



The Buzzard Bulletin

Notes & Information for CREW Volunteers

October-November, 2016

Volume 1, Issue 1

Welcome

Welcome to the first edition of *The Buzzard Bulletin*, an email newsletter for volunteers providing a year round flow of information to the greatest volunteers in the world — YOU!



In the past, we've had meetings and training sessions in January, February, and March, and as other things arose, we've sent occasional emails.

Now the flow of information will be continuous, every two months, in season and out. We are going to keep it short, light, and fun. Please let me know what you think of *The Buzzard Bulletin* and if you have any suggestions.

Lastly, as a new season begins, the trustees, Jessi, and I sincerely thank you for all that you do for the CREW Trust.

Hours matter...

Track It Forward

CREW volunteers need to log all of their volunteer hours at Track It Forward – www.trackitforward.com

Logging volunteer hours helps CREW because the success of many grant applications relies on the number of volunteers and the number of volunteer hours.

Sign in at the web site, click on the Log Hours box, use the first pull-down menu to select hours, and then the next pull-down menu to select the activity.

Please be sure that hours **include** travel time. If it takes one hour of travel to the site, two hours of activity there, and then another hour to drive home at the end, please log four hours.

What's new at CREW...

Talking Trail boxes

Imagine. From sun up to sun down, seven days a week, a CREW Trust Volunteer on the trail describing the features of that particular trail. That's a lot of volunteer hours... and a lot of volunteers!

Starting this season, the CREW Trust will have a Talking Trail box, *right*, at each trail to greet our guests.

Thanks to a grant from the District's Big Cypress Basin, the CREW Trust has purchased three Talking Trail boxes.

The solar-powered boxes have four changeable messages that can be tailored to the specific trail and location on the trail. All of the boxes will be installed in October.



Personal lightning detectors

CREW has nine pocket lightning detectors that are available for volunteers to check out to use in the field. See Brenda to get one.

The detectors are small, battery operated, and have a belt clip. They detect cloud-to-cloud, cloud-to-ground and intra-cloud lightning.

When lightning is detected, the detector emits two beeps and a red light flashes. The display indicates STRIKE DETECTED and STRIKE COUNT.

The detector estimates the distance to the front of the lightning-producing storm so there will be ample warning and time to find shelter before the storm becomes dangerously close.

Field notes: Bird Rookery Swamp

MOTHER IDA

Summer at Bird Rookery Swamp has been interesting to say the least.

Ida, the resident gator just past the end of the boardwalk, built a nest close to the boardwalk and guarded it regularly, always placing herself between the nest and the trail.

To protect Ida and her nest from visitors, the SFWMD and FWC thought it best to close the trails at the end of the boardwalk.

Signs indicating the trail was closed at that point were posted in the parking lot, at the start of the boardwalk, and on a barricade at the end of the boardwalk to prevent visitors from continuing.

The signs stated that the trails were closed to protect natural resources.

Ida's eggs hatched in the last week of August and baby gators were chirping in the tall grasses bordering both sides of the tram.

At least 12 were counted, but more were probably hidden in the grasses. Ida's motherly protective instincts have become very pronounced.

OTHER NEWS

With summer rains, major portions of the trails have been under water, up to 21 inches deep between markers 6 and 3, so mowing the entire trail has not been possible. Grasses are high.

A new addition to BRS came at the end of August when the water district's Big Cypress Basin installed a solar-powered water monitoring station at the north end of the ditch that runs parallel to the shell path.

Volunteer dates

- **October-November**
Assist Jessi and teachers with school field trips (*see page 3*)
- **Thursday, December 15**
Volunteer kickoff social, 6-8 PM
- **Thursday, January 12**
Volunteer training, 6-8 PM
- **Thursday, February 2**
Volunteer training, 6-8 PM
- **Tuesday, March 7**
Volunteer social, 6-8 PM
- **Friday, March 31**
Volunteer Fun Day

CREW Concert & Silent Auction

when: Saturday, February 18
time: 5:30 PM – 9:15 PM
where: Riverside Park, Bonita
band: Majesty of Rock

What should you do if you see an exotic animal

Become a citizen scientist and help FWC manage non-native species.

If you see a non-native species such as a python, boa, tegu, Nile monitor lizard, or others,

- take a picture
- note the location
- report it at www.IveGot1.org or call 1-888-483-4681 or use the free IveGot1 app

If the call is outside of regular business hours (M-F, 8:30-4:30), please leave a message and a biologist will respond as soon as possible.

Reports help FWC track the distribution of non-native species and determine if management actions are warranted. Once a sighting is verified, responses vary depending on the species sighted and if the animal is still present.

The FWC coordinates the removal of high priority, invasive, non-native animals, and staff are available to provide technical assistance for addressing or living with common non-native species.

For a list of non-native species known to be in Florida, please visit www.eddmars.org/florida/Species

On the job

Resource management/exotics removal

Do you like working outdoors but aren't comfortable guiding a group of visitors on the trail? Exotics removal could be just for you.

Exotic plants destroy native habitat. Their removal not only helps native plants and wildlife, but it also improves the trail safety and our guests' experience. After all, if you can't see the swamp or marsh because of a "hedge" of exotics, why go for a hike?

Exotics removal ranges from physically pulling a plant out of the ground to as complicated as mixing and spraying chemicals to poison the invader. Gloves, trash bags, trash cans, eye protection, sprayers, machetes and vehicles are some of the equipment that may be involved.

Knowledge of what's exotic and how to handle it is essential. Knowledge of personal safety is a must.

CREW provides the equipment and training to be an Exotics-Buster! See Brenda if you'd like to give it a try.

Smiles:

Photo Caption Contest



Engage your comic genius and submit a caption for the above photo. The winning caption will appear in the December-January edition of *The Buzzard Bulletin*. Email your caption entry to volunteers@crewtrust.org

Getting it done

"After moving to Florida, I started on exotics in 2006 at Lovers Key State Park. I wanted to do something physical, and I was trained by the rangers, including Mark.



"It was a great opportunity to explore non-public parts of the park.

"For more variety and a non-coastal environment, I started doing the same things two or three years ago with CREW.

"I also do some work on trail maintenance and have worked with FGCU students on exotics removal.

"I usually prefer to work alone so I can set my own schedule and work plan."

Jerry Hrinik

Staying connected

People

Brenda Brooks
239-229-3948
brenda@crewtrust.org

Jessi Drummond
239-229-1088
education@crewtrust.org

Web sites

www.crewtrust.org
www.facebook.com/crewtrust
www.myfwc.com
www.trackitforward.com

Good apps for smart phones

bsafe (location alert in emergency)
weather bug (radar, lightning)
iBird Pro (bird identification)
IveGot1 (report invasive species)

The Buzzard Bulletin contains notes and information by and for CREW volunteers, edited by Dick Brewer. It is published and e-mailed to volunteers six times a year (September-October, November-December, January-February, March-April, May-June, July-August).

For volunteers only...

Tuesday, December 15
 Kick-off Social, 6-8 PM
 George & Sue Luther's house
An informal gathering to meet and chat with other volunteers

Tuesday, March 7
 Informal Social, 6-8 PM
 George & Sue Luther's House
An informal gathering to meet and chat with other volunteers

Friday, March 31
 Volunteer Fun Day
 location to be determined
An unforgettable and enjoyable adventure in CREW lands

Upcoming events, hikes, seminars

Below is the CREW calendar, a way to stay up to date with events where volunteers can participate and assist.

EDU indicates an education field trip. These are hikes where volunteers can help lead and assist teachers.

A volunteer training session for the EDU trips is planned for October 1 at the Marsh Trails beginning at 9 am. Contact Jessi for more information.

ORP are outreach programs which happen off site at other organizations where we set up at table/booth to spread the word about CREW.

We always need people to help educate families about the importance of CREW or to play games with kids. Volunteers do not have to stay the entire time. Having you there for just part of the day makes a world of difference.

Volunteers/Members-only

Jan. 10: "Identifying What You Didn't See or Hear" presentation

Jan. 26: Wine & Cheese Social

Mar. 24: Campfire & S'mores

General public

Oct. 29: Wildflower Walk, MT

Nov. 29: SSS-Mad Batters

Dec. 16: SSS-Humanity of Wildlife

Jan. 13: Guided Bike Tour, BRS

Jan 21: SSS-Insects All Around

Feb. 4: Birding with Master, BRS

Feb. 24: Guided Bike tour, BRS

Mar. 4: Birding with Master, BRS

Mar. 14: Family Fun Day

Mar. 18: SSS-Murder, Mutualism, & Medicine

Apr. 1: Wildflower Walk, MT

Apr. 29: SSS-Making Wildlife Observations Count

October-November CREW Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
RED = volunteer help needed and appreciated; contact Jessi for more information BLUE = CREW program					October 1 ORP OTH-MT	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Columbus Day 10	EDU-MT OTH-CD 11	12	EDU-MT 13	14	15	ORP 16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	EDU-MT 25	EDU-MT 26	EDU-MT 27	28	ORP OTH-MT 29	30
31	November 1 EDU-MT GW-MT	EDU-MT 2 GW-BRS	EDU-MT 3	CREW Stanley 4 Hole Golf Tourney	ORP 5	Daylight Savings 6 Time ends
7	GW-BRS EDU-MT 8	EDU-MT 9 GW-BRS	EDU-MT 10	Veterans Day 11	OTH GW-MT 12	13
14	GW-MT EDU-MT 15	EDU-MT 16 GW-BRS	EDU-MT 17	18	ORP 19	20
21	GW-BRS 22	GW-BRS 23	Thanksgiving 24	25	GW-BRS 26	27
28	SSS 29	GW-BRS EDU-MT 30				

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