

Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed (CREW) Site Visit

Webpage: www.crewtrust.org

Podcast: Check out the website for a 5 minute audio file, detailing the site.

Directions: Take Ben Hill Griffin Blvd. south to Corkscrew Road. Turn LEFT (east) on Corkscrew; Take Corkscrew until it turns north and becomes Co Rd 850; Stay on Co Rd 850 until you come to the CREW properties. There are several gates: Gate 1 is LAST – with a sign that marks the entrance for the CREW Marsh Trail System – look for the stop sign on the exit part of the entrance road. There is no sign for it on Co Rd 850. I will meet you there. CARPOOL!!! (Note: meet at the CREW Marsh Trailhead. There should be a small “CREW” sign by the parking lot to give you something to look for....the parking lot is VERY easy to drive by!)

Tasks: As you visit the location today, pay attention to the naturalist and listen to what she has to tell us. When you summarize the trip in your Nature Journal, answer the following questions in detail. Anything else you want to write about is encouraged.

- What is a watershed?
- What is an ecotone?
- Why is the Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed so important to this region?
- Were boundaries between the different ecosystems clearly delineated? What factors determined these boundaries? ... or, ... What factors determined which ecosystem occurred where?
- Describe, in detail, how soils, elevation, and hydroperiods are different from one ecosystem to another.
- What natural service(s) does this area provide?
- Describe the ecosystem types we visited.
- Name 5 plant species you saw and list the distinguishing features for each one.
- Name 5 animal species you saw and list the distinguishing features for each one.
- Are you “better off” for having visited this area?
- Explain how you connected to nature today.

CREW Species List

- You need to read and familiarize yourself with the “Habitats” section of the Audubon field guide (pp. 28 – 47)

- Cabbage Palm / Sabal Palm (p. 106 – state tree of Florida)
- Slash Pine (p. 94)
- Saw palmetto (p. 107)
- American Beautyberry (p.134)
- Coastal Plain (or Carolina) Willow (p. 135)
- Sawgrass (p. 187)
- Pickeralweed (p. 182)
- Dahoon Holly (p.121)
- Red Maple (p. 103)
- Live Oak (p. 99)
- Blood Lichen (p. 83)
- Wild Coffee (p. 124)
- Red-shouldered Hawk (p. 317)
- Florida Panther (p. 374)
- White-tailed deer (p. 375)