



Discover Paradise in Pinellas County Upcoming Events

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.

Nov. 17

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 Drive NE, St. Petersburg.

Nov. 17

Prehistoric Use of Everglades Tree Islands: A (Rare) Case from the Northern Everglades: William Locascio, Ph.D. of Florida Gulf Coast University will discuss the recent excavation of the Wedgworth Midden in western Palm Beach County. This excavation offered a rare opportunity to investigate a tree island site from the northern Everglades. 7 to 8 p.m. Free; advance registration required. Register online at www.weedonislandpreserve.eventbrite.com. Weedon Island Preserve, (727) 453-6500; 1800 Weedon Drive NE, St. Petersburg.

Nov. 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. Register online at www.brookercreekpreserve.eventbrite.com. Brooker Creek Preserve, (727) 453-6800; 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs.

Nov. 18

Family Fun Friday Mornings: Participants are encouraged to join Brooker Creek Preserve in building children's interest in the natural world. This week's program is titled "Family Fern Fun." Closed-toed shoes are required. 10 to 11:30 a.m. Free; advance registration required. Register online at www.brookercreekpreserve.eventbrite.com. Brooker Creek Preserve, (727) 453-6800; 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs.

Nov. 18

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.

Nov. 18

Florida Native Plants Guided Hike: Participants will join UF/IFAS Extension Specialist James Stevenson in exploring the plants that can be found at Brooker Creek Preserve, such as wildflowers, ferns, epiphytes and trees. The ecology of various plant communities will also be examined. 9 to 11 a.m. Register online at www.brookercreekpreserve.eventbrite.com. Brooker Creek Preserve, (727) 453-6800; 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs.

Nov. 18

Volunteer Archaeology Lab: People of all ages can join the Florida Public Archaeology Network to gain knowledge about the methods archaeologists use in order to recreate the technologies of Florida's early residents. 10 a.m. to noon. Free; advance registration required. Register online at www.weedonislandpreserve.eventbrite.com. Weedon Island Preserve, (727) 453-6500; 1800 Weedon Drive NE, St. Petersburg.

Nov. 19

Tracking Wildlife: Residents will join Sensing Nature wildlife biologist Jeanne Murphy and ecologist Brian Lane to learn about Florida wildlife. 10:30 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.

Nov. 19

Weedon Island Guided Hike: Participants can learn about the ecosystems and the early residents of Weedon Island Preserve while hiking the coastal uplands and along boardwalks through mangrove forests. 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 Drive NE, St. Petersburg.

Nov. 19

Weedon Photography Hike: Participants can hike the preserve in search of that perfect photo. This program provides great opportunities for photographers of all levels to hone their skills. 8:30 to 10:30 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.

Nov. 19

Archaeology Works – Shipwrecks: Participants will learn to identify different parts of a ship, as well as how archaeologists study their contents to learn about people from the past. 10 a.m. to noon. Free; advance registration required. Register online at www.weedonislandpreserve.eventbrite.com. Weedon Island Preserve, (727) 453-6500; 1800 Weedon Drive NE, St. Petersburg.

Nov. 19

Preserve Work Day: Residents can 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. 8 to 11 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.

Nov. 19

Footprints on the Land Hike: Certified guides will lead a hike along the Education Center Trail. Participants can learn of the many “footprints” that can be found in Brooker Creek Preserve during this .75-mile walk. Sturdy closed-toe shoes are a must; water and a hat are recommended. Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult, those younger than 6 may find the hike challenging. 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.

Nov. 23

Night Hike: Participants will join the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve for a one mile hiking experience along the Ed Center Trail at night. These special hikes are open to the public and limited to 20 people per hike. 6:30 to 9 p.m. A \$3 per person donation is requested; advance registration required. Register online at www.brookercreekpreserve.eventbrite.com. Brooker Creek Preserve, (727) 453-6800; 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs.

Nov. 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. Register online at www.brookercreekpreserve.eventbrite.com. Brooker Creek Preserve, (727) 453-6800; 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs.

Nov. 25 to Dec. 31:

Holiday Lights in the Garden: Residents and visitors are welcome to enjoy holiday lights in the gardens each evening from late November through December. The gardens offer an array of light-lined paths with nightly free entertainment and visits from Santa Claus. This event is the largest fundraiser for the gardens and depends on volunteers, sponsors and donations to reduce the cost of offering this holiday tradition in Pinellas County. Free; donation of \$4 is suggested. Children under 13, free. Florida Botanical Gardens, (727) 582-2100; 12520 Ulmerton Rd., Largo.

Nov. 26 to Dec. 31

Holidays at the Village: Residents may enjoy the beautifully decorated 1907 House of Seven Gables. Garland and greenery will be displayed throughout the Village. Closed Mondays and Tuesdays, closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. Heritage Village, (727) 582-2123; 11909 125th Street North, Largo. www.pinellascounty.org/heritage.

Nov. 26

Weedon Island Guided Hike: Participants can learn about the ecosystems and the early residents of Weedon Island Preserve while hiking the coastal uplands and along boardwalks through mangrove forests. 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 Drive NE, St. Petersburg.

Nov. 26

Pet Adoptions: Pinellas County Animal Services will be waiving adoption fees for kittens, cats and large breed dogs over 6 months. Puppies under 6 months and small breeds are excluded. View pets available for adoption at www.pinellascounty.org/animalservices/Adoption_Center.htm. Animal Services, (727) 582-2600; 12450 Ulmerton Rd., Largo.

Nov. 26

Seasons of Florida Photography Hike: Participants will join photographers and naturalists Karl and Kathleen Nichter to explore and photograph the natural beauty of Brooker Creek Preserve. Photography tips and techniques will be discussed. In the event of rain, there will be a classroom session. 8:30 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.

Nov. 26

“Our Wildest Place” Guided Hike: Brooker Creek Preserve certified guides lead the hike along the Education Center Trail. Participants will learn why the preserve has been called “Our Wildest Place” during this .75-mile walk. Sturdy closed-toe shoes are a must; water and a hat are recommended. 9 to 10:30 a.m. Free; advance registration required. Register online at www.brookercreekpreserve.eventbrite.com. Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center, (727) 453-6800; 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs.

December

Dec. 1

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-toed 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 Drive NE, St. Petersburg.

Dec. 1

Salty Topics: Exploring Oil Spill Impacts in the Gulf of Mexico: Dr. Monica Wilson, Florida Sea Grant, will share the impact the oil spill had on habitats, aquatic wildlife and human health following the Deepwater Horizon oil spill of 2010. Program is intended for a high school and adult audience. 7 to 8 p.m. Free; advance registration required. Register online at www.weedonislandpreserve.eventbrite.com. Weedon Island Preserve, (727) 453-6500; 1800 Weedon Drive NE, St. Petersburg.

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. Register online at www.brookercreekpreserve.eventbrite.com. Brooker Creek Preserve, (727) 453-6800; 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs.

Dec. 2

Florida Forests Guided Hike: Participants will join UF/IFAS Pinellas Extension Natural Resources Agent Lara Milligan for a hike through the forest at Brooker Creek Preserve. 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.

Dec. 3

Native Plant Holiday Celebration: Residents can join in an interactive day of exploring plant and landscape topics. Participants will join in a series of discussions along with two hands-on classroom activities and a pot-luck lunch. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free for Florida Native Plant Society members; \$15 for non-members; advance registration required. Register online at www.brookercreekpreserve.eventbrite.com. Brooker Creek Preserve, (727) 453-6800; 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs.

Dec. 3

Explore the Ecosystems: Brooker Creek Preserve certified guides will lead this hike along the .75-mile Education Center Trail. Observe the forested wetland, oak hammock and pine flatwood ecosystems. Closed-toe shoes, water and a hat are recommended. Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult; those younger than 6 may find the hike challenging. 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.

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. Register online at www.brookercreekpreserve.eventbrite.com. Brooker Creek Preserve, (727) 453-6800; 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs.

Dec. 8

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.

Dec. 9

The Great Weedon Bird Quest: Participants will learn the identifying marks and behaviors of Pinellas County's year-round feathered residents and seasonal visitors while assisting in compiling an annual checklist of the preserve's birds. This hike is designed to take advantage of all levels of birding experience. Register online at www.weedonislandpreserve.eventbrite.com. Weedon Island Preserve, (727) 453-6500; 1800 Weedon Drive NE, St. Petersburg.

Dec. 9

Florida Native Plants Guided Hike: Participants will join UF/IFAS Extension Specialist James Stevenson in exploring the plants such as wildflowers, ferns, epiphytes and trees that can be found at Brooker Creek Preserve. The ecology of various plant communities will also be examined. 9 to 11 a.m. Register online at www.brookercreekpreserve.eventbrite.com. Brooker Creek Preserve, (727) 453-6800; 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs.

Dec. 10

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Dec. 10

Birds of Brooker Hike: Residents can join this bird hike and learn how to identify the county's common birds while meandering along a 1 mile trail. Participants should bring water and binoculars. 8 to 10 a.m. Free; advance registration required. Register online at www.brookercreekpreserve.eventbrite.com. Brooker Creek Preserve, (727) 453-6800; 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs.

Dec. 10

Birding 101: Participants will join Lynn Sumerson with Clearwater Audubon as he explores the basics on how to identify birds of Pinellas County. Participants will learn what to look and listen for as well as gain insight into basic equipment required in order to take birding skills to the next level. 10:30 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.

Dec. 11

Gift and Plant Sale: The gift and plant sale includes an assortment of tropical plants, orchids, herbs, bromeliads, citrus, bamboo, begonias and fruit trees. Specialty vendors will be selling unique clothing, jewelry, art and more. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free; donation of \$4 is suggested. Florida Botanical Gardens, (727) 582-2100; 12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo.

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Dec. 15

The Pollen Record at Crystal River: Kendal Jackson of the University of South Florida will introduce the program "The Pollen Record at Crystal River: *Reconstructing Environmental Change, Site History, and Ancient Plant Use*." Ancient pollen grains, archaeological soils and radiocarbon dating will be discussed. 7 to 8 p.m. Free; advance registration required. Register online at www.weedonislandpreserve.eventbrite.com. Weedon Island Preserve, 1800 Weedon Drive NE, St. Petersburg.

Dec. 17

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Dec. 17

Seafood Lovers Florida Book Talk: Bruce Hunt will discuss Florida seafood dining spots, from fish camps to fine dining establishments. 10 a.m. to noon. Free; advance registration required. Register online at www.weedonislandpreserve.eventbrite.com. Weedon Island Preserve, (727) 453-6500; 1800 Weedon Drive NE, St. Petersburg.

Dec. 17

Preserve Work Day: Residents can 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. 8 to 11 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.

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Dec. 22

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Dec. 22

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Dec. 24

“Our Wildest Place” Guided Hike: Brooker Creek Preserve certified guides lead the hike along the Education Center Trail. Participants will learn why the preserve has been called “Our Wildest Place” during this .75-mile walk. Sturdy closed-toe shoes are a must; water and a hat are recommended. 9 to 10:30 a.m. Free; advance registration required. Register online at www.brookercreekpreserve.eventbrite.com. Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center, (727) 453-6800; 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs.

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. Register online at www.brookercreekpreserve.eventbrite.com. Brooker Creek Preserve, (727) 453-6800; 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs.

Dec. 31

“Our Wildest Place” Guided Hike: Brooker Creek Preserve certified guides lead the hike along the Education Center Trail. Participants will learn why the preserve has been called “Our Wildest Place” during this .75-mile walk. Sturdy closed-toe shoes are a must; water and a hat are recommended. 9 to 10:30 a.m. Free; advance registration required. Register online at www.brookercreekpreserve.eventbrite.com. Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center, (727) 453-6800; 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs.

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.

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