



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. Taylor County Coastal Systems Class

April 19 - May 31, 2011
Registration closes April 11, 2011
(Course Code: cs11-11)



Facility Information
UF-IFAS Taylor County Extension Service
Forest Capital Hall: Projection classroom
203 Forest Park Drive, Perry FL 32348

UF-IFAS Wakulla County Extension
84 Cedar Avenue, Crawfordville, FL 32327

Instructor Information
Fred Vose, UF-IFAS Taylor County Extension
Carolyn Saft, UF-IFAS Suwannee County Extension and
Scott Jackson, UF-IFAS Wakulla County Extension
Phone: 850-838-3508 (Fred)
Email: fvose@ufl.edu (Fred)

2. Columbia County Freshwater Wetlands Class

April 25 - June 6, 2011
Registration closes April 17, 2011
(Course Code: fw11-08)



Facility Information
Columbia County Extension Office
164 SW Mary Ethel Lane, Lake City, FL 32025

Instructor Information
Derek Barber, UF/IFAS Columbia County Extension
Carolyn Saft, UF/IFAS Suwannee County Extension and
Jerry Krummrich, Retired FWC Biologist
Organization: UF/IFAS Columbia County Cooperative Extension Service
Phone: 386-752-5384
Email: dbarber@ufl.edu

3. Free Invasive Plant Field Guides

Identify and manage invasive plants

The USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station (SRS) is distributing **free** copies of 2 recently released field guides. Both guides originated from 1 that many of you may be familiar with, "Nonnative Invasive Plants of Southern Forests: A Field Guide for Identification and Control," published by SRS in 2003. This information has now been expanded into these 2 field guides:

"A Field Guide for the Identification of Invasive Plants in Southern Forests" is posted in PDF format on the SRS website at <http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/35292> (publication number is GTR-SRS-119).

"A Management Guide for Invasive Plants in Southern Forests" is posted in PDF format on the SRS website at <http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/36915> (publication number is GTR-SRS-131).

People can request **free** copies of these guides by sending their name and complete mailing address, along with book title, author and publication number to: pubrequest@fs.fed.us, or by calling 828-257-4830.

These are great resources to provide your neighboring land owners who need to be introduced to invasive plant management! There is even enough information in these publications to educate experienced invasive plant professionals.

4. 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 Fleeuch at Fleeuch@ufl.edu.

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

5. FMNP Grads to Action

Trail Docents Needed—Calusa Heritage Trail

The Calusa Heritage Trail, Randell Research Center (RRC), has an on-going need for trail docents for public and school tours. Public tours take place every Wednesday and Saturday at 10 a.m. School and other group tours are by reservation. Situated in the scenic community of Pineland on the western shore of historic Pine Island, the RRC encompasses over 50 acres at the heart of the Pineland archaeological site, a massive shell mound complex. The site was a Calusa Indian Village for over 1500 years. Enormous shell mounds overlook the waters of Pine Island Sound. Visitors to the Calusa Heritage Trail 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 graduates interested in volunteering will be provided additional training regarding the Calusa legacy. To volunteer, please contact Cindy Bear at 239-283-2157 and visit the RRC website at www.flmnh.ufl.edu/RRC.

Calusa Heritage Day Volunteers Needed—March 12, 2011

The Randell Research Center, needs volunteers for Calusa Heritage Day, Saturday, March 12. The theme for the festival is Native Plants and Their Uses. Volunteers are needed to guide tours through the native plant areas, to guide tours along the Calusa Heritage Trail, to work in the bookstore, to greet visitors and distribute agendas, and to assist vendors. A three-hour minimum commitment is requested between the hours of 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. The event will take place from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Calusa Heritage Day features archaeological exhibits from the Florida Museum of Natural History, expert replicators and crafts-people, vendors from non-profit and historical organizations, and site tours. To volunteer, please contact Cindy Bear at 239-283-2157 and visit the RRC website at www.flmnh.ufl.edu/RRC.

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.

6. 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.

FMNP Makes a Difference at Matanzas Pass Preserve

Submitted by Joanne Semmer, written by Jim Rodwell

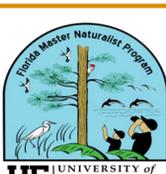
Jim and Dorothy Rodwell moved to Fort Myers Beach in 2003 and discovered the natural beauty of Matanzas Pass Preserve as they live adjacent to it. From that vantage point, they wanted to contribute to keeping that 60 acres available to future generations. It serves as a sample of what much of the beach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