Agriculture and Extension Service
Calendar of Events
January – April, 2016

REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS — Unless otherwise noted, all classes are free and are held at the Manatee County Agriculture and Extension Office, 1303 17th Street West, Palmetto, Florida 34221. All class sizes are limited; minimum class size is required. Register in advance online at http://manatee.ifas.ufl.edu (click on Calendar at the bottom, center of page) or call (941) 722-4524.

Mobile Irrigation Lab – FREE Irrigation and Landscape Evaluation
Conserve irrigation water and save money! The Manatee County Mobile Irrigation Lab is a FREE service for citizens to take action to reduce outdoor water waste. The lab will come to your residence or business to evaluate your irrigation system and make specific recommendations to curtail water waste and improve your landscape. Rebates may be available for qualifying Manatee County Utility customers who implement recommended improvements. To schedule an appointment, please call (941) 722-4524.

Join the Master Gardeners for a stroll through Manatee County Preserves

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Preserve</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2nd Saturday</td>
<td>9 - 11am</td>
<td>Emerson Point Preserve</td>
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<td>January 9</td>
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<td>February 13</td>
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<td>March 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd Saturday</td>
<td>9 - 11am</td>
<td>Riverview Pointe Preserve/DeSoto National Memorial</td>
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<td>January 9</td>
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<td>February 13</td>
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<td>March 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd Sunday</td>
<td>9 - 11am</td>
<td>Robinson Preserve</td>
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<td>January 17</td>
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<td>February 21</td>
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<td>March 20</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 17</td>
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Florida Master Naturalist Modules: Upland Systems and Coastal Systems

Upland Systems Module:
Learn about Florida’s ecosystems, the Upland habitats, through presentations, field trips, and hands-on activities. This six-day module will provide instruction about the flora and fauna within the habitat, the impacts on the habitat, and conservation issues. Classes begin January 7 (8am-5pm) and continue on January 14, 21, 28 and February 11, 18, and 23. The cost for the course is $230, which includes all field trips, 40 contact hours of instruction, and a comprehensive student reference workbook. Register at www.MasterNaturalist.org, click on current course offerings, then Upland Systems, then Manatee. Contact Lisa Hickey at (941) 722-4524 or lisa.hickey@ufl.edu, for more information.

Coastal Systems Module:
Learn about Florida’s ecosystems, the Coastal habitats, through presentations, field trips, and hands-on activities. This six-day module will provide instruction about the flora and fauna within the habitat, the impacts on the habitat, and conservation issues. Classes begin March 3 (8am-5pm) and continue on March 10, 17, 24, 31, and April 7, and 12. The cost for the course is $230, which includes all field trips, 40 contact hours of instruction, and a comprehensive student reference workbook. Register at www.MasterNaturalist.org, click on current course offerings, then Coastal Systems, then Manatee. Contact Lisa Hickey at (941) 722-4524 or lisa.hickey@ufl.edu, for more information.

Workshops and Classes Offered By Extension Agents and Master Gardeners

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 14 through</td>
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<td>Manatee County 2016 Fair</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 24</td>
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<td>Come visit the Agriculture and Extension and 4-H booths in the Exhibit Hall – we are celebrating “Fair of the Century”. Stroll through the Master Gardener Educational Gardens and talk with the Master Gardeners for gardening tips. Don’t forget to look for the many youth livestock shows and exhibits such as goats, horses, cattle, swine, chickens, and more. Visit the website for more information or ticket purchases. Manatee County Fair Office (941) 722-1639. <a href="http://www.manateecountyfair.com">http://www.manateecountyfair.com</a></td>
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<td>Saturday, January 16</td>
<td>Approximately 6pm</td>
<td><strong>4-H/FFA Plants for Sale</strong>&lt;br&gt;Come out and support the youth that are participating in the Plant Show and Auction. These students have been growing and caring for their plants for months and now is the time that you can reap the benefits for their hard work by coming to the plant auction. Plant auction is held following the swine sale (approximately 6pm) in the Mosaic Arena. Call Martha, Horticulture Agent, for further information and questions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, January 19</td>
<td>9am -12:30pm</td>
<td><strong>Marine Fisheries Regulations Workshop</strong>&lt;br&gt;Join Florida Sea Grant Extension &amp; Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Law Enforcement for the 7th Annual Marine Fisheries Regulations Workshop. This program is designed to increase the ability of rangers, resources managers, educators, and industry representatives to interact with and educate anglers about marine fisheries issues and increase the local network of agency staff capable of identifying and reporting marine fisheries violations. Topics addressed will be State and federal regulation and management updates; Gag Grouper and Barotrauma Mitigation Research; Small toothed Sawfish; Sharks: Myths and Realities; The Status of Lionfish; and Law enforcement updates. <strong>Location:</strong> North Collier Regional Park – 15000 Livingston Rd., Naples. Register online for this FREE workshop at <a href="http://2016marinefisheriesregulations.eventbrite.com">http://2016marinefisheriesregulations.eventbrite.com</a>. For further information contact Florida Sea Grant Agent Joy Hazell (230-533-7518) (<a href="mailto:jhazell@ufl.edu">jhazell@ufl.edu</a>) or Angela Collins (<a href="mailto:abcollins@ufl.edu">abcollins@ufl.edu</a>).</td>
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<td>Tuesday, January 26</td>
<td>3 – 5pm</td>
<td><strong>Taking The Mystery Out of Micro-Irrigation</strong>&lt;br&gt;This class satisfies the irrigation educational requirement for the Manatee County Outdoor Water Conservation Rebate Program. Tom Funari, Irrigation Technician, will introduce you to micro-irrigation. Learn how to select, install, and operate your own water-saving irrigation system, the pros and cons, parts and pieces, and how to put it all together. He will discuss why it is important to water shrubs and other landscape plants separately from your lawn. <strong>Location:</strong> South Manatee Library – 6081 26th St. W., Bradenton. Register online or call Joann.</td>
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<td>Thursday, January 28</td>
<td>3 – 5pm</td>
<td><strong>Ground Covers – Plants That Work</strong>&lt;br&gt;This class satisfies the irrigation educational requirement for the Manatee County Outdoor Water Conservation Rebate Program. Valorie Massey, Horticulture Program Assistant, will present how landscaping with low-growing ground cover plants has become a popular trend in landscape practices because once they are established, these plants need little or no water. Learn noteworthy plants, site considerations, and management of these plants. <strong>Location:</strong> South Manatee Library – 6081 26th St. W., Bradenton. Register online or call Joann.</td>
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<td>Wednesday, February 3</td>
<td>1 – 3pm</td>
<td><strong>Tillandsia – “Make and Take” Wreath Workshop</strong>&lt;br&gt;Learn about these lovely epiphytes that only require air and water to live. This is a &quot;make and take&quot; workshop where you will create a wreath using Tillandsia plants. An award winning wreath will be on display as well as other mounted Tillandsias to get your creative juices flowing. Bring wire cutters and pliers. Registration and advance payment of $35 for materials due by January 25 and guarantees your spot in class. Check or cash only – make checks payable to Friends of Extension. Register online or call the Extension Master Gardeners.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, February 6</td>
<td>9am - Noon</td>
<td><strong>Spring Vegetable Gardening</strong>&lt;br&gt;Find out what type of vegetable garden will work best for you and get it ready for spring planting! This workshop covers the basics from the ground up, including soils and amendments, plant selection, fertilizing, and pest management. Register online or call the Extension Master Gardeners. Limited to 75 attendees.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, February 6</td>
<td>9 – 10:30am</td>
<td><strong>Worm Composting – Vermicomposting</strong>&lt;br&gt;Find out how to use worms to turn food scraps and other waste into compost. Now you can compost in an apartment, condo or mobile home. Worms can be maintained indoors or out! For more festival information, including parking locations, visit the website: <a href="http://www.cortez-fish.org/fishing-festival.html">http://www.cortez-fish.org/fishing-festival.html</a> or call (941)254-4972.</td>
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<td>Saturday, February 13 and Sunday, February 14</td>
<td>Saturday 10am – 6pm Sunday 10:30am – 6pm</td>
<td><strong>“It Takes A Fishing Village”</strong>&lt;br&gt;Are you someone who can appreciate a different perspective on what’s important in life? Are you willing to spend a day amongst fishing boats, gear, fish houses and commercial fishermen? If any of this sounds intriguing, come join the 34th Annual Cortez Commercial Fishing Festival. This two-day event only costs $3.00 for adults and children under 12 are free. For more festival information, including parking locations, visit the website: <a href="http://www.cortez-fish.org/fishing-festival.html">http://www.cortez-fish.org/fishing-festival.html</a> or call (941)254-4972.</td>
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<td>Wednesday, February 17</td>
<td>10am – Noon</td>
<td><strong>Orchid Care and Repotting</strong>&lt;br&gt;Do you have an orchid bursting from its pot and wonder what do you do now? This workshop will demonstrate the proper way to care and propagate several varieties of orchids. Bring your orchid and pruners for a hands-on exercise of dividing the orchid. We will provide you with a 6” orchid pot, potting media, and other materials to repot one orchid. Registration and advance payment of $15 for materials due by February 10 which guarantees your spot in class (cash or check only, payable to Friends of Extension). Register online or call the Extension Master Gardeners.</td>
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<td>Monday, February 22</td>
<td>6:30 – 8pm</td>
<td><strong>Lionfish Harvest and Handling</strong>&lt;br&gt;Lionfish are invading the Gulf of Mexico at an alarming rate. These voracious predators are having a negative impact upon native fish populations. These invasive fishes are actually quite tasty and putting them on the menu is one way to slow the growth of the population. Come to this free Lionfish workshop for an overview of lionfish biology, history of their invasion and brief demonstration on how to harvest and handle lionfish. Register online or contact Angela Collins (<a href="mailto:abcollins@ufl.edu">abcollins@ufl.edu</a>).</td>
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| Tuesday February 23 | 1:30 – 3:30pm | **Irrigation with Water Conservation in Mind**  
This class satisfies the irrigation educational requirement for the Manatee County Outdoor Water Conservation Rebate Program. Tom Funari, Irrigation Technician, will focus on how to adjust your in-ground sprinkler system to conserve water, how you can repair parts, and the benefits of installing smart irrigation devices. We will have a brief discussion on Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ tips. Register online or call Joann. |
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| Wednesday February 24 | 1 – 2:30pm | **Florida Backyard Landscaping for Wildlife**  
With the ever increasing urbanization occurring in our state, wildlife is being squeezed into smaller and fewer natural areas. This workshop can help guide you in landscaping your property to benefit wildlife while being Florida-Friendly. In addition to the increased wildlife viewing opportunities, you will be helping provide the basic needs of many wildlife species. Register online or call the Extension Master Gardeners. |
| Thursday February 25 | 1:30 – 3:30pm | **Landscape Tips for Water Conservation**  
This class satisfies the landscape educational requirement for the Manatee County Outdoor Water Conservation Rebate Program. Valerie Massey, Horticulture Program Assistant, will focus on Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ tips such as right plant vs right place, watering efficiently, and the benefits of mulch. We will also discuss in-ground sprinkler systems and the benefit of installing a smart irrigation device. Register online or call Joann. |
| Wednesday March 9 | 9 – 11am     | **Introduction to Florida Friendly Landscape™ - The 9 Principles**  
Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ means using low-maintenance plants and environmentally sustainable practices. Learn how you can have a beautiful landscape that could save you time, energy, and money while protecting our future. Class will include a tour of the Master Gardeners Educational Gardens. Register online or call the Extension Master Gardeners. |
| Wednesday March 9 | 10am – Noon  | **Orchid "Make and Take" Workshop**  
A “make and take” workshop where you will mount a Phalaenopsis orchid on a piece of wood. Learn about these beautiful epiphytes and how they can enhance your home and landscape. Registration and advance payment of $20 for materials due by March 2 guarantees your spot in class (cash or check only, payable to Friends of Extension). Register online or call the Extension Master Gardeners. |
| Saturday March 19 | 10am – 1pm   | **Rain Barrel and Home Composting Workshop Combo**  
**10-11:30am** - Storing rainwater aids in the reduction of storm water runoff which can help reduce the levels of pesticides and fertilizers that drain into ponds, streams, lakes, and our bays. Learn how to install, paint, and maintain a functional rain barrel. Start conserving today. Workshop is free. Rain barrel and kit offered at the workshop for a fee of $33, (cash or check only; make checks payable to Friends of Extension). Register online or call the Extension Master Gardeners.  
**11:30am-1pm** - Learn to turn your kitchen scraps and yard waste into useful soil amendments, along with details on how to set up a home compost bin. Workshop is free. Compost bins will be available for purchase at the workshop for $40, cash or check only; checks made payable to Manatee County Government. Register online or call the Extension Master Gardeners. |
| Wednesday March 23 | 9:30am – Noon | **Faerie Gardening with Friends**  
This is a fun workshop to do with your friends or family. Bring in a container no bigger than a gallon size and leave with a magical garden! Learn all about setting up and tending your tiny garden as well as adding decorations. You are encouraged to bring small plants and other natural and man-made miniature items to share. Registration and advance payment of $10 for materials due by March 16 guarantees your spot in class (cash or check only, payable to Friends of Extension). Register online or call the Extension Master Gardeners. |
| Tuesday March 29  | 1:30 – 3:30pm | **Taking The Mystery Out of Micro-Irrigation**  
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**MANATEE COUNTY AGRICULTURE & EXTENSION SERVICE**

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Program areas include:
- Agriculture
- Commercial Horticulture
- Family & Consumer Sciences
- Florida-Friendly Landscaping™
- 4-H Youth Development
- Florida Master Gardener Volunteer Program
- Florida Master Naturalist Program
- Water Conservation
- Soils Unit
- Sustainability Programming
- Marine Extension

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

In addition to the workshops identified in the Calendar of Events, other opportunities are offered to receive free gardening information:


2. Can’t make it to the Manatee County Agriculture and Extension Service office to get advice or to solve your gardening problems? E-mail us at manateemg@gmail.com. Be sure to include as much information as you can in your e-mail and include your telephone number in case additional information is needed. Attach photos if possible. Remember, a photo can be worth a thousand words!

**CHECK OUT OUR BLOG AND CONNECT WITH US**

- Facebook: [http://www.Facebook.com/ManateeCoExtension](http://www.Facebook.com/ManateeCoExtension)
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>March 30</td>
<td>10 – 11:30am Dazzling Florida Friendly Landscape™ Designs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>March 30</td>
<td>9am – Noon Propagation Workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>March 31</td>
<td>1:30 – 3:30pm Ground Covers – Plants That Work</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>April 8</td>
<td>8am – 5pm Green and Growing Youth Field Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>April 9</td>
<td>10 – 11:30am Stormwater Pond Systems and Florida Friendly Landscaping™</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>April 30</td>
<td>10am – Noon Container Water Gardening Workshop</td>
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