



Florida Native Plant Society

Council of Chapters Meeting Minutes 04/28/19

Online Go-2-Meeting

taken by Athena Philips – CoC Secretary

Gail Parsons called the meeting to order at 6:40 PM

In attendance (13)

* indicates proxy

Citrus – Athena Philips CoC Secretary *	Palm Beach – Helen Laurence
Cuplet Fern – Mark Kateli	Passionflower – Susan Knapp
Eugenia – David Martin	Pawpaw – Sonya Guidry
Hernando – Janet Grabowski	Pinellas – David Perky
Lake Beautyberry – Patricia Burgos	Serenoa – Robert Dye
Martin – Dianna Wentink	Tarflower – Julie Becker
Nature Coast – Gail Parsons CoC Vice Chair	

Pre-meeting, David Perky made a request for kid's programs. Mark said he'd put him in contact with their chapter's Education Chair. Wendy Poag, the Society Education Chair was also suggested.

➤ **Regular Agenda Items**

- Minutes from previous meeting Approval postponed to next meeting.
- GEL- Gail stressed the importance of chapters being compliant and included in the General Exemption Letter, if not Incorporated. Asked who present knew if they were. Ayes: Pinellas, Martin, Citrus, Palm Beach, Serenoa, Pawpaw, and Eugenia should be.
- BOD & Committees-
Warea Project Society is urgently looking for funding leads, to qualify for a matching grant to purchase property. Please let Susan Carr or Juliet Rynear know ASAP. Additionally, if you or your chapter is interested in contributing money for this property, please also let them know.

Susan: is there an online promo for the project?

Mark: Ask Valerie Anderson, and there still should be a donate button on FNPS.org

Torreya Keepers No one present to reported [Grant proposal ranked #1 by FL Endangered Plant Conservation Program]

Conservation Committee Requesting information from chapters if there are any rare plant projects (such as surveying, monitoring, or restoration) that your Chapter is conducting, or thinks should be conducted.

Gail: Anyone present involved in a conservation project?

Sonya: Pawpaw is working with Danny Young on *Asimina rugelii*. Just surveyed 2078 *Conradina grandiflora* and considering asking the county for protection of such a large population.

Patricia: May 14th, Lake Beautyberry will be planting rescues in Leesburg, with high school AP Biology students from the Villages. 8:30am with a plant hike.

[see "open floor" for two more chapters]

➤ Old Business

- **Potential Initiative, Plant Rescues** After the meeting in February, a number of chapters expressed interest in these projects. There will be four sessions at the Conference on this theme. Juliet Rynear plans to hold workshops at our in-person meetings. Juliet also says, "It has come to my attention that 3 of our members have trespassed on private property and engaged in illegal plant collection on public and private properties. This is not "plant rescue" nor is it plant conservation. This is grounds for termination of membership in FNPS."

Susan: There are legal and permit requirements. We have done 40 rescues.

Gail: How do you find the sites?

Susan: Juliet Rynear, Jackie Rolly, or Lake Louisa State Park have pointed them out. Juliet, has a license to dig out Endangered plants, so having the papers handled ahead of time is important.

Gail: All 40 on one site?

Susan: No. Roadsides, in Apopka, and Clermont is having a boom.

Patricia: These are planned developments. Some are FL Forever lands that haven't been bought, and that points you in their direction. There is a lot of paperwork up front.

Gail: Roadside? Did you drive by and see the plants?

Susan: A member saw the terrestrial orchids, and went to the county.

Gail: This will be great at the Conference.

- **Nominating Committee** reports that there were no replies to the emails they sent. Susan asks Gail Parsons, if she wanted to run. Gail declined. Floor nominations were opened, with no one coming forward. Nominations were closed, with Kara Driscoll the only nominee for Council Chair. Thank yous given to Susan and Patricia for serving on the Committee.

Election poll will be posted on the Forum.

- **Inter-chapter Disaster Relief Mark** reports: Last meeting there was a lot of interest and a need for a handbook. Once that is done, I will reach out to chapters. I'm hoping to be at the Council meeting at the Conference and will present it. The ideal is to have all chapters participate at a level they are comfortable with. Some are on the fence and they could join later.

Athena: Do you have a number in mind, of willing chapters, to make this an official project? If you don't meet that, will it fold?

Mark: No, if we have three chapters this year, we will move forward and build as it goes. I'm taking Sonya's advice about GoFundMe and not leaving anything off the table. I'm looking into insurance, too.

➤ **New Business**

- **2019 Conference** The CoC has an extra hour at the Conference - We will meet in the Palm Room from 3:30-4:30pm for a roundtable discussion. We are proposing to discuss the Standard Operating Procedures and Chapter Rep Reporting improvements. If you'd like a different topic, please let Kara know. Council meeting follows this, 4:30-5:30pm
- **Volunteer Reporting** Martin Chapter shared the online reporting form they use:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfCkvfxVGxxYBIAGJevuiq6S8rht0_kAMBXofSno4Gkd01MWA/viewform?fbclid=IwAR2j3YyV335BKPCzihXWMzWAycvG5X1mCAAdV1j5hbPmFYzEcMn9eHnfkzOM

Mark: Is there a specific time this information was used.

Athena: I don't know

➤ **Open Floor**

- Mark: Cuplet Fern may be doing a rare plant count for Swamp plantain, an endemic plant. We'll publicize if it comes through.

Gail: How did you pick the plant and location?

I work a bit with Seminole State Forest and stay in touch. They referred me to someone who wants to do the count.

Gail: So the bottom line is networking.

Athena: I agree with that. I work a bit with the local CISMA, which is mostly State staff doing the work. You get to meet them and then hear things from them.

Gail: I was on a Crystal River field trip and posted a picture for ID. Then talking to the Park's biologist, he didn't know those plants were there, they weren't on their species list.

Julie: Tarflower continues to work at Mead Gardens on restoration work.

Susan: They're working on rescue protocols. If you know a virgin area and a sign goes up, "For Sale", you find who the owner is and call Juliet with their name, and tell her there may be something exciting there. She'll look online, at maps, and can then follow up with the owner to get permission. We are scouters.

Gail: We may need to hear this more than once. I'd suggest maybe going to the County Property Appraiser for contact and property information.

- Jenny Welch Conference request for silent auction donations. She will take anything. New, used-in good condition, hand crafted items, wines, homemade jellies, homemade pickles and other items, bird houses, bird feeders, native plants, planters, gardening tools, garden signs, anything.
- Forum bylaws revision. Some people may have issues viewing the track changes to the bylaws (done in red) if they are using the Firefox internet browser. If they would like to easily see the changes/edits, they can use Google Chrome.
- Native Plant definition discussion. Roger Hammer made the comment on Facebook, " I need to get the Florida Native Plant Society to change their definition of what constitutes a Florida native plant. Species of tropical origin that are in the flora of Florida got here by three natural means: by favorable ocean currents, tropical storms and hurricanes, and (principally) by migratory birds. To say those natural methods of plant dispersal stopped once Columbus showed up is just plain dumb. And I'm sure there are many native plants in the flora of Florida that weren't here when the Europeans arrived."

Juliet believes that the Council should update this definition and propose the revised definition to the Board. The start of discussion on this topic in the Council of Chapters Facebook group. Perhaps we can finalize the proposed definition during our Conference meeting? Thoughts?

Mark: An adventive plant, is a new plant brought by a bird. Native plants work on geologic time. Athena brought up some points on Facebook. My definition is not strict, but it does have a demarcation line, The Industrial Revolution and its trade explosion. For us to maintain that demarcation line is important.

Athena: Maybe highlight the plant communities and downplay the individual.

Susan: When the Bering Strait collapsed, could that be the geologic time?

Mark: Yes, the genetic exchange during that time was significant. And once the Industrial Revolution happened, things happened much more rapidly. That temporal period was when American Indians had a less harsh use of the lands. Athena also makes a point about the science.

- Reminder to find people in your chapter interested in the Society Committees.
- Sonya asks: There was a time when we were reporting milkweed locations to Scott Davis, but we have had people who got no feedback, and don't know if anything was recorded. Who is the best to submit this to?

Suggestions were: Scott Davis, Todd Angel, Valerie Anderson for iNaturalist, or maybe Kara or Nicole Zampieri.

Janet Grabowski makes the motion to adjourn.

Patricia Burgos 2nds.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:55pm