Sawmill Slough Preserve at the University of North Florida
Presented by James Taylor
University of North Florida

- Established in 1972
- Located in Jacksonville, Fl.
- Situated on approximately 1400 acres
- Student population of about 16,500

UNF Environmental Center

- Created in 2004
- Support cross-disciplinary education and research related to the environment
- Coordinate and promote campus sustainability
- Works closely with Physical Facilities and Sustainability Committee
UNF Biological Sciences Building
Sawmill Slough Preserve

- 382 acres of preserve
- Rich biodiversity
- Diverse habitats
  - Basin swamp
  - Slough marsh
  - Wet flatwoods
  - Mesic flatwoods
  - Sandhill
  - Seepage stream
- Curator: Chuck Hubbuch, Assistant Director, UNF Physical Facilities
History of the Sawmill Slough Preserve

- Before UNF development, land used for timber and turpentine collection
- Sawmill Slough Conservation Club and professor Robert W. Lofton were instrumental in establishing nature trails
- Plans for road development lead to the preserve designation
- Established as a preserve in 2006 by UNF President John Delaney
Eco-Adventures: Recreation and Environmental Education
UNF Research and Coursework

Research

- Joseph Butler, Ph.D.
  - Gopher tortoise monitoring
- Anthony Rossi, Ph.D.
  - Hooded pitcher plant, turkey oak, bay trees
- Daniel Moon, Ph.D.
  - Hooded pitcher plant
- Kelly Smith, Ph.D.
  - Water quality monitoring, fish sampling
- Kerry Clark, Ph.D.
  - Ticks and Lyme disease

Coursework

- Fine arts
  - Students use preserve as a studio
  - Inspiration for photography
- Biology
  - Students collect water and soil samples
  - Gain field experience
- Other courses
  - Use campus as outdoor classroom
Campus Natural Assets Inventory (CNAI)

**History**
- Began as a personal project of the curator’s in 2006
- Funding to expand the project was provided by multiple grants through the Cummer Family Foundation
- Initial focus was on plant species; currently expanding species lists of animals and invertebrates on UNF campus

**Goals**
- Optimize the value of the preserve by developing a comprehensive species list
- Focus on creating more accessible educational materials related to nature
- Over 550 plant species were added to the campus inventory
  - 36+ plant species were vouchered for Duval County
Plants
Reptiles and Amphibians
Mammals
Future Plans

- Continuing maintenance and prescribed burn plan
- Expanding boundaries
- Enhancing signage
- Renovating boardwalks
- Promoting student involvement in research
- Branding the Sawmill Slough Preserve name
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• UNF Department of Biology
• Photos provided by
  — Justin Lemmons,
  — Chuck Hubbuch,
  — Cathy Murphy
  — Jake FitzRoy, Eco-Adventures
Resources

UNF Environmental Center
http://www.unf.edu/ecenter/

Sawmill Slough Preserve
http://www.unf.edu/physicalfacilities/Sawmill_Slough_Preserve.aspx

Campus Natural Assets Inventory
http://www.unf.edu/ecenter/Campus_Natural_Assets_Inventory.aspx

Eco-Adventures
https://www.unf.edu/recreation/ecoadventure/

Designation of Sawmill Slough Preserve

Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants

Robert W. Loftin Nature Trail Map
Contacts

James Taylor
Coordinator, UNF Environmental Center
j.taylor@unf.edu

Chuck Hubbuch
Curator, UNF Sawmill Slough Preserve
Assistant Director, UNF Physical Facilities, Landscape, and Grounds
chubbuch@unf.edu

Justin Lemmons
Ecologist, UNF Environmental Center
j.lemmons@unf.edu

Amy Costa
Assistant Director, UNF Eco Adventure
a.costa@unf.edu