



Florida Native Plant Society
Council of Chapters Meeting 01/29/2017 Minutes
Created on 02/10/17 by Nicole Zampieri

In attendance (18):

Dave Feagles – Chair (Serenoa)
Donna Bollenbach – Vice-chair (Suncoast)
Nicole Zampieri – Secretary (Magnolia)
Eric Bishop-von Wettberg (Dade)
Al Squires (Mangrove)
Ginny Stibolt (Ixia)
Greg Thomas (Heartland)
Jan Allyn (Pinellas)
Jeannie Brodhead (Sarracenia)
Juliet Rynear (Heartland)
Susan Knapp (Passionflower)
David Martin (Eugenia)
Athena Phillips (Citrus)
Ben Johnson (Coccoloba)
Julie Becker (Tarflower)
Gail Parsons (Nature Coast)
Ina Crawford (Sweetbay)
Jodie Wood Putnam (Sweetbay)
Sonya Guidry (Pawpaw)

Dave Feagles called the meeting to order 6:40

I. Introduction

- Dave – So for our first order of business do we have any new chapter reps?
- Eric – Dade chapter
- Susan– from the Passionflower
- Jodie – Sweetbay
- Greg – This is Greg with a quick question, I'm not new this is my second gotomeeting. Are we just supposed to look at the home page of the council of chapters or am I supposed to go to another screen?
- Donna – that's what we are all seeing

- Dave – I see there are chapter reports thank you all for doing that. For those who are new, under council of chapters I went to meetings and that's how you find the information on

how to get to this meeting. And then the chapters have appended their chapter reports. And that's an easy process.

- *Dave went through the steps on posting a reply for your chapter report. Log in to the Forum, access the thread with the gotomeeting posted under council of chapters > meetings. Press the blue plus box and hit reply. Then type or attach your reply. *
- Dave – it is really great to know what is going on with the chapters.
- Al - Do you want us to post updates for the meeting on the 10?
- Dave - Ideally the information should be posted 3 or 4 days in advance so that we can review.
- Al- there is no wifi at the retreat
- Dave – in addition, we also have the agenda here
*Dave pulled up agenda on screen
- Dave – this is what we are talking about today. Can everybody see that? Was this clear enough to the new people how to do this and what we expect?
- Julie – yes good job.
- Dave – new people was it clear?
- Julie Becker – Maybe you should post instructions in case anyone didn't want to ask.

II. Landscape Brochure Distribution

- Dave – the distribution should have occurred by now. Is there anybody who still has not received them?
- Greg - I am gonna get Heartland brochures from Juliet at the February meeting.
- Unknown - Tarflower was a big distribution point and they did come. I presume they have been distributed.
- Donna – I can say all brochures should have been delivered to their distribution points but I do not know if all the chapters have received them.
- Unknown- the Northeast is completely delivered to the chapter
- Jeannie – We are waiting for Nicole to let us know they are in Tallahassee and I will pick up Sarracenia's and also Longleaf .
- Dave – Nicole have they been received in Tallahassee yet?
- Athena – I believe Nicole was trying to adjust her audio
- Dave – OK I will get back to that question. So as far as we know they have all been distributed. Has everyone been able to look at them? And see if they meet our needs?
- Ginny – The Ixia chapter has decided to put stickers on the brochures to have all our information as well as the state information.
- Donna – That's great. That was the intent to that one blank spot and the back cover too if you wanted.
- Athena – I haven't seen the brochures yet, my president said she was going to pick them up. but we have a board meeting Tuesday to see them. Just a note to Dave Nicole posted a message in chat.
- Jodie – I don't know who may have gotten them or not but I haven't seen them either.
- Susan – We are in receipt of the brochures thanks to Juliet Rynear. A warning if you have a box in your trunk it does smell like the inside of a pumpkin due to the vegetable ink.
- Al Squires- We received ours thanks to a good person that met me at i75. I like the idea of attaching a sticker we are gonna be looking into that too. But we have already had a member take them to their home owners association.

- Dave – Very good. The message from Nicole says the brochures are supposed to be picked up in Gainesville but they have not made it there yet.
- Donna – As far as I know that would have been from Devon, and I thought that was all arranged that they were coming to get them. Someone was gonna drive down and pick them. As far as whether they did or not to be honest I don't really know.
- Al – Warning those boxes are heavy.
- Nicole – I've been talking to Richard the brochures are supposed to make it to Gainesville and the Villages. They know I am waiting for them. I am not sure what the hold up is but I will get them.
- Juliet – maybe they will bring them to the retreat
- Donna – anything left over is supposed to be brought to the retreat
- Dave – People at the distribution points have that information
- Donna – Richard is the one who has all that information. But he is not on our call today.
- Dave – well I guess this is as far as we can go
- Al – To Juliet: do you know if at the retreat there will be extra boxes of FL gardener brochures?
- Juliet – I don't know do you need more? Let me see what I can do
- Ginny – Ixia would like at least one more box
- Donna – Do you know if FANN gives any to the extension center?
- Juliet – I don't know but I will ask

III. Nominating committee progress

- Dave – moving along the next thing is nominating committee progress.
- Julie Becker – As far as I know we are still working on it. We did have one name but we were trying to get a couple more. One of the difficulties that has come up is something we might need to look at, is that the current SOP rules might be the nominations could come from the chapter reps and presidents but sometimes the concept of any warm interested body – we are breaking our own rules. We might need to think about that. Maybe for a future agenda we should look at our SOP. Every 3 or 4 years we need to adjust X Y and Z?
- Donna – Can we take nominations during the retreat?
- Julie – I think that would be a great idea face to face would be good.
- Donna – and all the chapters would be there.
- Dave – the only idea I have had with someone who is not currently president or chapter rep is that if there is somebody who would like to do it we would just ask for them to arrange in their chapter to become the chapter rep. That would be the simple way to handle it. I would be surprised if the person who is currently chapter rep would object.
- Donna – we just want someone who is interested and an active member. Sometimes it turns out that that is not the chapter rep.
- Dave – If there is someone who would like to do it, then we could just ask for them to arrange within their chapter to become the chapter way. I don't think that would be a problem. that's the only way I saw to get around it. So theres been progress that's good. I am glad to hear there is one name under consideration.
- Al – I am sure Dave is relieved because I think the instructions are that he is to serve until someones been elected.
- Dave – maybe I ought to look at the SOP myself. That suggestion was made. I think it will be time to have a couple people review it and see where adjustments might be made. But that's for the future.

IV. Chapter Gardening Activities

- Dave – I got a request from Linda Smith. She is unable to attend the meeting but she wants to know how many of the chapters have native gardens. How are they doing after time? Are they funded? Maintained? Response to the public? Adopted by parks and schools? This seems to me like it would be a good time to try to collate our information and our successes and failures. I know here in the Serenoa chapter we have put a bunch of gardens in at schools and the likes, which have come to a variety of unfortunate ends. One of the unfortunate ends was that one of the gardens was simply mowed over in the summer. End of garden. It's a problem for us to actually create these opportunities. I don't have any public feedback from the gardens we have put out, usually some from the teachers but not from any one else. What have some of your experiences been like?
- Al – We have our major butterfly demonstration garden at the park and during the summer both members of cedar point and the chapters work on maintaining it. Been about 5 years. Two years ago we established a water garden and now we are expanding the demonstration garden. They are doing well. Recently we had a gold and country club decide they wanted to do some native plantings and one of our members worked with them and created a small demonstration area. They had a big ribbon cutting of it.
- Julie – Tarflower chapter has participated in a couple of public gardens one was a really big one, but I think it was a state wide one at Turkey Lake park. That seems to be doing fairly well, I haven't heard lately, but they have had some success with some rare species. We sponsor a garden in winter park and they are working with the garden and the city to put more natives in and less of the specimen plants because it was a botanical garden to begin with. We have a couple of sections we have planted with money we have earned from Backyard Biodiversity day. They are high pine and scrub areas, we have a gopher tortoise burrow in there that had a baby. We do have volunteers go out and weed it. Some people don't care about it, and some think it's a great idea. We control invasives and are working on a plan for the wetlands. We have a butterfly demonstration garden. We have several projects. Usually the butterfly gardens get a lot of response. Some of the rest of the stuff people just don't notice.
- Donna – Suncoast has 5 different native gardens that they are taking care of. I will admit out of those 5, 3 are taken care of by individual members., who keep them up to date I do get volunteer reports from them with volunteer hours and to my understanding they are in good condition. We do give them money to buy plants, we put money in our budget to pay for plants. One of them is at Lettuce Lake which is one of the central parks in the area. We have native plants walk every month. We have one brand new one in plant city, which was owned by UF, they had started it as a teaching garden and abandoned it. So the plant city community gardens took it over and we have adopted the native plant and an area adjacent to the native area. We have removed invasives and planted natives. We hope to make it a showcase for native plants in Hillsborough county. There are lots of native trees. It has the potential to be a true botanical garden and we are trying to influence them to go completely native.
- Sonya – Our chapter is maintaining a native section of what they call a park of honor in exchange for meeting at a community center in south Daytona. We have had issues with it such as a hurricane come through it. We have now said every Monday after our meetings we have people meet at 9 AM to maintain it. That one we consistently do. There are other older parks that have gone by the wayside. We had one at a beach, a former member that

is now deceased was an old custodian at this place, I have assumed the custodial issue for that by going around and weeding. Those are two things that Pawpaw chapter does.

- Dave – The question in my mind is where should we take this? Does this sound like something the council of chapter should? It would be useful in documenting what's there. And also we should be able to make suggestions for how to handle issues associated with maintenance, species selection and the like. Where should we go? It seems to me like a valid thing for the council to approach.
- Al – I did forget to mention the lighthouse at a state park has a small native garden. As far as your question I think the best way to handle it is to have each chapter send an email to someone to put all our ideas together.
- Dave – yes this is how I was going to approach it, by making a topic in the forum and ask people to post.
- Al – We have an interesting way of getting money for plants – all of our donations go to maintain a \$200 fund for buying plants. Anything above \$200 goes to the chapter. So they have a sustainable fund of \$200 to buy plants.
- Jan – Is FNPS going to continue to maintain the wiki? Is that a place this information could go? Have we found someone to update it? I was once tasked with it and couldn't do it. It seems like these kind of activities commonly undertaken by chapters could be put on there.
- Dave – I think once we have compiled the information and have it collated we will be in a better position to do that.
- Athena – Just this last year I also discovered on FNPS website there is a map of all the native gardens.
- Donna – I think that needs to be updated because we do not have our information on that map. I like the idea – just wanted to throw out there – one of the things we were gonna do at our new garden is using the brochure as a talking point and we are going in front of our garden using the brochure. And we hope that at that garden we hope to be having workshops in native plant landscaping where they can see the plant in the ground, and have a workshop on using them, purchasing them, overall native plant landscaping. That would be one part of what you are discussing.
- Al – we took advantage of our county extension agents, when we put in our water garden they came out and did a whole presentation using ours. They love to have public meetings, they found with FNPS and cedar point sponsoring it they had more people there.
- Ginny – The Ixia chapter adopted a park in Jacksonville called “native park” that was done a long time ago, but was filled with exotics. We have taken out the exotics. It is a small park in a triangle between 3 roads. We have signage and our plant sale that goes along with the whole event in Jacksonville, and we have it at the native park. We have had people in the neighborhood participate even though they are not members. Sometimes they donate. A couple of weeks ago it turned out that the bus company for Jacksonville actually has rights to this park, and they took out some plants because they are gonna reinstate it as a bus stop. I have talked to a lot of people and seen other chapters native gardens, and I think we really need to work on outreach. I know one chapter had a garden at a library and they did not keep up with it and the library just took it out. There are a lot of challenges with outreach that we need to include somehow in what we are gonna do.
- Dave – does that suggestion of compiling successes and challenges sound like a reasonable idea at this stage?
- *various yeses*
- Dave – anybody have any suggestions?

- Unknown – what about the wiki? Suggesting updating?
- Dave – I think that is further on.
- Donna – I think once we start getting data, information in, see how much we have, look at whether we have pictures or what will help us decide how to collate and organize it and decide where to put. Presumably if we can't do it on the wiki we can put it on the website or something.
- Al – I noticed on the agenda for the 11th they have from 2:45-3:45 using social media to communicate. Wondering if we could ask them if the board is doing anything that we are looking at?
- Juliet – Right now I have been working on creating a new webpage for the website with Shirley. What we would like to highlight is more examples of how we are fulfilling our mission. Originally it was just habitat restoration, but Shirley thinks this is way broader than that. Conservation, citizen science. The more information we can put on this page the better. This would be a really good example. We have FL friendly gardens, pollinator gardens, rain gardens, there are so many things we can be highlighting.
- Donna – I am working on the same presentation that Al talked about with Juliet, from my part of it is gonna be how you can utilize social media to bring this information to the public. Now that you are bringing this up, if somebody wrote a blog about this experience, something that tells a story about a garden, the blog can be used to talk about the native plants and the process of making the garden. And this is all going to be in the presentation from my point of view. How to use the blog, the facebook to engage people in our mission.
- Juliet – that is an excellent idea you are not just telling a story because then you can reuse this information else where
- Jan – this is important because once you have the information collected, we can figure out where to put it. On the wiki it would be more of a how to, something that Andy might use it for is to demonstrate what FNPS contributions are, and on the blog it would be to inspire people. It can be used for different uses depending on how you package it. So we need to make sure we have the information to use for those different purposes.
- Al – the information you are using is the same as when we apply for a landscape award. Before and after, pictures, the whole thing
- Juliet – yep that would be excellent.
- Susan – We are a spin off of the beautyberry chapter, they maintain a presence for native plant section at discovery gardens and also at a park, we are assisting them, and we are in our own planning stages to partner with a community college to have a tree and landscaped area near a bike trail with high visibility. We are trying to partner with the arbor day foundation to qualify for recognition from them using native trees. We are running into a lot of legalese. Water and land. This is a huge epic undertaking that we would love to document. I think there is an element that we have not talked about, which is something Juliet Rynear has talked about. We are near Orlando, we are all about plant rescue and tucking in these native plants into state parks and reserves, because the land is just going away at an increasing rate. We are just doing damage control in grabbing up these plants and putting them in good places. One of the great things we have to demonstrate principles of landscape design , I have heard criticism from people who have seen our native demonstrations is they see these labels, and complain the plant is gone. It is like a plant museum. There is only one of everything, and there is no design. We should work on something that shows the principle of native plant design.
- Dave – Usually they don't look like anything. And when a plant fails and you have a sign and no plant... sometimes the sign/plant is not easy to do. The whole issue with signage is that

last thing I was gonna talk about, because we need to get our name out there. We need our logo and some minor explanation of the plant. Again, this could be a very large project we are gonna work on here. I think signage is the most important part of this. It is almost possible we can develop those QR codes (black squares with funny dots in them) Get the information about the plant that way.

- Donna – that’s an excellent idea. I would definitely want those codes linked to the FNPS database for the plant. if it is a school with a butterfly garden they say they don’t want a sign. They don’t want that signage if they feel the garden may not make it. If it’s a garden that we have regular workdays on, and like any chapters we only have a limited number of volunteers, then we always promote signs with the FNPS information and logo.
- Dave – I think that’s enough about the chapter gardening. I will send an email with that information. Moving on

V. What issues should we bring before the board of directors?

- Dave – We have the meeting coming up very shortly. Is there something we should take up?
- Ginny – I would like to see one thing happen... At the last conference, the council meeting was the hour before the board meeting, but we had the full facility, so we could have had something more useful for us other than the board meeting. There isn’t any reason we couldn’t have a longer council meeting or a workshop, we can make it much more useful than being chased at after the council meeting to start the board meeting.
- Juliet – Are you talking about the annual conference? Let me see if we can work out another room.
- Ginny – do people think it’s a good idea? I think we can have a workshop.
- Juliet – if you want a workshop then lets schedule it earlier in the day
- Al - We may have to change the day for the council of chapters
- Donna – What She was trying to say is for those who don’t have to go to the board meeting, that we could stay on in a separate room and have a workshop. I do always feel rushed at all of these meetings. That certainly could be a possibility for the conference if we are able to logistically do it.
- Juliet – For the annual retreat the council is meeting on Saturday, and the board doesn’t meet until the next day. There will be time to go over.
- Ginny – I did see that I think that is a good thing. But I am thinking of the conference cause we have a lot of people who attend, and we should have more than an hour.
- Donna – I would like to see people talk about how they are gonna use their landscape brochures, talking about how they are gonna raise money to reprint them. I would like to see an exchange of ideas about that to get ideas from other chapters. How they plan to be using the landscape brochure.
- Julie – I think that’s a great thing to put on our agenda for February.
- Juliet – We had talked about people putting together good neighbor packages and ways to use the brochure and other literature, so if you have other things that you guys use for outreach definitely bring those materials.
- Sonya – I have already laminated one. I showed it to a nursery, who showed it to another nursery. They loved my laminated one. I think we should produce some laminated copies.
- Donna – that’s excellent, we have also thought of that.
- Al – we had a reprinting of our coloring books, and our chapter and I think a lot are probably out of them. Can we bring to the board if they have any idea for how to reprint them? That’s our only way to bring in children.

- Donna – Niki may want some of those. She is working on a lot of childrens activities.
- Dave – I like that. Alright. Are we all set for the retreat.
- Al – Except for the food. Are we gonna have coffee?
- Juliet – Yes we will. It is bring your own and pot luck. Do we need extra coffee pots?
- Dave – I will bring one.
- Al – I think they will frown on us having a camp fire in our cabins.
- Unknown – do the cabins have fire places?
- Juliet – I think the older ones do have fire places. We have all 3 types of cabins. They all have full kitchens, pots and pans, refrigerator, all that.
- Al – Don't forget to bring approved fire wood
- Juliet – They say you cannot bring your own. You have to purchase it there. When you get to the park and you need to pick up your key, go to cabin 115. I will have all the keys.

VI. What else should we be talking about?

- Dave – I am more encouraged after this meeting than I have been in a while. One of them is after I put that note up on the forum I was surprised at the number who went to look. We had 28 people who actually went to the forum and looked. In the past its been like 11, and we have new council members and new people at this meeting. I am really encouraged all the way to surprised. That's all I have right now. To the new people: if I wasn't clear about how to post that information on the website I can run through it with you, just drop me an email and we can do that, we can even have a gotomeeting set up. Another thing is that you also need to be registered with our database so we know that you are members. If you haven't already arranged to have yourself listed as chapter representative, is it important that you do that. Let me know if you have any questions about that. Is there anything else?
- Al – last year there was some confusion on the green palmetto award voting. At our meeting next month could that be explained? Whether to vote for one or for as many as you want?
- Dave – when the email goes out saying its time to vote that information should be included and maybe even appended to the page in which the voting is done.
- Al – I just know there were some questions last year so I was hoping we could go over it in advance.
- Dave – alright I will ask the question. I guess that's about it for tonight. Thank you all for attending and we will be in touch soon. See you in a couple of weeks.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45.