



# The Buzzard Bulletin

Notes & Information for CREW Trust Volunteers

February–March, 2017

Volume 1, Issue 3

## Value of volunteers, fun day recognition

We're in the middle of our busiest time of year on and off the trails and we could not do any of this without you.

For our 2016 fiscal year, you donated 5,721 hours, valued at \$132,215. That's impressive for a non-profit of our size and we are very thankful.

I know we stress how valuable your time is, but in the days around, during, and after our concert, our appreciation is tenfold.

Speaking of the concert, it's our largest fundraiser and we need your help on February 18. Last year we raised nearly \$30,000 which supported our education programs. Please consider volunteering, attending, or both.

As a way expressing our thanks, we've planned a Volunteer Fun Day on Friday, March 31, from 8 AM-1 PM.

We strive to find unique experiences to show our appreciation, and this one is truly special.

Retired circuit judge Hugh Starnes, one of the former owners of the Caracara Prairie Preserve parcel, will share stories about his family's history as cattle ranchers in the Corkscrew area.

A third generation Floridian, Starnes' stories speak of a different time, a time when cattlemen and their families lived a far different life from today's Southwest Florida residents.

Our Volunteer Fun Day wraps up the busy season by celebrating all of your hard work and dedication.

We hope you'll come, and we look forward to seeing you there, at the concert, and on the trails.



## What's new at CREW...

### Shared intern to assist CREW, FWC

Rachel Walter has joined the CREW Trust and FWC staffs as an intern and will produce videos on topics relating to both agencies. The videos will be used for public outreach and presentations, and will be shared on the CREW Trust's web site.

Rachel is a senior at FGCU working on a degree in Biology and Political Science.

At FGCU, she has conducted virology research for two years and has presented her research at several con-

ferences including the 2014 Florida Life Sciences Conference.

Rachel is currently president of FGCU's Global Medical Brigades, a service abroad organization where students provide health and dental care to rural residents of Nicaragua in an effort to instill sustainable public health practices.

She will pursue her J.D. degree after graduation and plans to practice public health law for areas with little to no access to quality healthcare.



## Field notes: Cypress Dome's unseen creatures

There's a whole other world on CREW lands that people rarely see or experience.

CREW Trust volunteer Tom Mortenson has been documenting wildlife in the Cypress Dome Trails and Caracara Prairie Preserve using trail cams to capture day and night photos of animals and birds that utilize the habitats when visitors aren't present.

During 2016, in addition to the Florida Panther, Bobcats, and Black Bear at the right, the cameras have recorded Coyote, River Otter, Raccoon, Wild Hog, Armadillo, birds, dogs, and people ranging from hikers to hunters to poachers to berry pickers.

"I remain absolutely stunned that hiking trails used often intensively by humans see so much wildlife that are otherwise hard to see," said Mortenson. "I know the wildlife is aware of us. They not only tolerate us, but they manage to live their lives of foraging and reproducing, while just staying out of our sight."



## Help needed, part I

### Help families have fun

A big mission we have for the New Year is to engage more young families. So we created two Family Fun Days that fall on Lee/Collier County spring break: March 14 and April 8. Both will be held at the Cypress Dome Trails.

We hope to have a large number of participants so we need your help in  
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### Volunteer resources

The CREW Trust volunteer library is growing every week.

We need input for the next phase where we want to develop two new wings to the library.

One will be for great resource books and the other for great apps.

If you have books or apps that you find useful while serving as a CREW Trust volunteer, please send the titles so they can be shared with all of the volunteers. Submit the title and author, and publisher if known, to Anne at [anne@crewtrust.org](mailto:anne@crewtrust.org).

The following topics are already available for volunteers to use in the CREW Trust volunteer online library, and more are being added. Access the library by clicking on the link below.

#### TRAINING BULLETINS

- Alligator Info
- Dogs @ BRS
- Keeping Up with CREW
- Lightning
- Mosquitos and Zika Virus
- Service Animals
- Trail Safety

#### GREAT RESOURCES

- list of books and field guides
- Southwest Florida nature profiles
- list of useful apps
- list of useful web sites

#### BUZZARD BULLETIN *(past issues)* PUBLICATIONS

- CREW maps, cards, bulletins
- Trail Steward job description

ALERT: The new password-protected volunteer library has moved to [www.crewtrust.org/crew-trust-volunteers](http://www.crewtrust.org/crew-trust-volunteers) password: **crew17**

## On the job

### Assisting with school field trips, hikes

The CREW Trust is fortunate to be able to offer environmental education hikes to a variety of ages. During the school year, the CREW Marsh Trails are inundated with K-12 and college students.

Most of the school field trips consist of two classes at the same time in order to fill a school bus. With that many kids on the trails, we always need help to make it a “Disney” experience.

Help with each field trip can differ. Volunteers may help lead a scavenger hike, may assist students with dip-netting, may help point out cool plants and animals, may help students test water, or just share CREW stories.

Volunteers can be trained to help lead a class, assist a teacher who has been trained, or be a helping hand out on the trail.

Any volunteers who would like to test out the waters and join a field trip or who would like to be trained, contact Jessi at [education@crewtrust.org](mailto:education@crewtrust.org).

## Help needed, part II

### Post your photos

Volunteers are CREW Trust’s eyes and ears on the trails, and some of your amazing photos will help increase CREW Trust’s social media presence.

Instagram is a great platform for quickly sharing photos with friends and followers. CREW Land & Water Trust is on Instagram and our user name is *crewtrust*. We post photos from the trails and share field trip finds from our student scientists.

We can follow you, you can follow us, and if you upload and post a photo from one of our trails, tag us in the photo or simply write #CREWtrust or #CREWtrails. Those hashtags mean we can find your photos and share them.

If you would like to set up an Instagram account but are unsure about the process, contact Anne for help. Let’s fill up Instagram with the flora and fauna of our gorgeous watershed!

### Getting it done

“When the school bus arrives, there is a sense of anticipation in the air. For many students, the Marsh Trail is their first exposure to the wilderness or a swamp.



“A few students are knowledgeable about CREW, talking about controlled burns and what a watershed is. Others are eager to learn and are fascinated as Jessi points out interesting plants or handles a grasshopper, or if they are lucky, points out a black racer crossing their path.

“For most, the highlight of the day is catching something while dip netting. It is truly a blessing to share the excitement of these young students.”

*Len Shivok*

## 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.crewtrust.org/crew-trust-volunteers](http://www.crewtrust.org/crew-trust-volunteers) (vol. library)

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.

## For volunteers only

Thursday, February 2 Volunteer training, 6-8 PM at the CREW Trust office
Tuesday, March 7 Informal Social, 6-8 PM at Anne Reed's house
Friday, March 31 Volunteer Fun Day, 8 AM-1 PM meet at the CREW Trust office

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## Help families have fun

leading participants in activities, hikes, acting as trail stewards, and being a friendly face on the trails to reinforce that CREW is a safe and wonderful place to hike with the whole family.

## What do you do

### If there are accidents, injuries in CREW

An accident occurs on CREW lands. What do you do? Here are the four steps to follow.

**Step 1: Call 911.** If you have a working phone, dial 911. Give the call handler your location, call back number and the nature of the emergency. If your phone is not working, try texting 911 (in Collier County). In the message box, type your precise location and the specifics of the emergency. Part of calling 911 is being sure that the emergency responders can locate you. Be very specific with the location.

**Step 2: Prevent further injury.** Sometimes it is wise to not move a patient after an injury. Moving them may cause additional damage. But, moving may be necessary to prevent further injury. If a person twists an ankle and

falls into a pond that contains alligators, he/she should be removed from the water before starting treatment.

**Step 3: Provide first aid.** Perform first aid only to your level of training and certification. If you hold no first aid certifications, keep the victim calm and comfortable while awaiting the emergency responders.

**Step 4: Report the incident.** Notify your supervisor as soon as possible. Collect the names and phone numbers for the victim and witnesses. Later on, put your report in writing. Complete the report as soon as possible and return it to the CREW Trust office.

This article is a summary of the CREW Trust First Aid Policy. See the CREW Trust Volunteer Handbook, Appendix B, for the complete Policy.

## February-March CREW Trust Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		February 1	EDU-CMT 2 TRAINING-OFF GW-BRS	EDU-CMT 3	BIRDING W/MASTER EDU-CMT 4	5
GW <sup>1</sup> -CREW 6	GW-CMT 7	GW-BRS 8 EDU-CMT EDU-CMT	EDU-CMT 9 GW-BRS EDU-CMT	10	GW-CMT 11	12
GW <sup>2</sup> -CREW 13	GW-BRS 14 EDU-CMT	GW-BRS 15 EDU-CMT	GW-BRS 16	17	CREW CONCERT 18	19
Presidents' Day 20	GW-CMT 21 EDU-CMT EDU-CMT	GW-BRS 22 EDU-CMT EDU-CMT	GW-BRS 23	BIKE-BRS 24	GW-BRS 25 EDU-CMT ORP	26
27	GW-BRS 28	March 1 GW-BRS	GW-BRS 2	3	BIRDING W/MASTER 4	5
GW <sup>1</sup> -CREW 6	GW-CMT 7 SOCIAL	GW-BRS 8	GW-BRS 9	10	GW-CMT 11	12 Daylight Saving Time begins
GW <sup>2</sup> -CREW 13	GW-BRS 14 FAMILY FUN DAY-CDT	GW-BRS 15	GW-BRS 16	17	SSS 18	19
Spring begins 20	GW-CMT 21	GW-BRS 22	EDU-CMT 23 GW-BRS	24 CAMPFIRE & S'MORES	GW-BRS 25 EDU-CMT	26
27	GW-BRS 28	GW-BRS 29	OTH-OFF 30 GW-BRS	31 VOLUNTEER FUN DAY		

GW<sup>1</sup>=Nature's Peace/Alzheimer's  
GW<sup>2</sup>=Nature's Peace/Visually Impaired

RED=volunteer help needed and appreciated  
BLUE=CREW program ORANGE=volunteers only  
GREEN=volunteers & members only

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