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Thank you to Brandon Smith
Dr. Martin Main

To be a Florida Master Naturalist Instructor is no easy task and carries much responsibility. A tremendous amount of effort and energy is required to prepare and deliver a high quality FMNP experience for participants. It also requires a suite of communication and people skills, including enthusiasm, patience, and collegiality. Our friend
Brandon Smith has demonstrated all these qualities and more as the Lead FMNP Instructor at Riverwalk Park in Brevard County. Brandon recently accepted a new position as an Environmental Specialist in the Brevard County Natural Resources Management division and we will miss him greatly as a Lead Instructor. During 2004-2018 Brandon taught 30 FMNP courses including all 3 core modules and 2 special topics courses, and awarded 415 FMNP graduate certificates. The numbers are impressive, but more impressive is the profound effect he has had on the lives of many FMNP graduates and professional colleagues. I asked for some comments from people who know and have worked with Brandon and the messages all spoke to Brandon’s knowledge, his ability to share information with expertise and humor, his kindness, and his deep commitment to education and conservation.

Holly Abeels, UF/IFAS Sea Grant Agent and FMNP Instructor in Brevard Co., informed me that when she was first hired she approached Brandon to learn more about the FMNP and see if she could assist in teaching classes --- “Brandon welcomed me with open arms and we soon began co-teaching classes and assisting each other. He’s been a colleague and more importantly, a friend ever since. Brandon is a great instructor. He knows the material, explains everything so well, and has anecdotes and examples about everything. I have learned a lot both in knowledge and in watching his teaching style.”

Tracey Wright, Advanced Master Naturalist and Park Ranger and Naturalist at Turkey Creek Sanctuary, took multiple courses with Brandon and has since helped him teach classes. She recently told me, “Brandon was the inspiration for me going back to school at Florida Tech and changing careers. He entertains as he educates and everyone has a good time in his classes. I think he is a great person and I’m just grateful I got to know him and teach some with him before he left to go to his new position with Brevard County.”

Vince Lamb, a Florida Master Naturalist, took his first FMNP course with Brandon and has since become actively involved and serving on Boards and committees for various conservation organizations, several of which Brandon also served on. Vince’s significant contributions earned
him the prestigious Citizen Conservation Award from the Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society, but also enabled him to work with Brandon in these other roles, to which he stated --- “Brandon has applied his personal leadership skills to revitalize the Friends of the Carr Refuge. This organization, virtually dormant in 2011, has more than 150 members today and has 30 dedicated volunteers to help fulfill its mission. I am proud to have played a small part in assisting Brandon to build this organization.”

Thanks Brandon for all you’ve done for the FMNP and for Florida. We wish you good luck in your new job and hope you continue working with us in any capacity that you are able.

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The worms are early, but where are the birds?
Megan Ellis and Shelly Johnson; ECOTOON by Arjun Srivathsa

Spring is unfolding in the Sunshine State. As it spreads across the landscape, so will the songs of migrating birds. For thousands of years, birds have aligned the timing of their migration with seasonal food sources along migration routes. Recently, birds and their food have gone out of sync.

“Phenology” refers to the timing of seasonal life events in plants and animals — such as flowering, emergence of insects, and migration of birds. Altered phenology is one of the most widespread consequences of a rapidly changing climate. For example, consistently warmer winters can result in flowers blooming just a few days and
eventually weeks earlier each year.

Unfortunately, not all plants and animals adapt to these changes at the same rate. As described in this study co-authored by the Florida Museum of Natural History at the University of Florida, “warming temperatures are triggering plants to begin their growth earlier or later than normal, skewing biological cycles that have long been in sync”. If food sources peak in abundance before (or after) migrating birds arrive, the birds will not have the energy they need to survive and reproduce.

The U.S. Climate Science Center is investigating phenological changes and potential impacts to ecosystems. It is difficult to adapt habitat management to changing phenology because natural resource managers cannot control the climate or timing of events. Maintaining diverse and connected habitats may be the most effective approach for conserving migratory birds in the face of rapidly changing climate.
To help track these seasonal changes in plants and animals and contribute to ongoing research, you can sign up for USGS-led Nature’s Notebook, where you can record your observations and help generate long-term data.

To keep a personal checklist of all the birds you see this spring, check out the eBird app. Your sightings will contribute to citizen science data on bird numbers and locations. In addition, you will have access to real-time maps of places you can find particular species.

Want to explore more of wildlife-rich Florida? Check out the The Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail, which highlights 510 locations across the state to view native birds, butterflies, and more.

**Impressive Projects from Leon County**

**FNMP**

**Rosalyn F. Kilcollins**

I am always so impressed with the projects and activities of our Master Naturalist graduates in Leon County and previously in Franklin County. As I am sure is true around the state, some of these efforts grow way beyond the classroom. The two discussed below are just a sampling of many I would love to share.

**Florida Horseshoe Crab Watch**

Early last year the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and the University of Florida/IFAS announced a call for volunteers to help collect data for the Florida Horseshoe Crabs Watch monitoring study. I sent the announcement to our MN graduates and four of them attended the volunteer training in Cedar Key. The first season of data collection took place in the spring at sites in Taylor and Levy Counties, which is about 2 ~2 ½ hour drive from Tallahassee. Sampling takes place at high tide for three days around each full and new moon in March, April, September and October.

Two of these volunteers were in our Coastal Systems...
course this summer. They paired with another student to do their project on horseshoe crabs and the monitoring program. They presented an informative website and shared information on biology, monitoring protocol and photographs. One of our other MN graduates and Green Guide, Chester Butler, who was also volunteering, convinced the FWC and IFAS project coordinators to expand to a new site – Bald Point State Park, which is closer to Tallahassee. When the next round of training was offered at the start of the fall monitoring, another one of our graduates and I attended. Subsequently I was “volunteered” to coordinate the monitoring and volunteers for Bald Point. Our team completed 8 of the 9 days in the fall (and cancelled one due to a coastal flood advisory for extreme high tides).

Chester Butler wrote an article about horseshoe crabs and this citizen scientist project for Forgotten Coast Line news. He posted the article along with the following on the Green Guide website: “Florida Green Guides and Florida Master Naturalists lead the way as citizen scientists for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission and the University of Florida study of the Horseshoe Crab. If you would like to volunteer for special training to participate in this continuing program please contact Rosalyn Kilcollins, Roztally@embarqmail.com. Rosalyn is the area coordinator for this important work.”

Our team will be preparing for the spring monitoring season soon. There will be another training soon for new volunteers, so interested people can contact Tiffany H. Black FWC Research Associate-Crustaceans at Tiffany.Black@MyFWC.com or (352) 543-1080. To volunteer for Bald Point, contact Rosalyn.

A Paddler’s Guide to the Flowering Plants of Womack Creek: An actively maintained Master Naturalist Project.

Ed and Marylyn Feaver were inspired to enroll in a Master Naturalist course because of their love and experiences as paddlers. In their first course they gravitated toward the other
paddlers which led to a group in project to develop plant ID guides for paddlers with plants they would see from the water. Thus *A Paddler’s Guide to the Flowering Plants of Womack Creek, Tate’s Hell State Forest* was born. It focused on Womack Creek, a self-contained tributary of the Ochlockonee River. It is a short 3.75 miles from put-in to take-out, protected and where upriver and downriver current is mostly influenced by tide or wind, it is easy to paddle up and back. The guide was presented as a blog site with computer programming by Steven Babcock and content and verification of the photos completed by Ed and Marylyn Feaver. Ed and Marylyn expanded the site as their project for their project in their next two Master Naturalist courses.

*A Paddler’s Guide To the Flowering Plants of Womack Creek* [www.womackcreek.wordpress.com](http://www.womackcreek.wordpress.com) is still maintained by Ed and Marylyn. They monitor the creek at least monthly from October through May. Since 2014, each visit is posted under the “Log Book” on the upper banner of the site. All photos have been taken on the creek and now include all living things on that creek that they have been able to get clear photo shots of. There are no exotics on this creek because they removed a taro plant and once a year they remove all the Japanese climbing ferns which they identify as they monitor the creek, following proper protocol.

They are considering getting new camera that may enable to include more of species and enrolling in a blog course to help them revise the site so it is more manageable to users. As avid paddlers, the Feavers, believe that there is no other north Florida paddle with such a diversity of blooming plants. They encourage other Master Naturalists to take to the water by canoe or kayak to discover the bounty of our North Florida water venues. Having paddled 49 states and 10 Canadian provinces, they believe that North Florida should be on the list of 10 best paddling regions on our continent.

It is so exciting to see our graduates engaged in such interesting activities.

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**FNMP Instructor Earns Outstanding Interpreter Award**

**Erick Gill**

The Sunny Southeast Chapter of the National Association for Interpretation has honored St. Lucie County’s Senior Lands Coordinator and FNMP Instructor Amanda Thompson with the 2018 Outstanding Interpreter Award.
Thompson, a nine-year St. Lucie County employee, will be presented the award at the NAI Annual Regional Workshop on the Outer Banks of the North Carolina Feb. 27 through March 2. Thompson was selected from a group of candidates throughout the southeast region, including Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Florida, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

“Amanda’s understanding of the value of our natural resources is only surpassed by her passion and unique approach to engaging people with humor and a feeling of connectedness,” said Amy Griffin, director of St. Lucie County’s Environmental Resources Department. “Her work has had a positive impact in support of creating healthy ecosystems and a sense of community cohesiveness that will be enduring.”

Thompson has more than 12-years’ experience in environmental education. Through her work with St. Lucie County’s Environmental Resources Department and the Oxbow Eco-Center, she oversees the county’s winter guided hike series, where hundreds of residents and tourists have learned the important role that these environmental lands play in improving our quality of life on the Treasure Coast. Additionally, Thompson is heavily involved in the Florida Master Naturalist Program (FMNP), which is an in-depth naturalist training and certification course developed and administered by the University of Florida. Not only has she helped reach hundreds of community members through this program instruction, she also improved upon the curriculum by incorporating interpretive techniques.

The National Association for Interpretation (NAI) is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) professional association for those involved in the interpretation of natural and cultural heritage resources in settings such as parks, zoos, museums, nature centers, aquaria, botanical gardens, and historical sites. For more than 50 years, NAI and its parent organizations have encouraged networking, training, and collaboration among members and partners in support of their mission: inspiring leadership and excellence to advance heritage interpretation as a profession. For information about the NAI Sunny Southeast Region visit: https://nai3region3.wordpress.com/
Florida Master Naturalist Program Surpasses 400 Graduates in St. Lucie County

Erick Gill

St. Lucie County’s Florida Master Naturalist Program (FMNP) instructors are proud to announce that with the conclusion of the most recent course, St. Lucie County has graduated more than 400 students through the Florida Master Naturalist Program (FMNP). FMNP is a certification series designed by the University of Florida’s Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS).

Wren Underwood and Amanda Thompson of St. Lucie County’s Environmental Resources Department and Ken Gioeli of the St. Lucie County UF/IFAS Extension are the lead FMNP instructors in the county. Instructors have been offering FMNP courses in the county since 2005.

“The Florida Master Naturalist Program courses are a fun and exciting way for community members to learn about Florida’s natural systems, meet like-minded people, and explore area preserves and waterways. They also provide an avenue for ERD’s Environmental Education & Outreach Division (through Oxbow Eco-Center) to achieve our mission: To cultivate knowledge, nurture a sense of wonder and inspire stewardship for the natural world,” said Underwood. “Additionally, the FMNP provides volunteers and area eco-tour operators the training to offer engaging and informative interpretive tours to visitors and residents alike.”

The most recent course, the FMNP Coastal Systems Module, took place at the Oxbow Eco-Center where it was facilitated by a team of seven knowledgeable instructors: Underwood, Thompson, Erin Cartmill, Trish Sposato, Mary Starzinski, Marj Flory and Kathy Petteruti. These committed facilitators engaged students through presentations on coastal ecology, flora and fauna, conservation, lead hands-on activities and coordinated field trips. Excursions included trips to MacArthur Beach State Park, seining in the Indian River Lagoon, a tour of area mosquito impoundments, a visit to the St. Lucie Aquarium, kayaking at Round Island, a tour of the Gilbert’s Bar House of Refuge and more.

Graduates from this course are: Georgen Charnes, Susan Collins, Kyle Evans, Susan Hamburger, Fritz Hanselman, Holly Hanselman, Barrett Hoard, Jennifer Hoard, Kitty Jackson, Susan Kloosterman, Richard Knott, Janet Mackey, Celeste Marsh, Roy Netherton, Karen Pender,

In addition, seven students earned the coveted “Florida Master Naturalist” title after completing their third core module. These dedicated students are Kyle Evans, Sue Hamburger, Fritz Hanselman, Holly Hanselman, Roy Netherton, Kim Roberts and Neil Stover.

Congratulations to all these hard-working students and their instructors! St Lucie County FMNP instructors are looking forward to many more courses and already have their sights set on the 500 graduate mark. If you would like more information about the Florida Master Naturalist Program, including a list of current course offerings, please visit http://www.masternaturalist.org.

To learn more about St. Lucie County’s Extension visit http://stlucie.ifas.ufl.edu. And visit http://www.oxboweco.com for future Oxbow Eco-Center events and programming.

Florida Master Naturalists Team with Florida State Parks

Kim Munshower and Wayne Douchkoff

Finding wonder and beauty in Florida’s natural places resonates with every Florida Master Naturalist. As we share our passion for the earth, we hope to see the echoes of conservation and stewardship in the lives of those we touch. The exciting Volunteer Paddlesport Program in our award-winning state park system gives Master Naturalists the opportunity to help others rediscover the awe and wonder in nature by assisting with public guided paddle trips at your local state park. The Paddlesport Program also seeks to fill much needed trip leader positions by providing training through the American Canoe Association (ACA) at Lake Louisa State Park.

‘Nature deficit disorder’, a phrase coined by Richard Louv in his book Last Child in the Woods, labels the growing problem of our disconnectedness from nature. What people, particularly children, don’t experience or explore, they will not love and protect. Not only does the environment suffer, our health suffers too. Current studies have linked the lack of outdoor time with rising obesity, attention deficit disorders and increased depression among youth. The Florida DEP Paddlesport Program seeks to turn this trend around by providing experiences that inspire connections to the outdoors with everyone, especially families with children. This is the mission behind the Volunteer Paddlesport Program’s desire to provide trained, passionate
volunteers to lead on-the-water nature tours within local state parks and public lands. These guided trips highlight natural, cultural and historical resources and points-of-interest our diverse waterways.

To become a volunteer trip leader, paddlers attend a rigorous three day Certified Kayak Trip Leader Course with the ACA. This course focuses on risk assessment and group management, an excellent path for creating future generations of safe paddlers. Seventy-four volunteers, including 10 Master Naturalists, have successfully completed the course. Five state parks have public paddle programs with another twenty parks waiting for you!

To attend this ACA training, you don't have to be an expert paddler, but some experience is helpful. The next training takes place May 15-18 at Lake Louisa State Park near Orlando. The course is offered at a reduced rate of $140 per person including free lodging.

If you don't want to take the kayak training but want to participate as a naturalist during guided paddles, we would love to hear from you too! We can pair you with a trained kayak volunteer while you share your interpretive skills on the tours.

For more info, contact Kim Munshower, kimmunshower@hotmail.com or Wayne Douchkoff, wdouchkoff@aol.com To register for the next course, contact Doug Alderson at doug.alderson@dep.state.fl.us
OPPORTUNITIES:
Volunteer Opportunities:

Coastal Bird Stewards- Audubon Florida

One way to help Florida's beach-nesting birds is to become a Coastal Bird Steward. Stewards who volunteer help ensure beachgoers do not enter fragile nesting areas and help educate visitors about the remarkable species that rely on Florida's shores for survival. Audubon will train you on the bird protections and biology you will need to be successful. Interested individuals should like spending time on the beach and interacting with the public.

We will be recruiting in late spring to help protect Florida’s original beach babies during nesting season. For more information on specific contacts and locations, interested parties should send a message to FLconservation@audubon.org.

North Florida Land Trust’s Team Terrapin- Jacksonville

North Florida Land Trust is recruiting volunteers for their volunteer-based monitoring program for nesting diamondback terrapins, known as Team Terrapin. Team Terrapin volunteers enable North Florida Land Trust to better inform diamondback terrapin conservation in our region by conducting regular monitoring of a nesting population around Big Talbot Island from April/May through September. Their work provides robust, comprehensive data to continue decades of research on a large, imperiled diamondback terrapin population. If you are interested, please contact Emily Dunn, Stewardship Coordinator (edunn@northfloridalandtrust.org).
Citizen Science Opportunities:

**Jay Watch - Audubon Florida**

Audubon Florida coordinates the Jay Watch citizen science program statewide. We train and support volunteers to conduct scientific surveys that measure annual nesting success and count the total number of Florida Scrub-Jays at more than 50 sites in 19 counties. The success of the Jay Watch program, and the program’s contributions to the recovery of Florida Scrub-Jays, depends upon dedicated volunteer citizen scientists like you, your family, and your friends.

We will begin recruiting volunteers in March to attend trainings and surveys. Trainings take place between the end of April and middle of June. The actual surveys take place between June 15 and July 15. Contact Jsulek@audubon.org if you are interested.

Chapter Events:

**NEW Manatee County FMNP Friends Chapter**

Florida Master Naturalists from Manatee County have formally organized a FMNP Friends Chapter. Membership is open to FMNP Graduates and the general public, regardless of location. They have monthly programs aimed at community outreach, as well as member-only field trips. Their next public program will be ‘Our Gentle Giant: The Manatee’ on February 24th, 10-11am. For more information about the chapter, contact Lisa Hickey, Extension Agent at lisa.hickey@ufl.edu.
Friends of Pinellas Master Naturalists - Annual Membership Meeting

Friends of Pinellas Master Naturalists will be have their Annual Membership Meeting on Wednesday, 3/21/18, from 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM. The meeting will be held at the Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and History Center, Auditorium (1800 Weedon Dr NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33702). The meeting is open to our members, their guests, and others wanting to learn more about the Friends of Pinellas Master Naturalists.

We will revisit the past year’s activities and learn about our upcoming 2018 activities. Learn how the Friends of PMN keeps expanding outreach in the community. Discover details about our upcoming quarterly programs, monthly field trips, and events. Learn how the Friends of PMN Scholarship Program for the FMNP is reaching the community. Elect Your New Board Members for 2018-2020 Term. There will be a Program “The Conservation Movement in Florida” by Aliki Moncrief, Executive Director of FCV Education Fund, and a silent auction & food! Be ready to bid on some great silent auction items while nibbling on tasty snacks.

RSVP or Questions – Please email Jeanne at jmurphy@sensingnature.com

Central West Region FMNP Workshop

March 3, Saturday, 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM
Host Site: Weedon Island Preserve, 1800 Weedon Dr NE, St Petersburg, FL 33702
Hosted by Friends of Pinellas Master Naturalists

• All Florida Master Naturalists are invited to attend for a day of educational presentations, outdoor experience and networking opportunities!
• RSVP required. Details coming soon via Friends of PMN's Facebook page, and on Friends’ website calendar!
• Email FMNP Instructor Jeanne Murphy to be put on list for notification once registration is open – jmurphy@sensingnature.com.

Workshop includes:

• Program at Weedon Island Preserve, "Sea Level Rise in Florida: News from Our Natural Areas" by Dr. Tonya Clayton.

The sea is rising, and the signs are all around us. Today’s headlines come from our flooded city streets, but Florida’s native plants were among the first to tell this tale — quietly,
many decades ago. In this illustrated armchair stroll across the state, we'll look at some of those early hints and we'll explore what's happening today. How do we know the sea is rising, what's the big deal, and how can we help? Along the way, we'll visit some of Florida’s most iconic natural communities.

Tonya Clayton, PhD, is a contributing author of Sea Level Rise in Florida (University Press of Florida) and the author of How to Read a Florida Gulf Coast Beach (University of North Carolina Press). She is also an NAI Certified Interpretive Guide and a graduate of the Florida Master Naturalist Program and the Florida Natural Resources Leadership Institute.

• Field Trip at Fort De Soto Park, Tierra Verde:

Rotating Guided Walks – topics include sea level rise and its impacts on beach ecology, plus loving the wrack line with wildlife viewing. Entrance fee required.

Events:

2018 SEEA-LEEF Conference- March 16-18th

LEEФ is excited to announce registration is open for the Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance (SEEA) conference hosted by the League of Environmental Educators in Florida (LEEF). #SEEALEEF2018

The Conference will take place on March 16-18, 2018 in St. Petersburg, Fl. A research symposium will be held on Friday, March 16 at the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRD), beginning with a keynote address from Dr. Martha Monroe, Professor of Environmental Education at the University of Florida. The theme for Saturday and Sunday is “Environmental Education in a Changing World”. There will be three main venues for all activities, all located in the downtown
area of St. Petersburg. The keynote for Saturday is Mallory Lykes Dimmit, President of the Board of the Florida Wildlife Corridor. The sessions offered for all days, along with registration and other important information, can be found on the conference website at [https://www.seea-leef2018.com](https://www.seea-leef2018.com).

The goal of the 2018 LEEF-SEEA conference is to provide tools and strategies for educators to further their success. We will gather as a community whose intentions are similar and complementary to share our successes, challenges, and a collective direction.

This conference is ideal for classroom teachers, nature center, refuge, and park employees, environmental agency personnel, post-secondary students and faculty, and others interested in Florida's environment.

LEEF is a non-profit organization established in 1981 to promote environmental education in Florida at all levels and through a variety of methods and resources.

Questions regarding the conference can be sent to leef.florida@gmail.com.

**10th Annual I Did a Hike- February 24th**

Support the Florida Trail Association - Get outside and hike on the Florida National Scenic Trail along one of Florida's most beautiful sandhill communities.

Meet at the picnic area of Mike Roess Gold Head Branch State Park to register and catch a shuttle ride to the starting point located on Camp Blanding Military Reservation. The hike through Camp Blanding is 5.9 miles and then crosses SR 21 into Gold Head Branch State Park for an additional 4.9 miles. Along the way you may see gopher tortoises, whitetail deer, fox squirrels, pileated woodpeckers and various other birds. If you are real lucky you may get a chance to see one of the largest Indigo snakes ever spotted in Florida. The hike passes by some of the most pristine spring fed lakes in Florida, follows along two ravines and
gives you a chance to view the results of prescribed burning. The entire hike is 10.8 miles with take-out points at 3.7, 5.9 and 7.8 miles. Sag wagons will be available at the take out points.

Sign in begins at 8:00am and will continue until 10:00am in the recreation building located across from the picnic area of Gold Head State Park. All hikers must register before hiking and sign back in upon their return. Door prizes will be given out at the end of the hike so be sure to keep your ticket stub. Wear comfortable hiking shoes and bring plenty of water, snacks and lunch if you like. No pets allowed. Tickets are $20 per person. Ticket does not include the State Park entrance fee of $5 per carload for up to 8 people. Proceeds from the event go to support the Florida Trail Association. The Florida National Scenic Trail is a continuous hiking trail covering approximately 1,400 miles through the State of Florida, starting down south in Big Cypress National Preserve between Miami and Naples and continuing up into the panhandle to Santa Rosa Island near Pensacola Beach.

Email: ididahike@gmail.com or call 352-258-3058 for more information.

**Gopher Tortoise Day - April 10th**

The Gopher Tortoise Council declared April 10th as "Gopher Tortoise Day", and now you can too! Join the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) in celebrating the gopher tortoise by adopting a resolution proclaiming April 10th as Gopher Tortoise Day and raising awareness in your local community.

Reasons to celebrate Gopher Tortoise Day:

- The gopher tortoise is a State-Threatened species that has lived in the Southeastern United States for thousands of years. Help ensure that this species continues to thrive for years to come by taking actions to conserve local gopher tortoise populations and their habitat.

- You can help protect this important keystone species and more than 350 "commensal" species that rely on gopher tortoise burrows for refuge. Commensals include the gopher frog, Florida mouse, Eastern indigo snake, and many more. Educate yourself and others on the importance of gopher tortoises and burrow commensals to Florida ecosystems.

- Gopher tortoises are found throughout the state of Florida, even in backyards and local neighborhoods! Make your neighborhood "Tortoise-Wise" by raising awareness for gopher tortoises, growing native plants in your yard, and keeping your pets away from tortoises and their burrows.


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**UPDATES FROM THE FMNP OFFICE:**

**Have you been recording your volunteer hours?**

The contribution of FMNP graduates’ time and expertise on volunteer & citizen science projects across the globe is commendable and much appreciated!

Please record all of your volunteer & citizen science activities in the FMNP Volunteer Monitoring System. This helps us demonstrate the tremendous impact that FMNP contributes to the natural systems that sustain us.

Simply go to the FMNP website and click on the “FMNP Volunteer Monitoring System (VMS)”, type in your last name, find your name from the drop-down, and enter the requested information. Your volunteer hours will appear on the FMNP Graduate and Honor Roll Database on the website (takes 24 hours to update).

In the future, we plan to offer special rewards for accumulated volunteer hours, so start recording yours now!
Upcoming Courses:

Florida Master Naturalist Program
Freshwater Systems

Florida Master Naturalist Program
Coastal Systems

Florida Master Naturalist Program
Upland Systems

Florida Master Naturalist Program
Coastal Restoration

Florida Master Naturalist Program
Wildlife Monitoring

Florida Master Naturalist Program
Conservation Science

Florida Master Naturalist Program
Environmental Interpretation

Florida Master Naturalist Program
Habitat Evaluation

Come Be Social!

Don’t forget to check out our Facebook and Instagram pages! As a follower, you will be able to communicate with the FMNP staff and other environmental enthusiasts. We share events, news, and photos from all across the state and FMNP courses. We encourage you to post and tag us throughout your own FMNP journey and to use the hashtags #FloridaMasterNaturalistProgram and #FMNP to find other posts. Click below to follow!

Follow us on:

@OfficialFMNP