FMNP Honors Instructor Steven Gaul with Memorial Scholarship

It is with great sadness that the FMNP has had to say goodbye to longtime instructor Steven Gaul. Since 2007, Steven has taught the Florida Master Naturalist Program (FMNP) Natural Resource Extension Professionals (FANREP) course in the Northeast Region of the state. Steven was also an active member of the Florida Association of Natural Resources and Agriculture Extension Agents (FANREA) and served on the FANREA Council for five years. In addition to his role as an instructor, Steven served as the UF/IFAS Director of People and Programs for the Nassau County Extension office from 2007 to 2013.

Steven’s dedication to the FMNP is evident in his work, where he embodied Steve’s passion for educating others about Florida’s ecosystems. Through his teaching and leadership, Steven inspired many to become more engaged in the conservation of Florida’s natural resources. His commitment to the program and the individuals he taught has left a lasting impact on the Florida Master Naturalist Program.

To honor Steven Gaul’s contributions to the Florida Master Naturalist Program, a memorial scholarship fund has been established. This scholarship will cover the cost of one FMNP core module or Special Topics course of the recipient’s choice. In addition to the scholarship provided by the FMNP, a memorial scholarship fund is open for those who would like to contribute and will be used to award additional scholarships. If you wish to donate, you can do so securely online at the FMNP website. You can also send your donation to the following address:

Florida Master Naturalist Program
PO Box 10009
Gainesville, FL 32604

Those interested in applying for the Memorial Scholarship should email their essay to Bryan Fluech at fluech@ufl.edu. The essay should be 500 words or less and explain why they are interested in the Florida Master Naturalist Program, how they plan to use the information they learn, and how they would benefit from this opportunity. Applications are due by March 31, 2013.

Attend the Sixth Annual Florida Master Naturalist Program Emerald Awards Banquet

The Florida Master Naturalist Program (FMNP) will honor a group of exceptional individuals dedicated to the stewardship of Florida’s natural resources at the Sixth Annual Emerald Awards Banquet on Sunday, May 11, 2013. The event will be held at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort in Naples, Florida.

The Emerald Awards, presented by the Florida Master Naturalist Program, recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to the conservation and stewardship of Florida’s natural resources. The awards are presented in four categories: Lifetime Achievement, Outstanding Citizen, Young Conservationist, and Outstanding Educator.

The 2013 Emerald Award recipients are:

- Lifetime Achievement: Frank Bower, a longtime advocate for conservation in Florida
- Outstanding Citizen: Jane and John D. Bowers, for their work in preserving Florida’s natural areas
- Young Conservationist: Sarah Anderson, for her efforts in restoring Florida’s natural ecosystems
- Outstanding Educator: Cheryl Caldwell, for her dedication to teaching others about Florida’s natural resources

The Emerald Awards Banquet will be held at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort in Naples, Florida. For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit the FMNP website or contact the FMNP office at 386-822-5578.

Register Now for the Florida Master Naturalist Program Summer Institutes

The Florida Master Naturalist Program (FMNP) is proud to announce the 2013 Summer Institutes, which will be held at the Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NRER) in Naples, Florida. The institutes will be held on weekends from May 18 to September 8, 2013.

The Summer Institutes are designed to provide Master Naturalists with advanced training in various aspects of Florida’s natural resources. The courses are taught by experienced instructors from the FMNP and other organizations, and cover a wide range of topics, including coastal ecosystems, freshwater wetlands, upland habitats, and more.

The Summer Institutes are open to all FMNP Certified Master Naturalists, and participants will receive continuing education credits for their attendance. To register, please visit the FMNP website or contact the FMNP office at 386-822-5578.