



## *Florida Master Naturalist Program - Freshwater Wetlands Module Course Description*

**Summary Statement:** Florida Master Naturalist Program students will increase their knowledge of Florida’s natural systems, of the plants and animals that depend upon those systems, and of the role of humankind in shaping our past, of determining our future, and as stewards of the land. The objective of the Florida Master Naturalist Program is to prepare persons to share their knowledge with others, to act in a positive manner, to help others feel a greater connection to the land and to help others to 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, of observation, and of 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 Fresh Water Wetlands in Florida - Marshes, Swamps, and Permanent Wetlands (Lakes, Rivers, Springs, and Streams). The program also addresses societies role in wetlands, develops naturalist interpretation skills, and discusses environmental ethics.

The total training consists of 40 contact hours, the scheduling of which will vary among different Instructor Organizations. The only requirements of students are enthusiasm, attendance, and completion of group final projects. There is no comprehensive examination required. Classroom learning includes 4 instructional videos and 12 presentations

### **Florida Master Naturalist Program 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

### **Florida Master Naturalist Program Freshwater Wetlands Presentation Series:**

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| • General Ecology of Freshwater Wetlands       | • Amphibians of Freshwater Wetlands    |
| • Herbaceous Vegetation of Freshwater Wetlands | • Reptiles of Freshwater Wetlands      |
| • Waterbirds of Freshwater Wetlands            | • Fish of Freshwater Wetlands          |
| • Woody Vegetation of Freshwater Wetlands      | • Invertebrates of Freshwater Wetlands |
| • General birds of Freshwater Wetlands         | • Environmental Ethics                 |
| • Mammals of Freshwater Wetlands               | • Naturalist Interpretation            |

### **What is the Cost and what will Florida Master Naturalist Students receive?**

- The cost to students is \$225. See [www.MasterNaturalist.org](http://www.MasterNaturalist.org) for course schedules and registration.
- Certificate of Completion and registration in the University of Florida IFAS database for Florida Master Naturalists as FMNP Wetlands Naturalist.
- FMNP/University of Florida Embroidered Patch and FMNP Freshwater Wetlands lapel pin.
- FMNP Student Workbook –almost 1,000 comprehensive pages on Florida wetland systems, habitats, plant and animal life, naturalist interpretation, planning, and additional resources and sources of information (Student Workbook becomes property of the student).