

**Florida Native Plant Society  
2008 Conference Field Trip**

# **FIELD TRIP P**

## **Sunday, May 18, 2008**

**Place:** Brooker Creek Nature Preserve

**Start Time:** Meet in Convention Center parking lot #2. Carpool caravan will leave at 8:30am or arrive on your own - Start time at field trip location: 10:00pm. **Meet at education center. Please wear conference badges.**

**End Time:** 1:30pm

**Degree of Difficulty:** Easy

**Guide:** Barbara Hoffman, Biologist

**Description of Field Trip:** Brooker Creek Preserve, located in northeastern Pinellas County, is the largest natural area (approximately 8,000-acres) in a highly developed county. Managed by the County's Department of Environmental Management's Environmental Lands Division, the majority of the Preserve is located within the Brooker Creek Watershed which outfalls into Lake Tarpon. The creek system within the Preserve consists of numerous meandering channels and expansive forested wetlands which usually hold only scattered pockets of water during the dry season. The Preserve is a mosaic of flatwoods, cypress domes and strands, sandhills, xeric hammocks, marshes, basin swamps, and bottomland forests. A state-of-the-art education center that promotes a message of sustainability is also on site. Two staff biologists lead participants on a 3-mile hike through flatwoods, oak hammocks and forested wetlands on this field trip. A diverse array of plants ranging from xeric to hydric species will be encountered; over 620 species have been documented. Wildlife routinely encountered along these trails includes white-tailed deer, gopher tortoises, wild turkeys, and numerous other birds, butterflies and dragonflies. Management practices, species' life histories, and field identification techniques are discussed. We will walk the 'Friends Trail'. The Friends Trail is located at the end of Lora Lane. Lora Lane is located off Keystone Road about 1 mile east of the East Lake Road/Keystone Road intersection in north Pinellas County. The trail traverses through a typical Florida pine flatwoods, past a swamp under construction, and to the banks of Brooker Creek. It is 1.75 miles long and very easy. The trail is well-maintained but located in a wilder section of Brooker Creek Preserve. Some parts of the trail cross public horse trails within the preserve. This trail was the very first trail open to the public in the preserve..

**Notes: Sunshine Skyway Bridge is a toll road (\$1.00)**

**DON'T FORGET:** Water, sun screen, hat, closed-toed shoes, binoculars & camera

Nearest Restrooms: At education center

Cell phone reception: Good

Contact number for the day of the event: Barbara Hoffman 727 410-0939

Suitable ages 10 and up

Maximum # of participants: 20

Map

<http://maps.google.com/maps?f=d&hl=en&geocode=&time=&date=&ttype=&saddr=1+haben+blvd,+p+almetto,+fl+&daddr=3940+keystone+road,+tarpon+springs,+fl&sll=37.0625,-95.677068&sspn=31.977057,59.238281&ie=UTF8&z=9&om=0>

GPS – 3940 Keystone Rd, Tarpon Springs, FL