

THE FLORIDA MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM

A Natural History Training Program



Southwest 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 41 members 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.

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

Are you interested in starting a FMNP chapter in your area? Please contact Heather L. Ferrand, FMNP Program Coordinator, at info@masternaturalist.org for information and resources to help you get started.

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.

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



Advanced Florida Master Naturalist 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 scholarships 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.

Additional questions can be sent to 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.



Lee County Freshwater Wetlands Class

August 1-29, 2013

Registration closes at 9:00am on July 26, 2013

[\(Course Code: fw13-11\)](#)

Facility Information:

Ostego Bay Foundation Marine Science Center: Bonita Fish Co. Building
718 Fisherman's Wharf Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931

Instructor Information:

Joanne Semmer
Organization: Ostego Bay Foundation Marine Science Center
Phone: 239-765-8101 (Office) & 239-470-4993 (Cell)
Fax: 239-463-0865
Email: info@ostegobay.org
Website: <http://www.ostegobay.org>

Collier County Coastal Systems Class

October 23 - November 13, 2013

Registration closes at 9:00am on October 17, 2013

[\(Course Code: cs13-16\)](#)

Facility Information

Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve NERR
Environmental Learning Center: Palmetto Room
3300 Tower Road, Naples, FL 34113

Instructor Information:

Dave Graff, Rookery Bay NERR
Renee Wilson, Rookery Bay NERR
Sarah Falkowski, Rookery Bay NERR
Bryan Fluech, UF/IFAS Collier County Extension Service
Randy McCormick, Rookery Bay NERR
Organization: Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
Phone: 239-417-6310 x 408
Fax: 239-417-6315
Email: david.graff@dep.state.fl.us
Web Site: <http://www.rookerybay.org/>

Lee County Upland Habitats Class

October 3-31, 2013

Registration closes at 9:00am on September 27, 2013

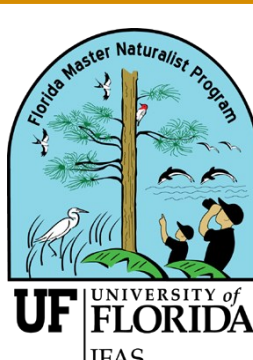
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Contact

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