

VOLUNTEER VOICE

A newsletter by and for Pinellas County government volunteers.



February 2016

We're on the web at www.pinellascounty.org/volunteer

Wall Springs Park Clean Up Event

On January 9th the Parks and Conservation Resources Department had a major clean up of the outflow pond at Wall Springs Park.

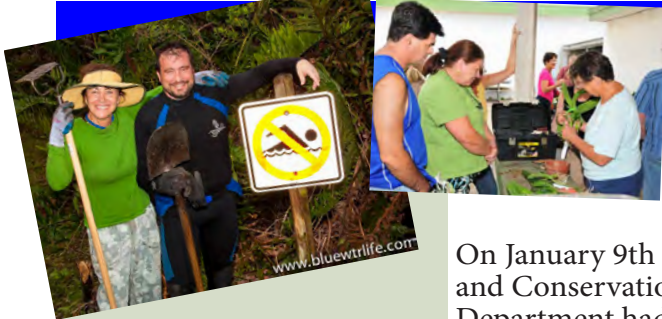
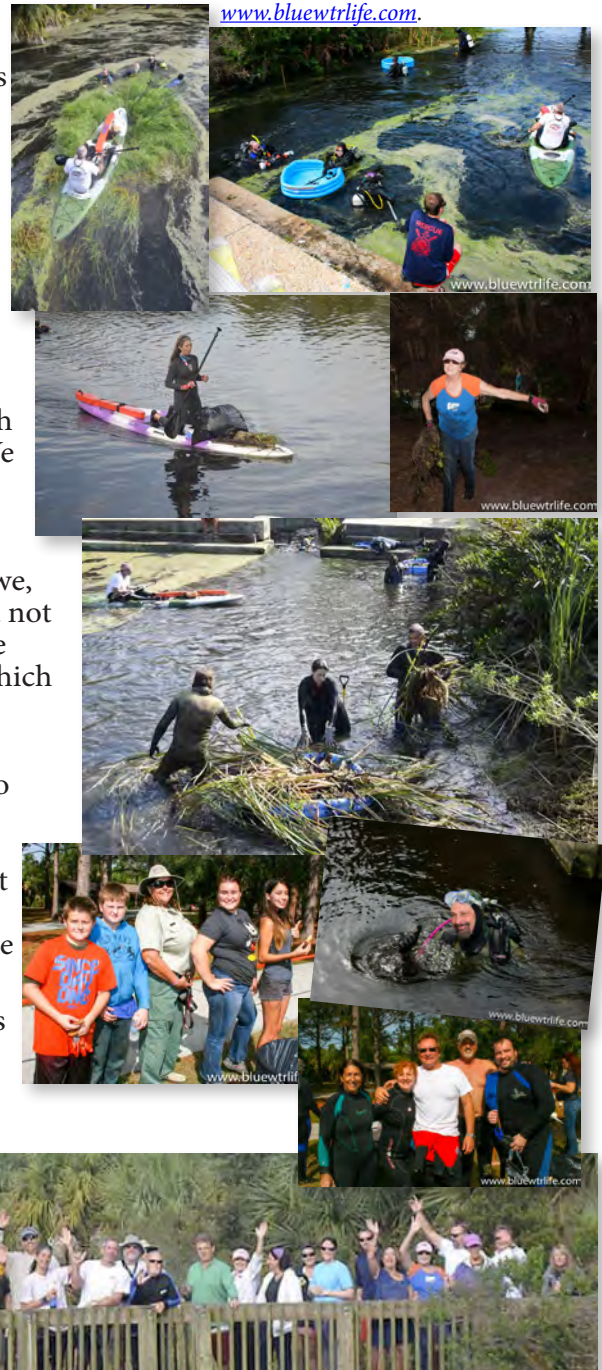
Chief Ranger **Pam Traas** and volunteer **Tom Morris** organized over 30 volunteers to remove invasive plants that were clogging the pond. This helped restore the natural flow and beauty of the spring. Tom's comments are below:

"I wanted to personally thank everyone that came out to help with the Wall Springs Park Clean Up. We really had a fun time and ended up making a big difference. I think we showed the park rangers and the park visitors who watched us that we, as a dive group, are a lot of fun and not afraid to get our hands dirty for the betterment of the community in which we live and play."

"Big thanks to our sponsors: **Rock Bottom Dive Shop** that supplied so many of us with the air tanks; and **Michael and Felicia Berg** at **Good Roll Model Scuba** for watching out for the swimmers and bringing a bunch of hard working divers to the event."

Chief Ranger Pam Traas said, "This was a fantastic event. My hat is off to Tom Morris! I cannot thank him and his fellow divers and crew enough for organizing this and working so very hard. These folks are awesome!"

Photos courtesy of Pinellas County Communications and www.bluewtrlife.com.



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Volunteer Voice

Graphics, layout, editor - Mary Sault
msault@pinellascounty.org or call
(727) 464-5098.

How to participate: Send questions, article submissions, upcoming events, photos, or story ideas to mkvam@pinellascounty.org.

Like to see more photos? Click [HERE](#) for some and [HERE](#) for more!



Friends of Ridgecrest

The "Friends of Ridgecrest, Inc." turned out to volunteer for a morning of service at Ridgecrest Park on Saturday, January 16th.

This Pinellas County Adopt a Park group is headed up by community leader **Tasker Beal**, who made a guest appearance at this year's event. **Vernon Bryant**, Executive Director of the Greater Ridgecrest YMCA, coordinated volunteers from many of his community partners. Parks and Conservation Resources staff was on hand to lend their help and expertise as the volunteers placed some beautiful new plants in Ridgecrest Park and mulched the area. We want to thank everyone involved in this successful event!



Wrap Up of the Holiday Lights in the Gardens, 2015

Number of lights: over **750,000**

Number of guests: over **74,000** people

Number of volunteers: **535**

Amount of donations from the public: **\$229,000**

Generous sponsors included the Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation, Bright House, and the Tampa Bay Times



Orchid Re-Potting Clinic and Bromeliad Sale

It's the time of the year that you should be re-potting your orchids. Are you afraid to re-pot your orchids, or you don't have time? Then let the **Florida West Coast Orchid Society** do it for you. While you are there, purchase some fabulous bromeliads that are from the

Florida Botanical Gardens.

WHEN: March 26, 2016 **TIME:** 9:00 am to Noon

WHERE: The Florida Botanical Gardens, 12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo FL 33774 (Additional parking at 12211 Walsingham Road.)

To be held in the **Tropical Pavilion** located in the East Gardens of the Florida Botanical Gardens.

For a reasonable fee, the Orchid Society will be available to re-pot your orchids and provide you with information on orchid culture. The oldest Orchid Society in Florida, its members can answer your questions about how best to ensure your orchid re-blooms and stays healthy. You can watch and learn as they re-fit your orchid into a new pot or hanging planter. All proceeds go to the Florida West Coast Orchid Society (www.fwcoss.org). Let the experts do their magic and give your orchids a new life!

The Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation will be selling bare root bromeliads that come directly from the Botanical Gardens. Priced to sell, these plants will make a great statement in your yard. Many different types will be available for purchase, with a variety of shapes and sizes. All proceeds go back to the Gardens to purchase new plants, trees and shrubs.

For more information call (727) 582-2117 or visit www.flbgfoundation.org



Happenings

Volunteer Archaeology Lab

Residents of all ages can join the **Florida Public Archaeology Network** to gain knowledge of the methods archaeologists use to recreate the technologies of Florida's early residents. **March 11**, 10 a.m. to noon. Free; registration required. [Register online](#). Weedon Island Preserve, (727) 453-6500; 1800 Weedon Drive NE, St. Petersburg.

Waterway Clean Up of Joe's Creek and Cross Bayou

Pinellas County and **Keep Pinellas Beautiful** are looking for volunteers to participate in this twice annual waterway clean up **March 19** from 8 a.m. to noon in Pinellas Park. Volunteers can be land-based or participate on the water from a canoe or kayak. Participants may bring a personal vessel or borrow one from the County. Clean up supplies and lunch will be provided. For more information, contact Pinellas County Natural Resources at (727) 464-4605 or email watershed@pinellascounty.org.

Preserve Work Day

Citizens are invited to join the **Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve** to remove exotic vegetation and nuisance plants from the preserve. Participants are asked to bring work gloves, clippers, shovels, hand saws and loppers. This is hard work and recommended for strong volunteers ages 12 and up. Water and snacks provided. **March 19**, 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. For additional information, call Evan Earle at (727) 515-9545.

www.friendsofbrookercreekpreserve.org.
Brooker Creek Preserve, (727) 453-6800; 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs

Colors of Pinellas

The 10th Annual Colors of Pinellas Art Show is open to all Pinellas County employees, retirees, active volunteers, and their immediate family members.

Submit your favorite photograph, painting, drawing, crafts, sculpture, jewelry, ceramics, quilt, woodcarving, etc.

Winners are eligible for cash prizes totaling \$2,400 and free art lessons, provided by grants from the National Arts Program.

All skill levels are welcome: amateur, intermediate and professional. There are youth and teen categories, too!



Artwork will be displayed at the downtown Clearwater Courthouse. Join us and enter your favorite creation.

Registration deadline: May 20, 2016

Visit www.pinellascounty.org/hr/artshow.

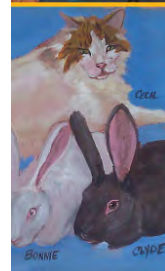
PINELLAS PAWS CAUSE

A Pinellas County Animal Services and Murals for Mutts Partnership

Murals for Mutts artist Anna Hamilton Fields wants to paint YOUR pet ... on the wall at Animal Services. Your \$100 donation includes the pet portrait while 25% goes to the Animal Welfare Trust Fund which helps support a higher quality of care for the dogs and cats at the shelter.

Simply contact Murals for Mutts at muralsformutts@gmail.com or call (727) 204-5515.

You can view some of the completed work at www.muralsformutts.com.



ADOPT | DONATE | VOLUNTEER

Save the Date!

To Thank You for your volunteer service,
Pinellas County Government is



Puttin' on the
RITZ!

**April 14, 2016
4-6:30 pm**

at the Armed Forces History Museum
2050 34th Way North, Largo

Live Entertainment

Featuring "Florida's Frank Sinatra"
Don Juceam & Le Orchestra Fantastique
www.DonJuceam.com

Dancing

Lavish hors d'oeuvres*

Feel free to dress up and show off your RITZ!

Open to volunteers with at least 20 hours of service in the past 12 months.
Make sure you get your hours in!



*Provided by Chives Innovative Catering

Look for your invitation in mid-March!