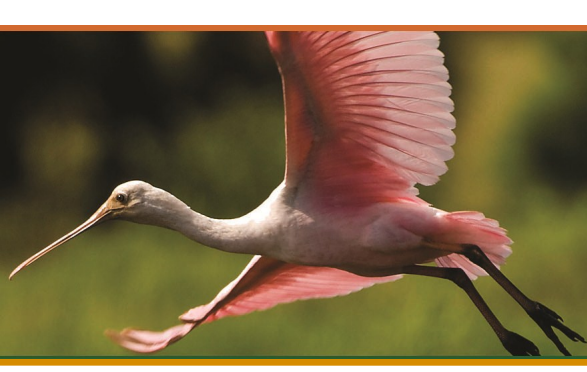


THE FLORIDA MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM

A Natural History Training Program



Southwest Region Update

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Happy New Year!

FMNP Looking Forward to Another Great Year!

We are proud to say that 2012 was another great year for the FMNP. Despite a number of challenges and transitions, the Program celebrated many successes.

The most notable achievements of 2012 include:

- 199 Florida Master Naturalist graduates, more than in any year prior
- 111 Special Topics course graduates, also more than in any year prior
- 4 Advanced Florida Master Naturalist graduates, the first in the history of the FMNP

We would like to thank all of our instructors, students and supporters for helping to make the FMNP the success that it is year after year. We are looking forward to an even better 2013 and wish each of you the same.

Happy New Year from all of us at the FMNP!



Dr. Main Accepts New Position

New Role Provides for Transition from Research to Extension

Dr. Main has accepted the position of Director of Education and Extension for the Florida Sea Grant College Program and Associate Dean of Natural Resource Programs for the Florida Cooperative Extension Service.

In his new position, Dr. Main will help guide Florida Sea Grant extension faculty as they plan and implement new programs. He will also be responsible for directing University of Florida IFAS extension programs in areas such as water use and conservation, forestry, landscape management, fresh and saltwater fisheries, and wildlife management.

Since 1996, Dr. Main has been a professor in UF's Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation. He has conducted an active research program on the behavioral ecology of Florida wildlife such as deer, panthers and wading birds from the UF/IFAS Southwest Florida Research and Education Center in Immokalee. He is considered an expert on coyotes in Florida.

Dr. Main looks forward to shifting his focus from research to extension, stating "I found that the challenges and rewards associated with extension programming are some of the most important contributions I have made during my professional career."

"Through the Master Naturalist program, I have known and worked with many Sea Grant and IFAS extension faculty, and I'm enthusiastic about working with them in this new role."

Congratulations Dr. Main!

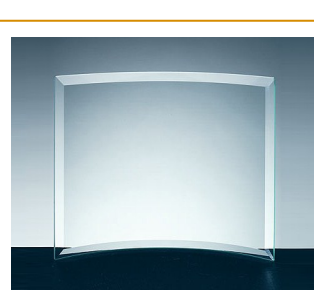


New Advanced Florida Master Naturalist Award

FMNP Honors Graduates With Glass Award

FMNP graduates who complete their 7th course will now not only be recognized as certified Advanced Florida Master Naturalists, but will also receive an elegant glass award to commemorate their achievement. We searched high and low for an attractive award worthy of the Advanced Florida Master Naturalist credential. We hope you like our selection, pictured here, as much as we do!

Congratulations to our first four certified Advanced Florida Master Naturalists: **Keith Boliek** (Coral Springs), **Lindsay Bell** (St. Petersburg), **Thomas Bell** (St. Petersburg), and **Troy Parkinson** (Ft. Pierce). Well done!



UF/IFAS Florida Wildlife Extension's "Wildlife Happenings"

Website Lets You Know What Our Wildlife are Up To Throughout the Year

Whether you prefer to experience nature in the wild or at home, you can find out what Florida's animals are doing any time of year. Florida Wildlife Extension's "Wildlife Happenings" is a list of typical wildlife activities, organized by month, that includes advice on looking and listening for certain types of animals. You can visit Wildlife Happenings at http://www.wec.ufl.edu/extension/wildlife_info/happenings/.



Alliance of Natural Resource Outreach and Service Programs (ANROSP)

Is your organization interested in becoming an ANROSP member?

If you are a professional working for a natural resource outreach and/or service program, your organization may benefit by becoming a member of ANROSP.

ANROSP Mission:

ANROSP promotes awareness and citizen stewardship of natural resources through science-based education and service programs.

ANROSP Vision:

ANROSP envisions healthy ecosystems and communities through citizens who learn, teach, and practice natural resource stewardship.

ANROSP Goals:

- To provide leadership, information, and resources to support the establishment and expansion of member programs nationally and internationally.
- To serve as the primary nexus of information about natural resource outreach and service programs for natural resource professionals, volunteers, and interested citizens.
- To increase knowledge of best practices for natural resource outreach and service programs and encourage their adoption.
- To build effective program partnerships and collaborations at the local, state, and national levels.

For more information about ANROSP, please visit <http://www.nralliance.org/>.



Survey: Recreational Use of Florida Lakes

Researchers from the University of Florida Soil and Water Sciences Department Need Your Help

The UF Soils and Water Department is conducting a study to examine the recreational use of Florida Lakes. Results of the survey may be used to inform the regulatory processes that protect the recreational use of these water bodies. The survey should take no more than 5 minutes to complete and can be accessed here: https://ufl.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_1H2G2M5t3NFdZnT.

Local News and Events

Florida Scrub Jay Festival Seeking Volunteers for Children's Activities

The Florida Scrub Jay Festival is in need of volunteers to lead environmental and/or cultural children's activities.

The festival will be held on Saturday, March 2, 2013 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Jonathan Dickinson State Park located at 16450 S.E. Federal Highway in Hobe Sound.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Karen Fraley at (941) 794-8773 or Karen@aroundbend.com.



CREW Wildflower Festival

Join the FMNP at the 11th annual CREW Wildflower Festival on Saturday, April 6, 2013 from 8:30 am to 2:00 pm at the CREW Cypress Dome trail head located at 3980 Corkscrew Rd., Immokalee, 34142.

Guided hikes (small fee, reservations required) and educational presentations will be offered throughout the day. You can also visit with the numerous local environmental organizations and crafters who will be present. Food and refreshments available onsite for purchase provided by the Corkscrew Country Store.

For more information, please visit: <http://crewtrust.org/events/wildflower-festival/>.



Sarasota County Freshwater Wetlands Class

March 23 - April 27, 2013

Registration closes at 9:00am on March 18, 2013
([Course Code: fw13-14](#))

Facility Information:

Mote Marine Laboratory: MERC
1600 Ken Thompson Parkway, Sarasota, FL 34236

Instructors:

Jason Robertshaw
Assistant: Kasey Gaylord-Opalewski
Organization: Mote Marine Laboratory
Phone: 941-388-4441 ext. 250
Fax: 941-388-3503
Email: jrshaw@mote.org
Web Site: <http://seatrek.org/fmnp/>

Charlotte County Upland Habitats Class

February 22 - April 5, 2013

Registration closes at 9:00am on February 18, 2013
([Course Code: uh13-06](#))

Facility Information:

Charlotte County UF/IFAS Extension: Training Rooms
25550 Harbor View Rd Suite 3, Port Charlotte, FL 33980

Instructors:

Betty Staugler
Assistant: Jamie Reynolds
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/>



Contact

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