

**UF/IFAS Florida Master Naturalist Program Courses
Offered in Pinellas County
2012 through 2013**

General Information about the FMNP <http://www.masternaturalist.ifas.ufl.edu/>

All Registrations are through UF at <http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/fmnp/>

Questions about Our Courses in Pinellas County? Contact Lead FMNP Instructor
Jeanne Murphy with Sensing Nature at (727) 397-2306 or jmurphy@sensingnature.com

Classroom Locations tend to be Mid-Pinellas County; Field Trips are Regional

FMNP Core Modules (40-hours)

**We Offer All 3 Core Modules
on a Rotational Basis...**

- Freshwater Wetlands
- Coastal Systems
- Upland Habitats

February / March – Offered Mondays & Fridays, Days

Summer – 1 to 2 Modules Offered during the Summer
using a Weeklong Format during the Day
Example: Mon. through Thurs. + Next Mon.

October / November – Offered Mondays & Fridays, Days

FMNP Special Topics (24-hours)

**We Offer All 4 Special Topics
on a Rotational Basis...**

- Conservation Science
- Environmental Interpretation
- Wildlife Monitoring
- Habitat Evaluation

September, December, and June

Session #1: Wed. Evening ~6:00pm - 9:00pm

Session #2: Sat. All Day ~8:00am - 5:00pm

Session #3: Sat. All Day ~8:00am - 5:00pm

Session #4: Sat. Morning ~8:00am - 1:00pm

FMNP Core Modules (3):

Each FMNP Core Module includes 40-hours of classroom instruction, field trips, and practical interpretive experience related to the general ecology, habitats, vegetation types, wildlife, and conservation issues of Florida's freshwater, coastal or upland environments. In addition, the program enhances naturalist interpretation skills and addresses environmental ethics.

The only requirements of students are enthusiasm, attendance, and completion of final projects. There is no comprehensive examination required. Classroom learning includes four instructional videos and 12 presentations.

1. Freshwater Wetlands Module Overview: Through classroom, field trip, and practical experience, this Module provides instruction on the general ecology, habitats, vegetation types, wildlife, and conservation issues of freshwater wetlands in Florida: marshes, swamps, and permanent wetlands (lakes, rivers, springs, and streams). The program also addresses society's role in wetlands, develops naturalist interpretation skills, and discusses environmental ethics.

2. Coastal Systems Module Overview: Through classroom, field trip, and practical experience, this Module provides instruction on the general ecology, habitats, vegetation types, wildlife and conservation issues of coastal systems in Florida: Coastal Uplands, Estuarine and Nearshore Marine Environments. The program also addresses society's role in coastal areas, develops naturalist interpretation skills, and discusses environmental ethics.

3. Upland Habitats Module Overview: Through classroom, field trip, and practical experience, this Module provides instruction on the general ecology, habitats, vegetation types, wildlife, and conservation issues of upland habitats in Florida: Hardwood Forests, Pinelands, and Scrub, Dry Prairie, Rangelands and Urban Greenspaces. The program also addresses society's role in uplands, develops naturalist interpretation skills, and discusses environmental ethics.

FMNP Special Topic Modules (4):

Each 24-hour Special Topic is an adult environmental education classes designed to provide more detailed information and/or hands-on skills in a specific subject area. As such, the objectives of the Special Topic courses are to provide participants with additional knowledge and skills to make them more effective educators, citizen scientists, and informed participants when engaging in conservation issues. The knowledge and skills each participant gains from these Special Topic courses will ultimately improve their ability to contribute to environmental education, scientific data collection, and conservation planning efforts. Each Special Topic course includes presentations, class discussions and either a planned activity or field trip to practice techniques or review learned concepts. Class schedules vary.

There is no requirement to have taken any of the FMNP Core Modules (Freshwater Wetlands, Coastal Systems, Upland Habitats) to enroll in a Special Topic class. The only requirements are being 18 years of age or older, your interest in the topic, attendance and participation.

1. Wildlife Monitoring Module: This course is designed to provide training in principles and commonly used techniques for surveying and monitoring wildlife. People that complete this course will better understand the reasons for monitoring wildlife and the methodologies used to do so. Wildlife Monitoring includes both classroom instruction and hands-on experience and will better equip students to participate in data collection for wildlife monitoring projects. Topics covered include surveying and monitoring mammals, birds and herpetofauna.

2. Habitat Evaluation Module: This course is designed to provide training in principles and commonly used techniques for evaluating wildlife habitat. People that complete this course will better understand the reasons for evaluating wildlife habitat at different scales and the methodologies used to do so. Both classroom instruction and hands-on experience are included and will better equip students to participate in data collection for habitat evaluation projects. This course will cover large-scale habitat evaluation, local-scale habitat evaluation, and water quality monitoring.

3. Conservation Science Module: This course is designed to educate people in the concepts, language, and science related to conservation needs, planning, and action. People that complete this course will better understand the complexities of conservation, which will make them both better educators and participants in local conservation efforts. Concepts taught in class include species diversity, measuring biodiversity, the processes that generate and maintain biodiversity, types of ecosystem services, ecological processes, habitat fragmentation, effects of human activities on ecosystems, the history of conservation in North America, and strategies for conservation planning.

4. Environmental Interpretation Module: This course is designed to make participants better environmental interpreters and educators, so that others may learn about Florida's natural history and conservation issues. This course will cover concepts such as the fundamentals of interpretation, key elements of an effective interpretive program, how to create themes, sub-messages and transitions, group management, addressing diverse audience needs, developing interpretive displays and practicing interpretive techniques.

Previous Courses Recently Offered

June 2012: Habitat Evaluation: *First time offered in Florida*

July 2012: Upland Habitats

August 2012: Freshwater Wetlands

September 2012: Conservation Science

2012

November / December 2012

Environmental Interpretation (*First time offered in Pinellas County*)

24-hour Special Topics Course (\$150)

Registration available September

Format: 1 Wed. evening + 3 Sat. daytime

Hosted at Honeymoon Island State Park

- November 28; December 1, 8, 15

2013

March 2013

Upland Habitats

40-hour Core Module (\$225)

Registration available December 2012

Mondays and Fridays—daytime

Host: Bill Jackson Sporting Goods Store

March 1, 4, 8, 11, 22, 25, 29

June - July 2013

Freshwater Wetlands

40-hour Core Module (\$225)

Registration available March

Week Format: June 25-28, July 1—daytime

Host Location TBD

August 2013

Coastal Systems

40-hour Core Module (\$225)

Registration available April

Week Format: August 5-9—daytime

Host Location TBD

September 2013

Habitat Evaluation

24-hour Special Topics Course (\$150)

Registration available May

1 Wed. evening + 3 Sat. daytime

Host Location TBD

- September 4, 7, 14, 21

May / June 2013

Wildlife Monitoring

24-hour Special Topics Course (\$150)

Registration available March

1 Wed. evening + 3 Sat. daytime

Host Location TBD

- May 29; June 1, 8, 15

October / November 2013

Upland Habitats

40-hour Core Module (\$225)

Registration available July

Mondays and Fridays—daytime

Host Location & Dates TBD

December 2013

Conservation Science

24-hour Special Topics Course (\$150)

Registration available September

1 Wed. evening + 3 Sat. daytime

Host Location TBD

- December 4, 7, 14, 21

Calendar by Topic

CORE MODULES: 40-contact Hours

Freshwater Wetlands

- August 2012
- June-July 2013
- February/March 2014
- October/November 2014
- July or August 2015

Coastal Systems

- August 2013
- June or July 2014
- February/March 2015
- October/November 2015

Upland Habitats

- July 2012
- February/March 2013
- October/November 2013
- July or August 2014
- June or July 2015

SPECIAL TOPICS: 24-contact Hours

Conservation Science

- September 2012
- December 2013
- June 2015

Environmental Interpretation

- November 2012
- June 2014
- September 2015

Wildlife Monitoring

- June 2013
- September 2014
- December 2015

Habitat Evaluation

- June 2012
- September 2013
- December 2014