



THE BUZZARD BULLETIN

Notes & Information for CREW Trust Volunteers

February-March, 2026

Volume 10, Issue 3

NOTEPAD

Welcome

Welcome to new CREW Trust volunteers **Elena Basoni** and **John Sansoucy**.

Winter social

The winter appreciation social is at Riptide Brewing in Bonita Springs on Friday, February 20, from 6-8 PM.

Sample the Aquifer Ale, a new CREW brew, and get some CREW swag, too. Register in TiF.

Caracara Prairie hike

CREW volunteers are invited to enjoy a free guided hike in Caracara Prairie Preserve led by a Conservation Collier land manager on Sunday, March 1.

The hike will start at the CDT parking area. See "Events" at www.eventbrite.com/o/conservation-coller-34975243833

Bird walks

One volunteer photographer is needed for the CREW Birding Walks. Volunteers who want to attend must purchase tickets.

However, Audubon of SWFL is hosting a free birding hike at CMT on Wednesday, March 11. Volunteers are invited to attend, and two are needed as sweeps..

BRS closure

BRS is closed until board-walk construction is completed, hopefully by August. All previously scheduled walks and programs in BRS are cancelled.

Turkey hunt dates

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

- Feb. 28-Mar. 1 youth turkey
- Mar. 7-15 spring turkey

Volunteer for end-of-season programs

Volunteer assistance is needed at each of the following programs. Information, the types of help needed, and sign-up are posted in TiF.

Strolling Science Seminar

- Mar. 21 - Reptile/Amphibians - CMT
- Apr. 11 - Martin nest check - FPS
- Apr. 18 - Spring Blooms - CMT

Strolling Science for Kids

- Feb. 20 - Life in a Log - FPS
- Mar. 7 - Herpetology - FPS

Willow Wednesday

- 3rd Wednesday, Feb.-May - CDT/CMT

Guided Walks

- 1st Wednesday, Feb.-Apr. - CDT
- 2nd Wednesday, Feb.-Apr. - FPS
- 3rd Wednesday, Feb.-Apr. - CMT

Special Hikes

- Feb. 13 - Naples Garden Club - FPS
- Mar. 11 - Audubon Birding - CMT

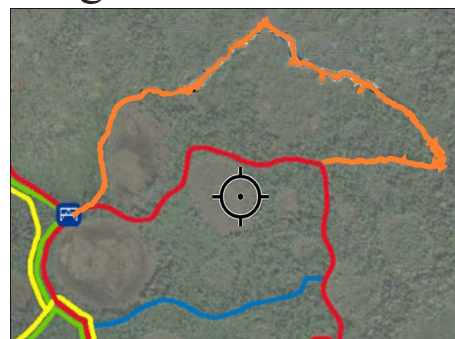
Bird Walks

- Mar. 16 - Bird walk - CMT

New trail being blazed through northern CMT

Trail Work Tuesday volunteers are working this winter on reclaiming an old service road at the CREW Marsh Trails which will become the new Orange Trail.

Although the approximately 1.4-mile trail may be seasonally wet in some areas, it will go through some fun ecosystems including oak hammocks and pine flatwoods, and it will pass by a young cypress dome.



Bird Rookery Swamp improvements progressing

The concrete vault toilet at BRS is under construction and nearing completion. It is located just west of the picnic table area by the parking lot. When finished, it will replace the porta-potties in the parking lot.

A concrete vault toilet is a durable, waterless restroom system that uses a precast, sealed concrete underground tank (the vault) to collect waste. The

sealed vault is leak-proof to prevent soil and groundwater contamination.

The building over the tank uses an air system with low and high vents and air pressure to move fresh air in and odors out.

The vault is periodically pumped out through a sealed manhole by a professional service and the waste taken to a treatment facility.



Butterfly, moth trivia

- Butterflies can see red, green, and yellow colors.
- The top butterfly flight speed is 12 miles per hour. Some moths can fly 25 miles per hour.
- Most butterflies cannot fly when their body temperature is less than 86 degrees.
- Some moths never eat anything as adults because they don't have mouths. They must live on the energy they stored as caterpillars.
- There are about 24,000 known species of butterflies in the world and there are about 140,000 known species of moths.
- The females of some moth species lack wings; the only way they can move is to crawl.
- Butterflies range in size from a tiny 1/8 inch wingspan to a huge almost 12 inches.
- Many butterflies can taste with their feet to find out whether or not a leaf they sit on is a good site for their eggs and if that leaf can be eventual caterpillar food.
- In 1958, entomologist W.G. Bruce published a list of arthropod references in the Bible. The most often named critters in the Bible are locust (24), moth (11), grasshopper (10), scorpion (10), caterpillar (9), and bee (4).

Staying connected

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(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...

Why do perched Anhingas spread their wings?

The structure of Anhinga feathers decreases buoyancy which facilitates underwater pursuit of fish. Their plumage is "wetable," not water-repellent like ducks.

It was once suggested that the function of the spread-wing posture was to dry the wings after they had become wet.

Biologists surmised that perhaps deficient production of oils from the preen gland required the wings to be dried.

Not so. The degree of water-proofing of their feathers is mostly due to the microscopic structure of the feathers and not to the feathers being oiled.

Some bird species do use a spread-wing posture for wing drying. Double-crested Cormorants, for example, have an extra layer of fine feathers beneath their outer feathers which acts as insulation. They dry their feathers by spreading their wings. Not Anhingas. They do it to warm up.



Anhingas have unusually low metabolic rates and unusually high rates of heat loss from their bodies. Whether wet or dry, they exhibit spread-wing postures mostly under conditions of bright sunlight and cool

temperatures, and they typically orient themselves so their backs are to the sun.

So the Anhinga's spread-wing posture is primarily for thermo-regulation. The wings absorb solar energy which supplements their low metabolic heat production, and it partly offsets their high rate of heat loss due to convection and (when wet) evaporation from their plumage.

In case a visitor asks...

How deep does the water get in the wet season?

Most out-of-state visitors are used to four seasons: winter, spring, summer, and fall. South Florida only has two basic seasons: rainy and dry.

Toward the end of the rainy season, there is often water everywhere, while toward the end of the dry season, there may not be any water at all.

While weather conditions each year are different, typically the rainy season begins toward the middle of June and goes through the end of October.



If winter visitors ask how deep the water gets during early fall at the end of the rainy season, have them look at

lichens on the bases of cypress trees. Cypress grow in water and bases will be dry at the end of the dry season.

Lichens do not grow under water, so the average high water mark is visible by looking at the line on the tree that shows where the lichen stops on a trunk and where the trunk is bare. That is the average high-water height.