On the Vine

November 16, 2019 In-Person Meeting

President Susan Carr welcomed everyone on this brisk day.

October is Florida Native Plant month. This year, FNPS received a State proclamation to this effect, from our Secretary of Agriculture Nikki Fried. President elect Bonnie Basham, members of the Magnolia Chapter, Valerie Anderson, and others were present for the ceremony at Native Nurseries in Tallahassee. Thank you to all that did the work to make this happen!

The Bylaws ad hoc committee has met twice now, and is making some progress. This committee is chaired by Carol Sullivan. Nothing yet for review by the Board, although we hope to have a draft early next year.

President Susan Carr presented a lovely end of year letter summarizing our accomplishments and goals and requesting support. All members will be getting an end of year fundraising letter from FNPS asking members to dig deep and donate money to the Society. FNPS is trying to raise $20,000 to help with operating expenses. Each member of the Board is contributing and will match dollar for dollar, with a minimum of $5,000 already committed, donations from the membership.

Two vacant Board positions remain: Membership Committee and Director at Large. If anyone is
interested in stepping up and helping out, please contact Juliet Rynear.

This is your hard-working Board and Staff:  https://www.fnps.org/contacts

Treasurer Bonnie Basham presented a financial review. As of November 16, we have a $54,000 budget shortfall. This was not unexpected, as we have two full time staff helping to bring our society to the forefront of conservation organizations and grow the organization.

VP for Finance, Jim Erwin and other Executive Committee members researched how FNPS could better invest both the Endowment and cash reserves for a better return.

Executive Director Juliet Rynear provided a Grants update and a Communication & Media report.

Anne Cox Membership Workshop Part 1 - Large chapters shared what is working for them in terms of recruiting and retaining members. Small chapters shared what they need help with. See notes from this session here:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1UiIAdtCxbkhzNEp8BxI8ARRLdJKwXj00_f2j9tnaJ38/edit?usp=sharing

Bonnie Basham Membership Workshop Part 2 (Charting a Course Forward) - See notes from this session here:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1se3diCwu_xYM7Y1tmqWhv6LrdLAO7pRkgDKxYCutaso/edit?usp=sharing

Ron Blair led a tour of the sandhill restoration area at MEAD Gardens

Shirley Denton - FNPS WEB Resources (the PowerPoint has been shared with all chapter leaders)

Education Chair Wendy Poag provided updates on the new FNPS Brochures that are in the works.

Todd Angel update on Conservation projects

Kara Driscoll Council of Chapters meeting

Board of Directors meeting

Education Chair Wendy Poag (new brochures)

Policy Committee Chair – Gene Kelly

Policy update

Our policy chair (Gene Kelly) has put together important information about the M-CORES Toll Roads going on the west coast and into the panhandle. FNPS Executive Director Juliet Rynear requests that members to show up to their local task force meetings and speak up on behalf of habitat protection. Please check your email, the FNPS Blog, Sabal minor, and website www.fnps.org to get more information and talking points.

Requested that Senator Rubio Co-Sponsor the “Botany Bill” (HR 1572) in the US Senate.

Florida Forever Actions

Weeki Wachee Springs State Park Unit Management Plan Update

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