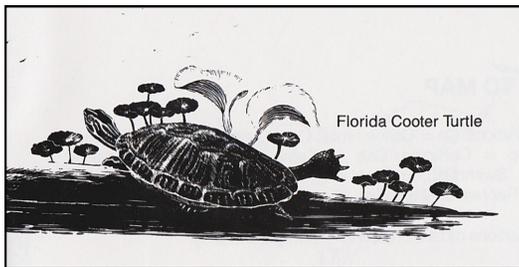




Jay Exum, Ph.D.

Dr. Exum received his Ph.D. in wildlife ecology from Auburn University. He has provided ecological expertise on projects related to threatened and endangered species, wetlands ecology and large-scale conservation planning. He has represented private businesses, counties, public agencies, NGO's and nonprofits towards creating comprehensive conservation strategies, land acquisition programs, and comprehensive plans that assure protection of landscape linkages, and large tracts of natural lands. Jay led two comprehensive BioBlitzes on public lands across the Wekiva basin in 2014 and 2015 and has been the compiler for the Wekiva River portion of the Audubon Christmas Bird Count for more than 10 years.



Wekiva Basin Field Ecology Course

Instructed by
Dr. Jay Exum



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Wekiva Basin Field Ecology

The Friends of the Wekiva River (FOWR) **Wekiva Field Ecology** course will consist of six lessons. The course is designed to encompass various aspects of the unique ecology of the Wekiva system including a focus on springs, the river and its tributaries, unique wildlife and unique habitats. These classes will all be field classes and will consist of an approximately three-hour trip during all four seasons of the year.

You don't want to miss this **unique opportunity to learn about and experience the Wekiva Basin** with this engaging teacher!



Cost: \$100.00 full course
\$25.00 individual trips

How to register:

- Mail check with your name, email and phone number
- Pay with credit card via our website.

Must Pre-register. Space Limited.

All proceeds benefit Friends of the Wekiva River, Inc., a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation.

Course Schedule

Wetland Ecology

Explore the frog diversity of Seminole State Forest (SSF) on a night walk. During rainy season the isolated wetlands of SSF become alive with the breeding activities of up to 10 species of frogs. Learn about frogs, their required habitats, and how to identify.

Saturday August 19, 2017

Meet: 7:00 p.m. SSF Bear Pond Parking Lot off SR 46.

Entrance fee: \$2.00/person

Spring Ecology

Discover the unique hydrology, water quality, and endemic invertebrates of spring systems in SSF. They aren't charismatic, but several species of snails occur nowhere else in the world except in the springs where they live in the Wekiva Basin. We will learn about these snails and also discuss how subtle changes in water quality or quantity impact these snails and other plants and animals that live in the springs and spring runs

Date: TBA

Meet: 9:00 a.m. SSF Bear Pond Parking Lot off SR 46.

Entrance fee: \$2.00/person

Fire Ecology

Hike through Wekiva Springs State Park (WSSP) and study the condition and botanical diversity of the exquisitely restored longleaf pine savannah. We will see the effects of fire on vegetative communities as we compare recently burned areas with those burned 2, 3 and greater than 4 years. This trip should coincide with the spectacular flush of fall wildflowers and butterflies in the Park.

Sunday October 15

Meet: 9:00 a.m. WSSP

Birds of the Wekiva Basin

Document the winter resident population of birds at various locations across the Wekiva Basin during the 2017 Audubon Christmas Bird Count. Participants will be assigned to a group led by an experienced birder who will help with bird identification.

Saturday December 16

Meeting time and locations will vary

Community Ecology

Explore the biological diversity across a transect from the river in to the scrub. We will observe the biological diversity embodied in Wekiva basin conservation lands as we move from wetland (hydric) communities to scrub and sandhill (xeric) communities. We will discuss how fire, flood and historical land uses have influenced the plants and animals that live in each community.

Sunday February 18, 2018

Meet: 9:00 a.m.

Location TBD

Aquatic Ecology

Paddle a transect from Rock Springs Run to WSSP. We will discuss the wildlife species that depend upon and the hydrology that drives the spring runs and river tributaries. We will learn the plants in the river, along the wetland edge and in the adjacent forests. We will also discuss the visible and invisible threats to water quality and quantity in the basin and what we can all do about it.

Sunday April 15, 2018

Meet: 9:00 a.m.

Location: TBS