



## Central West Region Update

Below are FMNP classes and other interesting opportunities and events coming up in your area. The inclusion of any non-FMNP event does not necessarily constitute an endorsement by the FMNP or University of Florida IFAS. Please consult the announcements below for contact information to get details about events and FMNP classes. Please DO NOT REPLY to this message. Contact and Unsubscribe links are at the bottom of the newsletter.

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### 1. Pinellas County Coastal Systems Class

**July 11 - 18, 2011**

Registration closes July 5, 2011  
(Course Code: cs11-19)



#### Facility Information

Honeymoon Island State Park: Osprey Center (not "Nature Center")  
1 Causeway Blvd, Dunedin, FL 34698

#### Instructor Information

Jeanne Murphy, Wildlife Biologist and Brian Lane, Ecologist  
Organization: Sensing Nature, LLC  
Phone: 727-397-2306  
Email: [jmurphy@sensingnature.com](mailto:jmurphy@sensingnature.com)  
Website: [www.sensingnature.com](http://www.sensingnature.com)

### 2. FMNP Instructors Recognized

#### Duval County Master Naturalist Program Receives Outstanding Environmental Achievement Award

Duval County Extension instructors Brad Burbaugh and Carol Wyninger were recently honored for their tireless efforts to connect people to Florida's unique natural areas.

Carol has been a FMNP instructor since 2002. Brad joined the team in 2007 and since then they have worked hard to promote a lasting conservation ethic among the citizens of Duval County.

Congratulations, Brad & Carol!



The City of Jacksonville Environmental Protection Board's awards were established in 1975 honor outstanding environmental accomplishments.

### 3. Area Programs & Events

#### A Save the Frogs Day Event

WHERE: Camp Bayou Outdoor Learning Center  
WHEN: Friday, April 29, 2011 5pm-8pm  
MORE INFO: Contact - [SavingFrogsFL@verizon.net](mailto:SavingFrogsFL@verizon.net) 813-469-0472

Children and adults are invited to spend a fun, casual evening in a beautiful Florida setting learning about frogs and their importance to Florida and the rest of the world. This event includes frog activities, a presentation and night hike. Snacks and beverages will be available for purchase.

Register at [www.WanderingWhimsy.com](http://www.WanderingWhimsy.com).

Suggested donation of \$5 per person will equally benefit Camp Bayou and Save the Frogs

#### Florida Seafood Safety & Sustainability

##### 2011 Brown Bag Lunch Webinar Series

WHERE: Webinar Series  
WHEN: 12:15pm-12:45pm  
May 18 - Snapper  
Sept 21 - Spiny Lobster  
Nov 16 - Oysters

MORE INFO: Contact Bryan Fleuch, [Fluech@ufl.edu](mailto:Fluech@ufl.edu)

The FREE webinar series will educate seafood lovers about the sustainability and safety associated with some of Florida's most commercially valuable seafood products. The series will help consumers make informed decisions about purchasing and eating Florida Seafood.

### 4. FMNP Grads to Action

#### Volunteer - Brooksville Ridge Conservation Volunteer Program

WHERE: Citrus, Hernando, and Pasco Counties  
MORE INFO: Contact Annemarie Hammond, (352) 754-6722 or [Annemarie.Hammond@MyFWC.com](mailto:Annemarie.Hammond@MyFWC.com)

The Brooksville Ridge Conservation Volunteer Program, managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, focuses on conservation projects that affect listed species and their habitats on public and private -partner lands. The program pairs volunteers with field biologists and land managers on long-term conservation projects. Volunteers with a passion for the environment can help by removing invasive plants (big need this spring through fall), monitor wildlife, and assist with habitat enhancement projects.

#### Volunteer - Chinsegut Nature Center

WHERE: Brooksville  
MORE INFO: Contact Annemarie Hammond, (352) 754-6722 or [Annemarie.Hammond@MyFWC.com](mailto:Annemarie.Hammond@MyFWC.com)

Volunteer opportunities include working at the nature center, maintaining nature center trails, facilities and grounds, assisting with festivals and environmental education programs, creating and maintaining butterfly gardens and wildlife habitat, assisting with offsite public outreach, participating in citizen science and wildlife surveys and engaging children and adults in experiencing the natural wonders of the area.

### 5. Instructors' Corner

#### Instructor / Student Contract

- Betty Staugler, Florida Sea Grant Agent

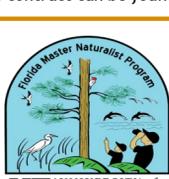
We developed an Instructor/Student contract in Charlotte County in order to ensure students had a clear understanding of class expectations. We implemented it primarily because our evaluations indicated that students wanted more time in the field; however, in some classes, excessive student talking was causing delays that kept us in the classroom longer than we desired. The contract was seen as a way to highlight the need for balance. We also use the contract to illuminate other expectations (both student and instructor) key to successful adult learning. We read the contract the first day of class.

The first section of the contract provides students with an overview of how the class will unfold (lectures and videos, field trips and student synthesis). We also include items that address student's basic physiological needs for food, safety and water. This first section helps ensure that we as instructors don't forget to go over these core items which are critical first steps in the learning process, particularly for students new to the FMNP program.

The second section outlines expectations for instructors and students. Instructors (three in Charlotte) all agree to the expectations outlined in our section and we ask the students to in turn agree to the expectations in their section. We also encourage the students to take ownership of the contract by recommending changes (additions or deletions) as they deem appropriate.

The contract is working well in Charlotte County as it sets the tone for learning on day one. It also provides students and instructors with a mechanism to address common classroom distractions that may take away from an individual's learning experience.

\* A PDF copy of Betty's contract can be found on the instructor page of the FMNP Website.



[www.MasterNaturalist.org](http://www.MasterNaturalist.org)