

THE FLORIDA MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM

A Natural History Training Program



Southwest 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.

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. 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

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 20th beginning at 1:30 p.m. (no additional fees for this session)

2012 Jay Watch Training Sessions

The Florida scrub jay teeters on the brink of extinction. Due to habitat loss, 90% of the scrub jay families that once inhabited Florida are gone. You can help biologists and land managers with Florida scrub jay conservation efforts by participating in Jay Watch, a volunteer-based monitoring program. Data gathered by the program is used to guide habitat improvement projects.

Training sessions will consist of two components:

1. An overview of Florida Scrub-jay biology, nesting behavior, identification, and a walk-through of the survey protocol.
2. A short ride to Scrub-jay habitat (4WD vehicles will be provided where needed) to practice observing jays and recording data.

Where and When:

Polk County: Saturday, May 12th, 8 am to 12 noon

FL Leadership Training Center, 5000 Fire Tower Rd., Haines City

Marion County: Saturday, May 19th, 8 am to 12 noon

49th Avenue Trailhead, 12555 SW 49th Avenue, Ocala

Volusia County: Saturday, June 2nd, 8 am to 12 noon

Lyonia Preserve Environmental Learning Center, 2150 Eustace Ave., Deltona

Highlands County: Tuesday, June 5th, 8 am to 12 noon

Flamingo Villas/Lake Wales NWR, 11849 County Road 700, Sebring

Martin County: Wednesday, June 6th, 8 am to 12 noon

Education Center, Jonathan Dickinson State Park, 16450 S.E. Federal Hwy, Hobe Sound



Source: <http://cs.birdwatchingdaily.com/birds/media/p/60477.aspx>

To register, or for more information:

Contact Marianne Korosy, Jay Watch Coordinator, Audubon Florida, at (727) 742-1683

To register, send name(s), email address, and telephone number to Marianne at mkorosy@audubon.org

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

5. Charlotte County Coastal Systems Class

Charlotte County

June 5-26, 2012

Registration closes on May 29, 2012

(Course Code: [cs12-18](#))

Facility Information

Laishley Park Municipal Marina: Courtesy Room

120 Laishley Court, Punta Gorda, FL 33950

Instructors Information

Betty Staugler

Assistant: **Jamie Reynolds**

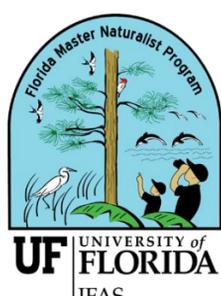
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