



THE FLORIDA MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM

A Natural History Training Program

Central West Region Update

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1. Happy Holidays from the FMNP!

FMNP Friends and Colleagues,

Another holiday season is upon us and all of us at the FMNP program office, as well as the FMNP instructors, would like to wish you a safe and happy holiday season. Despite challenges with budget cuts and personnel shortages, we have much to be thankful for and look forward to another great year in 2012!

Warm regards,

Marty, Heather, Shelby and Sylvia



Looking for the perfect gift for your favorite Master Naturalist?

The [FMNP store](#) offers a variety of apparel and other affordable gifts that your Master Naturalist is sure to love. Proceeds from each sale help to support the FMNP so we can continue to promote environmental education throughout the state.

2. Call for Photos

Do You Have an Amazing Photo that You'd Like to Share? Donate Your Photos to the New FMNP Image Library!

The FMNP is creating a new image library that will house photos used in FMNP educational and promotional materials. After seeing many of the amazing photos that our students and instructors have taken over the years, we thought it would be a great idea to ask each of you to donate your photos to our library. Photos of Florida wildlife, plants, regional landscape features and other natural phenomena are needed.

Donated photos must have a resolution of 300-600 DPI and be in a .pdf or .tiff format. Please submit your images on a CD (which will not be returned), along with a completed [photo release form](#), to:

Heather L. Ferrand, Program Coordinator
Florida Master Naturalist Program
University of Florida IFAS
SWFREC
2685 SR 29 N.
Immokalee, FL 34142

Please also indicate on the CD cover or insert how you would like your name to appear in the photo credit. As a special thank you, your name will be included on a list of donors published on the FMNP website.

3. FMNP on Facebook

Like Us on Facebook and Connect with Other FMNP Students, Instructors and Supporters!

When was the last time you shared a great idea or photo with an FMNP colleague from across the state? For many of you, the answer is probably never!

The FMNP family extends throughout Florida, from the rolling hills of the Panhandle to the Big Scrub of Central Florida to the subtropical wonders in the South. Our program finds much strength in the diversity of its students and instructors, who come from each of these unique regions of the state. What better way to improve our understanding of, and appreciation for, the natural history of these areas than by learning from those who live in them?

The FMNP has always relied upon local knowledge to infuse our courses with interesting information and experiences. As such, we thought it would be a great benefit to FMNP instructors, students and supporters to provide an easy way to share such knowledge, as well as course-related experiences, ideas, photos and accomplishments, with one another.

If you like us, please "[like us](#)" on Facebook and start sharing all of your great FMNP information!

4. Instructor's Corner

FMNP Workbooks Being Revised

Some big changes are in store for both the instructor and student workbooks. In an effort to improve the functionality and appeal of our texts, as well as decrease associated printing costs, we will be initiating a series of changes that we hope you will find beneficial. The Freshwater Wetlands Systems student workbook will be the first to be revised and we anticipate that it will be available to students by February 2012.

The most notable changes include replacing the bulky binders with spiral-bound texts and transitioning all student supplemental materials from print to disk. A single instructor workbook will replace the three separate ones currently in use. In addition to formatting changes, we will also be exploring the possibility of including colored photos in the workbooks. New supplemental materials are going to be introduced, and many of the existing ones will be replaced as they have become outdated.

If you have any suggestions regarding the workbooks (what you like, don't like, possible additions to the supplemental materials, etc.), we encourage you to share those with us. A second revision, which will entail updating the content of the workbooks, is planned for next year.

Instructor resources are just a click away!

Misplace that field trip liability form? Need to apply for an educational collection permit?
Looking for materials to help you promote your class?

The instructor page on the FMNP website has numerous resources available to help you promote and conduct your class with ease! Forms, instructor workbooks, enrollment information, an instructor directory, student pre and post tests, FMNP logos, as well as various marketing materials are all accessible on the instructor page for your use.

5. Area Programs & Events

Advertise your events here!

Do you have an event or program that might be of interest to FMNP instructors or 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.



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