



News Release

Escambia County
Office of Public Information and Communications
221 Palafox Place, Suite 410, Pensacola FL 32502

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Escambia Extension Partners to Host Master Naturalist Program

Escambia County Extension, the University of Florida-Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF-IFAS) and participating organizations throughout the state are offering a Florida Master Naturalist Program (FMNP). This program is designed as an environmental education extension program to inform and prepare individuals to share information about Florida's natural world and environmental history. Anyone who has an enthusiastic interest in learning more about Florida's environment is encouraged to participate. Classes are appropriate for both novice and highly skilled environmental professionals.

The coastal system program module includes classroom instruction, field trips and practical interpretive experience related to the general ecology, habitats, vegetation types, wildlife and conservation issues of coastal systems in Florida. Field trips will include: the Navarre Beach Marine Science Station, Pensacola Beach, Shoreline Park South, the Dauphin Island Sea Lab and the Institute for Marine Mammal Studies.

Classroom sessions will be held at the Gulf Breeze Recreation Center on Shoreline Drive in Gulf Breeze and the J. Earle Bowden Building in Historic Pensacola Village on most Wednesdays, February 29, through April 25, 2012.

Cost of the program is \$225.00, which includes 40 contact hours of instruction, a comprehensive student reference workbook and upon completion, registration in the UF FMNP database as a Coastal Systems Naturalist. A UF-IFAS certificate of achievement, embroidered FMNP patch, and FMNP Coastal lapel pin also will be provided at completion of the course.

To register visit: <http://www.masternaturalist.ifas.ufl.edu/> and click on current course offerings. Registration will close on Thursday, February 23, 2012.

For more information, contact Carrie Stevenson, via email ctsteven@ufl.edu or by phone at 475-5230.

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