



Florida Native Plant Society

Council of Chapters Meeting Minutes 6/22/25

Online Zoom Meeting
taken by Melanie Simon – Chair

Melanie Simon called the meeting to order at 06:30 PM

In attendance (30) – 25 of 31 Chapters

*** indicates proxy or guest**

Citrus – Gail Taylor*	Passionflower – Melanie Simon – Chair
Dade – Riki Bonnema	Pawpaw – Karen Walter
Eugenia – David Martin	Pawpaw – Amy Legare
Heartland – Greg Thomas	Pinellas – Dave Perkey
Hernando – Janet Grabowski	Pine Lily – Dana Sussmann
Ixia – Cate Hurlbut	Sarracenia – Lynn Artz
Lake Beautyberry – Tina Mertz	Sea Rocket – Elizabeth Bishop
Longleaf Pine – Kimberly Bremner	Serenoa – Trent Berry
Magnolia – James Cooper	Sweetbay – Mary Mittiga
Mangrove – Linda Wilson	Suncoast – Merrilee Wallbrunn
Marion Big Scrub – Deborah Curry	Tarflower – Deborah Ferencak
Martin County – Pete Grannis	The Villages – Bob Keyes
Martin County – Maggie Ulman*	Guest – Kenny Turman*
Nature Coast – Diane Caruso	FNPS VP Administration – Athena Philips*
Palm Beach County – Rebekah Kaufman*	FNPS ED – Melissa Fernandez-de Cespedes*

Regular Agenda Items

- **Welcome**
 - New Sweetbay Chapter Representative Mary Mittiga
- **Minutes from 5/25/25 meetings**
 - *Karen W. motioned to approve the April meeting minutes. Pete G. seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.*
- **Next Meeting July 27, 2025 at 6:30pm.**

News/Announcements/Reminders

- **5/25 Action Item Reminders** (if not already done)

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- **Action Item** – Review your Chapter Directory information) on the FNPS website (<https://www.fnps.org/chapters/chapters>) and email Cherice (csmithers@fnps.org) to confirm or update the information so correct information is moved to the new website.
- **Action Item** – Send Cherice (csmithers@fnps.org) an email to confirm your Chapter web and social media contacts. This is needed to coordinate action alerts.
- **Action Item** – Add to the Program/Speaker list at on the home page of the website or can be downloaded the spreadsheet using this link: [Program/Speaker List](#)
- **FNPS Annual Meeting**
 - July 26. Announcements and instructions for attending will be sent out prior to the meeting.
- **Landscape Awards**
 - Landscape Awards now open for submissions <https://www.fnps.org/what-we-do/landscaping/landscape-awards-information> - Deadline August 1
- **Brochures Printing Requests**
 - **Action Item** – Requests due JUNE 25 (Sorry for the error on the agenda) – Link for Request form <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScJd-JZv9q9xOLxdt27SiCHhkDtZvgExjmkwZ691eJONW2rgg/viewform>
 - *Chapters need to complete the form even if they are not requesting brochures* – only 17 Chapters have responded so far.
 - Note that each Chapter will be responsible for covering the cost of their requested brochures. General brochure cost information is in the 5/25/25 Council Meeting Minutes at <https://council.fnpschapters.org/data/uploads/minutes/coc-2025-5-25-minutes.pdf>
 - Chapters will be able to revise their requests once we have an updated estimate from printers.
- **Volunteer Hours**
 - Melanie reminded everyone that hours for attending Council of Chapter meetings, Board meetings, and Lunch & Learns are bulk reported. Hours for these meetings do not need to be reported individually.
- **Photo Contest**
 - A photo contest is being planned – submission period July 15, 2025 to September 15, 2025 with winners announced October 15, 2025.
 - Details will be distributed soon for Chapters to send to their members and supporters.
- **Barbara Grigg Grant**
 - A special FNPS Research Grant for the Study of Bryophytes, Pteridophytes, and Lichens has been announced. Details will be posted on the FNPS website.

Elections

- **Election Results**
 - 23 Chapters voted.
 - The new Council of Chapters officers, taking office in July, are:
 - Chair – Rebekah Kaufman (Palm Beach County)
 - Vice Chair – Andrea Andersen (Pinellas)
 - Maggie Ulman (Martin County)
 - Melanie will set up orientation for the new officers.
- **Thank you to the nominating committee:** Amy L., Trent B., Diane C., Deborah F., Cate H., Janet G., Bonnie Basham, Athena Phillips, and especially to the Chair of the Committee, Lynn A.

- **Suggestions for future elections**

- Letting Chapter Reps get to know candidates in a Zoom meeting, longer schedule and ranked voting (to avoid a tie) were suggested.
- Amy noted that providing comments on nominating committee documents was inefficient for because some were sent out as pdfs. She appreciated Lynn providing forms for feedback. Diane appreciated Lynn's leadership.
- Elizabeth though the document sent out was easy to use and compare candidates.

New Business/Open Floor

- **Zoom and Google Meet**

- Karen W. explained that Pawpaw is considering not renewing their Zoom contract and asked for feedback about Google Meet – free version only allows 45 minute meetings.
- Melissa noted if you use an fnps.org domain there should not be any time limits.
- Athena noted non-profits can get a G Domain for \$12/year, sharing a Zoom account with other Chapters is another option, and Streamyard is another broadcasting option.
- Melanie said her experience with Google Meet has been good – good quality and easy to use.

- **Chapter Membership Payments**

- Linda W. asked about submitting the form for Chapter payments. Melissa explained the form will be included twice a year in the Chapter Support Documents. Cate H. noted that the form requested a lot of activity information that Treasurers do not have. It was explained that the form was sent to Chapter Representatives to take to their boards to discuss how to answer the questions. The next form should be shorter as much of the activity information was requested to provide information for the 2024 Annual Report.
- Melissa noted Kim is retired and the new bookkeeper is Carrie.

- **Membership Brochures**

- Karen W. noted that Pawpaw needs about 50 more Membership brochures, but they aren't on the printing request form. Melanie explained membership fee changes are still being discussed, so is not being printed right now.
- Melanie noted printable Membership flyers in several formats are in the January 2025 Chapter Support Documents at
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1GxBsuzoe31T6Gb4eLhiuxzzlPnWsRN6f>

Action Items

- See details above:
 - Complete 5/25/25 action items if not already done.
 - **Complete Brochure Print Request Form by June 25**

Motion to Adjourn

- *Linda W. motioned to adjourn. Deborah C. seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.*

Meeting Adjourned at 7:14 PM