**University of Florida Natural Area Teaching Laboratory**

**2018 NATL Minigrant Program**

In December 2017, UF’s Natural Area Advisory Committee (NAAC) will award up to two minigrants of up to $500 each to fund 2018 projects that enhance the information infrastructure of the Natural Area Teaching Laboratory (NATL). We seek projects that will produce useful new information about NATL or will improve access to what is already known.

**Who is eligible?** UF students or groups of students with a designated student leader.

**Requirements**

A student or group must have a sponsor who is a UF faculty member. The student or group, and sponsor, must prepare an application and submit an electronic version by email and a signed paper copy by campus mail. If accepted, a final report must follow completion of the project. This report should focus on the successes and limitations of the project and what was accomplished to further the mission of NATL. Examples of final reports can be found on the [minigrant webpage](http://natl.ifas.ufl.edu/minigrants.php). The application deadline is **Wednesday,** **November 22nd, 2017**.

**Examples of suitable projects**

The projects listed below are provided to illustrate the type and scope of projects that the NAAC wishes to encourage, however we are open to any project that enhances the usefulness of NATL for teaching or research.

* Investigate new methods of invasive species management.
* Improve the design of the NATL website, including a database of records and maps.
* Look at seasonal cycles in NATL and put together a visual presentation (video or sign).
* Generate material that will encourage bird watching in NATL.
* Record narrated virtual tours of nature trails.
* Evaluate how SEEP plays a role in the Hogtown Creek and Lake Alice Watersheds.
* Prepare a NATL video that could attract visitors to NATL’s table during events.
* Update the list and prepare a searchable database of [NATL’s vascular plants](http://natl.ifas.ufl.edu/biota/plants.php).
* Prepare materials to highlight NATL’s interesting organisms, e.g. endangered species.
* Design a table display for NATL to use at events such as ButterflyFest and Earth Day.
* Feel free to be creative! Propose your own idea that could enhance the information infrastructure of NATL

**How applications are evaluated**

Proposals will be circulated among [NAAC members](http://natl.ifas.ufl.edu/management/). Members will have one week to discuss proposal merits and a second week to vote and make a final decision. By December 8th, 2017 the NAAC chair will notify the applicants of the funding decisions.

**Fiscal details**

The sponsor will be responsible for seeing that the money is used to support the project-related needs of the student proposer. If the funds exceed these needs, the faculty sponsor may use the money to support other aspects of the proposer’s or the sponsor’s program. **2018 NATL Minigrant Program - Application Instructions**

Applications must be submitted by **November 22nd, 2017** as an MS Word or PDF file attached to an email message to natl@ufl.edu, with a signed paper copy sent by campus mail to Emma Weeks, NAAC Chair, PO Box 110620, Campus Mail*.*

To be considered, submissions must include the **bold-faced items** indicated below, and consist of *no more* than three pages.

**Proposer or designated leader of a student group**

**Name**

**Academic classification**

**Department**

**Graduation Date**

**UF e-mail address**

**Postal address**

**Phone number(s)**

**Experience or training related to proposed project**

**Sponsor** (must be a UF faculty member)

**Name**

**Department**

**UF e-mail address**

**Campus-mail address**

**Phone number(s)**

**Title of project**

**Project summary-** Should be no more than 150 words.

**Starting date-** Must be in the Spring 2018 semester.

**Completion date-** Must be no later than six months after starting date or prior to graduation if Spring 2018 is the student’s final semester at UF.

**Description of project**Describe objectives, procedures, and any potential lasting impacts on NATL. Provide a budget that details how funds will be spent. The amount available is $500 maximum, there is no minimum amount. Tell what will be delivered to NAAC by the completion date of the project and how the results of the project will be of value to future users of NATL. All results must be delivered in digital format so they can be posted on the NATL web site at <http://natl.ifas.ufl.edu>.

**Provision for periodic communication with NAAC administration**

Describe how the NAAC Chair will be kept informed of progress on the minigrant project and have opportunities to offer help and advice. For example, while working on the minigrant, the proposer could meet monthly with the NAAC Chair. We also expect grantees to provide updates and pictures of their work for our [Facebook](http://www.facebook.com/NATL.UF), [Twitter](http://twitter.com/UFNATL), and [Instagram](https://instagram.com/natl.uf/) accounts.

**Signatures**

Only the paper copy needs to be signed.

Student\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

