



Discover Paradise in Pinellas County – July, 2017

EXHIBITS

Our Wildest Place: The Environmental Education Center at Brooker Creek Preserve is a permanent, hands-on educational exhibit that helps visitors understand how natural Florida has changed over time and the ecological footprints left by those changes. The Windows to Our Wildest Place exhibit allows visitors to experience the life of a gopher tortoise and includes educational videos and a touch-and-feel display of animal, insect and reptile skins and skeletons that have been preserved. Visitors will also find interpretive trail signs located throughout the boardwalks of the preserve that feature educational information about its ecosystems. Brooker Creek Environmental Education Center, 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs. Open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursday through Saturday. Closed all Pinellas County holidays. (727) 453-6800; www.brookercreekpreserve.org.

People and Place: The Cultural and Natural History Center at Weedon Island Preserve is an art-inspired, permanent hands-on educational exhibit that reveals the area's history, ecology and people. Exhibits include Connecting People and Place, Uncovering Past Cultures, Understanding Culture through its Pottery, A Gallery of Memories, Mischief and Movies, Discovery of Hidden Worlds, What a Watershed Is and a virtual tour of the Smithsonian Institution's collection of Weedon Island artifacts. Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center, 1800 Weedon Drive NE, St. Petersburg. Open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursday through Saturday. Closed all Pinellas County holidays. (727) 453-6500; www.weedonislandpreserve.org.

Objects from the Turner Family Permanent Collection: Geraldine "Jere" Turner bequeathed her family home to Pinellas County along with \$100,000 in moving costs and the contents of her 1915 bungalow. When it was moved to Heritage Village in January 2014, thousands of objects and archival materials spanning 100 years of family history were discovered in the house. These included toys and games, glassware and china, personal accessories, pottery, clothing, furniture, artwork and items from the Belleview Biltmore Hotel. These objects are on display in the Ralph Reed Gallery in the Visitor Center. Heritage Village, 11909 125th St. N., Largo. Open Wednesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday, 1 to 4 p.m. (727) 582-2123; www.pinellascounty.org/heritage.

Pinellas Passport: Your Ticket through Time: This exhibit illustrates major areas of development in Pinellas County, including coastal living with a focus on the sponge industry, agriculture featuring citrus industry artifacts, community life through newspapers and a printing press, and tourism. These objects are on display in the Roy Helms Gallery in the Visitor Center. Heritage Village, 11909 125th St. N., Largo. Open Wednesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday, 1 to 4 p.m. (727) 582-2123.

ONGOING

Lawn and Garden Help Desk: UF/IFAS Extension Pinellas County Lawn and Garden Help Desk provides solutions for all types of questions concerning insects, garden, lawn and landscape care. Residents can visit the help desk at UF/IFAS Extension Pinellas County, (727) 582-2100; 12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo. Walk-in hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., excluding holidays.

Master Gardener Help Desk at Palm Harbor Library: UF/IFAS Extension Pinellas County Master Gardeners provide solutions for all types of questions concerning insects, lawn and landscape care. Open Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free. Palm Harbor Library, 2330 Nebraska Ave., Palm Harbor.

Landscape Maintenance Best Management Practices in English and en Español: This class provides an overview of landscape care including Florida Friendly Landscaping Principles, turf types and mowing heights, proper pruning of shrubs and trees, signs of irrigation stress, and how to protect water resources. The program is free for homeowners, Landscape Professionals pay \$15 for certification. Classes are held monthly, class time is 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Advance registration required. www.landscapebmp.eventbrite.com select English or Spanish class. UF/IFAS Extension Pinellas County, 12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo.

SPECIAL CAMPS AND TEACHER WORKSHOP

July 10 to July 14

City Cultivators 4-H Day Camp: This is a day camp about Urban Agriculture put on by UF/IFAS Pinellas County 4-H, open to all youth ages 9-13 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day with early drop off at 8:30 a.m. if needed. Learn about growing your own food in your backyard and about careers in urban agriculture. Cost is \$45 for the week for early registration and \$55 for late. Campers will get to go on a field trip to an aquaculture lab: <http://tal.ifas.ufl.edu/> Campers do NOT have to be current 4-H members to attend. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/edit?eid=32633835681>. Chester Ochs 4-H Educational Center, 14644 113th Avenue North, Largo.

July 17 to July 21

4-H Food Science Day Camp Morning Session: For youth ages 5 to 11, Open to all youth, no previous 4-H membership is necessary. At this fun and hands-on camp, youth will discover the secrets of cooking as a food scientist. Leader is bilingual. 9 a.m. to noon each day. The cost is \$25 for the entire week, for early bird registration and \$35 for late registration. Register online at <http://florida4h.org/4honline/files/Instructions-for-4-H-Online-Enrollment.pdf>. If you are not a current 4-H member, create a profile on www.4honline.com and select the "Food Science Day Camp". Do not pay the dues on the 4honline website, since it is a camp. Chester Ochs 4-H Educational Center, 14644 113th Avenue North, Largo.

July 17 to July 21

4-H Food Science Day Camp Afternoon Session: For youth ages 5 to 11, Open to all youth, no previous 4-H membership is necessary. At this fun and hands-on camp, youth will discover the secrets of cooking as a food scientist. Leader is bilingual. 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. each day. The cost is \$25 for the entire week, for early bird registration and \$35 for late registration. Register online at <http://florida4h.org/4honline/files/Instructions-for-4-H-Online-Enrollment.pdf>. If you are not a current 4-H member, create a profile on www.4honline.com and select the "Food Science Day Camp". Do not pay the dues on the 4honline website, since it is a camp. Chester Ochs 4-H Educational Center, 14644 113th Avenue North, Largo.

July 24 to July 28

ECO Teacher Training Workshop 2017: The University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) Extension Pinellas County's Natural Resources Agent has teamed up with St. Petersburg College, College of Education Professor to offer this nationally award-winning, week-long environmental education workshop for pre-service elementary & ESE education students, current elementary & ESE teachers, and non-formal educators. Each day's workshop will start at 8:30 a.m. and end at 3:30 p.m. Free; register online at www.brookercreekpreserve.eventbrite.com. Brooker Creek Preserve, (727) 453-6800; 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs.

JULY EVENTS

July 1

Owl Moon – Youth Program: Join the [Owl's Nest Sanctuary for Wildlife](#) for a read aloud of the book Owl Moon by Jane Yolen. After the read aloud kids get a chance to practice their owl calls and learn briefly about the 5 species that call Florida home. They then get a chance to meet a REAL LIFE OWL and learn about their story and how they can help wildlife in their own backyard!! Recommended for kids ages 11 & under. 10:30 a.m. to noon. Register online at www.brookercreekpreserve.eventbrite.com. Brooker Creek Preserve, (727) 453-6800; 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs.

July 1

Florida's Fascinating Snakes: There are 46 native species of snakes in Florida and most occur in the central peninsula. Despite playing important ecological roles as both predators and prey, snakes remain highly misunderstood animals. Only four venomous species occur in central Florida and these snakes present little danger when left alone. Well-known local herpetologist and environmental educator George L. Heinrich (Heinrich Ecological Services) will present on why snakes are cool! Mr. Heinrich will discuss Florida snake diversity, natural history, conservation, and snake safety. Recommended for all ages. 10 a.m. to Noon. Register online at www.weedonislandpreserve.eventbrite.com. Weedon Island Preserve, (727) 453-6500; 1800 Weedon Drive NE, St. Petersburg.

July 1

Friends of Brooker Creek Readers Club: Join the [Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve](#) for the Brooker Book Club every first Saturday of the month. This club is geared towards adults. Please note that registration is required due to a limited amount of seats. Please meet in the Conference Room inside the Visitors Center. Note that books will not be provided for you. 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Free; advance registration required. Register online at www.brookercreekpreserve.eventbrite.com. Brooker Creek Preserve, (727) 453-6800; 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs.

July 1

Explore the Ecosystems Guided Hike: Brooker Creek Preserve is where you can explore some of the last natural habitats left in Pinellas County. Find out what makes and maintains forested wetland, oak hammock and pine flatwood ecosystems, and the plants and animals associated with these different ecosystems. 9 to 10:30 a.m. Free; advance registration required. Register online at www.brookercreekpreserve.eventbrite.com. Brooker Creek Preserve, (727) 453-6800; 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs.

July 1

Weedon Island Guided Hike: This is a hike through coastal mangrove and upland ecosystems of the Preserve. Learn about the coastal environment and the early residents of Weedon Island Preserve. Groups please call in advance to sign up for a special group hike (727) 453-6500. 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Free; advance registration required. Register online at www.weedonislandpreserve.eventbrite.com. Weedon Island Preserve, (727) 453-6500; 1800 Weedon Drive NE, St. Petersburg.

July 6

Weedon Walkabout: Hike through coastal mangrove and upland ecosystems of the Preserve and learn about the coastal environment and the early residents of Weedon Island Preserve. A hat, closed-toe shoes and water are also recommended. Best for ages 6 and older. 9 to 11 a.m. Free; advance registration required. Register online at www.weedonislandpreserve.eventbrite.com. Weedon Island Preserve, (727) 453-6500; 1800 Weedon Dr. NE, St. Petersburg.

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July 7

Master Gardener Lawn and Garden Help Desk: UF/IFAS Extension Pinellas County Master Gardeners provide solutions for all types of questions concerning garden, lawn and landscape care. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free. Register online at www.weedonislandpreserve.eventbrite.com. Weedon Island Preserve, (727) 453-6500; 1800 Weedon Drive NE, St. Petersburg.

July 7

Family Fun Friday Mornings: Join us for a series of family & youth-oriented programs at Brooker Creek Preserve! Help your children build an interest in the natural world through fun and educational activities you can do together! 11:00 a.m. to noon. Free; advance registration required. Register online at www.brookercreekpreserve.eventbrite.com. Brooker Creek Preserve, (727) 453-6800; 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs.

July 8

The Power of Shopping: We as consumers have the power to control the market. By investing our money into green and local products, we can cause a shift toward more environmental stewardship and sustainability. Shopping online and buying local are two excellent ways to accomplish this without having to dramatically change your lifestyle. Presented by Trevor Ackerman, UF/IFAS Pinellas Extension Sustainability Program Assistant. Free. Register online at www.brookercreekpreserve.eventbrite.com. Brooker Creek Preserve, (727) 453-6800; 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs.

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July 8

Birds of Brooker Guided Hike: Have you wondered what bird is singing in your backyard? Do you see and hear birds but don't know who they are? If so, join us for a Beginning Bird Hike to learn how to identify the county's common birds as we meander along a one-mile trail. 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. Free; advance registration required. Register online at www.brookercreekpreserve.eventbrite.com. Brooker Creek Preserve, (727) 453-6800; 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs.

July 9

Off the Beaten Path Guided Hike: Interior Wildlands: In the beautiful areas tucked away within Brooker Creek Preserve in sites that are closed to the public, where cell phones won't work and areas so pretty you won't believe you are in Pinellas County. Our guide, Dr. Craig Huegel, a Wildlife Ecologist with St. Petersburg College, 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. 10:30 a.m. to Noon. \$25 donation requested; advance registration required. Register online at www.brookercreekpreserve.eventbrite.com. Brooker Creek Preserve, (727) 453-6800; 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs.

July 13

Wee-Time at Weedon: This program is designed to introduce preschool children, ages 3 to 5, to the wonders of the natural and cultural world. Children are treated to a variety of stories and hands-on activities that connect them to their environment. 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. Free; advance registration required. Register online at www.weedonislandpreserve.eventbrite.com. Weedon Island Preserve, (727) 453-6500; 1800 Weedon Drive NE, St. Petersburg.

July 14

Going Coastal: Fantastic World of Fish: One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish! Join Florida Sea Grant Agent Libby Carnahan and student Ranger Naturalist volunteers to learn about all things Fishy! This Open Classroom program will feature interactive stations where you will practice your skills at cast-netting, explore your creativity with fish-printing, get your science on looking under the microscope, test your skills at Shark Jeopardy and more! This program is suitable for all ages. Open from 10 a.m. to Noon; for youth ages 4-12 years old and their families. Register online at www.weedonislandpreserve.eventbrite.com. Weedon Island Preserve, (727) 453-6500; 1800 Weedon Drive NE, St. Petersburg.

July 15

Dragonfly Discovery Walk: Join local dragonfly expert Paul Trunk as we explore some of the habitats at BCP looking for dragonflies. Brooker Creek Preserve is an excellent area that is home to approximately 20+ species of odonates. We will learn about the natural history of dragonflies and their importance to a healthy ecosystem. Bring you binoculars and also a camera if you enjoy taking pictures. 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Register online at www.brookercreekpreserve.eventbrite.com. Brooker Creek Preserve, (727) 453-6800; 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs.

July 15

Why Snakes are Cool: There are 46 native species of snakes in Florida and most occur in the central peninsula. Despite playing important ecological roles as both predators and prey, snakes remain highly misunderstood animals. Only four venomous species occur in central Florida and these snakes present little danger when left alone. Well-known local herpetologist and environmental educator George L. Heinrich (Heinrich Ecological Services) will present on why snakes are cool! Mr. Heinrich will discuss Florida snake diversity, natural history, conservation, and snake safety. Recommended for all ages. 10:30 a.m. to Noon. Register online at www.brookercreekpreserve.eventbrite.com. Brooker Creek Preserve, (727) 453-6800; 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs.

July 15

Film and Discussion: Ocean Frontiers III: Ocean Frontiers III: Leaders in Ocean Stewardship & the New Blue Economy is a truly unique and hopeful ocean film that chronicles our efforts to plan for a healthy, safe, and sustainable future. It explores the intersection of national security, maritime commerce, fishing, and recreation, plus expanding industries such as offshore wind energy and aquaculture, coupled with scientific discovery. The film tells the story of how ocean planning helps us manage and balance all the uses of our ocean to keep it thriving for generations to come. Savor rare underwater footage of stunning marine life along the coast from Virginia to Maine and hear from a range of people who are leading the way to a sustainable and thriving ocean. Join UF/IFAS Extension for a viewing of this relevant and engaging film. The film will be followed by a Q&A with Sea Grant Agent Libby Carnahan and Urban Sustainability Agent Ramona Madhosingh-Hector about similar issues in the Tampa Bay region. Light refreshments are generously donated from the Friends of Weedon Island (<http://fowi.org>). 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. Please arrive 15 minutes early to sign in. This program is recommended for a high school and adult audience. Register online at www.weedonislandpreserve.eventbrite.com. Weedon Island Preserve, (727) 453-6500; 1800 Weedon Dr. NE, St. Petersburg.

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July 15

Microplastics Workshop: This workshop will begin with an introductory lesson on microplastics (what they are, where they come from, and most importantly, what we can do). Then, for folks interested in learning how to get involved with the Florida Microplastic Awareness Project (a citizen science effort) they can stick around for a demonstration of water sample collection, filtering and analysis. You can start your citizen science efforts as soon as the workshop ends...it's that easy! 10 a.m. to Noon. Register online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/edit?eid=34197529732>. UF/IFAS, 12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo. (727) 453-6905

July 20

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July 21

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July 21

Family Fun Friday Mornings: Join us for a series of family & youth-oriented programs at Brooker Creek Preserve! Help your children build an interest in the natural world through fun and educational activities you can do together! 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Free; advance registration required. Register online at www.brookercreekpreserve.eventbrite.com. Brooker Creek Preserve, (727) 453-6800; 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs.

July 22

Return the Preserve Work Day: Please join us from 8 to 11 a.m. for our Return the Preserve Work Days with focus on areas within Brooker Creek Preserve where we can apply some hands on help removing exotic invaders or overgrown native vines. It is hard work but it is rewarding work! Meet in the parking lot at 7:45 a.m. Please bring clippers, loppers, and handsaws. Remember your gloves, hat and sunscreen! Long sleeved shirts, jeans and closed toed shoes are recommended. Breakfast snacks and water will be provided. For more information, or to sign up please contact Evan Earle at earlejr@gmail.com. Brooker Creek Preserve, (727) 453-6800; 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs.

July 22

Life of Lichen: Brooker Creek Preserve is home to many of Florida's fascinating lichens. Explore these unusual organisms during a classroom/outdoor activity. We will study the natural history of lichen, then take a stroll to view them around the Environmental Education Center. Identification tips, interesting facts and more await participants. Presented by James Stevenson, UF/IFAS Pinellas County Extension Specialist. 10:30 a.m. to Noon. Free; register online at www.brookercreekpreserve.eventbrite.com. Brooker Creek Preserve, (727) 453-6800; 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs.

July 22

Our Wildest Place Guided Hike: Why is Brooker Creek Preserve “Our Wildest Place?” Nearly 9,000 acres of undeveloped land in our crowded county is a real treasure. Discover a bit of our native habitats and the plants and animals that call the preserve home. 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Free; advance registration required. Register online at www.brookercreekpreserve.eventbrite.com. Brooker Creek Preserve, (727) 453-6800; 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs.

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Pinellas County complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in an event or class, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. At least seven days prior to the event or class, please contact the Office of Human Rights, 400 S. Fort Harrison Ave., Suite 500, Clearwater, FL 33756, (727) 464-4062 (Voice/TDD).

The Pinellas County “Doing Things for You” app is available for residents to report issues and access useful resources. Pinellas County can also be found on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram. More information is available on the county website, www.pinellascounty.org, which features LiveChat for assistance.

Our Vision: To Be the Standard for Public Service in America