

Natural Areas Training Academy

Dedicated to the Sound Management of Florida's Natural Areas



2010-2011 Course Schedule (updated April, 2010)

Look for additional workshops and updated information on the NATA web site soon.

Basic Wildland Firefighter Training	August 9-13, 2010
Conservation Site Assessment and Planning*	September 14-16, 2010
Managing Visitors and Volunteers in Natural Areas*	October 19-21, 2010
Managing for Diversity Across Florida's Unique Landscapes*	November 16-18, 2010
Vegetation Monitoring in a Management Context	Spring, 2011
Working Across Boundaries to Protect Ecosystems*	Spring, 2011
Interagency Prescribed Fire Training*	Various

**These workshops are part of the Certificate in Natural Areas Management series*

To Register: Go to <http://nata.snre.ufl.edu> for additional information and on-line registration

Participants can register for a single workshop or take the series of courses that lead to the Certificate in Natural Areas Management (CNAM), the academy's core program. The CNAM is a series of five workshops that provide the basic skills necessary to become an effective natural lands manager in Florida. The Academy's program has been endorsed by the Natural Areas Association as an outstanding training program. Since June, 2000 the Natural Areas Training Academy has awarded more than 115 Certificates in Natural Areas Management. Participants may take these workshops in any order, in a single academic season, or over a number of seasons.

Our special interest workshops allow in depth exploration of specific topics relevant to land management.

Join your colleagues to share your challenges and successes and make valuable new contacts.

"I have received invaluable hands-on experience in the NATA workshops that I am able to apply as soon as I return to work. These workshops have given me a perspective on how conservation lands should be better managed."

Keith Singleton, Land Acquisition and Management Planner, DEP, Division of State Lands

"The Natural Areas Training Academy workshops bring together a variety of instructors and participants from a wide range of public and private interests that provides a diverse exchange of ideas, concepts and long term contacts that are invaluable."

Randall Sleister, Land Management Supervisor, Volusia County

Basic Wildland Firefighter Training, August 9-13, 2010

Basic Firefighter Training prepares the individual to participate on wildland fire management/fire suppression activities as a Firefighter Type II qualified fire crew. This course does *not* count towards the requirements for the Certificate in Natural Areas Management.

Dates: August 9-13, 2010

Location: University of Florida Campus (Gainesville) & Ordway-Swisher Biological Station (Melrose)

Fee: \$125.00 for non-UF students, \$100.00 for UF students

Requirements:

- Students must have a pair of 6" or higher leather boots and leather gloves.
- Provide own lunch (lunch is provided on the day of the live fire exercise).
- Must be able to provide own transportation to OSBS in Melrose (only one day).
- Students must complete I-100 online course prior to August 9 (<http://training.nwccg.gov/courses/i100.html>).

Conservation Site Assessment and Planning, September 14-16, 2010

This workshop teaches participants to build their site assessment and planning skills to effectively guide their management work over a multi-year period.

Participants will learn to:

- Conduct a comprehensive site assessment.
- Set conservation priorities and identify threats.
- Develop effective management plans.
- Deal effectively with competing management needs in the planning process.

Dates: September 14-16, 2010

Location: Ordway-Swisher Biological Station, Melrose

Fee: \$380.00



Students learning to survey for and document gopher tortoise burrows.

Photo by Linda Demetropoulos

Managing Visitors and Volunteers in Natural Areas, October 19-21, 2010

This workshop provides comprehensive guidance for managers on the issues associated with successfully integrating visitors and volunteers into the work of natural areas management. This workshop is relevant for natural areas managers who work in remote wilderness preserves as well as for those managers who work in parks and preserves with more intense visitor use. Included is a case study field trip examining resource-based recreation.

Participants will learn:

- How managers have successfully dealt with visitor use issues.
- How to successfully implement passive-use recreation.
- How to implement ADA guidelines.
- How good communication with visitors and the public can help accomplish resource management goals.
- How interpretive materials can be used to teach visitors.
- How different models of volunteer programs are used and implemented.

Dates: October 19-21, 2010

Location: Gold Head Branch State Park, Keystone Heights

Fee: \$380.00

Participants' comments from 2009 course:

'An excellent program with information that is timely. I will take a lot back with me and use as much as I can. The mixture of classroom and field time was just right.'

'This was an excellent workshop. Good mix of field (tours, projects) and inside classes. The notebook and CD information are excellent resources.'



Nels Parson leads a field trip to Black Creek Ravines.
Photo by Linda Demetropoulos

Managing for Diversity Across Florida's Unique Landscapes, November 16-18, 2010

This workshop focuses on management and restoration approaches for conserving Florida's biodiversity and utilizes restoration of biodiversity at The Nature Conservancy's Disney Wilderness Preserve as a case study example.

Participants will learn to:

- Identify factors that cause and support Florida's high biodiversity.
- Use management practices to restore ecological processes and natural communities.
- Identify and control invasive, nonnative species that threaten biodiversity.

Dates: November 16-18, 2010

Location: The Disney Wilderness Preserve, Kissimmee

Fee: \$380.00

To Register: Go to <http://nata.snre.ufl.edu> for additional information and on-line registration

Vegetation Monitoring in a Management Context, Spring, 2011

This workshop is a practical step-by-step guide to establish and manage monitoring protocols for plant community work. Both in-depth field techniques and statistical analysis tools are covered.

Participants will learn to:

- Develop sampling designs for well-defined objectives.
- Determine monitoring priorities in an adaptive management context.
- Implement techniques in the field.
- Interpret and manipulate data for presentation.

Dates: Spring, 2011

Location: Archbold Biological Station, Lake Placid

Fee: TBA, includes all materials, meals and lodging for the 5-night, 6-day course

“I have taken the NATA course ‘Vegetation Monitoring in a Management Context’ and I can only describe it as excellent; one of the best training sessions I’ve participated in during the last 14 years.”
Andi Christman, DEP Florida Park Service

“This was one great course! I’ve never attended a training as thorough, well organized or pertinent to my job in 16 years as a federal land management employee!”

Michael Keys, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Photo by Steve Dickman

Working Across Boundaries to Protect Ecosystems, Spring, 2011

The goals of this workshop are to demonstrate how political, social and ecological forces can affect natural areas and how some managers are working to address these issues through innovative strategies. In order to accomplish these goals, this workshop includes the following elements:

- A field tour of the Wekiva River basin, selected conservation areas including Wekiva and Rock Springs, to thoroughly examine the issues and proposed solutions (includes canoe trip, weather permitting!)
- Study of the theory and practice of ecosystem management
- An opportunity for participants to evaluate other ecosystems within the context of the case studies presented
- Tools for identifying threats that originate outside the boundaries of protected areas, determining which could be mitigated, and developing threat abatement strategies that operate at the appropriate scale
- Examples of partnerships and people who are working effectively to address ecosystem-scale threats
- Tools for creating partnerships and working with surrounding communities: communication, facilitation and collaborative process techniques for helping people work together

Dates: Spring, 2011

Location: University of Florida Mid-Florida Research and Education Center, Apopka

Fee: Tuition is \$380.00.

Basic Interagency Prescribed Fire Course

This 40 hr. course is designed to train personnel in the basics of prescribed fire management. The course is designed for students with little or no prescribed fire knowledge or experience. Depending on weather conditions, live fire exercises will be held.

Participants will learn:

- Fireline Safety
- Legal requirements
- Public relations
- Smoke management
- Planning, mop-up, and evaluation
- Prescribed fire objectives
- Fire weather and fire behavior
- Firing techniques
- Holding and contingencies
- Prescribed fire management

Visit http://www.fl-dof.com/wildfire/rx_training.html for dates, locations, and fees.

