



## South 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. Lee County Coastal Systems Class

**June 6 - 29, 2011**

Registration closes May 30, 2011  
(Course Code: cs11-03)

#### Facility Information

Lee County Cooperative Extension Office: Conference Room  
3406 Palm Beach Boulevard, Ft. Myers, FL 33916

#### Instructor Information

Roy Beckford and Joy Hazell  
Organization: Lee County Cooperative Extension Service  
Phone: 239-533-7512 (Roy) and 239-533-7218 (Joy)  
Fax: 239-485-2305  
Email: [fbeckford@leegov.com](mailto:fbeckford@leegov.com) and [hazellje@leegov.com](mailto:hazellje@leegov.com)



### 2. Charlotte County Coastal Systems Class

**June 28 - July 26, 2011**

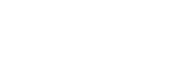
Registration closes May 30, 2011  
(Course Code: cs11-03)

#### Facility Information

Charlotte County UF/IFAS Extension  
Charlotte County Eastport Environmental Campus - Training Room B  
25550 Harbor View Road Suite 3, Port Charlotte, FL 33980

#### Instructor Information

Betty Staugler  
Assistants: Jamie Reynolds and John Phillips  
Organization: Charlotte County UF/IFAS Extension  
Phone: 941-764-4346  
Email: [staugler@ufl.edu](mailto:staugler@ufl.edu)



### 3. FMNP Instructors Recognized

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

Duval County Extension instructors Brad Burbaugh and Carol Wyminger 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.

### 4. Area Programs & Events

**International Migratory Bird Day - Bird Watching on the Boardwalk!**

WHERE: Big Cypress National Preserve  
WHEN: Saturday, April 30, 2011 8am  
MORE INFO: Contact Lisa Andrews, (239) 695-1164 or [Lisa.Andrews@nps.gov](mailto:Lisa.Andrews@nps.gov)

Join Park Ranger Lisa Andrews and Wildlife biologist John Kellam to enjoy a walk among the cypress and see who's passing through on the spring migration. Meet Lisa at the Big Cypress Swamp Welcome Center at 8:00am. RSVP for more details and directions to the Big Cypress Swamp Welcome Center.

**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, [Fleuch@ufl.edu](mailto:Fleuch@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](mailto:info@masternaturalist.org).

*Announcements must be received no later than the 15th of the month prior to your event*

### 5. FMNP Grads to Action

**Volunteer - Trail Docents Needed**

WHERE: Calusa Heritage Trail, Randell Research Center, Pineland, FL  
WHEN: Wednesdays & Saturdays 10am  
MORE INFO: Contact Cindy Bear at 239-283-2157 and visit the RRC website at [www.flmnh.ufl.edu/RRC](http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/RRC)

The Calusa Heritage Trail, Randell Research Center (RRC), has an on-going need for trail docents for public and school tours every Wednesday and Saturday at 10 a.m. Visitors learn about the Calusa and their natural and cultural environment. Native vegetation and their use by Calusa people is often emphasized, a variety of wildlife, especially birds, is frequently seen. Specialty tours focusing on the estuary shoreline and birds of the site are being planned if volunteers are available.

#### 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](mailto:info@masternaturalist.org).

*Announcements must be received no later than the 15th of the month prior to your opportunity*

### 6. 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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