

2009-10 Minigrant Program for UF's Natural Area Teaching Laboratory

Summary

In 2009-10, UF's Natural Area Advisory Committee [NAAC] will award at least two minigrants of \$500 each to fund 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 UF students with a designated leader.

Requirements

Students or groups 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. Directions on how to apply are at <http://natl.ifas.ufl.edu/minigrants.htm>.

Applications may be submitted at any time. Within 4 weeks of receipt of an application, NAAC will either fund the proposal or postpone the final decision on the proposal until a stated date.

Examples of suitable projects

The projects listed below are provided to illustrate the type and scope of projects that NAAC wishes to encourage. We would like to see proposals that address them but are *open to all other projects that enhance the usefulness of NATL for teaching or research.*

- Update the list of vascular plants that occur in SEEP and integrate it with what is known of the vascular plants present in the retention basin prior to 1998 [before re-contouring], in 1999 [after planting], and in 2004 [the 5-year census] (see <http://natl.ifas.ufl.edu/plants.htm#SEEP>).
- Prepare two or more 3x2-ft interpretative panels for the west leg of the SEEP nature trail. (Stands will be provided.)
- Improve the NATL web site by reformatting it to a UF web template.
- Help reconstruct the history of NATL's trees by determining the age of selected living trees by coring and the age of selected dead trees by counting rings in sections of the lower trunk. (Coring tools will be provided.)

How applications are evaluated

Proposals will be circulated by email to NAAC members. Members will have two weeks to discuss them by email and a third week to vote whether to fund a given project. The applicant will be notified of the Committee's decision within four weeks of receipt of the application.

Fiscal details

When a minigrant is awarded, \$500 will be made available for transfer from the NAAC account to a sponsor-designated account in the sponsor's department. The sponsor will be responsible for seeing that an account is available to receive the transfer and that the money is used to support the project-related needs of the 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.