

**Florida Native Plant Society**

Council of Chapters (Go-to-Meeting) Minutes

Created on: February 21st, 2016 by Scott Davis

**In Attendance: (9)**

1. Al Squires – Mangrove
2. Athena Philips - Citrus
3. Dave Feagles - Serenoa
4. Donna Bollenbach – Suncoast
5. \*Ellen Broderick Education Committee Chair (proxy)
6. Julie Becker - Tarflower
7. Juliet Rynear - Conservation Committee Chair
8. Richard BrownScombe – Coontie
9. Scott Davis – Magnolia

**Meeting begins at 18:30**

**18:30**

* **General Discussions: (Discussion earnestly begins at 18:42)**
* **Dave Feagles –** Seems that we have been having some communication issues with the email announcements for these online meetings. How many folks want to take a look at how to use the forum to post reports?
* **Dave Feagles –** (Instructs members of meeting how to use the forum)
* **Athena –** How do I sign-up for the forum? I am new to this, and I don’t even know where to retrieve a username.
* **Juliet Rynear –** I think you need to contact Shirley Denton
* **Richard Brownscombe –** Actually, I can do this for you, Athena.
* **Ellen Broderick –** I actually have two different login sets, for different types of accessibility.
* **Richard –** There are aspects of the forum that can only be revealed if you are logged-in. The one that is critical is the login window at the top of the page.
* **Richard:** Also, if you activate the “notify” icon, you will be email a notification when someone adds something new to a particular info feed.
* **Dave –**When you click “notify” on a topic, make sure it is a topic that you are interested in.
* **Dave –** We will demonstrate this at the retreat. I may not be at the retreat, as I am having a health issue – not sure yet. (Everybody wished him good luck.)
* **Dave –** I think that the council really needed to get itself organized, and we still haven’t. The chapters are still not connecting. Rather than trying to develop the initiatives (other than Richard’s), I think that we need to focus on more-fundamental problems::
* **Ellen –** I have a question about the last item on your list (Stay in touch (weekly) with your neighboring chapters.).
* **Juliet –** We need to compile all of the data that is floating around in our chapters – this is especially important since we don’t have an end-of-year report. We just sent out a survey to chapter presidents about yearly achievements (Sent a week earlier on 2/16)
* **Al –** I never got it.
* **Juliet –** It should have been sent by Cammie.
* **Ellen –** I don’t recall it either (I didn’t get it).
* **Dave –** Looks like it didn’t go out.
* **Al –** Who should we be sending our hours compilations to?
* **Juliet –** Please send them to me or Dave.
* **Julie –** I added a few tables to the existing online volunteer hours log.
* **Athena –** So a sheet will be emailed to us in the future?
* **Dave and Juliet –** Yes.
* **Ellen –** Dave, if you could post your teleconference discussion list (such as the one that you are showing us right now) to the forum beforehand, that would be helpful.
* **Dave –** Good Idea. Will do.
* **Dave –** I wanted to talk about effective letters to our politicians. Try to capture one or two talking points, keep them in simplified words, and try to capture it in a single paragraph. Also, we want the chapters to work to get their legislators out into the field in their districts with FNPS members. Partnering with state park friends groups is a good idea. We feel this is a good way to inspire them. These are al recommendations from our policy committee and lobbyist.
* **Ellen –** How do we partner FNPS with park friends groups?
* **Dave –** FNPS-Park Friends Partnerships have tremendous potential.
* **Julie Becker –** There are many great examples of this type of partnership in the state.
* **Ellen –** I am being deliberately-dense, because my chapter is running out of human resources. I need help figuring out how to execute this with a present deficit of volunteer-hours available.
* **Julie Becker –** Simply mentioning each other in your publications is a great way to start the potential partnership – things that highlight both names. Putting it on Facebook is a great thing, for example.
* **Al –** When local parks have events, getting involved or tabling is a great opportunity.
* **Richard –** We have been trying to establish a new team of invasive species removal volunteers to appeal to folks. This would already compliment a relationship that is already formed between the Coontie Chapter and Broward Parks.
* **Dave –** We have to keep pushing our legislators, as they are trying to prevent Florida Forever funding for a second year. Forming partnerships is very important.
* **Dave –** Please RSVP by 2/25 for the Board Retreat, as this is the deadline. I am concerned about the fact that many folks are not receiving my emails.
* **Dave –** The FNPS State Board wants to have hard copies of chapter publications (monthly newsletters, etc...) to demonstrate (table with) at the retreat and for future tabling events.
* **Al to Juliet –** By the way – Welcome Aboard!!
* **Juliet –** Thank You!
* **Dave –** As for the nominating committee, we haven’t created a slate of new potential council leaders (for election) yet. Scott, you mentioned that you had someone lined-up to be the potential secretary – how is that going.
* **Scott –** The individual is interested, and right now we are working through the democratic process of electing her as the Magnolia Chapter Representative, as this is a prerequisite to being on the council.
* **Dave –** Bring her to the retreat!
* **Dave –** Other pertinent items discussed at the state-board meeting pertained to the need for a landscaping committee chair, the dilemma over the donor policy,
* **Julie -** The conservation committee has been approached by FIU to research the cryogenic potential for rare species. I made a motion to receive state-board blessing for this.
* **Dave –** Also, Ina Crawford assumes the role of VP of Admin, and bylaw language for proxy use could change.
* **Juliet –** You should receive a new (updated) email for the nomination process for landscape awards this week.
* **Dave –** Off-topic, the California Native Plant Society has a different (and successful) organizational paradigm to FNPS, and the Council IS the Society, complete with a 1-million dollar budget, and successful lawsuits.
* **Ellen –** It would be interesting to understand how they grew to be as well-organized as they are are.
* **Dave –** They are organized according to interests, and not according to region

**19:50 - ADJOURNED**