



Florida Native Plant Society

Council of Chapters Meeting Minutes 4/27/25

Online Zoom Meeting taken by
Tiffany Duke – Secretary

Melanie S. called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM

In attendance (27) – 20 of 31 Chapters

*** indicates proxy or guest**

Citrus – Ellen McNally	Passionflower – Melanie Simon – Chair
Dade – Riki Bonnema	Pawpaw – Karen Walter
Eugenia – David Martin	Pine Lily – Dana Sussmann
Hernando - Janet Grabowski	Pinellas – David Perkey
Ixia – Cate Hurlbut	Sarracenia – Lynn Artz
Lake Beautyberry – Tina Mertz	Serenoa – Sheryl Perkins*
Magnolia – Maddie Snuggs	Suncoast - Merrilee Wallbrunn
Magnolia - James Cooper	The Villages – Bob Keyes
Mangrove – Linda Wilson	Melissa Fernandez-de Cespedes – FNPS ED*
Martin County – Pete Grannis*	Gene Kelly – FNPS President*
Nature Coast - Diane Caruso	Athena Philips - FNPS VP Administration*
Tarflower – Deborah Ferencak	Susan Earley - FNPS Director at Large*
Palm Beach County – Rebekah Kaufman	Bonnie Basham - FNPS Secretary*
Palm Beach County – Ethan Aparicio	

Regular Agenda Items

- Minutes from 3/23/25 meeting
Ellen M. motioned to approve the March 2025 meeting minutes. Rebekah K. seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- Next Meetings: May 25, 2025, at 6:30 pm.

News/Announcements/Reminders

- Info needed by State – input for 2024 Annual Report

- Conservation map locations (rescues/restoration/invasive removal/monitoring/surveys/seed collection/other/plant vouchering)
 - *Melissa asks for GPS coordinates or addresses – send by May 12*
- Community impact (chapter accomplishments, events with the public in 2024)
 - Sheryl will be updating the presentation for the annual report
 - If chapters did not provide information she pulled pictures, etc. from the website, but Chapters have an opportunity to update their information to highlight the accomplishments they are proud of.
 - *Provide Sheryl P. with your chapter info by May 12.*
 - Email is sl_perkins@hotmail.com. Put in subject “Update Conference Presentation”
- Organizational items and Questions – defer to next month – send additional questions or concerns to Rebekah RKaufman@fnps.org
 - Council Email list, Communication channels, Resources
 - Chapter Support Documents, Council meeting day/time poll
 - Questions (vol. hours, brochures, drawings, mailing list)
 - Leadership and speaker workshop results
 - “Chat” time at 6:00 pm- Rebekah K. will start the Zoom meeting at 6 pm starting with our next CoC meeting May 25

Initiatives/Updates

- Elections:
 - Election guidance and officer responsibilities in FNPS Handbook (link on Council website)
 - Need candidates for 3 positions
 - Council Chair (1 year term), Council Vice Chair and Council Secretary (2 year terms)
 - Candidates who are past or present Chapter Reps will understand roles better, but guidance allows candidates with no Council experience
 - Schedule
 - New officers take office concurrent with Annual Meeting (July)
 - Slate by June 15, vote end June 22 (Council meeting); results to be announced at June Council meeting
 - Nominating Committee
 - Cate H., Lynn A., Bonnie B., Ethan A., Athena P. will be on committee
 - Lynn A. will chair the committee
 - Committee will collect nominations and vet candidates
 - Melanie S. will email committee tasks to Lynn
 - Individuals can self-nominate or nominate another Chapter Rep or FNPS member for one of the 3 positions. Please, email Lynn, provide her the full name and which position; email Lynn_Artz@hotmail.com
 - Recruiting - Advertise position/invite nominations
 - Meeting and minutes - Current and past Chapter Reps
 - Article in Sabal Minor (announcements due week of April 28)
 - General email to all FNPS Members
 - Social media

Open Floor

- Conference Feedback – those who attended the conference provided positive feedback on speakers and presentations and many loved being back together
- Deborah F. - Volunteer Hours from the Annual Conference?
 - Officers including Chapter Reps – yes
 - Hours can include lectures
- Linda W. - Website Migration
 - YouTube Channel is not changing – content will remain here and can be used by Chapters
- Dave P. – Membership numbers
 - Pinellas Chapter experienced a drop in December 2024 membership numbers
 - Ellen M. – Citrus Chapter noticed gaps in renewals
 - Address concerns to Cherice to investigate the database
- Deborah F. – Membership
 - Melanie S. recommended reviewing the membership workshop notes (March 24, 2024 Council meeting minutes) at [Membership Workshop Minutes](#)
 - Cherice can provide a password to membership database
 - Karen W. to ask her membership chair to assist Deborah in training/guidance new membership chair
- Dave P. – Printing brochures
 - Melanie S. suggested Dave and others interested in printing contact the Chapter Reps in their region to coordinate printing requests/lower per-brochure costs
 - Cherice has the updated brochures and can facilitate bulk printing
 - Cate H. – asked if FNPS might fund brochure printing in the future. Melissa said yes, the Board had the difficult decision to cut the printing budget this year
 - Diane – reminded all meeting participants to chat among members (someone may know someone; donate or grant), individual chapters can try to find sponsors
- Membership Dues – increase could occur in the future;
- Lynn A. – Call your Senators regarding the State Park Protection Act - Accept House Bill 209 in reference when contacting your Senator. Gene added that an Action Alert was sent via email.

Action Items

- Send conservation location information to Melissa F. by May 12
- Send community impact information to Sheryl P. by May 12
- Send updated Chapter Directory information for the FNPS website Chapters tab to info@fnps.org
 - Review when and where your Chapter meetings are, their contact number, email, etc,
- Send your Chapter Social Media Contact person with their email address to info@fnps.org

Motion to Adjourn

- Ethan A. motioned to adjourn. Rebekah K. seconds. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:49 PM