



Florida Native Plant Society
Council of Chapters Meeting 11/04/17 Minutes
Created on 12/13/17 by Nicole Zampieri
In-Person meeting at Enchanted Forest Sanctuary in Titusville

Julie Becker called the meeting to order at 2:45 P.M.

In attendance (27)

Nicole Zampieri – Council Secretary (Magnolia)	Al Squires (Mangrove)
Kara Driscoll – Council Vice Chair (Naples)	Greg Ballinger (Marion Big Scrub)
Julie Becker – Interim Council Chair (Tarflower)	Susan Knapp (Passionflower)
Jaya Milam (Big Bend)	Sonya Guidry (Pawpaw)
Glenda Schrimper (Big Bend)	Karen Walter (Pawpaw)
Ben Johnson (Coccoloba)	Janet Cavvusti (Pawpaw)
Dianna Wentink (Cocoplum)	Sandi Saurers (Paynes Prairie)
Kim Zarillo (Conradina)	Taylor Figueroa (Pine Lily)
Neta Villalobos-Bell (Cuplet Fern)	Jeannie Brodhead (Sarracenia)
David Martin (Eugenia)	Judith Zinn (Sea Oats)
Cindy Liberton (Hernando)	Lois Harris (Sea Rocket)
Ginny Stibolt (Ixia)	Carol Sullivan (Sparkleberry)
Wendy Poag (Lake Beautyberry)	Virginia Overstreet (Suncoast)
	Carol Spears (The Villages)

Note: There was no agenda for this meeting, so the outline is organized by topic

I. General

- Julie: Our elected council chair, Donna Bollenbach, has moved and cannot be chairing the council anymore and therefore I am back in that position until May so we have some issues here. Generally, I haven't done this for a while, I am trying to get unrusty, but I am sending around a sign in sheet for the council of chapters. If your chapter has change in leadership please send that information to info@fnps.org. Please remember to say your name as you speak so that our secretary knows your name. We have some admin issues as I was listening, you need to take back to your chapters and get it checked on we need to make sure as Pete was talking that some of our chapters have lost their tax-exempt status. So, when is that paperwork due, Pete?
- Pete: For the 990? The tax form? I think there is an extension this year because of hurricane Irma. It might be January 31st. I'll check on that

- Julie: I know at our chapter we talk about whether or not the form was filed so we might need to be checking that. You want to be tax exempt and you want to be a nonprofit, you need to make sure your president or whoever is filing that paperwork on time. Another thing is your bylaws need to be on file with the state. If your chapter has not recently sent them in, I believe we are supposed to review the bylaws every three or five years something like that. Every once in a while we need to do the things that are not going out and walking in the woods and we need to tend to our administrative tasks.
- Pete: The 990 is due on the 15th of May – the form to be tax exempt. The state organization had an extension for time because of an audit, and then there was an extension on that because of the Hurricane. It's the 9-90, also called the post card form.
- Julie: So we need to check our 9-90s are done and send your chapter bylaws to Juliet
- Juliet: We have 12 chapters right now right now: Big bend, Broward, Citrus, Coccoloba, Magnolia, Naples, Nature Coast, Paynes Prairie, Pine Lily, Pinellas, Sweetbay, Sumter
- Julie: A reminder that every few years you should be reviewing your bylaws. I know most of us had a really busy October – I asked about this in our last go to meeting with the native plant month events, and one of the things that is coming out is that we are so busy, we need to make time to communicate with each other chapter to chapter. I am hoping that in February we have some long time for circle groups and stuff where we can discuss and share with each other and look for some things we can be doing

II. Google Drive and Facebook

- Julie: Juliet has set up a folder on the Google drive for the council to share stuff
- Juliet: On Google Drive you can collaborate in real time, work on documents on the same time and all that. It is organized by committees, chapters, etc. It is our virtual office. The council of chapters has its own folder with all of the PowerPoint presentations that Donna did for the council, everything from responsibilities and purpose of the council to resources for the chapters and for chapter representatives, the native landscaping so that we have a native landscaping PowerPoint which goes along the brochure. There is a central FL on but you can use it as a template for your own region. There is also a strategic plan and an idea board. If you let everybody edit, people can post on the idea board
- Julie: I would like to get to that point, maybe sometime before February. One of the things you can think about putting up here- If you are from the panhandle or from North Florida and you have given a PowerPoint that is for a garden club or for a presentation outside, maybe you gave it to a school or a university or a community college or whatever, something about the value of native plants or conservation land or whatever. If it is valuable to anyone in that area it would be nice if you could post it to this site and say adjust as needed. You would need someone in your chapter who would download and adjust for your own needs. If we are going to allow say one or two people from a chapter to post here, the stuff we need to post has to be pretty neatly done and usable. But we can have our idea board which is something that can be simple. At our last meeting, we had a bunch of people sitting around in small

groups sharing lots of good ideas. I had asked previously about the seed balls and then Jeannie gave this idea about propagating a seed using a cotton ball. All of this kind of stuff can go into the idea board. someone from your chapter can edit the presentations for your audience, or for 15 minutes or an hour or whatever. And this way we can benefit from other people's good ideas

- Jeannie: we send it to you right now?
- Julie: Yes, sent it to me and I will probably have to ask Juliet how to post it. The other thing is social media is everything. I know a lot of us are not the most comfortable with the social media. Google does everything. Someone in your chapter – someone's son, daughter, nephew, someone can help you on social media, how many chapters do not have facebook page?
- Al: We discussed it at our last board meeting yesterday, we just have no one with enough expertise or desire to do it
- Gail: We started a group Facebook page council page. One of the things I have wanted to do is share our gardens or landscaping that your chapters are doing. Failures too. And you need pictures. The Facebook is perfect for pictures. Taylor and I were talking about how we can do it so that they are posted in an album or something. I want to see what you all have done. I have taken pictures of some of the gardens that we have done, before and after photos. And the ones that have failed – these are just as important. Tell us, why did it fail.
- Patricia (lake beauty berry)?: is there anywhere I can see how many chapters have Facebook. I like my page, you like your page. I try to search but is there anywhere where we can see a list of what chapters have Facebook without clicking on each one?
- Taylor: on Facebook if you search FNPS council of chapters it's a closed group, there's like 37 members, I tried to go through our list of chapter reps, I sent an invite to everyone from the council.... It's very informal, nothing like google drive you can ask questions, talk about. This is the one you guys have had for a long time, Shirley gave us the lead to close it and delete people who are not council members
- Gail: The key to this Facebook page is that it is a "Group" page where everybody can post not just administrators.

III. Council Discussion

- Julie: We have an online council meeting schedule at the end of January and then our next in person meeting in February. I would like us to do some area regional linking together, but the next council meeting is not scheduled until late April. I would like to move that to late march. We need to find a nominating committee for council chair, vice chair, and secretary. I would like someone who is not involved since the chairs cannot be involved to come up with people from the council or even people who are active in your chapters who might be willing to serve. Kara over here has expressed interest in the vice chair position, and I am happy to have her come on board. It would be nice if we had more than one person trying to do it. I do need people to start thinking about it. In February we will have to have a nominating committee. We like to have an election online so that by the time we get to conference all we are doing is installing our officers. And we are not having the election there. The election is online.

- Taylor: is there a place where we can read the descriptions of each position?
- Julie: Should be on the Wiki and in the COC responsibilities. The secretary's position is to record the minutes, the vice chair doesn't have a lot in there technically all three of us sit on the board of directors. And the chair is on the ExCom. I have asked Kara to help a little bit more with communication and stuff shes probably a little bit more used to Facebook and social media and stuff. Hopefully we will have internet in February meeting. anybody have anything to add?
- Jeannie: I've done a couple of PowerPoints, should I be using the FNPS formats for them? should I be using the ones with the logo and stuff?
- Gail: should she be using the template if it's gonna be representing the native plant society?
- Jackie: we converted the rescue PowerPoint to the FNPS template. I don't have my local garden group talk on the template. So it depends who you are representing when you give the talk.
- Catherine: New ones, please use the template, so that we do have consistency in the branding
- Al: Where do we find it?
- Julie: On the website scroll all the way to the bottom and go to chapter resources/support documents
- Catherine: Since we are mentioning consistency, and since the council of chapter makes a report, use the template for the reports. Both in the council of chapters as well as the committee chair. If you don't have it that's where it is
- Anne: I also posted about this on the forum. we really need to be more consistent
- Julie: So, for homework everyone needs to be checking the website support docs.
- Ginny: Three years ago, I did an all-day workshop for the chapters where we had invited three people from each chapter and we talked about outreach. I am going to be on a book tour again this fall and I am willing to do that again. So, I want to know if you want me to do it. So, this would be topics that you want to discuss. I can get the Lyonia center for nothing because I will promise to do an outreach for them at the end. I am leaving the country for four months in January so if you want to do it we need to decide soon. I also have my calendar to fill up for that book tour I have two books coming out climate wise landscaping and also step by step to a Florida native yard, Marjorie and I co-wrote it. Heavy in planning and she did the landscape drawings and stuff and so we go through each step in nativizing your yard. I am offering a plain talk on that and a workshop where you can use that for membership. There are a couple of formats you can use for that, someone can pay like \$75 dollars for that and they will get a copy of the book, an FNPS membership, and a native plant. Partner with a local native vendor and that would be a membership drive. But I do think that that workshop I did for the chapters was so popular that I am doing it again. And Neta has volunteered to take the registrations for that
- Ginny: We could do whatever topics you want. Last time I talked about outreach, a lunchtime groupthing, then we divided up the rooms, and Shirley did something on websites so we can come up with whatever topics you want but I am prepared to do that and organize it for you. I am available for 11 weeks from September 1 to November 17th. So, if you want to do that workshop any day you want.

- Anne: I want to remind people we are not mailing out any more membership brochures.
- Neta: I have a question and I would like opinions. Something came up in our chapter and we are reaching out to high school students – the teacher is giving credit for the students to attend our meetings or a field trip. The question is would we accept a student under 18 to allow them to come on our field trip. What if they are 14 and they don't have an adult with them?
- Sonya: Pawpaw led Rugel's round up.. We have had students come with us among other adults
- Carol Sullivan: does the school have a process such as the parents signing a form?
- Neta: Yes, they sign a form with the school. Is Don Spence here? I need to ask him if the society covers our field trips with insurance
- Jackie: Yes, if they are under 500 attendees
- Al: and they have to sign the waiver
- Jackie: But yes, our insurance covers any events opened to the public
- Devon: Our chapter had someone come to one of our field trips once that was wearing an ankle bracelet, and we tracked down the information and they were a convicted molester. So that's something I just wanted to plant in the back of your head. We all need to be aware of that
- Neta: So, does everybody think its ok?
- Anne: If you allow people under 18 without a parent you are liable for anything. If you allow that you will have parents dropping their kids off all day long. I would not allow that unless there is an adult who is liable for them.
- Julie: You also have the issue of nondrivers getting into a car with a stranger.
- Neta: I have different opinions here
- Juliet: You absolutely have to have someone from the school or a parent as a chaperone, the parents need to sign a waiver. There are 2 different waivers.
- Neta: So, it sounds like we should not allow students to come who are under 18 to attend unless they are accompanied by an adult and their parents have signed a waiver
- Julie: I would like to have a really interesting annual retreat in February, but I want input from you guys whether you want to email me or bring it up at the next meeting or whatever.... I know some of you did not have your October events until after our go to meeting
- Gail: I wanted to go back – our chapter is doing the state fair in Hillsborough county. Our chapter is doing the fair and we were in the agricultural building. The state fair paid us to do the booth. What I'm getting too is we need volunteers. This is two weeks long so we need help. If you are nearby we need help. Each day is a long day our booth was also judged, and we made 3rd place and it was our first time. It's in February. I can put the information on our group page. You get a lot of traffic. Now where else can you go do tabling where you get constant traffic going by?? It's a good thing and we need help.

- Andy: I did a shift at that and it was wonderful, the design was great, as people walked by, I met people from Sarasota, from Citrus, from out of state even. If you work a shift at that you might run into someone from your area.
 - Gail: People come from all over the state. most of the other booths near us are in the horticultural section and have booths for African violets. and they've been doing it for years. It was very successful, our president really worked hard at this and it looked really good.
 - Julie: I hope we will get some volunteers.
 - Gail: I'll post a picture from last years on the Facebook group page
 - Julie: If you would send me the dates and the hours and we will try to get it in the sabal minor
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- Wendy: I was hoping we could talk about land management reviews. I didn't see anything in the postings for the council... our council of chapters should also be encouraging members to be engaging in land management reviews. There is a lot open. The next one is in Escambia county on the 14th of this month. We don't have a reviewer. Charlotte Harbor preserve state park in January, I don't have a reviewer listed.
 - Kara: I can talk to my chapter as well as Marlene about partnering up to go up to that. And I will speak with Ray.
 - Wendy: They want us at these reviews. We were welcomed, they value the time and they acknowledge that volunteers are taking their time off too. Another one I have missing is Balm Boyette Scrub. I don't have anyone listed for that. Taylor County Feb 22nd and 23rd. Contact Ray.
 - Juliet showed us on the screen go to FNPS website, chapter contacts, board of directors, Ray Jarrett
 - Julie: We would like to keep our status with the state. Historically we have has an FNPS member on 100% of land management reviews.
 - Wendy: and we are the voice for plants because often times these properties do not have an official plant list or they are managing for a single species like "Pine".
 - Al: at Myakka state forest, I was a reviewer there and somebody on the review team said to the manager, do you have any endangered plant species on the forest? And the manager asked me!
 - Juliet: If you go to the forum look under committees and then click on land management partners, and the support materials are on the top. You can download the PowerPoint on passion for public lands.
 - Anne: Go to the top to the LMP webpage, from the bottom of the FNPS website, on the bottom you can click on "upcoming reviews" and that's how you sign up.
 - Wendy: You are not the person who wants to go camping or fishing, you are wearing the hat of the society. Remember Audubon can fill it if they are the first to the state
 - Gail: as they finish do new ones come on?
 - Anne: Yes, they will erase themselves as they pass and new ones will be uploaded in May Now they send me lats and longs before I had to look everything up
 - Al: Why is Myakka forest listed up there? It is filled
 - Anne: This does not tell you if they are filled or not, just what reviews are coming up

- Catherine: Its preferred that the chapter that's closest to the site be the main reviewer. But if you have an extra interest in that site or grew up there put yourself up as the back up, so that Ray can know

IV. New Chapter Introduction – Big Bend

- Julie: We do have our new chapter from the Big Bend and we do have their chapter representative here so would you mind introducing yourself.
- Jaya: Thanks we are so happy to be here. We have a big littering problem and that's what caught my attention and I came up with some ideas and went through the community and talked to people there and tried to come up with how to combat the issue there. We have a beautiful nature coast, as you all know, and it is getting ruined by recklessness. So I started talking to several community members and made a proposal to Taylor county on antilittering, they were so pleased with it they are gonna give us funding. We are gonna be putting up signs in the community areas and in the parks and roadsides that say kind of like in the Keys that say "Leave nothing but footprints", in a nice friendly sign. We are gonna put those around near trash cans. So that's how we are gonna start. As part of the sign we were looking at what we were gonna put on the base and so we were looking for sustainable plants and stuff that required little care and that can survive the whole year and that's how I stumbled on the Florida Native Plant Society. So I did some research and decided it was great and perfect this is what we need. Looked at the map and saw the closest chapter was Gainesville. so I came up with the suggestion by talking to Juliet and Emma, How about we just start a chapter. There was a lot of interest in the area and so much to do out here and so many great locations that are just getting ruined by the littering. Linda is my vice president, we came up with so many other ideas of stuff we can do for the chapter. Glenda had a great idea and we put a slate of board members together.
- Glenda: One of the things we are gonna be wanted to do is – we live on the river – and I've seen a lot of changes, mostly not for the better. We are gonna be starting by the waterfalls but we've got a big littering problem but it's a public area and there is a boat ramp. We are gonna document what's growing and do it all four seasons so we can do it year by year and watch what's growing, just to document so we know how to save it. And we are gonna do about a 3 mile stretch. Since hurricane Debbie we have hardly seen any otters, any manatees, or any turtles. We will be doing our surveys by kayak.
- Catherine: Well welcome to the Florida Native Plant Society

Meeting adjourned at 3:55 P.M.