Central Region Update

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Hypometer, clinometer (both homemade and professional), and their own shadow to measure the height of a tree. Brandon recommends using McDonald's straws as they have a larger diameter than other straws, which makes them more commonly used to measure tree heights.

So, should we get overly worked up about it if we see someone referred to in a newspaper article as a Florida Master Naturalist if that individual has not completed all three core modules (Coastal, Uplands, and Wetlands)? I don't think so. I think the more important issue is that we regard we are not just Florida Master Naturalists, we are kindred spirits as well.

On May 23, 2012, the 6th annual Florida Wildflower & Garden Festival will be held at the Chinsegut Conservation Center, 23212 Lake Lindsey Rd., Brooksville, FL 34613.

Locate the Backyard Wildflowers and Native Plants Vendor Area and follow the path to the Wildflower and Garden Festival. The Chinsegut Conservation Center is located on Route 91 (Brooksville to Inverness half way), 2 miles north of Route 41. It is well worth the trip from the Treasure Coast, as we have a number of activities planned for the day. (Kelly)

A shuttle will run throughout the day between the Wildflower & Garden Festival and the DeLand Theatre and hands on workshops in Chess Park on composting, raised beds, local wetlands (a.k.a the backyard!). One of the highlights of the day will be the Kissimmee Valley Regional Wildlife Management Area's wildlife drive and the Chess Park conservation education area. The shuttle will provide transportation to and from the DeLand Theatre, Chess Park and the Chinsegut Conservation Center.

Mark your calendars for the 6th annual Florida Wildflower & Garden Festival. Please visit the FMNP web site (www.FMNP.org) to learn more about the Florida Master Naturalist Program and how to become aFlorida Master Naturalist. If you are not yet a FMNP please consider registering for a class.

Florida coyote carcasses are needed for a diet study being conducted by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Please contact Amy Reaume at areaume@brevardzoo.org.

Volunteers Needed for FrogWatch USA, Training Offered at Brevard Zoo

You can read the remainder of this article, "Researchers say Indian River Lagoon bull shark nursery critical," by Dinah tejada at www.masternaturalist.org.

FMNP Instructor Teaches Students How to Measure Tree Heights Using Multiple Methods

 Brandon states, "I have my uplands students measure tree height utilizing different methods. They use a Merritt Hypsometer, clinometer (both homemade and professional), and their own shadow to measure the height of a tree. Brandon recommends using McDonald's straws as they have a larger diameter than other straws, which makes them more commonly used to measure tree heights.

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Technically speaking, an individual must complete all three core modules to become a certified Florida Master Naturalist. If an individual has not completed all three core modules (Coastal, Uplands, and Wetlands), the FMNP Graduate Database and the Master Naturalist Honor Role do not list that individual as a...