



The Buzzard Bulletin

Notes & Information for CREW Trust Volunteers

February-March, 2021

Volume 5, Issue 3

Notepad

volunteer training

Dates and topics for February volunteer training sessions are set. Each session is limited to nine volunteers, but if more are interested, repeat sessions may be offered.

Feb. 5, Fri: Mycology

Feb. 13, Sat: Plants

Feb. 18, Thurs: Entomology

Media help needed

Help bring CREW stories and photography to life by helping design a truly CREW-eyed-view using the hundreds of photographs taken in the CREW project.

A volunteer is needed with ability in writing, photo editing, social media platforms, and scheduling posts to work closely with Allison and Julie designing outreach materials for CREW's wide audience on social media. Contact Allison for more information.

COVID fatigue

Everyone wants COVID and its restrictions to be gone, but they aren't. Maintaining social distancing on the trails is still necessary.

When people meet on a trail, each group should move to opposite sides of the trail to pass. One group shouldn't split on both sides so the other has to walk in the middle.

Hunting season

Spring turkey season at CDT, CPP, and portions of FPS runs from March 6 through March 14.

All programs benefit from volunteer help

A variety of CREW Trust programs rely on volunteers for their success. Below are four opportunities in February and March for volunteers to become involved and help depending on their personal preferences.

Help sweep February, March trail programs

Three February and March programs need volunteers to sweep. Sweeps primarily are at the rear to keep the group together and help the leader.

To sign up, log in to Track-it-Forward, scroll down to select the month, and then identify the programs need-

ing help via the blue boxes. Click on the blue box to sign up.

A sweep is needed for the February 20 Bike the Loop program at BRS. In March, a sweep is needed for the March 18 guided walk at FPS and for the March 24 guided walk at BRS.

Help FGCU students earn service hours on trails

One of the CREW Trust education programs provides opportunities for FGCU students to earn service hours toward graduation.

In February, four sessions are planned, and CREW Trust volunteer help would be appreciated. Volunteers can lend a hand or help lead and coordinate sub-groups of FGCU students.

Weather permitting, all sessions run from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

On February 1 at CDT and on February 11 at CMT, students will be doing light trail/pavilion maintenance and removing trash along CREW Trust's Adopt-a-Road area by the trails.

On February 11 and February 23, students will be at FPS weed whacking trails, removing Caesarweed, and trimming head space on the trails.

Volunteers willing to help are asked to contact Julie at the CREW office.

Help SFWMD mow and maintain FPS trail systems

All four of the CREW trail systems have been too wet to use mowing equipment and some of the trails have become a bit "shaggy."

The Big Cypress Basin/South Florida Water Management District can budget money for mowing contractors in Collier County, but it can't in Lee

County (FPS), so it is considering renting mowing equipment. However, it does not have the personnel to do the mowing and is asking willing CREW Trust volunteers to help with the mowing. Volunteers would need to have previous experience operating the equipment. Information will be forthcoming.

Help weed whack, trim FPS whenever urge arises

Volunteers with their own weed whackers, pruning shears, or loppers are invited to attack and improve the trails at FPS whenever urge arises.

Weed whackers are available at the

CREW office, but they must be checked

out and returned on the same day in order to use them.

For occasional trimming jobs, carrying a pruner or lopper in a back pack when on the trails can eliminate minor obstructions as they're encountered.

Book review: *Mirage*

The CREW project is about protecting water, and Florida is running out of it

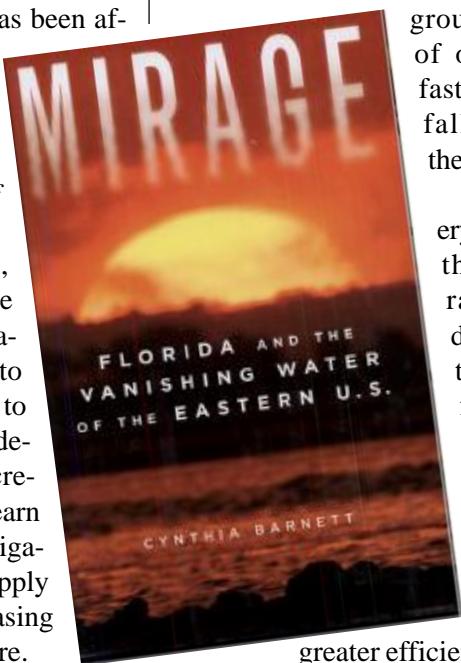
by Nan Mattingly

If you're interested in how the state of Florida's water supply has been affected by development, politics and climate change over the past century, I recommend *Mirage: Florida and the Vanishing Water of the Eastern U.S.*

It is an authoritative, well-researched history of the state's evolution from primarily uninhabitable wetlands to an agricultural powerhouse to one of the country's most desirable destinations for recreation and retirement. We learn from this compelling investigative report that our water supply has not kept up with increasing demand and how we got here.

As CREW Trust volunteers, we are aware of the origins and objectives of the CREW project: to preserve and protect our local water supply.

Unlike most other states, Florida relies on groundwater pulled up from



permeable aquifers underground. But research shows that we are pumping groundwater out of our aquifers faster than rainfall can refill them.

Almost everywhere else in the U.S., the rate of withdrawal of water from aquifers has remained steady or even lessened, thanks to conservation and

greater efficiencies in water use. In Florida, the rate of withdrawal from aquifers continues to grow.

A hundred years ago Florida's leaders believed that the state had too much water and our wetlands, including the Everglades, have suffered.

Draining wetlands has changed the climate of Florida and decreased rainfall, exacerbating the problem. Now we know that we have to protect our scarce water sources.

Mirage details the history of Florida's increasing water problems in a readable manner. For instance, author Cynthia Barnett follows the story of home owners who lost their property in central Florida to sinkholes. Some who retreated back to the north told her that they intend to return to Florida when the water problem is solved. One doesn't have to be a scientist to understand and appreciate this book.

Cynthia Barnett is an investigative journalist and environmental scientist who has been studying Florida's freshwater supply since her graduate work in environmental history at the University of Florida.

Mirage: Florida and the Vanishing Water of the Eastern U.S. by Cynthia Barnett (University of Michigan Press, 2007) is available in local libraries and on Amazon.

Staying connected

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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.

Identification tip: Approximating Bald Eagle ages

The chart below is from the Avian Report web page. The complete article is at <https://www.avianreport.com/age-and-identify-a-juvenile-and-sub-adult-bald-eagle/>

