



The Buzzard Bulletin

Notes & Information for CREW Trust Volunteers

December, 2018-January, 2019

Volume 3, Issue 2

Notepad

Welcome

Welcome to new CREW Trust volunteers Thom and Janet Martin.

Volunteer coordinator

Effective January 1, Education Director Savannah DeBarr will also become the CREW Trust Volunteer Coordinator.

Date change

The season-ending Volunteer Appreciation Day has been moved to Friday, March 22.

Volunteer social

The volunteer winter social is Tuesday, December 11, 6-8 PM, at Anne Reed's home at 20397 Torre Del Lago Street in Bella Terra on Corkscrew Road. Please R.S.V.P. to Anne before December 9.

David Cooper walk

Volunteers are invited to join CREW staff and friends of Dr. David Cooper for a walk at the CREW Marsh Trails to honor his memory on Monday, January 28, at 9 AM.

Flint Pen Strand

The SFWMD is tentatively planning to open the trails at Flint Pen Strand at the end of November or in early December

Volunteer opportunities will be discussed at January's CREW Review (see next column).

Be part of a special sharing experience...

Nature's Peace gives smiles, gets smiles

Nature's Peace at CREW is a program immersing special needs people into nature. Frequently, they would not experience the wonders of the outdoors were it not for the CREW Trust and the CREW lands.

The program focuses on those with Alzheimer's, the visually impaired and the developmentally challenged.

Nature's Peace at CREW is a short walk of about a 1/2 mile and about 90 minutes. CREW volunteers focus on stimulating the senses of the participants by focusing on things that can be touched, smelled, seen, and heard. Along the way, memories bring smiles and laughter to the participants' faces.

If seeing the wide smile of a blind person when they smell a flower, or



hearing the laughter of an Alzheimer's patient when they recall a childhood memory, or watching mentally challenged participants telling each other stories about their wildlife encounter interests you, give George Luther (860-287-2628) a call to discuss being part of this very rewarding project.

Upcoming Nature's Peace walks at Bird Rookery Swamp are on December 3, December 20, January 14, February 4, and March 4.

New for you...

The CREW Review

New this season for volunteers is *The CREW Review* which will be on January 12.

Several sessions are planned. One important one will be about everything volunteers want and need to know about Flint Pen Strand including volunteer walks and programs.

Another session will be akin to a career day where volunteers can learn about all of the options and programs available to volunteers and where volunteer help would be appreciated.

Complete details will be emailed closer to the event date.

Help needed, appreciated for February concert

CREW Trust volunteers are crucial for the success of CREW Trust's biggest fund raiser of the year, the CREW Concert & Silent Eco-Auction.

This year's *Concert Under the Stars* will be held on Saturday, February 16, from 5-9 PM at Riverside Park in Bonita Springs.

And as Brenda says each year, we need all hands on deck!

Volunteers need to inform Anne, who is serving as the concert's volunteer coordinator, what preferences they may have for helping before, during, and/or after the concert.

Where to get it

Some equipment mentioned in the *On the Trails* columns is unique for the person using the equipment. Other items are good for everyone to carry.



Green Laser Pointer: Trail Stewards and group leaders can use green laser pointers to help visitors locate what the volunteer has spotted and wants to share with them.

Be sure to get a green laser pointer and one that is 50mw or larger. Those show up best in daytime. For variety and good deals, try Amazon.com or www.laserpointerpro.com.

When using, **NEVER EVER** point the laser directly on wildlife.

Instead, point it one or two feet below or to the side and then ask visitors to look above or beside the green dot.

To help visitors find the green dot, point the laser on the ground, in front of them and ask visitors to follow the dot as it moves to the location.

Staying connected

People

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

Savannah DeBarr
239-229-1088
education@crewtrust.org

Anne Reed
419-206-8800
anne@crewtrust.org

Web sites

www.crewtrust.org
www.trackitforward.com (hours)
www.crewtrust.org/crew-trust-volunteers (volunteer library—the password is **crew17**)

Good app for smart phones
weather bug (radar, lightning)

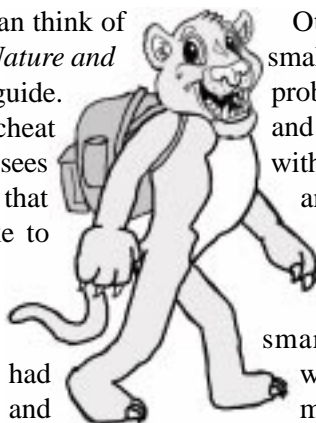
The Buzzard Bulletin contains notes and information for CREW volunteers and is emailed six times a year (September, November, January, March, May, July). Dick Brewer, editor.

On the trails: What are you packing?

In addition to water and a fully charged cell phone, CREW Trust volunteers share what they like to carry when on the trails.

The first item I can think of is our *CREW Water, Nature and You* pocket naturalist guide. I refer to it as my “cheat sheet” when someone sees an animal, plant, etc. that they, or I, would like to confirm its identity.

The next item is a good pocket knife. While the times I’ve had to deploy it were few and far between, to not have it and then discover that you need it is not a good idea.



Other good items to have are a small pair of binoculars to see any problems ahead from a safe distance and first-aid supplies within reason with the primary concern being fire ant post-bite treatment.

Although not actually equipment, it would be good to install the WeatherBug app on a smart phone in order to get live weather radar and forecasts and more importantly, the nearest lightning strikes so there would be enough time to seek shelter.

... Bobby McLoughlin



Pocket naturalist guide available



The *CREW Water, Nature and You* pocket naturalist guide mentioned above is available in the CREW Trust office for \$8. The fold-out guide identifies volunteer-screened flora and fauna commonly observed on the CREW trails.

Birding Basics seminar only for volunteers

Not sure what you are hearing when a bird calls, or are you curious about what birds can be found on the CREW trails? Join CREW Trust volunteer Barbara Centola on Wednesday, January 30, for a morning on the trails to learn

some birding basics. This program is oriented towards volunteers who want to become more birding knowledgeable.

Details will be emailed in December. Contact Anne to register.

Reminder: CREW Trust volunteer upcoming events/dates

All of the following events require registration or R.S.V.P.

- Volunteer winter social
December 11 (Tuesday)
- CREW Review
January 12 (Saturday)
- Birding Basics
January 30 (Wednesday)
- Nature Photography
February 5 & 12 (Tuesdays)
- Volunteer spring social
March 7 (Thursday)
- Volunteer Appreciation Day
March 22 (Friday)