



The Buzzard Bulletin

Notes & Information for CREW Trust Volunteers

August-September, 2017

Volume 1, Issue 6

Changes to training, guided walk schedules made for upcoming 2017-2018 season

With the opening of the Flint Pen Strand trails scheduled for January 19, 2018, and an analysis of attendance at last season's walks, adjustments have been made to the schedules for all of the CREW Trust guided walks.

The goal is to have two volunteers for each walk: one leader and one assistant. More volunteers are needed to assist with the walks, and training sessions for walk leaders and assistants are planned.

Contact Anne if you are willing to learn and to help as either a leader or an assistant, or for more information about times and programs. Established dates are listed below.

Volunteer Training Sessions

- Sept. 1 Education/school hike leader
- Sept. 9 New volunteer boot camp
- Oct. 11 Trail Steward/Guided Walk
- Nov. 20 Intro to Flint Pen Strand trails
- Nov. 30 New volunteer boot camp
- Dec. 11 Education/school hike leader
- Jan. 11 Trail Steward/Guided Walk
- Jan. 16 Guest speaker/dessert
- Feb. 3 New volunteer boot camp

Volunteer-led Public Walks

Weekly, November– March

- Tuesdays Marsh Trails
- Wednesdays . Bird Rookery Swamp
- Thursdays Flint Pen Strand

Monthly Saturday Walks

- Nov. 11 Cypress Dome
- Dec. 9 Marsh Trails
- Jan. 13 Bird Rookery Swamp
- Feb. 10 Flint Pen Strand
- Mar. 10 Flint Pen Strand

Volunteer survey responses result in new learning, training opportunities

by Anne Reed

We're changing things up for our 2017-2018 Volunteer Training in response to data collected from the volunteer survey.

We learned a lot from you! The survey showed us that 84% of respondents read the Buzzard Bulletin, which helps reaffirm our belief that this a very valuable tool for our volunteers.

When we asked about last season's training sessions, one thing stood out: we need to add opportunities that are hands-on learning and out in the field.

Two seasons ago, the Trail Steward program began and has continued to grow. Last season, the majority of hours donated by volunteers fell under the category of Trail Stewards. That

training will continue to be offered this year and will be combined with assistant guided hike leader training, as we feel that the two topics are similar and we want to make efficient use of your time.

In May, we launched New Volunteer Boot Camp. Volunteers that are new join us for a hike where we cover content from the volunteer handbook and get to know each other.

This year, since we changed our guided walk schedule to be weekly at each trail system, we have a need for guided walk leader training.

George Luther and I are working together to develop this program which will have two parts: an online portion
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Field notes: Phase I of Bird Rookery Swamp boardwalk reconstruction completed in June

Bird Rookery Swamp was closed to the public and to volunteers from June 12 through June 30 as a construction crew from Nelson Marine replaced the eastern 371 feet, or about one-third, of the deteriorating wooden boardwalk.

The South Florida Water Management District funded the three-year project. Phase 2, the middle section, is scheduled for construction next summer while Phase 3, the final third by the shell path will be finished in 2019.

The new boardwalk is Azek composite decking, which is mold resistant and resists fire better than wood or other composite materials.

CREW Trust volunteer George Luther, Senior Recreation Planner for SFWMD Bijaya Kattel, and the construction crew finish work and inspection in the photo.

Luther and CREW Trust volunteers will maintain the remaining wooden boardwalk sections until the project is finished.



Volunteer learning...

(continued from page 1)

to be completed by volunteers at their own pace, and a hands-on portion, which will be spent shadowing another hike leader.

For experienced volunteers, we are offering a December hike and talk on invasive plants and what we can do plus a March walk to identify butterflies, dragonflies and wildflowers with volunteers Laurel Rhodes and Jane Wallace during their monthly count at the CREW Marsh Trails.

As always, these are opportunities and are not mandatory.

The beauty of volunteering for the CREW Trust is that you are bringing us your talents and many of you know what you would like to do and how you would like to contribute.

If you have a suggestion for new training opportunities, please let us know, and for more information about this season's planned training opportunities, please check the Volunteer Resource Library at www.crewtrust.org.

On the job

Removing trash from the trails

The first time that Roxie and I decided to do a trash pick up in Flint Pen, we didn't realize what an ordeal it would be. We figured six garbage bags would give us about a three hour hike.

We filled up all the bags in just under one hour, and we still had to carry all the trash back to our car parked on Vincent Road. We filled up the bags with just the trash that would fit: bottles, cans, paper. What didn't fit, we pulled to edge of trails so it could be found. What we left included baby carriages, car parts, and furniture.

We try to get back every couple of weeks and pick up more trash. It may seem that it is only a small dent, but it feels good taking out any trash.

For anyone interested in helping clean Flint Pen, bring bags and gloves and remember, until there's an organized clean up with dumpsters and vehicles to transport trash, it's a "Leave No Trace" clean up. You have to bring your bags home to dispose of them.

Getting it done



"Roxie and I both enjoy getting out and seeing nature in a natural setting. It made us both feel good when we ran into a FWC officer on the trails who was patrolling on his ATV. He commented that no matter how little it seemed like we were doing, our presence alone was enough to give the message that Flint Pen was meant for nature and not for ATV's and four-wheelers.

"We have also been on Jessi's clean up trips at both the Cypress Dome and the Marsh Trails."

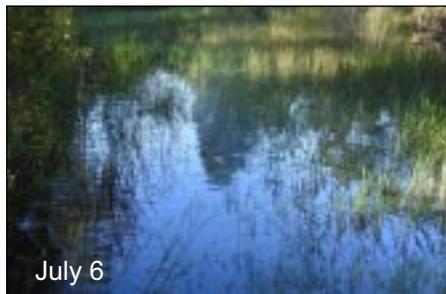
by Terry McGuan

How wet is it? June rains swamped CREW trails

After four months of drought when everything dried to either baked or damp mud, the rains returned with a vengeance at the start of June. Parts of the CREW areas had up to 20 inches of rain in just one week. As a result, all trails required wading through from six to sixteen inches of water by the end of the month.



Marsh Trails, Pop Ash Trail



Cypress Dome, Yellow Trail



Bird Rookery Swamp, near Ida's Pond



Flint Pen Strand, from Vincent Road

Staying connected

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Web sites

www.crewtrust.org

www.trackitforward.com (hours)

www.crewtrust.org/crew-trust-volunteers (volunteer library, the password is **crew17**)

Good apps for smart phones

bsafe (emergency location alert)

weather bug (radar, lightning)

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.