

Council of Chapters Informal Meeting 2/21/21

Attending: Kara Driscoll (Naples), Karen Walter (Pawpaw), Linda Eastman (Martin), Marjorie Shropshire, Stephanie Dunn (Broward), Bonnie Basham (FNPS President & Magnolia), Ginny Stibolt, Wendy Poag (Lake Beautyberry), Carol Sullivan (Sparkleberry), Diane Caruso (Nature Coast), Gail Taylor (Citrus), Virginia Overstreet (Suncoast), Patricia Burgos (Lake Beautyberry), Lucy Brietung (Coccoloba), David Martin (Eugenia), Mia Wallindor (Magnolia), Andee Nocattaro (Naples), Melanie Simon (Passionflower), Dianna Wentink (Martin), Gabriel Campbell (Longleaf Pine), Lilly Anderson-Messec (North Florida Program Manager)

Kara started the meeting at 6:32 pm

Marjorie explained that the “Good Citizen Guide” is a new brochure to educate people on how to be good Floridians and care for our state’s natural beauty. The brochure is an outreach tool for people who are new to Florida or new homeowners. The Citizen Guide is 2 parts. The first part is the main brochure - an 8 panel gatefold that folds down to letter size with general information for all Floridians regardless of where they live. The second part is a single-sheet two-sided regionalized insert. Marjorie needs assistance from chapters on the insert to make sure the information is customized to various parts of the State and correct.

Marjorie provided an overview of the main Citizen’s Guide brochure. The front panel contains a Welcome to Florida introduction, explains good citizenship, and talks about Florida homes and gardens. The large inside panel contains copy on how to garden with native plants, how to take care of Florida’s water, how to save a place for wildlife, and enjoying an improved Florida yard. The final panel contains information on where to find native plants, books and online resources. Topics includes educating yourself, electing and contacting local officials, avoiding herbicides and lawn chemicals, sustainable landscaping, invasive species, planting trees, pet waste, pets and wildlife, bird and butterfly gardens, rain gardens, rain barrels, lake edges and living shorelines, beaches and springs. Marjorie mentioned that brochure topics, including invasives, are by necessity general, and the brochure is meant to be an idea generator and give people a place to start.

Wendy emphasized that the copy is still being edited, it will be translated into Spanish, and printing and copying logistics are being discussed. Guides can be handed out by realtors, libraries, gardening groups, HOAs and other groups in addition to FNPS chapters.

The inserts will be specific to a region – the concept is that once people have gotten a State overview with the main brochure they will be encouraged to learn about where they live. The insert strives to make a connection between native plants, plants in their yards, and natural areas and explain what they can learn by going to natural areas.

Marjorie mentioned to the meeting attendees that they hope to print the brochures in July, so the deadline to receive insert materials is May 1st. She will send an email with more detail on what is needed, how to submit and she mentioned that the photos had to be high resolution at 300 dpi.

Stephanie offered to provide photos since she has high resolution photos of natural communities.

Long discussion followed about how to delineate the state into regions and sub-regions, as well as covering certain sections of the state that did not have a chapter. Aim should be to have about 12 regions state-wide and include counties with no chapters. Each region needs a coordinator. Regions were discussed, with some confusion about chapters versus counties, and no clear direction about how to proceed (chapters represented on the call to take initiative to talk to other chapters??). It was suggested that up to 3 or 4 chapters be included in a region. Preliminary coordinator/chapter suggestions stemming from discussion:

Bonnie - Magnolia and Sarracenia

Longleaf Pine and Sweetbay (with Gabriel)

? - Sparkleberry and Paynes Prairie

? - Ixia and Sea Oats

Patricia - Marion, Lake Beautyberry, Villages, ?Passionflower, ?Sumter County

? - Heartland, Pine Lily, ?Tarflower, ?Passionflower

? - Pawpaw (with Sande), Cuplet Fern, and ?Tarflower

Gail - Citrus, Hernando, Pasco County

Nature Coast (with Diane), Suncoast (with Virginia), Pinellas

Kara – Serenoa, Mangrove, Coccoloba, Naples

? - Keys, Monroe-Dade, ?Broward

?Broward, Palm Beach and Martin

? - Sea Rocket, Conradina, Eugenia

Stephanie? – Lake Wales Ridge area - Ocochobee, Hardee, Highlands county area?

Gail asked about using the CoC Zoom account for regional meetings. Kara responded that it was possible if there were no conflicts with other meetings.

Kara suggested getting together in about two weeks around March 7th to discuss progress and the regions.

8:30 pm Kara concluded the meeting