



# The Buzzard Bulletin

Notes & Information for CREW Trust Volunteers

February-March, 2023

Volume 7, Issue 3

## Notepad

### Hike and Learn

The next volunteer hike-and-learn, with lots of fun, hands-on tools, is “Scat, Tracks and Animal Safety” on February 13 at CDT. Register in Track-it-Forward (TiF).

The following hike-and-learn is “Birds and Bird ID” on March 31.

### Soil rocks

Soil Rocks needs additional volunteers. Dates are on TiF. Volunteers will help run the small pavilion activities like birding and the scavenger hunt. No prior training is needed.

### Chronolog adoption

There are still six Chronolog units left to install: two at BRS, three at FPS, and one at CDT.

Volunteers are needed to identify the best locations, to write web site narratives explaining to visitors what they are seeing, and to install the posts and Chronolog mounts at each location. Contact Corey to help.

### Brunches back

Volunteer social meet-ups are re-starting in February and will continue on a monthly basis.

The first brunch is on Thursday, February 23, from 9-10:30 am at Sanctuary RV located at 13660 Bonita Beach Road SE in Bonita Springs. Indicate attendance in TiF.

The sites may vary each month to make it more convenient for volunteers to nosh and chat with staff. Submit location suggestions to Corey for the March brunch and for future meetings.

## Volunteer council to assist in planning

A Volunteer Advisory Council is being created to invite our most active volunteers to a once monthly discussion to explore ways to improve public access, recreational programming and trail stewardship.

It’s an opportunity for volunteers to take a more direct and hands-on role

along with the staff in planning how CREW Trust uses its resources in the most effective ways to both serve visitors and patrons while still adhering to CREW Trust’s primary goal of protecting the land, water and natural communities. Contact Corey for more information.

## Corey W. Campbell joins full-time CREW staff

Corey Campbell, CREW Trust’s new Volunteer Coordinator/Communications Director, is a native Floridian and lifelong lover of the outdoors. Since childhood, he’s spent countless hours exploring real Florida’s swamps and woodlands.

As a journalist and photographer, he created feature stories highlighting Florida’s natural history and resources.

Corey spent three years living in the Everglades while working with the National Park Service and Big Cypress Institute before forming his own com-

pany, Nature with Corey, an environmental advocacy organization supporting conservation, awareness and stewardship.

Before joining CREW, he was a Veterans Florida Fellow, researching best management practices for conservation in agricultural and aquatic habitats at the UF/IFAS Education Center.

In his free time, he enjoys kayaking where he’s an ACA instructor/trainer, gardening, and training his rescue dog, Tuck.

Corey can be reached at the CREW office: [ccampbell@crewtrust.org](mailto:ccampbell@crewtrust.org).



## Meet Rory Cushen, environmental education intern

Rory Cushen is the spring Environmental Education intern. Rory graduates this semester from FGCU with a B.A. in Environmental Studies.

He is interested in learning more about the environment in SWFL and how to interpret this information to audiences of all ages.



He is currently a Student Naturalist at FGCU where he leads field trips for Colloquium students at local parks and here at CREW.

After graduation, he hopes to work combining the areas of agriculture and the environment and finding a good balance between the two areas.

## Clip and bag time

CREW Trust and the SFWMD are asking volunteers to help control one of the more invasive grasses trying to colonize CREW trails and lands.

The invader is Missiongrass (*Cenchrus polystachios*) which dramatically outcompetes native plants and alters fire regimes.

Volunteers are asked to carefully clip the seed heads, bag them, seal the bag, and put the bag in the trash.



Flint Pen Strand, red trail

## Staying connected

### People

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### Web sites

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

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

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.

*Birds and spiders and butterflies and wasps... Oh my!*

## Eight new species identified in FPS

Eight species new to the CREW wildlife management area were documented in FPS during January walks.

Birds were American Wigeon, *below*, and Caspian Tern. Both American Wigeons observed were females.

Two spider species were a Banded Garden Spider (*Argiope trifasciata*), *below*, and a Black-tailed Red Sheetweaver (*Florinda coccinea*).

New wasps were a Three-band Scoliid Wasp (*Diesis trifasciata*), a Least Paper Wasp (*Polistes dorsalis dorsalis*) and a Fraternal Potter Wasp (*Eumenes fraternus*).

One new butterfly species was a Little Yellow Sulphur (*Eurema lisa*).

The spiders and wasps were in the vegetation along the ridge that runs north through the middle of the marsh.



### Quick ID Guide:

## Black Vulture vs. Short-tailed Hawk (dark phase)

Both birds are often in the same kettle circling above and both are similar in size. Look primarily at the wing tips, the tails, and the heads.

The Black Vulture has light only at the wing tips. The Short-tailed Hawk

has light all along the back edge of the wings. The hawk's tail has light bands while the vulture's tail is solid.

If the head is visible, the hawk's head is feathered while the vulture's head is bare.



Black Vulture



Short-tailed Hawk