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

**In attendance (21) – 17 of 33 Chapters**
* indicates proxy or guest

- Coccoloba – Lucy Breitung
- Cuplet Fern – Al Squires
- Eugenia – David Martin
- Heartland – Gregory Thomas
- Ixia – Cate Hurlbut
- Lake Beautyberry – Patricia Burgos
- Lake Beautyberry – Neta Villalobos-Bell*
- Longleaf Pine – Kimee Bremmer
- Naples – Sara Dust
- Nature Coast – Diane Caruso
- Passionflower – Melanie Simon - Chair
- Pawpaw – Karen Walter
- Pawpaw – Sande Habali
- Pine Lily – Tayler Figueroa
- Pinellas – David Perkey
- Sarracenia – Lynn Artz
- Suncoast – Virginia Overstreet
- Tarflower – Jennifer Ferngren
- The Villages – Gary Babic
- FNPS Board Member – Mac Camacho-Viera*
- FNPS Communications – Valerie Anderson*

*Note that links and action items have been highlighted below.*

**Regular Agenda Items**

- **Minutes from 8/28/22 meeting**
  - Lucy B. motioned to approve the August 28, 2022 meeting minutes. Cate H. seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Next Meeting October 23rd at 6:30pm**

**News/Announcements/Reminders**

- **Native Plant Month Resolution/Proclamation**
  - Please send Native Plant month proclamations and pictures to BBasham@fnps.org

- **Native Plant Month Merchandise**
  - Native plant month T-shirts and bags are available for sale at [www.FNPS.org/support/stores](http://www.FNPS.org/support/stores).
    - Order a tee: [https://www.bonfire.com/florida-native-plant-month-1/](https://www.bonfire.com/florida-native-plant-month-1/)
  - Profits go to support the organization.
Note that colors available in different styles vary and that orders will not be shipped until the campaign is over at the end of October.

**FNPS Membership Database**
- Training session on Monday, 9/26, at 7:00pm.
- Shirley Denton will be conducting training and providing details about how the Membership Database Training will be accessed and obtaining new Chapter passwords.
- Training will be recorded and Valerie will be posting video.

**New Member Packages**
- No progress to report this month on drafting pages for the New Member Packages.

**Speakers List (Speakers Bureau)**
- Melanie pointed out that the more we add to the list, the more helpful it will be for all Chapters.
  - Chapter Reps should either add monthly/when they have programs or ask the program coordinators to regularly add to the list.
- 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](https://drive.google.com/file/d/19_bl5HkzKnjMdNoTv9Ajk4emR052guyq/view)

**Council Vice Chair and Secretary Vacancies**
- Vice Chair and Secretary positions are still vacant and help is needed.
- Reviewed Council Guidance document (in FNPS Handbook and on Council website) – can be revised. Potential Guidance changes discussed:
  - Eliminate requirement that Council officers be current or past Chapter Representatives?
  - Should still have experience as Chapter officer - for at least 2 years?
  - Make experience a “nice to have”, not a “must have”? Opens up pool, provides a great learning experience.
  - Reduce current term requirement (2 years) to 1 year. Multiple Chapter Reps agreed a shorter commitment was the way to go.
  - Add perks? Waive annual membership fee or pay conference fee for officers.
- **Council Vice Chair**
  - Main responsibility as back up for Chair and to collaborate with Chair on Council strategic planning and agendas.
  - Also assist by keeping track of raised hands/chat questions during meeting (hard for one person to run meeting, make notes and keep track simultaneously).
  - Also responsible to organize training (Council orientation 1x per year and one or two workshops per year).
  - Not committed to becoming next chair – with current staggered terms vice Chair would have to resign to run for Chair.
  - ~6 hours per month including meeting attendance.
- **Council Secretary**
  - Mostly keeping records (off-line work).
  - ~8 hours per month including meeting attendance.
- Guidance says Chapter Reps should attend at least 4 meetings per year, yet many do not participate so are untapped resources for Council officer participation.
- **How to implement outside the regular election cycle?**
  - Per guidance, Chair can appoint or interim elections can be held.
  - Cate H. suggested sending a message to all chapter Presidents.

**In-Person Meetings**
Question was raised about plans to resume in-person Council meetings by Virginia O.

Taylor F. noted there used to be quarterly in-person meetings (in conjunction with FNPS Board meetings) with online meetings in between.

Al S. mentioned one of the quarterly meetings was in conjunction with the conference and others were in August, November and February. He noted that some Chapters paid travel expenses for their Chapter’s representative.

In-person meetings provide an opportunity for networking and team-building that have been absent for the last few years.

Valerie noted that there is a desire to restart in-person Board meetings (previously organized and run by Juliet).

- **FNPS Budget Input**
  - Only 17 chapters (52%) have responded to the poll asking Chapters to assess whether they need more, less, or the same quantity of brochures they received this year.
  - Melanie asked Chapters to please complete the poll if they haven’t already done so at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdG-7mPQRkctyn7LfFgc80Xhv0HZUXU636ditrdJLcOOMH3Xg/viewform?usp=sf_link

- **Open Floor**

  - **Cuplet Fern / Lukas Nursery**
    - Al S. announced that Cuplet Fern has entered into a memorandum of understanding with Lukas Nursery in Oviedo - one of the largest commercial nurseries in the area. The nursery will start carrying native plants, Cuplet Fern will do programs at the nursery, and the nursery will stock FNPS membership brochures at the check-out counter.
    - Per Al, Lukas still has their butterfly encounter building.

  - **FNPS Education / Publications Committee**
    - Patricia B. summarized some of the things the education committee is working on. Will be reaching out for help on projects, but this needs to be run by Council governance so it can be fit into other priorities.
    - **Spanish translations** on some of the brochures this year
      - Melanie noted that per the current survey demand for Spanish language brochures is about 10% of total demand.
    - Reviewing and consolidating existing publications/resources
      - It was noted that an effort should be made to convert existing publications/resources to digital-friendly formats so they can be viewed online and downloaded. Especially the Good Citizen Guide.
    - Will request existing PowerPoint presentations (Passion for Public Lands and Understanding the Native Landscaping Brochure mentioned) be moved to the resources page on the FNPS website.
    - The regional Native Landscaping brochures.
      - Patricia asked if Chapters had run out. Melanie pointed out they were just reprinted and distributed in June.
      - Committee plans to update/translate to Spanish
      - People like the fold-out format – very popular brochure
      - Virginia O. mentioned that chapters have laminated the brochure to use as a table-top display. Poster format also available for sale on FNPS website merchandise page.
    - Additional **Good Citizen Guide inserts**: Patricia asked for feedback about what Chapters want
• Patricia mentioned potential insert topics for next year: How to do a wildlife meadow, Birds, night-blooming plants. May have multiple topic options, but may only be able to do 2 next year.
• Kimberly B. liked Wildlife Meadow, Cate H. and Virginia O. liked Gardening for Birds, and Cate H. mentioned Butterfly Gardening
• Melanie noted that the topics mentioned don’t seem to tie well with the overall GCG theme. A more detailed invasive plant insert has been mentioned in the past and should be on the list.
• It would also be useful to have a variety of 8½ x 11 handouts on various topics (like what FWF has). Not necessarily GCG inserts. These could be printed inexpensively (and handed out without the expensive GCG) or downloaded (with QR code).
  o Patricia asked if people are interested in landscape Pattern Books (based on landscape graphic in the center of the Good Citizen Guide).
  • Sande said her chapter is very interested in the pattern books – would be very helpful to people just getting into natives and her chapter has already been discussing.
  o Another idea Patricia floated was Seed envelopes
    • Could include both plant and Chapter information
    • Karen W. suggested a downloadable print file like the new plant sale flyer. Could print on a label that could be stuck on seed envelopes. Currently a time-consuming chore.
    • Al S. noted that Cuplet Fern is doing more with seeds and would find seed packet labels very useful.
  o Patricia asked that if Chapters have or know of landscape architects, graphic artists, or others who would like to serve on the Educational Publications committee

• Boggy Creek Project
  o Mac Camacho-Viera briefly mentioned the Boggy Creek project she worked on. A photo was shared.

• New Plant Sale Flyer
  o Melanie shared how to access the new plant sale flyers
    • Go to the plant database (www.fnps.org/plants
    • Select a particular plant you want to print a flyer for
    • On the left side of the page above the QR code is a button “Print a Plant Sale Sheet”
    • Karen W. showed a printed copy and discussed laminating or putting the sheet in a plastic sleeve
    • Great resource and time saver – many thanks expressed to Shirley for producing these.

• Member Location Mapping
  o Melanie shared a map of member locations she created for Passionflower
    • www.mapline.com
    • Can map up to 500 locations with a free account
    • Very simple – just upload an excel file of addresses

Motion to Adjourn

Al S. motioned to adjourn. Karen W. seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:56 PM