



North Central 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 can be found at the bottom of the newsletter.

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1. 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.

2. Area Programs & Events

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

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.

Publicize your events here!

Do you offer events or programs that might be of interest to FMNP Grads?
Send details to us at info@masternaturalist.org.

3. FMNP Grads to Action

Volunteer - Bear Aware Canvassing

WHERE: Marion, Lake, Volusia and Seminole Counties
MORE INFO: Claire Sunquist, FWC Volunteer Coordinator Claire.Sunquist@MyFWC.com, 352-732-1225

Bear Aware Canvassing Volunteers are a critical part of the future of black bears in Florida. Without public awareness and support, human-bear conflicts will continue to increase. By educating homeowners to take action to prevent problems, Bear Aware Canvassing Volunteers can help to reduce human-bear conflicts for the well-being of the public and black bears. Volunteers will speak to residents in communities where human/bear conflicts occur. Volunteers will work in small teams with the FWC Volunteer Coordinator to share information with neighborhood associations and individual homeowners in these regions.

Volunteer - Brooksville Ridge Conservation Volunteer Program

WHERE: Levy, Citrus, Sumter, Hernando and Pasco Counties
MORE INFO: Annemarie Hammond, FWC Volunteer Coordinator Annemarie.Hammond@MyFWC.com, (352) 754-6722

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. The website link is: <http://www.myfwc.com/get-involved/volunteer/volunteer-programs/brooksville-ridge/>

FMNP Grads can get things done!

Do you have a volunteer or job opportunity that might be of interest to FMNP Grads?
Send details to us at info@masternaturalist.org.
Announcements must be received no later than the 15th of the month prior to your event

4. 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 have 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.



Contact

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www.MasterNaturalist.org