



W.I.S.E.

Wildlife & Invasive Species Education™

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January 24 - 25, 2024

UF/IFAS Extension Sumter County

Enhancing educational opportunities for Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, UF/IFAS Extension Faculty, landowners, and other advocates dedicated to the preservation of Florida's native wildlife and plants, as well as the effective management of invasive species.



SCHOOL OF FOREST,
FISHERIES, AND
GEOMATICS SCIENCES



Funding for this event is provided in part by University of Florida IFAS, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Florida Forest Service and the Florida Sustainable Forestry Initiative Implementation Committee.

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Cover page photo credits:

Feral hogs, Jim Davis

Red-eared slider, Jim Davis

Sheepshead, Alice Mary Herden

Whooping Crane. Jim Davis

Forest floor at Chinsegut Conservation Center, Brittany Scharf

Great Blue Heron eating a Plecostomus, Jim Davis

W.I.S.E. 2024 Agenda

Day 1: January 24, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

8:15 a.m. Registration / Meet and Greet

8:45 a.m. Welcome – Jim E. Davis (UF/IFAS Extension Director Sumter & Hernando Counties)

9:00 a.m. "Wildlife Diseases". Dr. Samantha Wisely, Professor and Director of the Cervidae Health Research Initiative, University of Florida

10:00 a.m. Break (Visit Booths and IFAS Bookstore)

10:30 a.m. "The *Rhesus Macaque*". Dr. Samantha Wisely, Professor and Director of the Cervidae Health research Initiative, University of Florida

11:15 a.m. "Soil is more than dirt! Growing Native Plants in Urban Soils". Brooke Moffis, UF/IFAS Extension Lake County Agent III, Commercial Horticulture/Florida Friendly Landscaping™

12:00 p.m. Lunch (Lunch ticket available through Eventbrite registration)

1:00 p.m. "Florida's Turtles". Dr. Steve Johnson, Professor Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, University of Florida

2:00 p.m. "Fishy Explorations". Brittany Scharf, UF/IFAS Extension Hernando County Agent III, Sea Grant and Marine Science

3:00 p.m. Break (Visit Booths and IFAS Bookstore)

3 :15 p.m. "*Bulimulus sporadicus*: A Snail That Hitchhiked to Florida and Became a Pest". Dr. Bill Lester, UF/IFAS Extension Hernando County Agent III, Residential Horticulture and Master Gardener Coordinator

4:00 p.m. "Invasive Plants". Dr. Stephen Enloe, UF/IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants

5:00 p.m. Survey

Day 2: January 25, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

8:45 a.m. Registration / Meet and Greet

9:00 a.m. "Florida's Imperiled Bird Species". Jim E. Davis, UF/IFAS Extension Multi-County Director Sumter and Hernando Counties – Natural Resources and Urban Pest Management Agent III

9:45 a.m. "Basic Bird and Wildlife Photography". Jim E. Davis, UF/IFAS Extension Multi-County Director Sumter and Hernando Counties – Natural Resources and Urban Pest Management Agent III and Alice Herden, Recreation Program Specialist, Citrus County Park and Recreation

10:30 a.m. Break (Visit Booths and UF/IFAS Bookstore)

11:00 a.m. "Apple Snails-Native and Invasive". Dr. Shirley Baker, Professor School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatics Sciences, University of Florida

12:00 p.m. Lunch - (Lunch ticket available through Eventbrite registration)

1:00 p.m. "Feral Hogs". Dr. Hance Ellington, Assistant Professor Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Department, University of Florida

2:00 p.m. "Pollinators". Dr. Jaret Daniels, Professor and Curator for the McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity, Florida Museum of Natural History.

3 :00 p.m. Break (Visit Booths and IFAS Bookstore)

3:15 p.m. "Fish on the Loose! Florida's Nonnative Fishes and Their Management". Dr. Jeff Hill, Professor Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory, Program of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences, School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatics Sciences, University of Florida

4:15 p.m. Survey

4:30 p.m. Adjourn

Displays/Educational Booths

Chinsegut Conservation Center

Citrus County Parks and Recreation

Florida Forest Service

Florida Native Plant Society – The Villages Chapter

Hernando County Audubon Society

University of Florida / IFAS Bookstore

University of Florida / IFAS Extension Sumter County

University of Florida / IFAS Florida Master Gardener Program

University of Florida / IFAS Florida Master Naturalist

University of Florida / IFAS Florida Sea Grant Program

W.I.S.E. 2024 Workshop Resource Contacts

<p>Dr. Shirley Baker Professor and Associate Program Leader School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatics Sciences (352) 273-3627 sbaker25@ufl.edu</p>	<p>Dr. Hance Ellington Assistant Professor Grazinglands Wildlife Specialist UF/IFAS Dept. of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Range Cattle Research and Education Center at Ona (863) 231-8494 e.ellington@ufl.edu</p>	<p>Dr. Bill Lester Extension Agent III Residential Horticulture and Master Gardener Coordinator UF/IFAS Extension Hernando County (352) 754-4433 wlester@ufl.edu</p>
<p>Jim E. Davis Multi-County Extension Director Extension Agent III UF/IFAS Extension Sumter and Hernando Counties (352) 569-6866 dvisshdn@ufl.edu</p>	<p>Dr. Stephen Enloe Associate Professor UF/IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants (352) 392-6841 sfenloe@ufl.edu</p>	<p>Brooke Moffis Extension Lake County Agent III Commercial Horticulture/Florida Friendly Landscaping™ UF/IFAS Extension Lake County (352) 343-4101 burnb48@ufl.edu</p>
<p>Dr. Jaret Daniels Professor, Curator and Director McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity University of Florida Museum of Natural History (352) 273-2022 jdaniels@flmnh.ufl.edu</p>	<p>Alice Herden Recreation Program Specialist, Citrus County Park and Recreation Recreation Program Specialist (352) 527-754 alice.herden@citrusbocc.com</p>	<p>Brittany Scharf Sea Grant Agent III UF/IFAS Extension Hernando County (352) 754-4433 bhallscharf@ufl.edu</p>
<p>Chris Demers Extension Program Manager Florida Land Steward UF/IFAS School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatics Sciences (352) 846-2375 cdemers@ufl.edu</p>	<p>Dr. Jeff Hill Professor Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory UF/IFAS School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatics Sciences (813) 671-5230 ext 118 jeffhill@ufl.edu</p>	<p>Dr. Samantha Wisely Professor and Director of the Cervidae Health Research Initiative UF/IFAS Dept. of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation (352) 846-0645 wisely@ufl.edu</p>
	<p>Dr. Steven Johnson Professor UF/IFAS Dept. of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation (352) 846-0557 tadpole@ufl.edu</p>	

Do you want to be a Master Gardener Volunteer?



Why Would I Want to Be a Florida Master Gardener?

Are you someone that enjoys plants and gardening or want to know more about gardening in central Florida? Do you enjoy volunteering in your community? Are you interested in the environment and water quality in Florida? Are you someone that looks forward to learning new skills through workshops or classes? And, do you enjoy sharing what you know with others? If you answered yes to any of these questions, the Master Gardener program could be for you!

How do I become a Master Gardener Volunteer?

Here's how you apply to the Sumter County Master Gardener Volunteer program:

- Complete and send in the Sumter County Master Gardener Application by July 1 and submit it to UF/IFAS Sumter County Extension, ATTN: Lisa Sanderson, 7620 SR 471, Suite 2, Bushnell, FL 33513
- Interviews will be held mid-July to beginning of August
- Pay Class Fee
- Complete a background check
- Complete over 50 hours initial training (which includes completing Green Industry Best Management Practices certification)
- Complete 75 volunteer hours within the first year of certification through the Sumter County Extension office

The Florida Master Gardener Volunteer Program offered by UF/IFAS Extension Sumter County provides a program Classes will be held on Wednesdays from 9 am to 3:30 pm beginning the first week of September at the Sumter County Extension Office.

Formal classroom work consists of more than 75% of the intensive initial training. You'll learn about basic botany, soils, fertilizers, vegetables, entomology, citrus, turfgrass, use of (and alternatives to) pesticides, ornamentals, diseases and other related topics. All information is based on knowledge and research from University of Florida.

What do Master Gardener Volunteers do?

Master Gardeners are educators who answer horticultural questions for county residents, sharing unbiased, research-based information with the public. Other activities include:

- sharing UF/IFAS research-based information by phone, email, through plant clinics and event booths
- write newsletter or newspaper articles
- develop and deliver presentations for garden clubs, civic organizations and the Master Gardener Speaker Series
- support youth programs
- the horticulture show at the Sumter County Fair
- garden in the Florida-Friendly Demonstration Garden in Bushnell
- become more knowledgeable through advanced educational opportunities
- and more!

After Master Gardener Interns complete their first year, as Master Gardener Volunteers they will annually renew their recertification by completing 35 volunteer hours and 12 continuing education hours.

For any additional information or questions call Lisa Sanderson, the Sumter County Residential Horticulture Agent and Master Gardener Coordinator at 352-569-6867 or at lsanderson@ufl.edu.

UF/IFAS Extension programs are open to all persons without regard to race, color, sex, age, disability, religion, or national origin.



Do you want to be a Master Naturalist?

The Florida Master Naturalist Program

The Florida Master Naturalist Program (FMNP) is a University of Florida/IFAS Extension environmental education program developed for adult audiences. FMNP courses are provided by Certified Instructors throughout the state of Florida at Extension offices and other environmental education organizations.

The goal of the FMNP is to promote awareness, understanding, and respect of Florida's natural world. Students of the FMNP promote this goal by sharing their knowledge with family, friends, and through both formal and informal environmental education programs as employees or volunteers at parks, nature centers, eco-tour operations, and other organizations.

FMNP Students and Instructors

FMNP students include anyone over the age of 18 interested in learning more about Florida's environment. Those who benefit include environmental educators, natural resource managers, volunteers, eco-tour guides, teachers and anyone wishing to expand their knowledge of Florida's natural world. Professionals and teachers have obtained CEUs and in-service credit.

FMNP Instructors include individuals from the University of Florida/IFAS Extension, environmental educators, natural resource managers, teachers, professors and others. All FMNP Instructors receive training and are certified by the FMNP.

Core Modules

FMNP Core Modules provide a holistic approach to understanding Florida's ecology, natural history, and environmental issues. There are three Core Modules: Freshwater Wetlands, Coastal Systems, and Upland Habitats. Training includes ecosystem processes, identification of key plants and wildlife, the role of humans in shaping Florida's environment, interpretation skills, and environmental ethics.

Each Module is 40 contact hours and includes classroom presentations, discussions, videos, field trips, and practical experience in interpretation. Students receive detailed course manuals and, upon completion, certificate of achievement, patch and pin, and registration in our online student database. Students who complete all three Modules are designated Florida Master Naturalists and receive a plaque and special recognition in an online database.

See <https://masternaturalist.ifas.ufl.edu/> for more information!

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**FLORIDA MASTER
NATURALIST PROGRAM**



FLORIDA LAND STEWARD

Have land? Get a plan and stay connected. The Florida Land Steward Program is an extension program of the **UF/IFAS School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatics Sciences**. The mission of the Program is to help and encourage private landowners to manage their lands for long-term environmental, economic, and social benefits.



Visit our website to connect to upcoming events, webinars, event and webinar recordings and materials, and the latest on timber price trends, assistance programs and other opportunities and information.
<https://programs.ifas.ufl.edu/florida-land-steward/>

The Forest Landowner Academy

Are you new to forestry and land management? Need a good primer on forest management concepts and next steps? Hard to fit travel for tours and workshops in your busy schedule? **Need a course in a self-paced format that you can take on your own time? This course is for you!** Forest landowners, and others in need of forest management information, are encouraged to enroll in this **self-paced, online course** to connect with forest management experts at the University of Florida and receive quality core educational content on forestry and multiple-use stewardship concepts.

The 7 course modules cover a variety of topics on **understanding your forest resources, developing your management plan, timber management, marketing forest products, other forest enterprises such as pine straw and hunting leases, wildlife management, and planning for the future**. Each module includes recorded video from the field or virtual classroom, links to references, and an assessment where you can apply what you've learned to your land or situation. Those completing the course will **earn a University of Florida Certificate of Completion**.



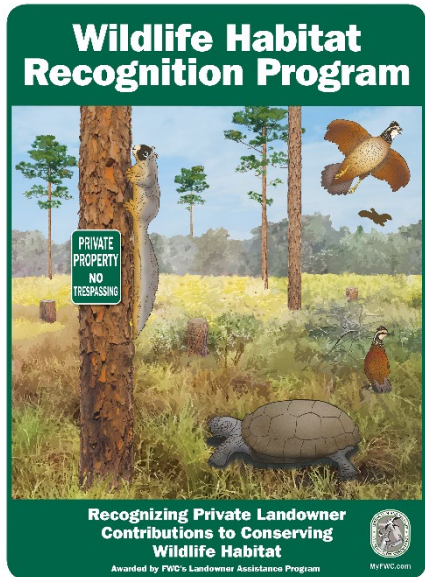
The cost of the course is \$150. **Get 30% off the regular course cost until February 29, 2024 using this promotion code: SWDXWF**

Direct link to enroll in the Forest Landowner Academy:
<https://ifas-sfrc-for.catalog.instructure.com/courses/for-fla>

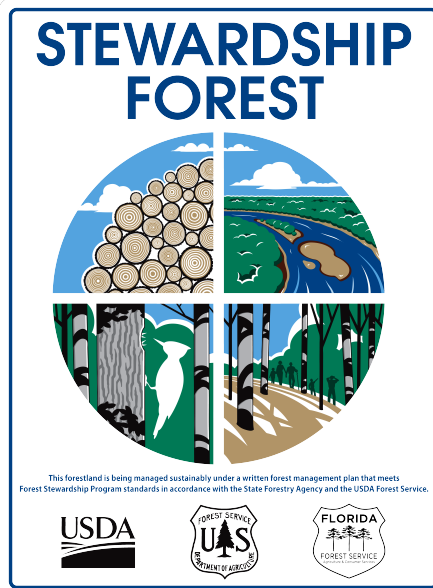
Questions about the course can be directed to Chris Demers, cdemers@ufl.edu, (352) 846-2375.



Assistance and Recognition Programs for Landowners



Private lands play a critically important role in the fate of Florida's vast wildlife resources. The efforts of private landowners to manage their land to benefit wildlife by providing food, water, shelter, and space will help ensure that future generations have the opportunity to experience and enjoy wildlife as much as, or even more than, we do today. To show appreciation for the accomplishments by landowners to conserve our state's wildlife, FWC's Landowner Assistance Program (LAP) created the **Wildlife Habitat Recognition Program**. This program honors landowners who have satisfactorily completed habitat management practices that benefit wildlife and/or their habitat by awarding them with a sign to display on their property and a certificate recognizing their habitat restoration efforts. For more information, see <http://www.myfwc.com/conservation/special-initiatives/lap/>



The **Forest Stewardship Program**, developed by state forestry agencies, like the Florida Forest Service, provides educational and technical assistance for private landowners. Forestry and natural resource professionals cooperate to help private forest landowners develop and implement a plan designed to increase the economic value of their forestland while maintaining its wildlife habitat value and environmental integrity for future generations. Landowners who demonstrate good forest stewardship are recognized with a Stewardship Forest sign. For more information, see <https://www.fdacs.gov/Forest-Wildfire/For-Landowners/Programs-for-Landowners/Forest-Stewardship-Program>



The **American Tree Farm System (ATFS)** Standards of Sustainability guide and ensure that forest benefits are enhanced and available for future generations. Landowners can enroll and be certified in the ATFS to improve access to sustainable forest product markets and educational opportunities. The Florida Tree Farm Program is a nonprofit organization and state affiliate of the ATFS that promotes sustainable forest management and educational outreach to private forest landowners. For more information, see <https://www.treefarmssystem.org/florida>



W.I.S.E. Resource Links

UF/IFAS Invasive Species Programs

<https://invasivespecies.ifas.ufl.edu/>



Florida Master Naturalist

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

Florida Master Gardener

<http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/mastergardener/>



Department of Wildlife Ecology and
Conservation Extension Programs

<http://www.wec.ufl.edu/extension/>

School of Forest, Fisheries, and
Geomatics Sciences Extension Programs

<https://ffgs.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/>



Florida-Friendly Landscaping Program

<https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/>