



# THE BUZZARD BULLETIN

Notes & Information for CREW Trust Volunteers

February-March, 2025

Volume 9, Issue 3

## NOTEPAD

### Welcome

Welcome to new CREW Trust volunteers **Randy Anderson, Dave Craft, Bill Davis, Michael Drasba, Liz Johnson, Judi Rubin, Leonard Singer, Glen Wood, and Jack Yakish.**

### Become part of CREW's chronolog

Five new chronolog stations have been installed for a total of nine on the CREW trail systems.

Go to [www.chronolog.io](http://www.chronolog.io) and follow the instructions below to view the time lapse photos.

And when on the CREW trails, stop at one of the stations, place the cell phone in the bracket, take a photo, and follow instructions on the sign to add your photo to the time lapse.

To watch the show,

1. Go to [www.chronolog.io](http://www.chronolog.io),
2. Click the blue "Explore chronology" box,
3. In the search box at the top of the column, type CREW and press Enter,
4. Scroll down to access all of the CREW Trust chronology stations, and
5. Click the photo of the station to start the time lapse presentation.

### Volunteer social

See page 2 for information about the March volunteer social at the RAD Winery & Cidery in Estero.

### Help!

Guides and sweeps are really needed for the guided hikes. See the top of page 2.

## Identify CREW's main pond turtles

The three most common and often seen of CREW's pond turtles are the Florida Red-bellied Turtle, Peninsula Cooter, and Chicken Turtle.

The best way to distinguish between them is to look for certain identifying characteristics.

The Florida Red-bellied Turtle and the Peninsula Cooter are the most often seen and confused.

If close to the turtles, look at the tops of the heads. The Red-bellied Turtle's head has a large single stripe down the middle and wide stripes on the sides and neck.

The Peninsula Cooter's head has lots of thin pin stripes on top of the head and on the sides of the head and neck.



From a distance when the tops of the heads are not visible, look at the general shape of the shells.

The peak of the Red-bellied Turtle's shell is in the middle, roughly equidistant from the front and back of the shell.

The peak of the Peninsula Cooter's shell is about a third of the way back from the front of the shell and then it slopes toward the tail.



Those are the two main differences to look for. Others are colors on the shell if they are visible.

The Red-bellied Turtles shell has red markings on the top of the shell while the Peninsula Cooter's shell colors are all yellowish.

The Florida Chicken Turtle is smaller than the other two. For the Chicken Turtle, look at the front legs which have a wide yellow band that the others do not.

Also, look under the back of the turtle's shell. There are strong vertical stripes ("striped pants") that the others do not have.



## Praying Mantis mating myth debunked

**Myth:** The female praying mantis always ensures that her mate's first time is his last time. She bites the male's head off in the middle of sex and devours the rest of his carcass before he has a chance to pull out.

**Fact:** Much of what people knew about praying mantis sex came from observations made of them confined in small tanks under bright lights with people watching their every move all of the time.

Entomologists soon realized that this was the exact opposite of where most mantises would normally mate, which would be under cover and protected from the prying eyes of opportunistic predators and those of the scientists trying to study them.

So researchers placed hidden cameras in natural surroundings to film mantises mating. Then, they found the male was attacked and eaten only once in 69 observations of mating behavior, and only then because that particular female was really hungry. It had nothing to do with mating.

## Winery, cidery site for next volunteer social

The next volunteer social is planned for March 12 at the RAD Winery & Cidery on Corkscrew Road in Estero. Information and registration are posted in Track-it-Forward.

## Bat & bug watches, hikes, socials for CREW Trust members

Volunteers who are also CREW Trust members are invited to attend all members-only programs.

Information and registration is at [www.eventbrite.com/cc/members-only-2759009](http://www.eventbrite.com/cc/members-only-2759009)  
Feb. 13: Sunset hike, FPS  
Feb. 19: Member appreciation social  
Mar. 14: Full moon night hike, CMT  
Mar. 29: New Moon Bat Watch, CMT  
Apr. 5: Member meeting, office  
Apr. 19: Morning Roll & Stroll, BRS  
Apr. 25: Nighttime Bug Watch, CMT

## Turkeys beware!

Two hunting dates remain in CDT and part of FPS.

Feb. 22-23 youth spring turkey  
Mar. 1-9 spring turkey

## Staying connected

### People

Bob Lucius  
831-236-5518  
[rlucius@crewtrust.org](mailto:rlucius@crewtrust.org)

Piper Jones  
239-229-1088  
[education@crewtrust.org](mailto:education@crewtrust.org)

Robin Serne  
919-649-7158  
[robin@crewtrust.org](mailto:robin@crewtrust.org)

Trish Schranck  
239-657-2253  
[ee@crewtrust.org](mailto:ee@crewtrust.org)

### 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.

## Program success relies on volunteer help

Volunteers are needed to help at a walk or presentation and are invited to get a closer look at flora, fauna, and everything in between.

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

Please check regularly for any changes to the schedule in case of inclement weather, and look for additions of pop-up events to the calendar.

### Sweeps needed, Strolling Science Seminars

*All programs begin at 9AM unless otherwise noted.*

Feb. 15: Biodiversity, CMT  
Mar. 15: Blooms at Sunset, CMT  
Apr. 5: Arachnids, CMT  
Apr. 12: Bird Science, BRS, 8AM

### Sweeps needed, Kids Strolling Science Seminars

*All programs begin at 9AM*

Feb. 1: Life in Logs, FPS  
Feb. 8: My First Hike Tips, CMT  
Mar. 1: Herpetology, FPS

### Help needed, In Town Lectures

Feb. 26: FPS Restoration  
Mar. 19: Trail Cams for Backyards

### Leaders, sweeps needed, weekly walks

*November-April except holidays*  
Wednesdays: BRS  
Thursdays: alternate CMT-CDT-FPS  
3rd Saturdays: BRS

### Sweeps needed, bird walks

Feb. 17: Songbird migration, BRS  
Mar. 12: Swallow-tailed Kites, CDT  
Apr. 9: Spring migration, FPS

### In case a visitor asks...

## Why do some plants bear fruit while others of the same species don't?

The answer has to do with how the plants reproduce.

Some species have individual plants that are distinctly male or distinctly female. On these plants, only the female plant will produce seeds or fruit.

The fancy word for this type of plant is *dioecious*, which comes from the Greek for "two households." Examples of dioecious species in CREW include Dahoon Holly, Coastal Plain Willow, Wax Myrtle, and Groundsel.

Other species which have both the male and female reproductive structures (flowers, pollen, seeds, cones, etc.) on a single plant are called *monoecious*.

Most trees are monoecious. Common CREW monoecious trees include Slash Pine, Live Oak, and Bald and Pond Cypress.

The male cones on Slash Pine and Bald Cypress trees are tassel-looking and grow toward the tops of trees. The female cones are rounder and larger and grow lower on the tree.

In the illustration, the cypress cones are at the top and the pine cones are at the bottom. Male cones of each are at the left and the female cones are to the right.

The male cones produce pollen which drifts down or is blown by the wind onto the female cones on the same plant or onto female cones on neighboring plants.

When a plant species is dioecious, at least one male plant must be present near female plants in order for the fruit-bearing female plants to be pollinated.

People who buy a single dioecious species at a garden store and expect it to bear fruit will be disappointed, because dioecious species cannot

self-fertilize.

They would need to buy more than one plant and be lucky to have purchased both a male and a female plant.

Most animal species including birds, reptiles, and mammals are dioecious although the term *dioecious* is typically used only for plant species.

