



Florida Native Plant Society
Council of Chapters Meeting 2/11/16 Minutes
Created on 2/22/16 by Nicole Zampieri
In-person meeting at Gold Head Branch State Park

Dave Feagles called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM

In attendance (31)

Dave Feagles – Chair (Serenoa)
Donna Bollenbach – Vice Chair (Suncoast)
Nicole Zampieri – Secretary (Magnolia)
Catherine Bowman – FNPS President
(Tarflower)
Juliet Rynear – Executive Assistant
(Heartland)
Anne Cox – Past President (Cocoplum)
Richard Brownscombe (Broward)
Al Squires (Mangrove)
Ginny Stibolt (Ixia)
Greg Thomas (Heartland)
Gail Parsons (Nature Coast)
Miki Renner (Hernando)
Wendy Poag (Lake Beautyberry)
Julie Becker (Tarflower)

Athena Phillips (Citrus)
Gail Taylor (Citrus)
Neta Villalobos-Bell (Cuplet Fern)
David Martin (Eugenia)
Patricia Burgos (Lake Beautyberry)
Carol Spears (The Villages)
Martha Steuart (Conradina)
Lucy Keshavarz (Palm Beach)
Susan Knapp (Passionflower)
Jon Pospisil (Passionflower)
Sonya Guidry (Pawpaw)
Sandi Saurers (Paynes Prairie)
Jeannie Brodhead (Sarracenia)
Alex Farr (Sea Oats)
Judy Zinn (Sea Oats)
Carol Sullivan (Sparkleberry)
Ina Crawford (Sweetbay)

I. Introductions

- Dave – are there any new chapter representatives or anyone who has never been here before?
- Susan Knapp – Passionflower
- Lucy Keshevar – Palm Beach county
- Dave – so what do you think? I was impressed with some of the presentations. I missed this morning, but I was really pleased with what I saw this afternoon I think the society is a wonderful group of people here. The chapter reps have really done good job. I was surprised with the amount of inquiries that have been made on the forum, it was much more than before. We are on track we are improving, and we still have a ways to go. The minutes were posted late last night so I am sure you haven't had a chance to review them. Actually I haven't had a chance to review them myself. But, they are there [on the council

website - <http://council.fnpschapters.org/>] If you have any comments or questions send them to me [FeaglesD@msn.com]. They are posted to the council website.

II. Nominating committee

- Dave – It is to my understanding that there has been one name turned up, but they are continuing to search. Trying to find replacements for the 3 positions from a group of 38 people, with less than 30 participating, is a small pool to choose from. But we can pull from the larger membership. My suggestion is if we have found someone who is willing, we could simply ask that chapter if they would allow that person to become the chapter rep. This would be how to staff the position from a larger audience. Does anyone see a problem with that?
- Carol Spears - No I don't see a problem with that. But I just wanted to let you know the one person we have come up with has agreed that she is willing to do the job. I don't know what your timeline is as to if we have a yes are we ready to make that happen? Or do you want us to continue to search for names?
- Dave – That would be up to you. If you are satisfied with the progress you have made, then we can put that name up and we will go through the voting procedure and we can make it official by the time of the conference.
- Ginny – I think it might be easier to fill the position if the board rep was somebody different than the director. So the director job is big enough without also being the board. maybe the vice could be the rep, somebody at large, so it is not such a big job.
- Dave – I think that might require a change in the bylaws
- Ginny – well I know but lets just plant the seed there that it might be easier to find someone if it wasn't both of those.
- Unknown - it might be a good idea to change the bylaws you know if a chapter has all kinds of things for their chapter rep to do that maybe they wouldn't want that person to also be managing the council thing. Maybe we should change it so that the three officers weren't even the chapter reps necessarily.
- Dave – I think that is worth considering. My own thought was one of the reasons to have that person as director be a chapter rep is so that they would be settled with the same responsibilities that we were asking the chapter rep to handle. And they can see right upfront whether or not it was a problem the way we were doing things or if they needed to be adjusted.
- Carol – Can voting be done by email? Or do you want us ... because we won't meet face to face again before the conference?
- Dave – there will be another gotomeeting but not another face to face before the conference. The procedure for doing this voting is something Richard laid out for us very clearly, it is in the standard operating procedure. It needs to be done online. But there is a special place to do it online. Not something you will have to do just something that when you have the name we will have it set up and then all the chapter reps will vote.
- Carol – and there is also a co-chair, correct?
- Dave – Yes it is an assistant, vice chair
- Carol – so we have to make sure we have both? A chair and a vice chair?
- Dave – the vice chair is Donna at this time. She will continue for another year. We staggered them so that it wouldn't have to be done at one time. Next year we may have to replace the vice chair and the secretary.

- Richard – just so people who don't understand there are three officers in the council, the chair, the vice chair, and the secretary who attend all the board meetings.
- Al – and those people also represent us on the executive board.
- Dave – and we do allow proxies. So anything else on that issue?
- Julie – I do think with the discussions we have had it is time for us in the next year to look at the SOP and a couple issues on the regular bylaws to see if we need to tweak a couple of things now that we have worked with them. But I don't want to make it into a huge project. So some time in the next few months we all need to read them.
- Dave – I was gonna make that suggestion myself. It is time for us to read through the SOP and collect comments in a central place. **There will be a place created within the COC for suggestions regarding the SOP or complete changes of procedure will be noted there.** Those final considerations would not be made this year, they would be made the following year. This is because of how long it takes to change the bylaws. The changes within the COC we can go forward ourselves.
- Richard – where are the SOP?
- Juliet- Wiki
- Richard – on the council site. How do you find the council site? Look at the footer of any FNPS page, it says council of chapters. It will take you to the council site. You might want to bookmark it.
- Miki – so is the wiki the same?
- Juliet – no, all those links are available at the bottom
- Miki – but the SOP? Is it on the wiki and the council page?
- Al – chapter bylaws?
- Richard – They may be linked. On the council there are tabs at the top and one says how to and when you click it open it says SOP. And a whole bunch of other information.
- Dave – in the footer of the FNPS page. Go to the bottom of the FNPS page. Forum and Council are linked there. The forum is not something you need to go into in order to look at the council of chapter.
- Juliet – At the bottom of every web page is that footer with links to the forum, which is interactive, with a lot of documents such as the powerpoints, meeting minutes, agenda. But in terms of how the society operates, and the annual society calendar, that's in the wiki. And a link to that is in the footer.
- Donna – and if you go to the council of chapters you can go to directly there, and then you go to "How to" will show you the SOP for the council. And I am assuming the bylaws would be there.
- Dave – I wish we could be showing you this stuff at this time but we have no wifi.
- Martha - We have those three positions staggered. So what are we voting for?
- Dave – only my position is up. There is only the one. Chair.
- Martha – so we have the possibility of voting on 2 positions but not all 3?
- Dave – yes, but this time it is only for the chair.
- Juliet – at the last council meeting the request was made to have some kind of a workshop or training session before the BOD meeting for the council, so I have blocked out an hour. I think it is 3:30-4:30, and that should give enough time for people who are on field trips to go to both.
- Dave – why are you telling me? I won't be director at that time
- Juliet – Yes you will be, on Thursday you will still be the Council director

- Dave – It is when the vote finishes? the SOP seems to suggest that once the voting has been held that person will become the director.
- Unknown – The election is finished, we know who it is, but the official turnover is at the annual meeting at the conference.
- Dave – would it be in the business meeting?
- Julie – once the election is finished it goes to the BOD. The official turnover is at the annual meeting on Saturday.
- Dave – it will be at the membership meeting?
- Ina – I think there is approval at that meeting
- Unknown - it's a formality. It's on Saturday
- Dave - I thought the council acted independently enough that they didn't need approval
- Juliet – It is not the BOD it is the entire membership.
- Dave – I will have to read the bylaws. I didn't know it was intended that way. I was modeling it more after the way the California native plant society works. Their council is completely independent of the board.
- Anne Cox – This council is not independent from the board. Directors are voted on by the membership at the membership meeting. The position, the three directors from the council of chapters are directors of the society. You are directors, voted in by the membership at the meeting that is usually on that Saturday.
- Dave – I can see it that way. I don't think it will be a problem. That wasn't my understanding.
- Julie – Well this is only the second election. We are still working out the kinks. Take a deep breath and we will figure it out.
- Richard – are we nominating?
- Carol – we have a committee and will have to talk again and we will do it online
- Julie – are you willing to do the election stuff?
- Richard – yes
- Al – one reminder everybody has to have their chapter rep passwords to vote. Make sure you see Shirley if you don't have one.
- Julie – if you can't go online, and go down to the very bottom on the login at the very bottom which allows you to look at the membership list, which is the FNPS log in and your forum log in, if you don't have that – or is it just the forum login?
- Richard – just the forum log in
- Julie – if you can't log in to the forum, you can't vote. So make sure your log in is good.

III. Brochures

- Dave – so the brochures have been printed. So thank you. There was an enormous amount of effort that has gone into it. It has been a long process and I am very pleased with the outcomes. I haven't seen all the other regions.
- Al – see Richard before you leave he has a packet for you
- Dave – There are a few things... The distribution of the brochures as I understand will make it to the panhandle this weekend.
- Jeannie – Scott and Nicole are picking them up and then we will get ours .
- Dave – as far as I know that is the last detail and then all of the chapters will have their copies of the brochure. Has anyone received any bad input for the brochures?
- Richard – we don't want to hear that.

- Dave – I am very pleased with the product. And the people I have presented it to have said “oh yeah this is exactly what we needed”. They haven’t had a chance to read through all the text but the fact that the plants are there with photos and they know if they are shade or sun or wet or whatever is nice, and it’s a nice product.
- Donna – When you weren’t here this morning one of the points we made was that the brochures currently are at the first step, and that it is an educational tool and we need to develop programs around it for educational purposes. This type of information, what we want to make it to be used as an educational tool and go further with it. We talked about laminating them. I wrote a “COC” next to a bunch of little things we have brought up. When you are ready I will reiterate a couple things when you are ready that we talked about. Just letting you know we did mention that this is just the first step. It is a tool that will be used to create more out reach.
- Dave – so now that it is out there and we have spent a large piece of change trying to get it printed and available for distribution, we would like to be able to sustain them and continue to reprint them. There was some talk about selling them. Some of the chapters can afford to buy them directly and give them away and in the future do a reprint. What do you all think? Do you think a buck is appropriate?
- [various yeses]
- Donna – We are
- Richard – Just so you know since you weren’t here, we talked about this earlier so we have already touched a lot of these. There were 6 items or so that came out of this discussion. Donna has the ones that we need to follow up on.
- Dave - I thought this would be a major piece of what we would talk about during this meeting.
- Richard – Each chapter is doing there own thing with donations. Donna has points to bring back. I have one just to clarify I said Cindy Liberton(?) had an InDesign template to use for local chapters. This is copyrighted by the society [the regional brochures]. So it is perfectly appropriate to use the template to make their own brochure. It is not appropriate to use the template to reproduce this [current brochure]. This is part of the branding, the size, the branding, this is the societies property.
- Miki – what would make it different?
- Richard – you would choose the plants for your chapter/county, and your chapter name would be on it. Imitate it as if it was the society, but change the colors enough. The template is also a different size. It will be folded differently. Those are things that distinguish it
- Miki – So the plants will be different, size, etc.
- Donna – I wouldn’t say the colors have to be different. It should have the same look. IT will have to have different fold. Same look, but tailor it to have a different set of plants that are unique to your county, if you even want to do that.
- Richard – to me that’s the wonderful thing about the chapter. You know Carol Sullivan and I live in very different parts of the state, and work with very different types of people in the public, and that’s a good thing. That’s the opportunity of taking the template and doing something that makes sense.
- Donna – I did find my notes. **We want to create a powerpoint of the brochures.** Was that gonna be over all a presentation of six different regions?
- Wendy – no when Pat and I try to tackle it, we are gonna do it with our public lands presentation, by May 7th. Ours will be for our own county.
- Donna – so it will be a county wide template

- Wendy – We are only gonna cover our region
- Donna – and then we can fill it in per region
- Wendy – We will work on that.
- Donna – Some of the best ideas we had were it was only about \$6 to laminate it at office depot.
- Al – We got our laminated with holes for grommets to hang it up on our table. One with a space to weigh it down without covering pictures on the table. It was under \$13 for two of them.
- Donna – That’s a great price. I thought it would be a lot more. I think everyone should have a lamination or two so you can display both sides. The other thing was the sticker which Mangrove has already done, which they put it on their back cover. They put information about their meetings, it is just great, I showed the other place inside where you can put more information. I think we all need to do this. So that with a donation they can get our ad.
- Al – were you the one that mentioned a company that does it for cheap?
- Richard – yes for cheap from uprinting.com. 2000 of them cost \$51 plus shipping.
- Donna – I would look on vista print
- Richard – I did and they would be \$300
- Wendy – Can we take that template, like the whole back side, and get it to a sign company who could then put it on an easel for our events? Like one whole side?
- Donna – **I could provide you with a full sized pdf**
- Wendy – so we can get it and reproduce it on a hard board?
- Juliet – It depends on the copyright logo, is it on the back page?
- Donna – it does have the copyright on it
- Richard – it is copyrighted on the side with plant photos
- Juliet – Thank you somebody for looking
- Wendy – the plant page is what we want to attract the public
- Juliet – it would be nice to have our logo on it
- Wendy – That is why I am asking is it okay to print just that side?
- Donna – Yes I can make it a little bit smaller.
- Wendy – I can reproduce it with the logo on the bottom.
- Richard - The other thing is when you have only published the back side of it you are not telling it is a regional plant list. Which is why I held it up to show. You could reprint it with the cover sheet with three panels with our logo and region. [Richard demonstrated with the brochure in hand, to use the panel with the logo, region name, and description and append it to the bottom three panels of just plant pictures]
- **Wendy - If I could have a file for that that would be perfect**
- Dave – can that be done without a whole lot of work for you Donna?
- **Donna – It would be easy for me to do. I can just cut and paste that on a pdf.**
- Carol – Just a logistical thing... I teach for a nonprofit and when I print each years curriculum, I have to have a letter from that nonprofit to reprint it since it has the copyright. **We might have to have a letter of permission to reprint them.**
- **Juliet – Good point. I can work on that.**
- **Donna – I can look up standard sizes for this type of thing and fit it nicely on standard page.**
- Julie – Yeah because if that works it would be easy for any event to have that poster sized one

- Dave - I would make the same suggestion that it is important for us to have our logo... I would like to have a bunch of those printed and then given to people to put up on their walls such as fish and wildlife and county commissions and native nurseries.
- Donna – I got it. I can make a banner.
- Dave – there are lots of places to put it.

IV. Native Gardening Activities

- Dave - We had raised the question at the last meeting about chapter gardening activities. At my chapter occasionally we help up with cleanup but that is not a gardening activity, its maintenance. The gardening activity would be that we actually offer grants, we have done some interesting things including an experiment to see if we can bring back some old live oaks, because it was just left to go to ruin. So they are doing some special root treatments. These are special activities scattered across the state. Some of the chapters have gardens they are maintaining for public view. So we want to collect all that information. On the forum under council of chapters.
- Miki – is it the webpage or the forum?
- Donna – It is on the forum
- Ginny – It has to be the forum first and then it will be collected and put on the webpage
- Dave – Right now I have received 8 responses, 4 were questions on how to move forward and some said we have some gardens and we will give you information later. Some came directly to me instead of posting. We have a long ways to go in this effort. It seems to me like a particularly good thing to do so we can say to someone if you are gonna be up in this area, you should check out so-and-so garden. This eventually should be on the FNPS website.
- Alex – We received a grant from the FL Wildflower Foundation to start a native plant garden a public one and we are fortunate enough to be able to partner with them, which is located in downtown St. Augustine. I wanted to post but I was not quire sure on what you were looking for?
- Donna – yes we need to be more clear on what we are asking, and give them guidelines. Name? location? Type of garden? What kinds of plants? Is it butterfly? That kind of thing. We need to have some kind of information so that people know what we are looking for
- Dave – at this point we are just looking for information to lead us to the right questions of what we are looking for. The more information the better. It is great to know you are partnering with these other agencies, that is important. We had a garden that we were maintaining in Sarasota. I went by there after I learned about it and I was amazed we had Australian pines, Brazilian pepper, it was pretty impressive. I yanked a bunch of stuff out of it but the maintenance is a whole other issue. Who is maintaining it? Is watering required? We are just trying to collect enough information to know how to move forward with this initiative.
- Athena – I am glad you brought it up because after the meeting I have had some ideas but my area happens to have some existing native landscaping and gardens outside of what we do, the county has done some and things like that, there is only so much we can do at the chapter level, so if we could encourage more organizations and things like that to do those that would be great. It occurred to me our library has all native landscaping, but it is not classified as a garden without signage. We may approach places that have native landscaping and let them know that we will pay for the signage.
- Donna – as long as they are maintaining it

- Athena- the other thing that came up with the template is to encourage places to do that is that we should come up with something like this but for businesses. Stuff that is not gonna die on them. I think that's doable with the postoffice. I approached our post office if you are interested we already have a list of plants for our county. It wouldn't have happened if you hadn't brought it up at the last meeting.
- Dave – There are so many challenges associated with these gardens.
- Al – 2014 we received a landscape award for ours so that is what we are gonna submit, and we have since then put in a rain garden. We have on our website a listing of native plant gardens for people to go to. The state society has it. It was mentioned this morning it might be out of date. I was wondering if it might be a great idea for chapters to go and look at these gardens and see if they really should stay on the list or not. If we divide them up it shouldn't be a burden.
- Unknown – I think it is very short.
- Al – the interesting thing too is that several years ago charlotte counties environmental building had native plants, then someone decided they weren't pretty enough and put in exotics. We now have new people down there and they had the master gardener people and naturalist people remove all those plants and put back natives
- Juliet – I would like to talk about the terminology. WE have a landscape committee, chair, and awards. We are promoting native landscaping as a way to educate, to have regionally appropriate plants, to get people better connected with what we want to preserve and conserve out there. I feel uncomfortable when everybody just calls it gardens. There are a lot of different kinds: FL Friendly that don't use all natives, when you use the terms gardening, you are more likely to have issues like that. If you stick to FL native landscaping with intent and purpose to provide habitat for wildlife and pollinators, to be regionally appropriate, to bring back natural Florida, that is in support of our mission, whereas gardening is not.
- Miki – we have a garden inside a local botanical garden.
- Juliet – I realize those type of demonstration gardens exist. Some at natural areas where they have like wheel chair accessible examples of what you find in the wild, in the preserve
- Dave – I think your point is a good one. It seems to me the solution sits with what signage exists with the garden.
- Gail Parsons – Are you saying that landscaping implies broader than gardening? In other words it is for nature purposes, butterflies, birds, and others
- Juliet – in service of our mission it has to be much greater than gardening
- Dave – gardening is just about putting a plant in the ground and saying oh look there is a plant in the ground. Landscaping is more purposeful
- Juliet – Landscaping is more purposeful, with intent, a plan
- Ginny – The Ixia chapter took over one of Jacksonvilles small parks about .25 acres in between three roads. It is called native park, but it was filled with exotics. We adopted the park and we maintain it once a month. It has one awards, it is not very large but it is large enough that our plant sale along with some big city event is there. So that it is a whole procedure. After the COC meeting I put a link on our FB page about that project that I wrote a blog for that I wrote about a long time ago. It has been an ongoing project. Some people have walked out there while they have been working and handed them checks. It has been an amazing outreach kind of thing cause there is always someone there once a month maintaining it. Recently we had a problem that apparently the bus company in JAX has

rights to a part of the property, and they put in a bus stop again. They pulled out some of the native plants and put in St. Augustine grass. They pulled out some Muhly grass.

- Juliet – did they plant it somewhere else?
- Ginny – well our former president worked with the city and the bus company and they took the grass out. The problem is when working with a property like that, then all these people have access to it you are gonna have to work with all these people, and you can't get angry. And I don't know how to fill out the forum, except to link to a blog I already wrote, but I think there should be a set a questions so that we know how to put the answer.
- Dave – we are so early in the process that we have to develop that questionnaire.
- Susan – Food for thought in terms of plots for land, especially for people in urban areas, if we could partner with funeral homes and cemeteries. Some of the wonderful places where we could put native plants in urban areas are in old cemeteries. Especially those that are weedy and overgrown. I've always thought this was a great initiative. I have now learned some of the older cemeteries are being turned into an arboretum with all of their trees, then they can qualify for a grant to clean up an old cemetery. The problem is they want pretty things, crape myrtles and exotics, and azaleas and things like that. If we can push for education to pick up native plants in that landscape, or maybe come up with some kind some kind of percentage where we can work with them and partner and develop a piece of land and maybe we won't get as much flack because it's a cemetery, not as many people to complain.
- Donna – You have to recognize that those people may not come to you before doing this. I will tell you Suncoast sometimes does get requests from businesses and places would like to plant natives. And we are short on people who can do the labor. We try to go out and look at what they have, now we have the brochure, and then we say here you can apply for a grant from us. Some don't and some want someone to do the labor so they never contact us again. Unfortunately we can't because we don't have those people, and we miss out on some of those opportunities. It definitely is us landscaping. If it's a plot within a landscape it would be okay to call it a garden
- Juliet – a demonstration garden
- Donna – We have some that are so small we wouldn't want them on a state list so that someone would visit it to see something tiny. We do have one at Plant City community garden where some people grow vegetables, but the whole garden was a training garden for UF. And now we have adopted the native plant section and a section next to it. We have started to eye the next sections. We hope that someday this will be a showcase garden in Hillsborough. We are trying to develop that. We have a community garden for sustainability. We want natives in the whole area. We have one a Lettuce Lake, which is a county park, and we do native plant walks once a month, and we have a native plant garden, and we have three others that are taken care of by individuals, and they are really small gardens in front of county parks. I like your idea of the businesses, if we had a package we could send them that would be great.
- Athena – Small container gardens, I completely disagree with you. If we know people like that we should include them, because if we want to reach out to more youthful people, people who don't have homes or land to plant natives, that should be a category for young people with small spaces or no land. There are people who want to see small container gardens it would be a good idea to list them.
- Donna – I can see that, at least categorizing them.

- Gail Parsons – You mentioned grants, I've been hearing a lot about grants. I would love to know by show of hands how many representatives have chapters who give grants for gardens.
- [8 people raised hand]
- Gail – We give a grant also. I was thinking about the cemetery, and other places. If you want to give a packet to them you might offer them a grant. And let them know that the criteria are it has to be native plants. Something like that, because that's what we do.
- Dave – as much as I would like to go on, our time is up.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:07 P.M.