

Day 1	Saturday, August 22, 2026 - Live Online Via Zoom
1:00 – 2:30pm	- Welcome to FMNP Freshwater Systems! - Course expectations, goals, and format - Introductions and Icebreaker - Intro to Final Projects - Questions and Troubleshooting - Student roster corrections - Pre-test (link sent via chat)
2:30 – 2:40pm	Break
2:40 – 3:40pm	Introduction to Florida's Freshwater Systems: Karen Rose
3:40 – 4:00pm	Questions and Discussion, Assignments
On Your Own 1 hour+	• Activity: Learn About Your Watershed. Where does the water that leaves your property and your neighborhood go? Find a watershed map, a city map, use google earth, and if possible, walk the streets during or immediately after a rain. Contact local officials as needed. Make an effort to trace the water that falls on your roof and driveway all the way to the ocean. • Optional Activity: Protect Your Watershed. When thinking about how to catch rainwater before it leaves your property, how could you do that? Where would be the best place to locate a rain garden? Design a rain garden for your property using the provided resources. • Download the class manual and review Chapter 1, Introduction to Florida's Freshwater Systems. • Final Projects. Spend some time thinking about project topic ideas. What are your personal interests within the topic of Florida's freshwater ecosystems that you'd like to research more about? What aspects of freshwater conservation are the places where you would most like to make a difference? What is your strong suit and what creative ideas do you have for an interpretive project?

Day 2	Saturday, August 29, 2026 - Live Online Via Zoom
1:00 – 1:20pm	Breakout Rooms: Discuss Watershed Activity
1:20 – 2:20pm	Herbaceous Wetlands: Mark Tancig
2:20 – 2:30pm	Break
2:30 – 3:30pm	Permanent Wetlands: Steve Hutchinson
3:30 – 4:00pm	Questions & Discussion, Brainstorm Project Topic Ideas; Introduction to Keeping a Nature Journal
On Your Own 4.25 hours +	• Watch Video: Florida Lakes and complete reflection worksheet. • Field Trip: Permanent Wetlands. Visit a freshwater spring, river, or lake at a park or natural area of your choice and create a nature journal entry to record your experience. Suggested statewide locations provided. • Review chapter 4, Permanent Wetlands. • Final Projects. Continue to settle on and refine project topic ideas, whether working with a group of classmates or going solo.

Day 3	Saturday, September 5, 2026- Live Online Via Zoom
1:00 – 1:20pm	Breakout Rooms: Share Field Trip Experiences
1:20 – 2:20pm	Forested Wetlands: Karen Rose
2:20 – 2:30pm	Break
2:30 – 3:30pm	Freshwater Fish: Victor Blanco
3:30 – 4:00pm	Questions & Discussion, Assignments.
On Your Own 4.25 hours +	• Watch video: Florida Swamps and complete reflection worksheet. • Field Trip: Forested Wetlands. Visit a forested wetland (a swamp) at a park or natural area of your choice and record your observations. Suggested statewide locations provided. During your field trip take note of something that especially catches your attention that you would like to share with others. • Review chapter 3, Forested Wetlands, and chapter 6, Fish. • Final Projects. Determine a plan for your final project. If you would like to present your project to an organization when it's completed, contact that organization and ask for parameters. If you are working in a group, divide tasks among group members based on equity and individual strengths and preferences.

Day 4	Saturday, September 12, 2026- Live Online Via Zoom
1:00 – 1:20pm	Breakout Rooms: Share Field Trip Experiences
1:20 – 2:20pm	Amphibians: Guest Speaker: Alex McKelvy
2:20 – 2:30pm	Break
2:30 – 3:30pm	Reptiles: Alex McKelvy
3:30 – 4:00pm	Questions & Discussion, Assignments
On Your Own 4.25 hours +	• Watch Video: Florida's Marshes and complete reflective worksheet. • Field Trip: Herbaceous Wetlands. Visit a herbaceous wetland (a freshwater marsh) at a park or natural area of your choice and create a nature journal entry to record your experience. Suggested statewide locations provided. • Review chapter 7, Amphibians, and chapter 8, Reptiles. • Final Projects. Research and Develop Content.

Day 5	Saturday, September 19, 2026 - Live Online Via Zoom
1:00 – 1:20pm	Breakout Rooms: Share Field Trip Experiences
1:20 – 2:20pm	Invertebrates: Billy Boothe
2:20 – 2:30pm	Break
2:30 – 3:30pm	Birds: Karen Rose
3:30 – 4:00pm	Questions & Discussion, Assignments
On Your Own 1 hour+	• Wetland Metaphor Activity. Practice thinking in metaphor by comparing how five common household objects are like wetlands. • Review chapter 5, Invertebrates, and chapter 9, Birds. • Final Projects. Continue to develop content. If working in a group, give feedback on each other's work.

Day 6	Saturday, September 26, 2026- Live Online Via Zoom
1:00 – 1:15pm	Class Discussion: Wetland Metaphor Activity
1:15 – 2:20pm	Mammals: Karen Rose
2:20 – 2:30pm	Break
2:30 – 3:40pm	Interpretation: Karen Rose
3:40 – 4:00pm	Questions & Discussion, Assignments
On Your Own 1 hour+	• Interpretative Presentation Activity. Using what you have learned in the Interpretation presentation and from this chapter in your manual, choose a wetland species and prepare a brief (5 minutes) interpretative talk to share with your classmates. • Review chapter 10, Mammals, and chapter 12, Interpretation. • Final Projects. Keep coming down the home stretch with your project, completing the final draft this week if possible.

Day 7	Saturday, October 3, 2026 - Live Online Via Zoom
1:00 – 2:20pm	Student Interpretive Practice
2:20 – 2:35pm	Break
2:35 – 3:45pm	Student Interpretive Practice
3:45 – 4:00pm	Questions, Discussion, Assignments
On Your Own 45 minutes +	• Watch Video: Human Dimensions and complete reflection worksheet. • Final Projects. Complete your project and add finishing touches. Include the FMNP logo.

Day 8	Saturday, October 10, 2026- Live Online Via Zoom
1:00 – 1:20pm	Breakout Rooms: Discuss current conservation issues going on with Florida's wetlands
1:20 – 2:30pm	Student Interpretive Practice
2:30 – 2:45pm	Break
2:45 – 3:45pm	Freshwater Ethics: Karen Rose
3:45 – 4:00pm	Questions & Discussion, Assignments
On Your Own	• Review chapter 11, Ethics • Final Projects. Rehearse presentation and delivery.

Day 9	Saturday, October 17, 2026- Live Online Via Zoom
1:00 – 2:00pm	Student Final Project Presentations
2:00 – 2:10pm	Break
2:10 – 3:10pm	Student Final Project Presentations
3:10 – 3:20pm	Break
3:20 – 4:20pm	Student Final Project Presentations
4:20 – 4:30pm	Break
4:30 – 5:00pm	Student Final Project Presentations
5:00 – 5:45pm	Break, Post-test, and Course Evaluation
5:45 – 6:00pm	Review Post-test, watch endowment video
6:00 – 6:30pm	Graduation