

# Natural Areas Training Academy

*Dedicated to the Sound Management of Florida's Natural Areas*

**Registration is open!**



## 2008-2009 Course Schedule

Conservation Site Assessment and Planning*	September 23-25, 2008
Managing Visitors and Volunteers in Natural Areas*	October 29-31, 2008
Managing for Diversity Across Florida's Unique Landscapes*	December 9-11, 2008
Vegetation Monitoring in a Management Context	March 2-7, 2009
Working Across Boundaries to Protect Ecosystems*	March 24-26, 2009 Confirmed date
Restoration Planning & Techniques for Forested Lands	April 14-16, 2009 Tentative date
Plant Communities of Florida	May 5-7, 2009 Tentative date
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**

Earn your Certificate in Natural Areas Management or take one of our workshops of special interest to improve your skills and network with colleagues.

The Certificate of Natural Areas Management (CNAM), the academy's core program, 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 94 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 workshops of special interest allow you in depth exploration a specific topic 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

### **Conservation Site Assessment and Planning**

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 23–25, 2008

**Location:** The Disney Wilderness Preserve

**Fee:** \$380 (no lodging); \$500 (2 nights lodging); \$560 (3 nights lodging)

### **Managing Visitors and Volunteers in Natural Areas, October 29-31, 2008**

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 has been redesigned for 2008-2009 to be even more 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 will be a case study field trip examining resource-based recreation in a St. John’s River Water Management District managed area.

#### **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 29-31, 2008

**Location:** Gold Head Branch State Park, Keystone Heights

**Fee:** \$380 (no lodging); \$440 (2 nights lodging); \$470 (3 nights lodging)

## **Managing for Diversity Across Florida's Unique Landscapes**

This workshop focuses on management and restoration approaches for conserving Florida's biodiversity.

### **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:** December 9–11, 2008

**Location:** The Disney Wilderness Preserve, Kissimmee

**Fee:** \$380 (no lodging); \$500 (2 nights lodging); \$560 (3 nights lodging)

## **Vegetation Monitoring in a Management Context**

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:** March 2-7, 2009

**Location:** Archbold Biological Station, Lake Placid

**Fee:** \$875.00 includes materials, meals and lodging



## **Working Across Boundaries to Protect Ecosystems**

This workshop uses a case study to demonstrate how political, social, and ecological forces can negatively affect protected areas and how to effectively address these issues. In order to accomplish these goals, this workshop will include the following elements:

- A field tour of the Ichetucknee Springs watershed area and Park to thoroughly examine the 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 evaluating ecosystem threats that operate at ecosystem levels and ways to determine strategies that operate at that scale
- Examples of partnerships and people who are working effectively to address ecosystem-scale threats
- Tools for working with and in partnerships and community: communication, facilitation and collaborative process techniques for helping people work together
- situation and proposed solutions

**Dates:** Confirmed: March 24-26, 2009

**Location:** Camp Kulaqua, High Springs (near Gainesville)

**Fee:** \$380 (no lodging); \$540 (includes meals and 2 nights lodging); \$620 (includes meals and 3 nights lodging)



Read article about the class [http://nata.snre.ufl.edu/download/WAB\\_article\\_2007.pdf](http://nata.snre.ufl.edu/download/WAB_article_2007.pdf)

## **Restoration Planning and Techniques for Forested Lands**

Learn best management practices for restoring ecological processes to forested lands

### **Participants will learn to:**

- Assess forested lands to determine their current status
- Create feasible restoration goals tied to a stated desired future condition
- Set objectives and choose management options to reach those goals
- Use of silviculture in ecological restoration

**Dates:** Tentative: April 14-16, 2009

**Location:** Apalachicola Bluffs and Ravines Preserve, Bristol

**Fee:** \$380 for tuition

## **Plant Communities of Florida**

From fire to hydrology to the plants and animals that make up each community, this workshop will guide participants through Florida's natural communities with a focus on Central Florida. This workshop will include field trips to plant community sites.

### **Participants will learn to:**

- Identify the different plant communities in Florida
- Recognize the natural forces that control these communities
- Recognize key indicator plant species for each community
- Determine management actions needed to maintain selected communities.

**Dates:** Tentative: May 5-7, 2009

**Location:** Tentative: Disney Wilderness Preserve and Crystal River Preserve State Park

**Fee:** \$380 for tuition

**Lodging:** When at The Disney Wilderness Preserve participants will stay at The Alhambra for \$60.00 per person/per night and lodging is reserved on-line when registering for the course. For Crystal River Preserve State Park participants will stay in a local hotel and will be required to reserve their own lodging. Lodging information will be posted on NATA web page.



Photo by Lesley Atwood

## **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/training\\_education/training\\_schedule.html](http://www.fl-dof.com/training_education/training_schedule.html) for dates, locations, and fees.