Florida Master Naturalist Program Conference

March 28-30, 2014 | Cape Canaveral, Florida
Radisson Resort at the Port

www.masternaturalist.ifas.ufl.edu/2014_conference.aspx

Cover photo: Vince Lamb

Project #1415
March 28, 2014

The mission of the Florida Master Naturalist Program is to promote awareness, understanding, and respect of Florida’s natural world

Dear FMNP Friends and Colleagues,

Welcome to Cape Canaveral and the 2014 FMNP Conference! We are excited to offer this opportunity to network with each other, share valuable information about our natural resources, and experience eco-excursions led by local experts. We hope you find the 2014 conference to be fun, informative, and motivational.

During the conference we will be recognizing a select group of individuals who have used their FMNP educational experience to assist them in making exceptional educational and conservation contributions to their local communities. We recognize that many more FMNP graduates are making important contributions, and we thank all of you for working to ensure Florida’s fantastic natural resources are better understood and conserved for future generations to enjoy.

We thank the FMNP Conference Organizing Committee for their efforts in organizing an exciting array of workshops and field trips. The workshops will cover a variety of topics including environmental ethics, effects of climate change, interpretation techniques, sea turtles and lighting, invasive species issues, as well as how to create and sustain a thriving regional FMNP chapter. The field trip options include exciting opportunities we know you’ll enjoy. If you can, we encourage you to take some additional time while here on the Space Coast to visit Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge and Canaveral National Seashore and explore the natural beauty this region offers.

We also thank the University of Florida IFAS Office of Conferences and Institutes, which has worked tirelessly to offer a memorable conference experience.

Thanks for coming and enjoy the conference!

Sincerely,

Martin B. Main, PhD
Associate Dean and Program Leader, Extension Natural Resources
Associate Director, Florida Sea Grant Extension
Program Founder and Leader, Florida Master Naturalist Program
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The FMNP Story

Many people have asked me how the FMNP came to be. I created the Florida Master Naturalist Program (FMNP) as an educational and empowerment program with the mission “...to promote awareness, understanding, and respect of Florida’s natural world...”

This mission is accomplished in part by FMNP Instructors, who teach students in the program about Florida's environment using science-based information and interpretive techniques and who prepare FMNP students to share that knowledge and become emissaries for a stronger conservation ethic.

The FMNP mission, therefore, is dependent upon FMNP graduates to share their knowledge and passion for nature with friends and family, students and teachers, and organizations and communities. By doing so, FMNP graduates reach people that we as educators would never otherwise reach. They help others better understand and respect the value of our natural world and in doing so build a stronger conservation ethic, promote better decisions about how we use or natural resources, and help ensure ecosystems and the plants and animals they support continue to benefit both ourselves and future generations.

The impetus for developing the FMNP was influenced in part by my academic background and personal interests. Degrees in biology, oceanography, and wildlife science, research activities on a broad range of species and environments, a strong conservation ethic, and an innate curiosity and love of nature all contributed to my desire to develop a program about Florida’s unique and diverse natural history. The trigger for developing the FMNP occurred during a Watchable Wildlife Conference in 1998, where a recurrent point of discussion was the lack of sufficiently trained persons to assist in delivering environmental education programs. Concern also was voiced that the rapid rate of growth in the ecotourism industry in Florida may lead to a preponderance of poorly trained and poorly informed individuals serving the ecotourism industry. I thought I could assist with this need by developing the FMNP, but also wanted to make the FMNP available to everyone. From this the FMNP was born with the goal of educating, preparing, and empowering FMNP graduates to carry the mission forward.

The FMNP quickly grew. The first FMNP Freshwater Wetlands courses were completed in 2001. Coastal Systems was completed in 2003 and in 2005 the Upland Habitats course was released to complete the core FMNP modules. Following completion of core modules, four Special Topics courses were developed that include Conservation Science, Wildlife Monitoring, Habitat Evaluation, and Environmental Interpretation. It is possible that more special topics will be developed in the future. I have worked with many states to develop Master Naturalist programs, and although not all programs are the same, they all contribute to conservation and education goals.

The success of the FMNP has been remarkable and is primarily due to the expertise, passion, and personal commitment of the FMNP Instructors. We currently have nearly 140 certified lead and assistant instructors teaching the FMNP. The FMNP Instructors have awarded nearly 10,000 FMNP graduate certificates and approximately 1,500 individuals have completed all three core modules to become certified Florida Master Naturalists. A handful of folks have completed all seven FMNP courses.

The contributions of FMNP graduates to their friends and family, students, organizations, and local communities represent the final and ultimately the most important component of the FMNP mission. FMNP graduates are having positive effects in countless ways and in many locations throughout Florida. Although these contributions are too numerous to list, we recognize and salute all FMNP graduates for sharing their knowledge and passion for nature and working for a better world for ourselves and for those who come after us.

Warm regards,
Conference Organizing Committee

Holly Abeels, Conference Field Trip Chair
UF/IFAS Brevard County Extension
Florida Sea Grant Extension Agent

Jasmine Garcia, Conference Coordinator
UF/IFAS Office of Conferences & Institutes

Joy Hazell
UF/IFAS Lee County Extension
Florida Sea Grant Extension Agent

Brian Lane, Conference Exhibitor Co-Chair
Sensing Nature, LLC

Marty Main
UF/IFAS Extension
UF/IFAS Florida Sea Grant

Jeanne Murphy, Conference Exhibitor Co-Chair
Sensing Nature, LLC

Brooke Saari
UF/IFAS Okaloosa & Walton County Extension
Florida Sea Grant Extension Agent

Brandon Smith, Conference Program Chair
Riverwalk Nature Center
Brevard County Parks & Recreation

Mary White
FMNP St. Lucie County Chapter President
FMNP Governing Board

David Griffis, President  
UF/IFAS Volusia County Extension  
Director and Natural Resources Extension Agent

Jeanne Murphy, Vice President  
Sensing Nature, LLC

Ken Gioeli, Secretary  
UF/IFAS St. Lucie County Extension  
Natural Resources Extension Agent

Kristen Hoss  
Tanawha Presents, LLC

Betty Staugler  
UF/IFAS Charlotte County Extension  
Florida Sea Grant Extension Agent

Chris Verlinde  
UF/IFAS Santa Rosa County Extension  
Florida Sea Grant Extension Agent

Barton Wilder  
UF/IFAS Alachua County Extension  
Natural Resources Extension Agent

Carol Wyninger, M.D.  
UF/IFAS Duval County Extension Volunteer

FMNP Administrative Staff

Heather Ferrand  
Program Coordinator (outgoing)

Kate Hellgren  
Program Coordinator (incoming)

Shelby Sowder  
Registration Coordinator

Jaime Arnold  
Executive Assistant

Sylvia Meyer  
Program Assistant
## Agenda-at-a-Glance

### Friday, March 28, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:00am-6:00pm</td>
<td>Check-in &amp; Registration Open</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00am-1:00pm</td>
<td>Exhibitor Set-Up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00am-1:00pm</td>
<td>FMNP Governing Board Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00pm-1:30pm</td>
<td>Refreshment Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30pm-2:30pm</td>
<td>Concurrent Workshops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:30pm-3:00pm</td>
<td>Refreshment Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00pm-4:00pm</td>
<td>Concurrent Workshops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00pm-6:00pm</td>
<td>Visit Exhibits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00pm-7:30pm</td>
<td>Welcome Dinner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:45pm-7:15pm</td>
<td>Welcome Remarks by Dr. Marty Main</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Saturday, March 29, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30am-5:00pm</td>
<td>Check-in &amp; Registration Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30am-8:30am</td>
<td>Breakfast on your Own / Visit Exhibits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Coffee and Snacks available in Salon 3 on a first come, first served basis</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30am-9:30am</td>
<td>Concurrent Workshops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30am-9:45am</td>
<td>Refreshment Break and Move to Next Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:45am-10:45am</td>
<td>Concurrent Workshops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:45am-11:00am</td>
<td>Refreshment Break and Move to Next Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00am-12:00pm</td>
<td>Concurrent Workshops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00pm-1:30pm</td>
<td>Boxed Lunch Provided</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Load Buses and Travel to Field Trips</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30pm-5:30pm</td>
<td>Optional Field Trips</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30pm-2:30pm</td>
<td>Concurrent Hands-on Workshops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:30pm-3:00pm</td>
<td>Refreshment Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00pm-4:00pm</td>
<td>Concurrent Hands-on Workshops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00pm-11:00pm</td>
<td>Exhibit Removal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00pm-7:00pm</td>
<td>Cocktail Hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00pm-9:00pm</td>
<td>Dinner &amp; Awards Ceremony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00pm-9:15pm</td>
<td>Closing Remarks by Dr. Marty Main</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:15pm-10:00pm</td>
<td>Evening Social Time</td>
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</table>

### Sunday, March 30, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Conference Concludes</td>
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</table>
Detailed Program Agenda
2014 Florida Master Naturalist Program Conference
March 28-30, 2014 | Cape Canaveral, Florida

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:00am-6:00pm</td>
<td>Check-in &amp; Registration Open [Convention Center Foyer]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00am-1:00pm</td>
<td>Exhibitor Set-Up [Salon 3]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00am-1:00pm</td>
<td>FMNP Governing Board Meeting [Antigua]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00pm-1:30pm</td>
<td>Refreshment Break [Salon 3]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Aruba</th>
<th>Bahamas</th>
<th>Trinidad</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Moderator</td>
<td>Brandon Smith</td>
<td>Holly Abeels</td>
<td>Brooke Saari</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time 1:30pm-2:30pm</td>
<td>Marty Main</td>
<td>Richard Turner</td>
<td>Jane Goddard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Instructor Lessons and Q&amp;A Workshop [Open to instructors only]</td>
<td>Sea Grasses</td>
<td>Eco Trek: The Many Personalities of the St. Johns River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time 2:30pm-3:00pm</td>
<td>Refreshment Break [Salon 3]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderator</td>
<td>Brandon Smith</td>
<td>Holly Abeels</td>
<td>Brooke Saari</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time 3:00pm-4:00pm</td>
<td>Mark Krupinski</td>
<td>Jackie Rolly</td>
<td>Gary Maddox</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Social Media Marketing</td>
<td>Ice Breakers and Hands-on Activities in the FMNP Classroom</td>
<td>Water Quality Trends in Florida’s Springs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time 4:00pm-6:00pm</td>
<td>Visit Exhibits [Salon 3]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time 6:00pm-7:30pm</td>
<td>Welcome Dinner [Salon 2]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6:45pm - Welcome Remarks by Dr. Marty Main</td>
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<td></td>
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</table>
**Saturday, March 29, 2014**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30am-5:00pm</td>
<td><strong>Check-in &amp; Registration Open</strong> <em>(Convention Center Foyer)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30am-8:30am</td>
<td><strong>Breakfast on your Own / Visit Exhibits</strong> <em>(Coffee and Snacks available in Salon 3 on a first come, first served basis)</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Moderator</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30am-9:30am</td>
<td>Aruba</td>
<td>Joy Hazell</td>
<td>Katrina Morrell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Interpretive Techniques and the Power of Story</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bahamas</td>
<td>Holly Abeels</td>
<td>Jeff Beal</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lionfish Invasion along the Indian River Lagoon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Trinidad</td>
<td>Brooke Saari</td>
<td>Tonya Long</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sea Turtles and Lighting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30am-9:45am</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Refreshment Break and Move to Next Session</strong> <em>(Refreshments in Salon 3)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:45am-10:45am</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Shawn Heflick</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Everglades Pythons</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Robert van Woesik</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Corals and Climate Change</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Kathy Hill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Environmental Ethics and Florida SEE</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:45am-11:00am</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Refreshment Break and Move to Next Session</strong> <em>(Refreshments in Salon 3)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00am-12:00pm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mark Deyrup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Florida's Native Bees</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tonya Clayton</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>How to Read a Florida Beach</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jeanne Murphy</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>How to Create and Keep a Regional FMNP Chapter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00pm-1:30pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Boxed Lunch Provided</strong> <em>(Salon 3)</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Load Buses and Travel to Field Trips</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1:30pm-5:30pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Optional Field Trips</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**CONCURRENT HANDS-ON WORKSHOPS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Moderator</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1:30pm-2:30pm</td>
<td></td>
<td>John Nelson</td>
<td>Mark Deyrup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bug Walk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rosalyn Kilcollins</td>
<td>Brian Lane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Identifying Scat, Tracks, and Signs</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:30pm-3:00pm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Refreshment Break</strong> <em>(Salon 3)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>John Nelson</td>
<td>Mary White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The Ethics of Nature Photography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Brandon Smith</td>
<td>Jay Barnhart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mushrooming: What is that Fungus Among Us?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00pm-11:00pm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Exhibit Removal</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>6:00pm-10:00pm</td>
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<td><strong>Dinner Banquet</strong> <em>(Salon 2)</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6:00pm - Cocktail Hour</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7:00pm - Dinner and Awards Ceremony</td>
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<td></td>
<td>9:00pm - Closing Remarks by Dr. Marty Main</td>
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<td></td>
<td>9:15pm - Evening Social Time</td>
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</table>

**Sunday, March 30, 2014**

**Conference Concludes**
2014 Florida Master Naturalist Program Conference

Field Trips

**Field Trip Opportunities – Saturday, March 29, 2014**

Barrier Island Sanctuary (*Tour limited to 25 people*)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Itinerary:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12:15pm Load van</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:45pm Depart Radisson Resort at the Port</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:45-1:45pm Travel to Barrier Island Sanctuary</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:45-4:15pm Sanctuary activities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:15-4:30pm Load van</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:30-5:30pm Van returns to Radisson Resort at the Port</td>
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</table>

**Description:**
The Barrier Island Sanctuary is a modern educational facility with classrooms, an interactive exhibit room, a library, offices, auditorium, restrooms and a gift shop. The center provides a focal point for the Archie Carr Refuge and the associated barrier island by providing exhibit space, a presentation hall, and ongoing educational programs that promote stewardship of the area’s fragile natural resources. This 34 acre sanctuary offers visitors an invitation to explore the barrier island’s diverse habitats through interactive exhibits at the Center, and along a hiking trail that winds from the ocean to the Indian River Lagoon.

The conference tour will include a butterfly survey along a 1-mile walking trail, seining, and review of fish traveling through a mosquito impoundment culvert.

**What to Wear & Bring:** Dress for walking and seining (feet will get wet) – hiking boots or tennis shoes, water shoes, hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, bug spray

**Food Provided:** Lunch and bottled water

**Driving Distance:** Barrier Island Sanctuary is located in Melbourne Beach, approximately 40 miles from the Radisson Resort at the Port

**Cost of Tour:** $30.00 per person

*includes lunch, transportation, and any admission fees*

**For Questions about the Tour Site, contact:**
Joy Winet, Sanctuary Steward
Phone: (321) 723-3556 | Email: joy.winet@brevardparks.com

**For Questions about Tour Logistics, contact:**
Jasmine Garcia, Conference Coordinator
UF/IFAS Office of Conferences & Institutes
Phone: (352) 392-5930 | Email: j.garcia@ufl.edu
Enchanted Forest Sanctuary (Tour limited to 25 people)

**Itinerary:**

12:15pm  Load van  
12:45pm  Depart Radisson Resort at the Port  
12:45-1:15pm  Travel to Enchanted Forest Sanctuary  
1:30-3:00pm  Guided upland hike  
3:00-4:00pm  Nature center visitation and Q&A with guides  
4:00-4:15pm  Load van  
4:15-4:45pm  Van returns to Radisson Resort at the Port

**Description:**
The Enchanted Forest Sanctuary was the first property that was purchased by the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program. This 470 acre forest is part of a sanctuary network that the EEL Program is working to establish in the county. Located in the southern limits of the City of Titusville, the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary preserves a diversity of natural habitats. Several miles of hiking trails allow visitors to enjoy the natural beauty of the region. A wonderful wealth of plant life also abounds as both temperate (northern) and subtropical (southern) species grow in the Sanctuary together. The Management and Education Center interprets the Sanctuary’s unique natural features for visitors of all ages and abilities.

There are five basic habitat types found at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary: Oak scrub, mesic and hydric hammock, wet prairie, and pine flatwood. Wildlife species found here include the Eastern indigo snake, Florida scrub lizard, gopher tortoise, white-tailed deer, and bobcat.

The conference tour will include a guided upland hike, followed by nature center visitation time and a question & answer session with on-site tour guides.

**What to Wear & Bring:** Dress for walking – hiking boots or tennis shoes, hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, bug spray

**Food Provided:** Lunch and bottled water

**Driving Distance:** Enchanted Forest Sanctuary is located in Titusville, approximately 22 miles from the Radisson Resort at the Port

**Cost of Tour:** $30.00 per person  
(includes lunch, transportation, and any admission fees)

**For Questions about the Tour Site, contact:**  
Joanie Faulls, Sanctuary Steward  
Phone: (321) 264-5185 | Email: joan/faulls@brevardparks.com

**For Questions about Tour Logistics, contact:**  
Jasmine Garcia, Conference Coordinator  
UF/IFAS Office of Conferences & Institutes  
Phone: (352) 392-5930 | Email: j.garcia@ufl.edu
Wildside Tours *(Tour limited to 16 people)*

**Itinerary:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12:15pm</td>
<td>Load van</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:45pm</td>
<td>Depart Radisson Resort at the Port</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:45-1:00pm</td>
<td>Travel to Wildside Tours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30-4:00pm</td>
<td>Dolphin/pontoon boat tour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00-4:15pm</td>
<td>Load van</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:15-4:30pm</td>
<td>Van returns to Radisson Resort at the Port</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Description:**

Wildside Tours is a nature boat business providing a variety of different excursions in the beautiful Thousand Islands Nature Preserve of Cocoa Beach and the Banana River Lagoon. Sightseeing in this incredible, fragile, and dynamic ecosystem is exciting; the manatees, dolphins, and many varieties of birds exemplify nature at its finest. Practicing ethical, sustainable ecotourism, Wildside does not chase, feed, or touch the animals. They engage in passive viewing and respect the environment. Both Captain Ben Evans and Captain Jeanette Vasbinder are certified Florida Master Naturalists, and Wildside Tours is Florida SEE Gold Certified.

The conference tour will include a dolphin/pontoon boat tour in the Thousand Islands Conservation area of Cocoa Beach. This daily 2½ hour excursion is Wildside’s most popular trip. The tour will leave from Ramp Road City Park in Cocoa Beach. March is manatee season, and these gentle, curious giants will likely be found in the canals, as well as the open channels. The captain or mate will narrate, sharing his or her knowledge and appreciation of the diverse habitats and species. Each 6-15 mile tour is unique, as there is no set route or presentation, but the captain will consider the weather, animals’ location, and passengers’ wishes to provide the most enjoyable experience for all. The quiet motor catamaran with comfortable wrap around seating will allow passengers to move around for optimal viewing and to interact with the crew and other passengers. The stability of the boat provides an excellent platform for photographing wildlife, and there will be some binoculars available for use. There is also a sun cover and on-board restroom available to add to the comfort and relaxation of this educational and exciting tour.

**What to Wear & Bring:** T-shirt, shorts, light jacket, sneakers or sandals, hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, camera

**Food Provided:** Lunch and bottled water; soft drinks and water available on-board

**Driving Distance:** Wildside Tours is located in Cocoa Beach, approximately 6 miles from the Radisson Resort at the Port

**Cost of Tour:** $60.00 per person
*(includes lunch, transportation, and any admission fees)*

**For Questions about the Tour Site, contact:**
Jeanette Vasbinder, Captain
Phone: (321) 799-5495 | Email: capt.jetv@yahoo.com

**For Questions about Tour Logistics, contact:**
Jasmine Garcia, Conference Coordinator
UF/IFAS Office of Conferences & Institutes
Phone: (352) 392-5930 | Email: j.garcia@ufl.edu

Photo credits: Captain Ben Evans, M.S. and Captain Jeanette Vasbinder, B.A.
Ritch Grissom Memorial Wetlands at Viera (Tour limited to 15 people)

**Itinerary:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12:15pm</td>
<td>Load van</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:45pm</td>
<td>Depart Radisson Resort at the Port</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:45-1:15pm</td>
<td>Travel to Viera Wetlands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30-4:00pm</td>
<td>Wildlife photography hike</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00-4:15pm</td>
<td>Load van</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:15-4:45pm</td>
<td>Van returns Radisson Resort at the Port</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Description:**

Located between the Moccasin Island Tract of the River Lakes Conservation Area and the Brevard Zoo, the wetlands are a popular site for birders, photographers, and eco-tourists. Also known as the Viera Wetlands, the area consists of 200 acres divided into four cells of approximately 35 acres each, plus a central lake. The cells were designed to maintain differing depths of water, reflecting diverse wetland conditions. The wetlands are an integral component of Brevard County's water reuse system. Providing increased water quality and savings over traditional water treatment methods, the constructed wetland system polishes reclaimed water for irrigation or overflow into the adjacent Four-mile Canal. A special mitigation littoral zone along the lake's shoreline is carefully monitored to assess wetland health and wildlife utilization. The wetlands provide for a biologically diverse ecosystem, affording visitors a wonderful, close-up opportunity to view Brevard County's native wildlife and vegetation. The entire wetlands central lake perimeter, approximately one mile of shoreline, has been seeded with Florida wildflower species. A covered gazebo serves as a visitor information center overlooking the lake and is surrounded by a butterfly garden and demonstration rain barrel irrigation system. Approximately 60,000 visitors pass through the main entrance to the wetland system each year, many drawn by the site's breathtaking views and stunning abundance of wildlife.

The conference tour will include a 2-mile wildlife photography hike led by teaching photographer and FMNP graduate Robert Amoruso. Tour discussion will include an overview of bird species and ethical wildlife photography techniques.

**What to Wear & Bring:** Dress for walking – hiking boots or tennis shoes, hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, bug spray

**Food Provided:** Lunch and bottled water

**Driving Distance:** The Ritch Grissom Memorial Wetlands at Viera are located in Melbourne, approximately 25 miles from the Radisson Resort at the Port

**Cost of Tour:** $60.00 per person (includes lunch, transportation, and any admission fees)

**For Questions about the Tour Site, contact:**

Raleigh Berry, Environmental Land Manager
Phone: (321) 633-2016 | Email: raleigh.berry@brevardcounty.us

**For Questions about Tour Logistics, contact:**

Jasmine Garcia, Conference Coordinator
UF/IFAS Office of Conferences & Institutes
Phone: (352) 392-5930 | Email: j.garcia@ufl.edu

Photo credit: Harry Behret
A Day Away Kayak Tours *(Tour limited to 30 people)*

**Itinerary:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12:15pm</td>
<td>Load van</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:45pm</td>
<td>Depart Radisson Resort at the Port</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:45-1:45pm</td>
<td>Travel to Haulover Canal kayak tour launch site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00-4:00pm</td>
<td>Guided kayak tour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:15-4:30pm</td>
<td>Load van</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:30-5:30pm</td>
<td>Van returns to Radisson Resort at the Port</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Description:**
A Day Away Kayak Tours offers tours at various sites across Central Florida, but the base of the company’s operation is in the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, one of the most diverse estuaries in North America. In the Refuge, manatee, dolphin, alligator, and a large variety of birds are frequently encountered. Pigs and turkeys sometimes make an appearance, too!

The A Day Away Kayak Tour owners enjoy using the business as a tool for learning. In the rushed electronic-driven world that often leaves people nature-deprived, the owners have made the goal of A Day Away to offer quality tours with quality equipment led by people of excellence, ensuring every participant a reconnect with nature that leaves them in awe of the amazing creation surrounding them.

The conference tour will include a guided kayak tour through the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge.

**What to Wear & Bring:** Lightweight T-shirt or long-sleeved shirt, shorts or pants, closed shoes or sandals, bathing suit if desired, hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, bug spray

**Food Provided:** Lunch and bottled water

**Driving Distance:** The Haulover Canal launch site is located near Titusville, about 35 miles from the Radisson Resort at the Port

**Cost of Tour:** $60.00 per person  
*(includes lunch, transportation, and any admission fees)*

**For Questions about the Tour Site, contact:**  
*Elisabeth Mahan, Owner*  
Phone: (321) 268-2655 | Email: info@adayawaykayaktours.com

**For Questions about Tour Logistics, contact:**  
*Jasmine Garcia, Conference Coordinator*  
UF/IFAS Office of Conferences & Institutes  
Phone: (352) 392-5930 | Email: j.garcia@ufl.edu
Exhibitors

A special thank you to our exhibitors for sharing their literature, products, services, and efforts and enhancing the conference program.

Brevard Nature Alliance

Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission

Florida Marine Science Educators Association

Florida Native Plant Society Sea Rocket Chapter

Florida Society for Ethical Ecotourism (Florida SEE)

Florida Trail Association

FMNP St. Lucie County Chapter

FMNP Webstore

Friends of Viera Wetlands, Inc.

Sea Turtle Conservancy
Jay Barnhart

Dr. Jay S. Barnhart first became interested in wild mushrooms more than 45 years ago while he was making house calls as a general practitioner in rural Maryland. He belongs to the North American Mycological Association, whose members are referred to as “Mycophiles”, aka “Fungus Lovers”. Jay personally prefers the appellation of “Avid Amateur Mycologist”, rather than “Fungus Expert”.

Dr. Barnhart is retired from his second career as Dade County Medical Examiner (Miami CSI), and his favorite activities are fishing, playing piano, and giving presentations showcasing our local natural treasures.

He has received certification in two of the Florida Master Naturalist Programs, and has been giving guided tours at the Enchanted Forest, Sebastian Inlet State Park, the Barrier Island Preserve, and numerous sites during the Birding and Wildlife Festivals.

His earned academic degrees include Bachelor of Science in Biology, Doctor of Medicine, and Medical Specialty Board Certification in Anatomic, Clinical, and Forensic Pathology.

*Presentation: What is that Fungus among Us?*

The program presentation consists of an interactive workshop session where participants will be given the opportunity to examine and handle fresh fungal specimens, and to make spore prints, a key procedure in mushroom identification. This will be done in conjunction with a narrated PowerPoint presentation showing the vast array of commonly observed macro-fungi found in and around Central Florida.

Jeff Beal

Jeffrey L. Beal (1990 B.S. in Marine Biology, Jacksonville U; 1993 M.S. in Marine Science Florida Inst. of Technology), has 20 years of work experience with Harbor Branch Oceanographic Inst., Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Aquatic Preserves program, and FWC’s Marine/Estuarine Subsection related to the conservation and restoration of marine/estuarine habitats. His focus areas include anthropogenic effects (e.g., water quality, man-made structures, watershed management) on seagrasses, fishes, benthic invertebrates, and coral reef communities. He conducts grant-funded projects involving the restoration of aquatic habitats (mangroves, saltmarshes, seagrasses, oyster reefs, coral reefs, floodplain wetlands and river oxbows) and associated monitoring of biological and environmental parameters.

*Presentation: Investigation of the Lionfish Invasion along the Indian River Lagoon (IRL) Region*

Jeff Beal¹ & Emily Dark²

¹Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute, 5600 US 1, Fort Pierce, Florida, USA
²MS Candidate Antioch University New England, 40 Avon St., Keene, New Hampshire, USA

Sightings of lionfish (Pterois volitans/miles) on offshore hardbottom habitats in the IRL region were first reported in the mid-2000s. Since 2008 specimens have also been reported along man-made structures and mangroves in Florida’s Indian River Lagoon (IRL), one of the most biodiverse estuaries in the North America. With limited research on estuarine lionfish, our objective was to examine their presence in the IRL, specifically in the mangroves. We conducted this study within 5km of five major inlets of the IRL from April 2013 to September
2013, surveying a variety of habitats, examining size, diet, gonad stage and site fidelity. Including pilot data from 2012, we found a total of 132 lionfish in IRL, with 73 in the mangroves. Our size and reproductive status data suggest an estuarine resident population with the capacity for spawning within the estuary. Our tagging effort found lionfish exhibiting fidelity for up to three months. Diet analysis revealed a prevalence of demersal teleosts and decapods, including fishery species such as *Farfantepenaeus duorarum* and *Callinectes* spp. Ongoing studies of specimens collected from offshore natural and artificial reefs reveal a diet of common reef inhabitants including *Centropristis striata*, another important fishery species.

**Tonya Clayton**

Tonya Clayton, PhD, is the author of *How to Read a Florida Gulf Coast Beach* (UNC Press, 2012). Her fascination with beaches began as a college undergraduate, during a wild, wintry class field trip to North Carolina’s Outer Banks. Here, underfoot, were the signs of shifting inlets and migrating islands, burping beaches and singing sands — all clues to modern and ancient beach stories, all hidden in plain view! She’s been hanging out around salt water ever since.

Tonya’s work as a geologist and oceanographer has taken her from the sandy barrier islands of Portugal to the clear blue waters of the deep Pacific Ocean. Her writings have covered topics ranging from the management of childhood asthma to the measurement of ocean acidity. Her first book, *Living with the Georgia Shore*, was named an Outstanding Academic Title by the Journal of the American Library Association. Today Tonya works as a freelance science writer and editor from her home base on Florida’s Gulf Coast.

Tonya is also a Florida Master Naturalist, an NAI Certified Interpretive Guide, and a fellow of the Florida Natural Resources Leadership Institute. She’s enchanted by natural Florida and is always eager to explore more of it.

**Presentation: How to Read a Florida Beach — And Why a Bear Would Care**

Sandy beaches are one of the world’s most loved, most dynamic, and most threatened ecosystems. Beaches are also relatively easy to “read,” allowing even casual observers to see for themselves the sandy signs of how beaches work (including some fundamental ecological principles and plenty of fun facts). What are the signs of a shifting shoreline? How in the world do beach plants survive? How can sand help solve crimes? Florida’s beaches are natural, ever-changing classrooms — ideal for practicing natural history and fostering connections between people and nature.

One overarching beach story is “The beaches are moving.” Beach rearrangement, large and small, is happening all the time. Once we know what to look for, we can see the signs everywhere (even far inland). An emerging beach story — one that hasn’t been seen here for thousands of years — is the story of what happens during times of rising seas (like now). These signs can be subtle but are becoming increasingly evident around the state. Rising seas combined with our traditional patterns of land use will likely mean big changes for not only beaches and beach-loving humans, shorebirds, and sea turtles but also many other Florida inhabitants, including Florida panthers and black bears.
Mark Deyrup

Mark grew up on the Lower East Side of New York City, where most wildlife is tiny and walks on six legs. Amazingly, there were ants, flies, bees and other urban insects and spiders living out their complicated lives in small patches of ragged weeds and in little areas of sooty and cigarette-butt-strewn soil. No wonder that he developed a lifelong respect for insects and spiders. After undergraduate work at Cornell, a stint in the Peace Corps in Ecuador, a PhD program in forest entomology at the University of Washington, and several years teaching at Purdue University, Mark moved with his family to Florida. He and his wife have worked at the Archbold Biological Station for 31 years. Wherever he has lived, however, there has always been interesting insects to observe. Happiness can be in small things, especially if they are alive.

First Presentation: Florida’s Native Bees

More than two hundred species of bees are native to Florida, some big, some tiny, some common, some rare. Even an urban back yard is likely to have a dozen species or more zipping around the garden or visiting the tiny flowers of weeds in the lawn. All these bees have interesting stories. Moving on to natural habitats, there are stories of how our native bees and our native flowers evolved together, intimately dependent on each other, yet each pursuing their own agenda. The natural world is filled with beauty and intricate relationships, with both bewildering complexity and order. Observing native bees can provide us with a window into this natural world. You can fling open this window yourself by planting native plants attractive to bees. In preparation for this, there will be lots of photos of live bees doing their thing.

Second Presentation: Bug Walk

The major goal of this walk will be to make it out of the parking lot without being distracted by so many interesting creatures that we never get anywhere. There are, for example, jumping spiders that live on the sides of buildings, and wasps that hunt them down. There is a common spider that hangs around eaves that makes strands of microscopic loops that entangle the tiny claws of walking insects. Small ants patrol the sidewalks, mulch teems with springtails, wasps learn to zero in on vehicles as they stop in the parking lot to pick smashed insects off radiators and fenders. That’s just the parking lot. It’s a bugs’ world out there.

Jane Goddard

A Florida native, Jane Goddard grew up along the Indian River Lagoon, the Atlantic Ocean, and the St. Johns River. In 2012, a casual promise to a friend led to Jane’s quest to kayak the entire St. Johns, which she completed on New Year's Day 2014. When not on the water, Jane is a lawyer with the Center for Earth Jurisprudence, advocating expanded protection for Florida's springs and other waters.

Presentation: Eco Trek: 310 Miles on the St. Johns River

From its imperceptible beginnings near Vero Beach until it meets the ocean as a mighty river east of Jacksonville, the St. Johns River's meandering course touches many habitats and many lives. Jane Goddard is one of a handful of people to have traveled the length of the river by kayak. Experience the sights and stories as she shares the many "personalities" of the river known as America's Nile.
Shawn Heflick

Shawn Heflick has a Master’s Degree in Conservation Biology/Marine Biology that he received by studying an invasive frog species. Since then, he has traveled the world, working with real world conservation issues, exploring untamed places and sharing those adventures with magnificent people and truly spectacular wildlife. He oversees a Conservation NGO out of the Amazon Basin and helps fund many conservation initiatives for critically endangered crocodiles around the world. Some highlights have been diving with Great Whites in South Africa, roaming the hills of the Komodo Islands with Dragons, wrangling giant Green Anaconda in the Amazon, cavorting with Saltwater Crocodiles in Borneo and elephant back excitement in Zimbabwe, South Africa and Sumatra. Shawn has been featured in PBS Nature's Python Invasion, the Travel Channel's Bizarre Foods, Smithsonian Channel's Titanboa, Time Magazine, Time Magazine for Kids, National Geographic and a host of Nat Geo WILD’s *The Python Hunters*.

**Presentation:** *Pythons et al: Invasives in the Everglades*

Pythons have been represented as a major catastrophe in the Everglades characterized as monsters devouring their way across the landscape. In this presentation, Shawn will discuss the realities of invasives in the Everglades, the media, the science and hype.

Kathy Hill

A Florida resident since 1995, Kathy came to Florida initially as a graduate student at Florida Institute of Technology where she majored in Marine Biology and studied larval settlement patterns in the crabs of the Indian River Lagoon. She received her Master of Science degree in 1998. Upon graduation, Kathy worked as a research assistant at the Smithsonian Marine Station in Ft. Pierce and later became the project manager of the Indian River Lagoon Species Inventory, an Internet database of the more than 3,000 species that inhabit the lagoon.

She joined the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program in 2006 and is responsible for planning and conducting lagoon-focused educational activities, talks, workshops and events from Volusia County south through Martin County. Kathy also serves as a board member of the Florida Society for Ethical Ecotourism, a group dedicated to maintaining a professional code of ecotourism ethics in order to encourage awareness and stewardship of Florida's natural and cultural heritage.

**Presentation:** *An Overview of Environmental Ethics with a Focus on Ecotourism in Florida and an Introduction to Florida SEE*

Environmental ethics expands the definition of ethics beyond a strict focus on human beings to include the moral relationship between humans and the environment. This talk will present an overview of environmental ethics and discuss the economic and environmental benefits that occur when the natural world is recognized as having intrinsic rather than simply instrumental value. It will also explore the principles of sustainable travel and authentic ecotourism and introduce the Florida Society for Ethical Ecotourism (Florida SEE) and its Ecotour Certification Program, which has expanded statewide throughout Florida.
**Mark Krupinski**

With over 16 years of experience, Mark provides his clients with expert guidance and insight to enhance their online presence and operational success. Since 2005, he has participated and advocated social media in the Central Florida business community. Mark’s industry experience includes Travel and Entertainment, Food and Beverage, Consumer Goods and Services, Higher Education, Health Care, and Executive Search.

**Presentation: Social Media Marketing**

Social media is now accepted in every aspect of our daily lives regardless of age or interest. In his talk, Mark Krupinski shares accepted best practices for creating a social media strategy to complement existing marketing strategies and engage with your audience.

**Brian Lane**

As a Senior Ecologist, environmental educator, and business co-owner, Brian Lane shares his appreciation and understanding of the natural world through Sensing Nature’s interactive workshops, ethical eco-tours and educational nature products. A Florida native with a strong love of our dynamic coastline, Brian grew up in Pinellas County and earned his B.S. from the University of Central Florida. He now enjoys traveling Florida educating teachers to tots about nature and the importance of our individual actions. Recently, he co-authored six laminated wildlife identification guides including “Tracks, Scats and Signs of Florida Wildlife.” As an award winning University of Florida - Florida Master Naturalist Instructor, Brian teaches all seven of the UF FMNP courses in Pinellas County and is an active Friends of Pinellas Master Naturalists 501(c)3 board member.

**Presentation: Identifying Scat, Tracks, and Signs**

Shhh, and watch your step when joining Sensing Nature Senior Ecologist and UF FMNP Instructor Brian Lane to learn about tracking wildlife and other nature clues unveiling wildlife’s presence. During a hands-on activity with Florida biofacts, test your own wildlife identification skills. Then learn even more ways to correctly interpret the signs wildlife have been sharing with you that you never understood.

**Tonya Long**

Tonya Long is a Fish and Wildlife Biologist with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Her job involves working with property owners, local governments, and the public to help maintain turtle-friendly beaches through appropriate lighting practices. She received her B.S. and M.S. in Biology from the University of Central Florida, where her research focused on determining how major changes in beach topography influence sea turtle nesting behavior. Tonya has been working in the field of marine biology since 2006 and has been fortunate to conduct sea turtle research including nesting surveys, in-water research, and stranding response along much of Florida’s east coast. Though turtles are her first love, her background also includes marine mammal research and stranding response, estuarine monitoring and restoration, and environmental education.

**Presentation: Why Sea Turtles “Dig the Dark” — Reducing the Impact of Artificial Lighting**

Sea turtles are one of Florida’s most unique and awe-inspiring inhabitants. Unfortunately, habitat degradation due to artificial lighting is one of the major hindrances to the recovery of sea turtle populations. This presentation...
will provide a brief introduction to sea turtle biology, examine the relationship between sea turtles and lighting, and explain why artificial lighting is so detrimental to both adult and hatchling turtles. We will discuss the “Golden Rules” of sea turtle-friendly lighting and how to put them into practice. We will also see examples of various beachfront properties that have implemented those guidelines to help protect the turtles nesting on their beaches.

Gary Maddox

Gary Maddox holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Environmental Science from the University of Virginia, and has done graduate work in geology at Florida State. He has previously worked for the Virginia State Water Control Board and, for the past 28 years, as a hydrogeologist for the Florida Department of Environmental Regulation and later the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. All of that time was spent working with Florida aquifer ground water quality, first with the Watershed Monitoring Program and later with the Florida Springs Initiative and the Ground Water Management Section. Current projects are focused on completing assessments supporting TMDL development for ground water-fed surface waters, and providing support for the development of Basin Management Action Plans, blueprints for surface water and aquifer restoration. He is also involved in the management of the popular “Floridasprings.org” website.

Presentation: Recent Water Quality Trends in Florida’s Springs

- **A Little History:** Introduction & brief discussion of human habitation history and use of Florida springs and ground water, from Native Americans to present-day Floridians;
- **Florida Hydrogeology:** Brief primer on Florida hydrogeology, including aquifers, karst, and distribution of springs within the state. Types of springs are discussed based on unique chemical characteristics of Florida ground water emanating from different aquifers, including saline springs;
- **Water Quality Trends:** Historic and recent water quality trends will be presented for several Florida springs, with emphasis on the time interval from 2002-2012;
- **Aquifer Restoration:** State and Federal programs designed to protect and restore aquifer water quality, including the U.S. EPA and Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL), numeric nutrient criteria, water management district and local government conservation efforts, and things everyone can do to protect our ground water
Marty Main

Dr. Marty Main is the Associate Dean and Program Leader for UF/IFAS Natural Resources and Florida Sea Grant Extension Programs. He is also a Professor in the Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation and the Program Leader and Founder of the Florida Master Naturalist Program (FMNP).

Marty has a diverse background, including a
- PhD in Wildlife Science from Oregon State University,
- MS in Biological Oceanography from the Florida Institute of Technology, and
- BS in Biological Sciences from Central Michigan University.

Marty’s diverse educational background fueled a diverse research history that has included near-shore reef systems, habitat management and fire ecology, and behavioral ecology studies on birds and large mammals. Most of Dr. Main’s recent research has focused on large carnivores including coyotes, the Florida panther, and jaguars in Brazil and Guatemala.

Marty’s diverse academic and research background and broad interests were important factors in the development of the FMNP, which is the professional achievement of which he says he is most proud. The FMNP issues approximately 1,000 graduate certificates each year, has been emulated by states across the country, and Dr. Main recently received the prestigious Eugene P. Odum Award for Excellence in Ecology Education from the Ecological Society of America in recognition of the success and impact of the Florida Master Naturalist Program. Dr. Main recognizes and is quick to acknowledge that the tremendous success of the FMNP is due primarily to the talented and dedicated Instructors who teach FMNP courses and to the many contributions that FMNP graduates provide to their local communities.

Presentation: Instructor Lessons and Q&A

Katrina Morrell

Katrina Morrell is a Certified Interpretive Planner, Trainer, and Guide (CIP, CIT, CIG) with the National Association for Interpretation. Katrina has 17 years of experience as an environmental educator both nationally and internationally and was awarded the first Environmental Education Peace Corps Fellowship in the nation. She currently works as the Education Coordinator for the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program. In her free time, Katrina is the founder and organizer of the Brevard Family Nature Club and an avid runner. She can be contacted at katrina.morrell@brevardparks.com.

Presentation: Interpretive Techniques and the Power of Story

In this session, participants will identify 10 top ways to connect with an audience and will engage in a group activity focusing on the power of story. The Florida Master Naturalist Program has given us a lot of great facts about our natural world. But how do we make those facts meaningful and relevant to the larger community? Learn how use interpretive techniques and elements of storytelling to give your message greater impact.
Jeanne Murphy

As a Senior Wildlife Biologist with over 20 years of wildlife ecology experience, Jeanne Murphy excitedly co-owns Sensing Nature®, a Florida environmental education, eco-tourism and nature products company with her husband. She enjoys teaching interactive indoor nature education and providing ethical eco-tours throughout Florida with most of her time in the Tampa Bay area. Jeanne excitedly teaches all seven of the UF FMNP courses each year in Pinellas County, is the UF FMNP Governing Board vice-president and also is an active volunteer in her community, including being the Friends of Pinellas Master Naturalists 501(c)(3) president.

**Presentation: How to Create and Keep a Regional FMNP Chapter**

Are you a FMNP graduate who now wants to “do more, learn more” while also keeping in touch with other wonderful FMNP grads and instructors? If so, it is time to take the leap! It is time to create your own FMNP regional chapter. Join Jeanne Murphy, President of the Friends of Pinellas Master Naturalists 501(c)(3), which was our state’s first FMNP chapter, and UF FMNP Lead Instructor in Pinellas County to learn how. Discuss some of the pitfalls to avoid and pleasures you will gain by starting a wonderful community outreach and continuing education chapter.

Jackie Rolly

Jacqueline (Jackie) Rolly is a resident of Seminole County. She received her Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration from Chaminade University in Honolulu and her Masters in Science in 1990 from Florida Institute of Technology. She retired in 2006 from Navy Civil Service in Orlando as a Program Manager and contracts manager for Simulation and Training after 30 years. As a 4th generation Floridian (a rare breed), she now has time to pursue her passion of conserving and preserving native plants of the Florida she once knew. In 2007 she realized there was more to Florida than plants and quickly took the three Master Naturalist Modules. In 2012, she, along with Peg Lantz, took over as instructors for the program in Orange County. Jackie was on the Florida Native Plant Society State Board of Directors as a Vice President for five years, and has been on the Tarflower Chapter Board since 2007 in various positions. In 2012 she received the Silver Palmetto award from FNPS. She is active on the Oakland Nature Preserve Board and has been active in the restoration of the Preserve from an Orange Grove/Pine Plantation back to the original sandhill habitat at the Preserve.

**Presentation: Ice Breakers and Hands-on Activities in the FMNP Classroom**

Learn about some hands on activities to enhance your classroom and field trip sessions. Attendees are free to use the following ideas and are encouraged to bring some of theirs to share:

1. Welcome Bingo.
2. Three key things about you written on a piece of paper, put in a bowl. Each attendee will pull one paper out, read it, and everyone try to guess who it is.
3. “Who am I?” Tape cards on people’s back and participants use yes or no answers to guess what animal or plant card is taped to their back.
Richard Turner

Richard Turner earned his BA and MS degrees in zoology at University of Maine and his PhD in biology at University of South Florida. He joined the faculty in biological sciences at Florida Institute of Technology in 1976. During his first sabbatical, Turner was a Harbor Branch Foundation postdoctoral fellow. Turner’s research has focused mainly on echinoderms (starfish, sea urchins, and their kind), but he has also worked on crustaceans (ghost crabs, mole crabs, hermit crabs) and mollusks (Florida applesnail, chitons). He teaches courses in marine biology, evolution, marine mammals, invertebrate biology, seagrass biology and ecology, and natural history of the Indian River Lagoon. He has conducted much of his research and teaching in seagrass beds around Florida, especially around Tampa Bay and the Indian River Lagoon. Turner is coauthor of the textbook *Introduction to Marine Biology*, now in its fourth edition, and he has authored 39 peer-reviewed articles. He is past president of Florida Academy of Sciences and serves as business manager of its journal, *Florida Scientist*.

**Presentation: Seagrasses: Limitations After 100 Million Years of Adaptation**

Seagrasses have a long history of adaptation to life in the sea, especially to heavy grazing by herbivores such as sea urchins, green turtles, and manatees. The adaptations include the ways that they reproduce, disperse and become established in new areas, and grow. But their adaptations and the conditions in the sea place limits on the ability of seagrasses to respond to rapid environmental change and disturbance. Understanding these limitations should help us confront problems in management and restoration of seagrass beds, which form critical habitats in coastal regions worldwide.

Mary White

Mary White is a former newspaper editorial staff writer, photographer and newsletter editor. Past president of the Florida chapter of a national voluntary health organization, Mary has worked extensively with children and families dealing with neurological disorders.

She has earned multiple juried photography awards from Backus Gallery, Loxahatchee NWR, Savannas State Preserve, Jonathan Dickinson State Park, PAX honor society of the ASHS, Florida Oceanographic Society, and National Wildlife Federation. Her photos have been exhibited at Backus Gallery, Lighthouse Gallery and Photographic Society of America’s International Photo Competition. She is a photography judge for Audubon of Martin County.

Featured in the *Palm Beach Post* and the *News Tribune*, Mary is a Master Naturalist and President of the FMN St. Lucie Chapter. Mary, along with Toyota Together Green/Audubon Fellowship recipient John Nelson, teaches wildlife photography and lead photography field trips on the Treasure Coast. Mary has been employed for 16 years with St. Lucie Sheriff’s Office. She is a member of Audubon, NANPA, and National Wildlife Federation.

A member of the FMNP 2014 state conference organizing committee, Mary feels that ethics is the most important thing about photographing nature, and as Mahatma Ghandi said, “The good man is the friend to all living things.”

**Presentation: The Ethics of Nature Photography**

In this workshop, we will define issues of ethics for master naturalist nature photographers. We will review the master naturalists’ standards and responsibilities when photographing nature in the field with regard to the subjects and their habitat. Guidelines for ethical field practices will be emphasized, and will consist of the attributes of a concerned nature photographer, baiting, honesty in captioning, rules and laws, etiquette, and how
master naturalist photographers can be important advocates for wildlife. Ethical avian photography will be featured, and suggestions from the American Birding Association (ABA), National Association of Nature Photographers (NANPA), and other sources will be reviewed. Procedures for properly photographing rare birds, shore birds and critically endangered plants will be presented. The importance of developing high standards of honesty and communication in your photography, current news topics and the presenter’s personal experiences and anecdotes will all be a part of this program. Suggestions on interaction with other photographers and the public, being a good role model, using good judgment, caption wording, equipment positioning, time frames and approach will be offered. Our main goal of protecting the species and the habitat will be the consistent theme.

Robert van Woesik

Robert van Woesik has worked on the coral reefs of the Pacific, Indian and Atlantic Oceans since 1982, and has written more than 135 scholarly research articles on coral reefs. His area of expertise is in the population and community ecology of scleractinian corals. He was the Environmental Editor for the international journal Coral Reefs from 2006 to 2013 and has been Director of the Institute for Research on Global Climate Change at the Florida institute of Technology since 2009. Robert van Woesik’s primary scientific goal is to assess the dynamics of coral populations and identify key processes that regulate those dynamics. He is particularly interested in climate change, thermal stress, adaptation, reef recovery, and refugia from climate change. Understanding reef systems and key processes on coral reefs will lead to predictive and accurate models of changes in coral reef communities. Essentially, his research is striving to understand coral-reef systems and identify important processes to provide information that will give corals their best chance of survival through this modern period of extensive human pressure.

Presentation: Corals and Climate Change

Coral reefs are one of the world’s most diverse ecosystems. Reefs provide resources and ecosystem services that benefit both human populations and other reef dwelling coral reef organisms worldwide, and provide coastal communities protection from storms and sea level rise. However, rapid climate change is increasing temperature anomalies and is causing consequential coral mortality. The average global water temperature has been predicted to increase by 1.8 degrees Celsius by 2100. Therefore the most immediate challenges we face with a rapidly changing climate and coral reefs include: How will coral species respond to ongoing climate change? Will rates of migration match needed range shifts? Which coral species are most vulnerable to local and regional extinction? Where will coral species survive, and are those localities refugia that are in most need of conservation.
Awards

FMNP Distinguished Instructor Career Service Award

I met Steve Bass in 1999 at a meeting hosted by the Visit Florida Commission. That meeting was convened to explore different strategies for training and potentially certifying ecotourism guides in Florida. At that time, there were many different and very good ideas about potential training programs for ecotour guides. I was a newcomer to that group with different ideas about how to proceed. I met a lot of resistance, but I also gained a new friend, ally, and champion for the Florida Master Naturalist Program (FMNP) in Steve Bass. Without Steve’s support and influence with that group, I may have not been able to generate the initial interest in the FMNP that was needed to pilot those first courses in 2001. It probably goes without saying, but Steve was one of the first FMNP Instructors to offer a course.

We honor Steve today for his contributions to the FMNP. During most of the years I’ve known Steve, he was teaching FMNP classes while simultaneously managing an entire suite of environmental education programs, a facility, and a nature preserve at the Gumbo Limbo Nature Center in Boca Raton. Despite all of these responsibilities, Steve incorporated the FMNP into the Gumbo Limbo programs and after he “retired” he continued teaching FMNP classes and was one of my “go to persons” to assist new FMNP instructors with their courses and questions.

Steve’s energy and commitment to education and the FMNP is inspirational. He is an outstanding educator and naturalist, which can be attested to both by his students and his peers. His FMNP classes were in great demand. I have received personal messages from his students that indicated they gained more than just an education from Steve, they gained something special that touched their lives.

During Steve’s tenure as an FMNP Instructor, he taught a total of 40 FMNP courses and issued 741 FMNP graduate certificates - an amazing achievement. The list of courses he liked to teach included all 3 core modules and 2 of the special topics courses. In particular, Steve played an influential role in the development of the Environmental Interpretation special topics course, although I still think it would have been better if he’d developed the course himself – he is a gifted interpreter.

Despite his impressive achievements as an educator and his vast knowledge regarding natural history, conservation issues, and interpretive methods, Steve has always remained humble and generous with his time and knowledge. He has been a great educator, role model, and friend. It is my sincere pleasure to present to Steve Bass the 2014 FMNP Distinguished Instructor Career Service Award.

Thank you, Steve, for your contributions to the FMNP and to the citizens of Florida.

Your friend,

Marty

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**FMNP Regional Awards of Excellence**

**Central: Don Philpott**

Don Philpott is a full-time writer and volunteer with Wekiwa Springs State Park, where he helps run the nature center and educational and interpretive programs. He teaches the uplands and freshwater wetlands modules of the FMNP course in the park and regularly conducts Edible Florida seminars and survival boot camps. He is also a Certified Interpretive Guide.

“Studying to become a FMN and now teaching the course is certainly one of the most satisfying things I have ever done. Whether leading walks, talking to school groups or developing new interpretive programs I use the knowledge acquired to enhance the audience’s experience and make it more relevant to them. Every time I teach a class I learn new things from my students which I can then pass on. We can never learn all there is to know, but we should never stop trying to,” Philpott has stated.

He spent 40 years traveling the world as a journalist and writer covering major news stories and participating in many expeditions. He has backpacked, climbed, canoed, ridden and skied throughout Europe, North America, Africa, Asia, the Arctic, Australia and New Zealand. He founded Footloose, the first environmental outdoors magazine in the UK in the 1970s and has had a lifelong passion for conservation and the environment. He is the author of more than 150 books including the *Guide to the Wekiva Basin State Parks*.

He is President of the Wekiva Wilderness Trust, the non-profit volunteer group that supports the work of the Wekiva Basin state parks, and in June, he will take over as President of the statewide Friends of Florida State Parks.

**Central East: Mary White**

A former newspaper editorial staff member, Mary White has earned multiple photography awards for her nature photography. She has been an Audubon judge, and featured in the *Palm Beach Post*. She is President of the St. Lucie Chapter and co-leads photography classes and field trips when she is not working full time at the sheriff’s office.

The FMNP has highly impacted her family life. Booth events, field trips, photography classes and other FMN activities are often attended by family members, especially her young grandson (everyone knows where there is one child, more will follow, as if by magic!).

A potentially serious illness and surgery over a year ago was made easier, because she didn’t have time to even think about it. There were too many FMN obligations and opportunities to pursue.

Mary has served her community by developing and implementing FMN programs and participating in established ones such as LakeWatch, Nature Fest (Manatee Observation Center), Party in the Park (Conservation Alliance) and Keep Port St Lucie Beautiful. She volunteered as a final project manager for the recent Uplands Module and where her students authored a new residents’ brochure. She designed a nature photography course, summer environmental camp programs for two counties and a presentation on “The Ethics of Nature Photography” for the FMNP state conference.

FMNP has been integrated into all areas of Mary’s life, and she “absolutely loves it!” She believes our natural world is our legacy and future and that we all should “LIVE IT” and “PASS IT ON.”
Central West: Joe Gross

It is said that some people don’t see the forest for the trees. When Joe Gross looks up, he sees the forest, the trees and the all-encompassing environment that brings their beauty to life.

Gross always took a keen interest in his environment, so it was a natural move when he became a Certified Arborist in 1995. But, that was just the beginning of Gross’s ongoing exploration of the world around us.

He wanted to learn more, and in 2012 he attained the designation Florida Master Naturalist from the University of Florida. Gross says the 2011-2012 Florida Master Naturalist Program experience “not only consisted of terrific education sessions and enlightening field trips, but has been a catalyst for further involvement in preserving and promoting Florida’s precious environment.”

In addition to his endeavors to restore the urban forest, Gross says, he was fortunate to have also participated in the protection, cleanup and assessment activities associated with the Hillsborough River and Tampa Bay.

In 2009, Gross worked with the Temple Terrace Garden Club to jointly publish the Temple Terrace Tree Guide, a free, comprehensive full-color brochure that identifies native species and offers tips for planting. In 2012, he established the city’s Adopt-A-Tree Program, which makes native Florida trees available to homeowners at no charge.

“FMNP’s interpretative skills training,” he notes, “has proven instrumental in the successful recruiting of volunteers and sponsor organizations for tree planting events, as well as the ability to confidently inform participants about the community’s fragile ecosystems.”

Central West: Karen Folsom

Karen (Johnson) Folsom has been an educator of the Hillsborough County Public School System since 1989 and is currently the Site Administrator of Nature’s Classroom Environmental Studies Center. Having a lifetime passion for learning, she seeks out any opportunities to increase her knowledge base about all living things and the natural systems they are found in. The skills and knowledge gained not only help her in her personal and professional growth but enable her to help others build awareness, gain understanding and ultimately demonstrate a respect and appreciation for the world around them.

Her trainings in the FMNP help have helped to break through the wall of green. Now instead of seeing a forest of plants, she sees individual organisms and how they influence the systems in which they are a part of. The experiences of visiting Florida’s various ecosystems have helped to increase her understanding of the way the local communities fit into the broader bioregion.

As the Site Administrator of an environmental education center, the content of the FMNP training can be seen being used at many levels, on any given day. Karen uses her experiences while discussing native flora and fauna with students, supporting her staff’s professional development, working with land managers and agency professionals on habitat health and restoration, sharing opportunities for environmental education outreach to university classes, businesses and organizations, as well as, Facilitating Project WET, WILD, Learning Tree and Fire in Southern Ecosystems.
North Central: Lars Andersen

In the summer of 2003, when Lars Andersen completed the Master Naturalist Program in Gainesville, he was in the early years of running Adventure Outpost, the outfitter and guide service he owns in High Springs with his wife Patsy. He considers the Master Naturalist program a turning point.

In the years since completing the program, his guided river tours have become the foundation of the business. On an average week, he guides 3 - 4 tours on some of the 60 waterways on his “Launch Menu.” His tours were featured in an article in the Spring 2009 edition of National Geographic Adventures Magazine. His Master Naturalist training has also fueled Lars’ other great passion, nature writing. In 2009, he wrote a Paddler’s Guide to the Suwannee River Wilderness Trail and he's currently working on a guide to the Gilchrist Blueway trail, a video about Ichetucknee River and a book about the history and wild lore of North Florida's rivers.

A devoted conservationist, Lars currently serves on the Boards of Directors of Paddle Florida and Cinema Verde Environmental Film Festival and on the Advisory Boards of the Florida Springs Institute and Florida Defenders of the Environment.

Lars would like to thank the Florida Master Naturalist program for being a central component of his training to be a nature guide and teacher. He knows of no greater honor than leading explorations of wild Florida, helping foster the healthy relationship between the people of Florida and the land they live on. Learn more about Lars’ passion for wild Florida and read samples of his writings at riverguidesjournal.blogspot.com.

Northeast: Barbara Beyerl

Barbara Beyerl is the Assistant Ranger at Camp Chowenwaw County Park in Green Cove Springs, Fl. When she began working there in 2008, she had already completed the three FMNP core modules. It was a new park and the management plan dictated that a small amount of nature based education was to be provided to the public. She developed an environmental education program primarily focused on providing programs to elementary school students. She was awarded the FMNP Achievement Award in 2009. Currently, field trips to the park serve hundreds of children from Clay, St Johns and Duval counties. Last year she planned to create a nature center at the Park to bring environmental and nature exhibits to all park visitors. After completing the Environmental Interpretation module she was inspired to make the project happen. It started small, with virtually no budget. By being creative with reused and scrap materials, the hands-on exhibits were created and were very well received. Without a dedicated space, the Nature Center is set up in a shared building on a quarterly basis. None of the programs or nature center would have happened without the help of volunteers. Currently Camp Chowenwaw Park has about 12 dedicated education volunteers, and several of them have taken FMNP modules.
Northwest: Antoinette Robinson

Antoinette Robinson has been teaching Science at Bruner Middle School in Fort Walton Beach for 11 years. She grew up playing in the woods, canoeing on the Blackwater River and exploring the beach, back in the days when live sand dollars were abundant and condominiums were rare. She worked as a nurse for 10 years, but eventually went back to doing what she loves best, sharing her love of nature and promoting environmental education.

Recognizing that her 7th grade students are at a pivotal age, where they will either embrace or reject Science, Antoinette strives to hook and empower them by making education meaningful and enjoyable. She continuously searches to learn more so that she can share more. Over the years, thanks to programs like Project Learning Tree and the Florida Master Naturalist Program, she has improved curriculum and forged partnerships with the Florida Forest Service and Okaloosa County Cooperative Extension Office, who teach her students about tree planting and local environmental issues. She has written and received many grants to provide students with hands-on activities and field studies. She teaches her students to be responsible environmental stewards by teaching them to separate and recycle classroom trash.

In her spare time, Antoinette tends to her apiary, serves as secretary for the Northwest Florida Gulf Coast Beekeeper's Association, teaches about the importance of beekeeping and gives tours of her apiary to anyone who is interested. She and her husband look forward to retiring and living sustainably in north Walton County someday.

Southeast: Allison G. Zack

When she came to Florida 3 years ago, Allison was a retired marketing manager from Eastman Kodak Company in Rochester, NY. Once settled in Pompano Beach she started FMNP classes, but as a ‘snowbird’ it took 3 years to complete the program. FMNP education has impacted Allison’s life in a dramatic and positive way, even changing her personal identity from ‘retiree’ to ‘active conservationist’.

One of Allison’s FMNP projects involved assessing gopher tortoise numbers at Hugh Taylor Birch State Park; she trained to become a Volunteer Park Ranger so she could lead Friday morning interpretive walks in the Park’s 4 different ecosystems. She is Web Content Administrator for Friends of Birch FaceBook site – recently they “Reached” just under 2000 people and saw over 1000 “Likes”. These 2 volunteer positions enable Allison to educate both residents and visitors about Florida’s plants and animals, the critical issues facing South Florida, and ways that people can make a difference through conservation.

Allison’s instructors Kristen Hoss and John Pipoly helped Allison apply her FMNP education to her condominium complex, for both native plant landscaping and water conservation. On one occasion Allison was able to step in, with help from the county arborist, to prevent the removal of healthy Sabal palms on the condo property. She also instigated the installation of a rain meter to conserve landscape watering. Together with her instructor Kristen Hoss, Allison has prepared 2 grants to enable grade school education about ocean acidification. Allison is also actively working on dune restoration projects.
**Southwest: Jamie Reynolds**

Jamie Reynolds grew up enjoying the woods, rivers, bayous and beaches in NW Florida. She worked as a college librarian; the last 22 years of her career were in SW Florida. She completed the FMN modules in 2009 and began as a volunteer assistant FMN instructor in Charlotte County in 2010.

Working under outstanding instructor Betty Staugler, Sea Grant Agent for Charlotte County, Jamie assists in teaching four FMN modules per year. She also serves as the alumni coordinator for the class’ graduates by keeping them informed about jobs and volunteer opportunities, events of other environmental groups in the area, and occasionally organizing alumni outings.

In 2011, Jamie was invited by Dr. Bill Wilcox, a Board Member of Babcock Ranch, Inc., to construct a nature trail on Babcock State Preserve. With help from many dedicated FMN alumni, the trail was planned, cleared, marked and mapped. It is continuously maintained by FMN volunteers.

Jamie is an active Sierra Club outings leader, a member of Peace River Audubon Society, a volunteer for Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center, as well as a Master Gardener. Being involved with FMN, however, she says, is the best vocation and avocation of her life.

Jamie has lived on Shell Creek outside Punta Gorda for 28 years.
FMNP Instructor Longevity Awards

10 Year Lead Instructors

Steve Bass          Joanne Semmer
Dolly Cummings      Brandon Smith
Sheila Dunning      Heather Stapleton
Dave Graff          Sally Stein
Loisa Kerwin        Chris Verlinde
Jeanne Murphy       Carol Wyninger

5 Year Lead Instructors

Roy Beckford        Lisa Krimsky
Bryan Fluech        Christina Nelson
Eleanor C. Foerste  Brooke Saari
Ken Gioeli          Betty Staugler
Joy Hazell          Chad Truxall
Lisa Hickey         Elizabeth (Wren) Underwood
Chris Kelley        Barton Wilder
Rosalyn Kilcollins  Renee Wilson
Robert Kluson

10 Year Assistant Instructors

Brian Lane          Randy McCormick

5 Year Assistant Instructors

Dave Barker         Kitty Philips
Billy Boothe        Jamie Reynolds
Sarah Falkowski     Sarah Rhodes-Ondi
Rob Heath           Ray Robida
L. Scott Jackson    Carolyn Saft
Lou King            Carrie Stevenson
Peggy Lantz         Karen Solms
Daniel Lippi        Richard Sullivan
Erik Lovestrand     Amanda Thompson
Robert Mohl         Heidi Vestrem
Richard O’Connor    Lesley Vincent-Ryder