



The Buzzard Bulletin

Notes & Information for CREW Trust Volunteers

June-July, 2018

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Notepad

Southern Critical CREW Update

On April 25, the South Florida Water Management District announced that the Southern Critical CREW Restoration Project (Flint Pen Strand) was complete.

The CREW Trust, SFWMD and FWC are working to install kiosks, fencing and signage prior to opening the first trail system.

The August-September edition of *The Buzzard Bulletin* will focus on Flint Pen Strand.

CREW Review

Based on input from volunteers and staff, an annual 'CREW Review' has been added to each year's volunteer calendar.

Mark this date for the inaugural CREW Review: **Saturday, January 12, 2019.**

Programs will be led by volunteers and staff and will be held each January on the second Saturday at one of the trail systems.

Essential information, updates, and news for that season will be presented to benefit all current volunteers who will be involved in any CREW Trust activities and programs during the season.

BRS closing

Bird Rookery Swamp trails will be closed to visitors and volunteers from May 21-June 8 for boardwalk repair and replacement.

Calling all wanderers, story tellers, scatologists, wilderness enthusiasts

The CREW Trust is recruiting expert wanderers, wildflower wranglers, story tellers, amateur animal trackers and scat investigators to boldly lead interpretive guided walks next season.

In other words, we need you.

A love of the trails and the many hours spent outside make volunteers the perfect people to be walk leaders.

After a short on-line training section, volunteers are matched with a seasoned walk leader who will help them grow and blossom and show them the ins and outs of their trails.

Learn some of the history of the trail system, identify some of the more common flora and fauna, and craft a

personal introduction to give before each walk.

The core group of walk leaders – George Luther, Jack Shine, Janet Bunch, and Bobby McLoughlin – dedicate their time and talent

weekly for trail guests. Below are a few reasons why they return each year to welcome and lead visitors.

For more information about becoming a walk leader, email Anne at anne@crewtrust.org.



Jack Shine introduces visitors to Bird Rookery Swamp.

“ ”

I want to introduce our guests to my backyard – its history, its diversity and its uniqueness – enjoy paradise. ...*George Luther*

CREW lands have so many interesting plants, animals, historic and ecological features, that I love to keep learning more and more about them. It is so rewarding to share what I learn with visitors. ...*Jack Shine*

I still think of myself as a 9 year-old in an old lady suit, and I love taking people by the hand and introducing them to the landscape from which we all came. We understand what we're taught, we love what we understand, and we save what we love. ...*Janet Bunch*

Sharing knowledge with those who also have a desire to explore and learn is gratifying. They are a draw for me because they often share their knowledge about the swamp and wildlife with me. ...*Bobby McLoughlin*

Opportunities to help abound throughout year

CREW Trust volunteers have a variety of options when choosing how to help.

Finding the right ones to match personal preferences or stepping out of a comfort zone and trying something new is as easy as shadowing a seasoned volunteer and seeing how well it works.

Below, opportunities 1-5 are more 'people' activities while numbers 6-9 are for those who prefer to work more on their own.

1. Lead guided adult walks (*page 1*)
2. Assist school field trips
3. Lead or assist a themed walk such as butterfly walk, plant walk, or wildlife walk
4. Be a Trail Steward
5. Help at outreach programs such as off-site exhibits, festivals
6. Help with resource management and exotics control
7. Clear or maintain trails
8. Assist with office, clerical tasks
9. Build/maintain/repair equipment

Staying connected

People

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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.

CREW Trust volunteers in action



Len Shivok, Trail Steward



George Luther, Bobby McLoughlin clearing trails



John Courtright, education guide (Soil Rocks school field trip)



Jerry Hrinik, exotics treatment & removal



Peter Tomlinson, exotics treatment & removal