



The Buzzard Bulletin

Notes & Information for CREW Trust Volunteers

June-July, 2019

Volume 3, Issue 5

Notepad

BRS closed

Bird Rookery Swamp is closed to visitors and volunteers for boardwalk replacement from Monday, May 20, through Thursday, June 20. Check the CREW Trust web site for updates.

Water, water

With summer temperatures near or above 90° and humidity not far behind, be sure to carry plenty of water on the trails. Carrying a few additional 8 oz. bottles of water for visitors in need could prevent a medical emergency.

Welcome back

Welcome back to returning CREW Trust volunteer Anne Reed who rejoins the volunteer ranks on June 1.

Wish list posted



There is a desperate need for 4x4x8 posts to mark new trails at FPS and eventually to remark all of the Marsh trails. With a monetary donation designated for posts, the CREW Trust will buy and transport the posts. Of course, anyone wanting to buy them directly and to haul them to the CREW office is certainly welcome to do so.

More parking lots coming to FPS

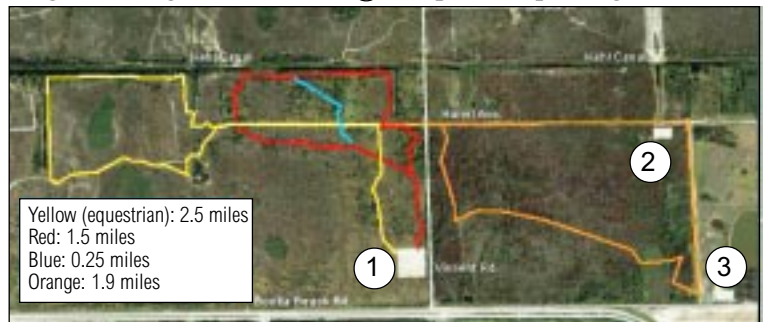
The district is adding two more parking lots to the Flint Pen Strand site.

Work is underway on a second parking lot off of Harrell Ave. at the northwest corner of the lake marshes. In addition to fencing bordering the lot, fill is being added to the sand road leading to the lot from Vincent Rd. to create a harder surface.

A third parking lot is

planned for an area at the southwest corner of the lakes which was originally used for mitigation vehicles.

- ① existing lot, trailhead
- ② 2nd lot under construction
- ③ 3rd planned parking lot



Summer field trips need volunteer help

Volunteers who can spare a few hours to assist any of the following education trips at the CREW Marsh Trails are asked to please contact Savannah.

Salvation Army Summer Camp

These field trips are led by Savannah and last approximately two hours.
June 4, 10 AM (6-8 year olds)
June 5, 10 AM (9-12 year olds)

FGCU Colloquium Classes

These field trips are led by Savannah or Stephanie and usually last two to three hours.

- June 4, 8:30 AM
- June 6, 8:30 AM
- June 13, 8:30 AM
- June 20, 1:00 PM
- July 9, 3:30 PM
- July 19, 3:30 PM

Stay safe on the trails during summer storms

With the onset of the summer rainy season, volunteers need to be alert for thunderstorms and lightning while on the trails.

The best advice is to not be on the trails during a thunderstorm. However, storms may unexpectedly pop up while people are already on the trails.

The best way to avoid becoming a lightning casualty is to be aware of an



approaching storm while there's still time to leave or seek shelter.

To that end, volunteers can check out a lightning detector from the office for use on the trails. These detectors can warn of lightning up to 12 miles away.

For general information about lightning strikes, including myths which many people accept as true but aren't, see page 2.

Summer safety: Lightning strike myths debunked, one confirmed

If caught outside in a storm, always look for appropriate shelter. Do not take chances – lightning will use people as a path to the earth just as easily as it will any other object.

Appropriate shelter would be a building or a car. If there isn't anywhere close by, then avoid taking shelter under trees. Most trees attract lightning.

If there's no shelter, assume the *lightning crouch*: put your feet as close together as possible and crouch down with your head as low as possible without touching the ground.

By making the body as low to the ground as possible and minimizing the amount of body in contact with the ground, the possibility of a lightning-related injury is greatly reduced. If a strike were to occur near a person, the current would have a much more difficult time flowing through a body.

If on a trail and there's no shelter close by, stay on the trail. Don't try to get lower by standing in water or damp mud next to the trail.

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**)

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.

Myth: Lightning never strikes twice in the same place.

FALSE. Lightning often strikes the same place repeatedly, especially if it's a tall, pointy, isolated object.

Myth: If there are no rain or clouds overhead, lightning won't strike.

FALSE. Lightning can strike up to 10 miles from a thunderstorm, well away from the rain or clouds. The sun may even be shining at the time of the strike. Listen for thunder.

Myth: Rubber tires on a car protect people from lightning by insulating them from the ground.

FALSE. Lightning laughs at two inches of rubber! Most cars are reasonably safe from lightning, but it's the metal roof and metal sides that provide the protection, not the rubber tires. The metal, being a good conductor, directs current and charge around the car where it discharges safely to the ground. Thus, convertibles, motorcycles, golf carts, ATVs and cars with plastic or fiberglass bodies offer NO lightning protection.

Myth: A lightning victim is electrified, so anyone touching them will be electrocuted too.

FALSE. The human body doesn't store electricity. It is perfectly safe to touch lightning victims to give them first aid.

Myth: If outside during a thunderstorm, seek shelter under a tree to stay safe and dry.

FALSE. Being under trees is the second leading activity for lightning casualties.

Myth: When playing sports and thunder is heard, it's okay to finish the game before seeking shelter.

FALSE. Sports activity has the fastest rising rate of lightning casualties. Reread the second myth above. No game is worth death or severe injury.

Myth: Metal on the body (jewelry, watches, glasses, cell phones) or metal on structures will attract lightning.

FALSE: Height, pointy shape, and isolation are the dominant factors controlling where a lightning bolt may strike. The actual presence of metal makes virtually no difference where lightning strikes, but while metal doesn't attract lightning, touching or being near long metal objects (fences, bleachers, vehicles, etc.) is still unsafe when thunderstorms are nearby. If lightning does happen to hit close by, the metal can conduct the electricity a long distance, up to 100 yards, and still cause electrocution.

Myth: Carrying an umbrella increases the risk of being hit.

TRUE. Increasing height by any amount increases the chances of being hit. Basically, avoid being the highest object anywhere, be it a beach, small open boat, pier, board walk, field, yard, or trail ridge.

Myth: Wearing a rubber raincoat or rubber-soled sneakers decreases the chances of being hit.

FALSE. If lightning has burned its way through a mile or more of air, which is a superb insulator, a few millimeters of any insulating material isn't going to make a difference.

Myth: A surge protector protects computers and other electronic equipment from lightning damage.

FALSE. The surge protector isn't much bigger than a piece of jewelry, and it is just as insignificant to a million-volt lightning bolt. The surge protector may be good insurance against problems when the power in the house goes off and is later restored, but it's useless against actual lightning strike damage. To protect electronic gear, turn it off and then unplug it from the wall.