



The Buzzard Bulletin

Notes & Information for CREW Trust Volunteers

April-May, 2024

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Notepad

Welcome

Welcome to new CREW Trust volunteers **Patty Chiapo, Tyler Fuller, David Grinnell, and Joe Kilbride.**

Volunteer learning opportunities planned

Spring and summer learning opportunities for volunteers are in the planning stages.

Some topics are already planned, but volunteers with suggestions for topics are encouraged to send them to Angel.

Past topics have included birds, butterflies, plants, megafauna, and bugs.

Gardening

Weeding and trimming at the CDT trail head garden is ongoing and plantings are in the near future. Volunteers interested in helping should email Angel.

Congratulations

Congratulations to **David Grinnell, Michael Picciano, Tyler Fuller,** and Trail Operations Coordinator **Robin Serne** for completing the Florida Master Naturalist Freshwater Systems course.

CREW Logging

Please log in to Track-it-Forward regularly to keep up to date on entering volunteer hours.

Soil rocks Collier second graders

Soil Rocks!, designed for 2nd grade students in the Collier County School District, had a fantastic year.

Students explored the soil that supports all life at CREW Cypress Dome Trails while learning how soil type and moisture changes between habitats.

Other activities included birding, a scavenger hunt, and skull studies. Students investigated trails for signs of wildlife, learning how to identify species using binoculars and field guides.

With the help of CREW Trust's seasonal naturalists; **Savannah Pultrone** and **Payton DeMay**, and volunteer **Ralph Czekalinski**, Soil Rocks! welcomed 261 students from three different schools. Most students even walked into the marsh and cypress dome and got their feet wet.

With most of the spring semester programs coming to an end, staff is looking forward to spending time this summer planning for next year.

Trail work teams make visible progress

Volunteers in the Trail Work Tuesday Team have been busy at Flint Pen Strand. In March, they installed new parking lot direction signs which guide visitors to each of the three parking areas: Lakes, Pinewoods, and Main.

Volunteers in the Trail Work Thursday Team recently cleaned up the CREW Marsh Trails campsite, removing Caesarweed, trimming back branches, weed whipping, and clearing out sites for tents.

The remote campsite is accessed by a one mile long, four-wheel-drive accessible service road. The site is free to reserve, and there is a link on the CREW Trust web site.

Volunteers are welcome to join the Trail Work Tuesdays or Trail Work Thursdays crews. Work begins at 9 A.M. and the end time may vary.

Details and locations may change weekly. Check Track-it-Forward for the most current information.

Volunteer help needed for season's final programs

Volunteer leaders and sweeps are still needed for the few remaining CREW Trust public programs scheduled in April and May.

Information and sign-up are posted in Track-it-Forward.

Weekly Guided walks

1st & 3rd Tuesdays: CMT

2nd & 4th Tuesdays: CDT

Wednesdays: BRS

Saturdays: FPS

Saturdays: tabling/walk at BRS

Special events

Apr. 12: Nighttime Bug Watch, CMT

Apr. 27: Birding for Kids, CMT

May 26: Cypress Loggers, CDT

Monthly Guided walks & rides

Apr. 5: Birding Walk, BRS

April 6: Bike the Loop, BRS

April 13: Family hike, CMT

May 4: Bike the Loop, BRS

May 11: Family hike, FPS

May 19: Hike the Loop, BRS

FGCU service learning

Apr. 13, BRS

Apr. 19: BRS

Learn to identify SW Florida frogs, toads by their calls

Spring is the most common time to hear frogs as the rainy season approaches and a young frog's attention turns to love. Many are small and won't be seen, but their calls help identify the species. Below is a quick guide to frog and toad calls. Listen to *where* the sound comes from and *when* it's heard as well as what it sounds like.

ON PLANT STEMS AND IN TREES & SHRUBS

Green Treefrog: a nasal *whank-whank* up close; more like a cowbell from a distance. They are found on low stems, stalks and branches.

Squirrel Treefrog: a nasal trill that rises at the end. They are found higher on leaves and branches.

Cuban Treefrog: a rasping snore that descends at the end. They are found on stems, buildings, and branches.

Pinewoods Treefrog: fast typing, Morse code, castanets. They are found at the very tops of pine trees.

Barking Treefrog: a single lower note, like a seal barking. They are found on tree limbs and branches and are night callers.

GROUND LEVEL IN OR NEAR WATER

Pig Frog: a loud, low pig-like grunt, or a big rubber band snapping. They are most commonly found in water or on submerged plants.

Leopard Frog: sounds like rubbing a finger across a balloon. They are most commonly found at water's edge on the ground and by fallen logs.

GROUND IN DRIER AREAS

Narrow-mouthed Frog: a sheep-like *baah-baah*. They are found around or under logs where they prey on ants and termites; rain callers.

Greenhouse Frog: a soft, muted cricket-like chirp. They are found under logs and debris.

Florida Chorus Frog: like a thumb rubbing across the teeth of a comb. They are found under logs and debris.

Florida Cricket Frog: like marbles clicking together. They are found around margins of ponds, roadside ditches, and temporarily flooded lands.

Little Grass Frog: like tinkling of glass; very high pitched. They are found clinging to grass blades.

Oak Toad: chick-like peep (single tone); in a chorus, it a loud continuous note. They are found in grasses, fallen twigs, and leaves, rain caller.

Southern Toad: a high, musical trill (loud). They are found in grass and around fallen twigs; night caller

Spadefoot Toad: like an immature crow, *kahh-kahh*. They are found in grass near sandy areas.

Cane Toad: a slow, low, long trill; mostly a night caller. Their natural environment is sand dunes and coastal grasslands but now they also inhabit urban and agricultural areas.

Staying connected

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Web sites

www.crewtrust.org
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.

Quick ID: Southern Leopard Frog & Pig Frog

The Southern Leopard Frog and the Pig Frog are the two large frogs that are most commonly encountered on CREW trails. Both are found in or near water. Their calls are distinctive, but visual clues help to identify the two.

The **Southern Leopard Frog** is a sleek and spotted frog. Look for the light spot in the center of its tympanum (large ear circle behind the eye) and a stripe down the side starting behind the eye. The amount of green varies but the basic pattern is a light brown background with dark brown blotches.



The **Pig Frog** is Florida's second largest frog. Body colors range from light yellowish-green to grayish green to all green. There may be light blotches on the skin, but they appear to have a mostly solid coloration. If the tympanum is smaller than the eye, it's a female; male tympanums are much larger.

