



# The Buzzard Bulletin

Notes & Information for CREW Volunteers

December, 2016–January, 2017

Volume 1, Issue 2

## Jam Session

When a group of musicians get together to play, no leader just listening to each other, it's a jam session.

This season, CREW Trust volunteers will have their own Jam Session. We'll get together and share our knowledge and experiences on the trails and learn from each other. All volunteers are welcome.

How will it work?

Simple. We'll announce a date, time, and place. You come and join the conversations. What conversation? How about, "Hey, what's an ant lion?" or "That species was used by Native Americans to ease itching." You get the idea.

The first Jam Session is Sunday, January 8, from 1-3 PM at Bird Rookery Swamp. Contact George Luther ([geluther9@gmail.com](mailto:geluther9@gmail.com)) **TODAY** and let him know you'll be there. Let's jam!



## Just for volunteers

### Training bulletins

From time to time subjects and questions arise that are best handled with a written training bulletin.

These might be the result of a training session, or they might be so straightforward that no direct explanation is needed. Either way, volunteers should have easy access to the information.

Until now, the bulletins have been attached to the volunteer manual. This becomes unwieldy and expensive as more bulletins are created and the thickness of the manual grows.

Now, bulletins will be available in the online volunteer library (*see page 3*) for volunteers to read or print.

## What's new at CREW...

### Flint Pen restoration progressing

The SFWMD began an 18 month process in February, 2016, to restore Southern Critical CREW, known as Flint Pen Strand, which consists of 4,150 acres in eastern Bonita Springs.

Flint Pen will be the fourth and final trail system within the CREW project.

The project's goal is to restore natural hydrology.

Berms, existing roads, and invasive exotics are currently being removed at an estimated cost of about \$2.9 million.



Over a year remains until the restoration project is scheduled to be done, although this year's heavy rains might push the 2018 opening date back a bit.

Construction of trails and facilities can't begin until the restoration is complete. A parking lot big enough to accommodate school buses is planned at

the trailhead on Bonita Beach Road.

Anticipated activities include guided walks, school programs, bird watching, running, biking, geocaching, horseback riding, and more.

### Field notes: Leopards, Pigs & Squirrels recorded

Biologists with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) have been busy recording breeding calls of some of the CREW watershed's most vocal inhabitants—frogs!

Southwest Florida is home to 17 frog species including the Southern Leopard Frog, Pig Frog, and Squirrel Treefrog.

To investigate species presence, diversity, and habitat preference, biologists placed recording devices at nine sites throughout the CREW Marsh trails, Cypress dome trails, and Flint Pen Strand.

Five minute samples were recorded on the hour from 6 PM to 6 AM from May through September for a total of 341 hours of frog call data.

While analysis is ongoing, FWC biologists hope to better understand the breeding activity and distribution of native and non-native frog species found in the CREW watershed.

Also, the CREW Land and Water Trust and FWC partnered this summer for monthly Frog Watch surveys.

Participants visited ten stops along Corkscrew Road and recorded the species and the intensity of each species' calls heard during the five minute stops.

The surveys took place one night per month from June through September and typically lasted two hours.

Volunteers who are interested in helping with the Frog Watch surveys during the summer of 2017 may contact [volunteers@crewtrust.org](mailto:volunteers@crewtrust.org) and receive frog call ID materials.

## Volunteer resources

The CREW Trust web site ([www.crewtrust.org](http://www.crewtrust.org)) contains educational reference materials for volunteers as well as for the public.

Under the **EDUCATION** tab, click on “Free Downloadables: CREW Educational Materials.” The following subjects are available now for download.

- Alligators
- Green and Brown Anoles
- Bird fledge times, life spans
- Dragonflies
- Fern identification
- Frog and toad sounds
- Native Tillandsia (bromeliads)
- Water turtle identification

Volunteers who may have created guides that would be appropriate for the site can send them to Jessi for review.

## What should you do if a visitor has a complaint

Visitors may offer suggestions or complaints while on the trails. Some are legitimate; some are inane.

Be nice, be patient, and listen. If it's a simple thing that can be answered there, respond. But don't be defensive.

Remind the visitor that you are a volunteer and don't make decisions, but you can forward the complaint or suggestion to those who can.

If they're insistent, suggest that they email [crewtrust@crewtrust.org](mailto:crewtrust@crewtrust.org) to express their ideas directly.

## Volunteer training

This season, the two CREW Trust volunteer training sessions will be held on Thursday, January 12, from 9:30-11:30 AM and Thursday, February 2, from 6-8 PM. Please mark your calendars.

Featured topics this season will include these special presentations:

- The tourist as our guest
- Handicap accessibility issues (“*but it's a service dog*”)
- Zika and all things that go buzz
- Handling medical issues, especially when someone says, “*but I don't need help.*”

## On the job

# Leading adult walks on the trails

CREW offers a variety of guided walks for visitors, currently at the CREW Marsh Trails and at Bird Rookery Swamp.

Volunteers interested in becoming a guide, in becoming an assistant guide, or in being an emergency substitute guide start by accompanying an experienced volunteer trail guide on a walk.

While accompanying a veteran guide, prospective guides learn about Southwest Florida's natural history and the role that the CREW Trust is playing, become comfortable talking to small groups of people, and learn trail safety techniques.

Walk topics might focus on the CREW Trust and the area's natural history, on specific wildlife present such as plants or birds, or on the needs and interests requested by private groups or organizations.

Volunteers interested in seeing if becoming a trail guide would be a good fit for them should contact Brenda.

## Meet the newest CREW Trust staff member



Anne Reed is joining the CREW Trust staff as Communication Strategist, focusing on everything from press releases and written content to staffing outreach events, working with volunteers, and her favorite part, getting out in the field.

## Getting it done

“Leading a guided walk is rewarding not only for myself, but also for the people with a passion and interest to explore the Florida most visitors were unaware existed. It's refreshing to listen and to answer their questions about CREW's flora and fauna.”



“My experience leading hikes has reinforced the adage that ‘the only foolish question is the one not asked.’”

“Visitors often arrive with preconceived ideas that we hope to clarify as fact or fiction. During these hikes, our visitors help all of our CREW Trust staff with their questions, and consequently, it's a win-win for all of us.”

*Bobby McLoughlin*

## Staying connected

### People

Brenda Brooks

239-229-3948

[brenda@crewtrust.org](mailto:brenda@crewtrust.org)

Jessi Drummond

239-229-1088

[education@crewtrust.org](mailto:education@crewtrust.org)

Anne Reed

419-206-8800

[anne@crewtrust.org](mailto:anne@crewtrust.org)

### Web sites

[www.crewtrust.org](http://www.crewtrust.org)

[www.trackitforward.com](http://www.trackitforward.com) (hours)

[www.bit.ly/2bV15Jh](http://www.bit.ly/2bV15Jh) (vol. library)

### Good apps for smart phones

bsafe (emergency location alert)

weather bug (radar, lightning)

IveGot1 (report invasive species)

The Buzzard Bulletin contains notes and information by and for CREW volunteers and is e-mailed six times a year (September, November, January, March, May, July). Dick Brewer, editor.

## Special events for volunteers only

Thursday, December 15 Kick-off Social, 6-8 PM at George & Sue Luther's house	Thursday, February 2 Volunteer training, 6-8 PM at the CREW office
Sunday, January 8 Jam Session, 1-3 PM at Bird Rookery Swamp	Tuesday, March 7 Informal Social, 6-8 PM at George & Sue Luther's house
Thursday, January 12 Volunteer training, 9:30-11:30 AM at the CREW office	Friday, March 31 Volunteer Fun Day location to be determined

## What does 'help needed' mean for calendar events?

Volunteers for school field trips (**EDU** below) assist classes along the trail, usually trailing to make sure everyone keeps up. If comfortable with student interaction, volunteers can interpret the environment around them.

If you would like to be trained for school trips, please contact Jessi ASAP.

Nature's Peace assistants (**GW** on Mondays) assure participant safety by guiding their movements and being watchful for hazardous situations.

## Volunteer online library

A CREW volunteer library has been created to serve as a depository for documents and information that the CREW Trust staff would like to share with volunteers. Volunteers can access it any time online.

The library will contain folders for training bulletins and materials, program announcements, schedules of events, past editions of The Buzzard Bulletin, and other items that may be of interest to and be used by volunteers.

Use the following link to access the library: [www.bit.ly/2bV15Jh](http://www.bit.ly/2bV15Jh).

That is not an easy URL to remember, so one could either bookmark it or save this newsletter with the link.

The volunteer library is not connected to the general CREW Trust web site and is just for volunteers.

## December-January CREW Trust Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<b>RED=volunteer help needed and appreciated</b> <b>BLUE=CREW program</b> <b>ORANGE=volunteers only</b> <b>GREEN=volunteers &amp; members only</b>			December 1 <b>EDU-CMT</b>	<b>EDU-CMT</b> 2	<b>ORP</b> 3	4
<b>GW<sup>1</sup>-CREW</b> 5 <b>EDU-CMT</b>	<b>GW-CMT</b> 6 <b>EDU-CMT</b>	<b>GW-BRS</b> 7 <b>EDU-CMT</b>	<b>EDU-CMT</b> 8	9	<b>GW-CMT</b> 10	11
<b>GW<sup>2</sup>-CREW</b> 12 <b>EDU-CMT</b>	<b>GW-BRS</b> 13 <b>EDU-CMT</b>	<b>GW-BRS</b> 14 <b>EDU-CMT</b>	<b>SOCIAL</b> 15 <b>EDU-CMT</b>	<b>SSS</b> 16	17	18
19	<b>GW-CMT</b> 20	<b>GW-BRS</b> 21	22	23	<b>GW-BRS</b> 24 *Hanukkah	Christmas 25
26	<b>GW-BRS</b> 27	<b>GW-BRS</b> 28	29	30	31	January 1 New Year's Day
<b>GW<sup>1</sup>-CREW</b> 2	<b>GW-CMT</b> 3	<b>GW-BRS</b> 4	5	6	7	<b>JAM SESSION-BRS</b> 8
<b>GW<sup>2</sup>-CREW</b> 9	<b>GW-BRS</b> 10 <b>OTH-OFF</b>	<b>GW-BRS</b> 11	<b>EDU-CMT</b> 12 <b>TRAINING-OFF</b>	<b>OTH-BRS</b> 13 <b>EDU-CMT</b>	<b>GW-CMT</b> 14	15
MLK Day 16	<b>GW-CMT</b> 17 <b>EDU-CMT</b>	<b>GW-BRS</b> 18	19	Trustees meeting 20	<b>SSS</b> 21	22
23	<b>GW-BRS</b> 24	<b>GW-BRS</b> 25	<b>OTH-OFF</b> 26	<b>OTH</b> 27	<b>GW-BRS</b> 28	29
30	31	<b>GW<sup>1</sup>=Nature's Peace/Alzheimer's</b> <b>GW<sup>2</sup>=Nature's Peace/Visually Impaired</b>		*Hanukkah begins at sundown		

EDU=Education Program GW=Guided Walk SSS=Strolling Science Seminar ORP=Outreach Program OTH=Other  
BRS=Bird Rookery Swamp CDT=Cypress Dome CMT=Marsh Trails OFF=Office