



2020 Conservation Stewardship Training Course

Audubon Everglades
PBC UF/IFAS Extension

Mondays from February 3 - March 16, 2020



Audubon Everglades is offering a learning opportunity to explore the natural Florida habitats in Palm Beach County. Fifteen expert instructors will engage participants in understanding how these five fragile ecosystems sustain plants, birds and wildlife, cope with invasive flora and fauna, manage species of concern and adapt to growth and climate change, as well as explain the function and importance of the Greater Everglades. During this 7-week basic environmental education, field exploration will complement classroom study, an advocacy component and special presentations during the provided catered lunch each Monday. Throughout, stewards will be guided in developing a personal plan of action that will empower them to aid and advocate for their environment. Scholarships for college students are available.

Tentative Course Agenda

Greater Everglades	Monday, February 3, 2020 9am - 1:30pm <i>Mounts Botanical Gardens</i>
	<i>Instructors: Dr. Paul Gray, Okeechobee Science Coordinator, Audubon Florida; Jan Booher, Ocean Biologist and Director, UU Justice Florida; Teri Jabour, President of Atala Chapter, North American Butterfly Association</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ecological overview of greater Everglades including PBC
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Historical background of South Florida habitats through the lens of hydrology, urbanization, inappropriate water management, nutrient runoff, exotics, etc.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Common threats faced from climate change and invasive species, and overview of threats to essential habitats, endemic and endangered species, particularly birds.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lunch, special presentation, open discussion, and pollinators in the Butterfly Garden
Freshwater Wetlands	Monday, Feb. 10, 2020 9am - 1:30pm <i>ARM Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge</i>
	<i>Instructors: Dr. Mark Cook, Lead Environmental Scientist, SFWMD; Mike Baranski, Avian Ecologist, SFWMD; Eric Cline, Environmental Scientist, LILA Project Manager SFWMD</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Characteristics of freshwater wetlands: wetland types, cypress heads and tree islands, climate, the KOE, land use, stormwater treatment areas, development, and invasive species
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Snail Kite, Wood Stork, and wading birds: ecological conditions, nesting sites, changes in water level and water quality as they affect flora and fauna of freshwater wetlands, and key threatened and endangered species.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hike along marsh, explore active species and visit LILA, a South Florida Terrestrial Ecosystem Lab.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lunch, special presentation, and open discussion.
Pine Flatwoods	Monday, Feb. 17, 2020 9am - 1:30pm <i>Cypress Creek Natural Area and Jupiter Farms Park (Classroom)</i>
	<i>Instructor: David Witmer, Environmental Analyst, PBC Environmental Resources Management</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Characteristics of Pine Flatwoods: climate, role of fire, geographic area, economics and recent trends.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ecological components and associated environmental issues such as land-use, development and threats.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reptiles, raptors and migrants: ecological conditions affecting fauna and flora, nesting sites, food sources, and key threatened or endangered species and their management.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hike through Pine Flatwoods and explore active species.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lunch, special presentation, and open discussion.
Scrub	Monday, Feb. 24, 2020 9am - 1:30pm <i>Yamato Scrub Natural Area & Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Boca Raton (classroom)</i>
	<i>Instructor: Lee Lietzke, Environmental Analyst, PBC Environmental Resources Management</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Characteristics of scrub: geology, climate, geographical area, its value and the role of fire.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ecological components; associated environmental issues such as land-use, development and threats such as fragmentation, urbanization, fire suppression, invasive species; land management.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key threatened and endangered species: gopher tortoises, scrub jays and other fauna associated with scrub habitat.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hike the scrub and explore the flora and fauna.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lunch, special presentation, and open discussion.
Beaches and Dunes	Monday, March 2, 2020 9am - 1:30pm Juno Dunes Natural Area and Loggerhead Marinelife Center (LMC) (classroom)
	Instructors: Hannah Campbell, Director of Education, LMC; Dr. Justin Perrault, Director of Research LMC
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Characteristics of coastal ecology of beaches and dunes; geographic area, recent history, erosion, water quality.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ecological components and associated environmental issues of land-use, development and threats from erosion and sea level rise.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gopher Tortoises, shore birds and migrants; ecological conditions affecting fauna and flora, nesting sites, food sources, endemic plants and adaptations, and key threatened or endangered species and their management.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hike the dunes and beach, and explore active species.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lunch, special presentation, and open discussion.
Estuaries & Hammocks	Monday, March 9, 2020 9am - 1:30pm John D. MacArthur Beach State Park and First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the PB (classroom)
	Instructors: Paul Davis, Retired Director of Coastal Region for PBC ERM; Scott Zucker, Audubon Everglades VP and Conservation Chair
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hike along coastal wetlands and hammocks, and explore active species
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Characteristics of coastal wetlands and hammocks; coastal geology, coastal processes, lagoons, estuaries, recent history, and water quality.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ecological components: estuaries, mangroves, seagrass, Mud Flats and associated environmental issues such as land-use, development and threats to each habitat type.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manatee, fish, and wading birds: ecological conditions affecting fauna and flora, nesting sites, food sources, and key threatened or endangered species and their management.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lunch, special presentation, and open discussion.
Positive Advocacy	Monday, March 16, 2020 9am - 1:30pm Mounts Botanical Gardens
	Instructors: Laurie Albrecht, Horticulture Agent, 4H/ UFI IFAS; Laura Aguirre, Conservation Organizer, Audubon Florida; Reinaldo Diaz, Lake Worth Waterkeeper; Scott Fletcher, Maintenance Leader, Peaceful Waters Sanctuary, MSD Wellington Environmental Preserve, Wellington
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It takes a village to nurture a greenspace: Community-Based Social Marketing: Marketing conservation to like-minded individuals for a specific natural habitat.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talk the talk: Building positive relationships with special interest groups, and political and appointed officials.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Championing your green space: Building positive relationships with staff, managers, and local officials.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Citizens take action: Improving water quality in the Lake Worth Watershed.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steward's Personal Plan of Action: The Conservation Stewards' Action Plan Presentations.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lunch and award course completion certificates.
NOTE: Feb. 17, Pine Flatwoods, Feb 24, Scrub and and March 9, Estuaries and Hammocks, have off site classroom locations.	

Registration fee: \$98.00

To see the course syllabus, get more information, and register for the course, go to:
<http://www.auduboneverglades.org/conservation/conservation-stewardship-training-course/>
 For questions answered, email: stewardship@auduboneverglades.org or call 561-876-8815



Palm Beach County
Board of County Commissioners