



Florida Master Naturalist Program

Freshwater Wetlands Module

Course Description



Summary Statement: Florida Master Naturalist Program (FMNP) graduates 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 people to share their knowledge with others, to act in a positive manner, to help others feel a greater connection to the land, and to help others develop their own personal land ethic. Information on the ecology of Florida's systems is an integral part of the program, but we do not attempt to create experts in botany, herpetology, or any other discipline. Rather, we hope to initiate what is for many a life-long process of learning, observation, and sharing with others.

Freshwater Wetlands Module Overview: Through classroom, field trip, and practical experience, this Module provides instruction on the general ecology, habitats, vegetation types, wildlife, and conservation issues of freshwater wetlands in Florida: marshes, swamps, and permanent wetlands (lakes, rivers, springs, and streams). The program also addresses society's role in wetlands, develops naturalist interpretation skills, and discusses environmental ethics.

The Module consists of 40 contact hours, the scheduling of which will vary among Instructors. The only requirements of students are enthusiasm, attendance, and completion of final projects. There is no comprehensive examination required. Classroom learning includes four instructional videos and 12 presentations.

Freshwater Wetlands Video Series:

- Florida's Freshwater Marshes
- Florida's Freshwater Swamps
- Florida's Permanent Wetlands (lakes, streams, springs, rivers)
- Wetlands in the Modern Human Landscape

Freshwater Wetlands Presentation Series:

- General Ecology
- General Birds
- Woody Vegetation
- Fish
- Environmental Ethics
- Amphibians
- Waterbirds
- Invertebrates
- Mammals
- Naturalist Interpretation

What is the cost and what will Florida Master Naturalist Graduates receive?

- Each Module is \$225. Visit www.MasterNaturalist.org for class schedules and registration.
- Certificate of Completion and registration in the FMNP database as an FMNP Wetlands Naturalist.
- FMNP/University of Florida embroidered patch and FMNP Freshwater Wetlands lapel pin.
- FMNP Student Workbook includes approximately 1,000 comprehensive pages on Florida's wetland systems, habitats, plant and animal life, naturalist interpretation, and additional resources (Student Workbook becomes property of the student).