



Discover Paradise in Pinellas County: December to February

EXHIBITS

Connecting People and Place: 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.

Windows to Our Wildest Place: Hands-on educational permanent exhibits helps 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.

ONGOING

Nov. 26 to Dec. 31 Holiday Traditions: Heritage Village's traditions continue to charm visitors at Pinellas County's 21-acre living history museum from Nov. 26 through Dec. 31. The village's historical houses will be decorated true to its time period, locality and lifestyle, from an elaborately decorated Victorian home to a simply adorned 1852 log cabin. Closed Mondays, Tuesdays, Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. The village will also offer "Trees and Traditions – a Centennial Celebration," a special day of holiday-related activities, on Saturday, Dec. 3 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Pinellas County Historical Society will sponsor an open house with refreshments, children's activities and crafts, holiday music, tours and a special visit from Santa Claus. Visitors can also find those one-of-a-kind holiday gifts at the Beach Cottage Gift Shop. Free to children under 12, suggested minimum donation of \$2 per adult. Heritage Village, 11909 125th Street N. Largo. (727) 582-2123; www.pinellascounty.org/heritage.

Nov. 25 to Jan. 1 Holiday Lights in the Gardens: Share the holiday spirit and enjoy beautiful Florida Botanical Gardens sparkling with the warmth of the season every evening from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. See how the gardens glow with tropical plants, roses, fruits, herbs and more. A dedication to sustainability shines through with environmentally friendly lights throughout. Special events include a grand opening on Friday, Nov. 25, in the Wedding Garden with the dedication of the newest work of art, the "Aquatic Reflections" mosaic. Santa Claus will make a showing at appointed times throughout the event. A Gift and Plant Sale on Sunday, Dec. 11, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and a dog parade at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 31 with registration from 1 to 1:45 p.m. are just two more of the special features scheduled. There will be entertainment each evening with dancing, singing and a host of entertainers. Refreshments will be sold and a wide variety of gifts and goods will be offered by vendors. The schedule of events is subject to change; updates will be posted online at www.flbg.org. Free to children under 12; suggested minimum donation of \$2 per adult. Florida Botanical Gardens, 12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo. There is also an entrance at 12211 Walsingham Road. (727) 582-2247; www.flbg.org.

Pinellas by the Decades: A Centennial Celebration - A History Lecture Series: Pinellas County celebrates 100 years of independence from Hillsborough County on Jan. 1, 2012. As part of the centennial activities that are expected to take place through the end of 2012, the Pinellas County Historical Society plans an engaging series of multidisciplinary lectures titled "Pinellas by the Decades," which is 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.

DECEMBER

Dec. 1

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.

Dec. 1

Salty Topics: Global Change in the 21st Century – Do Coral Reefs have a Future? Presented by Dr. Pam Hallock Muller of the University of South Florida College of Marine Science. Studying both the geologic record and modern coral reefs, students gain insight not only into environments of the past and present, but also the effects of human activities on future tropical benthic ecosystems. Their work has implications for cell biology, coral-reef ecology, environmental management, global environmental change, evolution, paleoceanography, sedimentology and hydrocarbon exploration. 7 to 8 p.m. Free; advance registration required. Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center, 1800 Weedon Drive N.E., St. Petersburg. (727) 453-6500; www.weedonislandpreserve.org.

Dec. 3

Diamondback Terrapin Symposium: A symposium for environmental professionals on the management and conservation of diamondback terrapins in Tampa Bay. 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Registration required. Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center, 1800 Weedon Drive N.E., St. Petersburg. (727) 453-6500; www.weedonislandpreserve.org. For information, email George@heinrichecologicalservices.com.

Dec. 3

Brooker Creek Guided Hike: See how the land has changed over time and the ecological footprints left by those changes. Wear closed-toe shoes; bring water and a hat. 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.

Dec. 3

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

Dec. 3

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.

Dec. 3

Trees and Traditions – a Centennial Celebration: At Heritage Village, the Pinellas County Historical Society will sponsor an open house with refreshments, children's activities and crafts, holiday music, tours and a visit from Santa Claus. The Beach Cottage Gift Shop will be open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free to children under 12; suggested minimum donation of \$2 per adult. Heritage Village, 11909 125th St. N., Largo. (727) 582-2123; www.pinellascounty.org/heritage.

Dec. 8

Wee-Time at Weedon: Children ages 3 to 5 do crafts and hear a wonderful story about "Great Sharky Shark: A Tale of a Big Hunter" by Suzanne Tate. 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. Free; advanced registration required. Weedon Island Preserve, 1800 Weedon Drive, N.E., St. Petersburg. (727) 453-6500; www.weedonislandpreserve.org.

Dec. 8

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.

Dec. 9

Great Weedon Bird Quest: Learn to identify marks and behaviors of birds by taking advantage of this guided hike. Binoculars 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.

Dec. 10

Birds of Brooker Creek: A hike to discover and collect observational data on the diverse bird species found in the preserve. 8 to 10:30 a.m. Closed-toe shoes, water and hat recommended. Bring binoculars, spotting scopes and cameras. Best for ages 18 and older. Free; advance registration required. Brooker Creek Preserve, 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs. (727) 453-6800; www.brookercreekpreserve.org.

Dec. 10

Create Holiday Arts and Crafts: Enjoy creating special holiday decorations and gifts with Environmental Educator Colleen Gray. 10 to 11:30 a.m. Free; advanced registration required. Weedon Island Preserve, 1800 Weedon Drive N.E., St. Petersburg, (727) 453-6500. www.weedonislandpreserve.org.

Dec. 10

Pinellas Paws Cause: The Pinellas Paws Cause holiday event will be held at Pinellas County Animal Services on Saturday, Dec. 10, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be photos with Santa Paws for a \$5 donation to the Animal Welfare Trust Fund, a food truck rally, specials on adoption fees and rabies vaccination and a chance to "put your paw in" and reserve a spot for a favorite pet to become part of the Pinellas Paws Cause mural at Animal Services. There is a \$100 charge for each pet portrait, with \$25 donated to the Trust Fund, which helps provide special needs to shelter pets. Pinellas County Animal Services is located at 12450 Ulmerton Road in Largo. For more information, go to www.pinellascounty.org/animalservices or call (727) 582-2600.

Dec. 10

Discover 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 classroom anytime between noon and 3 p.m. to participate in a variety of self-guided nature games and activities. A Brooker Creek Education Center volunteer will be available to answer questions. Free; advance registration required. Brooker Creek Preserve, 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs. (727) 453-6800; www.brookercreekpreserve.org.

Dec. 11

Gift and Plant Sale: This day-long tradition for the Holiday Lights in the Gardens features more than 45 vendors selling an assortment of plants including orchids, hibiscus, iris, bromeliads, native plants, herbs and citrus. Specialty quality items perfect for gift-giving will be offered by vendors. Botanical Bounty gift shop will be open. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free. Florida Botanical Gardens, 12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo. (727) 582-2247; www.flbg.org.

Dec. 14

Annual Conservation Celebration: This year Pinellas Native Plant Society, St. Petersburg Audubon Society and Pinellas County/UF Extension presents Manley Fuller, president of Florida Wildlife Federation. The Florida Wildlife Federation's goal is to be the leader in promoting the conservation, restoration, sound management, and wise and ethical use of Florida's natural resources. Meet and greet fellow environmental groups to learn and share new ideas. Refreshments served. Wonderful exhibits and gift ideas for the holidays. 6:30 p.m. Free. Pinellas County Extension, 12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo. (727) 582-2100; www.pinellascountyextension.org

Dec 15

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.

Dec. 15

Archaeology Lecture Series - Competition and Cooperation at Crystal River: Thomas Pluckhahn, Ph.D., presents a National Science Foundation project to examine the formation of early village societies using the important Crystal River site as a case study. 7 to 8 p.m. Free; advance registration required. Weedon Island Preserve, 1800 Weedon Drive N.E., St. Petersburg. (727) 453-6500; www.weedonislandpreserve.org.

Dec. 17

Weedon Island Photography Hike: The perfect opportunity for adult photographers to hone their skills. After a brief classroom session highlighting specific wildlife behaviors, guides will assist participants in capturing the natural beauty in photos. 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.

Dec. 17

Brooker Creek Historical Hike: Visitors on this hike will learn about the unique and exciting history of the preserve and surrounding area. Closed-toe shoes, water and a hat are 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.

Dec. 17

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.

Dec. 22

Wee-Time at Weedon: Children ages 3 to 5 do crafts and learn about the joy of trees in “Red Leaf, Yellow Leaf” by Lois Ehlert. 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. Free; advanced registration required. Weedon Island Preserve, 1800 Weedon Drive N.E., St. Petersburg. (727) 453-6500; www.weedonislandpreserve.org.

Dec. 22

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.

Dec. 29

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.

Dec. 31

Dog Parade: A dog parade will bring paws to Florida Botanical Gardens. This popular feature to the Holiday Lights in the Gardens has six categories – best costumed, sit and stay on command, best trick, best smile, most handsome boys and prettiest girls. Register 1 to 1:45 p.m., \$5 fee per dog, per category. Parade begins at 2 p.m. Admission free to children under 12; suggested minimum donation \$2 per adult. Vendors and live entertainment. Florida Botanical Gardens, 12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo. (727) 582-2247; www.flbg.org.

JANUARY

Jan. 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.

Jan. 7

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.

Jan. 7

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.

Jan. 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.

Jan. 8

Pinellas by the Decades 1932-1941 – “Tough Times, but Citrus is at Its Prime”: The land boom stalled and stopped in Florida and the Great Depression had strangled the nation at the end of the 1920s. Local relief, recovery, and reform efforts did take place, along with a war declared on mosquitoes and plans for an international war also declared by the end of the 1930s. As developers reshaped the beach communities, agricultural development flourished in the largely rural areas north of St. Petersburg. Sponsored by the Pinellas County Historical Society. 2 p.m. Free but donations support Heritage Village operations. Heritage Village, 11909 125th Street N., Largo. (727) 582-2123. www.pinellascounty.org/heritage

Jan. 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.

Jan. 12

Wee-Time at Weedon: Children ages 3 to 5 learn about Mother Nature’s “sea cows”, the manatees, the gentle creatures that live in shallow coastal waters in the book Slow Down for Manatees, by Jim Arnosky. Children will participate in a craft, game or other hands-on activity. 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. Free; advanced registration required. Weedon Island Preserve, 1800 Weedon Drive, N.E., St. Petersburg. (727) 453-6500; www.weedonislandpreserve.org.

Jan. 13

Great Weedon Bird Quest: Learn to identify marks and behaviors of birds by taking advantage of this guided hike. Binoculars 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.

Jan. 14

Birds of Brooker Creek: A hike to discover and collect observational data on the diverse bird species found in the preserve. 8 to 10:30 a.m. Closed-toe shoes, water and hat recommended. Bring binoculars, spotting scopes and cameras. Best for ages 18 and older. Free; advance registration required. Brooker Creek Preserve, 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs. (727) 453-6800; www.brookercreekpreserve.org.

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Jan. 14

Amazing Ospreys: As residents all along our coastal areas, these “fish-hawks” thrive on the Pinellas County’s shallow coastal water resources. Barbara Walker from Clearwater Audubon will talk about the different challenges of these special birds. Learn the tale of a pair of these amazing ospreys that

have taken up a residence at Weedon Island Preserve. 2 to 3 p.m. Free; advance registration required. Weedon Island Preserve, 1800 Weedon Drive N.E., St. Petersburg. (727) 453-6500; www.weedonislandpreserve.org

Jan. 19

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.

Jan. 19

The Archaeology of Florida Tourism: Join us for this interesting lecture by Jason Wentzel, M.A., as an archaeologist looks at the history and evolution of the tourism industry in Florida. 7 to 8 p.m. Free; advance registration requested. Weedon Island Preserve, 1800 Weedon Drive N.E., St. Petersburg. (727) 453-6500; www.weedonislandpreserve.org.

Jan. 21

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

Jan. 21

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.

Jan. 21

Weedon Island Photography Hike: This hike is the perfect opportunity for adult photographers to hone their skills. After a brief classroom session highlighting specific wildlife behaviors, guides will assist participants in capturing the natural beauty in photos. 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.

Jan. 21

Florida's Fascinating Snakes: Learn about these ecologically important, but often misunderstood vertebrates. This area is home to many of these incredible creatures. Find out the facts about their diversity, ecology and conservation. This live reptile presentation is one in which participants have the opportunity to learn about the reptile's natural history and is recommended for all ages. 1 to 2 p.m. Free; advance registration required. Brooker Creek Preserve, 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs. (727) 453-6800; www.brookercreekpreserve.org

Jan. 26

Roundup License Training - LCLM & LLO 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. \$150. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Pinellas County Extension, 12520 Ulmerton Road., Largo. (727) 582-2562; <http://pce-commercialhort.eventbrite.com/>.

Jan. 26

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.

Jan. 26

Wee-Time at Weedon: Children ages 3 to 5 will hear about armadillos, the funny-looking little diggers, in a book called Armadillo's Orange, by Jim Arnosky. Children will participate in a craft, game of other hands-on activity. 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. Free; advanced registration required. Weedon Island Preserve, 1800 Weedon Drive, N.E., St. Petersburg. (727) 453-6500; www.weedonislandpreserve.org.

Jan. 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.

Jan. 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.

Jan. 28

Pinellas Folk Festival – A Centennial Celebration: Dozens of Tampa Bay area's premier folk musicians will be playing traditional folk, gospel, country and bluegrass music on stages throughout Heritage Village. Sponsored by the Pinellas County Historical Society. There will be historical demonstrations, old-time games, storytelling, traditional craft demonstrations, "Fleece-to-Shawl" activities, antique cars and more. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free to children under 12; suggested minimum donation of \$5 per adult. Heritage Village, 11909 125th St. N. Largo. Shuttle to event entrance located from free parking on 119th St. between Ulmerton and Walsingham Roads; handicapped parking and drop-off located at 11211 Walsingham Road. (727) 582-2123; www.pinellascounty.org/heritage.

Jan. 28

The Millennium Park Fossils, Pinellas County, Florida: Dr. Richard Hulbert, Paleontologist from the Florida Museum of Natural History, will discuss his present projects and his study of the fossils found at Boca Ciega Park in Pinellas County. 2 to 3 p.m. Free; advanced registration required. Weedon Island Preserve, 1800 Weedon Drive, N.E., St. Petersburg. (727) 453-6500; www.weedonislandpreserve.org.

FEBRUARY

Feb. 2

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Feb. 4

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Feb. 4

Volunteer Orientation: Discover fun ways to get involved at Heritage Village during a Volunteer Orientation. Learn about serving as a tour guide, museum greeter, historic house caretaker, receptionist, maintenance worker or grounds assistant. Find out what it's like to spend time in the peaceful enclave of Old Florida surrounded by native pine woods and more than two dozen historic structures. 10 to noon. Heritage Village, 11909 125th St. N., Largo. (727) 582-2125; heritagevillage@pinellascounty.org.

Feb. 4

Amazing Ospreys: As residents all along our coastal areas, these "fish-hawks" thrive on our shallow coastal water resources. Barbara Walker from Clearwater Audubon will talk about the different challenges of these special birds. Learn the tale of a pair of these amazing ospreys that have taken up a residence at Weedon Island Preserve. 2 to 3 p.m. Free; advance registration required. Brooker Creek Preserve, 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs. (727) 453-6800; www.brookercreekpreserve.org

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Feb. 11

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Feb. 11

Vegetable Gardening Class: Includes planting, growing tips and information on treating and preventing garden pests. Advance registration is required. 10 a.m. to noon. Sponsored by the Pinellas County Historical Society. \$5 each or \$8 for two-person family. Heritage Village, 11909 125th St., N., Largo. (727) 582-2233; www.pinellascounty.org/heritage.

Feb. 12

Pinellas by the Decades 1942 to 1951 - "Distant War Clouds, with Clearing Paths for Development Ahead": Although wartime tourism languished frenzied activity covered Pinellas County during World War II. With the Maritime Service Training Station at Bayboro Harbor, Pinellas Army Airfield and the test site for the Roebling Alligator in and around Dunedin, Pinellas contributed to the fight against foreign fascism. Many young recruits of the U.S. Army Air Corps trained in the area. With the war's end in 1945, Pinellas County's population expanded into new areas once occupied by groves. Sponsored by the Pinellas County Historical Society. 2 p.m. Free but donations support Heritage Village operations. Heritage Village, 11909 125th Street N., Largo. (727) 582-2123. www.pinellascounty.org/heritage

Feb. 16

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Feb. 18

Brooker Creek Historical Hike: Visitors on this hike will learn about the unique and exciting history of the preserve and surrounding area. Closed-toe shoes, water and hat are 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.

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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.

Feb. 18

Welcome to Florida: Florida can be challenging to newcomers and "natives" alike in learning about the tropical plants and the strange, sometimes menacing- looking critters. The weather and conservation issues also become special concerns. A Sensing Nature biologist will answer questions from nature fact to folklore (...do alligators really live in sewers?). After the indoor presentation participants will experience Florida's natural wonders on a nature walk. This is the initial presentation of a 3-part Brooker Creek Preserve Wild Florida series. Attend any or all of these three programs. Adults and families welcome. Limited space. No dogs. Closed-toe shoes and appropriate clothing strongly recommended. 10 a.m. to noon. Free; advance registration required. Brooker Creek Preserve, 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs. (727) 453-6800; www.brookercreekpreserve.org.

Feb. 18

Beyond Birding[®]: Why is their bill curved? How does their color help them catch their prey or help them avoid becoming prey? Why are they found in some habitats and not others? Join Sensing Nature for an interactive birding presentation focusing on bird adaptations, habitats and their ecologic role at Weedon Island. After the indoor presentation, participants will experience Florida's natural wonders on a nature walk. This is the initial presentation of a 3-part Birds of Weedon Island series.

Adults and families welcome. Limited space. No dogs. Closed-toe shoes and appropriate clothing highly recommended. 2 to 4 p.m. Free; advance registration required. Weedon Island Preserve, 1800 Weedon Drive N.E., St. Petersburg. (727) 453-6500; www.weedonislandpreserve.org.

Feb. 23

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.

Feb. 25

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.

Feb. 25

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.

Feb. 25

Florida Snakes – Native Necessities to Invasive Predators: Appreciating the native, beneficial snakes can be difficult for some, while removing the problematic non-native invasive snakes can be almost impossible. Join a Sensing Nature biologist and discover venomous and non-venomous snake identification tips, habitats and the snake's role in Florida's landscape. After the indoor presentation participants will enjoy a nature walk while discussing Florida's natural wonders. Join Sensing Nature for this 3-part Brooker Creek Preserve Wild Florida series. Adults and families welcome. Limited space. No dogs. Closed-toe shoes and appropriate clothing highly recommended. 10 to 11:30 a.m. Free; advance registration required. Brooker Creek Preserve, 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs. (727) 453-6800; www.brookercreekpreserve.org.

Feb. 25

Owl Cast Cafe® Silent flight, fantastic vision, fast reflexes and piercing talons. All of these adaptations make our Florida owls noble nocturnal predators. Learn from a Sensing Nature biologist how these stealth hunters benefit both nature and us through their chosen diets. No dogs. Closed-toe shoes and appropriate clothing highly recommended. 2 to 3:30 p.m. Free; advance registration required. Weedon Island Preserve, 1800 Weedon Drive N.E., St. Petersburg. (727) 453-6500; www.weedonislandpreserve.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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