



Florida Native Plant Society

Council of Chapters Meeting Minutes 05/17/18

2018 Conference at Miccosukee Resort

taken by Athena Philips – CoC Secretary

Kara Driscoll called the meeting to order at 4:37 PM

In attendance (33)

Kara Driscoll – Council Chair (Naples)	Juliet Rynear (Heartland; FNPS Exec Assist.)
Gail Parsons – Council Vice Chair (Nature Coast Rep)	Jon Pospisil (Passionflower Pres.)
Athena Philips – Council Secretary (Citrus Rep)	Susan Knapp (Passionflower)
Stephen Turnipseed (Villages Pres.)	Jeannie Brodhead (Sarracenia)
Dianna Wentick (Cocoplum Rep)	Deborah Curry (Marion Big Scrub)
Pete Grannis (Cocoplum Treas.)	Sonya Guidry (Pawpaw Rep)
Ben Johnson (Coccoloba Rep)	Rayanne Mitchell (Magnolia Tres.)
John Holyland (Mangrove proxy Rep)	Helen Roth (Magnolia Pres.-elect)
Susan Walcutt (Dade)	Susan Learner (Palm Beach Pres.)
Virginia Overstreet (Suncoast Rep/VP)	Richard Brownscombe (Broward Rep)
Martha Steuart (Conradina)	Cammie Donaldson (Conradina; FNPS Admin)
Ginny Stibolt (Ixia Rep)	Susan Carr (Paynes Prairie; FNPS Pres.-elect)
Ellen Thorns (Paynes Prairie)	Ina Crawford (Sweetbay)
Eugene Kelly (Hernando; FNPS Policy Chair)	Shirley Denton (Suncoast; FNPS Comm. Chair)
Miki Renner (Hernando Rep)	David Roddenberry (Sarracenia)
Julie Becker (Tarflower Rep)	Kim Zarillo (Conradina)

➤ **Old Business**

- **Logo Patches** Juliet reports that the order was not delivered in time for distribution at the Conference. A total of 170 were ordered
- **Chapter by-laws** Juliet requests Chapters submit a copy of their by-laws to her.

- **Archbold Oaks requested by Hilary Swain** Gail reports that she posted prices to the Council Facebook group, for multiple sizes of the live oaks. Price list from Sandhill Native Growers is as follows: 1 gal/\$2.50, 3 gal/\$5.50, 7 gal/\$22, 15 gal/\$60 - \$50 delivery fee.
 - Jon, asked if Archbold is committed to watering a big tree.
 - Susan Learner, wanted clarification if this is wholesale or retail price, and if delivery price was flexible.
 - Stephen, asked if these were really the proper species for the habitat. Kara, believes Hilary wants these to replace shade trees near the buildings.
 - Juliet, will set up a contribution page and share the link to the CoC.
- **Minutes for the March meeting** will be posted later, to be reviewed & approved.

➤ **New Business**

- **2018 Conference** Juliet, reports next year's Conference will be in Crystal River, at the Plantation Resort. Requests everyone to be thinking of potential field trips, theme, art, pressing environmental issues to address, etc..
- **Financials** Kim, reminds everyone to file taxes (990N return) and send her a copy. Viewpost, is the new FNPS system to facilitate direct deposits, but you can still get a physical check.

-Ellen, asked about Fictitious Name filings. Kim, directed her to the FNPS Wiki, which details Fictitious Names, the group exemption, Incorporation as a 501c3, etc..

- **Committee Reports**

*Conservation: Juliet will be stepping down as Chair, due to her full-time hiring as the Executive Assistant. Todd Angel may lead.

*Policy: Gene requests chapters find a Policy liaison. Committee aimed high and got results. With lobbyist assistance, Florida Forever had 1.8 million in funding appropriated, Senate bill 370 attempted. Many chapters went to their local Legislative Delegation meeting, one help a Legislator field trip. Keep at it and we'll get more. Sign-up for the Action Alerts.

-Susan Learner, shared that Palm Beach Chapter has a chapter Advocacy Committee (Chaired by Winnie Said) and have hired an Advocate.

-Kara, suggested that some are intimidated, so maybe Susan's chapter can compile

how they do things and answer questions.

-Susan L, said they have had Legislators do a garden tour of public native landscaping. They also hold an annual workshop on how to talk to Legislators.

*Membership: Kara, reports that there are chapters struggling to continue. Lyonia chapter dissolved last year and Lakalas Mint may follow. We should try to help.

-Juliet, suggested regional meetings between chapters could help.

-Athena, mentioned that the Council had previously discussed chapters buddying up and being mentors to new or small chapters. Any chapter willing to do so, could leave their name with her.

-Jon, said that Tarflower helped them with an event, and that was all they needed.

-Susan L, noted that the public doesn't get the plant & natural communities message. The butterfly message is how you reach them.

- **Council Strategy** Kara, asks that everyone look at it and comments are wanted. We'll be sending out a survey soon.
- **Networking & Google Drive** Kara, is looking for better networking and collaboration. How can we share and get resources to the chapters? The Google Drive is a useful digital library, where you can find PowerPoint presentations, etc.. We want to consolidate and organize the resources we have to one place.

-Richard, asks are we going to move to Facebook from the Forum. Kara, not everyone is on Facebook.

- **Native Plant Month** Chapters should be planning for October. We'll discuss at next meeting.

➤ **General Discussion**

- **Council Workshop** Ginny, has booked the Lyonoia Preserve for Sept 15th. Does anyone think that it is too close to the August Retreat at Lyonia Preserve, and should be canceled? No one objects, so she'll work with Council Chairs to organize it.

She also reminds everyone she has a book tour and is available as a speaker for meetings or special events.

Meeting Adjourned