



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. Collier County Coastal Systems Class

March 30 - April 20, 2011
Registration closes March 22, 2011
(Course Code: cs11-08)

Facility Information
Rookery Bay NERR
Environmental Learning Center: Auditorium
300 Tower Rd Naples, FL 34113



Instructor Information
Bryan Fluech, Florida Sea Grant Extension Agent
Renee Wilson, Rookery Bay NERR, Env. Specialist
Sarah Falcowski, Rookery Bay NERR, Env. Specialist and
Randy McCormick, Rookery Bay NERR Assistant Reserve Manager
Organizations: Florida Sea Grant UF/IFAS Extension and Rookery Bay NERR
Phone: 239-417-6310 x204
Email: fluech@ufl.edu

2. Collier & Lee County Conservation Science Class

April 26 - 29, 2011
Registration closes April 18, 2011
(Course Code: S11-01)

Facility Information
Rutenberg Park: Eco Living Center
6500 South Pointe Blvd., Fort Myers, FL 33919



Rookery Bay Reserve
300 Tower Rd. Naples, FL 34113
Collier County UF/IFAS Extension Service
14700 Immokalee Road, Naples, FL 34120-1468

Instructor Information
Bryan Fluech-Florida Sea Grant Extension Agent, Collier County
Joy Hazell-Florida Sea Grant Extension Agent, Lee County
Organization: UF/IFAS-Florida Sea Grant
Phone: 239-417-6310 x204
Email: fluech@ufl.edu

3. 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 and hazellje@leegov.com

4. FMNP Alumni Field Trip

Alumni Field Trip

When: Friday, February 4, 2011 9:00am - 12:00pm
Where: Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge

Come meet other Florida Master Naturalists and explore the habitats of one of SW Florida's most protected species with Refuge ranger Sandy Mickey. Space is limited to 20 participants and pre-registration is required.

To register contact: Tony Donzello ccnaturalist@gmail.com

Directions to FL Panther NWR: <http://www.fws.gov/floridapanther/directions.html>

5. 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.

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

6. 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.

7. FMNP Grads to Action

Florida Panther Festival Coordinator

Closing Date: Sunday, February 6th, 2011 by 5pm EST

The Festival Coordinator is a part-time, temporary position (February - October, 2011) primarily working Mon-Fri daytime hours with occasional weekends and evenings. The Coordinator will report directly to the Festival Chair. Attendance at Panther Festival is mandatory.

Salary range: \$7500 contract. Salary may be supplemented by sponsorships. Coordinator may work increased hours in the fall as the Festival gets closer. Coordinator will work as an independent contractor and is responsible for paying appropriate personal income taxes. No insurance is provided.

Requirements: Supplies own working environment including a computer, color printer, virus software, computer backup, phone, and other various office equipment as required. Coordinator must also have access to reliable transportation and is responsible for all travel expenses. Pre-approved expenses will be reimbursed when appropriate receipts are provided.

See attached PDF for more information. *if you are unable to view the PDF file, contact Shannon Miller smiller@defenders.org 727-823-3888 for application information.*

Volunteer Opportunity Big "O" Birding Festival

When: Wednesday March 23 - Saturday March 26 1:00-4:00 p.m.
Where: Clewiston Inn or Clewiston Museum

The Big "O" Birding Festival would like to invite Florida Master Naturalists to help presenters during the afternoon learning sessions by assisting festival attendees find meeting rooms, helping presenters set up room and then keeping disruptions to a minimum during workshops. Other activities would include helping with the registration table if needed. There will be a variety of afternoon workshops and presentation. Four volunteers are needed each day. For proposed schedule go to: <http://www.bigbirdingfestival.com>

To Volunteer contact: Lee McMichael - lee@hendryedc.com 863-517-2136

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.arthurmarshallfoundation.org) website.

8. Instructors' Corner

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.

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.

