



The Buzzard Bulletin

Notes & Information for CREW Trust Volunteers

February-March, 2018

Volume 2, Issue 3

Socials, special events, volunteer help for events listed

Weekly walks

Help is needed assisting guided walks at the Marsh Trails, Bird Rookery Swamp, and eventually Flint Pen Strand.

Trained guided walk leaders lead an informative, interpretive walk for a group of 2 to 20 visitors,

Assistant guide leaders act as sweeps and remain at the back of the group. They may walk some guests back to the trailhead if needed or remain with guests in an emergency situation. They also interact with guests and help with interpretation during the walk.

Guided walk leader training is available to anyone who is interested. Volunteers willing to help should email Anne to discuss guided walk leader training or begin the training process.

Thursday, February 1 Wine & Cheese Social

This annual social is for CREW Trust *members only*, but volunteers are needed to help with parking, guest check-in, name tags, set-up, food tables (replenishing and refilling), wine/beer service (pour and refill).

Contact Anne to sign up to help. The event starts at 6 p.m. but volunteer shifts will start prior to that at the CREW office. Start and end times for the evening vary depending on the particular job.

Thursday, February 8 Invasive Plant Walk

This walk is a volunteer training session. Walk with CREW Trust volunteers Jerry Hrinik and Peter

Tomlinson to learn what can be done to help control invasive exotic plants such as Caesarweed, Rosary Pea, Air Potato, Brazilian Pepper, Downy Rose Myrtle, and more.

Current control methods, identifying invasive exotics, and how the alien plant species differ from some of the native look-a-likes will be discussed utilizing portions of the CREW Management Area Invasive Plants Guide.

As a bonus, each attendee will get a hand-dandy laminated invasive exotic plant field guide.

The walk will start at 9 a.m. at the Cypress Dome Trails. Volunteers should bring water and a snack if needed.

Please let Anne know before Tuesday, February 6 if you can attend.

Thursday, March 8 Volunteer Social

Brenda Brooks is hosting the final volunteer social of the season at her home from 6-8 p.m. PLEASE RSVP to Brenda before March 1, and also feel free to bring a dish to share.

Directions:

1. Take exit 141 on I-75 and head east onto Palm Beach Blvd/FL-80.
2. Go approximately 5 miles and turn left onto Old Olga/Buckingham Rd (just past Dunkin Donuts on left).
3. Go 1/2 mile and take a left at the fork.
4. At the stop sign, turn left onto Bigelow Road and an immediate right onto River Pine Drive. The house is at the end. Go through the gate and park. The address is

**2213 River Pine Drive
Fort Myers, FL 33905**

Saturday, March 24

Wildflower Walk with Roger Hammer

Similar to a Strolling Science Seminar, this walk is open to the public and reservations are required to reserve a spot for the limited number of spaces available.

The cost is \$10 for CREW Trust members and \$15 for non-members. Reservations can be made at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/spring-wildflower-walk-with-roger-hammer-tickets-38672107314>.

Friday, April 6 Volunteer Appreciation Day

Plans are being made for another unique experience to thank CREW Trust volunteers for their continuing support during the past year.

Complete information will be in the April-May Buzzard Bulletin, but make a note of the date now on calendars.

Friday, April 20 Butterfly & Wildflower Walk

This is the season's final volunteer training session.

Join volunteers Jane Wallace and Laurel Rhodes and their friend Jean Evoy for an interpretive hike at the CREW Marsh Trails to identify common and not-so-common wildflowers and butterflies found along the trails.

If butterfly species are plentiful, participants may earn their first Wings over Florida certificate.

The walk begins at 10 a.m. at the CREW Marsh Trails. Contact Anne before April 18 to reserve a spot in the group.

Work continues to ready trails for public opening

Trail Update

Flint Pen Strand

Mitigation work continues on the majority of the Flint Pen Strand area.

While volunteers have recently cleared hurricane debris from the new Red Trail off the parking lot on Vincent Road and it is relatively dry, access to Flint Pen Strand is still closed.

Trail Update

Bird Rookery Swamp

The trails are still closed from the end of the boardwalk.

Clearing fallen trees and repairing washouts on the trail has been on hold until the tram is dry enough for the heavy construction equipment to safely navigate portions of the trail.

When the final clearing, filling, and clean-up are done, the construction crews will repair the deep ruts the equipment made in the trails.

Staying connected

People

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

Jessi Drummond
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 by and for CREW volunteers and is e-mailed six times a year (September, November, January, March, May, July). Dick Brewer, editor.

Concert success relies on volunteer help

The annual Concert & Silent Eco-auction is the CREW Trust's biggest fundraiser and volunteers are the key to its success. Last year's concert and auction raised over \$32,000 for CREW Trust education programs

This year's concert is on Saturday, February 24 at Riverside Park in Bonita Springs.



Volunteers should let Anne know as soon as possible if they can help and they also should let her know their t-shirt sizes. The shirt order has to be placed two to three weeks before the event.

Volunteers will have different times to report to Riverside Park depending on the task/duty assignment.



Volunteer for migratory bird field research

Volunteer help would be greatly appreciated for a mist netting research project to help determine future uses of the former Gargiulo lands adjacent to Bird Rookery Swamp.

The lands were purchased using Florida Forever funds and are now managed by the South Florida Water Management District.

A study is in its second year of banding Grasshopper and Savannah Sparrows to determine the value of the fields as wintering habitat for the migratory sparrows.

Results will help determine what mitigation efforts the SFWMD may plan for the former agricultural fields.

Participants should wear shoes and long pants that may get wet with morning dew and a long-sleeved shirt with-

out front buttons which might catch on the mist nets.

Volunteers will be setting up and taking down bird mist nets, walking in



Project leader Bob Altman and CREW Trust volunteer Rick Mears examine a Tree Swallow before releasing it.

grassy fields to drive birds into the nets, and data recording. No previous experience is necessary.

The field for the netting is opposite the entrance to Jones Mining on Immokalee Road..

People interested in taking

part in the project can contact Kathleen Smith at kathleen.smith@myfwc.com for the link to sign up on the preferred dates. Times and directions to the site entrance will be emailed to you.

If on the day you signed up, you have a problem finding the location to the entrance to the fields, contact Bob Altman (cell 541-760-9520).