



# The Buzzard Bulletin

Notes & Information for CREW Trust Volunteers

February-March, 2020

Volume 4, Issue 3

## Notepad

### Welcome

Welcome to new CREW Trust volunteers Randy Anderson, Eleanor Buckles, and Suzy McCain.

### CREW Concert

The annual CREW Trust concert and silent eco-auction is Saturday, February 29, at Riverside Park in Bonita Springs.

Watch for emails, or contact Allison for volunteer information.

The silent eco-auction preview will go live in February. See some of the items up for bid at [www.crewtrust.org/fundraising/](http://www.crewtrust.org/fundraising/)

### Full moon hike

Volunteers are needed for the CREW Trust Member Appreciation full moon hike on March 9.

Volunteers will help guide some of the walks and will help with the registration check-in.

### Purple trail

Work is progressing on the new purple trail at FPS which will connect the trails at BRS and FPS. The trail opening is estimated to be another 12 to 18 months away.

### BRS closing

BRS will close again to the public and volunteers when the final phase of boardwalk replacement begins in late May or June.

## New staff join CREW Trust family

Jayne Johnston

Jayne is the new full-time Education Coordinator.

She has a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies from FGCU and has hosted Project Learning Tree sessions for grades K-8, has been an educator for the Great Florida Birding Trail Junior Birder program, has led kayak and boat tours at Ding Darling, and is a certified interpretive guide.

In her free time, she loves birding, kayaking, riding her motorcycle, caring for her cat, and fostering house rabbits.



Jayne Johnston



Julie Motkowicz

Julie Motkowicz

Julie is the new part-time Environmental Educator.

She will graduate in May from Florida Gulf Coast University with a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies.

At FGCU, she is the president of the FGCU Food Foresters Club and works for the FGCU Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education.

Her passions lie in sustainable agriculture, environmental education, zero waste living, and soaking up the sunshine.

## Volunteer assistance needed for programs

To help, go to [www.crewtrust.org](http://www.crewtrust.org), click on Volunteer and Volunteer Resource Library. Log in (*see p.2*). Scroll down and click on Volunteer Opportunities. In the document that opens, type your name by the date(s) you are available to help.

### FGCU field trips

- Feb. 3, 11, 12, 17, 28 (CMT)

### K-12 field trips

- Feb. 7 (high school, CMT)
- Feb. 19, 20, 21 (2nd grade, CD)
- Feb. 24, 25, 26 (3rd grade, CD)
- Mar. 11 (home school, CMT)

### Soil ROCKS (2nd grade)

- Feb. 5, 6, 10 (CD)
- Mar. 3, 4 (CD)

### Ave Maria field trips

- Feb. 27 (BRS)
- Mar. 10 (CMT)
- Mar. 26 (CD)

### Nature's Peace

- Feb. 20 (Lighthouse, BRS)
- Mar. 4 (Alzheimer's, BRS)

### Weekly Guided Walks

- Feb. 12 (BRS sweep)
- Feb. 20 (FPS lead)

## Safety reminders...

### Lightning

Spring thunderstorms are always possible. Check out a lightning detector from the office prior to hiking or leading a group if the forecast mentions storms.

### Sun, heat, hydration

Carry water or some sort of hydration. Having a small spare for visitors who overestimate their stamina is wise.

Too much sun exposure is always a possibility, even on cool, cloudy days. Be prepared with a hat and sunscreen or long-sleeve shirt and long pants.

### Insects

With warmer weather, insects will be emerging. Insect repellent can deter mosquitoes but will not stop biting flies. Wear protective clothing.

### Communication

When on the trails alone or with a group, always carry a fully charged cell phone for emergency communication.

## Staying connected

### People

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Jayne Johnston

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Julie Motkowitz

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### Web sites

[www.crewtrust.org](http://www.crewtrust.org)

[www.trackitforward.com](http://www.trackitforward.com) (hours)

[www.crewtrust.org/crew-trust-volunteers](http://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.

## Bird trivia to enliven nature walks

### What Southwest Florida birds can fly but *never ever* glide or soar?

Hummingbirds. Their wings aren't designed for and aren't large enough to allow gliding or soaring.

### Why don't birds fall off of their perches when they sleep?

Birds have a seemingly uncanny ability to sleep without falling off of their perches.

They do this by locking their toes around a branch; it's automatic and requires no conscious action whether awake or asleep.

Tendons pass from the muscle at the back of the bird's leg down around the back of its ankle and to the inside of its toes.

When a bird settles its weight on a branch, the legs bend. That tightens the tendons so much that the toes are automatically pulled tight and clamped around the perch.

### What bird species found in Southwest Florida don't walk or hop on the ground?

Four species of birds have never been documented walking on the ground.

- Ruby-throated Hummingbirds do not walk on the ground, but they can shuffle along a perch.
- Chimney Swifts don't walk on the ground, but they can climb vertical walls in their roosts or nest sites.
- Swallow-tailed Kites have never been observed walking on the ground.
- Belted Kingfishers do not walk on the ground although they can shuffle in and out of their nesting burrows.

### What is the only bird that drinks water the way that people do?

Rock Doves (pigeons) can drink water the way people do, sucking it up against gravity.

Other birds have to scoop up water in their bills or beaks (*see next item*) and tilt their heads back so gravity helps the water flow down into the bird.

### Is there a difference between a bill and a beak?

Yes. A bill is used for catching things. Wading and diving birds catch fish and other aquatic prey with their bills, birds from woodpeckers to cardinals "catch" seeds and berries with their bills, and still other birds fly out to catch insects with their bills.

A beak is used for tearing things apart. Raptors catch prey with their talons and then tear it apart with their beaks. Vultures tear apart carrion with their beaks.

### What U.S. state used to be known as "The Eagle State"?

It's Florida because of its large breeding population of Bald Eagles.

The Florida legislature didn't officially adopt the nickname "The Sunshine State" until 1970.

### Where does the name *titmouse* come from?

*Tit* originated from the old Icelandic word *titr* which meant something small. *Mouse* is a corruption of the old Anglo-Saxon word *mase*, which meant a kind of bird. So a titmouse is literally a small kind of bird.

### What is a buzzard, and are any found in Southwest Florida?

Buzzard is the correct term for a family of hawks. The word *buzzard* comes from the middle English *busard*.

In North America, the term is frequently used incorrectly to describe vultures.

This may date back to the arrival of the first English colonists. There were no vultures in England, so these pioneers probably gave the common term *buzzard* to all large soaring birds.

Buzzards (*Buteo spp.*) found in Southwest Florida are

- Red-tailed Hawk (*B. jamaicensis*)
- Red-shouldered Hawk (*B. lineatus*)
- Broad-winged Hawk (*B. platypterus*)
- Swainson's Hawk (*B. swainsoni*)
- Short-tailed Hawk (*B. brachyrous*)