



As people around the world continue working together to battle the COVID-19 pandemic, we are seeing in real time the powerful impact of having countless individuals cooperating for the greater good. Maintaining a clean and healthy environment is important to well-being, both at home and at work, and engaging in acts of service can improve mood and increase connection. As we celebrate the 50th Earth Day today, consider what [large or small] actions you can take on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis to promote a cleaner environment for yourself, your colleagues, your family and friends, and younger generations.

If you would like to get involved, there are a number of **Digital Earth Day Events** in which you can participate that are taking place today. Click here to learn more about them: <https://www.earthday.org/take-action-now/>

You can learn more about the UF Office of Sustainability and their many initiatives to improve the campus environment here: <https://sustainable.ufl.edu/>. And, check out their list of **50 actions you can take to support the environment while practicing social distancing** here: <https://sustainable.ufl.edu/2020/04/03/50-social-distancing-ways-to-celebrate-campus-earth-week/> (use Google Chrome if you have difficulty viewing the list)

You can also find options to engage in **local service projects and activities to benefit the environment** on the Gators Volunteer website. Although some opportunities may not be currently available due to social distancing requirements, you may find ideas that interest you for the future at this link: <http://gatorsvolunteer.ufl.edu/for-volunteers/volunteer-with-environment/>

Today at 4pm, UF Rec Sports will offer a session titled [Lessen the Footprint: Sustainable Living](#) via Zoom (click on the link to join the presentation).

If you'd prefer to celebrate Earth Day by enjoying some time in nature, **consider visiting one of the Alachua County nature preserves**. Social distancing guidelines are in effect, but the preserves listed below remain open. You can learn more about them here: <https://alachuacounty.us/Depts/pcl/Pages/ParksList.aspx>



(photo credit: Liz Brownlee, PA)

If you are interested in practicing your nature photography skills when you venture outdoors, you might be excited to learn that **Nikon is offering their online photography classes free of charge during the month of April**. They are offering classes in environmental portraiture and dynamic landscape photography (described below) among others. Classes can be accessed here: <https://www.nikonevents.com/us/live/nikon-school-online/>

- *Professional Photographer and Nikon Ambassador Joey Terrill will teach you how to define an environmental portrait that reveals a story about your subject in their environment. Joey will teach you how to create environmental portraits using available and Speedlight flash, how to select the right lens for the photograph and how best to direct your subjects in a clear, positive way that builds trust between you.*
- *Learn how to make a picture, not just take one. Professional Photographer Taylor Glenn will teach you his tips and techniques for crafting a beautiful landscape photograph. Follow Taylor as he makes stunning landscape images, while learning the skills to transform your photography—no matter what type or brand of camera you shoot.*

Finally, be sure to **check out today's "UF at Work—Faculty and Staff Updates" email** if you haven't already (sent from UF Human Resources this morning at 8:47am), which is full of additional ideas to experience and celebrate nature!

Happy Earth Day and stay well!

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