

# THE FLORIDA MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM

*A Natural History Training Program*



## Northeast Region Update

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### 1. FMNP Newsletter Survey

#### Tell Us What You Think!

The FMNP Program Office is in the process of identifying ways in which we can improve our communications with instructors, students and supporters. By determining which efforts are effective and which are not, we will be better able to provide you with the information you find most useful. This will also help us to improve the efficiency with which we manage program services and activities.

The first item up for review is the FMNP Newsletter. As you know, our Newsletters are currently published monthly. We are interested in finding out how many of you read the FMNP Newsletter each month, and whether or not a quarterly Newsletter may be more appropriate, among other things.

Tell us what you think! **Please take a moment to answer a few questions about the FMNP Newsletter by completing a brief (5 questions) survey [here](#).** Username: **misc** Password: **fmnp12?** (don't forget the question mark!)

Thank you!

### 2. Instructor's Corner

#### FMNP Instructor Uses Needs Assessments to Help Guide FMNP Class Planning

How do you plan for your FMNP classes?

Rosalyn Kilcollins, Coastal Training Program Coordinator for the [Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve](#) and veteran FMNP Instructor, uses a "needs assessment" to assist her in evaluating interest among potential participants for FMNP classes. Prior to scheduling an FMNP course, Rosalyn sends a survey via "SurveyMonkey.com" to potential students to determine their educational needs and preferences. This process identifies whether enough people are interested in the course, the days on which they prefer to have class, and dates the majority of potential students would not be available, among other things.

This process of conducting such assessments has been key to helping the Apalachicola NERR's Coastal Training Program provide FMNP Courses that meet the needs of potential students and keeping class enrollment high. Since many of the Coastal Training Program's students are coastal resource policy-makers, providing them with access to science-based information, such as that presented in the FMNP, is critical to effective natural resource management in the region.

You can view the survey Rosalyn sent prior to scheduling an Upland Habitats course last year [here](#). You can use this as a guide to create your own survey with [SurveyMonkey.com](#) or similar online survey providers. Thanks to Rosalyn for providing this contribution to the FMNP Instructor's Corner.

#### Biodiversity Hotspot: The Florida Panhandle

Did you know that the Florida Panhandle is considered one of the most biologically diverse areas in the country?

[Biodiversity Hotspot: The Florida Panhandle](#) (BioScience, October 2008, Vol. 58 No. 9) discusses some of the habitats that occur in northwest Florida and the incredible biodiversity contained within them. Some of the factors that have contributed to the high species richness in this region are also described, with commentary from local expert biologists and ecologists. Conservation and restoration efforts, which have been crucial to maintaining the ecological integrity of northwest Florida, are outlined, as are the environmental pressures that threaten to disrupt the area's delicate natural balance.

The article is a great resource for introducing students to the uniqueness of the Florida Panhandle and its ecology. Thanks to Instructor Bryan Fluech for sharing the article with us!

### Receive a Free FMNP T-Shirt if We Publish Your Class Activity, Exercise or Tip in Our Newsletter!

FMNP Instructors - Help us provide information that may be useful to other instructors in this section each month. We want to know about any activities, exercises or tips that you have incorporated into your FMNP classes that have enhanced the learning experience of your students. Submissions can be emailed to [info@masternaturalist.org](mailto:info@masternaturalist.org). Please include your name, mailing address and t-shirt size (men's or women's). Thank You!

### 3. Area Programs & Events

#### Advertise your events here!

Do you have an event or program that might be of interest to FMNP instructors or 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. Duval County Freshwater Wetlands Class

March 13-31, 2012

Registration closes March 7, 2012

(Course Code: fw12-05)

[Register](#)

#### Facility Information

University of North Florida: Bldg/Room TBA  
1 UNF Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32224

#### Instructor Information

**Carol Wyninger** and **Brad Burbaugh**

Assistant Instructors: Lauren Swanson and Eddie Leonard

Organization: UF/IFAS Duval County Extension

Phone: 904-220-0232 (Carol), 904-255-7450 (Brad)

Email: [wyninger@comcast.net](mailto:wyninger@comcast.net), [burbaugh@coj.net](mailto:burbaugh@coj.net)

### 5. St. Johns County Environmental Interpretation Class

February 14-21, 2012

Registration closes February 7, 2012

(Course Code: I12-01)

[Register](#)

#### Facility Information

Fort Mose Historic State Park  
15 Fort Mose Trail, St. Augustine, 32084

Washington Oaks Gardens State Park  
6400 Ocean Shore Blvd., Palm Coast, 32137

Trout Creek Park  
6795 Collier Road, Orangedale, 32092

#### Instructor Information

**Brad Burbaugh**, **Beverly Fleming** and **Lauren Swanson**, Assistant: **Carol Wyninger**

Organization: UF/IFAS Duval County Extension and St. Johns County Recreation and Parks

Phone: (904) 255-7450, (904) 220-0232, (904) 284-9488

Email: [burbaugh@coj.net](mailto:burbaugh@coj.net) or [wyninger@comcast.net](mailto:wyninger@comcast.net)

### 6. Nassau County Wildlife Monitoring Class

March 7-21, 2012

Registration closes March 1, 2012

(Course Code: M12-01)

[Register](#)

#### Facility Information

Nassau County Extension Office: Yulee Fire Station  
86026 Pages Dairy Road, Yulee, FL 32097

#### Instructor Information

**Steven Gaul**, Nassau County Extension and

**Christina Nelson**, Omni Amelia Island Plantation Resort

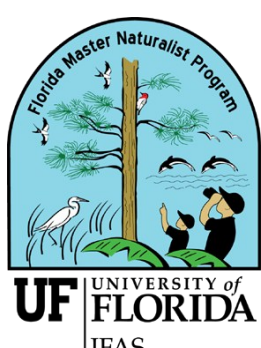
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