



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.

In This Issue:

1. Collier County Coastal Systems Class
2. Collier & Lee County Conservation Science Class
3. Lee County Coastal Systems Class
4. Alumni Kayak Trip
5. Naples Seafood Seminar and Sampling Tour
6. Florida Seafood Safety and Sustainability Webinar Series
7. Florida Black Bear Curriculum Workshop
8. Digital Nature Journalism Workshop
9. Attracting Butterflies to Your Yard Workshop
10. Florida Stone Crab Fishery Program & Tour
11. Student Environmental Scholarships
12. Grads to Action - New Volunteer & Employment Opportunities
13. Instructors' Corner - Economic Impacts of Outdoor Recreation & Seafood Industry

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 Falkowski, Rookery Bay NERR, Env. Specialist and
Randy McCormick, Rookery Bay NERR Assistant Reserve Manager
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 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

5. Naples Seafood Seminar and Sampling Tour

WHERE: Starts at North Collier Regional Park: 1500 Livingston Rd, Naples, FL 34119
WHEN: March 10, 2011 9am - 5pm
MORE INFO: [Collier County Extension Office](http://www.colliercountyfl.com) (239) 353-4244

Join Florida Sea Grant and your local University of Florida Extension Service to learn more about seafood health benefits & risks, sustainability issues, and the local seafood industry. Visit Randy's Fish Market, a nationally acclaimed restaurant and seafood market, to sample a variety of freshly prepared seafood items. Talk with 4th generation fishermen at Captain Kirk's Stone Crabs Fresh Seafood Market, to discuss the region's local fisheries and seafood industry.

Program Cost: \$35 (check or cash only) Covers food and transportation costs

Each participant will also receive a \$20 gift certificate to Randy's Fish Market (for dine-in only, and one certificate per visit)

Space is limited! You must REGISTER with Linda Hetrick at (239) 353-4244 or lhetrick@ufl.edu by March 3rd!



6. 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
Mar 16 - Shrimp
May 18 - Snapper
Sept 21 - Spiny Lobster
Nov 16 - Oysters

7. Florida Black Bear Curriculum Workshop

WHERE: Big Cypress National Preserve Education Center
WHEN: Saturday, March 12 9am-4pm
MORE INFO: Contact Lisa Andrews at lisa_andrews@nps.gov

Teachers, Environmental Educators and Volunteers who work in Collier County's "bear country" should attend this workshop. This curriculum teaches about ecosystems, habitat, and human-animal issues using the threatened Florida Black Bear as the focal animal. Registration is required.

8. 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.cmncfl.org 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.

9. Attracting Butterflies to Your Yard

WHERE: Lovers Key State Park
WHEN: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 9:30am-2:00pm
MORE INFO: Visit www.friendsofloverskey.com and click on the NATURE SERIES icon.

Attend this workshop to learn how to create beautiful butterflyscapes in your backyard or community by successfully combining larval host plants and native nectar plants. A morning session from 9:30-11:45 will focus on selecting the right plants for the right places. The afternoon session, 12:30-2:00, will cover constructing a lattice trellis. Each participant received a butterfly friendly plant to jump start their garden. Registration is required by March 11. Space is limited to 40 people. Costs: a donation of \$25 is appreciated.

10. Florida Stone Crab Fishery Program & Tour

Are You Smarter Than a Stone Crab?

WHERE: Starts at Rookery Bay Preserve
WHEN: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 2pm - 6pm
MORE INFO: Contact Linda Hetrick lhetrick@ufl.edu 239-353-4244 by March 25.

Join your local Sea Grant Extension Agent to learn about one of Florida's most valuable fisheries. Learn about stone crab biology and how the fishery is managed. Visit Grimm's Stone Crab, Inc. in Everglades City to watch stone crabs being processed. Meet local stone crab fishermen. Sample locally caught stone crabs.

Program Cost: \$15 (check or cash only) Covers food and transportation costs

Space is limited! You must REGISTER with Linda Hetrick by March 25!

11. Student Environmental Scholarships

"Ding" Darling Wildlife Society—Friends of the Refuge

TO APPLY: ["Ding" Darling Wildlife Society](http://www.dingwildlife.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.

12. FMNP Grads to Action

Volunteer - Big "O" Birding Festival

WHERE: Clewiston Inn or Clewiston Museum
WHEN: Wednesday March 23 - Saturday March 26 1:00-4:00 p.m.
MORE INFO: contact: Lee McMichael - lee@hendryedc.com 863-517-2136

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

Internship - Everglades Preservation & Restoration

LOCATION: West Palm Beach
DURATION: May 20 - August 5, 2011
TO APPLY: [Arthur R. Marshall Foundation](http://www.marshallfoundation.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

Volunteer - Trail Docents Needed

WHERE: Calusa Heritage Trail, Randell Research Center, Pineland, FL
WHEN: Wednesdays & Saturdays 10am
MORE INFO: Contact Cindy Bear at 239-283-2157 and visit the RCC website at www.flmnh.ufl.edu/RRC

The Calusa Heritage Trail, Randell Research Center (RRC), has an on-going need for trail docents for public and school tours every Wednesday and Saturday at 10 a.m. Visitors 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.

Volunteer - Calusa Heritage Day Volunteers Needed—March 12, 2011

WHERE: Randell Research Center, Pineland, FL
WHEN: March 12, 2011 9am - 5pm
MORE INFO: Contact Cindy Bear at 239-283-2157 and visit the RCC website at www.flmnh.ufl.edu/RRC

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.

13. 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
Total	\$8,471,793,166	\$859,413,425	\$14,481,722,935	141,348

Category	Economic Impact	Jobs
Boating Industry	\$16.8 Billion	202,743

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
Total Impacts	\$5,657,246,000	108,695

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 for number of individuals participating in a particular activity) are tied to the formulas used to calculate the economic analysis (for hunting 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. The economic impact estimates for the Florida Seafood Industry historically demonstrate variability from year to year.

