Kara Driscoll called the meeting to order at 4:31 PM

**In attendance (34)**

* indicates proxy

- Broward – Richard Brownscombe
- Citrus – Gail Taylor
- Coccoloba – Ben Johnson
- Conradina – Martha Steuart
- Cuplet Fern – Nihal Hafez *
- Dade – Patty Phares *
- Hernando – Janet Grabowski
- Ixia – Ginny Stibolt *
- Lake Beautyberry – Patricia Burgos
- Magnolia – Helen Roth *
- Mangrove – Al Squires
- Martin – Ellen Broderick *
- Naples – Kara Driscoll CoC Chair
- Nature Coast – Gail Parsons CoC Vice Chair
- Palm Beach – Winnie Said *
- Passionflower – Susan Knapp
- Pawpaw – Sonya Guidry
- Paynes Prairie – Sandi Saurers
- Pine Lily – Tayler Figueroa
- Pinellas – David Perky
- Sarracenia – Jeanie Brodhead
- Serenoa – Robert Dye
- Sumter – Judie Bradley
- Suncoast – Virginia Overstreet
- Sweetbay – Jonnie Smallman
- Tarflower – Julie Becker
- Villages – Carol Spears
- Athena Philips – CoC Secretary
- Bonnie Basham – Sarracenia; FNPS Treas
- Karen Walter – Pawpaw Treas
- Jody Wood-Putnam – Sweetbay Co-Pres
- Rayanne Mitchell – Magnolia VP
- Cammie Donaldson --Condradina; FNPS Admin
- Emma Haselow – FNPS Admin Services

➢ **Regular Agenda Items**

- **Minutes from previous meeting** Ginny Stibolt motions to to approve, Sandi Saurers 2nds the motion. None opposed – Motion carries
• **Proxies:** Please find a proxy if you cannot make a meeting.

• **Forum:** Subscribe to the Forum posts or categories, to be notified of new posts, such as Agendas and reports.

• **Go2Meetings:** People calling in to online meetings, please make sure to announce you are present, or email Athena that you are in attendance.
   
   Ben: suggestion to announce the next meeting date/time at meetings.

• **Board Reports:** BOD area on Forum has important announcements and Motions. Chapter Reps should be reviewing this area, to be able to give the Officers direction on how to represent the Council.

   The Legislative Summary [Policy Chair], has a really good report on the last session. The President’s Report is also a good source on recent happenings.

➢ **Old Business**

• **Plant Rescues:** There will be plant rescue presentations during the Conference.
   
   Juliet, says that we should attend seed collection session.

• **Disaster Relief:** report tabled to next meeting

• **Election:** Athena reports: the Forum poll closed May 15th with a total of 19 votes, meeting the required quorum of 18 votes. There was only one candidate, Kara Driscoll, who received 19 votes Yes, 0 votes No, 0 votes Abstained. I am pleased to announce Kara as the new elected Chair.

➢ **New Business**

• **Rep Homework:** We will be working on a Communications workshop. Please let us know what area you need assistance with (Forum, Facebook, Google Drive, Website, etc).

   What Conservation or rare plant related work (surveys, restoration, monitoring, etc.) is your chapter doing, or should be doing?

   Patricia: Teamed up with Passionflower on roadside wildflower project. Lake
Beautyberry has a demo garden at the IFAS office. Worked on a plant rescue with FNPS in Clermont. The chapter has a group of high school kids planting natives with them this month. Members have done seed collection to donate to conservation areas. Potential rescue project: Cannon Property near the mall has many listed species and they can’t sell it for conservation.

Sonya: Pawpaw continuing with A. rugelii monitoring with Danny Young, using federal funding. They have collected tissue samples for Bok Tower and Cincinnati Botanical Garden, and soil samples for examination of the companion soil organisms. Located a huge population of Conradina on county land and looking into establishing a management plan for it. During their roadside cleanups, they record flowering plants.

Ginny: Not much conservation work. Ixia is doing management of a city park and offering grants.

Tayler: Pine Lily has done some plant rescues, and has 80 Sacoila lanceolata waiting to be planted, with permits to go back and dig again. Would like to do rescues on sites with listed species. The Save Osceola Initiative sunsets in 2020 and they want to get it back on the ballot. They participate in invasive species removal.

Virginia: Suncoast has 3 native plant gardens in city parks. They raise money with plant sales, because good quality signage is the biggest expense, but worth it. They have corporate volunteers who help work to remove invasive plants in parks.

Patty: Dade is on it’s 19th year of maintaining restoration project in a park. They donate money to the FNPS Conservation fund. They advocate to their Legislators.

Judie: Sumter has no projects now.

David: Pinellas doesn’t have much in Conservation. Bartlett Park has a demo garden and 600 new residents moving in. Chapter is helping with a resident orientation on living near the park.

Nihal: Cuplet Fern report later.

Robert: Serenoa participated in Fire Expo and gave 2 grants.

Jonnie: Sweetbay has been working on landscape recovery after Hurricane Micheal,
with tremendous response, and getting IFAS to suggest native plants. Had a plant rescue last year, and are propagating those at a native nursery.

Janet: Hernando was involved in a plant rescue last year for Showy dawnflower. They have a native section in the Nature Coast Botanical Garden and are working on a grant from Walmart for signage there.

Ben: Coccoloba is monitoring Whorled and Feay’s milkweed. Due to the air plant weevil, they are working on air plant rescues.

Helen: Magnolia is planning for next year. Participated in Wildflower Festival, and received many donations to maybe use toward clearing shrubs and ravines. Very encouraged by discovery that the Torreya trees have not been killed as badly as expected.

Carol: Villages Participated in the April 6th Spring Master Gardener Expo and are building a good reputation as the source on natives. Maintaining the entrance at Lake Griffin State Park. The chapter produced HOA approved landscape designs and posted them on their website.

Jeanie: Sarracenia helped rescue plants in the path of a new bike path. Then put them back along the edge of path, and they are mostly doing well.

Kara: That is so cool that they weren’t just moved to a new site.

Sarracenia also helped landscape the Sopchoppy Train Depot, including signs.

Susan: Passionflower worked with Lake Beautyberry on the roadside wildflower project and had a FWF speaker to discuss it. Trying to involve the FL Federation of Garden Clubs and another local group, too. Has a landowner with 2 miles of roadside volunteer to maintain it. Went to the FWF Symposium and took inspiration from the idea: No Plants, No Bugs. No Bugs, No Birds. Involved in plant rescues, and seed collection of scrub lupine, Indian Plantain, and 8 grocery bags of Britton’s Beargrass! Have a demo garden at Lake Louisa State Park. Have a Legislator Meetup on June 11th. The FL Wildlife Corridor will likely get the chapter’s future attention. Had a plant rescue on a tract of virgin sandhill and had an ethical conflict upon seeing gopher tortoises there. The chapter can’t report that, any people who want to protest it to FWC, must do so as an individual.

Kara: But you have to be careful about reporting, because landowners talk.

Gail P: Nature Coast no report now.
Martha: Conradina has been doing outreach events and grants. There is now a fertilizer ban, and Roundup ban in Satellite Beach.

Gal T: Citrus Chapter no conservation projects. I would like to invite people to see our demo gardens while here. Sign companies are expensive, so check local for signage. Chapter is working on organizing a Nature On The Nature Coast Festival.

Al: Mangrove had 10th anniversary for demo garden, and 10th year of monitoring for flowering and seeding plants. Gave $1000 in grants, each with a sign, made possible because of a recent bequeath of $5000.

Sandi: Paynes Prairie doesn’t have much for conservation, we defer to Alachua Conservation Trust. Did do a plant trimming for Conradina etonia, to help reduce shading of plants.

Julie: Tarflower participated in several rescues and continue work at the Mead Botanical Garden sandhill restoration. Chapter plant sale supports this. They also have volunteers for Orlando Wetland Park.

Ellen: Martin Chapter has teamed up with County Extension and will come together on a native plant demo garden renovation.

-Kara leaves to attend BOD meeting, reporting continues-

Richard: Broward Chapter is gathering information with IRC, on where rare plants in the county are. Also working on a list of protected county lands, after discovering that 4 conversation properties were made available for lease and 20 members protested at a Commission meeting.

- Year in Review: Tabled

Open Floor
- Athena asks room if we can skip the open floor, since the BOD meeting is in progress, and allow the other Council Officers to attend that. Consensus of room is Yes.

Al Squires made motion to adjourn. Richard Brownscombe 2nds.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:35pm