

# THE FLORIDA MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM

A Natural History Training Program



## 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 are at the bottom of the newsletter.

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### 1. Meet the New FMNP Program Coordinator

#### Heather Ferrand Joins FMNP as the New Program Coordinator

Please join me in an enthusiastic welcome to Ms. Heather Ferrand, our new FMNP Program Coordinator. Heather started on October 25 and has hit the ground running (she can also be credited for producing the newsletter this month). Heather has a background well-suited for her new job. She graduated from the University of Florida in 2010 with a Master's degree in Forest Resources & Conservation and a graduate minor in Landscape Architecture. Prior to joining FMNP, Heather was employed as a Forester with the Florida Forest Service at Tate's Hell State Forest where her primary responsibility was land management. Her professional interests include forest ecology and conservation, urban forestry and sustainable landscape design. Her background also includes editorial work at UF and she previously managed fund-raising campaigns for an NGO. Heather is personable, energetic, and laughs easily, she's going to fit right in. Welcome to the FMNP Heather!



### 2. Citizen Conservation Award Nominations

#### Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society Seeks Nominations for the Citizen Conservation Award

The Citizen Conservation Award is sponsored by the FMNP and was created to recognize individuals and groups who have made significant contributions to the conservation of Florida's wildlife resources during the previous calendar year. Achievements can be related to management, restoration, education, or protection. This award is intended for non-professionals and small, grassroots groups who have worked to achieve local or statewide conservation impacts that often go unrecognized. Nominees do not have to be members of the Florida or parent chapter of [The Wildlife Society](#).

To submit a nomination, please send the nominee's name, position title, address, and phone number; the nominator's and an endorser's names, addresses, and phone numbers; a clear and concise statement justifying the nomination (one page will suffice); and the name of the award for which the individual is being nominated by December 1 to:

Timothy E. O'Meara  
Awards Committee Chair  
Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society  
[tim.omeara@ftws.org](mailto:tim.omeara@ftws.org)  
(850) 488-3831

### 3. Area Programs & Events

#### Adventure Kayaking and the Environmental Learning Center (ELC) Team Up to Provide A Unique Camping and Kayaking Experience to Master Naturalists

WHERE: Seminole State Forest  
WHEN: Thursday, November 10, 2011– Sunday, November 13, 2011  
MORE INFO: Contact Heather Stapleton, (772) 589-5050

Join Adventure Kayaking and ELC for three glorious nights under the stars in Seminole State Forest. Seminole State Forest is ecologically diverse and home to more than a dozen natural communities that can be viewed from numerous hiking trails.

The excursion will begin on Thursday with a short paddle, followed by a special orientation presented by Forester Mike Martin. The following days will include daily paddles on Blackwater Creek or the Wekiva River, an Outstanding Florida Water, and one of only two federally designated Wild and Scenic rivers. A visit to Wekiva Springs is also planned. The cost is \$345 for Master Naturalists and \$465 for guests, and includes most gear, food, and all associated campsite fees and park entrance fees. Sleeping bag and bedding not included.

#### Advertise your events here!

Do you have an event or program that might be of interest to FMNP Grads?  
Send details to us at [info@masternaturalist.org](mailto:info@masternaturalist.org).

*Announcements must be received no later than the 15th of the month prior to your event*

### 4. FMNP Grads to Action

#### Florida Society for Ethical Ecotourism Seeks Ecotour Assessors

The [Florida Society for Ethical Ecotourism](#) (Florida SEE ) is hoping to recruit Florida Master Naturalists to assess ecotour providers in Florida.

Florida SEE is a non-profit educational organization that was founded in 1990 to establish standards for ecotourism. Florida SEE has grown into a state-wide organization dedicated to educating the public and ecotour providers about the sustainable practices necessary for protecting Florida's fragile ecosystems.

Florida SEE is dedicated to maintaining a professional code of ecotourism ethics in order to encourage an awareness and stewardship of Florida's natural and cultural heritage. Florida SEE members are asked to:

1. Comply with federal, state, and local laws regarding the protection of natural resources and customer safety.
2. Provide environmental education and awareness that encourage behaviors that contribute to the sustainability of Florida's natural ecosystems and resources.
3. Promote professionalism and integrity within the ecotourism industry by providing and maintaining a certification/recognition program for ecotour providers.

Florida SEE promotes professionalism and integrity within the ecotourism industry by providing a [certification program](#) for ecotour providers. Certified Florida SEE Associate Members are recognized as preferred service providers who are committed to using best practices for ecological sustainability, natural area management, and quality ecotourism experiences.

Florida SEE is extending an invitation to Florida Master Naturalists to become Florida SEE Volunteer Assessors in communities across Florida. Volunteer Assessors are asked to provide at least one assessment per year. All tours assessed are paid for by the ecotour provider, but assessors must become members of Florida SEE (\$25.00 annual membership fee).

For more information about Florida SEE, or to become a member, please visit [www.floridasee.org](http://www.floridasee.org). For questions about becoming an ecotour assessor, please contact John Kiseda, Florida SEE Executive Director, at [johnkiseda@floridasee.org](mailto:johnkiseda@floridasee.org).

WHERE: Various locations throughout Florida  
WHEN: Ongoing  
MORE INFO: Contact John Kiseda, [johnkiseda@floridasee.org](mailto:johnkiseda@floridasee.org)



### 5. Instructors' Corner

#### FMNP PowerPoint Presentation Updated

The latest version of the FMNP PowerPoint presentation has been uploaded to the Instructor page of the FMNP website. The presentation is a great tool that you can use to promote FMNP to potential students, sponsoring organizations, and other groups.

FMNP logos, including the master logo, as well as the core modules and special topics logos, have also been uploaded to the Instructor Page of the website for your use. The logos can be easily incorporated into both promotional and classroom materials.

#### We need your stories!

FMNP Instructors, do you have a great story to tell or tip to share? If so, we want to hear from you! This is your chance to brag about your students, share interesting, updated or new scientific information, and provide ideas that may be useful to other instructors. We're asking for your help to continue to fill the Instructors' Corner with helpful information and inspiring stories. It is 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).



Contact

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