



Florida Native Plant Society

**Council of Chapters Meeting Minutes 05/16/19**

CRYSTAL RIVER, FL – ANNUAL CONFERENCE

taken by Athena Philips – CoC Secretary

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

**In attendance (34)**

\* indicates proxy

Broward – Richard Brownscombe	Paynes Prairie – Sandi Saurers
Citrus – Gail Taylor	Pine Lily – Tayler Figueroa
Coccoloba – Ben Johnson	Pinellas – David Perky
Conradina – Martha Stuart	Sarracenia – Jeanie Brodhead
Cuplet Fern – Nihal Hafez *	Serenoa – Robert Dye
Dade – Patty Phares *	Sumter – Judie Bradley
Hernando – Janet Grabowski	Suncoast – Virginia Overstreet
Ixia – Ginny Stibolt *	Sweetbay – Jonnie Smallman
Lake Beautyberry – Patricia Burgos	Tarflower – Julie Becker
Magnolia – Helen Roth *	Villages – Carol Spears
Mangrove – Al Squires	Athena Philips – CoC Secretary
Martin – Ellen Broderick *	Bonnie Basham – Sarracenia; FNPS Treas
Naples – Kara Driscoll CoC Chair	Karen Walter – Pawpaw Treas
Nature Coast – Gail Parsons CoC Vice Chair	Jody Wood-Putnam – Sweetbay Co-Pres
Palm Beach – Winnie Said *	Rayanne Mitchell – Magnolia VP
Passionflower – Susan Knapp	Cammie Donaldson --Conradina; FNPS Admin
Pawpaw – Sonya Guidry	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 can not 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

Taylor: Pine Lily has done some plant rescues, and has 80 *Sacola 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 its 19<sup>th</sup> 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 daffodil. 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup>. 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 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary for demo garden, and 10<sup>th</sup> 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 conservation 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**