

Spring 2020 Meeting: Natural Area Advisory Committee (NAAC)

April 22nd, 2020

10:00am – 11:00am

Join via Zoom: <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/98357949764> (password= longleaf)

In attendance:

Outgoing Chair – Jennifer Gillett-Kaufman

Chair – Anthony Auletta

Vice-Chair –Gage LaPierre

James Brown

Eleanor Phillips

Brittany Evans

Iona Hennessy

Jaret Daniels

Scott Robinson

Christina Romagosa

Candice Price

Eben Boradbent

Rae Crandall

Tom Walker

Agenda

(click links to jump to that section)

1. Opening Remarks and Introductions ([Anthony](#))
 - **Outgoing Chair: Dr. Jennifer Gillett-Kaufman**
 - **New faces: Graduate TAs James Brown (Entomology PhD) and Eleanor Phillips (Doctor of Plant Medicine Program)**
 - **Outgoing Undergraduate TA: Iona Hennessy**
2. Status of NATL during COVID-19 ([Anthony](#))
 - **Closed with University Guidelines**
 - **Virtual engagement efforts by operations committee**
3. Revisiting the 2011-2021 NATL Long Range Vision Plan ([Anthony](#))
 - **Need a new plan for the next decade**
 - **2020s wishlist**
4. NATL Finances ([Anthony](#))
 - **Fiscal Report for FY 2019-2020**
 - **Fiscal Plan for FY 2020-2021**

- Prescribed burns are now in-house, large cost-savings, PPE donations from Florida Forestry Service
 - Money for Upland Pine restoration (\$3,200) now diverted to other general restoration efforts
5. NATL use report
- Visitor Counts/Trailmaster Data ([Eleanor](#))
 - We have invested in a new people counting system that counts in the same way and has updated software
 - Important investment when making the case that NATL needs to continue to have funding and remain a part of
 - Events in NATL & Volunteer Summary ([James](#))
 - iDigTRIO
 - Doctor of Plant Medicine February Flora and Fauna Festival
 - Alpha Phi Omega Service fraternity
 - 50 hours volunteer workers
 - Request for tours, restoration, mini bioblitz – hope to re-schedule post COVID-19
 - Class Projects & Research in NATL ([Anthony](#))
 - Cuban Tree frogs
 - Native bee survey
 - Survey of NATL use – will be sent out multiple times
6. Controlled Burns ([Gage](#))
- Summary of January Burn
 - Winter burn, most fuel/leaf litter consumed
 - Plans for Future Burns
 - Important to establish grass and forb community in the Upland Pine area
 - Growing 50+ plugs in Entomology greenhouse and planting in Upland Pine area
 - See Figure 5 for areas of ideal 2020 burn areas
 - Past burns
 - Area just burned in Jan. 2020 last burned in 2018
 - Save as many trees as possible, raking around trees
7. Changes to Old Field Management (Gage, Eleanor, & James)
- New Plots and Trails ([Gage](#))
 - Figure 7 for updated Old Field map management
 - Now 3 instead of 5 plots of Old Field – 2 plots now to be managed as Upland Pine
 - Rotations to minimize invasive species colonization
 - Reset of old field, reestablish nature trails
 - Update Signage ([James and Eleanor](#))
 - Ordered new wayfinding signs
8. Invasive Species Management ([Brittany](#))
- Burns will help with future management efforts
 - Management of invasives is one of our priorities once we are allowed back into NATL
 - See Appendix for list of invasive species in NATL
9. Nature Trail/Boardwalk Updates ([Iona & Brittany](#))

- **New nature trail metal signs and laminated signs to last longer**
 - **Reduced signs and number of signs**
 - **Narrower nature trails**
 - **Clearing fallen trees will be a priority once open**
10. NATL Web Presence
- Social Media Update ([Iona & Eleanor](#))
 - **Follow us! #NATL in your posts 😊**
 - Website Updates ([James](#))
11. Other Recent Improvements to NATL
- Wildflower Grant ([Gage](#))
 - NATL East ([Gage and James](#))
 - Repairing Grid Points ([James](#))
 - Updating Brochures & Kiosk Signs ([NATL TAs](#))
12. Plans for NATL in 2020 ([Anthony](#))
13. Open floor (Whole Group)
- **New virtual outreach with Jaret Daniels with the Florida Museum and NATL**
 - **Plans to enhance NATL East – part of 2020 long-range plan**
14. Concluding remarks (Anthony)