

# Invasive Plants Course Description

## **Program Mission & Overview**

The mission of the Florida Master Naturalist Program (**FMNP**) is to promote awareness, understanding, and respect of Florida's natural world among Florida's citizens and visitors.

FMNP participants will increase their knowledge of Florida's natural systems, of the plants and animals that depend upon those systems, and of the role of humankind in shaping our past, of determining our future, and as stewards of the land.

The objective of the Florida Master Naturalist Program is to prepare persons to share their knowledge with others, to act in a positive manner, to help others feel a greater connection to the land/sea and to help others to develop their own personal environmental ethics. We hope to initiate what is for many a life-long process of learning, of observation, and of sharing with others.

## **Invasive Plants Course Overview**

Through classroom, field trip, and practical benefits experience, this course has been established to help participants understand the importance of marine biodiversity and approaches to restoration. course has been established to help participants understand how invasive plants impact Florida's natural areas and the roles we can play to help mitigate their impacts. Whether you are a concerned citizen, owner/manager of property, or educator, the information provided in this course will provide you with valuable knowledge about invasive plants, the threats they pose to native biodiversity and ecosystem function, and information to share with others to help stop the spread of invasive plants in Florida's natural areas.

The total training consists of **24 contact hours**, the scheduling of which will vary among different instructors. Classroom learning includes 3 presentations with associated discussions and assignments related to: Introduction to Invasive Plants of Florida, Plant Morphology Lab, Upland Invasive Plants, and Aquatic Invasive Plants. Outside of the classroom (virtual or in-person), participants will engage in hands-on field activities related to the course units.

By participating in this **Restoration Course**, you will be initiating or continuing your own personal journey to become a better naturalist, conservationist, educator, natural resource scientist, or citizen steward. And, in doing so, you are entrusted to share the information you gain with others and use the skills you acquire to contribute to conservation education and initiatives.

## **What will Florida Master Naturalist Program graduates receive?**

At the end of the course, student will receive their Certification of Course Completion and be included in the online FMNP Graduate Database. Upon course completion, graduates will also receive the FMNP embroidered patch and course-specific lapel pin.

Graduates who complete all Restoration Courses will be considered Restoration Florida Master Naturalists.

*Note: The FMNP course manual (covering course-specific ecological systems, habitats, plant and animal life, naturalist interpretation, outreach planning, and additional resources and sources of information) becomes the property of the graduate.*