



## Upcoming UF / IFAS Florida Master Naturalist Programs Taught by Sensing Nature

An Adult, Non-credit Environmental Education Program  
certified through the University of Florida

7 courses available. Take 1 or all 7 -- It is up to you!

<http://www.masternaturalist.ifas.ufl.edu/>

### Statewide Fun at the 2014 FMNP Conference!

As all of you probably know, in late March the statewide FMNP Conference was held in Cape Canaveral. We are pleased to share that the conference was a success! There were over 110 people in attendance, including a good number of Pinellas FMNP graduates and we all had a fantastic time.

Brian and I especially enjoyed meeting wonderful FMNP graduates and instructors who we often only knew through conference calls and email correspondence. We were able to sneak away from the FMNP Webstore Booth to attend one of the interesting seminars (photo right) and before dinner we grabbed the opportunity to take a photo with Dr. Main and "the machete" (photo below).

Attendees shared with us that they were thrilled with the seminars and field trip options as well as their opportunities to meet other FMNP grads from all over the state.



Hands-on fungi workshop.  
Dr. Main is at far end of table  
on right side in khaki shirt.



Brian, Dr. Main, the machete and  
Jeanne in the Exhibit Hall.



Around 40 people attended  
Brian's hands-on Tracks, Scats  
& Signs workshop.

By Saturday night, it was clear that FMNP grads and instructors would like this to be an annual event, so be sure to mark your calendars once the 2015 dates are announced!

Awards were given on Saturday night at the dinner.



Congratulations to the FMNP Central West Regional Award of Excellence Winners Joe Gross and Karen Folsom!

To read about the 2014 FMNP Conference, Joe's and Karen's accomplishments and those from other regions, click on the link below.



[UF FMNP 2014 Conference Awards & Other Information](#)

## Recent Sensing Nature FMNP Graduates!

### Congratulations FMNP Freshwater Wetlands Grads!

Early last month our most recent class of graduates completed their 40-hour FMNP Freshwater Wetlands course.

We had beautiful weather and it was a great way to spend February and early March. Also, we would like to thank Bill Jackson's sporting goods store for hosting the class. I don't think any of us made it through the course without salivating over their wonderful stocked shelves full of field gear.



Class walking through a dry cypress dome, a semi-permanent wetland.

### 3rd Core Module Grads & Newly Certified "Florida Master Naturalists!"

A special congratulations to Beth Ciesielski, Greg Mason, Alice Morgan and Brent Weisman who have now completed their 3rd FMNP Core Module by successfully graduating this Freshwater course! They are now certified Florida Master Naturalists.



Brent Weisman and Greg Mason giving their Interpretative Talk about Florida snakes at Myakka River State Park.

### "Advanced Florida Master Naturalists" 7th Module Graduated with Sensing Nature

Fantastic job, Beth, our newest Advanced Florida Master Naturalist who graduated her 7th FMNP course with Sensing Nature. Wow!

Lindsay Bell  
Irina Marvel

Tom Bell  
Beth Ciesielski (new!)

Troy Parkinson

Ric Hoover

## Environmental Interpretation, Special Topic: June 2014



Many of our FMNP Environmental Interpretation graduates use their new skills to teach youths about nature.

**Register Now!**

**June 4**  
Wednesday Evening  
&  
**June 7, 14, 21**  
Saturdays Daytime

FMNP Environmental Interpretation course is being hosted at McGough Nature Park, Largo in their Nature Center.

- June 4, 7, 14, 21
- Fee \$150 for 24 hours instruction
- Limited space available
- Registration closes May 30, 2014 at 10:00 AM
- For the Schedule & Registration visit the UF FMNP website: [Click Here](#)

Become a more effective environmental interpreter and educator, so that others may learn from you about Florida's natural history and conservation issues.

Concepts taught include 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.

Students receive 24-hour course instruction, classroom plus hands-on field experience, option of a detailed University of Florida course manual or jump drive, career networking opportunities, professional and personal development, FMNP Habitat Evaluation certificate & pin, and entry into the UF/IFAS Online Database of FMNP Course Graduates.

**Take all 4 Special Topics to become a certified "Florida Master Naturalist Land Steward."**

All registration is through the UF / IFAS FMNP website.  
To register or to see a detailed schedule, [Click Here!](#)  
Questions about our Pinellas FMNP Courses? Contact [Jeanne](#)

## Coastal Systems, Core Module: Summer 2014

**Register Now!**

**July 8 - 11 and 14, 2014**  
Tuesday through Friday and following Monday  
Daytime

- "Week-long" Format; Daytime Classes
- Dates: July 8, 9, 10, 11 & 14
- 40 Contact Hours
- 20 Hours Interactive Classroom + 20 Hours Hands-on Field Experiences
- Limited Space Available
- Cost \$225



Coquinas photographed by Jeanne on Indian Rocks Beach, Pinellas County right before another "beach renourishment."

- For the schedule & registration, visit the UF FMNP website [Click Here.](#)
- Registration closes approximately two weeks before class starts

Through classroom, field trip and practical experience, learn about the general ecology, habitats, vegetation types, wildlife and conservation issues of coastal systems in Florida: Coastal Uplands, Estuarine and Nearshore Marine Environments. The course also addresses society's role in coastal areas, develops naturalist interpretation skills, and discusses environmental ethics. This course is for any adult, novice to knowledgeable, who enjoys learning and experiencing nature.

**Take all 3 Core Modules to become a certified "Florida Master Naturalist."**

All registration is through the UF / IFAS FMNP website. Questions? [Contact Jeanne](#)

### **Upland Habitats, Core Module: Summer 2014**

**Register Now!**

**July 15 - 18 and 21, 2014**  
**Tuesday through Friday and following Monday**  
**Daytime**

- "Week-long" Format; Daytime Classes
- Dates: July 15, 16, 17, 18 & 21
- 40 Contact Hours
- 20 Hours Interactive Classroom + 20 Hours Hands-on Field Experiences
- Limited Space Available
- Cost \$225
- For the schedule & registration, visit the UF FMNP website [Click Here.](#)
- Registration closes approximately two weeks before class starts



Through classroom, field trip, and practical experience, you will learn about 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. This course is for any adult, novice to knowledgeable, who enjoys learning and experiencing nature.

**Take all 3 Core Modules to become a certified "Florida Master Naturalist."**

All registration is through the UF / IFAS FMNP website. Questions? [Contact Jeanne](#)

### **Wildlife Monitoring, Special Topic: September 2014**

**Registration Opens early May!**

**September 3**  
 Wednesday Evening  
 &  
**September 6, 13 or 14, 20**  
 Daytime



Classes hosted at Boyd Hill Nature Preserve, St. Petersburg

- September 3, 6, 13 or 14, 20
- Fee \$150 for 24 hours instruction
- Limited space available

- Registration closes in August or when course roster fills

Improve your field skills for your career. Learn why monitoring has to be done in certain ways. Become a valuable citizen scientist in your community.

Learn the principles and commonly used techniques for surveying and monitoring wildlife. Understand the reasons for monitoring wildlife and the methodologies used. This course 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.

Students receive 24-hour course instruction, classroom plus hands-on field experience, option of a detailed University of Florida course manual or jump drive, career networking opportunities, professional and personal development, FMNP Habitat Evaluation certificate & pin, entry into the UF/IFAS Online Database of FMNP Course Graduates.

Classroom sessions and field trips will rotate so that we may visit multiple locations highlighting our Tampa Bay area's environmental diversity.

**Take all 4 Special Topics to become a certified "Florida Master Naturalist Land Steward."**

All registration is through the UF / IFAS FMNP website.  
To register or to see a detailed schedule once it is available in May, [Click Here.](#)  
Questions about our Pinellas FMNP Courses? Contact [Jeanne](#)

**More FMNP Courses in Fall 2014 & Winter 2015!**



**Watch for  
Announcement!**

**October 6, 10, 13, 17, 20,  
24, 27, 2014**

**Freshwater  
Wetlands**

- Core Module
- 40 Contact Hours
- Mondays & Fridays  
daytime

Registration Available  
in May



**Save these Dates  
in 2014!**

**December 6, 13, 20  
2014**

**Habitat  
Evaluation**

- Special Topic
- 24 Contact Hours
- Saturdays, daytime

Registration Available  
in June



**Watch for More  
Information!**

**February / March  
2015**

**Coastal  
Systems**

- Core Module
- 40 Contact Hours
- Mondays & Fridays  
daytime

Registration Available  
in October

## Looking Forward: FMNP Courses in Spring & Summer 2015!



**Mark Your  
Calendar!**

**May 2015**

### Conservation Science

- Special Topic
- 24 Contact Hours
- 1 Wednesday Night & 3 Saturdays Daytime

Registration Available  
in January 2015



**Get Ready  
for Summer 2015!**

**June 2015**

### Wildlife Monitoring

- Special Topic
- 24 Contact Hours
- 1 Wednesday Night & 3 Saturdays Daytime

Registration Available  
in February 2015



**Great for  
Teachers!**

**July / August 2015**

### Freshwater Wetlands

- Core Module
- 40 Contact Hours
- Weeklong Format Daytime

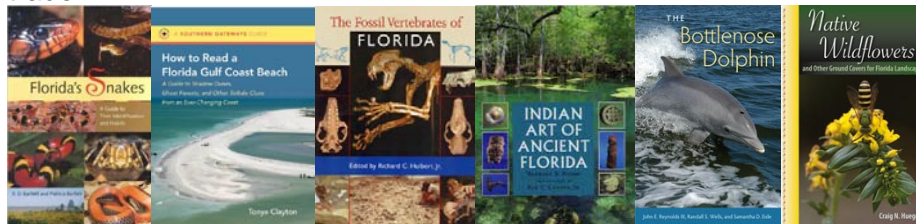
Registration Available  
in March 2015

## FMNP Products, Books & Teaching Replicas



### Shop the UF FMNP for Your Field Resources!

We have added at least 20 new book titles over the last two months with topics ranging from Florida geology to wildlife landscaping and from Native Americans to the plume trade.



There are also other wonderful items including FMNP logo Columbia shirts, tote bags and wildlife replicas for educators.

**Take a minute to visit the FMNP Webstore! You will be glad you did.**

[Click here to visit the FMNP Webstore](#)

## What is the Florida Master Naturalist Program?

The Florida Master Naturalist Program (FMNP) is a non-credit, adult education program developed by the University of Florida and provided by participating organizations, such as Sensing Nature, throughout the state of Florida.

FMNP training benefits persons interested in learning more about Florida's environment, wildlife and plant species identification, land management, conservation issues, environmental interpretation and experiencing natural Florida.

**There are 7 non-credit environmental education courses available. Take one, two or all seven. Enroll in any order.**

- Freshwater Wetlands
- Coastal Systems
- Upland Habitats
- Conservation Science
- Environmental Interpretation
- Wildlife Monitoring
- Habitat Evaluation



**Sensing Nature FMNP Instructors offer all 7 of these courses in Pinellas County on a rotational basis throughout the year.**

Through our Sensing Nature FMNP courses, we hope to initiate what is for many a life-long process of learning, observing, and sharing with others.

[Learn More about the FMNP!](#)

We look forward to you joining us for an upcoming FMNP course! Or, if you are one of our FMNP grads, be sure to occasionally send an email telling us how you're using your FMNP knowledge and how you are making a positive difference in Florida's natural environments. We'd love to share your stories.

**Come explore natural Florida with us!**

Jeanne Murphy & Brian Lane  
UF/IFAS FMNP Instructors for all 7 courses  
3 Core Modules: Freshwater Wetlands, Coastal Systems, Upland Habitats  
4 Special Topics: Wildlife Monitoring, Habitat Evaluations, Conservation Science & Environmental Interpretation  
Sensing Nature, LLC

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