



**Florida Native Plant Society**  
Council of Chapters Meeting 03/11/18 Minutes  
Created on 03/28/18 by Nicole Zampieri  
GoToMeeting

Julie Becker called the meeting to order at 6:33

**In attendance (21)**

Kara Driscoll – Council Vice Chair (Naples)  
Julie Becker – Interim Council Chair (Tarflower)  
Nicole Zampieri – Council Secretary (Magnolia)  
Juliet Rynear (Heartland)  
Jaya Milam (Big Bend)  
Athena Philips (Citrus)  
Ben Johnson (Coccoloba)  
Dianna Wentink (Cocoplum)  
David Martin (Eugenia)  
Gregory Thomas (Heartland)  
Mikel Renner (Hernando)

Wendy Poag (Lake Beautyberry)  
Al Squires (Mangrove)  
Gail Parsons (Nature Coast)  
Susan Knapp (Passionflower)  
Sonya Guidry (Pawpaw)  
Jan Allyn (Pinellas)  
Jeannie Brodhead (Sarracenia)  
Carol Sullivan (Sparkleberry)  
Virginia Overstreet (Suncoast)  
Carol Spears (The Villages)

**1. Approve minutes from previous meeting.**

Kara made the motion to approve the minutes. Carol Spears seconded. The motion passed.

**2. Old Business:**

Kara: I just want to give updates on the committees

- a. Council Governance: Committee Reports: Updates- 10 minutes
  - i. Policy: Successfully helped urge legislators to set aside some money this year for FL forever, but we still need to get on making sure it's reinstated. Policy is also looking for Chapter liaisons. Please look at the forum attachment for more information.
- Kara: I did attach a more in-depth update on the forum. Policy is wanted to get further engaged with membership, so they were suggesting having a policy liaison within each chapter. More details in that document on the forum. What are your guys thoughts on that? Do we want our chapter to have liaisons? Or should we have a subcommittee within the council?
- Gail: The first thing I thought about was in our chapter we do not have a policy committee, but we do have a conservation chair... it seems to me many of these things that are "policy" really tie in to conservation. Do other chapters have policy chairs?
- Julie: You might need to mine your members for people who are more interested in that. WE have someone who does conservation, but she is too full on stuff to do, but our field trip chair is actually more interested in the policy side. .... When these issues come up we have 3 or 4 people who will talk with each other and go to the commissioner meetings and stuff like that. We don't have a formal group and I think that's something that should be done particularly with larger organizations like ours, it would make it nicer to know who is doing things.
- Kara: Either way, I am going to be meeting with the policy committee as a member, so I plan on keeping you guys updated... we are planning on developing a program on ... as an upload either on the google drive or the forum so I am gonna look for feedback on that just to present to them when that meeting comes

- Miki: I suspect that one of the things that holds our members back is fear of authority, and if there was an opportunity for someone who was more experienced with meeting with legislators..... a really good way to get over some of that fear
- Kara: Any other thoughts or comments or questions let me know, I would love to get your feedback on that
  - ii. Conservation: FPL partnership - Juliet
- Juliet: Jan Allyn had asked me to talk about the FPL partnership. A few years ago, they contacted me as conservation chair and asked us about this idea ... said they had all these powerline corridors that we could be planting wildflowers and pollinator friendly plants and it's just wasted space right now. And I said that's a great idea! And they said they'd like chapters to get involved.... We touched base for another year, nothing happened, and then last year in December she contacted me and said hey we have got this proposal, would you review it and let us know what you think. Scott Davis and I reviewed it and made suggestions, .... They've invested in all of these solar fields.... To plant low ground cover, has to be 14 inches or under, there is an opportunity to do restoration on the land around the solar fields... lots of opportunities for chapters near where these fields are... bold experiment no one has really done this before, so time will tell...
- Gail: You started talking about powerlines and then switched to solar fields. Are they putting solar fields under the power lines?
- Juliet: No, they are separate properties. Basically, the idea has expanded from powerlines to also include solar fields. And they were thinking about doing demonstration gardens around their offices. And it's grown from there.
- Gail: I like the ideas of powerlines because chapters would have more accessibility...
- Jan: Do you know if this would be expanded to include other energy companies such as Duke
- Juliet: I have not spoken to anyone at Duke but that would be a good idea
- Kara: Gonna wrap this discussion on because we need to keep going and just to put a closing comment on this There are tons of powerline easements in North Florida that have started to be maintained by herbicide... straight up kills everything underneath in. definitely something that we ought to or at least start planning to try to adopt something
- Gail: It seems to me like it would be better to do an inventory of the powerlines in our area because they might in fact have rare plants that they are not aware about
  - iii. Membership
- Kara: just a quick update here... for those of you at the annual retreat, the new membership brochures came out and we are no longer mailing those out to people. If you did not get the new membership brochures contact Anne cox, she will be able to coordinate with you getting those brochures to you. They are also working on getting together a welcome packet based on the citrus chapter welcome packet. Membership is putting that together. Most of that material has been uploaded to the council google drive. ... otherwise membership will be working on that. Lastly if you want to participate in helping with membership committee let me know.
  - iv. Conference (volunteers needed) - Juliet
    1. **Room Emcees**
    2. **Volunteer Coordinator** (both conference days would be comped) - the coordinator will keep track of volunteers who sign up to help at the conference by filling out an Excel spreadsheet provided by the Conference Committee. The spreadsheet charts the task and time for which each volunteer has signed up. The Coordinator will attend Conference Committee meetings as needed and send updates to the committee as they are available.
    3. **Registration Volunteers** to work the registration tables each day of the conference (Wednesday evening, Thursday, Friday and Saturday).
    4. **Ticket taker** for the dinners.
    5. **Silent Auction volunteers** to staff the room during the conference.
    6. **Chapter Table Volunteers** from one or more chapters to work the Chapter table each day of the exhibit at the conference.
- Ben Johnson: Before we get too far ahead I have a question for the membership committee, I noticed on the last membership report that some of the new membership categories are different and now there are new ones. I was able to figure out... I'm not fully sure what some of the categories mean, and is sustaining a monthly payment?
- Kara: Yes, we have added on various tiers of payment levels for each membership types.
- Ben: What is the org?
- Juliet: That's if you are a nonprofit.

- Ben: But they have business and then org.
- Juliet: I am not seeing that. On the actual brochure it is just business/nonprofit.
  - v. Communication: Chapter websites: Do you want a calendar to show adjacent/all chapters? Shirley is able to help you edit that. She also needs volunteers with Web exp.
- Kara: So, Shirley Denton needs volunteers with websites, preferably volunteers with experience in JavaScript..... lastly, several chapters have also looked into switching to mobile friendly website templates and she can help with that.
  - vi. Land Management Reviews: Open slots
- Kara: .... Any questions comments on that?
- Jan: What about the unit management reviews?
- Juliet: I don't maybe Wendy does?
- Jan: Last year there was an effort to get people to not only do land management reviews but also in the unit management reviews which are every 10 years...
- Wendy: We were trying to get coordinated.. the problem is the state does not now when these different meetings are being held.. the actual person on site decides when they are gonna have a public meeting and how they are gonna publicize is. ...
- Jan: It seems like we can time it and every 10 years we should know to be reviewing it...
- Wendy: The reviews are somewhere between 8-14 years, they are not being committed to 10 years.... I have been on the waiting list for the land management review for .... It requires people with a personal interest in a site near you or personal connection with a land manager. We have not found a way to do it on the state level or through the land management review committee.
- Jan: So, I guess every chapter needs to be aware of what state parks are in their areas and just keep an eye on it
- Miki: I tried to stay abreast of the land management reviews in my area, but it is also helpful when requests go out from an actual director very helpful
- Gail: When you talk about participating in land management reviews are you talking about water management district or county lands.
- Miki: Any of the public lands require 5 r 10-year management reviews.
- Jan: If you go to FL DEP site all the unit managements are available there for download.
- Wendy: the water management district properties may not be.
- Miki: and then of course there is county and local government land. Some sort of centralizing and coordination from all of these properties would be nice to know about to throw our weight on
- Kara: I think that's a great idea and idk if you have all noticed here I am trying my best to get these committees to consolidate their information.. so same thing with the land management reviews these are all excellent ideas and they should be taken back to their respective committees
  - vii. Landscaping
- Kara: Science committee is currently going over the endowment research grants and the conservation grants..... the board is in the process of updating the bylaws.
- Juliet: I have to tell you there's only 3 people on the landscape committee, so they could definitely use help
- b. Needed volunteers and open board positions. 5 mins
  - i. Education Chair
  - ii. Membership Chair
  - iii. At Large
  - iv. VP Finance
- Kara: ... the one I didn't include was the land management review committee chair, but he has decided he would like to step away from the position ... any other thoughts comments or questions
- Julie: on open board positions., don't forget to go back and ask your members. You might be surprised....
- Julie: It is pretty much the same... by the end of the week we should have our nominees. I am going to check on these one by one and .... But I do wanna say we are good we have 20 people tonight! This is wonderful.
- c. Admin: 5 mins Are there any Chapters present that still need to submit volunteer hours, bylaws?
- d. Workshop Review: 15 minutes?
  - i. Hands-on: Who is using their Google- skills? Who isn't? Thoughts? Comments? Suggestions?
- Kara: Any additional thoughts or comments?
- Jan: I thought you did a great a job... I don't know whether it was long enough, but I thought the content was excellent.
- Jan: Can I just say everyone is doing a good job with their muting!
- Carol: I wasn't able to be at the meeting, did you by chance record that workshop?

- Kara: unfortunately, we didn't, but however the hands-on workshop was just getting to know basic software tools available to use on the screen including the council google drive. We have an entire folder for chapter reps or chapter presidents. These are all things that we can add stuff too add ideas too and work together collaboratively. We went through how to enter a google doc or how to update the speaker's bureau and stuff like that. If you or anyone else feel they need more training in this let me know because ....
  - ii. Membership: Thoughts, comments suggestions?
- Kara: Any thoughts or comments on membership workshop? I know membership is a big thing for all of our chapters is getting and retaining new members.
- Julie: The new membership brochure is eye catching and much more of a success than some of the old ones. Our chapter has participated as a vendor in a plant sale and we have a table with our give away handouts where we talk to people and ask for them to join, a lot of people saw our membership brochure and they just grabbed it and said they were interested... I was surprised I have never seen people reach out and grab the membership brochure off the table. It was very eye catching.
- Kara: I thought the membership workshop was pretty good, we were able to crowdsource a lot of it.... I did get some feedback on that, I am not sure if that was uploaded to the drive or not. If it is not on the drive I will add that for us just for ideas to attract and retain members. One interesting thing that you guys should consider is that on the membership survey that Shirley sent out last October, there was a question that asked how did you find out about FNPS? And the number 1 answer was through friends. So, in terms of membership we should be working on trying to develop personal connections with people who are trying to become members.
- Miki: I just wanted to follow up on what Kara just said, I have traditionally given birthday and Christmas gifts to some of my friends of memberships, many who have continued. It seems to work well.
- Wendy: I still believe when you've got a lot of people walking by your booth, we still need a really quick elevator speech, why should I care, why should I join this? Some of our chapters are struggling with being boring. SO, I don't know if anyone is working on an elevator speech or not.
- Kara: I will bring that up with membership
- Jaya: Just wanted to let you know that we had an event at some Springs and that's where we were trying to introduce people to native plants. IT seemed to work well to say WE are trying to keep Florida native... and we want to try to promote ways to preserve them. Everyone would open up and start talking and they would have further interest and we would go further down the path and ....
- Sonya: I find that not everyone agrees with me but if you have a sign-up sheet for emails for people who want to know more, if you email them by name personally, to tell them about a field trip or welcome, I think that works. I think you need personal follow-up.
- Kara: I think this is true across the committees we are finding the importance of personal communication
- Juliet: One of the most successful chapters in building membership is the Tarflower chapter, what they do is not only do they engaged but they offer a free plant with new memberships. When they have internet connection they bring laptop and try to sign people up on the spot
- Al: We just finished our plant native's day, and our theme this year was container gardening with native plants, and we had our best turn out ever. Our new brochures went out like crazy. Last month I did a talk on native plants for the birds for Audubon. One lady that was there bought two plants and joined FNPS from that talk. So, talks to other groups do work.
  - iii. Kara will be working to build a webinar series, is anyone interested in assisting? Does anyone have a request for what they want and/or need?
- Kara: I really want you guys to think about what you need in terms of skills in order for us to start educating ourselves... or things our chapter needs, it could be you or members of your chapters. For example, webinars on how to set up QuickBooks, or working further with google drive, I will be working on coordinating workshops with chapter reps and chapter presidents... additionally, one major contributor to that I hope will be the policy committee...
  - iv. Request a workshop thru the google drive!
- e. Archbold Oaks- Did anyone follow up on this? How do we wish to handle this and move forward?
  - Kara: If I remember correctly they had I don't know how many oaks blow down
  - Gail: I think it was 30 .... I think she said that what blew down were laurel oaks and they wanted to replace them with live oaks. ....I noticed a big nursery not too far from Archbold and I stopped and asked if they had
  - Kara: Does anyone know why she selected live oaks?
  - Jan: They live much longer than live oaks
  - Miki: Right I agree

- Wendy: but as the native plant society if they are trying to preserve certain genetics and do prescribed fire, we need to be careful about what species and what genes we are bringing in
- Kara: I think one of the questions we should ask about is possible hybridization
- Al: I suggest you contact Archbold... The state parks want everything coming from within 20 miles of the park
- Juliet: Someone needs to take the lead on this
- Gail: I will contact ... I can't believe that Archbold would do the wrong thing.. I don't think
- Al: My idea was to ask them if they have a supplied nearby that would supply oaks from that area because that keeps the genetic pool proper. As far as laurel oaks a lot of arborists consider those a weed tree that push out live oaks
- Kara: I should have clarified sooner the live oaks are for planting around the building not to be reintroduced

### 3. New Business: 15 minutes

- Chapter mentorship- Successful chapters mentoring and reaching out to nearby chapters that are struggling or reaching out to those that we haven't heard from in a while.. We want to work to strengthen each other as best as we can!
- Kara: if chapters are struggling and constantly having to find members or have three people do all of the work, ... so what I am hoping to do is to start rebuilding those communications between ourselves and between the committees and between ourselves and identify our strengths and our weaknesses... I don't think that we should be trying to tell people what to do by
    - Branding: Ex. Fabric patches, chapter nametags.
  - Juliet: Gail from citrus chapter had gone to Tarflower where they had these great FNPS patches on aprons. So, they want to reorder more and if other chapters would be interested, I we put in a bulk order they are a dollar or less, and they are really nice 3" wide patches.
  - Julie: They do need to be redesigned for the correct logo coloring. They are useful for all kinds of things whatever you want to put them on
  - Kara: If you think your chapter is interested in the patches let Juliet know
  - Juliet: On a side note my Yahoo email was hacked so if you get any email from me with a link or document to download do not do it!
    - Uploading chapter newsletters: do we still need help with that? Shirley has updated/added a lot of Chapter newsletters to the website.
    - Open Floor.
  - Kara: so, it is 7:31 right now...
  - Gail: When you did the annual report at the retreat is that on the website?
  - Juliet: So, it actually isn't done yet, I am waiting for updates from our financials which haven't come in from the accountant yet
  - Gail: Sorry I made a mistake in my question, what I am looking for is your year-in-review discussion, so I can share it with my chapter
  - Juliet: I am pretty sure I posted that to the forum
  - Gail: One time we talked about regional meetings, I think it is a good idea, I know Jan and Miki are in my region, just wondered what they thought about ....
  - Jan: Well we are scheduling a joint meeting with Suncoast and Nature coast in December.... That will be going forward as far as I know
  - Miki: I am pretty sure we would be open and receptive to that
  - Virginia: I think we all could do a little better job of our upcoming field trips and inviting each other, we don't want our field trips to get too big but if you've got a few members who want to join another chapter .....
  - Kara: Yes when I was in the panhandle sometimes Sarracenia and Magnolia would have joint meetings...that said I think we all ought to start having joint meetings or field trips and with regards with the regional meetings I think she might mean more in an admin capacity where regions meet and discuss problems or ... you haven't heard from them in a while, feel free to call them up and ask them how they are doing... get things done. And have fun doing it.
  - Julie: There's no reason that 2 or 3 chapters can't get together and have a coordinated meeting session, informally it would be nice if we had some kind of structure it could come under but please try it out, let us know how it works. If you are going an hour away or an hour and a half away to another field trip, you are touching another chapter, so it would be nice to send them an email and ask if they want to join you.
  - Ben: I just have a question about volunteer hours. Is there a way to review chapters after they've been inputted?
  - Juliet: You would have to email me. And I would have to send you the current spreadsheet.

- Miki: That might actually be good just as a reminder even to get your hours out there. Some kind of reminder is nice.
- Kara: Reminders we have our google drive set up, we also have our Facebook group
- Miki: Your organizational and moving along skills have been very impressive and I think you are doing a fantastic job
- Julie: Yes, you have done a lovely job today
- Kara: Julie, do we still need to have that April meeting or not?
- Julie: I don't think so, since I have nominees. I think we can just do an online vote until May.
- Juliet: The poll is on the forum
- Kara: Ok I will send out a doodle poll to see if anyone wants to have a meeting in April but if not we don't need one

Meeting adjourned at 7:40