Central Region Update

- UF/IFAS Florida Master Naturalist Program with emphasis on Pinellas County. In pursuit of this objective, members seek educating others about nature. In 2008, chapter members voted to establish the Friends of PMN mission of the program and provide graduates with opportunities for continued engagement. The chapter has developed an action plan that includes:

- Scholarship Fundraiser and Silent Auction—Saturday, May 18, Cross Florida Greenway, Marion County
- Friends@PinellasMasterNaturalists.org—newsletter, special events, and notices of local naturalist activities
- Local News & Events
  - Toyota TogetherGreen Fellowship Program
  
  Toyota TogetherGreen Fellowship Program is a unique partnership between the Toyota Motor Corporation and the National Audubon Society. This fellowship is designed to help individuals who have been selected as Fellows to make a difference in the conservation of local and national natural areas. Fellows will learn:
  
  - Cooperative breeding behavior
  - Standardized Jay Watch survey methods to be employed statewide June 15
  - Jay Monitoring Program
  - Local News & Events: 2013 Jay Watch Training Sessions
  - Scholarship Fundraiser and Silent Auction: Saturday, May 18, Cross Florida Greenway, Marion County
  - Friends@PinellasMasterNaturalists.org—newsletter, special events, and notices of local naturalist activities

FMNP Chapter Spotlight: Friends of Pinellas Master Naturalists

The Friends of Pinellas Master Naturalist (Friends of PMN), a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, was established in 2004 to support the mission of the Florida Master Naturalist Program (FMNP). The group provides financial support for the FMNP by raising funds for the FMNP chapter. The group also provides a forum for FMNP graduates to meet and exchange ideas and information. The group is composed of FMNP graduates, FMNP instructors, and interested community members who are committed to supporting the FMNP.

The Friends of PMN supports the FMNP in a number of ways:

- Scholarships
  - Each year, the Friends of PMN awards two scholarships to FMNP graduates. These scholarships are awarded to students who are pursuing higher education in the natural sciences.
- Trophies
  - The Friends of PMN awards trophies to the top two students in each of the FMNP levels. These trophies are awarded to students who have completed the FMNP program and have excelled in their studies.
- Support for the FMNP chapter
  - The Friends of PMN provides financial support to the FMNP chapter by sponsoring the annual FMNP chapter meeting. The meeting is held in March and is open to all FMNP graduates and their families.

The Friends of PMN is always seeking new members to help support its mission. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Friends of PMN, please visit the FMNP chapter's website at www.pinellasmasternaturalists.org/directory for more information.