80% of Florida’s residents live in coastal areas. No one in the state lives more than 90 miles from the ocean. Many of our daily activities can have an impact on the coastal environment and the wildlife that depends on that environment. Northeast Florida is the northern boundary for many tropical marine and coastal species, and the southern boundary for many temperate species, so the area has a high diversity of plant and animal species. You are invited to learn about many of these species and their habitats in a hands-on education program based at the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve classroom in the town of Marineland, FL.

Florida Sea Grant is a federally-funded program administered through the University of Florida. Sea Grant Extension agents conduct informal education programs pertaining to the coastal environment and human interactions with the coastal environment.

The Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve (GTM NERR) is the nation’s 25th NERR and the 3rd in the state of Florida. It incorporates 74,000 acres of coastal St. Johns and Flagler counties.

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Exploring our Environment—from the ocean to the river

Are you curious about the coastal environment of NE Florida? Have you ever wished that there was a “summer camp” for adults? If so, “Exploring our Environment—from the ocean to the river” may be the perfect opportunity for you! Join biologists from the University of Florida, GTMNERR, and many other locations as they team up to provide hands-on learning experiences in this one-week program.

From the ocean to the river...
Located within the town of Marineland, Flagler County’s River to Sea Preserve will be the setting for most of the activities in this program. Within the preserve are beaches with rocky tidepools, a coastal hammock that includes a freshwater pond and gopher tortoise burrows, and saltmarsh/mangrove shoreline along the intracoastal waterway (Matanzas River).

Hands-on learning
People learn best by doing, so this program is designed to incorporate as many hands-on activities as possible. These may involve extended periods of time outdoors, wading in shallow water and hiking along flat trails. Participants should be prepared to take part in these activities.

About your instructors...
Dr. Maia McGuire is the Sea Grant Extension Agent for NE Florida. She has been delivering marine education programs for over 20 years.

Kenneth Rainer is the education coordinator for the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve.

Registration

To register for “Exploring Our Environment—from the ocean to the river” for April 6-10, 2015, please go online to http://OceanToRiver.eventbrite.com. You will be able to pay by credit card through the site. (If you wish to pay by check, please see instructions below…) Please note that registration is not confirmed until payment is received.

Registration fee ($100 per person) includes all supplies, coffee and drinking water. Lunch is not included in the registration fee—participants should bring a bag lunch each day. All participants must be 18 or older, please! Class size is limited.

Don’t have internet access or just prefer to pay by check? Please send your check along with name(s), mailing address, telephone number and e-mail address to the address below. Note that spaces are filled on a first-paid basis, and these classes tend to fill up quickly.

Please make checks payable to Friends of Ag. Extension Foundation, Inc (FAEF) and send to:

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