



## 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. 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

Mar 16 - Shrimp

May 18 - Snapper

Sept 21 - Spiny Lobster

Nov 16 - Oysters

### 2. FMNP Alumni Kayak Trip

#### FMNP Alumni Kayak Trip

Sunday, March 13, 2011 9:00 am

Bring Your Own Kayak and join fellow FMNP alums for a day of kayaking. We will launch at 9:00 AM from the Prairie Creek bridge on Washing Loop off Highway 17 east of Punta Gorda. We'll limit the size of this group to 20 kayaks so please make a reservation.

Contact Jamie Reynolds: 941-637-8284 [ssffml@yahoo.com](mailto:ssffml@yahoo.com)

### 3. Fire in Florida's Ecosystems Workshop

#### Fire in Florida's Ecosystems

WHERE: Camp Bayou Outdoor Learning Center, Ruskin

WHEN: Saturday, March 21, 2011 9am-3pm

MORE INFO: Contact Deborah Theisen [DRTheisen@verizon.net](mailto:DRTheisen@verizon.net) 813-907-1398

Who should attend: Teachers, scout leaders, summer camp counselors, homeschool parents

FIFE is a curriculum that gives educators the tools and knowledge to teach students in grades 3-12 about fire's natural role in Florida. Thirteen hands-on activities use fire to teach core concepts in all subject areas.

Registration is required by contacting Deborah Theisen [DRTheisen@verizon.net](mailto:DRTheisen@verizon.net) 813-907-1398.

### 4. Fun with Frogs in Florida

#### A Save the Frogs Day Event

WHERE: Camp Bayou Outdoor Learning Center

WHEN: Friday, April 20, 2011 5pm-8pm

MORE INFO: Contact [SavingFrogsFL@verizon.net](mailto:SavingFrogsFL@verizon.net) 813-469-0472

Children and adults are invited to spend a fun, casual evening in a beautiful Florida setting learning about frogs and their importance to Florida and the rest of the world. This event includes frog activities, a presentation and night hike. Snacks and beverages will be available for purchase.

Register at [www.WanderingWhimsy.com](http://www.WanderingWhimsy.com).

Suggested donation of \$5 per person will equally benefit Camp Bayou and Save the Frogs

### 5. FMNP Special Topics Modules

#### New Learning Opportunities with Special Topics Modules

FMNP is launching Special Topics courses! These 24-contact hour courses are designed to provide more detailed information and hands-on skills in subject areas that complement FMNP Core Modules. These courses are open to everyone (18+ yr.). You do not need to be an FMNP graduate to participate.

The first two of four new courses were launched in 2010. *Conservation Science* and *Environmental Interpretation* are now being offered by instructors around the state. *Conservation Science* is designed to provide participants with a better understanding of the complexities of conservation, making them better educators and participants in local conservation efforts. *Environmental Interpretation* will help participants become more effective environmental interpreters and educators as they learn how to create themes, develop interpretive displays, and practice interpretive techniques.

Two new courses will be launched this spring. *Habitat Evaluation* will give participants a better understanding of the concepts and techniques used for assessing the quality of wildlife habitat. Students will learn the importance of various types of habitat assessment methods and the vital role these activities play in conserving biodiversity and managing healthy wildlife populations. *Wildlife Monitoring* is designed to educate students in the principals and methods of designing and conducting monitoring programs. Participants will develop an understanding of the importance of appropriate data collection strategies in wildlife monitoring programs and will be introduced to the methods used.

Contact an instructor near you to inquire about their Special Topics schedule. Find an instructor on our website, [www.MasterNaturalist.org](http://www.MasterNaturalist.org), at the Training Locations link.

### 6. Digital Nature Journalism

#### Photographic & Video Storytelling

WHERE: Crowley Museum & Nature Center, 16405 Myakka Rd. Sarasota, FL 34240

WHEN: March 12 & 13, 2011

MORE INFO: 941-322-1000 [www.cmcncfl.org](http://www.cmcncfl.org) [education@cmncfl.org](mailto:education@cmncfl.org)

Join biologist and videographer Dr. Wm. James Davis to explore how to compose and capture stories on video and photographs. Stories produced by participants will help document the rich biodiversity found on the nature center's property.

Costs: \$25 for one day session, \$35 for two day session.

Registration is required and space is limited.

### 7. Student Environmental Scholarships

#### "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society—Friends of the Refuge

TO APPLY: ["Ding" Darling Wildlife Society](http://www.dingdarlingwildlifesociety.org)

DEADLINE: March 31, 2011

The "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society—Friends of the Refuge is committed to educating future conservation stewards. Scholarships are offered annually to students engaged in the study of conservation, biology and the environment. Scholarships range from \$500 to \$1500.

### 8. FMNP Grads to Action

#### Internship - Everglades Preservation & Restoration

LOCATION: West Palm Beach

DURATION: May 20 - August 5, 2011

TO APPLY: [Arthur R. Marshall Foundation](http://www.arthurmarshallfoundation.org)

The internship program 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

### 9. Instructors' Corner

#### Economic Impacts of Outdoor Recreation & Seafood Industry

Getting outdoors is a natural fit for most FMNP instructors and grads. Florida's moderate climate and diverse ecosystems provide plenty of opportunities for outdoor recreation all year round. Participating in outdoor recreational activities is more than big fun for you, it's also big money for Florida. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's report provides some very interesting and useful information about the financial impacts of outdoor recreation activities various aspects of Florida's seafood industry. Many thanks to Rosalyn Kilcollins for providing this information.

#### ECONOMICS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE RECREATION SEAFOOD INDUSTRY and BOATING

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Estimates Through October 2010

Category	Retail Sales	State & Local Taxes	Economic Impact	Jobs
Hunting	\$431,901,310	\$47,559,433	\$754,058,076	10,673
Freshwater Fishing	\$1,484,042,126	\$138,818,820	\$2,541,264,704	24,800
Saltwater Fishing	\$3,339,190,242	\$334,022,284	\$5,498,613,595	54,508
Wildlife Viewing	\$3,339,190,242	\$339,102,888	\$5,587,786,560	51,367
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,471,793,166</b>	<b>\$859,413,425</b>	<b>\$14,481,722,935</b>	<b>141,348</b>

Category	Economic Impact	Jobs
<b>Boating Industry</b>	<b>\$16.8 Billion</b>	<b>202,743</b>

#### 2008 Economic Impacts of the Florida Seafood Industry

Category	Sales	Jobs
Commercial Harvesters	\$171,385,000	2,978
Seafood Processors and Dealers	\$423,923,000	3,955
Seafood Wholesalers and Distributors	\$1,272,539,000	11,736
Retail Sector	\$3,789,399,000	90,025
<b>Total Impacts</b>	<b>\$5,657,246,000</b>	<b>108,695</b>

**NOTE:** The retail sales data for fishing, hunting, and wildlife viewing are derived from the **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; 2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation**. Economic impact data are derived from the **American Sportfishing Association; Sportfishing in America, An Economic Engine and Conservation Powerhouse; Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies; Hunting in America, An Economic Engine and Conservation Powerhouse** by **Southwick and Associates**; and **Southwick and Associates; The 2006 Economic Benefits of Wildlife Viewing in Florida**. Estimates for the boating industry are derived from the **Marine Industries Association of Florida; Florida's Recreational Marine Industry - Relative Growth and Economic Impact 2005 - 2008**. Estimates for the seafood industry are derived from the **National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Fisheries, Office of Science and Technology; Fisheries Economics of the United States (2008)**, for which data are most recently available. The baseline for the economic impact data for hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing are for 2006. Estimates for 2010 are adjusted to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) through October 2010. The exception to this rule is for the estimates for the Marine Industry (boating) and Florida Seafood Industry. Estimates for the Marine Industry (boating) and the Florida Seafood Industry are through 2008. Additional updates for these industries are not recommended because of the dynamics of the economy after 2008 and the lack of current baseline data.

##### Limitations of the Data:

1. The sample frame for Hunting is limited to 57 observations statewide.
2. Participant values (number of individuals participating in a particular activity) are tied to the formulas used to calculate the economic analysis for hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing and reflect the baseline year of 2006.
3. Consumer behavior is not static. It is simply impossible (without conducting a major statewide study every year) to accurately predict consumer behavior. For instance, are consumers spending more or less and are consumers participating more or less in hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing activities. Therefore, it is reasonable to assume there is a measure of variability within the range of economic estimates provided for this analysis.
4. Economic impact estimates for the Florida Seafood Industry historically demonstrate variability from year to year.



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