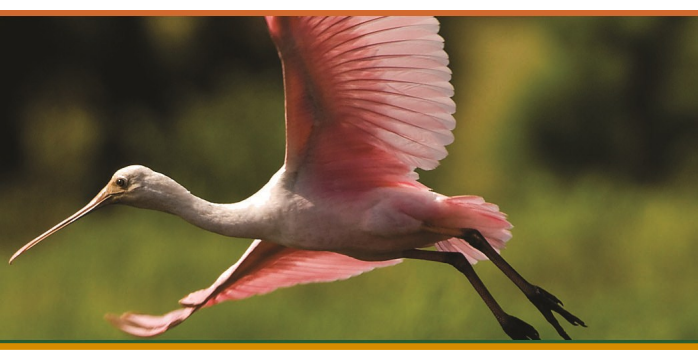


# THE FLORIDA MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM

A Natural History Training Program



## Northwest Region Update

### In This Issue:

1. FMNP Newsletter Survey
2. Instructor's Corner
3. Area Programs & Events
4. Santa Rosa County Coastal Systems Class
5. Franklin/Liberty/Gulf/Gadsden Counties Upland Habitats Class

### 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

#### UF IFAS Extension Presents "Panhandle Outdoors Live 2012"

Northwest Florida is considered one of the top six biodiversity hotspots in the country. Join UF IFAS Extension Agents throughout Northwest Florida to learn more about the Panhandle's hidden ecological treasures.

Upcoming events include:

##### Chipola River Bluffs & Caverns, Falling Waters

February 16, 2012  
9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Central time (10:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Eastern time)  
Contact: Matt Orwat  
Telephone: (850) 638-6180  
Email: [mjorwat@ufl.edu](mailto:mjorwat@ufl.edu)

##### Eglin Air force Base Seepage Slopes

March 15, 2012  
9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Central time (10:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Eastern time)  
Contact: Brooke Saari  
Telephone: (850) 689-5850  
Email: [bsaari@ufl.edu](mailto:bsaari@ufl.edu)

All events are \$30 per person. Cost includes lunch, equipment rentals, and admission to parks.

For a complete list of Panhandle Outdoors Live 2012 events and to register online, please visit: <http://panhandleoutdoorslive2012.eventbrite.com/>

#### 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. Santa Rosa County Coastal Systems Class

**February 29-April 25, 2012**  
**Registration closes on Feb 23, 2012**  
(Course Code: cs12-13)

[Register](#)

#### Facilities Information

J. Earle Bowden Building: Room #1  
120 Church Street Pensacola, FL 32502

Gulf Breeze Recreation Center  
800 Shoreline Drive, Gulf Breeze, FL 32561

#### Instructors Information

**Chris Verlinde**, UF/IFAS Santa Rosa Sea Grant Extension  
**Carrie Stevenson**, UF/IFAS Escambia County Extension  
**Dave Barker**, Blue Dolphin Kayak Ecotours  
**Amy Baldwin**, FDEP  
Organization: UF/IFAS Florida Sea Grant Extension  
Phone: 850-623-3868 (Chris)  
Fax: 850-623-6151 (Chris)  
Email: [chrismv@ufl.edu](mailto:chrismv@ufl.edu)

### 5. Franklin/Liberty/Gulf/Gadsden Counties Upland Habitats Class

**March 2-May 12, 2012**  
**Registration closes February 26, 2012**  
(Course Code: uh12-09)

[Register](#)

#### Classroom Facilities Information

Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve: Nature Center, Multipurpose Room  
108 Island Drive, Eastpoint, FL 32328

St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve  
3815 Hwy C-30A, Port St. Joe, FL 32456

Bear Creek Educational Forest  
8125 Pat Thomas Parkway (HWY 267), Quincy, FL 32351

#### Instructors Information

Rosalyn Kilcollins, Coastal Training Coordinator  
Matthew Anderson, Education & Training Specialist and  
Billy Boothe, Photonaturalist  
Assistant Instructor: Lesley Cox, Green Guide  
Organization: Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve  
Phone: 850-670-7708  
Fax: 850-670-4837  
Email: [Rosalyn.kilcollins@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Rosalyn.kilcollins@dep.state.fl.us)  
Website: [dep.state.fl.us/coastal/sites/apalachicola](http://dep.state.fl.us/coastal/sites/apalachicola)



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