

***Apply by September 17, 2009***

**Florida Master Naturalist Program Tuition Scholarship Program**

Charlotte County UF/IFAS Extension Service, through the *Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program*, is pleased to offer two \$225.00 tuition scholarships for interested students to participate in the University of Florida's Master Naturalist Program (FMNP) Freshwater Wetlands course. The FMNP is an adult education extension program designed for people who are interested in learning more about Florida's environment, seeking educational contact hours, or wishing to increase their knowledge for use in education programs as volunteers, employees, and ecotourism guides. The FMNP includes courses in three subject areas – Freshwater Wetlands, Coastal Systems, and Upland Habitats. Students receive 40 educational contact hours including classroom learning, field trips, and practical experience in interpretation. Students receive detailed course manuals and, upon completion, certificates, patches, and pins denoting their area of expertise (e.g., Wetlands Naturalist) and are registered in the University of Florida database of Master Naturalists.

Classes will begin on October 17, 2009, and run every Saturday through November 21, 2009. Each scholarship recipient is asked to complete a course-related special project which contributes to the mission of Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program (CHNEP). The project may be something related to education, restoration, or conservation of SW Florida's natural environment. Visit [www.chnep.org](http://www.chnep.org) for more information about the National Estuary Program. Course instructors will assist awardees with project ideas.

If you are interested in a scholarship, please submit a letter, no longer than one page that describes 1) your background, 2) your interest in taking a FMNP course, 3) what you hope to get out of the course, and 4) how you intent to use the information you learn in the course. Letters should also include the following statement "If selected for a scholarship, I agree to complete the six week course and a course-related project which contributes to the mission of the CHNEP. Letters should be addressed to Betty Staugler, Charlotte County UF/IFAS Extension Service, 25550 Harborview Road., Suite 3, Port Charlotte, Florida 33980. Visit the Florida Master Naturalist Program website ([www.masternaturalist.ifas.ufl.edu](http://www.masternaturalist.ifas.ufl.edu)) or contact Betty Staugler at the Charlotte County UF/IFAS Extension Service office (941) 764-4346 or [Staugler@ufl.edu](mailto:Staugler@ufl.edu) to learn more about the program.