The Florida Natural Resources Leadership Institute (NRLI) - Collaborative Solutions for Natural Resource Challenges

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NRLI was created to help rising leaders in business, agriculture, government, academia and the environmental community to enhance the skills required to effectively manage conflict that arises from natural resource issues. Each NRLI class is composed of approximately 20 participants (“Fellows”) representing a broad array of natural resource interests. Institute Fellows, will become familiar with natural resource issues and policy while learning concepts, tools and skills that will help them play a role in shaping the future of Florida. Institute graduates will be better able to help the people, industries, and institutions of Florida collaborate in achieving the often conflicting goals of protecting the environment and the people while fostering economic development.

Class IX of the Florida Natural Resources Leadership Institute (NRLI) graduated on March 19th, 2010 in an evening ceremony at the Ti Amo restaurant in downtown Gainesville, Florida. The graduates of Class IX, as alumni of the program, joined a growing network of natural resource professionals around the State of Florida who have all shared the NRLI experience of site visits, stakeholder engagement, and a well thought out and tested curriculum in Conflict Management and Collaborative Decision-making.

Each NRLI class participates in eight three-day sessions; one session per month for eight months. The first seven sessions are each based on a natural resource issue of importance to Florida. The eighth session is Practicum Presentation and graduation.

Applications for Class X are now being accepted. Information about Class X, as well as about previous NRLI classes, can be found at our website, [http://nrli.ifas.ufl.edu](http://nrli.ifas.ufl.edu). We invite you to visit the NRLI website and explore it. If you work in natural resources in Florida, you are almost certain to find the name of someone you know on the Alumni page. If you have any questions about the NRLI program, contact Bruce Delaney at 352-846-1511 or delaneyb@ufl.edu.

“I wish I had the opportunity to attend NRLI earlier in my career as it gave me a unique statewide perspective of the challenges facing the future protection and management of Florida’s natural resources as we try to balance the effects of an increasing population and unbridled development. The program introduces you to the good, bad and the ugly of natural resource issues facing this State and provides you with the conflict resolution and facilitation skills necessary to bring stakeholders together to try to reach consensus on the issues. I believe it should be require training for not only natural resource professionals, but policy makers, county commissioners, elected officials and the like.”

William O. “Bill” Cleckley, Director Division of Land Management and Acquisition Northwest Florida Water Management District
How should the risk associated with the introduction of biological control agents be estimated?


Florida has an exceptional burden of invasive species. The history of the classical biological control of invasive arthropod pest species in the region largely is one of inadequate pre-release testing for nontarget effects. A recent analysis indicated that a substantial risk of non target effects may exist in Florida, although the risk appears to be confined to a relatively small group of species within approximately ten families and documented cases of nontarget effects are rare, despite previous risky practices. Great progress has been made recently in creating an organized framework for dealing with the uncertainty accompanying biological control importations in Florida and elsewhere. We suggest some ways in which balancing the risks and associated costs of releasing a biological control agent against the risks and associated costs of not releasing the agent may be improved. Ultimately, experts will need to set some level of acceptable risk, and the 'precautionary principle' has been advanced to guide this process. As it stands, however, the precautionary principle applied to biological control falls short as a guide because it does not provide a prescription for action. Florida case histories clearly illustrate both the complexity and urgency related to developing a prescription for action.

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Upcoming Events

- **Working Across Boundaries to Protect Ecosystems**
  March 23-25, 2010. A Natural Training Areas (NATA) workshop addressing how political, social and ecological forces can affect natural areas and innovative management strategies. To register and more information please visit [http://nata.snre.ufl.edu/schedule.htm](http://nata.snre.ufl.edu/schedule.htm)

- **Forest Stewardship Workshop Series: Diversify Income from Your Land**

- **Alabama Forest Owners Association, Inc Educational Program Internet/Telephone Conference**
  March 23, 2010; 10:00 am – 10:30 am, CT, nationwide. This 30 minute telephone/Internet conference will feature state & national experts, researchers & authors on breaking issues, current research, can’t-miss educational events, books & publications, timber market update and more. Listen on your phone or later on the web. Call AFOA to register: (205) 987-8811. or go to [http://www.afoa.org/cal/cal.htm](http://www.afoa.org/cal/cal.htm)

- **Florida Society of American Foresters-North Woods Work Day**
  April 3, 2010 9:00 am-3:00 pm, ET, at Santa Fe College, Gainesville, Fl. Review data from last year’s North Woods inventory, then participate in a prescribed burn (weather permitting). Contact Charlie Houder at [chouder@treeware.com](mailto:chouder@treeware.com) for more information.

- **Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society Annual Spring Conference—Longleaf Ecosystem Restoration and Management**
  April 21-23, 2010. Tallahassee, FL. To learn more and to register go to [http://www.fltws.org/](http://www.fltws.org/)

- **UF-IFAS Aquatic Weed Control Short Course**
  May 3-6, 2010 at Coral Spring Marriott Hotel, Coral Springs, FL. The Aquatic Weed Control Short Course is designed to benefit those new to the industry and experienced professionals seeking a comprehensive update on all things related to aquatic weed control. For more information go to [http://www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/aw/](http://www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/aw/)

**CFEOR Administration**

*Bill Cleckley, Northwest Florida Water Management District, Steering Committee Chair  
Tim Breault, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Steering Committee Vice-Chair*

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