CREW LAND & WATER TRUST

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

CREWTrust.org
**A WORD FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

Change. Regardless of how it affects us or how we perceive it, one of the constants in life is change. This year there have been many positive and negative changes in all of our lives, but because of our outstanding partners, dedicated volunteers and hardworking staff, the CREW Trust continues to be a positive part of people's lives in Southwest Florida.

Whether we're providing and maintaining miles of beautiful recreational trails for a public hungry to get into the peace and quiet of the natural environment, providing outdoor educational and recreational hikes so that people of all ages can enjoy, or providing protection and maintenance for the 60,000-acre Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed (CREW) - the CREW Trust has continued to illustrate the importance and popularity of its mission with outstanding visitation at all its trails.

Next year will certainly bring more change, but with your help CREW's popularity and success will continue to grow. So, everyone stay safe and let's all continue to work together to take care of the place that continues to take such good care of us all, mentally and physically, the CREW Trails!

Hope to see you on the trails!!

**BEN NELSON**

**CREW TRUST CHAIRMAN**

---

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Executive Committee**

- Ben Nelson, Chairman
- Nelson Marine Construction
- Brian Farrar, Vice-Chairman
- BCF Management
- Rick Barber, Secretary
- Agnoli, Barber, & Brundage
- Doug Machesney, Treasurer
- CREW Trust member
- Lisa Korte, National Audubon Society
- Bill McDaniel
- Collier County Commissioner
- Bill Hammond
- Natural Context
- John Jenkins
- Bonita Springs Utilities
- Ken Passarella
- Passarella & Associates

**CREW Trustees**

- Wayne Bauman
- CREW Trust Member
- Marisa Carrozzo
- Conservancy of Southwest Florida
- John Cassani
- Calusa Waterkeeper
- Desmond Duke
- Ecoresolve
- Chauncey Goss
- SFWMMD
- billy Gunnels
- FGCU
- Cullum Hasty
- CREW Trust member
- Mitch Hutchcraft
- King Ranch
- Steven Kissinger
- Gulfcoast Philanthropic Solutions
- Ray March
- Collier Enterprises
- John Mathes
- Mathes Realty
- Jerry McPherson
- Community of Bonita Bay
- Bob Rosier
- Rosier Insurance
- Kevin Ruane
- Lee County Commissioner
- Matt Taylor
- Everglades Golf Course
- Superintendents Association
- Tom Taylor
- Hole Montes, Inc.
- Clarence Tears
- CREW Trust member
- Brenda Thomas
- FGCU
- Steve Walker
- Lewis, Longman & Walker, P.A.
Environmental Education
We’re still finding our new norm through the pandemic, reaching various audiences using different educational methods. Connections with our CREW neighbors were made by offering hikes and presentations for communities, where locals and seasonal residents alike learned the importance of the CREW wetlands just beyond their backyards.

More than 1,600 FGCU students stepped outside their classroom to spend a few hours in the outdoor classrooms of CREW to enjoy a few hours on CREW trails for field trips and to volunteer. Our 2nd and 3rd grade programs for Collier County public schools pivoted this year to ensure education and public access continued via outreach and special programs.

Our 73 COVID-friendly guided programs garnered a steady stream of visitors to the trails, providing education about the broad impact of ecology and hydrology on the CREW lands. We welcomed the rainy season with four wet walks, ranging in difficulty for all skill levels and ages - from Appalachian Trail hikers to brand new Floridian residents.

We expanded our social media presence with “follow along” hiking videos, photos of wildlife, and our crowd engagement favorite - NEW CREW Trust trivia.

Aside from the 60,000 visitors to the CREW Trails, we measure the success of our programs in many ways, including many “I never knew that” statements, the saturation of hiking boots, or wide-eyed “whoa” exclamations. Our programs almost always ended with one or many “this was my first time...”, reminding us that every moment spent connecting our community to CREW is time well spent, cultivating stewards of the environment and a sense of belonging.

Volunteers
Our CREW Trust volunteers continue to be the backbone of our nonprofit. Our volunteers contribute as board members, trail stewards, project coordinators, photographers, and guides, immeasurably supporting our efforts. They generously contributed over 4,500 hours this past year and continue to help us in every aspect of what we do. Volunteer efforts focused on trail signage and marker replacement, trail maintenance and guided programs this past year. Our volunteers also continued to learn more by attending specialized training, covering a number of topics from bugs to megafauna. Everyone wins since they love to share their knowledge with those they interact with on the trails.

Our partnership with Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) continues to thrive. Their students volunteered 1,104 hours, in addition to our FGCU interns who volunteered an additional 260 hours. Their time at CREW not only enhances their classroom experience but helps them to explore career opportunities. Our nearly 20-year partnership with FGCU and ongoing CREW Trust volunteer program is instrumental to completing our mission and fundamental to our positive footprint in the local community.

JULIE MOTKOWICZ
CREW TRUST EDUCATION COORDINATOR

ALLISON VINCENT
CREW TRUST COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR & VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Walk through a Watershed program, NEW Purple Trail at CREW Flint Pen Strand, FGCU Colloquium hike.
Prescribed Fire
The SFWMD was able to prescribe fire for 1,806-acres within the CREW lands during the last year, with significant assistance from Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). We conducted 19 prescribed burns with a concentration in the Flint Pen Strand Unit. Some of these areas had never experienced a prescribed fire. Eleven burns were conducted in the growing season when ecological benefits are the greatest.

FWC funded a 16-acre shredding project in Corkscrew Marsh in May. The intent of this management action is to reduce trees and shrubs (specifically willow) and encourage wetland herbaceous (weeds and grasses) plants. We can then use prescribed fire to maintain it.

Recreation Facilities
Maintenance continued including the Bird Rookery Swamp boardwalk where approximately 20 feet of infrastructure failure was repaired. Upgrades were made to the entrance fencing of the Lakes Parking lot in Flint Pen Strand.

The CREW Management Area 10-year Management Plan is in the final stages of development. Once the plan is approved it will guide our management actions through 2032.

Exotic Plant Control
Controlling exotic plants continued with treatment of 1,241-acres this past year. Our focus was on downy-rose myrtle (232-acres), Lygodium (188-acres treated), torpedo grass (102-acres), Melaleuca (143-acres) and Brazilian pepper (209-acres). We are planning to expand our treatments in Flint Pen Strand this upcoming year.

One of our most exciting accomplishments this year was connecting our two most popular trail systems, CREW Bird Rookery Swamp to Flint Pen Strand via the Purple Trail. Providing recreational opportunities and education is our way of connecting you with CREW and inspiring love and appreciation for this invaluable watershed.

As I reminisce, certain dates stand out. Our first trail system, the CREW Marsh Trails, opened in 1994. Twenty-four years later, in 2018, we opened the CREW Flint Pen Strand Trails. Now we have four trail systems open for public recreation, showing how much can be accomplished with such great partners who share a collective vision.

We were excited to add some biocontrol measures to our arsenal to reduce exotic plants this past summer. We released 40,000 Neomusotima conspurscatalis moths and 63,000 Floracarus perrepeae mites in Bird Rookery Swamp and Corkscrew Marsh. These insects feed on Lygodium and should help us in our endeavors to reduce this invasive plant species.
FINANCES

Revenue $373,219

Net Assets $1,729,338

Expenses $238,436

How was your $1 used?

Net Income $134,783

LAND ACQUISITION

Total Acres in Preservation: 54,579 acres

Land (acres) held by CREW Trust

- In Collier County: 997
- *Includes 367 acres in partnership with Collier County

CREW Project Partners

- South Florida Water Management District
- Lee County 20/20
- Conservation Collier
- National Audubon Society (CSS)
- CREW Trust
In April 2021, FWC conducted a gopher tortoise survey in an 82-acre recently burned area of the Corkscrew Marsh unit of CREW. The objective of the survey was to estimate population size, density, and distribution of gopher tortoises. Gathering baseline data on gopher tortoise populations at CREW allows biologists to monitor long-term trends in population, density, and sustainability over time.

Gopher tortoise burrows located on and near established transects were scoped with a burrow camera to determine if tortoises were present. A total of 88 burrows were located and scoped, and we found 16 tortoises, all in burrows. The tortoise density estimate was 0.60 tortoise/hectare with an abundance estimate of 20 tortoises. Sixty percent were adult burrows, which are greater than 23cm in width, whereas 40% were juvenile tortoise burrows. Few commensal species were observed including: one unidentified mouse, one unidentified anole, one Southern toad (Anaxyrus terrestris) and two unidentified frogs, along with multiple spiders. Five burrows had what appeared to be nesting material, leaves and twigs, at the end of the burrow. We could not have completed this survey without the assistance and hard work of the CREW Trust staff and volunteers. Thank you!

Additional wildlife monitoring surveys included swallow-tailed kite nest monitoring, breeding bird surveys, sparrow mist netting and banding surveys, acoustical frog surveys (Frog Watch), passive frog call monitoring data analysis, freshwater fish surveys, bat acoustical surveys, and game camera monitoring. Habitat management projects included bat box installation and monitoring, bluebird box monitoring, trail maintenance, shredding of Coastal plain willow in the CREW Marsh, bi-annual photo monitoring, and assistance with prescribed burning.

2021 CREW Gopher Tortoise Full Survey

KATHLEEN SMITH & LAUREN PLUSSA
FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION BIOLOGISTS
THANK YOU TO OUR CREW TRUST MEMBERS

Preserver ($5000+)
Janet & Bruce Bunch
Morris & Ami Gieselman

Woodstork ($2000)
Bonita Springs Utilities - John Jenkins

Southern Bald Eagle ($1000)
Walter & Gayle Corbin
Florida Gulf Coast University
Tom & Judy Maish
Nan Mattingly
Cathy Pomanti
Len & Hanna Shivok
Royal Poinciana Golf Club - Matt Taylor
Lewis Longman & Walker, P.A. - Steve Walker

Swallow-tailed Kite ($500)
Environmental Restoration Consultants, Inc - Jeff Adair
Wayne Bauman
Brenda Brooks & Rick Solveson
Barbara Centola & Don Drew
John & Marcia Cochenour
Bonita Grande Aggregates - Ned Dewhirst
Oakbrook - Ned Dewhirst
Jim & Judy Dorsey
Ebuff Dove
Ecoresolve - Desmond Duke
BCF Management Group, LLC - Brian & Christine Farrar
Layne Hamilton
Keith & Deb Hanson
Virginia & Charles Huether
Jack & Diane Keager
Michael Lund & Allison Nist
Doug & Carolyn Machesney
Collier Enterprises Management, Inc. - Raymond March
Thomas Meath
Hole Montes, Inc. - Bob Mulhere
Panther Island Mitigation Bank
Passarella & Associates, Inc. - Ken Passarella
Jay & Sally Peacock
Dave Perkins
Rosier Insurance - Bob Rosier

Ghost Orchid ($100)
Bob Altman & Carol Schuler
Diane & Steve Augustus
Rick & Darlene Barber
Susan & John Barreiro
Jim & Kathy Bartl
Joslyn & Ed Becker
James & Lisa Beever
Kelly & Ben Bishop
Jeanine Brakefield
Dick Brewer
Ruth Brooks
Dottie Brown
Thomas B Caraco
Mary Kay Cassani
Ron & Beth Cooper
Deborah Corey
Everglades Day Safari - Pete & Malena Corradino
John & Beth Courtright
Chris & Janice Cubbison
Wayne & Marti Daltry
Ardan, L.L.C. - Dan
Dannenhauer
Dave Darrah
Joann Davis
Fred Davis
DeRoos2 Contracting & Renovations - Kris DeRoos
TDC Consulting Group - John Driscoll
Jessica Drummond
John & Nancy Elting
Linda Kay Fahnstock
Ciro Farina & Joan Buck
Karla Fleming
Lou Forster
Mary Ellen Frazier
Paul Grandpré
Patricia Green
Bill & Linda Griffith
Dr. & Mrs. Charles Gunnels
Sandra Hadler
Turrell, Hall & Associates - Timothy Hall
Larry Hannah & Michele Towey
Bette Harig
State Farm - Buzz Hill
Jerry Hrinik
City of Bonita Springs
King Ranch - Mitch Hutchcraft

Sanibel-Captiva
Audubon Society
Tony Varhach
Allison Vincent
Elizabeth Voilkmann
Jeffrey Wahl
Janet Watson
Michael Winship
Bill & Linda Zaino

Bobcat ($50)
Eric & Michele Ambler
Cathy & Don Balas
Eric & Rita Bauer
George Bauernfeind
Janet Blankenhorn
Timothy & Florence Blewett
Elizabeth Bruce
Laura Coglan
Phil & Debby Denham
Mary & Barry Donaldson
Kelly Ducharn
Gary Dumas
Living Well Chiropractic - Dr. Vivian Ebert
Chris Ehrenbard
Elli Emmanuel
Terry & Bruce Galloway
Bruce & Janet George
Kathleen Ginnow
Dawn Grundeman
Bill & Rosemarie Hammond
Jim Heflich & Patty Kellner
Bill Helfferich
Mason Hjelle
Heather Holl
Robert Humphries
Wade & Vicki Huston
Tom Johnston
Pamela Jones-Morton
Ray & Kristen Judah
Paul Julian
Paul Kagan
Harold Keyes
Larry & Judy Kline
Jed Krohnfeldt
Ken La Macchia
Walter Laba
Tom & Lorraine Langan
Katie Leone & Jason Farrell
THANK YOU TO OUR CREW TRUST MEMBERS

**Bobcat cont. ($50)**
Philip Lester
Mrs. Neena Lurvey
Erin Lyon
George Magee
Mike Duever & Jean McCollom
Mark McLoughlin
Tracy & Karen Merrick
Kristin & Patrick Meucci
Ronald Mize
Gretchen Monti
Stella Myers
Klara & Steve Nagy
Tom & Denise O’Grady
Kim Olson
Ed & Rosemarie Paull
Elaine & Allan Piler
Ricky & Tony Pires
Julie Rose
Leslie Sanderson
Lorraine Schmaier
William & Lynne Schutz
Michael Seef & Bonnie Michaels
Robert Seles
John Shepherd & Rebecca Ditgen
David Sherman
Peter Sidell
James & Darlene Sidie
Bill Spikowski
Rick & Jane Steele
Sabine Vandenhende
Jo-Ellen Vernali-Knoerl
Brynn Wolcott

**Family ($35)**
David Ackley
David Adams
Jennifer Baima
Marilyn Baird
Kamal Barnes
Bruce & Margaret Bates
Kevin Beres
Jack Berninger
Paul Bishop
Arthur Blatt
Karen Bledsoe
Charlotte Blitt
Peter Borowitz
Rebecca Boyd
Darren Brittain
Filomena & Joe Cardinale
Robert Cicco
Jonathan Dean
Nora Demers
Jim Dorsey
Patrick Doyle
Diane Early
Eileen Eliot
Michael Ferren
Roberta Fleischman
Doug Foster
Leslie Frick
Guy Genin
Debra Giambro & Luis Carride

Pat Giller
Robert & Judy Graber
Al & Maree Gregoire
Phyllis Gresham
Natalie Healey
Sandy & Mike Hollehorst
Karen Hopper
Keri Johns
Dick & Diane Johnson
Hans Johnson
Josh Kaplan
Erika Klein
Kratz Family
Larry Kruhm & Kathryn Bale
John LaRosa
Larry & Marcia Leider
Susan Levine
Carolyn & Peter Leyon
Shira & Ronald Linden
Bernd Lohner
Paul Loiselle
George & Susan Luther
Ken & Connie Magura
RoseLynn & David Malarek
William Marcy
Jim Markey
Pat & Tony Mauriello
Maureen McFarland
Rick McGrath
Bobby & Patty McLoughlin
Julie Mendenhall
Sally Meyers
Victoria & Ben Moore
Richard & Theresa Moore
Arnold & Deborah Most
Judy Niles
William Parsley
Lauren & Kyle Plussa
Bill & Lourie Rapport
Art Ritas & Susan Calkins
Joyce & Jim Ritterbusch
Richard Rohn
Gary & Bernice Schmelz
Rich Sauser
Robert Sidla
David & Cheryl Tanner
Jaime Theobald & Olaf Elander
Michael & Debra Tosca
Ron & Gaylene Vasaturo
Richard & Milla Voellinger
Paul & Brad Washa
John & Dee Wharton
Ernie Winn

**Individual ($25)**
Louis Albrecht
Rosemary Allen
Monika Barthel
Craig Bennington
Michael Bittner
MaryAnn Bohannon
Kathy Broyard
Alain Monbaron
Stacy Moody
Brad Preston
Anne Rapp
Christopher Reed
Wendy Rex
Lynne Roth
Kathleen Smith
Elan Solveson
Jeffrey Stash
Louise Taylor
Clarence Tears
Mary Wade
Paul Weiss
Ilse Zeigler

THANKS TO OUR CREW STANLEY HOLE GOLF TOURNAMENT SPONSORS

Agnosti, Barber & Brundage, P.A.
Bayer
Bonita Bay Club
Bonita Springs Utilities
Burrows Turfgrass Services
Bushwood Tree Co
Chauncey & Allison Goss
Clarke Construction Group
Collier Paving and Concrete
Eagle Design/Build, Inc

Ecoresolve
ECCSA
Florida Gulf Coast University
GCID, Inc
Glase Golf, Inc.
Golden Golf Services
Golf Ventures
Harrell’s Inc.
Henderson, Franklin, Starnes & Holt, P.A.

Hole Montes
Lewis Longman & Walker, P.A.
Mark H. Muller, P.A.
Michael Hole
MJS Golf Services
O'Donnell Landscaping
Panther Island Mitigation Bank
Passarella & Associates
Pension Financial
Royal Poinciana Golf Club

RWA Engineering
SiteOne Landscape Supply
Southern Soils
Stahlman-England
Syngenta
The Club at Olde Cypress
Turf Equipment Solutions
Vision Landscapes
Wesco Turf
Woodward, Pires & Lombardo, P.A.