



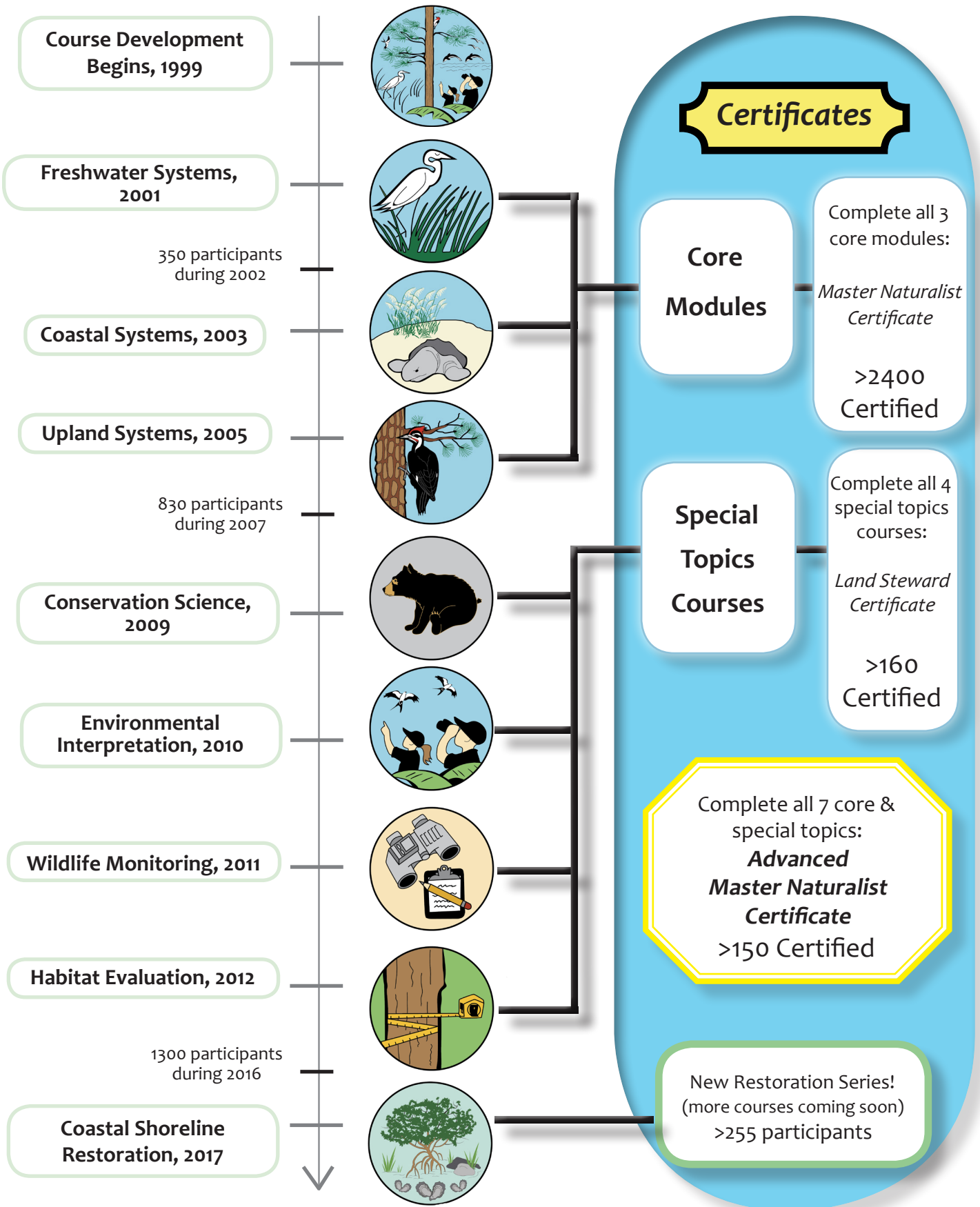
Florida Master Naturalist Program

Impact Report 2018

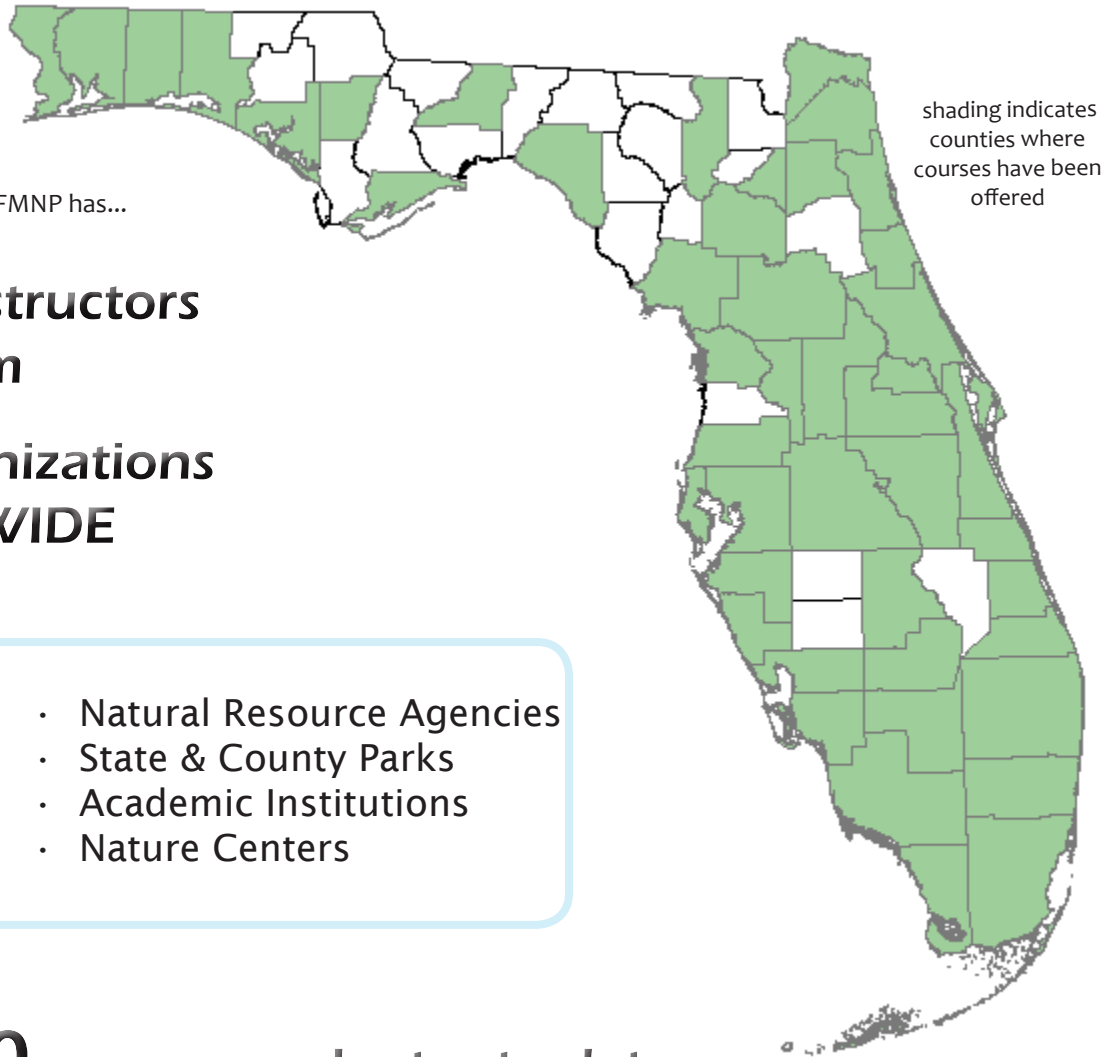


Mission: To promote awareness, understanding, and respect of Florida's natural world among Florida's citizens and visitors.

Program Overview



Partners and Participants



>150 instructors
from
>80 organizations
STATEWIDE

- UF IFAS
- Sea Grant
- Museums
- Non-profits
- Natural Resource Agencies
- State & County Parks
- Academic Institutions
- Nature Centers

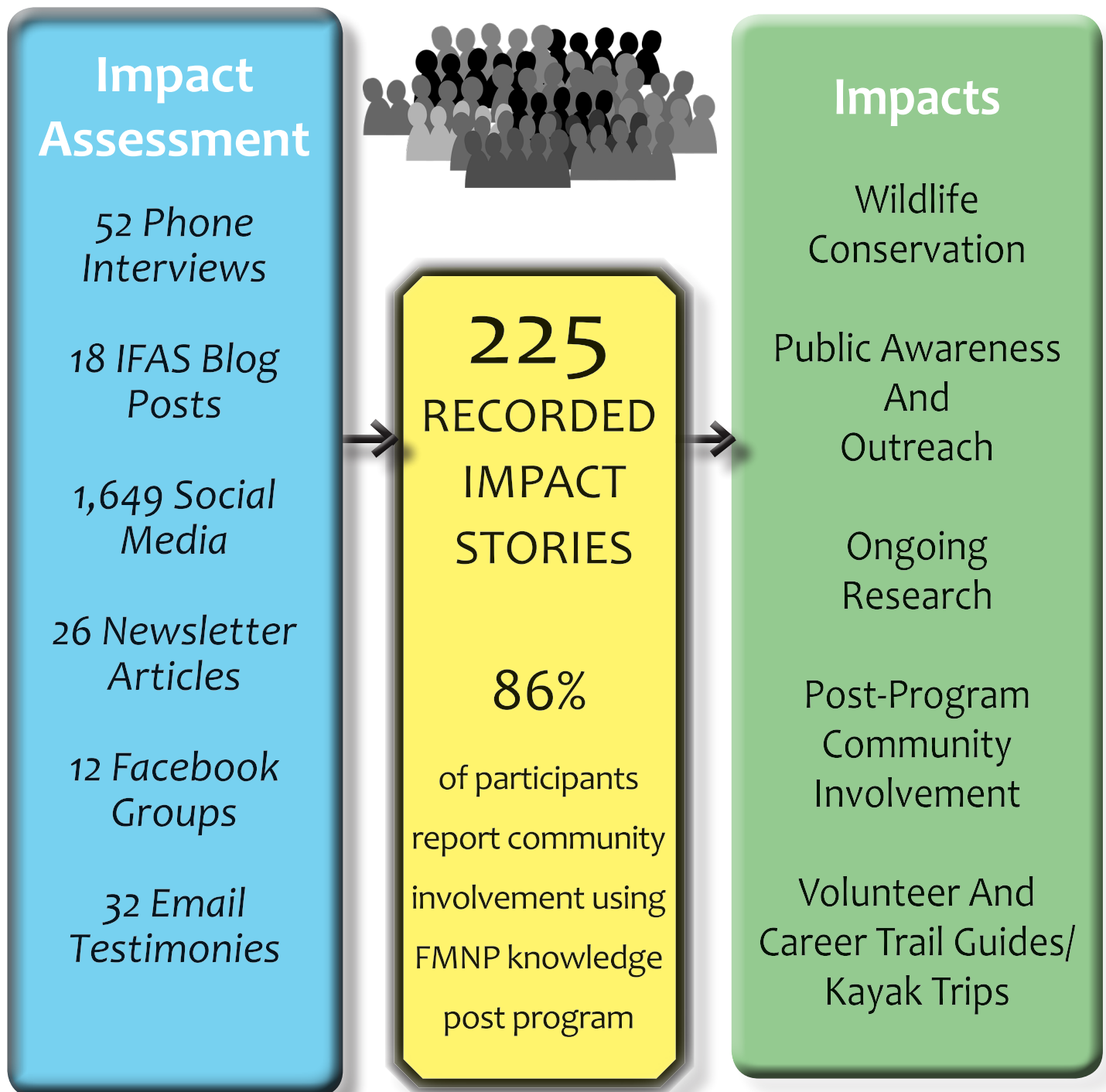
>8000 course graduates to date



- Ecotourism guides
- Nature Resource Professionals
- Teachers
- Students
- Volunteers and Employees of:
nature centers, parks,
historical sites, etc.

Impacts

The Florida Master Naturalist Program has remained the premiere adult environmental education program in the state of Florida for 17 years. Impact stories were collected from past and present FMNP graduates during the summer of 2018. This project yielded personal accounts of how the program has enriched personal lives, empowered individuals professionally, and equipped graduates with the necessary knowledge to create long lasting sustainable positive change in their communities.





Founded **Volunteer Algae Monitoring Program** in response to **Indian River Lagoon algal blooms**

Rescued distressed manatees suffering from **water toxins** in Collier County

Renovated the **Shorebird Alliance Hiking Trail**

Guided **interpretive walks** in **Matanzas Pass Preserve**

Created **“The Way” Nature Walk Program** in Perdido Bay

Protected **1,200 linear feet of living shoreline** in coast properties

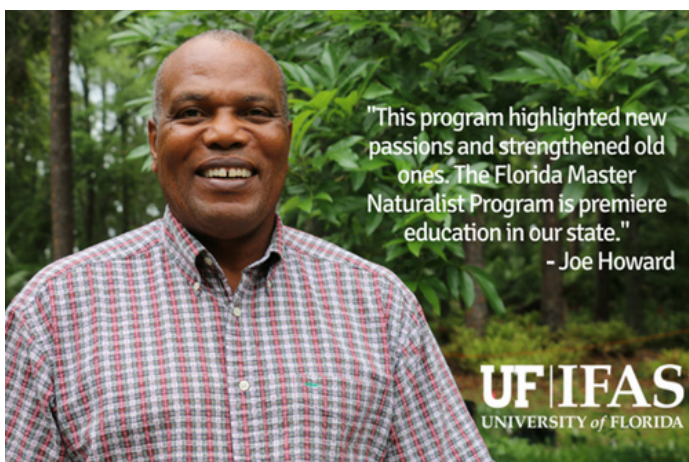
What do the people say?

*“I lost my job in the 2008 recession. My friend encouraged me to consider starting an environmental education training **ecotourism business** as a joined partner. FMNP **inspired** me to take this risk completely outside my traditional line of work and the **confidence** to stand behind it fully. Now, I am living in an occupation that I love even more and enjoy day to day.”*

Mary Spence

*“Once during a job phone interview, I mentioned to the employer at the New York Botanical Office about my FMNP certifications and course experiences in the past. I shared how this information was **transferable** between states; the next day, he called and extended the job offer to work with environmental outreach education among **diverse** populations throughout the city. It really made all the **difference**.”*

Bruce Rosenburg



“This program highlighted new passions and strengthened old ones. The Florida Master Naturalist Program is premiere education in our state.”
- Joe Howard

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“This was my fourth FMNP class and I learn something new everytime. It's always adventure!”
- Carey LaRosa

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