



**Florida Native Plant Society**  
Council of Chapters Meeting 10/22/17 Minutes  
Created on 11/02/17 by Nicole Zampieri  
Gotomeeting

Julie Becker called the meeting to order at 6:45.

**In attendance (16)**

Julie Becker - Chair (Tarflower)  
Virginia Oversteet - (Suncoast)  
Juliet Ryneer - Executive Assistant (Heartland)  
Dianna Wentink (Cocoplum)  
Al Squires (Mangrove)  
Ginny Stibolt (Ixia)  
Greg Thomas (Heartland)  
Gail Parsons (Nature Coast)  
Kara Driscoll (Naples)  
Athena Phillips (Citrus)  
Carol Spears (The Villages)  
Susan Knapp (Passionflower)  
Sonya Guidry (Pawpaw)  
Jeannie Brodhead (Sarracenia)  
Carol Sullivan (Sparkleberry)  
Greg Ballinger (Marion Big Scrub)

**I. Native Plant Month Highlights - Please post your activities for Native plant month on the forum. We only have time for brief statements on GotoMeeting**

- Julie: First of all I'd like to hear what some of you did for native plant month besides the declaration or presentation. I'm just gonna go down the list here. Athena, did your chapter have any events?
- Athena: We really didn't - Our chapter has had a leadership vacuum, our president was gone I was gone, so we had our two regular field trips and we did tabling events. But other than that we didn't do anything. Gail did participate in the bioblitz from Tarflower.
- Julie: Two field trips is still pretty great
- Athena: One of them was a shared field trip with a shared organization

- Julie: Carol? Did your chapter do anything?
- Carol: We did – yesterday actually – participate in a 5 hour long “Plant-toberfest”, sponsored by our Master Gardeners. This is the first year we had a booth. Done for education and outreach, and also as a small fundraiser. So we had a lot of people come by, it was a large event. We also had the printing of new designs approved by our local community architectural review committee, on how to plant natives in three different kinds of lots. And this morning a nice article came out about the event, talking about the designs and the benefits of using native plants. We were excited since it was our first time.
- Julie: that sounds like an excellent event Carol, especially up in the Villages. I think a lot of people especially those with home owners associations would like to look at your designs. Are you coming November 4<sup>th</sup>? It would be nice if you could bring them by.
- Carol: Sure I can do that. This was a project between our chapter and the university. It was done professionally and looks very nice. I will bring a couple of copies.
- Julie: Dianna Wentink? Are you a new chapter rep?
- Juliet: She’s muted – maybe not here
- Julie: Ginny?
- Ginny: I don’t know what our chapter did because I’ve been out of town. I was a presenter on a cruise ship so I was talking about botany and plants. I don’t think they did anything. The chapter is in a bit of disarray
- Greg B: We didn’t do anything special
- Greg T: We haven’t done it yet but we have two plans for October native plant month coming up. We have one big event at the Fall Festival and also on the 31<sup>st</sup> our chapter president and I are planning to speak to our legislative delegation about native plants. We’ve been planning on it. It’s a good opportunity because they will be talking about amendment 1.
- Julie: Very important. Jeannie Broadhead?
- Jeannie: We had a really nice field trip in the St. Marks Refuge in the sandhills, we were joined with Dr. Anderson from FSU to talk about plants. This Saturday we are going to the monarch festival at the refuge, we will have a big display with whats blooming now, photos and wildflowers and a childrens activity
- Julie: Thank you. Kara Driscol?
- Kara: I just became the chapter rep – as far as I know we haven’t done anything outside of our regular meeting, but I’m just getting up t speed on everything. The whole chapter is trying to reset itself after some internal drama, but we are really working hard on getting back in order, back organized, and network with other groups and other chapters in the area
- Julie: Susan Knapp?
- Susan: We accepted the proclamation and one member from the Beautyberry chapter accepted the proclamation. We gave them an invitation to attend the plant rescue at castle hill. Yesterday we cohosted with the Tarflower on a fieldtrip to the Warea Tract.
- Julie: Virginia?

- Virginia: Yes I am Virginia Overstreet from the Suncoast chapter, I just accepted the position we had a couple of events this past month, the botanical garden at the USF has a fall plant festival and we have a booth there. I believe our net profit was about \$1200. We had our regular native plant walk at Lettuce Lake Park and we had about 25 people including college students, and that's exciting cause we want some younger people. And tomorrow night we are gonna be wearing double hats as native plants and the master gardeners – I am giving a presentation on native plants. Just talk about a lot of different plants good for attracting pollinators.
- Julie: Sounds very good and thank you for being a chapter rep
- Diana Wentink: Sorry I was muted before – I am from the Cocoplum chapter – for Native Plant Month we had our first meeting at a new location and we met about the pine flatwoods with a field trip the following Saturday. We had a table at the Jonathon Dickinson state park fire fest, and we had a weeding party at the environmental science center. Next month, our topic is “sand pine scrub” and we will have a trip following that the next Saturday.
- Al: Thanks to Andy Taylor, Mangrove chapter had a proclamation. Our meeting this month was two members of the garden club and the girl scouts have a native plant badge, and two groups of girl scouts came through to do it. I did the session on native and exotic plants. I displayed our certificates. It will happen again on the 28<sup>th</sup> along with a field trip to shamrock park, which is one of 2 ADA accessible walks we do each year.
- Gail: We did the proclamation from the county commissioner and I am the field trip chair, we just had our plant sale yesterday, we allocate whatever our profits our to the Florida Native Plant Society. We did a field trip to a wildlife environmental area last Saturday, I tried to focus on Floridas endangered species, this area had the celestial lily, so we went to look for it and we found it. We've got pictures on our facebook page.
- Julie: Well that sounds like you were all pretty busy! Thank you for that. I hope all of you listen to these and consider that you could use these in the future for your chapters. Any one else whos name is not showing?
- Sonya: We did have a proclamation, and we did field trips to two natural areas and we created plant lists and provided the plant lists to the county commissioners. We had another field trip led by Susan Carr to a Sandhill in the Ocala National Forest.

## II. Communication and Sharing. How can the council better communicate and share activities, projects and info so we are not “reinventing the wheel”? What computer – internet- and other tools do the chapters need and need instruction in, to further the FNPS mission.?

- Julie: So at the last meeting I really saw a lot of action between the chapter reps after the meeting or between the meetings. I think one of our big things is getting better at communicating with each other and putting ideas somewhere where we can share them. I want to get in the habit of passing information along or posting in a physical sense so that

other chapters can use them. Some are little things, like Jeannie using cotton balls for seedlings start, someone else at a previous meeting had given us seed balls to throw in our yard. All of these projects need to be filed somewhere so that we can access them. A couple of chapters have made their own brochures.

- Juliet: The council of chapters has a folder on the Google Drive. Nicole had already posted all the powerpoints that Donna had done. I've just been waiting to get input from you on how you want to use it. And you can store a lot more information there than on the forum. Do you want just a simple link to give to everyone to share it? Right now you and Nicole are the only people with access.
- Julie: I would like to open that up but I know that our upcoming meeting is a lot about the strategic planning stuff, but I would like everybody here to think about using Google Drive, about how it should be organized, and then Juliet, you said you would do a short thing on how to use Google Drive?
- Juliet: Sure. It's as easy as sending everyone a link. It could be posted on the website as well. Or I can send it in an email.
- Julie: I do think the link should be open at least to chapter officers of some kind. To open it up and look at stuff. Posting is another thing, we can talk about that after people know how to use it. My question now is how do you all feel about that?
- Kara: I think it's an excellent idea, having those resources available is a godsend – I used to do outreach for the magnolia chapter and it's a totally different area now. So it's a great idea.
- Julie: some of it will be regional, but I imagine it can be a space for outlines and stuff to pull from and change it to work in our area. We won't be reinventing the wheel. Gail from Citrus chapter attended our backyard biodiversity day and she mentioned that we keep reinventing the wheel. Sometimes I go to these meetings and I write stuff down and it never gets to where I want it to go or I lose the note
- Gail: This is Gail with Nature Coast – one of the folders I think we need to have is a sharing of the gardens and landscaping that we have done over the years
- Julie: Yes that can be included, and hopefully once we start actually putting these things together we could come up with some generalized programs that will help the society in general receive grants and reach out to larger communities
- Al: Getting back to who should see it, who should post, I think all the chapter board of directors should be able to see it, the problem I have is with posting. I think we should have someone kind of monitor who to post it.
- Julie: I think that's true and I think that needs to be worked on. Maybe we have some regional people who could take turns doing that, and sometimes that means whatever you wrote just needs to be tuned up a little bit. I hope if that happens later someone says we need to tune this up before we post it.
- Ginny: I agree that there should be an administrator - I think there needs to be a small committee of people who do the posting, and then it will be a much better resource.
- Julie: I think we all agree about that. Does anyone have any more comments?

- Susan: I have a question about an initiative: we were supposed to log on and document places with native plant installations?
- Ginny: What we had talked about was updating the website with native plant gardens. We were talking about that but I don't think anybody kept up with that. It has not really started.
- Julie: Aren't we talking about like public gardens that have native plant sections?
- Ginny: and yes that's what's on the website. And so it's incomplete
- Julie: That may be something to revisit, but it's not something you need to worry about right now.
- Athena: I think it's a good idea to pursue, but when we first talked about it including all this information like the square footage of the garden which is what intimidated me about collecting the information. So for me even if we just collect the information of whether or not the garden exists that would be beneficial.

### III. Strategic Planning. FNPS BOD is reviewing our strategic plan, We will be discussing it at the November 4 meeting. This plan and proposed budget are posted on the forum.

- Julie: I don't want to keep anyone too long tonight, but I did want to talk about what's coming up on November 4<sup>th</sup>, in the administrative category but does eventually affect all our chapters. We are relooking at our strategic plan, its time to readjust parts, and we will be talking about a lot of that at the Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. We do have some time for the council. All of this is on the forum. On the forum there is a whole section for Strategic Planning 2018-2020. If you are looking for this information it's posted here. This includes the brainstorming aspirational goals. Give it a skim before coming to the meeting on November 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Juliet: If you want I can also post the strategic plan
- Julie: That might be good – I don't want you to spend too much time.
- Juliet: Yeah it is already done it's what we looked at the last meeting
- Julie: Well you could link to google drive from the forum
- Juliet: I can show you the forum on my screen
  - \*Juliet showed the council drive folder on her screen
- Juliet: This is what's loaded on here now – the powerpoint presentations donna did and one version of the landscaping brochure powerpoint. If other chapters have tailored this powerpoint to their own region, that would be great to share. But as far as I know we only have central region done. The brainstorming session document is on here. There is also an Idea board where people can type in their ideas. People could discuss projects they would like to do or projects they want other chapters to replicate. Gail suggested a special folder for landscapes and community gardens so people can upload them there.
- Al: Juliet this is Al, how do we get there?
- Juliet: I could create a link and share it with everyone

- Greg: This looks like a terrific framework my only question is, moving forward and opening this up to the chapters, is it only going to be the chapter president and the chapter board of directors?
- Juliet: Well I created this just for the council of chapters. All the committees have folders in the online office. We have a folder for chapter bylaws – which you can see not a lot have been sent. I don't think you are gonna have a problem with over posting.
- Julie: Well we should remind our presidents that they should send that to you.
- Juliet: yeah that's a recent problem that I just discovered, when this new chapter was filing their paperwork I needed copies of other chapter bylaws to show them and when I contacted admin they said well technically the secretaries are supposed to have them and hand them over to other secretaries. We have like no copies of chapter by laws and we are supposed to have copies.
- Julie: I suggest the link to the google drive to be sent to chapter reps and chapter presidents and chime in if you think this is okay to start with.
- Athena: Is there possibility that people can edit or delete?
- Julie: No not at this point. Right now everyone can just view. At least at the beginning we should be submitting to someone for posting.
  - Chapters voted in favor of sharing a view only link
- Julie: I am just gonna keep this short this time so we all need to do our homework for two weeks from now so I'd like to thank everyone for attending
- Gail: Is there an agenda for the upcoming meeting?
- Juliet: are you talking about an agenda the council? Or schedule for the full the day? Yes, its gonna be from 9-5, right now the exec committee is meeting and they need to talk about it before we can sign off on official schedule. There will probably be a field trip in the morning, they have a nursery and a trail they want us to see (Sea Rocket chapter). In the morning will probably be the treasurer of the society giving his spiel, after that there is a proposal before the executive committee to change our accounting system to Quickbooks. After lunch will be a presentation from the committee doing development and financial strategic plan and then a discussion of aspirational goals, then the council of chapters meeting, then the board of directors meeting.
- Ginny: before we sign off I want to mention I went to the Audubon assembly last weekend and when I was talking to people they were mentioning that we should have more partnerships between our organizations. WE have the same goals. It was really interesting seeing how their assembly was organized, it was very different.
- Gail: I'd like to mention in Hillsborough Co. all three of those counties get together once a year in July for a whole day meeting and it is very good.
- Julie: I'd like to know how that's organized thank you.
- Al: This is Al – the venice chapter of Audubon is getting active in the native plant stuff now, in February we are gonna be doing a presentation for a half day event on native plants to attract birds.

- Ginny: at one of the events I went too they were talking about native landscaping, so they had a panel discussion and they brought up the FNPS website as a great resource for finding native plants
- Julie: Okay- so any last important comments from everybody? Because I would like to close this meeting
- Athena: I wanted to address the forum and finding the strategic planning – when I went to the forum I did not see it on mine, but I did see it on your page.
- Juliet: Are you logged in?
- Athena: Yes I am
- Julie: I miss stuff all the time on the forum – I have to scroll up and down a couple of time to find stuff, so let’s see. It’s got its own spot after Council of chapters and after committees, it has its own spot.
  - Julie projected her screen to show where the strategic planning is on the forum
- Julie: alright so are we already?
- Susan: I had a question about the fnps website? Is it self correcting? Because when I tried to use it for a specific plant, the first time I tried it didn’t pop up. And then when I went back a few days later the plant popped up.
- Ginny: I worked on that database and it is not self correcting, you must have corrected yourself
- Carol: This is Carol Sullivan I just want to make sure you knew I was here
- Julie: Thank you all for being here, I look forward to seeing you all in a few weeks

Julie adjourned the meeting at 7:44 PM