



Heal Our Harbor

is pleased to offer its members and friends an invitation to register for our second

CHARLOTTE HARBOR AMBASSADOR TRAINING (CHAT)

CHAT consists of a combination of presentations, hands-on experiences, and field trips one day a week beginning January 22 through February 2025. Classes will be held at the **Sheraton Four Point Hotel in Punta Gorda** and adjacent harbor access. **CHAT** is funded in part by a grant from the **Charlotte County's Boaters Revolving fund** along with **Heal Our Harbor**, and is **free of charge to registrants**.

Goal

The goal of Heal Our Harbor's CHAT program is to prepare you to be advocates for a healthy Charlotte Harbor as Charlotte Harbor Ambassadors. During the upcoming presentations, labs, field trips and discussions, you will learn about Charlotte Harbor's water quality, water chemistry testing, cultural history, ecosystem, and organisms including bacteria, plankton, oyster reefs, seagrass, fishes, birds and mammals. Together this information set will arm you with the basics on the physical makeup of the harbor and the inhabitants people will see and wonder about. Combined with the general history of the region you will be able to point out interesting facts and information on the harbor and educate people as to its needs. As Ambassadors you will be more capable of sharing important information with family, friends, fellow citizens and visitors. Upon completion of the 6 week requirements, Ambassador graduates will receive certification and identification apparel. Improving the health of our harbor can best be achieved with a large group of informed citizens sharing their knowledge, which gave rise to the idea of the Charlotte Harbor Ambassador Training (CHAT). Each of us has a sphere of people that we can influence as to the concerns of Charlotte Harbor and Heal Our Harbor's efforts to make it a healthy and enjoyable environment for fishing, swimming and recreation.

Curriculum

The course will consist of various topics such as water quality, estuary ecology, aquatic communities, cultural history, seagrass, fish, birds, other wildlife-related problems, issues and communication tools, field trips, and skills development. Speakers include Florida Sea Grant, Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center, Florida DEP, Florida Fish & Wildlife Research Institute, Punta Gorda Public Library, Charlotte County Water Quality Department and Heal Our Harbor. The minimum age is 18. No grades, but meeting minimum attendance is required for CHAT Certification.

Dates of classes:

- 1) Wednesday 1-22-2025
- 2) Wednesday 1-29-2025
- 3) Wednesday 2-5-2025
- 4) Wednesday 2-12-2025
- 5) Tuesday 2-18-2025
- 6) Final class last week of February (date & time TBD)
Fishermen's Fleet "Peace River Nature Cruise"

Times of classes:

10-12 pm and 1-4 pm (the final class time will vary)
Indoor/outdoor apparel is recommended along with snacks and lunch, notebooks and writing utensils as well as a laptop or cell phone.
Handicap accessibility is available.

REGISTRATION

We encourage you to register soon as last year's class had more requests than we had room and we had to decline several interested individuals. Once you complete your registration, HOH will confirm your registration and save your place. If there are more than one in your party, special needs or questions please indicate that in the registration comment section.