

# THE FLORIDA MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM

A Natural History Training Program



## Northwest Region Update

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### 1. Freshwater Wetlands Student Manual Revisions

#### First Round of Edits Under Way

As previously announced, the FMNP staff, with help from a number of FMNP instructors, has begun the process of revising the Freshwater Wetlands Student Manual. The first phase of the revision process is nearly complete. In addition to correcting errors and updating information, we will be replacing most of the photos and adding additional content. We anticipate that the revision of the manual should be complete by the end of summer 2012. Comments and suggestions regarding the manual can be sent to [info@masternaturalist.org](mailto:info@masternaturalist.org).

### 2. Online Atlas of Amphibians and Reptiles in Florida

Researchers from the University of Florida and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission recently completed a 7-year project (partly funded by a State Wildlife Grant) to georeference more than 175,000 locality records of 142 native and 56 non-native amphibian and reptile species. The publication is 524 pages long and contains a distribution map and photos of each species. It is now posted on the FWC website at the following location: <https://public.myfwc.com/crossdoi/fundedprojects/GrantDetails.aspx?ID=164>. Please click on "Final Report" in blue font in the lower left-hand corner of the page.

### 3. Florida Museum of Natural History Offers New App

#### App Helps Users Identify Birds, Butterflies and Flowering Plants Along the Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail

"*Nature Viewing Along the Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Viewing Trail*" was developed by the Florida Natural History Museum in partnership with the UF/IFAS Entomology and Nematology Department and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission with the goal of enhancing the experiences of trail visitors.

Designed with non-experts in mind, the app allows users to:

- Search for 200 birds by name or filter by color, size, shape and season.
- Search for 106 butterflies by name or filter by color, size and family. Compare to similar species and learn about their larval host plants.
- Search for 247 flowering plants by name or filter by color, size, flower type, flower arrangement and plant form. Learn about some of Florida's most notorious invasive plants.
- View a list of the 491 sites along the Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Viewing Trail; search nearby sites by current location or any city in Florida. Find the sites on a map.
- Learn about Florida's unique habitats and current conservation concerns.
- Bookmark favorite species and sites.

The app is currently available from iTunes for the iPhone and iPad, and from Google play for Android. All information and photos are stored on the user's device so that internet access is not required to use the app.

### 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!

### 4. Area Programs & Events

#### Risk and Response: Sea Level Rise Summit, the Future of Florida and the Coast

"Forty percent of the nation's sea level rise risk is in Florida," Ben Strauss, Climate Central. Projections even for the short-range future suggest a steadily growing threat to Florida's infrastructure and ecological treasures. Salt water intrusion into coastal aquifers, failure of vital drainage canals, and periodic flooding at high tides are already newspaper headlines. This summit will focus on the complex sea level rise issues in Florida and provide examples from other coastal regions within the U.S. and internationally.

**When:** June 20 – 22, 2012

**Where:** Boca Raton Marriott, 5150 Town Center Circle, Boca Raton, Florida 33486

<http://www.ces.fau.edu/SLR2012/accommodations>

**Website:** [www.ces.fau.edu/SLR2012](http://www.ces.fau.edu/SLR2012)

**Register Now! Save during early registration.** \$200 includes summit materials, all sessions and panels, Thursday evening's Tropical Green Reception, 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches, all breaks.

**Newly added:** Poster Session and Pre-Summit Panel

Wednesday, June 20<sup>th</sup> beginning at 1:30 p.m. (no additional fees for this session)

#### 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:

#### Perdido River

May 11, 2012

9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Central time (10:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Eastern time)

Contact: Libbie Johnson

Telephone: (850) 475-5230

Email: [libbiej@ufl.edu](mailto:libbiej@ufl.edu)

#### Navarre Beach & Santa Rosa Sound

June 6, 2012

9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Central time (10:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Eastern time)

Contact: Chris Verlinde

Telephone: (850) 623-3868

Email: [chrismv@ufl.edu](mailto:chrismv@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:

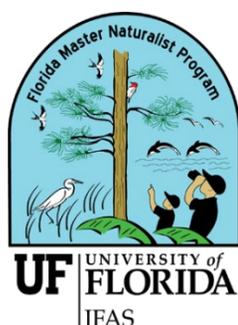
<http://panhandleoutdoorslive2012.eventbrite.com/>

### 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 publication. Newsletters are published bimonthly (odd numbered months).*



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