

UF Natural Area Teaching Laboratory

2009 Minigrant Program

Summary

In 2009, UF's Natural Area Advisory Committee [NAAC] will award 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 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>.

For full consideration, applications should be received by January 16, 2009. Depending on availability of funds, applications submitted beyond that date may still be considered.

Examples of suitable projects

The projects listed below are provided to illustrate the type and scope of projects that we wish to encourage. We'd like to see proposals that address them but are also open to other projects that enhance the usefulness of NATL for teaching or research.

- Determine and describe the vegetational history of NATL. [How old are the trees? How has the vegetation changed, especially in the hammock and longleaf pine areas?]
- Determine and describe the land use history of NATL. [Who owned the land on which NATL sits and how was it used? There are very early records, going back to the Spanish land grant. There are also photographs from the 1930's.]
- Provide a survey of species for a group of organisms currently without such a survey available on NATL's website [See: <http://natl.ifas.ufl.edu/biota.htm>]
- Provide a survey of invasive species and start implementation of a management plan to minimize their impact at NATL

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 after the proposal is received.

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 student. If the funds exceed these needs, the faculty sponsor may use the money to support other aspects of the student's or the sponsor's program.