

THE FLORIDA MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM

A Natural History Training Program



Southwest 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. Please include your name, mailing address and t-shirt size (men's or women's). Thank You!

3. Area Programs & Events

Red Stag Ranch Tour for Florida Master Naturalists

What: East Central Florida Regional Co-facilitators, Ken Gioeli and Wren Underwood, have organized a special tour of the Red Stag Ranch in Okeechobee County for Florida Master Naturalists. The tour will include visits to a hardwood hammock and working cattle ranch.

When: March 10, 2012
Begins at 8:00 a.m.

Where: Red Stag Ranch
Eastern Okeechobee County (5 miles east of US 441 on State Road 68 or 19 miles west of I-95 on State Road 68).

Cost: \$55/person. Pre-registration required. Cost includes lunch (most likely BBQ w/sides). Master Naturalist are welcome to register guests.

Please visit <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/2840773831> to register online.

FMSEA/FWC Educator Aquatic Species Collection Workshop

What: Workshop provides instruction on responsible aquatic specimen collection and transport, captive holding practices, how to minimize environmental impacts and collection alternatives. Upon completion of the workshop, participants will receive the Aquatic Science Educations Collection Certificate, which allows for the collection of organisms for educational purposes and is valid for 3 years.

When: March 1, 2012
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Where: Rookery Bay Reserve

Cost: \$25/person.

To register, send your name, home address, email address, telephone number and the name of your organization to fluech@ufl.edu. Make checks payable to FMSEA and mail to:

Bryan Fluech
Florida Sea Grant Extension Agent
300 Tower Rd.
Naples, FL 34113

2011-2012 CREW Strolling Science Seminars

What: 1/2 Day adult-only walking seminars on the CREW Trails

When: March 2, 2012 - The Fascinating World of Insects (CREW Marsh Trails)
April 6, 2012 - Fun With Frogs (Trail TBD)
April 28, 2012 - Secrets of Pollinators (Trail TBD)
All seminars are from 9:00 a.m. - Noon

Where: CREW Trails
Trailheads located off of Corkscrew Rd.
Collier County

Cost: \$10/person for CREW Trust Members, \$15/person for non-members

Register online by visiting <http://crewanimaleyes.eventbrite.com/>, or by mail. Registration forms are available on the [CREW Land & Water trust website](#).

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.

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

4. Lee/Collier Counties Coastal Systems Class

February 24-March 30, 2012

Registration closes on February 16, 2012

(Course Code: cs12-07)

[Register](#)

Facilities Information

Rutenberg Support Services Center
6490 South Pointe Blvd, Ft Myers, FL 33919 (2/24, 3/2 and 3/9)

Rookery Bay NERR
300 Tower Road, Naples, FL 34108 (3/16, 3/23 and 3/30)

Instructor Information

Joy Hazell and Bryan Fluech
Organization: UF/IFAS Extension, Lee and Collier Counties
Phone: (239) 533-7518 (Joy)
Email: hazellje@leegov.com
Website: <http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/>

5. Charlotte County Upland Habitats Class

March 3-April 8, 2012

Course FULL, contact instructor for wait list

(Course Code: uh12-04)

[Register](#)

Facility Information

Charlotte County UF/IFAS Extension
Charlotte County Eastport Environmental Campus: Training Room B
25550 Harbor View Road Suite 3, Port Charlotte, FL 33980

Instructors Information

Betty Staugler
Assistants: **Jamie Reynolds** and **John Phillips**
Organization: Charlotte County UF/IFAS Extension
Phone: 941-764-4346
Fax: 941-764-4343
Email: staugler@ufl.edu
Web Site: <http://charlotte.ifas.ufl.edu/>

6. Collier County Upland Habitats Class

April 12-May 3, 2012

Course FULL, contact instructor for wait list

(Course Code: uh12-01)

Max of 13 students

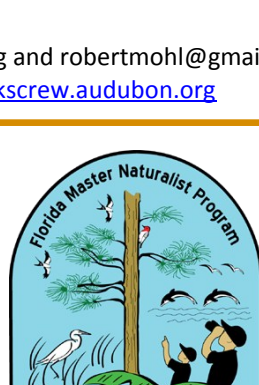
[Register](#)

Facility Information

National Audubon's Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary: Blair Audubon Center Classroom
375 Sanctuary Road, Naples, FL 34120

Instructor Information

Sally Stein, Director of Public Programs and
Bob Mohl, Corkscrew Naturalist Volunteer
Organization: Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary
Phone: 239-348-9151 x 112
Fax: 239-348-1522
Email: sstein@audubon.org and robertmohl@gmail.com
Web site: <http://www.corkscrew.audubon.org>



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