



FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

PO Box 278
Melbourne, FL 32902-0278

2/16/2019 meeting highlights @ the Lodge at Wakulla Springs, Crawfordville

Note takers/reviewers/editors: Patricia Burgos, Wendy Poag, Juliet Ryneer, Kara Driscoll

ON THE VINE

1. For more information on any of these items and more go to fnps.org and scan various links such as the blogs, council of chapters, the [Forum](#), or [handbook](#). Powerpoint presentations from this retreat can be found under "[In-Person Meeting Presentations of the Board and Council](#)" on the Forum.

Executive Director (ED) and President presented Year in Review:

1. Working to address web and database services (multiple year upgrades will carry costs of \$60,000 plus)
2. Diversification of FNPS income has been positive. (End of year appeal by Susan with her match of \$5000 brought in an additional \$13,000)
3. A restatement of By-laws to be in compliance with Articles of incorporation and Florida Statutes is in process.
4. ED is following up with all Chapters to ensure Bylaws, GEL, fictitious name, charity registration and taxes (income and sales) in compliance.
5. Recommend due diligence on background checks and histories of all FNPS and Chapter board members (i.e. **résumé, interviews from people who are unknown to you**).
6. Volunteer hours are reported for 2018 at 25,000, valued at over \$617,000!
7. Ongoing rare plant conservation projects for Warea, Torreya, two Dicerandra species, and more. Volunteer hours being used as match for numerous grant proposals to fund these FNPS conservation projects.
8. Risk Assessment and Management, Board Professional Development and Strategic Plan updates.

Education Committee:

Need to identify needs and target the development of outreach materials and educational programs to fill the identified gaps.

Projects include:

1. Review of Proposal for the development of model Land Development Code sections (that cover the areas that affect the environment and currently prevent good planning and best management practices to occur) presented by Karina Veaudry.

Background:

Most Land Development Codes (LDC) in Florida were written in the 1960's and 1970's and have been updated throughout the years.

Preserving, conserving and restoring the native plants and native plant communities of Florida

There is a need for 'Smart Code' from a conservation/native ecology stand point, freshly written and in a format in which cities and counties can readily implement. The FNPS Model Landscape Ordinance guidelines are an excellent starting point to create certain LDC modules. I see this project as the second phase to what we've started with the guidelines document.

Once completed, FNPS Chapters could promote the modules for insertion into LDCs and lobby their local city and county governments to adopt the Conservation oriented LDC modules. This would ensure that the mission of the FNPS would be promoted within the future development of Florida for long term results.

2. Finalize Field Trip introduction/review form template for trip leaders.
3. Finalize FNPS Land Management Review reporting form template.
4. Annually Develop Delegation Statement template for member use when addressing elected officials.
5. Finalize October Native Plant Month template for member use when speaking.
6. Seek to insert Florida Native Plant training modules into Master Naturalist, Master Gardener, Pesticide Applicator, Best Management Practices, Arborist Training programs for CEUs or professional development.
7. Work with Valerie to create YouTube videos on our iconic ecosystems to introduce members and others to representative INTACT FNAI systems.
8. Create template for production of an 'Elevator Speech' brochure to engage others in our mission.

Land Management Partners Committee actions achieved:

1. FDEP Land Management Reviews (LMRs) - FNPS members served on 27/29 or 93% of FDEP LMRs for the fiscal year 2017-2018.
2. FDEP Land Management Reviews (LMRs) - FNPS members have served on 25/25 or 100% of FDEP LMRs for the fiscal year 2018-2019 so far.

Future actions: How to get more involved in LMR's for the Water Management District?

Anne Cox Nominating Committee Chair for 2019:

1. President Elect – 2019-2020, becoming President 2020-22
2. VP Admin, two-year term from 2019-2021
3. VP Finance, 2019-2020, one-year to fill out second half of 2-year term
4. Director at Large, 2019-2021, two-year term
5. Director at Large, 2019, 2020, one-year to fill out second half of 2-year term

Policy and Legislation Committee Priority Issues for 2019:

1. Restore Funding for Land Conservation Through Florida Forever (\$300 million minimum).
2. Responsible Management of Existing Conservation Lands
3. Comprehensive and Holistic Protection of Water Resources
4. Recognition of Florida's Extreme Vulnerability to Sea Level Rise
5. Research to Evaluate the Threat of Texas Phoenix Palm Decline
6. Funding for Endangered Plant Research

Chapter Level Outreach to Legislators

Preserving, conserving and restoring the native plants and native plant communities of Florida

The Southeast Chapters Initiative, supported by matching funds from the FNPS BOD and four southeast Florida chapters and coordinated through the Policy Committee, has conducted an outreach campaign with legislators representing four of Florida's most populous counties and successfully represented our priorities to a growing number of legislators. At least 17 legislators have participated in FNPS chapter-sponsored field trips organized to emphasize the need for Florida Forever funding to be restored. The field trips and associated meetings, and other outreach to legislators has also provided an opportunity for the chapters to highlight additional concerns related to native plant conservation.

Council of Chapters Operating Procedures or Workshop highlights:

1. Chapter reps were asked if the CofC is accomplishing what it has set out to do, discussion followed regarding the Bylaws and the SOP for the council. Because FNPS is in the process of Bylaw revisions, CofC will wait to review and update the SOP accordingly.
2. Discussion regarding SOP and CofC leadership issues to be resolved in the next few months.
3. Discussion about choosing a project or initiative for the CofC and members settled on plant rescue as an initiative to support. Chair Driscoll will coordinate with ED Rynear.

CofC Operating Meeting highlights:

1. Reminders for Chapter Reps to choose a proxy in case reps are not able to attend the retreats or the GOTOMEETINGS, to provide Chapter Bylaws to state, provide state with your Chapter committee chairs, and reminder to the reps about the importance of the FNPS GEL letter and getting chapters covered.
2. Volunteers were needed for the CofC nominating committee. Susan Knapp, Passionflower Chapter and Patricia Burgos, Lake Beautyberry Chapter volunteered and will be working on putting a slate together for CofC Chair.
3. Volunteers are needed for the CofC website update and the Chair wanting a novice along with more seasoned computer folks to make it easy to use for all reps. Update of CofC website will follow or run in tandem with the FNPS state website updates. Current committee members are: Janet Grabowski (Hernando), Tayler Figueroa (Pine Lily), and Linda Schneider (Ixia). Please let Athena know if you are interested in helping.
4. Discussion about access to forum, how to get access, needing to check forum and read reports to keep Chapter Reps updated. If you are a Chapter Rep and do not have a login, please contact Shirley Denton for username and password – webteam@fnps.org
5. A template form will be put together for Chapter Reps to prepare summary reports about their chapter activities, accomplishments, etc. for submission to Chair Driscoll. Here's a template for board reports – [\[Link\]](#), here's the current proposed Chapter Rep template – [\[Link\]](#). Please provide feedback/comments. We would like to make these reports as easy to do and read as possible.
6. Discussion of importance and use of Google Drive and how to access different documents. Please notify Athena or Kara if you need access to the Council Google Drive and/or a specific document.
7. Discussion of CofC Facebook page and importance of not posting anyone's personal information without their knowledge or permission. We'd like to have at least one person from every Chapter in the group. Please notify Tayler or Gail Parsons if you need access to the Facebook Group.

Preserving, conserving and restoring the native plants and native plant communities of Florida

CofC Round Table highlights:

1. Discussion involving Sea Oats chapter and their struggle to move forward and not fold. Chapter reps provided ideas to help with membership and keeping the Chapter from folding. Some ideas included planning a hike during the week, having hikes be family friendly, partnering with the local libraries, scheduling enticing topical meetings (Pruning workshop, Blooms and Brews; Birds, Berries & Blooms), restructuring the meetings, finding unique ways to advertise (meet-up, community papers), and using Facebook to invite other chapters to host helping to spread the event info. **Include pic of board.**
2. Discussion involving Pinellas County chapter with 300 members but only 30 attending and even fewer helping to run the chapter. Suggestions included “thinking outside the box” by organizing a conservation gala to invite other folks, and asking folks to join during the meeting and promoting the benefits. There was a recognition that all chapters can suffer from too few members and/or only a few carrying the load.
3. **Council Meeting Minutes posted on the Council Forum for review.**