



# University of Florida/IFAS Florida Master Naturalist Program Habitat Evaluation—Special Topic Presented by SENSING NATURE®



The FMNP Habitat Evaluation Special Topic 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 geographic scales and the methodologies used to do so.

Habitat Evaluation includes both classroom instruction as well as hands-on, field experiences 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.

## Habitat Evaluation Workshops:

- **Large-Scale Habitat Assessment:** To increase understanding of why habitat evaluation is conducted and the methods used to assess habitat quality at large scales.
- **Local-Scale Habitat Assessment:** To increase understanding of why habitat evaluation is conducted and the methods used to assess habitat quality at the local scale.
- **Water Quality Monitoring:** To increase understanding of why habitat evaluation is conducted and the methods used to evaluate water quality.

## **Students Receive:**

- 24-Hour Course provided by Professional Biologists
- Classroom Instruction plus Hands-on Experience
- Detailed University of Florida Course Manual
- Career Networking Opportunity, Professional and Personal Development
- FMNP Habitat Evaluation Certificate & Pin (upon successful completion)
- Entry into the UF/IFAS Online Database of FMNP Special Topics

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- *Student Carpooling Suggested*
- *Approximate Times May Change*
- *Transportation, Lunches Not Included*
- *Classroom Location is in Pinellas County*
- *Course Time Schedule Does Not Include Your Travel Time Before or After Class*

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**For More Information, Contact Lead Pinellas County FMNP Instructor  
Jeanne Murphy with Sensing Nature® at [jmurphy@sensingnature.com](mailto:jmurphy@sensingnature.com), 727-397-2306.**



# University of Florida/IFAS

## Florida Master Naturalist Program

### Habitat Evaluation

#### 24-hour Special Topic



Instructed by *Sensing* NATURE® – May 2017

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- *Field Locations are in Pinellas County*
- *Student Carpooling Suggested*
- *Transportation, Lunches Not Included*
- *Bring Lunch Daily—Not Enough Time to Buy Food*
- *Field Locations and Approximate Times May Change*
- *Schedule Does Not Include Your Travel Time Before or After Class*
- *Classroom Presentations are at Honeymoon Island State Park, Dunedin*

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### Week 1: Day 1

**Large-Scale Habitat Assessment:** To increase understanding of why habitat evaluation is conducted and the methods used to assess habitat quality at large scales.

Sat., May 6

**Large-Scale Habitat Assessment: Class & Field Trip**  
**at Honeymoon Island State Park – Osprey Center**

8:30 AM – 5:30 PM

8:30 – 12:30

**Classroom: Large-Scale Habitat Assessment**  
**at Honeymoon Island State Park—Osprey Center**

8:30 – 9:15

Orientation to Habitat Evaluation, Objectives and Overview

9:15 – 9:45

Habitat Evaluation Activity

10:00 – 11:30

“*Large-Scale Habitat Assessment*” presentation

Habitat quality assessment, understanding large-scale habitat functions, management and conservation, data collection resources (aerial, digital remote sensing, field mapping, GIS, Land Cover/Land Use), models

11:45 – 12:00

Data Collection Resource Activity

12:00 – 12:30

Review, Questions about Field Trip;

Discuss Homework Assignment—Bring to Next Class 1 Recent (within 5-7 years) Large-Scale Habitat Evaluation Study to Share with Class

12:30 – 1:00

Lunch

1:30 – 5:30

**Field Trip: Large-Scale Habitat Assessment**  
**at Honeymoon Island State Park**

Carpool from the Osprey Center to areas within the state park. Wear close-toe shoes; wear long pants and long sleeves to avoid scratches from plants with thorns or possible direct contact with poison ivy. Utilize large-scale field equipment the same as field biologists.



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**Week 2: Day 2**

**Local-Scale Habitat Assessment:** To increase understanding of why habitat evaluation is conducted and the methods used to assess habitat quality at the local scale.

**Sat., May 13                      Local-Scale Habitat Assessment: Class & Field Trip                      8:30 AM – 5:30 PM**

**8:30 – 12:30                      Classroom: Local-Scale Habitat Assessment  
at Honeymoon Island State Park—Osprey Center**

8:30 – 8:45                      Objectives and Overview

8:45 – 9:15                      Today’s Homework Assignment—Share with Class Your 1 Recent Large Scale  
Habitat Evaluation Study

9:15 – 10:00                      “Local-Scale Habitat Assessment” presentation

10:15 –11:00                      “Local-Scale Habitat Assessment” presentation continued

11:15 – 12:00                      Video

12:00 – 12:30                      Review, Questions about Next Field Trip;  
Discuss Homework Assignment—Bring to Next Class 1 Recent (within 5-7 years)  
Local-Scale or Water Quality Monitoring Project to Share with Class

**12:30 – 1:30                      Lunch / Travel to Field Site (Take all personal items - not returning to HISP)**

**1:30 – 5:30                      Field Trip: Local-Scale Habitat Assessment  
at John Chestnut Park, Palm Harbor, Pavilion #1**

Hands-on Experience Conducting Multiple Local-Scale Habitat Assessments

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**Week 3: Day 3**

**Water Quality Monitoring:** To increase understanding of why habitat evaluation is conducted and the methods used to evaluate water quality.

**Sat., May 20                      Water Quality Monitoring: Class & Field Trip                      8:30 AM – 5:30 PM**

**8:30 – 11:30                      Classroom: Water Quality Monitoring  
at Honeymoon Island State Park—Osprey Center**

8:30 – 8:45                      Objectives and Overview

8:45 – 9:30                      “Evaluating Water Quality” presentation

Water chemistry parameters, measuring water quality, trophic status, test kits

9:45 – 10:15                      “Evaluating Water Quality” presentation continued

10:15 – 10:45                      Homework Assignment—Share with Class Your 1 Recent Local-Scale or  
Water Quality Monitoring Project Study

10:45 – 11:15                      Video

11:15 – 11:30                      Review, Questions about Field Trip

**11:30 – 12:45                      Lunch / Travel to Field Site (Take all personal items - not returning to HISP)**

**12:45 – 4:00                      Field Trip: Water Quality Monitoring  
Meet at Lake Seminole Park (pavilion #TBA) and carpool to other nearby  
sites, Seminole**

12:45 – 3:30                      Guest Field Trip Leader from Pinellas County’s Watershed Management  
Department – Learn about Water Quality Testing, Watersheds and Water  
Treatment

3:30 – 4:00                      Drive back to Lake Seminole Park; Restroom Break

4:00 – 5:30                      Post-Test, Wrap-up & Graduation!

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# FMNP Habitat Evaluation Class Guidelines:

**Classroom Presentations:** “Classroom” means we are at **Honeymoon Island State Park in the Osprey Center** unless otherwise instructed. This is not the Rotary Centennial Nature Center. In the Osprey Center classroom, it might be warm or cool—please, dress accordingly.

**Field Trip Locations & Times** may change due to unforeseen circumstances (this rarely happens). It is the student’s responsibility to verify field information. Transportation and lunches are not included.

**Course Time Schedule** does not include travel time, except between AM & PM classes.

## **Missing a class or a field trip:**

- You cannot miss a classroom session or field trip session and still become certified in Habitat Evaluation.
- If you miss a session, the University of Florida will not issue you a certification for this class, but please keep coming to as many sessions as possible...this is *your* course.

**Student Carpooling is Suggested** and is up to students to arrange.

## **Flexible Schedule:**

- The schedule times listed are as close as possible, but we need you to be flexible.
- We probably will not get out early; however, we may run late. We will try to stick to the listed times, but please arrange your schedule so that the class can be flexible.
- Course time schedule does not include your travel time (except between AM & PM classes).

**Food & Drinks!** Both are allowed in the classroom. Please, absolutely no ‘Styrofoam’ containers—violators have to bring snacks to the hungry class the next day.

**Cell Phones:** They are fine to use outside of class. Please don’t allow them to ring during classroom sessions or on field trips. Talk on the gadgets during break time, lunchtime, before and after class. Violators have to bring snacks to the hungry class the next day.

## **Field Recommendations:**

- Don’t wear perfume/cologne or use perfumed soap/body lotion before going out in the field. This may attract more unwanted buzzing invertebrates known as mosquitoes, midges (no see ‘ems) and flies.
- There are insects (including mosquitoes), spiders, and snakes outdoors. Hopefully, we will see many of these beautiful creatures. Always watch where you are putting your hands and feet. Use your brain before your body.

### ***Suggested field clothes:***

- Be aware that typically you will be experiencing a variety of environments. For your comfort, always bring a spare change of clothes.
- **Wear:** layered clothes, long sleeves and pants, hiking boots or appropriate foot wear for the day’s field trip, hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, insect repellent (especially on feet/legs). Long pants and long sleeves help you avoid scratches from plants and possible direct contact with poison ivy.
- **Please always wear close-toed shoes.** The field trails are not always level or easy to travel.
- It might be very warm or very cool on our field trips—please, dress accordingly

### ***Suggested field items:***

- **Bring:** water, snacks, field ID books, notepad and pen, binoculars, insect repellent, towels and a change of clothes (spare shoes/socks/pants/shirt).

**We will have a great time learning about & experiencing  
Florida’s natural environments!**