



THE BUZZARD BULLETIN

Notes & Information for CREW Trust Volunteers

October-November, 2025

Volume 10, Issue 1

NOTEPAD

Volunteer training

CPR/First Aid: Free instruction for volunteers is offered on Tuesday, October 14, at the Bonita Springs Fire Station on Bonita Grande Blvd. from 9 AM to 1 PM. Register in TiF.

Leader/sweep: Learn about the flora, fauna, and history of the trails on the following dates. Register in Track-it-Forward.

- Oct. 9 - Bird Rookery Swamp
- Nov. 13 - Flint Pen Strand
- Dec. 4 - CREW Marsh Trails
- Dec. 11 - Cypress Dome

Appreciation social

Volunteers are invited to their appreciation social from 6-8 PM on Friday, October 10, at Riptide Brewing in Bonita Springs.

Be among the first to sample a new CREW brew, and get some CREW swag too. Register in TiF.

Hunting dates

Hunting by permit in FPS north of Harrell and in CDT is on the following dates. Please be aware and exercise caution.

- Nov. 22-30 general gun
- Dec. 6-Jan. 4 small game
- Feb. 28-Mar. 1 youth turkey
- Mar. 7-15 spring turkey

BRS parking lot

Work should begin in October to enlarge the parking lot and install new concrete vault toilets. Expect construction activity and parking inconveniences during the work period.

Free guided birding

The Audubon of Southwest Florida birding hikes in the calendar are free and open to the public. Volunteers are needed to sweep or can also attend as interested birders.

Volunteers needed for 2025-26 programs

Sweeps and one **photographer** are needed for each of the following programs. Details and sign up are in Track-it-Forward.

Strolling Science Seminar

- Oct. 3 - Bug Watch - CMT
- Oct. 25 - Fall Blooms - CDT
- Nov 8 - Bobcats/Panthers - CMT
- Dec. 5 - Watershed Quality - CMT
- Dec. 14 - Geocaching - FPS
- Jan. 18 - Medicinal Plants - FPS
- Feb. 7 - Invasive Plants - FPS
- Mar. 21 - Reptile/Amphibians - CMT
- Apr. 11 - Martin nest check - FPS
- Apr. 18 - Spring Blooms - CMT

Strolling Science for Kids

- Jan. 11 - Frogs - CDT
- Feb. 20 - Life in a Log - FPS
- Mar. 7 - Herpetology - FPS

Special Hikes

- Oct. 1 - Wet Walk beginner - FPS
- Oct. 8 - Wet Walk advanced - FPS
- Nov 5 - Audubon Birding - BRS
- * Jan. 3 - Hike the Loop - BRS
- Jan. 8 - Audubon Birding - FPS
- * Feb. 7 - Hike the Loop - BRS
- Mar. 11 - Audubon Birding - CMT

A **leader**, **sweeps** and a **photographer** are needed for each of the following guided walks. Please sign up in TiF.

- CDT: 1st Wednesdays, Nov.-Apr.
- FPS: 2nd Wednesdays, Nov.-Apr.
- CMT: 3rd Wednesdays, Nov.-Apr.
- BRS: 2nd Saturdays, Nov.-Dec.

One **photographer** is needed for each of the following bird walks. Sign up in TiF.

- Nov. 17 - Bird walk - FPS
- Dec. 15 - Bird walk - CMT
- Jan. 19 - Bird walk - FPS
- * Feb. 16 - Bird walk - BRS
- Mar. 16 - Bird walk - CMT
- Apr. 20 - Bird walk - FPS

Assistance is needed at each of the following activities. Details and sign up are in Track-it-Forward.

- 2nd Fridays, Oct.-Apr., Bioblitz
- Fri., Nov. 7: Golf Tournament
- Wed., Nov. 19: Willow control, CMT

* **BRS will close** in late winter for boardwalk replacement, so programs in **red** may change or be cancelled.

Trail Work Tuesday volunteers keep it orderly

Regular tasks include mowing and weed whacking the trails, cleaning benches, putting up signs and trail

markers, and picking up trash along the way. Sign up in TiF or contact Robin for more information

Interns to assist communications, education

Claire Turner is a senior at Florida Gulf Coast University

majoring in Art with a minor in Environmental Education. With her love of art and the environment, Claire seeks to find ways to combine those in her endeavors

As the Communications Intern, Claire will assist with social media and outreach materials.



Ian Maxwell is a graduate of Florida Gulf Coast University with a

degree in Environmental Studies and a concentration in Ecology and Environmental Assessment. In the future, Ian hopes to work in either an animal or research related profession.

As the Environmental Education Intern, Ian will assist with field trips and programs.



+ First aid tip **Removing splinters**

Take the following steps to remove a splinter.

Preparation: Wash hands and the area around the splinter with soap and water to avoid infection. Sterilize the tweezers, or needle if needed, with rubbing alcohol or boiling water.

Removal: If part of the splinter is protruding from the skin, use a pair of tweezers, grab the protruding end of the splinter, and gently pull it out toward the direction that it entered.

If the splinter is fully embedded in the skin but not deeply, use a small needle cleaned in alcohol to remove it. Clean the skin with an antiseptic such as alcohol. Use the needle to gently lift the edge of the splinter and then remove it fully with the tweezers.

Use a magnifying glass if needed.

Afterwards: Clean the area again with soap and water. Apply a thin layer of antibiotic ointment and then a bandage to protect the area.

Help: If the splinter can't be removed, or if part of it breaks off and is still under the skin, or if it is near the eye, get medical help. A doctor or nurse can safely remove it.

If the area later becomes infected (redness, swelling, pus), see a doctor as soon as possible.

In case a visitor asks...

What are the bright paint-like patches on trees?

Almost all are crustose lichens.

Most lichens are shades of gray, green, or sometimes orange.

An exception is the Bubble Gum lichen, also called Baton Rouge lichen, which is the most colorful with its unusual pink to bright red color. The reproductive bodies give it the pink to red color.



Lichens are very sensitive to air pollution and are a good indicator of air quality. Where lichens thrive, the air quality is excellent.

Lichens are often referred to as a symbiosis of an alga and a fungus, an example of mutualism (see the definitions below).

The alga makes nutrients with sunlight (photosynthesis) which a fungus cannot do. The fungus

provides the alga with a steady water supply, protection from excess light, and a chance to live in habitats such as tree trunks where it could not survive on its own. They have coevolved so that neither can survive alone.

The fungus gets the most from the partnership. Basically, lichens are fungi that have domesticated algae and are practicing agriculture.

The fungi feed on the algae that they have enticed or trapped into collaboration. They suck nutrients from the algae cells, sometimes killing them. It is only because alga cells reproduce faster than they are consumed that a lichen can exist at all. Otherwise, the lichen would eat itself alive.

Definitions

Symbiosis is two different things living as one. The three types are

- **mutualism:** both benefit
- **commensalism:** one benefits, no effect on the other
- **parasitism:** one benefits, one suffers

The three types of lichens are classified by their form.

- **Crustose:** a paint-like layer (smooth)
- **Foliose:** leaf-like structure (flakey)
- **Fruticose:** shrubby or branched (Old Man's Beard lichen).

Staying connected

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www.trackitforward.com
(hours & events)

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

In case a visitor asks...

Are fungi considered to be plants or animals?

As the rainy season gets serious, moist soil and the damp fallen trees offer ideal conditions for fungi to grow and prosper. Although most fungi seen along the trails are growing on wood where they will be above the wet season water levels, some do grow in soil in drier areas.

Mushrooms and other fungi do resemble plants in many ways, so much so that scientists long classified fungi as plants, but they know better now. Where it truly counts, fungi differ from plants significantly. A major difference lies in how they eat. Plants are characterized by their ability to make their own food, using



chlorophyll, sunlight, water, and carbon dioxide. Fungi cannot make their own food. They have to consume other living or previously living organisms.

Fungi aren't animals either although some scientists consider them more akin to animals than to plants. A major defining difference between fungi and animals is that while fungi do indeed have to consume other material, they don't have stomachs like animals. Fungi have special cells that allow them to absorb their food.

So are fungi plants or are they animals? The answer is, "NO." They are in their own unique kingdom.

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Past newsletters are available at www.dickbrewer.org/CREWguides.html and scroll down

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Why do anoles eat shedded skin? (2025-Aug)
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