



The Buzzard Bulletin

Notes & Information for CREW Trust Volunteers

October-November, 2023

Volume 8, Issue 1

Notepad

Welcome

Welcome to new CREW Trust volunteers **Dylan Carlos** and **Tom Myles**.

Birders needed

Angel will lead most of the new monthly birding walks (dates at the right), but she needs volunteer leaders when she is unable to lead in November, January, and February.

Contact Angel for information, and sign up to help in TiF.

Just for volunteers

Oct 3: Last hike with Julie, CMT
Oct. 31: Welcome Back social
Dec. 1: First Friday guest speaker
Dec. 3: Cookout/potluck social
Feb. 2: First Friday guest speaker
Apr. 5: First Friday guest speaker

Details will be posted in TiF.

Help appreciated

Join Corey and FGCU students for select projects and trail maintenance as part of FGCU's service learning program. Details are in TiF.

Sweeping up

FGCU Colloquium field trip dates are posted in TiF. CREW Trust volunteers are still needed to sweep on October 2 and 10.

2023-'24 hunt dates

Hunting by permit occurs in CDT and non-trail parts of FPS.

- Nov. 19-27: general gun
- Dec. 3-Jan. 1: small game
- Mar. 4-7 & 8-12: spring turkey

Events, programs added to calendar

Volunteer help is needed at each of the following events. Information and sign-up will be posted in Track-it-Forward (TiF).

Weekly Guided walks

(October-May except holidays)

1st & 3rd Tuesdays: CMT

2nd & 4th Tuesdays: CDT

Wednesdays: BRS

Saturdays: FPS

Saturdays: tabling/walk at BRS

Monthly Guided walks & rides

*(October-May except * Nov-May)*

2nd Saturday: Family hike, CMT, FPS

3rd Sunday: Hike the Loop, BRS

* 1st Saturday: Bike the Loop, BRS

Special events

Apr. 20: Earth Day after Hours, CMT

Outreach events

Oct. 13-16: Boo at the Zoo

Nov. 4: Florida Panther Festival at the Naples Zoo

Strolling Science Seminars

Oct. 21: Fungi & Lichens, CMT

Oct. 25: Survival of the Fittest, CDT

Specialty walks

Oct. 14: Fall Plant Walk, CMT

Nov. 4: Intro to Geocache, CDT

Nov. 11: Insects in Ecosystems, CMT

Jan. 6: Cypress Loggers, CDT

Jan. 27: CREW history, Bonita Springs

Apr. 6: Intro to Geocache, CMT

First Friday Birding Walks

The first Friday of each month from October through April, 8-11 AM. The sites are

BRS: October, February, April

CDT: November

CMT: December, March

FPS: January

Share fun activities with young students

Volunteers are needed to help facilitate interesting field trips for potential environmental scientists. To view program overviews, click on one of the dates in TiF and then the link to the overview at the bottom of the description.

Walk through a Watershed

A training session is on October 7 for teachers. Volunteers interested in helping the 3rd grade field trips at CMT are encouraged to attend.

The field trips themselves run from October 3 through November 16.

Soil Rocks

Training sessions are on January 13 & 20. Volunteers interested in helping the 2nd grade field trips at CDT are encouraged to attend a training session.

The field trips themselves run from January 18 through February 23.

Volunteer leader, sweep roles explained

Each guided tour needs a leader and a sweep. The leader provides information about CREW and the natural features on the trail. A sweep assists the leader if needed and walks at the back of the group.

Volunteers aren't leaders for school groups including FGCU colloquium

classes. Those are either CREW staff or are provided by the school.

A sweep for non-school programs is responsible for having participants sign waivers before the tour begins and then walking behind the group. A sweep for elementary school trips assists the leader at the learning stations.

Volunteer milestones

From trail maintenance to trail walk leaders and sweeps, from office work to wildlife photography, and from planning behind the scenes to presenting in front of crowds, volunteers are essential to the success of the CREW Trust and its programs.

Volunteers recognized for having passed the 1000-hour milestone are **Nan Mattingly, Barbara Centola, Peter Tomlinson, Len Shivok, Mark Benzenberg, and Bruce Bunch.**

Volunteers who have passed the 2,000-hour milestone are **Jerry Hrinik** and **Bill Zaino**, and volunteers who have passed the 4,000-hour milestone are **Dick Brewer** and **George Luther.**

Logging those volunteer hours in Track-it-Forward helps the CREW Trust show the amount of community and volunteer support when applying for grants.

Please enter all on-site and off-site hours in Track-it-Forward. After logging in (see web site below), click on the "Log Hours" box, select the number of hours, the date, and use the pull-down menu to select the activity. Log out by clicking "Account."

Staying connected

People

Bob Lucius

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Julie Motkowicz

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Corey W. Campbell

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Angel Kelley

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Web sites

www.crewtrust.org

www.trackitforward.com (hours & events, password 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.

Seasonal naturalists join CREW team

New this season will be part-time seasonal naturalists in the education department. The goal for the seasonal naturalists will be to support the elementary and secondary education programs that occur on the CREW Trust trail systems from October through April. They will be connecting the students' classroom instruction to in-the-field experiences for k-12 students along with teachers and parents.

Payton DeMay

Payton is a senior at Florida Gulf Coast University studying Ecology, Environmental Assessment, and Wildlife Biology.

A United States Navy veteran, his current efforts are focused on improving conservation efforts and veteran initiatives through photographic storytelling. He also wants to expand his understanding of predator-prey interactions and human urbanization effects on predator behavior.



Savannah Pultrone

Savannah is currently studying Environmental Education and Integrated Studies at FGCU.



Previously, she interned at Big Cypress National Preserve and was a student naturalist at FGCU. She then served as a spring 2022 environmental education intern with the CREW Trust and as since been a CREW Trust volunteer where she enjoys hiking the CREW trails.

Julie Motkowicz moving on to Lee 20/20

"CREW Trust volunteers...

"The last three years have flown by so fast, yet have been filled with so many wonderful memories and experiences, many of which I've had the pleasure of sharing with many of you.

"I really can't imagine accomplishing so much without your time, support, guidance, and friendship. The diversity of the CREW Trust volunteers makes our organization so special and teeming with collective knowledge and passion for SWFL nature and education.

"I thank each of you for giving me the space to learn and grow and continue the mission of the CREW Trust.

Fret not, as I will still be working within and around CREW, and I hope to use

my free time to join the CREW Trust volunteer army. I will miss you so, but expect to run into me on the trails.

"I will now be working for Lee County Conservation 20/20 starting in mid October as a Natural Areas Coordinator and will be assigned Lee County properties to manage for conservation and/or public access. This is an opportunity to become more involved in land management and prescribed fires.

"In the meantime, please join me on October 3, from 8-11 AM at the CREW Marsh Trails for a hike. Sign-up for the volunteer hike is in TiF."



Scat: Identify what was there by what was left behind

Tubular, tapered end →

Panthers and Bobcats leave tube-shaped scat containing bits of fur. One end usually tapers to a point and the scat is usually broken into segments.

Panther scat is larger in width and generally longer than Bobcat scat.

Both cats are carnivores so there will be no seeds in the scat.

*Panther, left
Bobcat, right*



Pile with seeds, berries →

Bear and Raccoon scat contains lots of seeds. Color and size may vary depending on type type of seeds that have been eaten.

Bears leave huge piles. Raccoon scat can be a small pile or, if the seeds eaten were small, pellet-shaped with both ends rounded.

*Bear, left
Raccoon, right*



Aromatic droppings →

Gator scat is huge and thick, and it really reeks; it turns white as it dries.

Avoid accidentally stepping in gator scat because shoes will retain that nasty smell for a long, long time.

Fresh otter scat often has a fishy smell and bits of shell or fish scales may be seen. Pellets are watery and small.

*Alligator, left
River Otter, right*



Other stuff...

In ornithology, a pellet is the mass of undigested parts of a bird's meal that's been spit or cast out.

The most often found pellets belong to owls because owl pellets are large enough to spot.

Owls can't digest bones, skulls, teeth, and fur of the prey they eat, so the owl's gizzard packs the undigested parts into a ball that is spit back up. It's not scat or vomit.



Scraping by

Cats of all sizes often try to cover their waste by scraping the ground over the area. Note the scat in the photo at the right.

The larger the size of the scrape, the larger the cat.

Scrapes do not always indicate scat. Felines mark territory with a scrape, leaving a scent for other felines to recognize.

