Instructor's Corner

Brandon states, "I have my uplands students measure tree height utilizing different methods. They use a Merritt Hypsometer, Cardboard clinometer, a Biltmore Stick scale (for measuring tree diameter) on the opposite side of the cruiser stick from the hypsometer and the clinometer so you only need a basic calculator in the field can be accessed through these tools. Brandon recommends using McDonald's straws as they have a larger diameter than other straws, which makes them easier to see through (they are also free!). The tangent table that Brandon made to place on the other side of the cruiser stick from the hypsometer can be accessed below the table of contents. You can include this information in our newsletter.

Letter from Dr. Main

"Scientists studying the Indian River Lagoon, long considered one of the world's richest ecosystems, say new findings indicate that the lagoon could support even more marine life in the future than previously thought. This critical research is ongoing, and we are currently seeking volunteers to participate in our ongoing study. If you are interested in learning more about how you can contribute to this important research, please contact us at (904) 220-0232. Thank you to all of you who took the time to respond to our brief survey. We recently received some comments and questions regarding whether it is appropriate to refer to oneself as a Florida Master Naturalist in the absence of certification in all three core modules. However, we believe that even those who have not completed all three core modules can contribute to the conservation of Florida's natural treasures. We also believe that the more important issue is that we are providing Florida Master Naturalists with opportunities to learn and grow as educators and environmental stewards. In that spirit, we are now offering Special Topics courses that are shorter and focused on specific subjects, such as methods for measuring tree height. These courses are available to all Florida Master Naturalists, regardless of whether they have completed all three core modules. We hope to see many of you participate in these exciting new opportunities.

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