

Central East Region Update

Below are FMNP classes and other interesting opportunities and events coming up in your area. The inclusion of any non-FMNP event does not necessarily constitute an endorsement by the FMNP or University of Florida IFAS. Please consult the announcements below for contact information to get details about events and FMNP classes. Please DO NOT REPLY to this message. Contact and Unsubscribe links are at the bottom of the newsletter.

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1. St. Lucie County Coastal Systems Class

May 9 - June 25, 2011
Registration closes May 2, 2011
(Course Code: cs11-17)



Facility Information

Savannas Preserve State Park: Education Center
2541 Walton Rd., Port St. Lucie, FL 34952

Instructor Information

Wren Underwood, WONDER Environment & Science Education
Ken Gioeli, UF/ IFAS St. Lucie County Extension
Heidi Vestrem, Volunteer
Assistants: Lesley Vincent-Ryder, Manatee Education Center
Amanda Thompson, Oxbow Eco-Center
Organizations: University of Florida/IFAS Extension and Florida Sea Grant
Phone: 772-398-2779

2. FMNP Instructors Recognized

Duval County Master Naturalist Program Receives Outstanding Environmental Achievement Award

Duval County Extension instructors Brad Burbaugh and Carol Wyninger were recently honored for their tireless efforts to connect people to Florida's unique natural areas.

Carol has been a FMNP instructor since 2002. Brad joined the team in 2007 and since then they have worked hard to promote a lasting conservation ethic among the citizens of Duval County.

Congratulations, Brad & Carol!



The City of Jacksonville Environmental Protection Board's awards were established in 1975 honor outstanding environmental accomplishments.

3. Area Programs & Events

Florida Seafood Safety & Sustainability

2011 Brown Bag Lunch Webinar Series

WHERE: Webinar Series
WHEN: 12:15pm-12:45pm
May 18 - Snapper
Sept 21 - Spiny Lobster
Nov 16 - Oysters

MORE INFO: Contact Bryan Fleuch, Fleuch@ufl.edu

The FREE webinar series will educate seafood lovers about the sustainability and safety associated with some of Florida's most commercially valuable seafood products. The series will help consumers make informed decisions about purchasing and eating Florida Seafood.

Ritch Grissom Memorial Viera Wetlands Festival

WHERE: Melbourne
WHEN: Friday, May 27, 2011 10:00am-2:00pm
MORE INFO: http://www.brevardcounty.us/environmental_management/VieraWetlands-Home.cfm

Join the Friends of Viera Wetlands to celebrate the natural beauty of the Ritch Grissom Memorial Viera Wetlands and support community-wide environmental awareness.

4. FMNP Grads to Action

Volunteer - Bear Aware Canvassing

WHERE: Marion, Lake, Volusia and Seminole Counties
MORE INFO: Claire Sunquist, FWC Volunteer Coordinator Claire.Sunquist@MyFWC.com, 352-732-1225

Volunteers will canvass residents where communities are in need of education to reduce bear. Volunteers will work in small teams with the FWC Volunteer Coordinator to share information with neighborhood associations and individual homeowners in the regions where human-bear conflicts occur. Bear Aware Canvassing Volunteers are a critical part of the future of black bears in Florida. Without public awareness and support, human-bear conflicts will continue to increase. By educating homeowners to take action to prevent problems, Bear Aware Canvassing Volunteers can help to reduce human-bear conflicts for the well-being of the public and black bears.

Volunteer - Jay Watch 2011

WHERE: Marion, Lake, Volusia, Orange, and Brevard Counties
MORE INFO: Claire Sunquist, FWC Volunteer Coordinator Claire.Sunquist@MyFWC.com, 352-732-1225

Jay Watch is a citizen science program monitoring threatened Florida scrub-jays with the goal of providing information for more high-quality habitat for more scrub-jays. The Nature Conservancy, Archbold Biological Station and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission have partnered to run Jay Watch for the 2011 field season. Volunteers can help monitor Scrub-jay populations around the state and contribute data to inform managers about how to help scrub-jays. Trainings will occur in May and they surveys will run from mid June to mid July.

Volunteer - Wood Stork Monitoring

WHERE: St. Johns, Osceola, Volusia, Orange, and Brevard Counties
MORE INFO: Claire Sunquist, FWC Volunteer Coordinator Claire.Sunquist@MyFWC.com, 352-732-1225

Volunteers can help monitor nesting wood storks all around the state. Volunteers will conduct monthly monitoring at particular nesting colony sites and determine activity of the nests from a distance. Contact the volunteer coordinator to find out more about monitoring a colony near you.

Volunteer - 2nd Annual Ritch Grissom Memorial Viera Wetlands Festival

WHERE: Melbourne
WHEN: Friday, May 27, 2011 10am-2pm
MORE INFO: Valerie Citta, (321) 633-2016 x52413 or valerie.carson-citta@brevardcounty.us

Volunteers needed to conduct guided walks and programs.

5. Instructors' Corner

Instructor / Student Contract

- Betty Staugler, Florida Sea Grant Agent

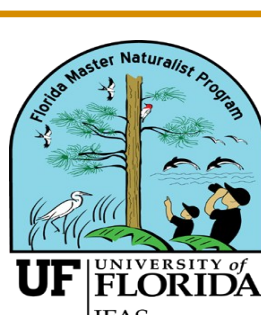
We developed an Instructor/Student contract in Charlotte County in order to ensure students have a clear understanding of class expectations. We implemented it primarily because our evaluations indicated that students wanted more time in the field; however, in some classes, excessive student talking was causing delays that kept us in the classroom longer than we desired. The contract was seen as a way to highlight the need for balance. We also use the contract to illuminate other expectations (both student and instructor) key to successful adult learning. We read the contract the first day of class.

The first section of the contract provides students with an overview of how the class will unfold (lectures and videos, field trips and student synthesis). We also include items that address student's basic physiological needs for food, safety and water. This first section helps ensure that we as instructors don't forget to go over these core items which are critical first steps in the learning process, particularly for students new to the FMNP program.

The second section outlines expectations for instructors and students. Instructors (three in Charlotte) all agree to the expectations outlined in our section and we ask the students to in turn agree to the expectations in their section. We also encourage the students to take ownership of the contract by recommending changes (additions or deletions) as they deem appropriate.

The contract is working well in Charlotte County as it sets the tone for learning on day one. It also provides students and instructors with a mechanism to address common classroom distractions that may take away from an individual's learning experience.

* A PDF copy of Betty's contract can be found on the instructor page of the FMNP Website.



www.MasterNaturalist.org