

Professional Development for CFAEP/FAEP Members

GOPHER TORTOISE AUTHORIZED AGENTS SURVEYING AND PERMITTING TRAINING COURSE

The Central Florida Association of Environmental Professionals (www.cfaep.org) and Pandion Systems, Inc. (www.pandionsystems.com) will be conducting a gopher tortoise training course which is designed to give consultants, agency personnel, donor site owners, and relocation site managers the basic training in gopher tortoise fundamentals and permitting through the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). The course is divided into two sessions – classroom (1.5 days) and field (1 day) and will give everyone the basic aspects of becoming an authorized agent by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). The purpose of this course is to provide the training necessary for FWC to certify individuals as Authorized Agents for Gopher Tortoise Surveying and Permitting. This course is the initial training course that provides critical core information about gopher tortoises and the relocation process. Participants need to take this course in the absence of sufficient prior experience as a prerequisite for training on actual relocation efforts.

Participants that attend the course and pass a final test will be able to apply for becoming an Authorized Gopher Tortoise Agent that can conduct gopher tortoise surveys and request permits from FWC. The course is taught by Pandion Systems, Inc. who are approved by FWC to do this training. This interactive hands-on course will combine field and classroom training covering the following topics:

1. Gopher Tortoise Biology
2. Regulations
3. FWC requirements
4. Burrow Surveys
 - Burrow identification
 - Survey methodology
 - Best practices
5. Habitat Assessment
 - Types of suitable habitat
 - Assessing good vs. bad habitat
 - Methods to improve habitat
6. Donor Site Habitat Assessments
 - Requirements
 - Best practices
7. Recipient Site Habitat Assessments
 - Requirements
 - Best practices
8. Testing for Certification

The full program is 2.5 days in length. The cost per person is **\$650.00 per person for members** of the FAEP & CFAEP and **\$700.00 for nonmembers**. For nonmembers, \$50 will go toward memberships to the FAEP & CFAEP.

The cost includes training, course notebook, morning & afternoon snacks, lunch, competency testing, and use of Pandion equipment during training (including handheld GPS units supporting ESRI arcpad). Participants are encouraged to bring their own GPS units to enhance the training.

Preparation and Requirements:

- Participants are responsible for their own lodging.
- Come properly attired for field work (clothing, rain gear, boots, sunscreen, mosquito repellent, notebooks, etc.)
- All participants must sign a Release of Liability form.
- Participants will receive a certificate of completion to submit to FWC to apply to be an Authorized Agent.

Dates: June 24 & 25, 2009 (8:00 am – 5:00 pm)
June 26, 2009 (8:00 am – 12:00 pm)

Instructors: Instructors include: Christian Newman, Christine Denny, and Peter Colverson
Pandion Systems, Inc.

Location: Osceola Schools Education Center at SFWMD's Lake Russell Environmental Center
2600 West Southport Road, Kissimmee, FL 34746

**GOPHER TORTOISE AUTHORIZED AGENTS
SURVEYING AND PERMITTING TRAINING COURSE**

Registration Form

**Dates: June 24 & 25, 2009 (8:00 am – 5:00 pm)
June 26, 2009 (8:00 am – 12:00 pm)**

**Place: Osceola Schools Education Center
SFWMD's Lake Russell Environmental Center
2600 West Southport Road, Kissimmee, FL 34746**

The training for this course will be sponsored by Central Florida Association of Environmental Professionals (www.cfaep.org) and conducted by Pandion Systems, Inc. (www.pandionsystems.com). Pandion is an FWC-approved training provider for Authorized Gopher Tortoise Agent permits. Their instructors are educators as well as Authorized Gopher Tortoise Agents.

Registration is on a first come, first served basis and is not transferable due to the signed documents and requirements that must be verified for each participant (*substitutions can be made if appropriate documents are presented*). Registration will be considered complete when full payment is received and the documents that require signature, which will be sent upon receipt of the payment and registration form, have been returned.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

_____ Zip: _____

Telephone: (____) _____ Fax: (____) _____

Cell: (____) _____ Email: _____

Course Fee: **\$650.00** (for CFAEP/FAEP Members)
\$700.00 (for non-members) - \$50 will be applied for your memberships to the
FAEP (\$30) & CFAEP (\$20)

Training Course fee includes two lunches, drinks for 2.5 days, notebook, and certification of completion (if test is passed). Be prepared for field conditions & bring bug spray, sunscreen, & appropriate clothing.

Please check the box if you are interested in getting together at a local restaurant for dinner after the class around 5:30 pm on June 24th.

Mail Registration Form and Check (payable to CFAEP) by **June 15th** to:
Central Florida Association of Environmental Professionals
P.O. Box 547325
Orlando, FL 32854-7325

For more information call: Kathy Hale at (407) 843-0615 or email: khale@emd-inc.net

The deadline for registration is 10 days before the date of the training. There will be no refunds on any cancellations received within 7 days of the start of a workshop unless you provide a substitute to attend. There will be a \$35.00 fee assessed on all returned checks from attendees.