

## **Spring 2011 meeting of the Natural Area Advisory Committee**

21 April 2011, NATL academic pavilion, 4:10 - 5:00 pm

Recorded by Lary Reeves

### **In attendance:**

Luke Gommermann (Wetlands Club)  
Stephen Holland (Tourism, Recreation and Sport Management)  
Kaoru Kitajima (Department of Biology)  
Leda Kobziar (Forest Resources and Conservation)  
Doug Levey (Department of Biology)  
Erik Lewis (Facilities Planning and Construction)  
Jack Putz (Department of Biology)  
Beverly Sensbach (FLMNH)  
Rupesh Bhomia (Wetlands Club)  
Dan Fitzpatrick (NATL Vice-chair, ENSO, Dept. of Entomology)  
Elizabeth Wells (NATL Undergraduate TA)  
Lary Reeves (NATL Graduate TA)  
Tom Walker (NATL administrative assistant, Dept. of Entomology)

### **4:10 PM**

#### **1. Introductions (Dan Fitzpatrick)**

#### **2. Summary of recent progress**

A summary of recent projects and accomplishments in NATL is included (Appendix 2).

#### **3. FLMNH alcohol storage building (Tom Walker)**

The construction of a new alcohol storage building in the vicinity of Powell Hall could potentially affect NATL. In particular, it is possible that storm water runoff from this facility will be diverted into NATL's wetlands. Planning for this facility is still in preliminary stages. Little is known on how the construction of this building might affect NATL.

#### **4. Nature Trail Update (Lary Reeves)**

- a. Improvements to NATL's interpretive signs along nature trails: two new batches of permanent signs printed by Color Reflections replace old temporary versions of signs, new 5"x4" photosigns for plant identification, development of 5"x4" photosigns for butterfly identification to be placed alongside hostplants, continuation of general trail maintenance.
- b. Preliminary stages of developing a training program for Florida Museum of Natural History docents to improve their abilities at leading groups through NATL.
- c. Developing relationship with the Entomology Department's ecotourism major. Funding will be provided for several 3x2 ft. interpretive signs as part of an insect-themed trail.

#### **5. People counter update (Tom)**

- a. In July of 2010 a Trailmaster unit was installed at the Cultural Plaza entrance to NATL to log the number of people entering or exiting NATL. Despite initial technical problems with the unit (counts freezing, batteries draining quickly, clock failing, calibration issues etc.), the unit now provides needed data on the number of people using NATL (see Appendix 3).
- b. Jaret Daniels has provided funding for the purchase of a second Trailmaster unit, to be installed at NATL's academic gate, near the NATL pavilion.
- c. A third Trailmaster unit will be purchased if and when the second (purchased by Jaret Daniels) has proven dependable.

**6. Fiscal update for FY 2010-11 (Tom)**

- a. Details of the 2010-11 fiscal plan and report are attached (Appendix 4).
- b. An additional \$360 may be reimbursed to NATL from the UAA for costs to fix a storm water-created gully in the Natural Area Park. Mark Clark is currently discussing this possible reimbursement with the UAA.
- c. Expenditures for the NATL undergraduate TA were higher than expected due to loss of the work-study subsidy.
- d. Motion that the \$300 allocated for the purchase of the third Trailmaster unit be used for the purchase of 1,000 wiregrass plugs: 10 yea, 0 nay.

**7. Preliminary Fiscal Plan for FY 2011-12 (Tom)**

See the attachments for a summary and the current status of invasive control (Appendices 4 and 5). Approximately \$7,000 available. \$7,000 budgeted for undergraduate TA, invasive control, routine expenses and wiregrass plugs. \$334 reserved and will possibly be used to purchase 2,000 nature trail fliers (Appendix 7). Expenses to be covered by EYN funds via Tom Walker include an additional 1,000 wiregrass plugs, invasive control and the third Trailmaster unit (conditional on the response from the first two units). Motion that the 21 April draft of the 2011-12 Fiscal Plan be approved: 10 yea, 0 nay.

**8. NAAC membership and email votes (Dan)**

- a. Updated NAAC roster (Appendix 8)
- b. Email vote to approve Fall meeting minutes: 12 yea, 0 nay.
- c. Email vote to approve spending of \$500 of NAAC funds to control NATL invasives: 15 yea, 0 nay.

**9. Meeting date, Fall Semester 2011 (Dan)**

Motion that the fall NAAC meeting be held at the NATL pavilion on Thursday, 8 September 2011 at 4pm: 10 yea, 0 nay.

**10. Future NAAC leadership (Tom)**

- a. Due to new responsibilities at the Florida Museum of Natural History, Jaret Daniels will be stepping down at the end of his term (fall 2011) as chair of the Natural Area Advisory Committee. Dr. Katherine Sieving and Dr. Jennifer Gillette-Kaufman have expressed interest in taking on the position. Both were judged to be qualified by the NATL Operation Committee and have agreed to jointly decide on which will announce for chair prior to the fall NAAC meeting.
- b. Motion to approve Dr. Katherine Sieving and Dr. Jennifer Gillette-Kaufman as members of NAAC: 10 yea, 0 nay.

**11. Group Photograph (Lary)**

**5:00PM Meeting adjourns**

## Appendix 1

# Agenda for NAAC Spring Semester Meeting

Thursday, 21 Apr 2011, 4 pm at the NATL pavilion

[Lary Reeves will make notes for the minutes of the meeting]

Refreshments (courtesy of EYN seminar series) Available at 3:40pm. Meeting will start at 4pm.

Introductions and summary of recent progress in NATL (Dan Fitzpatrick)

FLMNH alcohol storage building (Tom Walker)

Nature trail update (Lary Reeves)

People counter update (Tom)

Fiscal update for FY 2010-11 (Tom)

Preliminary Fiscal Plan for FY 2011-12 (Tom)

NAAC membership and email votes (Dan)

Meeting date, Fall Semester 2011 (Dan)

Future NAAC leadership (Tom)

Group photograph (Lary)

### Items in meeting packet

- Meeting agenda

- List of NATL projects

- Initial data from TrailMaster people counter

- Fiscal update (2010-11)

- Current status of efforts to control NATL's invasive plants

- Preliminary fiscal plan (2011-12)

- NATL nature trail flier

- Roster and email votes

## Appendix 2

### **Recent NATL-guided projects**

(More thorough logs of projects are available online at <http://natl.ifas.ufl.edu/NATLlogs/natllog2010.xls> and <http://natl.ifas.ufl.edu/NATLlogs/natllog2011.xls>)

18-Oct-10	Ethan Carter hired with NAAC funds to continue Ardisia eradication program (Complete report available at <a href="http://natl.ifas.ufl.edu/ArdisiaPlan.pdf">http://natl.ifas.ufl.edu/ArdisiaPlan.pdf</a> )
22-Oct-10	New wayfinding signs were designed and installed to guide persons from a Cultural Plaza crosswalk to the sidewalk leading to Natural Area Park, the SEEP Nature Trail, and its boardwalk.
28-Oct-10	Completed the mapping of NATL-East's hardwoods that were 30+ cm DBH (30 spp. identified). List to be uploaded to NATL website.
14-Dec-10	Complete online version of a list of NATL bees uploaded to <a href="http://natl.ifas.ufl.edu/bees.htm">http://natl.ifas.ufl.edu/bees.htm</a>
15-Jan-11	Volunteers scoured NATL-West Hammock and removed 50+ berry-bearing Ardisia plants not killed by eradication program
19-Jan-11	Ken Prestwick completes his winter-break work (started 22 Dec) toward restoring NATL's upland pine; details are in the UP management log at <a href="http://natl.ifas.ufl.edu/UPmanage.htm">http://natl.ifas.ufl.edu/UPmanage.htm</a>
24-Jan-11	NATL's master list of vascular plants updated on NATL website: ( <a href="http://natl.ifas.ufl.edu/plants.htm">http://natl.ifas.ufl.edu/plants.htm</a> )
28-Jan-11	Completed installation of wading bird, alligator warning, and tree frog signs along SEEP NT
Ongoing	Several batches of 3"X5" signs identifying native and invasive plants have been printed and placed throughout NATL in the last several months

### **Recent projects conducted by others in NATL**

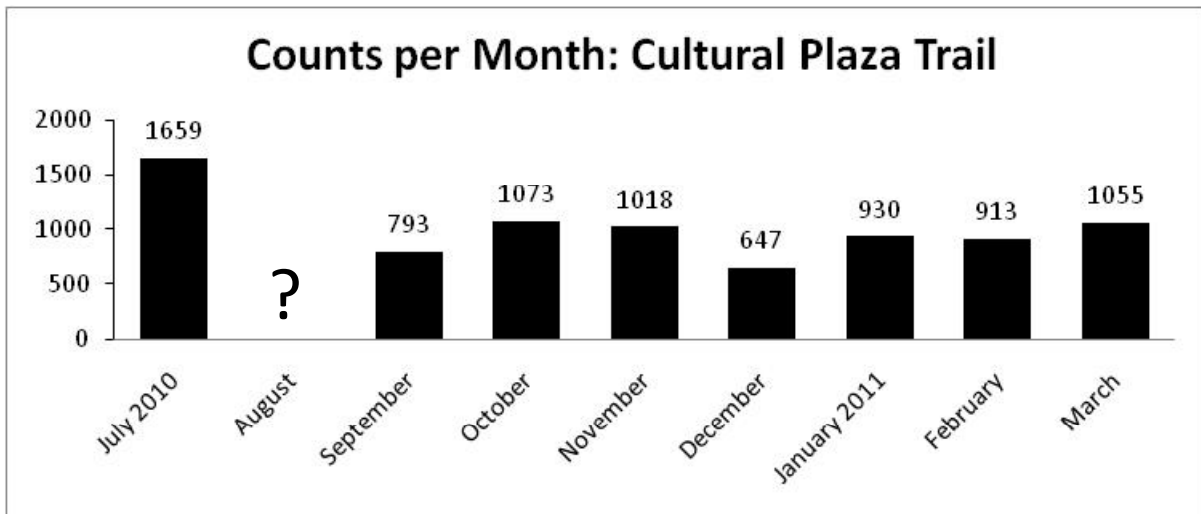
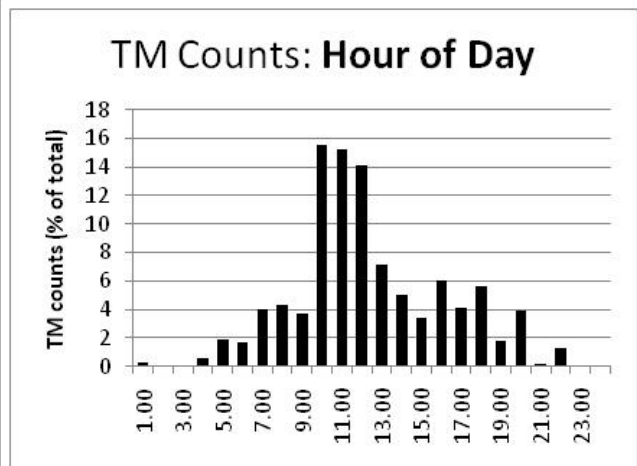
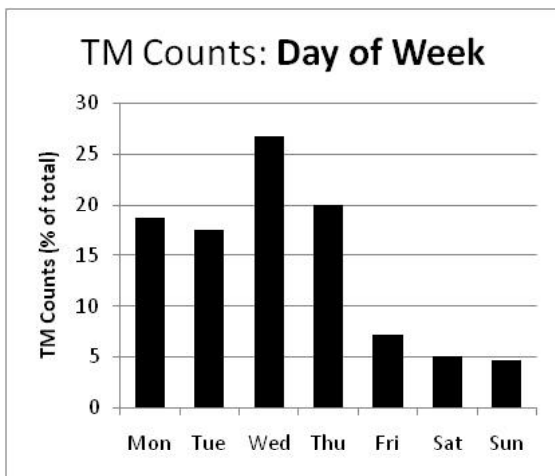
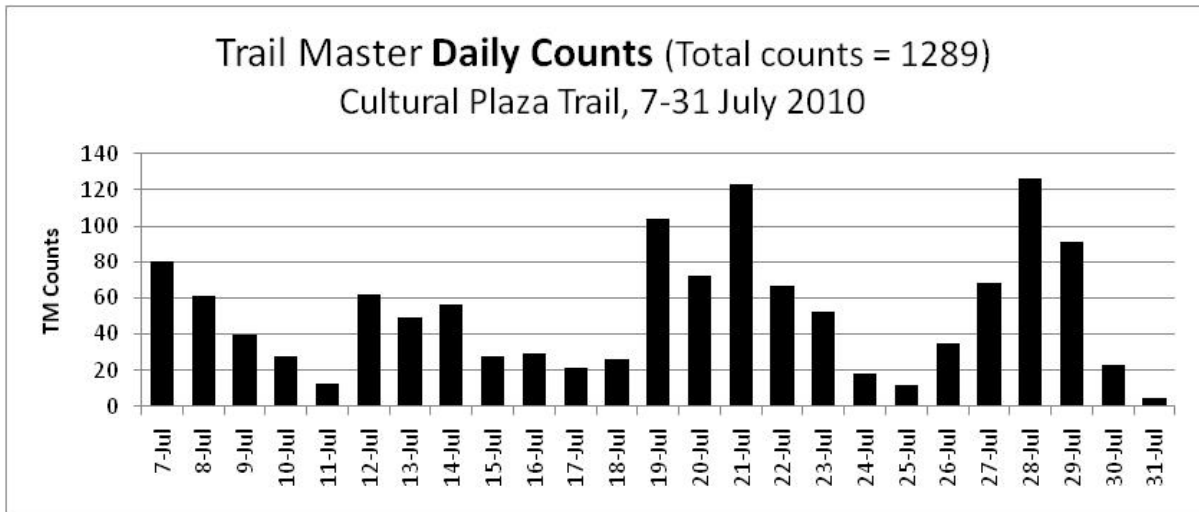
- \*MSU Spring Break Forensic Entomology Lab
- \*UF Forensic Entomology Lab
- \*UF Entomology Native Bees Project
- \*UF Wildlife Native Bird Catch and Release Survey
- \*Cuban Treefrogs Survey by 2010 NATL Minigrant Recipient Michael Granotowsky (Final report available at <http://natl.ifas.ufl.edu/GranatoskyReport.pdf>)

### **Anticipated NATL projects**

- \*Controlled burns of NATL's upland pine ecosystems
- \*Renovation of 7 large signs for tree ID in NAP
- \*Develop insect-related content for Nature Trails
- \*Facilitate ecotourism course
- \*Help FLMNH docents more fully utilize NATL's resources
- \*Planting 300+ wiregrass plugs

Appendix 3

# Initial data from NATL's People Counter



Appendix 4

NATL Fiscal Plan for FY 2010-11				21 Apr 2010 Report for FY 2010-11			
Final version							
<b>Funds available for 2010-11 (less stipend for Graduate TA*)</b>				<b>Receipts</b>			
				Already received	<b>Projected</b>		
Brought forward from 2009-10				1473	1473	<b>1473</b>	
Projected income for 2010-11							
Provost				2100	2100	<b>2100</b>	
NATL endowment				4256	3194	<b>4259</b>	
Sum				6356			
<b>Grand Total</b>				<b>\$7,829</b>	<b>6767</b>	<b>7832</b>	
<b>Spending plan for 2010-11</b>				<b>Expenditures</b>			
Budgeted				Already spent or encumbered	<b>Projected</b>		
New wayfinding signs for NATL				900	900	<b>900</b>	
Elizabeth Wells				1050	2956	<b>3010</b> Expected work-study subsidy not received	
Bob Guggenheim				540	428	<b>428</b> Terminated earlier than projected	
Stopping and filling NAP gully				270	360	<b>360</b> Chance of UAA refund?	
Routine expenses				2000	1961	<b>2100</b>	
TrailMaster unit				300	0	<b>300</b> Will be used for 1000 wiregrass plugs if NAAC approves	
Sum				5060	<b>6605</b>		
Reserved (and possible need and uses)				2769			
non-work-study UG TA (\$2400 more)							
Minigrant program (2@\$500 each)							
2nd new TrailMaster Unit (\$300)							
NATL-e development (\$500)							
invasive control (\$1000)				1023	1023	<b>1023</b> Ethan Carter (Paid \$2055 more this FY from EYN funds )	
<b>Grand Total</b>				<b>\$7,829</b>	<b>\$7,628</b>	<b>\$204</b> contingency (could be \$360 more if UAA comes through)	
* The CALS dean will pay the stipend of the NATL Graduate Teaching Assistant (ca. \$21,000)							

## Appendix 5

# Current status of efforts to control NATL's invasive plants

T. J. Walker, for the period ending 31 Dec 2010

For a prioritized list of 21 exotic plant species that threaten NATL's ecosystem and logs of control efforts, go to <http://natl.ifas.ufl.edu/invasiveCtrl.htm>.

## The three species of greatest concern

### **Cogongrass** (*Imperata cylindrica*)

*History.* Cogongrass was not detected in the original surveys of NATL's flora; however, by 2003, Dan Ward had listed it in his [Vascular Plant Inventory of NATL](#) as occurring in gridblock G5 in NATL's old fields. By 2005, it was threatening to take over NATL's Old Field plots (invasives' [Photo Gallery](#)) and intensive control efforts were begun. Until 2009, NATL personnel used only 2 or 3% glyphosate for cogongrass although imazapyr was used by others on extensive, dense stands in NATL. The glyphosate treatments did not eliminate cogongrass at most infested sites but it did eventually kill most of it. In 2009, NATL personnel began applying 1% imazapyr to the small patches of cogongrass remaining at formerly heavily infested sites. By the end of the year, live cogongrass was found at only 19 of the 41 infested sites detected since 2006.

*Current status and outlook.* Eight sites were found infested in 2010 and only 2 had live plants as late as August. However, fall inspections were omitted in favor of trying to sustain the program to eradicate coral ardisia. By the fall of 2011, the ease or difficulty of permanently eliminating cogongrass at all known infested sites in NATL should be evident.

### **Skunkvine** (*Paederia foetida*)

*History.* This smelly vine with kudzu like growth tendencies was first noticed in 2003, in the south edge of gridblock F9, by Dan Ward, who advised it should be eradicated. In 2004, contiguous, heavily infested sites were found in gridblocks F9 and F10. These have been monitored and treated when needed ever since. In 2009, a new heavily infested site was discovered in gridblock G10, about 50m east of the south-most of the original sites. During fall 2009 only four plants were found (and treated) on the three sites.

*Current status and outlook.* Two living plants were found in NATL during 2010. Both were at the F9 site. All sites will be periodically inspected for skunk vine during the 2011 growing season.

### **Coral ardisia** (*Ardisia crenata*)

*History.* Coral ardisia was well established in the hammock ecosystems of NATL-west in 1994 when NATL was founded, and in NATL-east in 2005 when its flora was first surveyed. Early efforts to control coral ardisia did not prevent its spread and increase. In 2009 control procedures were intensified and a program to eradicate the species from NATL was begun.

*Current status.* This species still occurs in at least 22 gridblocks in NATL-w and in six in NATL-e, but the numbers of mature ardisia in midwinter in NATL have been reduced more than 94% since 2009 (see Table 1 in [Eradication of Coral Ardisia](#)).

### The next five species of greatest concern

[Text for these species is in progress]

#### **Guineagrass & Johnsongrass** (*Panicum maximum* & *Sorghum halepense*)

See [spreadsheet](#) documenting control efforts from 2008 to date.

#### **Air potato** (*Dioscorea bulbifera*)

See [spreadsheets](#) documenting control efforts from 2005 to date.

#### **Arrowhead vine** (*Syngonium podophyllum*)

See [spreadsheets](#) documenting control efforts from 2006 to date.

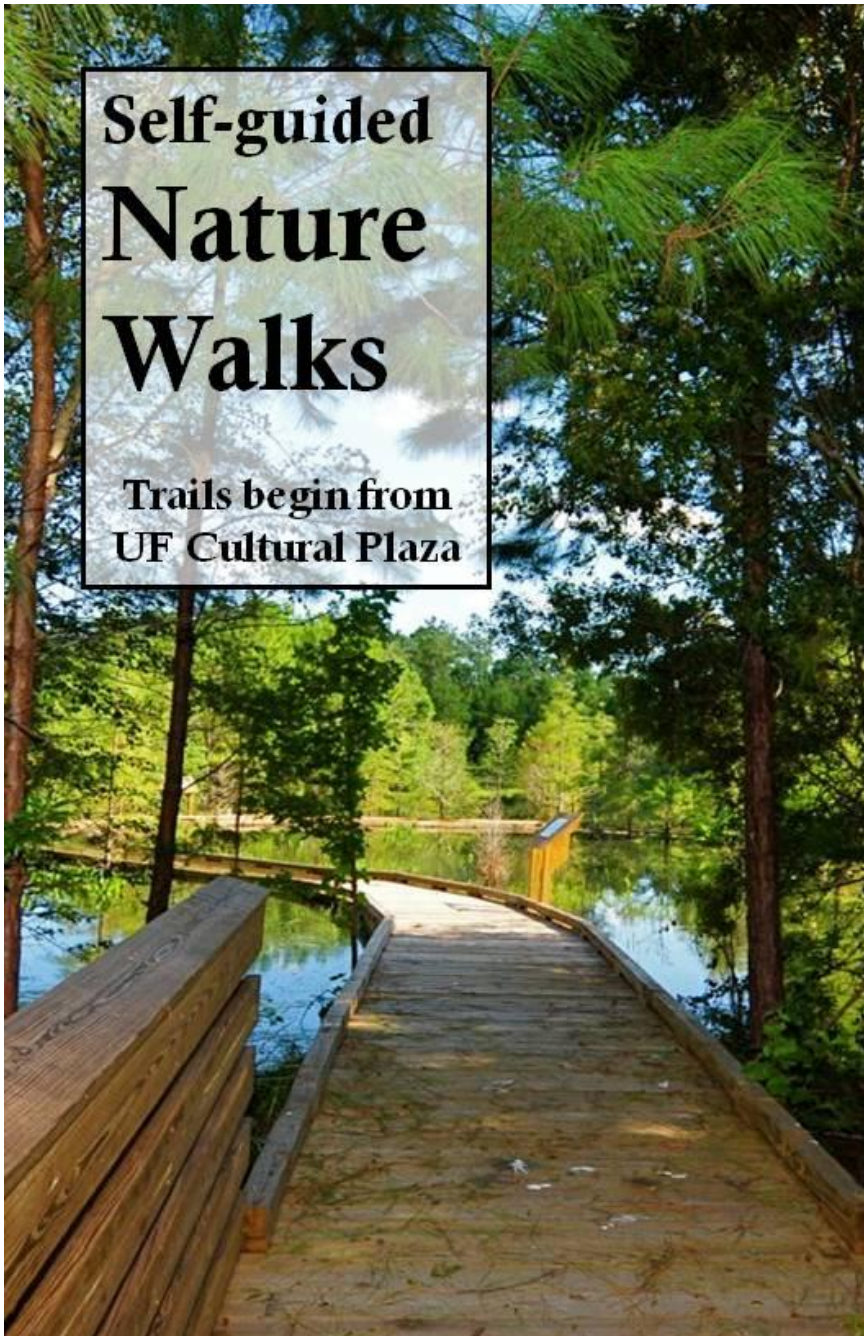
#### **Japanese climbing fern** (*Lygodium japonicum*)

See [spreadsheets](#) documenting control efforts from 2005 to date.



Appendix 6

<b>NATL Fiscal Plan for FY 2011-12</b>				
21 Aor 2011				
<b>Funds available for 2011-12 (excluding stipend for Graduate TA*)</b>				
Brought forward from 2010-11			204	
Projected income for 2011-12				
Provost		2200		assumes \$100 increase because of increase in CPI
NATL endowment		4560		amount based on UF Foundation projection
Sum			6760	
<b>Grand Total</b>				<b>\$6,964</b>
<b>Spending plan for 2011-12</b>				
Budgeted				
Elizabeth Wells		3010		based on estimated 2010-11 cost
Ethan Carter		1320		4 hr/pay period @ \$12/hr+5.4%benefits (invasive control)
Routine expenses		2000		based on expenditures during last three FYs
1000 wiregrass plugs		300		
Sum			6630	
Reserved and possible use			334	
2000 NT fliers (\$270)				
<b>Grand Total</b>				<b>\$6,964</b>
Projected to be paid from EYN funds				
1000 wiregrass plugs		300		needed for UP restoration
Ethan Carter		1320		4 hr/pay period @ \$12/hr+5.4%benefits (mostly invasive control)
Final TrailMaster Unit		300		for Natural Area Park entrance to NATL
<b>Total</b>		1920		
* The CALS dean will pay the stipend of the NATL Graduate Teaching Assistant (ca. \$21,000)				



# Self-guided Nature Walks

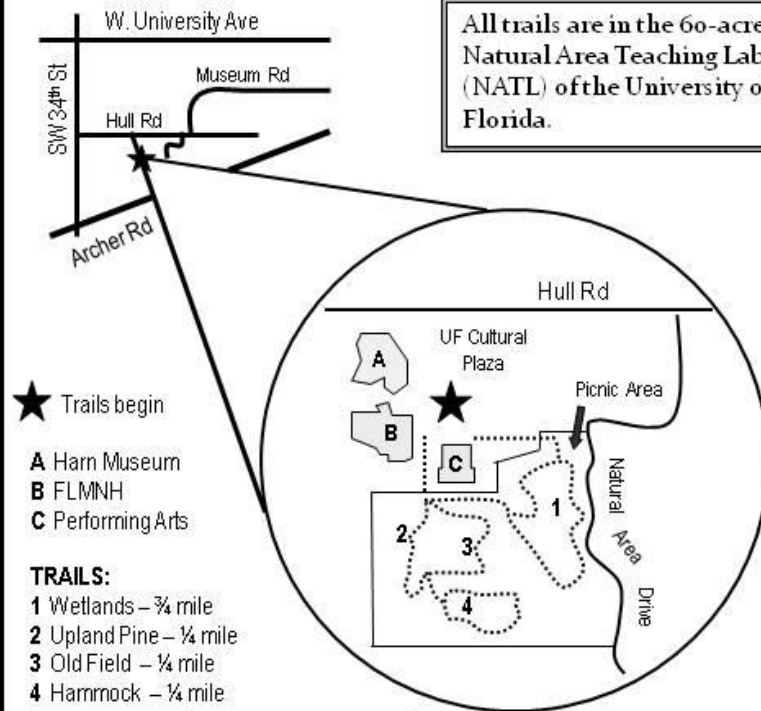
Trails begin from  
UF Cultural Plaza

# 4 trails

## 4 Florida ecosystems

- Six interpretive kiosks
- Trail guides and photo-ID-signs
- Open year-round dawn - to - dusk
- FREE!

All trails are in the 60-acre  
Natural Area Teaching Lab  
(NATL) of the University of  
Florida.



- ★ Trails begin
- A Harn Museum
- B FLMNH
- C Performing Arts

- TRAILS:**
- 1 Wetlands - ¾ mile
  - 2 Upland Pine - ¼ mile
  - 3 Old Field - ¼ mile
  - 4 Hammock - ¼ mile

Visit our website!  
<http://natl.ifas.ufl.edu/>

UNIVERSITY of  
**FLORIDA**

Boardwalk photo credit: Mike Erdelyi

Appendix 8

NAAC roster: Spring 2011						
The current version of the NAAC roster is at <a href="http://natl.ifas.ufl.edu/NAACroster.xls">http://natl.ifas.ufl.edu/NAACroster.xls</a>						
Last name	First name	Representing	Email	Campus address	Phone (352-)	Notes
Bhomia	Rupesh	Wetlands Club	<a href="mailto:rbhomias@ufl.edu">rbhomias@ufl.edu</a>	PO Box 110510	392-1803 ext. 355	
Brown	Mark	Environmental Engineering Science Dept	<a href="mailto:mtb@ufl.edu">mtb@ufl.edu</a>	PO Box 116450	392-2309	
Clark	Mark	Soil and Water Science	<a href="mailto:clarkmw@ufl.edu">clarkmw@ufl.edu</a>	PO Box 110510	392-1804 ext. 319	
Cohen	Matthew	School of Natural Resources & Environment	<a href="mailto:mjc@ufl.edu">mjc@ufl.edu</a>	PO Box 110510	392-1804 ext. 348	
<b>Daniels</b>	<b>Jaret</b>	<b>McGuire Center, FLMNH (NAAC Chair)</b>	<a href="mailto:jdaniels@flmnh.ufl.edu">jdaniels@flmnh.ufl.edu</a>	PO Box 110620	273-2022	
Dickson	Donald	Entomology & Nematology Department	<a href="mailto:dwd@ufl.edu">dwd@ufl.edu</a>	PO Box 110620	273-3938	
Fitzpatrick	Dan	Entomology & Nematology Student Organization	<a href="mailto:dmfitz9@ufl.edu">dmfitz9@ufl.edu</a>	PO Box 110621	273-3965	
Gommermann	Luke	Wetlands Club	<a href="mailto:luke04@ufl.edu">luke04@ufl.edu</a>	G158 McCarty A	392-1951 ext. 259	
Holland	Stephen	Tourism, Recreation and Sport Management	<a href="mailto:sholland@hnp.ufl.edu">sholland@hnp.ufl.edu</a>	PO Box 118208	392-4042 ext. 1313	
Jacobson	Susan	Wildlife Ecology & Conservation Department	<a href="mailto:jacobson@ufl.edu">jacobson@ufl.edu</a>	PO Box 110430	846-0562	
Jones	Linda	School of Teaching and Learning	<a href="mailto:lcjones@coe.ufl.edu">lcjones@coe.ufl.edu</a>	PO Box 117048	392-0761 ext. 267.	
Kimbrough	Jim	Plant Pathology	<a href="mailto:jwk@ifas.ufl.edu">jwk@ifas.ufl.edu</a>	PO Box 110680	392-2158	
Kitajima	Kaoru	Department of Biology	<a href="mailto:kitajima@ufl.edu">kitajima@ufl.edu</a>	PO Box 118526	392-4234	
Kobziar	Leda	Forest Resources & Conservation	<a href="mailto:lkobziar@ufl.edu">lkobziar@ufl.edu</a>	PO Box 110410	846-0901	
Levey	Doug	Department of Biology	<a href="mailto:dlevey@ufl.edu">dlevey@ufl.edu</a>	PO Box 118525	392-9169	
Lewis	Erik	Facilities Planning and Construction	<a href="mailto:etlewis@ufl.edu">etlewis@ufl.edu</a>	PO Box 115050	273-4011	
Prestwich	Ken	NATL Super Volunteer	<a href="mailto:kprestwi@holycross.edu">kprestwi@holycross.edu</a>	none		
Putz	Jack	Department of Biology	<a href="mailto:fep@ufl.edu">fep@ufl.edu</a>	PO Box 118526	392-1486	
Reeves	Lary	NATL Graduate Teaching Assistant	<a href="mailto:laryreeves@gmail.com">laryreeves@gmail.com</a>	PO Box 110620	514-2794	non-voting
Sensbach	Beverly	Florida Museum of Natural History	<a href="mailto:sensbach@flmnh.ufl.edu">sensbach@flmnh.ufl.edu</a>	PO Box 112710	273-1900	
Smith	Erick	Friend of NATL	<a href="mailto:edsmith@ufl.edu">edsmith@ufl.edu</a>	none	380-0648	
Walker	Tom	NATL Administrative Assistant	<a href="mailto:tjw@ufl.edu">tjw@ufl.edu</a>	PO Box 112015	273-3920	
Wells	Elizabeth	Undergraduate Teaching Assistant	<a href="mailto:ehawells@gmail.com">ehawells@gmail.com</a>			non-voting
Young	Tim	Chair of Lakes, Vegetation, and Landscaping Com.	<a href="mailto:tmyoung@ufl.edu">tmyoung@ufl.edu</a>	PO Box 110621	392-1521 ext. 206	