



North 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.

In This Issue:

1. Franklin County Coastal Systems Class
2. FMNP Instructors Recognized with Award
3. Area Programs & Events
4. Grads to Action - Volunteer and Job Opportunities
5. Instructors' Corner - Instructor / Student Contract

1. Franklin County Coastal Systems Class

June 10 - July 23, 2011

Registration closes June 2, 2011
(Course Code: cs11-15)



Facility Information

Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve (ANERR)
Education and Training Center: Multipurpose room
108 Island Drive, Eastpoint, FL 32328

Florida State University Coastal and Marine Lab
US HWY 98, St. Teresa, FL

St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve Center
HWY C30-A, Port St. Joe, FL

Instructor Information

Rosalyn Kilcollins, Coastal Training Program Coordinator and
Matthew Anderson, Education and Training Specialist
Assistants: *Barbara Shoplock* and *William (Doc) Herkind*
Organization: Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve
Email: Rosalyn.kilcollins@dep.state.fl.us

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

Choctawhatchee Audubon - Venomous and Non-venomous Snakes of Elgin's Reservation

WHERE: Northwest Florida State College, Learning Resource Center, Room 128
WHEN: May 5, 2011 Refreshments & social at 6:30pm, Speaker 7:00pm
MORE INFO: Contact Gary Parsons 850-678-1461

Rip Kirby, a Coastal Geologist from the University of South Florida, will report on his research on the changes in beach and dune structure on the Eglin reservation portion of Okaloosa Island.

Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve - The Panhandle Habitat Series

WHERE: Apalachicola NERR & St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve
WHEN: See details below
MORE INFO: Contact Matthew Anderson, Matthew.r.anderson@dep.state.fl.us or Rosalyn Kilcollins, Rosalyn.Kilcollins@dep.state.fl.us (850) 445-9567

Registration is required. You must register with payment received no later than five days before the class. Cost: \$10.00 per person.

Pine Flatwoods & Savannahs

Wednesday, May 11, 2011 8:45am-4:30pm

Learn about the ecology, geology and natural history of these important ecosystems. Spend the morning in the classroom, then explore the flatwoods and savannahs of the Apalachicola National Forest.

Seagrass Beds & Salt Marshes

Wednesday, June 15, 2011 8:45am-4:30pm

Discover the ecology, geology and economic importance of these coastal systems. Be prepared to snorkel and wade as you explore the marshes and sea grass beds of St. Joseph Bay.

Choctawhatchee Audubon - Audubon Eventures

WHERE: Niceville
WHEN: FIRST FRIDAY of the month Sept, Oct, Nov, Mar, Apr & May 5:30PM
MORE INFO: Contact Nonie Maines, Nonie's Ark Animal Encounters 850-862-9588

Discover the sights and sounds of nature at night on a guided Night Walk. Programs will last approximately 1 1/2 hours and begin just before sunset. All are invited but the focus will be on ages 4 to 10. We will explore for elusive creatures such as fox, owls, frogs and even bats! COST \$1 per person; members and immediate family FREE!

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.

4. FMNP Grads to Action

Volunteer - Shorebird Stewardship Program

LOCATION: Florida Pan Handle
DURATION: Now!
TO APPLY: Contact Alan Knothe, 850-200-6279 or aknothe@audubon.org

Shorebird Stewards have been making great strides across the state protecting beach nesting birds when they are most vulnerable. Now is your chance to make a real difference by volunteering some of your time to help these birds. Stewards work a 2-4 hour shift near one of the posted beach nesting sites. They explain why the area is closed to beach goers and teach them a little bit about the birds. They can even allow the public a rare chance to view the birds on nests from a safe distance with a spotting scope! Stewards may also help post nesting areas, monitor nests and participate in shorebird nesting surveys.³

Volunteer - Spring Migration Bird Count

LOCATION: Walton County
WHEN: May 14, 2011
TO APPLY: Contact Don Ware, Choctawhatchee Audubon Society (850) 862-6582

Shorebird Stewards have been making great strides across the state protecting beach nesting birds when they are most vulnerable. Now is your chance to make a real difference by volunteering some of your time to help these birds. Stewards work a 2-4 hour shift near one of the posted beach nesting sites. They explain why the area is closed to beach goers and teach them a little bit about the birds. They can even allow the public a rare chance to view the birds on nests from a safe distance with a spotting scope! Stewards may also help post nesting areas, monitor nests and participate in shorebird nesting surveys.

5. Instructors' Corner

Instructor / Student Contract

- Betty Staugler, Florida Sea Grant Agent

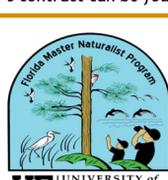
We developed an Instructor/Student contract in Charlotte County in order to ensure students had a clear understanding of class expectations. We implemented it primarily because our evaluations indicated that students wanted more time in the field; however, in some classes, excessive student talking was 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.



Contact

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www.MasterNaturalist.org