campers will learn about the importance of archaeology and will gain understanding about early natural resources that were necessary for life in the Tampa Bay region. Highlights of the camps include guest experts, tour of an archaeological site, hands-on archaeology, lab analysis, pottery making, atlatl adventure and earning the certificate of Tommy the Tortoise, Junior Archaeologist. Camp is for ages 7 to 11; \$150. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, contact Florida Public Archaeology Network (813) 396-2328 or email crharper@usf.edu. Weedon Island Preserve, 1800 Weedon Drive N.E., St. Petersburg. (727) 453-6500; www.weedonislandpreserve.org.

June 26

Roundup License Training or Limited Lawn & Ornamental Review: This class provides training and testing necessary to obtain a limited commercial landscape maintenance license or as a review and testing for the limited lawn and ornamental license. This class is NOT for renewal CEUs. \$60. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center, 1800 Weedon Drive N.E., St. Petersburg. (727) 582-2562; <http://pce-commercialhort.eventbrite.com>.

June 26

Garden Tours: Enjoy a stroll through Botanical Gardens and discover how to incorporate some of Florida native and Florida-friendly plants in home landscapes. Observe how the same plants can survive under different light and water conditions. Tours, recommended for adults, are limited to groups of four to 10 people. 9 to 10:30 a.m. Free. Registration required; please visit <http://pce-lawnandgarden.eventbrite.com>.

June 27

Fertilizer/Pesticide BMPs: Training to obtain limited certification for urban landscape commercial fertilizer (LCULCF). BMP certification awarded upon passing the exam. 4 FDACS pesticide CEUs provided. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Pinellas County Extension, 12520 Ulmerton Road Largo. Cost is \$15, but free to employees of Pinellas County and the Pinellas County School Board and Pinellas County Master Gardener Volunteers (must present ID on day of class). Advance registration required. For information call Pinellas County Extension, (727) 582-2100; <http://pce-commercialhort.eventbrite.com>.

June 28

Book Time at Brooker: Children ages 3 to 5 connect to the wonders of the natural world through a story and a craft, game or other hands-on activity. 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. Free; advance registration required. Brooker Creek Preserve, 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs. (727) 453-6800; www.brookercreekpreserve.org.

June 28

Wee Time at Weedon: Children ages 3 to 5 are treated to a variety of stories, crafts, games and hands-on activities that connect them to their environment. This week's story, Are you a Butterfly? by Judy Allen and Tudor Humphries, is a charming tale of tiny living things. 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. Free; advance registration required. Weedon Island Preserve, 1800 Weedon Drive N.E., St. Petersburg. (727) 453-6500; www.weedonislandpreserve.org.

June 28

Lawn/Landscape BMP: Required class for lawn and landscape maintenance industry (mowing, pruning and landscape debris management; those applying fertilizers must take the fertilizer/pesticide BMP class). 9 to 11 a.m. \$15; free to Pinellas County employees. Advance registration required. (727) 464-4425; pinellascountywaterquality.eventbrite.com.

June 30

Brooker Creek Guided Hike: See how the land has changed over time and the ecological footprints left by those changes. Closed-toe shoes, water and hat recommended. Best for ages 6 and older. 9 to 10:30 a.m. Free; advance registration required. Brooker Creek Preserve, 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs. (727) 453-6800; www.brookercreekpreserve.org.

June 30

Weedon Island Guided Hike: Learn about the ecosystems and the early residents of Weedon Island Preserve while hiking the coastal uplands and the boardwalks through mangrove forests. Best for ages 6 and older. 9 to 11 a.m. Free; advance registration required. Weedon Island Preserve, 1800 Weedon Drive N.E., St. Petersburg. (727) 453-6500; www.weedonislandpreserve.org.

June 30

Weedon Saturday Matinee: The motion picture industry came to Weedon Island, St. Petersburg in the early 1930s and produced three enterprising movies with screen stars of the day. Join film historian Lisa Bradberry at this Saturday Matinee to participate in a discussion about her research and watch exciting film clips. Free popcorn and admission. 2 to 3:30 p.m. Weedon Island Preserve, 1800 Weedon Drive N.E., St. Petersburg. (727) 453-6500; www.weedonislandpreserve.org.

JULY

July 5

Book Time at Brooker: Children ages 3 to 5 connect to the wonders of the natural world through a story and a craft, game or other hands-on activity. 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. Free; advance registration required. Brooker Creek Preserve, 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs. (727) 453-6800; www.brookercreekpreserve.org.

July 7

Dog Training: Learn the basics of dog training in a seminar for all who have adopted dogs from Pinellas County Animal Services or other shelters in the county. Learn about housetraining, loose-leash walking and dealing with challenging dog behaviors. No dogs at the class please. 10 a.m. Free. Pinellas County Animal Services, 12450 Ulmerton Road, Largo. (727) 582-2600; www.pinellascounty.org/animalservices.

July 7

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July 9 thru 13

Wildlife Ecology Camp: This summer camp is designed for children with a strong interest in nature. Campers will explore the ecology and conservation of Florida's wildlife and natural habitats with field biologist and environmental educator, George L. Heinrich. A blend of classroom and field sessions will include hands-on activities, guest presentations, and exploration of the preserve's diverse habitats, where campers will practice their nature detective skills. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. \$150; advance registration a must since space limited to 30 campers. Camp information (727) 865-6255. Weedon Island Preserve, 1800 Weedon Drive N.E., St. Petersburg. (727) 453-6500; www.weedonislandpreserve.org.

July 12

Book Time at Brooker: Children ages 3 to 5 connect to the wonders of the natural world through a story and a craft, game or other hands-on activity. 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. Free; advance registration required. Brooker Creek Preserve, 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs. (727) 453-6800; www.brookercreekpreserve.org.

July 12

Wee Time at Weedon: Children ages 3 to 5 will learn about fish and how they breath and eat underwater in the book, *What's it Like to be a Fish?* by Wendy Pfeffer. 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. Free; advance registration required. Weedon Island Preserve, 1800 Weedon Drive N.E., St. Petersburg. (727) 453-6500; www.weedonislandpreserve.org.

July 14

Birds of Brooker Hike: Learn how to identify the birds seen and heard at this special hike identifying common birds of Brooker Creek Preserve. Meander along this one-mile trail gathering information on the birds seen. Binoculars will be helpful. Bring water. 8 to 10:30 a.m. Brooker Creek Preserve, 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs. (727) 453-6800; www.brookercreekpreserve.org.

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July 14

Open Classroom, Discovering the Estuary with your Child: Stop by the Weedon Island classroom anytime between 1 to 3 p.m. to participate in a variety of self-guided estuary activities. This week learn with the Enviroscope about how pollutants can affect our Bay and waterways. No registration required. Recommended for families with children of all ages. Weedon Island Preserve, 1800 Weedon Drive N.E., St. Petersburg. (727) 453-6500; www.weedonislandpreserve.org.

July 14

Discovering Wildlife with Your Child: Who lives in that skin; what is the difference between a carnivore and an herbivore; whose tracks are those? Stop by the Weedon Island classroom anytime between 1 and 3 p.m. to participate in a variety of self-guided nature games and activities. A Brooker Creek Preserve volunteer will be available to answer your questions. Free; advance registration required. Brooker Creek Preserve, 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs. (727) 453-6800; www.brookercreekpreserve.org.

July 15

Pinellas by the Decades 1991-2012: This final program, "Pinellas Past, Present and Future", traces significant themes addressed in earlier lectures. 2 p.m. Free. Heritage Village, 11909 125th St. N., Largo. (727) 582-2233 or visit www.pinellascounty.org/heritage.

July 16 thru 20

Herpetology Camp: A perfect opportunity for inquisitive children ages 7 to 11 to enjoy this five-day nature camp and explore the fascinating world of amphibians and reptiles side-by-side with George Heinrich, professional herpetologist. Up close and personal encounters with animals such as gopher tortoises, frogs, lizards and snakes. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. \$150; advance registration is a must since space limited to 30 campers. Camp information (727) 865-6255. Weedon Island Preserve, 1800 Weedon Drive N.E., St. Petersburg. (727) 453-6500; www.weedonislandpreserve.org.

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July 23 to 27

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July 26

Roundup License Training or Limited Lawn & Ornamental Review: This class provides training and testing necessary to obtain a limited commercial landscape maintenance license or as a review and testing for the limited lawn and ornamental license. This class is NOT for renewal CEUs. \$60. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center, 1800 Weedon Drive N.E., St. Petersburg. (727) 582-2562; <http://pce-commercialhort.eventbrite.com>.

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July 26

Wee Time at Weedon: Children ages 3 to 5 will be introduced to the many animals that live in a shell in a book called, *What Lives in a Shell?* by Kathleen Weidner Zoehfeld. 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. Free; advance registration required. Weedon Island Preserve, 1800 Weedon Drive N.E., St. Petersburg. (727) 453-6500; www.weedonislandpreserve.org.

July 28

Brooker Creek Guided Hike: See how the land has changed over time and the ecological footprints left by those changes. Closed-toe shoes, water and hat recommended. Best for ages 6 and older. 9 to 10:30 a.m. Free; advance registration required. Brooker Creek Preserve, 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs. (727) 453-6800; www.brookercreekpreserve.org.

July 28

Unveiling Our Urban Wildlife: A Sensing Nature guide will help you learn what wildlife lurks in our metropolitan jungle. Discover the secret clues left for you by wildlife, including rabbits, rodents, coyotes, armadillos, snakes, raccoons and many others with which we share our urban yards. Enjoy an “urban safari” by connecting wildlife signs with the importance of our urban habitats. After the indoor presentation, participants will experience Florida's natural wonders on a nature walk. 10 to 11:30 a.m. Free; advance registration required. Brooker Creek Preserve, 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs. (727) 453-6800; www.brookercreekpreserve.org.

July 28

Weedon Island Guided Hike: Learn about the ecosystems and the early residents of Weedon Island Preserve while hiking the coastal uplands and the boardwalks through mangrove forests. Best for ages 6 and older. 9 to 11 a.m. Free; advance registration required. Weedon Island Preserve, 1800 Weedon Drive N.E., St. Petersburg. (727) 453-6500; www.weedonislandpreserve.org.

July 28

Open Classroom, Discovering the Estuary with your Child: Stop by the Weedon Island classroom anytime between 1 to 3 p.m. to participate in a variety of self-guided estuary activities. This week learn about tiny sea creatures called plankton. No registration required. Recommended for families with children of all ages. Weedon Island Preserve, 1800 Weedon Drive N.E., St. Petersburg. (727) 453-6500; www.weedonislandpreserve.org.

July 30 to August 3

Wildlife Ecology Camp: A perfect opportunity for inquisitive children ages 7 to 11 to enjoy this five-day nature camp and explore the ecology and conservation of Florida's wildlife and wildlands with George Heinrich, professional wildlife biologist and environmental educator. A blend of classroom and field sessions will include hands-on activities, guest presentations, and exploration of the preserve's diverse habitats where campers will practice their nature detective skills. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. \$150; advance registration a must since space limited to 30 campers. Camp information (727) 865-6255. Brooker Creek Preserve, 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs. (727) 453-6800; www.brookercreekpreserve.org.

For more information on Pinellas County services and programs, visit www.pinellascounty.org, now with LiveChat, or create a shortcut to www.pinellascounty.org/mobile on any smartphone. Pinellas County government is on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. Pinellas County complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

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