

## 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 Upland Habitats Class

February 11, - March 7, 2011  
Registration closes February 3, 2011  
(Course Code: uh11-02)



#### Facility Information

Bill Jackson--Sporting Goods Store: Program Room  
9501 U.S. 19 North, Pinellas Park, FL 33782

#### 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. Florida Seafood Safety & Sustainability Webinar Series

#### Florida Seafood Safety & Sustainability 2011 Brown Bag Lunch Webinar Series

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. For more information and to sign up, contact Bryan Fluech at [Fluech@ufl.edu](mailto:Fluech@ufl.edu).

#### Webinar Schedule

12:15pm - 12:45pm  
Feb 16 - Grouper  
Mar 16 - Shrimp  
May 18 - Snapper  
Sept 21 - Spiny Lobster  
Nov 16 - Oysters

### 3. FMNP Grads to Action

#### Everglades Summer Internship

The internship program, which runs from May 20 to August 5, 2011, is for undergraduate and graduate students with top grades in the environmental sciences. The intensive, 11 week internship is focused on the Florida Everglades and the multi-billion dollar plan to preserve and restore this vital ecosystem. Mentored by top-level professionals and decision-makers, interns are involved in hands-on projects and educational activities. The internship includes a \$2,000 stipend in five \$400 increments.

Application deadline: March 21, 2011  
Successful applicants will be notified by April 15, 2011

For more information and an application visit the [Arthur R. Marshall Foundation](http://www.ArthurRMarshallFoundation.org) website.

### 4. Instructors' Corner

#### We need your stories!

FMNP Instructors, do you have a great story to tell or tip to share? Beginning in January 2011 we will introduce a new feature, the Instructors' Corner. This is your chance to brag on your students, contribute tips and ideas, share interesting, updated or new scientific information, and learn something that might help you with your classes. We're asking for your help to fill this segment with helpful information and inspiring stories. It's so easy to do, just write a brief story, include pictures or attachments if you like, and send it to us at [info@masternaturalist.org](mailto:info@masternaturalist.org).

#### FMNP Makes a Difference at Matanzas Pass Preserve

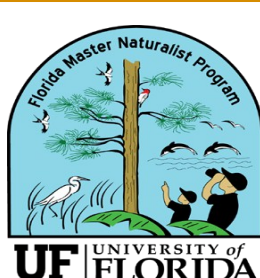
*Submitted by Joanne Semmer, written by Jim Rodwell*

Jim and Dorothy Rodwell moved to Fort Myers Beach in 2003 and discovered the natural beauty of Matanzas Pass Preserve as they live adjacent to it. From that vantage point, they wanted to contribute to keeping that 60 acres available to future generations. It serves as a sample of what much of the beach looked like before the development boom.

Jim describes what happened: "We worked for several years as Friends of Matanzas Pass Preserve in mitigation and restoration efforts. During those activities, Terry Cain, Land Steward for Lee County Parks and Recreation, encouraged us to attend the Florida Master Naturalist Program. So, off to the Coastal Module at Oostegoo Bay Foundation we went in 2007. After completing that module, we volunteered to meet a need for interpretive walks in the Preserve."

The materials from the FMNP provided the basis of Jim's walk through a mangrove habitat, transition zone, and oak hammock. Dorothy found the ethnobotany materials especially interesting and developed an interpretive walk based on that material (and more) that both entertains and educates. In fact, the pilot of the concept was tested out in Jim's presentation in the Wetland Module at Corkscrew Swamp. It worked out well! Another program followed called Stress Detox at the Preserve. An exciting new opportunity is to integrate earth education into children's programs that meet scholastic standards, is fun, and highlights the preserve's unique attributes.

Jim became a Florida Master Naturalist in 2009 and Dorothy in 2010. In addition to the FMNP materials the resource base of talented learners has been appreciated and ongoing. (In fact, taking some of the advanced topics sounds like a good plan). Without the FMNP, the Rodwells agree that having the confidence to contribute actively with Lee County would not have happened. In fact, both are now active Lee County Volunteers.



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