



# THE FLORIDA MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM

*A Natural History Training Program*

## Central West Region Newsletter

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### FMNP Chapter Spotlight: Florida Master Naturalists St. Lucie Chapter

#### St. Lucie County FMNP Chapter Dedicated to Promoting and Preserving Local Natural Resources

Over the last decade a number of county and regional FMNP Chapters have formed to further the mission of the program and provide graduates with opportunities for continued engagement. Although newly-formed, the St. Lucie County FMNP chapter, officially recognized as the “St. Lucie County Master Naturalists,” has quickly become one of the most active chapters in the state.

In 2011, a steering committee was formed to direct the formation of an FMNP chapter in St. Lucie County. With the adoption of a mission statement and bylaws, the St. Lucie County Master Naturalists (SCMN) officially became a chapter in December of that year.



St. Lucie County Master Naturalists members demonstrate their python handling skills at a Python Patrol training workshop.



Photography workshop participants practice their techniques on the beach.

The SCMN currently has 30 members (up from 12 in 2011) who volunteer for a variety of educational and outreach activities in St. Lucie and neighboring counties throughout the year. This year, chapter members have assisted with the Nature Conservancy’s Python Patrol campaign to educate the public about the environmental danger posed by Burmese pythons in Florida and elicit reports of sightings. In partnership with St. Lucie County UF/IFAS Cooperative Extension and the St. Lucie County Audubon Society, the SCMN hosted a photography workshop in April where attendees learned both the basics of wildlife and natural areas photography as well as species identification tips. Other notable events that SCMN members have participated in include the Space Coast Birding Festival, Indian River Cleanup and the Vero Beach Oyster Festival, among others. As of October 2012, the SCMN members had volunteered a total of 1,392 hours at 39 events - quite a remarkable achievement!

In addition to the chapter’s outreach and educational activities, members also participate in field trips to various local natural areas. Recent trips have included Fort Pierce inlet, Green Cay Wetlands, and Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary.

The SCMN meets bimonthly in Port St. Lucie or Fort Pierce.

For more information about the St. Lucie County Master Naturalists, or to become a member, please visit <http://stlucie.ifas.ufl.edu/FMNPMinutes.html>. Questions about SCMN can be directed to Mr. Ken Gioeli, UF/IFAS Natural Resources Extension Agent, at [ktgioeli@ufl.edu](mailto:ktgioeli@ufl.edu).

### Advanced Florida Master Naturalists: Troy Parkinson

We would like to congratulate Troy Parkinson of Fort Pierce on his remarkable achievement of becoming one of our first four Advanced Florida Master Naturalists. Troy completed all seven FMNP courses in 2012. Way to go Troy!

We thank Troy for all that he has done to help support the mission of the FMNP.



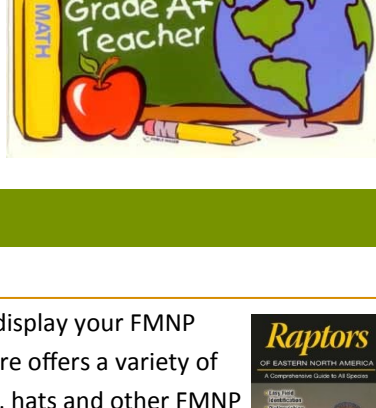
Advanced Florida Master Naturalists Troy Parkinson displays his Advanced Florida Master Naturalist award and Florida Master Naturalist Plaque.

### Florida Master Naturalist Program Teacher Scholarship

#### Scholarship Available for K-12 Teachers

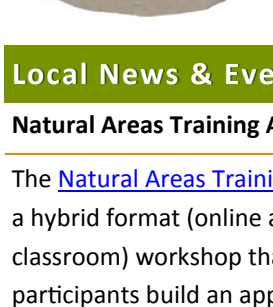
Do you know a deserving teacher who is interested in becoming a Florida Master Naturalist? The FMNP Teacher Scholarship is available to certified teachers currently employed in a public or private K-12 school. Scholarships are awarded on a first come, first serve basis and are dependent on funding.

We are currently accepting applications for scholarship to be awarded in January 2014. To apply, or for more information, please visit [http://www.masternaturalist.ifas.ufl.edu/students/scholarships/fmnp\\_teaching.aspx](http://www.masternaturalist.ifas.ufl.edu/students/scholarships/fmnp_teaching.aspx). Additional questions can be sent to [info@masternaturalist.com](mailto:info@masternaturalist.com).



### FMNP Store

#### Online Store Offers a Variety of FMNP Logo Items and Educational Resources



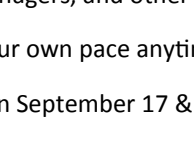
If you’re looking for apparel or accessories that allow you to display your FMNP pride, look no further than the [FMNP Webstore!](#) The Webstore offers a variety of shirts (such as the Columbia women’s fishing shirt seen here), hats and other FMNP logo items for both men and women. FMNP logo items make great gifts for your favorite Florida Master Naturalist. In addition to apparel, you can find a number of educational resources (including the FMNP course DVDs) and tools that are useful in the field, as well as the classroom.



### Local News & Events

#### Natural Areas Training Academy: Working Across Boundaries to Protect Ecosystems

The [Natural Areas Training Academy](#) is a hybrid format (online and classroom) workshop that helps participants build an appreciation of how to manage natural areas as part of a larger ecosystem, in coordination with neighboring land owners, land managers, and other outside influences.



## Natural Areas TRAINING ACADEMY

Online learning: To be completed at your own pace anytime during the period of July 22 to September 13, 2013

Classroom learning: Two day training on September 17 & 18, 2013, at Wekiwa Springs State Park (Apopka, FL)

Cost: \$275

Registration: <http://wab-nata2013.eventbrite.com>

This workshop provides guidance on how to integrate visitors and volunteers into natural areas management.

Participants will:

- Learn about the concept of ‘ecosystem management’ and its relevance to resource management
- Become familiar with approaches that can be used to address threats that span property boundaries
- Learn about the role of working groups in coping with complex environmental issues in Florida
- Discover a wide spectrum of strategies that can be used to bring individuals together to achieve common goals and seek common solutions
- Acquire skills in listening, communicating, and facilitating to build consensus and cope with conflicts

Note: Group tuition rates are available for a single agency registering multiple participants — please contact the workshop coordinator, Sarah Friedl, for details.

For more information, contact Sarah at [sefriedl@ufl.edu](mailto:sefriedl@ufl.edu) or 850-875-7153, or visit our website (<http://wec.ufl.edu/nata>).

### Pinellas County Freshwater Wetlands Class

#### June 25-July 1, 2013

Registration closes at 9:00am on June 19, 2013

[\(Course Code: fw13-20\)](#)

#### Facility Information:

St. Petersburg College, Seminole Campus  
C.W. Bill Young University Partnership Center Building (UP): Room 193  
9200 113th St. North, Seminole, FL 33772

#### Instructor Information:

Jeanne Murphy, Wildlife Biologist and Brian Lane, Ecologist  
Organization: Sensing Nature, LLC  
Phone: 727-397-2306  
Fax: 727-320-0842  
Email: [jmurphy@sensingnature.com](mailto:jmurphy@sensingnature.com)  
Website: [www.sensingnature.com](http://www.sensingnature.com)

### Pinellas County Coastal Systems Class

#### August 5-9, 2013

Registration closes at 9:00am on July 30, 2013

[\(Course Code: cs13-14\)](#)

#### Facility Information:

St. Petersburg College, Seminole Campus  
C.W. Bill Young University Partnership Center Building (UP): Room 193  
9200 113th St. North, Seminole, FL 33772

#### Instructor Information:

Jeanne Murphy, Wildlife Biologist and Brian Lane, Ecologist  
Organization: Sensing Nature, LLC  
Phone: 727-397-2306  
Fax: 727-320-0842  
Email: [jmurphy@sensingnature.com](mailto:jmurphy@sensingnature.com)  
Website: [www.sensingnature.com](http://www.sensingnature.com)

### Sarasota County Coastal Systems Class

#### September 10-25, 2013

Registration closes at 9:00am on September 4, 2013

[\(Course Code: cs13-13\)](#)

#### Facility Information:

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

#### Instructor Information:

Kasey Gaylord-Opalewski, Digital Learning Coordinator  
Assistant: Jason Robertshaw, Digital Media Developer  
Organization: Mote Marine Laboratory  
Phone: 941-388-4441 ext. 263  
Fax: 941-388-3503  
Email: [kasey@mote.org](mailto:kasey@mote.org)  
Web Site: <http://seatrek.org/fmnp/>

### Sarasota County Wildlife Monitoring Class

#### July 13-27, 2013

Registration closes at 11:00am on July 9, 2013

[\(Course Code: M13-03\)](#)

#### Facility Information: (New location as of 5/29)

Crowley Natural and Cultural History Center (aka Crowley Museum and Nature Center)  
Room: Learning Center  
Address: 16405 Myakka Rd , Sarasota, FL 34240

#### Instructor Information:

Robert A. Kluson, Ph.D.  
Organization: UF/IFAS Extension Sarasota County  
Phone: 941.232.3090  
Fax: 941.861.9886  
Email: [rkluson@scgov.net](mailto:rkluson@scgov.net)  
Website: <http://sarasota.ifas.ufl.edu>

### Pinellas County Habitat Evaluation Class

#### September 4-21, 2013

Registration closes at 9:00am on August 28, 2013

[\(Course Code: E13-02\)](#)

#### Facility Information:

Moccasin Lake Nature Park: Nature Center  
2750 Park Trail Lane, Clearwater FL 33759-2602

#### Instructor Information:

Jeanne Murphy, Wildlife Biologist and Brian Lane, Ecologist  
Organization: Sensing Nature, LLC  
Phone: 727-397-2306  
Fax: 727-320-0842  
Email: [jmurphy@sensingnature.com](mailto:jmurphy@sensingnature.com)  
Website: [www.sensingnature.com](http://www.sensingnature.com)

### Marion County Upland Habitats Class

#### September 6 - October 11, 2013

Registration closes at 9:00am on August 30, 2013

[\(Course Code: uh13-16\)](#)

#### Facility Information

Discovery Center: Classroom 1  
701 NE Sanchez Ave., Ocala, FL 34470

#### Instructor Information:

Karen Puracan  
Organization: City of Ocala's Discovery Center  
Phone: 352-401-3900  
Fax: 352-368-5514  
Email: [kpuracan@ocalafl.org](mailto:kpuracan@ocalafl.org)  
Website: <http://mydiscoverycenter.org>



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