

## Protect Florida's Natural Resources

.....for generations to come.

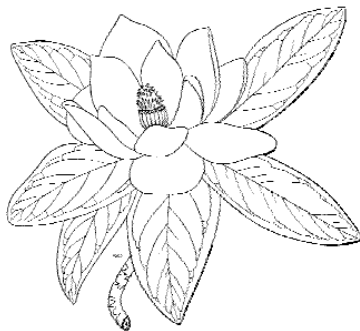
The natural beauty of Florida continues to attract many people. Some come only to visit and some stay as residents. From the sandy coasts that encircle our state to the inland forests and prairies that contain lakes, rivers and streams, we use and enjoy Florida's natural resources for outdoor activities such as boating, fishing, hiking and camping.

However, Florida's rapid population growth brings demanding challenges. Some of the natural environment that attracted us in the first place is being damaged and is dwindling at an unprecedented rate.

As our communities have grown, there has been tremendous pressure placed upon water resources. An amazing system of natural recharge areas and springs links the above and below ground water sources (aquifers) that sustain Florida's vital ecosystems and provide us with drinking water.

In the past, we have not been as careful as we should have been to protect the natural beauty of Florida for the future.

Fortunately, all that is changing for the better.



## Our Community Landscapes

.....the first line of defense

We are learning from our past mistakes. Today we realize that we can take important steps to prevent further destruction of Florida's natural resources and to rebuild the state's valuable ecosystems.

Whether we take care of our own yard or contract a professional service, we can play an important role in minimizing the potentially harmful effects of urbanization on our natural resources.

### How our landscapes and maintenance practices fit into the picture...

During Florida's rainstorms, water rushes over the land carrying debris and dissolved nutrients to natural or man-made waterways. This water (with its contents) is called *stormwater runoff*.

Excessive applications of fertilizers and chemicals we add to our landscapes are washed away by rain or excessive irrigation into storm drains, or leach down through the soil into the aquifer. Oil and residue on roads, driveways and parking areas also end up in waterways through this route. The water from the storm drains flows into ponds, rivers, lakes and bays, causing pollution problems for the natural environment and water quality.

To lessen these impacts, steps have been taken through education and awareness. Each of these steps offers opportunity and participation in protection of Florida's natural resources.

## Take the First Step!

UF/IFAS Sarasota County Extension recognizes the importance of the efficient use of our natural resources in the landscape and invites you to attend the **Step by Step Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Training**. This training will consist of nine classes in five sessions. Information will be provided to help you design and maintain a landscape that uses less water, fertilizer and pesticides.

Upon completion of the program, you will receive a certificate stating that you have successfully attended all five sessions. Opportunity to obtain continuing education will be provided through the UF/IFAS Sarasota County Extension Service.

Cost is \$25.00 for all five sessions. We urge you to register early because class size is limited.



## Registration Information and Form

Cost: \$25.00 per person, paid in advance. No refunds.

### Registration:

**Electronically (credit card accepted):**

<http://stepbystep020211sarasota.eventbrite.com>

**In person or by mail (check, money order or cash only):**

UF/IFAS Sarasota County Extension,

Attn.: Rosemarie Hamrah

Twin Lakes Park, 6700 Clark Rd., Sarasota, FL 34241

Phone: (941) 861-9900 FAX: (941) 861-9886

**Checks payable to:**

Extension Horticulture Advisory Committee

**Directions to Twin Lakes Park, 6700 Clark Rd:**

From I-75, take the Clark Rd. exit and follow signs to Clark Rd. east. Turn right into Twin Lakes Park and follow signs to the Extension office.



## Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Training

**Wednesday, February 2**

**10:00 am—12:00 pm**

**Right Plant, Right Place**

Proper plant selection for your site.

**Wednesday, February 9**

**10:00 am—12:00 pm**

**Water Efficiently**

Efficient watering is the key to a healthy landscape.

**Fertilize Appropriately**

Less is often best.

**Wednesday, February 16**

**10:00 am—12:00 pm**

**Mulch**

Mulch will help retain soil and moisture.

**Attract Wildlife**

Plants in your yard that provide food, water and shelter.

**Wednesday, February 23**

**10:00 am—12:00 pm**

**Manage Yard Pests Responsibly**

Unwise use of pesticides can harm the environment.

**Recycle**

Yard trimmings are recycled to provide nutrients to soils.

**Wednesday, March 2**

**10:00 am—12:00 pm**

**Reduce Stormwater Runoff**

Reduction of runoff will help prevent pollution.

**Protect the Waterfront**

Waterfront property should be protected as a natural treasure.

Brochure:

Annemarie Post,

Extension Agent,

Florida-Friendly Landscaping™

Coordinator



## Step by Step Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Training

at  
Twin Lakes Park, Sarasota

February—March 2011

A Series of Nine Classes (Five Sessions)

on

How to Create and Maintain  
Attractive Landscapes

to Enhance our

Communities and to Protect  
Florida's Natural Environment

Step by Step  
Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Training  
February—March 2011  
Twin Lakes Park, Sarasota

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_