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Florida Master Naturalist Program

Newsletter

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UF UNIVERSITY of **FLORIDA**
IFAS Extension

FMNP 2006 - Update

2006 was another great year for the Florida Master Naturalist Program!

Kudos to FMNP Instructors and Master Naturalist graduates for their accomplishments.

Highlights during 2006 included:

- A total of 45 FMNP courses were completed in 24 locations throughout Florida (14 Coastal Systems, 16 Freshwater Wetlands, and 15 Upland Habitats courses).
- 640 Florida Master Naturalist students were awarded FMNP Certificates of Achievement during 2006, which increased our total to approximately 2,800.
- 109 FMNP Grads completed all 3 FMNP modules and became "Master Naturalists."
- The number of local or regional FMNP Chapters grew to 9 (read more about FMNP Chapters on page 2 of this newsletter).
- We hosted the first FMNP statewide conference and reunion in November. The conference was attended by more than 100 participants who attended workshops provided by FMNP Instructors, met and socialized with other FMNP Grads and Instructors from around the state, and had opportunities to go on local field trips. Because our first event was so successful, we've scheduled the 2007 FMNP Annual Meeting at the same location. So mark your calendars for November 9-11, 2007, and this time bring a fishing pole!

Marty

FMNP Instructor Spotlight: Randy McCormick, Rookery Bay NERR



Randy McCormick, www.rookerybay.org

How did you get involved in Environmental Education?

I've been exploring nature since I learned to walk. In my 40s, I left a business career and obtained an M.S. in environmental education at the Audubon Expedition Institute. My education philosophy includes the premise that information without experience is trivial. The combination of the two is powerful. My job is to facilitate a connection between people and places. When you do that well, you are doing something that matters.

What is your most memorable EE moment?

I treasure small moments. Like the time when the little boy held my hand at the end of our nature walk. Or when a high school senior said, "Look, the Gulf of Mexico! I've never seen it before."

What is your vision for Florida's future?

Aldo Leopold said, "The penalty of an ecological education is the realization that we live in a world of wounds." I see Florida's wild places becoming smaller, fragmented, managed "units." I hope that the people living around these lands will learn to love and care for them like their lives depended on it (indirectly, it does). Rachael Carson said, "Those who dwell as scientists or laymen among the mysteries of the earth are never alone or weary of life. Those who contemplate the beauty of earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts."

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Track Trivia

What made these tracks?



Answer: Eastern Cottontail rabbit

FMNP Regional Chapter News

The formation of Regional Chapters will provide direct benefits to FMNP Instructors and Students as they continue their life-long learning and discovery process. Below is a listing of current FMNP Regional Chapters.

The effort to develop more chapters is currently under way. FMNP Graduates are always welcome to join in.

<p>Northwest Florida FMNP Regional Chapter (Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Holmes, Washington, Bay, Jackson, Calhoun, Gulf, Liberty, Franklin) FMNP facilitators: Chris Verlinde, and Denise Williams</p>	<p>Northeast Florida Chapter (Nassau, Baker, Duval, Clay, Putnam, St. Johns, Flagler) FMNP facilitator: Carol Wyninger Phone: 904-387-8850 Email: wyninger@comcast.net Chapter website</p>
<p>Alachua County FMNP Chapter FMNP facilitators: Bill Rossey, Lorraine Williams, Patti Anderson</p>	<p>Central Florida Chapter (Volusia, Marion, Sumter, Lake, Seminole, Orange, Polk, Osceola, Hardee, Desoto, Highlands); FMNP facilitator: David Griffis, Email: dgriffis@ifas.ufl.edu, Phone: 386-822-5778</p>
<p>Nature Coast Chapter (Levy, Citrus, Hernando) FMNP facilitators: Warren Blodgett, Vicky and JD Mendenhall</p>	<p>Pasco County Chapter Crystal Springs Preserve FMNP facilitator: Karen Pate, Email: karen8948@aol.com Phone: 813-715-9707</p>
<p>Pinellas County Chapter FMNP facilitator: Jeanne Murphy, Email: jmurphy@co.pinellas.fl.us Phone: 727-582-2461 Meetings: 10-11 a.m. second Tuesday of each month Meeting location: Pinellas County Extension Office</p>	<p>Central East Florida FMNP Regional Chapter (Brevard, Indian River, St. Lucie, Okeechobee, *Martin county folks welcome) FMNP facilitator: Cory Findley</p>
<p>Southwest Florida FMNP Regional Chapter (Charlotte, Glades, Lee, Hendry, Collier) FMNP facilitator: Jennifer Crawford</p>	

For a full afternoon on October 29th, Dr. George Wilder, an expert in plant anatomy and morphology, spoke to members of the SW Florida Master Naturalist Chapter, emphasizing the importance of providing a permanent herbarium record of local plant life to future generations. *(Photo of SW Florida FMNP student mounting a herbarium specimen)*

Speaking in the lab of Whitaker Hall at Florida Gulf Coast University, Dr. Wilder discussed his mission to preserve a botanical record of Collier and Lee counties. He stated his work is urgent because the massive, rapid development occurring in Southwest Florida that often occurs without adequate consideration of the environment will surely extirpate many species. Herbarium specimens are important botanical records because they best record the information essential to plant identification.

Tell us what your FMNP Chapter has been learning or contributing to!





Southwest

Rookery Bay Reserve, Environmental Learning Center, 300 Tower Road, Naples, **Saturday, Mar 24, 2007. 10:00 - 3:00**

Southwest Florida History & Archeology Festival

We will focus on Collier County's rich historical heritage. Enjoy presentations by renowned archeological experts, venture outside for authentic pioneer life. Ages 12 and under, free. Children must be accompanied by a paying adult.

Echo's Mushroom Cultivation Workshop. A 2-day workshop in North Fort Myers. Learn how to grow edible mushrooms in your home. Learn tissue culture, spawn techniques, growing procedures. Lunch, lab materials, container and home supplies included. Cost \$175. Dates Feb 4 & 11, March 18 & 25, April 8 & 15. Call 239-543-3246 for information.

Southeast

FEBRUARY 17—Florida Yards and Neighborhoods, **Demonstration Garden Open House**

Palm Beach County Community College and the University of Florida/Palm Beach County Extension Service. Activities include music, refreshments, Tai Chi and garden tours. Free seedlings and other giveaways. All ages welcome.

Time: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm, Fee: Free, Location: N. Side **Grassy Waters Preserve**. www.grassywaterspreserve.com

Palm Beach County Extension and Grassy Waters Preserve are partnering to provide an exciting continuing education course, **Natural Resource Issues Facing South Florida**. This 6-week course (Tuesday evenings from 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.) will begin on February 6th. The meeting location is Grassy Waters Preserve, North Side Everglades Pavilion, 8537 North Lake Blvd., West Palm Beach. Contact Alyssa Dodd, (ADodd@ifas.ufl.edu) or (561) 233-1725.

Central East

Wildflower Festival, March 31. Volusia County Fairgrounds.

Saturday 8:30 am-12:00 pm. Free Admission. Call DeLand: (386) 822-5778 for more information.

Florida Fossiling Fun, Environmental Learning Center, Vero Beach For more information call 772.589.5050

February 16, 10:30 am - 11:30 am \$12/adult \$10/adult member \$7/child \$5/child mbr

Join a local fossil guide from Paleo Discoveries as we explore our Florida's pre-history with emphasis on local fossils and geology. Have fun with a hands-on fossil exhibit and an opportunity to find fossils on your own. Ages 6 and up.

St. Lucie River Tour, February 17th & March 17th, 9am to 1pm. St. Lucie Oxbow Eco Center.

Guided Canoe/Kayak Tours. Join an Oxbow naturalist for a leisurely paddle down the North Fork of the St Lucie River. Where a hat and sunscreen, bring some water and pack a lunch or snack to eat when we dock midway through our journey. Fee is \$10 per person. Children 5-7 are free. RSVP & prepayment is required. Call 785-5833.

Central

Everglades: An American Treasure Workshop, Riverwoods Field Lab on March 31, 2007, from 9am-4pm for this exciting workshop. Download the registration form <http://riverwoods.ces.fau.edu/> and fax it to: 863/462-5331.

Northeast

Choctawhatchee Audubon Society Bird Walk

Bird Walk in Sandestin. Meet at Mid-Bay Bridge Walgreens, Destin 7:30 AM. Call Thelma Phillips 218-9620

"Right Whales"—Frank Gromling of Flagler Beach is an educator and a writer. His book, *Frank's Whales*, is a story of Right whales. His presentation will be about his experiences with these fascinating animals. OWC Niceville campus in the Learning Resources Center (LRC), Room 131. www.choctawhatcheeaudubon.org

Add your event! We have several calendars for environmental education events. Go to www.MasterNaturalist.org and click on the Master Naturalist Regional chapter near you. Click the Calendar of Events link. You may submit new events by click on "Suggest Entry."

Wild Eye Watch on:

Southern Yellow Jacket (*Vespula squamosa*) 1/2"

Identifiers: smooth body is black with yellow markings,

see <http://creatures.ifas.ufl.edu>

Adaptations: venomous, stinging social insect

Range: eastern United States, parts of Mexico and Central America

Habitat: urban areas, open woods

Diet: other insects

Fun Facts:

- colony is initiated by a single orange queen that is larger in size
- workers construct colony out of chewed vegetable fiber

Yellowjackets are hornets. Two of the 16 Nearctic species of *Vespula* are found in Florida. They include the eastern yellowjacket (*V. maculifrons*) and the southern yellowjacket (*V. squamosa*). Another hornet found in Florida that belongs to a different genus (*Dolichovespula*) is the baldfaced hornet (*D. maculate*). The picture above of a southern yellow jacket nest was taken on Pine Island in southwest Florida. The gray papery material is some 4 feet across and one foot high. Nests often are built underground, but if the nest becomes too large or partly filled with soil, the nest may expand to the surface. Large nests may last several years and contain thousands of hornets and numerous exit holes, so be cautious around nests because hornets are aggressive when disturbed and each hornet can inflict multiple stings. Important nest predators probably included bears historically.



©Phil Buchanan, FMNP

Interpretive Tracks

5 Principles on How to Interpret Nature to Children

Adapted from *Sharing Nature with Children* by Joseph Bharat Cornell

1) Teach less and share more

Share your own observations about the tree, animal or bird and how its unusual features help it survive; make them wonder

2) Be receptive

Listen carefully to their comments and questions and watch their expressions

3) Focus the child's attention without delay

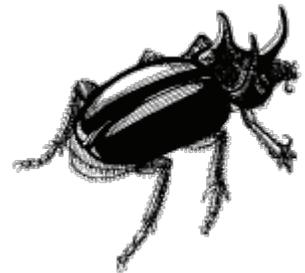
Some children are not used to watching nature closely, so find interesting sights and sounds

4) Look and experience first; talk later

Let the child become absorbed in the moment before you interrupt; remember to use multiple senses—seeing, hearing, touching and smelling—while exploring

5) A sense of joy should permeate the experience

Keep the outing happy and enthusiastic; your enthusiasm will be contagious



Rhino Beetle,
from Archbold Biological station,
"Discovering Florida Scrub."

Underlying these principles are basic attitudes of respect and reverence for nature and children.

New Additions to the Honor Role of Florida Master Naturalists

Individuals who completed Coastal, Wetlands, and Uplands modules during October-December 2006

To view the complete list of Florida Master Naturalist Graduates: www.MasterNaturalist.org, click on "Student Database"

Florida Master Naturalist	Freshwater Wetlands Instructor Organization	Coastal Systems Instructor Organization	Upland Habitats Instructor Organization
Anngeolace Blue-McLean	Crystal River Preserve State Park	Crystal River Preserve State Park	Crystal River Preserve State Park
Ann Coffel	Crystal River Preserve State Park	Crystal River Preserve State Park	Crystal River Preserve State Park
Earnie Olsen	Crystal River Preserve State Park	Crystal River Preserve State Park	Crystal River Preserve State Park
Edward Sullivan	Crystal River Preserve State Park	Crystal River Preserve State Park	Crystal River Preserve State Park
Lorrie van Voorthuisen	Crystal River Preserve State Park	Crystal River Preserve State Park	Crystal River Preserve State Park
Cory Findley	Audubon Corkscrew Swamp	The Whitney Lab	Brevard County Parks
Margaret Gonzalez	Audubon Corkscrew Swamp	Sanibel Captiva Conservation FD.	Audubon Corkscrew Swamp
Vincent McGrath	Audubon Corkscrew Swamp	Sanibel Captiva Conservation FD.	Ostego Bay Foundation
Jennifer Rogers	Audubon Corkscrew Swamp	Rookery Bay NERR	Audubon Corkscrew Swamp
Arthur Ritas	Swamp	The Conservancy of SW FL	Audubon Corkscrew Swamp
Johanna Jacobs	Pinellas County Extension	Pinellas County Extension	Pinellas County Extension
Joe Malo	Pinellas County Extension	Pinellas County Extension	Pinellas County Extension
Barbara Stalbird	Pinellas County Extension	Pinellas County Extension	Pinellas County Extension
Dixon Walker	Duval Co. Extension/ St.Johns Parks	The Whitney Lab	Alachua County Extension

Electronic Environmental Education Tools

The DVD "Mollusks in Action" is available through Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum. Cost is \$22.50 plus postage charge. <http://www.shellmuseum.org/> and must be ordered by phone toll free 1-888-679-6450.

The Southeast Climate Consortium released this month its latest climate outlook for the agricultural and natural resource management. In it you can find discussions about the current conditions in the SE US, a general climate outlook for the next few months. To view details, go to www.agclimate.org.

MASTER WILDLIFER 2005 DVDs, TAPES AND MATERIALS NOW AVAILABLE AT: <http://masterwildlifer.org/>.

Background: Master Wildlifer was a satellite broadcast, Clemson University Extension short course for landowners and land managers across the southeast who are interested in integrating wildlife considerations into their current land use. Farmers, forestland owners, and others interested in wildlife will find Master Wildlifer to be a wealth of practical information that will serve as a guide to develop and improve wildlife habitat on their land. Special emphasis is placed on wildlife species (game species) that offer landowners additional sources of income through recreational access fees.

Disclaimer: announcement of educational materials is provided as an informational service and does not constitute either endorsement or evaluation of products by the Florida Master Naturalist Program or the University of Florida/IFAS.

Current Course Offerings

Freshwater Wetlands Module

February 27-April 24, 2007 (Santa Rosa County)
March 2-April 6, 2007 (Lee County)
March 10-April 21, 2007 (Palm Beach County)
March 19-April 6, 2007 (Palm Beach County)
April 3-28, 2007 (Clay County)

Coastal Systems Module

March 1-April 5, 2007 (Volusia County)
April 14-May 6, 2007 (Brevard County)
May 7-June 25, 2007 (Citrus County)

Upland Habitats Module

February 26-March 2, 2007 (Pasco County)
March 19-March 29, 2007 (Lake County)
April 18-May 23, 2007 (Osceola County)
April 24-May 1, 2007 (Collier County)



Go to <http://www.MasterNaturalist.org/>
Click on "Course Offerings" time schedules.
Choose your course and register online.

Florida Master Naturalist Program

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There is a silver lining

by Florida Master Naturalist Instructor Lynn Lisenby,
Professor of Biological Sciences, Florida Community College, Jacksonville

Tree Hill Nature Center (www.treehill.org) is a Jacksonville non-profit organization and is where all third-graders in Duval County go to receive hands-on science applications. Field trips are led over its 55-acre natural setting, and children roam and learn what nature is really all about. There is a small but wonderful nature/interpretive center there that contains live snakes, turtles, frogs, etc. Tree Hill hired Jamy Rose, a Florida Master Naturalist, when it finally received funding for a full-time naturalist. Many volunteer and part-time teachers work for Tree Hill, and even with all of their experience, Jamy was selected out of 50 applicants because of the knowledge gained from her FMNP certification. Once she began working there, she expressed so much enthusiasm for the FMNP that her employer wrote a grant and received funding to send 10 part-time employees and volunteers through the FMNP training.

I watched Jamy deliver a public program on reptiles and amphibians. She fed the animals, discussed their lifestyles and allowed the children to touch each one. For four hours, she entertained children and adults alike. I was fascinated with her knowledge and delivery. Both had increased so much, and it all started with FMNP!

Jamy actively promotes the FMNP and embodies all of the values that we have instilled in our students. For all of the above reasons, I nominated her for the 2006 Northeast Florida Master Naturalist of the Year Award. When she received her award at the 2006 FMNP Annual Meeting (picture below) Jamy said, "thank you for helping me obtain my dream job; I am truly fortunate."



FMNP Module funding provided by:

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