



2011-2012 NRLI Information about the Program for Class XI

People often disagree over how our land and water resources should be used and managed. Disputes arise over such issues as endangered species, private property rights, wetlands, timber management, and water quality. People with a stake in these issues tend to focus on their disagreements rather than their common interests. What often follows is policy gridlock. Important decisions move from the meeting room, legislative and commission chamber to the courtroom. Typically, no one is happy with the outcome.

Our Goal

Gridlock is unnecessary. People involved in land, water and other natural resource disputes can reach mutually acceptable solutions by becoming more knowledgeable about public issues, communicating in a more meaningful and effective manner, opening the debate to include a broader range of stakeholders, and using negotiation skills to settle disagreements. NRLI was created to help rising leaders in business, agriculture, government, academia and the environmental community enhance the skills required to effectively *manage* conflict over natural resource issues.

Institute Fellows

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. They will be able to bring people together around issues, plan for change, and get things done in a principled way. 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.

The Program

NRLI is a nine-month long program that includes seven three-day seminar and activity sessions, a practicum, and a graduation session, eight sessions in all. In activity sessions, Institute Fellows study personal and group leadership skills, communication skills, and conflict management techniques, and learn about environmental issues, concepts and policy. Activity sessions also include tours of key natural resource sites around the state and discussions with managers, leaders, and policy-makers directly involved in natural resource issues. Fellows learn to delve into the science, policy, politics and perceptions behind natural resource issues and explore alternatives for addressing them. The practicum is a “real world” project through which NRLI Fellows apply skills and concepts learned in the program to actual conflict or leadership issues in their professional settings.

Each NRLI “content” session includes:

- Skill and concept training in leadership, communication, consensus-building and conflict management;
- Techniques and strategies for working with diverse groups of stakeholders
- A technical briefing by a qualified expert on the natural resource issue under study;
- An on-the-ground tour of the issue site;
- An open discussion with stakeholders representing various points of view on the issue;
- Facilitated discussion among class Fellows on lessons learned and questions raised or answered at the venue, and
- Directed work on individual practicum projects.

The Practicum

To make the Natural Resources Leadership Institute applicable to the work and experiences of participants, a practicum is built into the class sessions. In carrying out the practicum, participants will develop collaborative solutions and approaches to problems and issues impacting Florida’s natural resources. Working in groups or individually, participants will apply the skills and information gained through the program. At the graduation session Fellows present practicum project results to their classmates, receive their diplomas and interact with NRLI alumni from preceding classes.

Building Professional Networks

One of the most valuable aspects of NRLI is the relationship that class members develop with each other. Fellows enter the class expecting to encounter a group of people with an adversarial mix of values, ideas and goals regarding the use and protection of Florida’s natural resources. Despite differences in specific interests however, class members are pleased and a little surprised to discover that they are all in substantial agreement about the importance of natural resources in Florida and the need to protect them now for the future. During the course of NRLI training, class members develop deep friendships and invaluable working contacts that will prove extremely useful for years to come. Upon graduation, NRLI Fellows are able to pick up the phone and quickly contact a trusted colleague in government, agriculture, academia, the environmental community and the private sector from almost anywhere in the State.

Attendance and Participation

Graduation from the program is contingent on your involvement in all workshop sessions and the successful completion of a practicum project. Each 3-day workshop will begin at noon on a Thursday and end after lunch on Saturday. Fellows are expected to be present from the beginning of the first session to the end of the last session. The sessions will be held in different parts of the state to provide direct access to a variety of natural resource issues and settings. If a session is missed due to unexpected events, arrangements must be made to make up the missed work.

2011-2012 Schedule

The Institute intends to prepare its Fellows to deal constructively with the explosive growth that is taking place in Florida. The proposed session dates and broad issue themes for Class XI are as follows:

Location	Topic	Dates
Daytona Beach	<i>Sea Turtle Habitat Protection</i>	August 11-13
Wakulla Springs	<i>A Springs Restoration Planning Process</i>	September 8-10
Port St. Lucie	<i>The Treasure Coast—After the Boom</i>	October 13-15
Santa Rosa Beach	<i>Coastal Dune Lakes</i>	November 3-5
Key Largo	<i>The Impact of the Everglades on Florida Bay</i>	January 12-14
Ft. Myers Beach	<i>The Needs of Migrating Shore Birds</i>	February 9-11
Lake Placid	<i>The Value of Environmental Services Provided by Agriculture</i>	March 15-17
Gainesville	<i>Practicum Presentations and Graduation</i>	April 12-14

Registration Fees

There is no application fee. Submit your application form via e-mail or fax. You will be notified of acceptance.

Once accepted the registration fee for each participant is \$3,900 and must be submitted by August 1, 2011.

This fee covers meals, lodging, field trips, and instructional materials associated with the seven 3-day sessions of the Institute and the graduation. Participation in all Institute activities is mandatory and the applicant must be willing to devote the time to participate in this program as described in the application.

Make checks payable to: **The UF Leadership and Education Foundation.**

Mail To: **Florida Natural Resources Leadership Institute
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Questions: Call our office or refer to the NRLI website <http://nrli.ifas.ufl.edu>

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