



The Buzzard Bulletin

Notes & Information for CREW Trust Volunteers

February-March, 2019

Volume 3, Issue 3

Notepad

New name

Congratulations to CREW Trust Education Coordinator and Volunteer Coordinator Savannah Kushner (née DeBarr) on her November marriage to Max Kushner.

New staff

Welcome to new CREW Trust part-time environmental educator Stephanie Bravo.

Stephanie began at CREW as an intern last summer and joined the CREW Trust staff in November as a part-time Environmental Educator. Her duties include leading student field trips and assisting with other CREW Trust programs.

She is currently majoring in Environmental Studies with a concentration in Education at FGCU and will graduate in the fall.



Hunting season

Turkey hunting season on CREW lands is March 2-10.

FWC will monitor the hunting sites and post signs for hikers and for hunters at the entrances to Cypress Dome, Flint Pen Strand, and Caracara Prairie outlining where hunting at each site is allowed.

Nature Photography for volunteers

The opportunity for volunteers who wish to improve their nature photography skills and learn new ones comes in the guise of a two-part session just for CREW Trust volunteers.

The indoor session is at the CREW Trust office on Tuesday, February 5, from 6-8 P.M.

It will focus on cameras, lenses, and other essential photo gear, as well as shooting strategies for wildlife photography including framing and composition during shooting. Participants should bring some camera gear and if possible, some representative photos on digital devices

The outdoor session will be at the Flint Pen Strand trails on Tuesday, February 12, from 8 A.M. until approximately 10-11 A.M., depending on weather and wildlife.

This will be an opportunity to utilize techniques learned in the first ses-

sion with hands-on practice shooting still wildlife, animals on the run, birds in flight, landscapes, and other nature subjects.

Participants should bring the cameras and lenses they will be using for their nature photography, and they should expect to walk for 2-3 miles over a 2-3 hour period. The group may walk the Red/Horse Trails and/or go out to the lake areas. The exact route will depend on the interests of the participants and where the wild things are that day.

CREW Trust volunteers and wildlife photographers Bill Zaino and Andrew Mease will lead both sessions.

Volunteers wishing to attend the Nature Photography sessions need to R.S.V.P. by Friday, February 1, to Savannah (education@crewtrust.org). When reserving a spot, please indicate whether it is for just the first session or if it is for both sessions.

PHOTO TIP: Composition Rule of Thirds

Photographs with the subject in the center tend to be static.

Instead, imagine a photo divided into vertical and horizontal thirds. The more dynamic photos have the main subject located on one of the lines.

If eyes are visible, have them on one of the lines or as close as possible, and crop so there is more space in front of the subject than there is behind it.

For cameras with auto-focus, focus on the subject when it's centered, hold the shutter button half way down to freeze the focus, and then adjust the view so the subject is on one of the "thirds" lines.

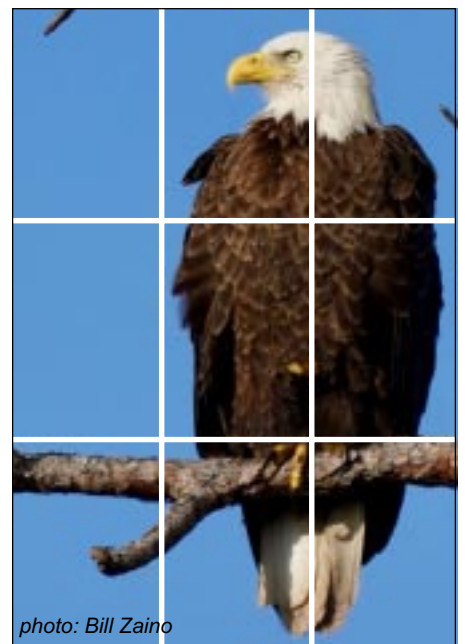


photo: Bill Zaino

For volunteers only...

Thursday, March 7

Volunteer Spring Social

Brenda Brooks is hosting the final volunteer social of the season at her home from 6-8 P.M. PLEASE RSVP to Savannah before March 4 (and feel free to bring a dish to share).

Directions:

1. Take exit 141 on I-75 and head east onto Palm Beach Blvd/SR80.
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

Friday, March 22

Volunteer Appreciation Day

Information to be emailed later.

Staying connected

People

- Brenda Brooks
239-229-3948
brenda@crewtrust.org
- Savannah Kushner
239-229-1088
education@crewtrust.org
- Anne Reed
419-206-8800
anne@crewtrust.org
- Stephanie Bravo
stephanie@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.

Volunteers' Birding Basics hike at FPS happening Wednesday, February 20

Do you know...

- that a young *Little Blue Heron* isn't blue?
- how to quickly tell a *Turkey Vulture* from a *Black Vulture* in flight?
- that at least six species of woodpeckers can be seen along CREW trails?

If you've wanted to learn more about the birds of CREW or about birding in general but were afraid to ask, join volunteer and experienced birder Barbara Centola for a morning of Birding Basics on Wednesday, February 20, at 8 A.M. at Flint Pen Strand.

While walking through the newly opened Flint Pen Strand, we'll discover



the fun of finding and identifying our local birds.

We'll focus on some simple techniques and approaches such as correctly using binoculars, becoming familiar with Southwest Florida's resident bird species, recognizing bird behavior and habitat preferences, birding etiquette and more.

There will be plenty of time for hands-on observation and practice at Flint Pen's Bird Lake.

Bring binoculars if you have them or we can lend you a pair. Also, bring your typical trail clothes and kit: lots of water, long sleeves, sturdy closed-toed shoes, hat, sunscreen, and insect repellent (just in case).

To sign up, email Volunteer Coordinator Savannah Kushner before Friday, February 15.

Volunteer help needed in February, March

Volunteer assistance is needed for the following CREW Trust programs. Any volunteers who can spare a few hours to help out, please contact Savannah (education@crewtrust.org).

CREW Concert & Silent Auction

Feb. 16 (Riverside Park)

Strolling Science Seminars

Feb. 23 (CMT), March 9 (BRS)

Nature's Peace Walks

Feb. 4, March 4 (BRS)

FGCU Field Trips

Feb. 7, 11, 12, 14 (CMT)

Ave Maria Field Trips

Feb. 5, 7 (BRS)

Soil Rocks Education Field Trips

Feb. 26, 27, 28 (CDT)

Other Educational Field Trips

Feb. 21 (CMT)

Mar. 25 (CDT)

Mar. 28, 29 (CMT)

Initial response: Making sense of abbreviations

For convenience and to save space, written articles and announcements often refer to places and organizations by their initials, as in the above article on volunteer help. Below are the meanings for some of those that are most commonly used (the SFWMD may also be referred to simply as the District).

PLACES

- BRS Bird Rookery Swamp
 CDT Cypress Dome Trails
 CMT CREW Marsh Trails
 CPP Caracara Prairie Preserve
 FPS Flint Pen Strand
 PR Pepper Ranch

OTHER

- CREW Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed
 FWC Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
 SFWMD South Florida Water Management District