

## **Minutes of meeting of Natural Area Advisory Committee: 20 April 2005**

Wednesday, 11:00am to 12:30pm, NATL pavilion and NATL-east. Members present were Mark Clark, Don Dickson, Deb Dipietro, Donald Graetz, Sandra Garrett, Doug Levey, Erick Smith, Tom Walker (chair), and Sally Wazny.

### **1. Fiscal report**

Tom Walker presented a certified, itemized accounting of NAAC funds for 25 Mar 2004 to 20 Apr 2005. The only income item was \$1,000 from Provost Colburn and the only expense item greater than \$100 was \$490.50 to pay half the cost of three picnic tables for Natural Area Park. The balance at the beginning of the period was \$888.10; at the end, \$1108.43.

The committee approved spending \$150 for 500 wiregrass slips to be planted in July. This will be in addition to wiregrass in pots that PPD will provide. Sally Wazny suggested that FLMNH volunteers might be available to help plant the wiregrass and that dibbles to facilitate planting the wiregrass might be borrowed from Gainesville's Nature Operations Division.

### **2. Membership**

NAAC currently has 19 members, as indicated on the attached list. This includes Matthew Cohen, who was recently added because of his affiliation with the School of Natural Resources and Environment.

The Committee discussed deletions and additions to NAAC's membership with the following results:

Deb DiPietro, Florida Museum of Natural History, will resign in December to be replaced by Marilyn Roberts.

Sandra Garrett, the Entomology & Nematology Student Organization, will soon graduate and will ask ENSO to appoint a replacement.

Doug Levey, Zoology, will be in the Seattle area on sabbatical during 2005-06 and will ask his chair if he wishes to appoint a temporary replacement.

### **3. Tour of NATL-east**

Mark Clark used a recent aerial photograph of NATL (west and east) to orient the Committee as to where it would be going. He then led the Committee on an hour's stroll through and around NATL-east. As he went, he discussed with the Committee what needed to be done to integrate NATL-east with NATL-west. A list of the actions that were discussed is attached.

In addition to what became routine (lots of poison ivy and saw briar, specimen loblolly pines, and masses of royal fern), the Committee spied a 2-to 3-foot exotic lizard basking near Archer Road. Later Sally Wazny suggested it might be caiman lizard (/Dracaea/, Teiidae; native to tropical South America).

## 2004-2005 Natural Area Advisory Committee

Date: April 2005

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## Making NATL-east (formerly Surge Wetland) a part of NATL

Below are actions proposed for integrating NATL-east and NATL-west.

### **Erect corral fences**

Extend existing corral fence south to UF Housing compound.

Construct corral fence from UF Housing compound south to Archer Road.

Establish south entrance to NATL-east across the street from matching entrance to NATL-west.

Seek CITF money for this.

### **Establish trail**

Establish trail west of central pond from north entrance to south entrance of NATL-east.

Trail will be for foot traffic only

### **Compose and place signs**

At the two entrances, place signs indicating that NATL-east is for academic use only and that indicate that the rules for its use are at <http://natl.ifas.ufl.edu/rules>.

At north entrance have "re-direct" sign that succinctly explains that access to this wetland is restricted to protect it and to facilitate its academic use and that the SEEP area in NATL-west is a demonstration wetland to which the public is invited.

### **Survey and stake 50-meter grid**

Extend the grid established in NATL-west and use same naming and staking systems.

Arrange for Students Geomatics Association to do survey in conjunction with doing maintenance surveying of the grid in NATL-west.

### **Make grid-based photographic record in January 2006**

Take photographs in the four cardinal directions at each grid stake (as was done in NATL-west in January 1997)

Because there will be no grid stakes in the central pond, photographs should be taken at specific stations around the pond to record the pond's features. [Should the same be done for SEEP?]

### **Erect and populate kiosk**

Put kiosk near north entrance but out of sight from entrance.

Content of kiosk should supplement what is on the NATL-west academic kiosk--e.g., a map of NATL-east, an introduction to its habitats, and rules for use.

Seek CITF money to pay for kiosk.

### **Seek reduction of noise from carpentry shop blower**

Determine the best means of reducing the noise and attempt to have it implemented.

### **Erect hurricane fences on east and south**

These fences would help prevent trash from blowing or being thrown into NATL-east and would prevent trespassers entering from off-campus

Seek CITF money for this.

### **Extend NATL's grid-based soil survey**

### **Expand plant and herp surveys to include NATL-east**

### **Control trash that comes in from DOT outfalls**

Build trash-retaining fence at main outfall.

Work with DOT for other solutions.

### **Pick up legacy trash**

Combine with grand opening of NATL-east?

### **Provide trash container at kiosk**

### **Remove old fence along north boundary**