2006 Minigrant Program
for UF's Natural Area Teaching Laboratory

Summary

In 2006, UF's Natural Area Advisory Committee [NAAC] will award one or two minigrants of $500 to encourage projects that enhance the information infrastructure of the Natural Area Teaching Laboratory [NATL].

Who is eligible

UF students who wish to complete a project that will produce useful new information about NATL or will improve access to what is already known.

Requirements

Student must have a sponsor who is a UF faculty member. The student 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.

Suitable projects

These four projects are of particular importance to NATL's information infrastructure. Other things being equal, a proposal to undertake one of these projects will be given preference in the awarding of the next two minigrants.

- Make detailed soil maps of NATL's successional plots.
  [What areas of the successional plots have natural soils and which have clays from building sites and to what depth?]

- Design interpretative materials for the public area of NATL.
  [For example, design and develop trails, signs, kiosks or other interpretive materials for students and the public using NATL (including Natural Area Park).]

- Update the 1997 grid-based photographic record of NATL's vegetation.
  [This should be done in January to make the images more comparable with the ones from 1997. The 1997 images are at http://natl.ifas.ufl.edu/gridphotos.htm.]

- Identify, measure, and map trees 30 cm or larger DBH in the upland pine or hammock ecosystems.
  [Since its start in 1994, NATL has lost significant numbers of its large trees. The times of greatest lost have been during the drought of 1999-2004, during the southern pine beetle outbreak of 2001, and during hurricanes Frances and Jeanne this fall. Until we know what we have, we cannot judge the extent of our losses.]

How applications are evaluated

As soon as a proposal is received, it is sent by email to NAAC members. Members have two weeks to discuss the proposal by email and a third week to vote whether to fund it. 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.