Melanie Simon called the meeting to order at 06:33 PM

In attendance (26) – 21 of 33 Chapters
* indicates proxy or guest

Citrus – Jeffrey Bippert
Coccoloba – Lucy Breitung
Cuplet Fern – Al Squires
Cuplet Fern – Sandy Boylston*
Eugenia – David Martin
Hernando – Heather Sharkey
Ixia – Cate Hurlbut
Lake Beautyberry – Patricia Burgos
Longleaf Pine – Kimee Bremmer
Mangrove – Kate Borduas
Martin County – Dianna Wentink
Naples – Sara Dust
Passionflower – Melanie Simon - Chair

Pawpaw – Karen Walter
Pawpaw – Sande Habali
Paynes Prairie – Sandi Saurers
Pine Lily – Tayler Figueroa
Pinellas – David Perkey
Sarracenia – Lynn Artz
Sparkleberry - Carol Sullivan
Suncoast – Virginia Overstreet
Tarflower – Jennifer Ferngren
The Villages – Gary Babic
FNPS Secretary – Bonnie Basham*
FNPS Communications – Valerie Anderson*
FNPS Exec. Director – Lynda Davis*

Note that links and action items have been highlighted below.

Regular Agenda Items

• Minutes from 7/24/22 meeting
  o Dianna W. motioned to approve the July 24, 2022 meeting minutes. Cate H. seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

• Next Meeting September 25th at 6:30pm

News/Announcements/Reminders

• Native Plant Month Resolution/Proclamation
  o October is Native Plant month
  o Bonnie B. spoke about how easy it is to get a Resolution/Proclamation passed – good way to get positive press and increase native plant awareness
  • Suggests getting started on it in September to get it on the calendar
Two documents (Steps to Take for a Proclamation and Example – Wakulla County Proclamation) are posted on the Council website home page [https://council.fnpschapters.org/](https://council.fnpschapters.org/).

- Steps document explains how to find out the process for submitting a resolution
- Tailor the example document - Resolution should contain both general native plant information and county-specific information
- Chapters should plan to have people at the meeting when the Resolution on the agenda.
  - Bonnie will help any chapters find information to find their Commissioners or tailor the resolution – email her at bbasham@fnps.org.
  - Lynn A. (from Wakulla County) suggested doing something to add “pizazz” by taking potted plants, a slideshow, or something educational to the Commission meeting. Check gift rules before planning to give the Commissioners anything.
  - Patricia B. added that County officials can be asked for a photo op. These photos are great to post on the website, Facebook, Flickr.

**FNPS Membership Database**

- The Membership Database (accessed through the Data Distribution website) is temporarily disabled while updates are being made. Will be live by the end of September.
- Currently, after login there is a menu item called Society Contact Lists which includes officer email lists and allows Chapters to search for individual member records by name.
- If reports are needed while the system is disabled (for example: new members) please email Administrative Services info@fnps.org to request. You can also email Lynda if you need assistance.
- Login access for the updated system is still being figured out. Preferred solution is to continue to have one login per Chapter, but there are some technical challenges to deal with.
- Training on the new system will be provided. We will probably do a main workshop on the basics (access and reports) followed by more detailed instruction by role in breakout rooms. Roles will be discussed at the next meeting.
- Everyone is thanked for their patience during this transition.

**OUTSIDE Collaborative**

- Melanie spoke about OUTSIDE - a collaborative working with developers and landscape architects to increase the adoption of sustainable landscape practices – an initiative to work with the professional community to increase the use of native plants. There is an event in October in Orlando which will include a workshop, tour, and conference.
- One option is virtual attendance at the conference ($25) with keynote speaker Thomas Rainer (Planting in a Post-Wild World) and a presentation of the OUTSIDE Sustainable Landscaping Design Pattern Book and Landscape Maintenance Practices Video Series.
- Learn more about OUTSIDE and register at: [https://outsidecollab.com/#about](https://outsidecollab.com/#about)

**FNPS Plant Database – Common Names**

- Melanie reminded everyone that the search function can now be used for plant common names.
- Enter the common name in the search box and choose the plant you want from the dropdown list.

**Gardens on the Website**

- Al S. noted that Cuplet Fern has submitted three gardens, but they have not appeared on the FNPS website yet.
- Melanie noted that Shirley will post gardens after the membership database work is done.

**Publicity and Outreach Workshop**

- Recordings are posted for the three workshop sessions (Main session and two breakout room discussions). There are two ways to access them:
Log onto the Data Distribution website (https://fnpsmembers.org/home). Go to Council Google Drive, and the Workshops folder. The 2021 workshop recording is also in that folder.

Cut and paste the web address into your browser:
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1M0lRcAejt4xOuaBKhrEZD5l98wD__4m?usp=sharing

2023 Annual Conference
- Melanie reminded Chapters to consider hosting one of the in-person weekend events.
- Contact Valerie at communications@fnps.org for more information.

New Member Packages
- Committee is continuing to work on drafting pages for the New Member Packages. Will need people to review for readability (do not need to be content experts).
- Lynn A. and David M. volunteered to help. Additional volunteers are needed.
- If you have are willing to review and comment on drafts, please email msimon@fnps.org.

Council Vice Chair and Secretary Vacancies
- Council Vice Chair and Secretary positions are still vacant and help is needed.
- If you (or someone you know) can help with any of the tasks assigned to these positions (see Guidance on Council website) please email msimon@fnps.org. Melanie will train.

FNPS Budget Input
- Budget submissions are needed by the end of September. Get with Lynda by the middle of September with input or questions.
- Main budget input from chapters is expected to be for printing. We will use last year’s costs as a baseline.
- Spanish translations of the Good Citizen Guide and inserts are expected to get done next year.
- Melanie asked Chapters to assess whether they need more, less, or the same quantity of brochures they received this year. Melanie will send out a poll to collect responses.

Membership Brochure Printing
- Al S. noted that Cuplet Fern has not received Membership brochures yet. Karen noted (in chat) Pawpaw hasn’t received them either.
- Update: Melanie checked with Emma (info@fnps.org) – all membership brochures will be shipped out by 9/5. Please contact Emma or Melanie if you have not received them by 9/15.

Insurance
- Lynda D. is looking at all aspects of insurance and working on ways to make waivers more efficient and including a waiver for minors.
- If you have any insurance questions or concerns, know about insurance, or have a resource that could help, please email Lynda at executivedirector@fnps.org.

Fundraising
- Melanie asked if any Chapters are currently fundraising from Community Foundations or other organizations. No chapters responded in the affirmative.
- Lynda sees the organization as an opportunity for State and State-local fundraising partnerships.

Master Gardeners
- Lynn shared that Sarracenia is working with their local UF/IFAS Extension Agent to try to get Master Gardeners to focus more on native plants. Sarracenia is providing Master Gardeners with native plant seeds to propagate and has been invited to participate in the MG course. Also exploring making more of a native plant section at the Extension office and offering a native plant-only event.
• **Pawpaw Expo**
  o Karen shared that Pawpaw is having a mini-expo in October. One purpose is to highlight small nurseries (“backyard” growers) to expand avenues for getting native plants. They will also have speakers on native plants in landscapes, botany, plants for birds, and social media “selfie sharing”.
  o Karen is looking for butterfly outreach. Melanie suggested Dr. Minno and the Florida Museum, Cate suggested Jaret Daniels, and Karen is contacting a group who does butterfly surveys.

**Discussion – Finding Programs and Speakers**

• **Sources for Speakers and Program Ideas**
  o Al, Virginia, Cate, Kate, Tayler, Kimberly, Jeffrey and others contributed ideas for finding speakers:
    • State Parks and State Forests (properties and land management)
    • Universities
    • Members (chapters have a lot of wisdom and experience to share) – great idea to empower members to increase and share knowledge
    • Other Chapters’ Members
    • Members’ recommendations (something they have heard elsewhere)
    • UF/IFAS Master Gardeners
    • UF/IFAS Florida Master Naturalist Programs (different habitat systems, wildlife)
    • UF Wildlife & Invasive Species Education programs (Last week on Monarchs, Sept. 9 on native frogs in Florida [https://ufl.zoom.us/j/92369361489])
    • County or City Government (City Parks, Urban Forester)
    • Kate noted we need to look beyond plant programs to programs that address all the aspects (and denizens) of Florida ecosystems
    • Always new science
    • Videos can be used in lieu of a live speaker

• **Speakers List (Speakers Bureau)**
  o Melanie noted that the Council put together a Speakers List last year, although as a group we have not been diligent about adding all the programs and speakers we’ve used
  o **Speakers List is in the Announcement/Reminders list on the home page of the Council website or at [https://drive.google.com/file/d/19_bl5HkzKnjMdNoTv9Ajk4emR052guyq/view]**
  o Cate noted that this list also helps Chapters come up with ideas for programs
  o Cate suggested adding a column to indicate in-person or Zoom
  o Melanie will add Dr. Marc Minno, who will speak in person and on Zoom about butterflies and moths (Ixias looking for someone)
  o Melanie noted that all the Lunch & Learns need to be on the list – if you want to use one for a Chapter meeting location without WiFi Valerie can send a download link (great last-minute alternative if speaker cancels as well).
  o Melanie noted that about 20 chapters have YouTube channels – these should also be on the list so recorded programs can be shared (or other chapters can get program subject/speaker ideas).
  o Melanie also noted that the Speaker List may need another column for cost.

• **Interactive Program Idea**
  o Virginia explained a program Suncoast did that doesn’t require a speaker. Called it “What Should I Plant Here?”
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- Thinks this may be easier to do on Zoom than in person.
- If someone wanted suggestions on what to plant they submitted 3-5 photos. Virginia put together a slide show. Introduced the person who described the property (size, attributes, etc.)
- Attendees entered suggestions in the chat.
- Turned out to be a lot of fun.

**Speaker Payment**
- Jeffrey B. asked if chapters pay for speakers
- Virginia, Sara, Patricia, Jennifer, Melanie, Cate, Karen
- Payments mentioned ranged from $0 to $150/Suncoast, Naples and Pinellas pay $100
- Some speakers refuse payment (outreach is part of their jobs or they do it as a public service)
- Some speakers want travel expenses reimbursed, an honorarium, a donation to a charity
- Usually less for a Zoom program
- $50 if local, $100 if they travel
- Suncoast renews membership for members who do programs
- Cate noted they only pay if the speaker won’t speak without payment
- Heather noted they rarely pay speakers/Valerie does not pay L&L speakers
- Kate noted there may be a difference between the cost of “professional” and “amateur” speakers
- Patricia recommended partnering with another chapter to bring in an expensive speaker

**In-Person vs. Virtual**
- Al said Cuplet Fern is doing some in-person programs, but also has a Zoom series.
- Heather noted that although there is a strong preference for in-person meetings and speakers, Hernando has found that virtual speakers allow them to have experts that would otherwise be unavailable due to distance and time commitment.
- Pinellas has done hybrid meetings two ways: with a live speaker and with a speaker on Zoom
- Pinellas and Ixia both do programs and follow them with a related field trip.

Motion to Adjourn

Meeting Adjourned at 7:46 PM