



FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Po Box 278
Melbourne, FL 32902-0278

Submitted to the Board of Directors by Juliet Ryneer
For May 21, 2020 Board GoToMeeting

Proposed Budget Amendment

An amended budget for Board approval is proposed for the following items:

1. Final conference accounting now that all of the registrations have been finalized
2. Receipt of the Paycheck Protection Program funding
3. The motions made at the April Board meeting for additional contracts with Sue Mullins and Marjorie Shropshire for work on the license plate.

News:

- Legacy Society updates – the Cornelia McNamara estate was finalized and FNPS will receive a check for \$85,800. We also have a new Legacy Society donor, Laraine Deutsch who has made FNPS the benefactor of her savings account.
- Dan Austin award request was received after the proposal deadline. It was the only request received this year. Asking the Board for guidance.
- Career Source Central Florida internship – we were contacted by a volunteer who would like to work on a 3-month internship for FNPS that would be completely paid for by Career Source Central Florida: <https://www.careersourcecentralflorida.com/>
- Virtual meeting with Southeastern Native Plant Societies – May 15 –with Emily Roberson of Native Plant Conservation Campaign (NPCC).
- Juliet and Valerie had a phone conference with Florida Power & Light regarding conservation efforts on FPL rights of ways and at their solar sites.
- All of the mechanical thinning, preparation for a prescribed fire, and burn permit at our Warea property in Marion County has been completed. We are now waiting on optimum weather for the burn (and the end of the current burn ban).
- Meeting with FWF regarding working with FDOT on rescue and monitoring of ROW plants and plant communities and setting up a task group. The FDOT is making a commitment to form a task group comprised of representatives from FDOT, FNPS, and FWF so that our organizations can be made aware of future projects that may impact native plants and plant communities.

Conservation & Research Grants

- All awardees were notified and sent the grant Agreements. Checks are mailed as soon as the Agreements and W9s are completed.

Chapter Legal Compliance

- 7 chapters had their charity status revoked by the IRS for failure to file their annual tax returns. The GEL letter will need to be re-submitted once these chapters file the needed forms to reinstate their status:

1. Lake Beautyberry – working with a CPA to create a new identity and cross-reference it to the old one (see note below)
 2. Marion Big Scrub – nearly done
 3. Passionflower (they filed and have been reinstated)
 4. Paynes Prairie (they filed and have been reinstated)
 5. Sarracenia (they filed and have been reinstated by IRS as a charity; however, they will not be joining the GEL)
 6. Sumter – not answering emails
 7. Longleaf Pine (they filed and have been reinstated)
- The IRS asked the Lake Beautyberry Chapter for our paperwork documenting their application and acceptance as a chapter of FNPS for their reinstatement. After going through all our existing files - the paper files in the storage unit, all of the CDs in the storage unit, all of the past ED files, and a search of the Forum – there is nothing! In fact, we don't have these applications or agreements for many of our chapters. I was able to find the Board meeting minutes during which the Board voted to approve Lake Beautyberry – we are hoping this satisfies the IRS.

In Progress

- Working with Raelene Crandall and Houston Snead to set up a meeting regarding what we are calling the “100 Species Project.” There is a list of approximately 100 species for which the FDACS Endangered Plant Advisory Council (EPAC) has very little status information. Dr. Crandall is researching grant funding so that we can tackle some of the species on the list. I spoke with Houston Snead about working on a priority ranking system to identify a short list of species to focus on initially.
- Working with Valerie on fundraising ideas, a “next steps” conservation strategy and a “wish list” for future projects.

Grant and Donation-funded Projects Currently in Progress:

- US Forest Service grant – for restoration work at Ocala National Forest. We met onsite at Ocala NF with staff and contractor to review restoration site and project needs. All plants are being contract-grown and we are working on the timeline for installation (probably June or July 2020).
- Duke Energy – for habitat restoration for *Dicerandra modesta* and *Dicerandra cornutissima* in Polk and Marion Counties. Plants being contract-grown. Juliet and Deborah Curry met and finalized plans for the restoration site along the paved trail in the Cross Florida Greenway. Workdays are currently on hold in Polk County as the property is closed to the public and we cannot utilize large groups of volunteers.
- Florida Forest Service grant for TorreyaKeepers – outreach to private landowners, surveys on private property, create 2 brochures - 1) public education and 2) best management practices. We are working with Atlanta Botanical Garden on a workshop in September 2020. We hired a contractor to work with our Torreya Project Coordinator and local volunteers to map historic range, contact private landowners for permission to survey, map occurrences, and number-tag all trees located. Brochure on ID of Torreya and similar species and overview of TK project

has been completed and was mailed to all landowners in the likely range of Torreya. We have received a very good response so far from many landowners. Surveys will begin soon.

- Jelks Family Foundation – TorreyaKeepers project support. We will use this and additional donations to cover costs of FNPS staff, especially during the “bridge period” before the FEMA money is released.
- Florida Forest Service grant for *Dicerandra modesta* and *Dicerandra cornutissima* - surveys and monitoring of 2 populations located in Polk and Marion Counties. 2019 monitoring completed and surveys of properties completed. 2020 monitoring to take place in September.
- FEMA/USFWS grant update. This is grant funding to hire a part-time TorreyaKeepers employee for 3 years. The money for this grant came from FEMA but will be handled by the USFWS. We are on track for this grant funding to begin in September 2020. The project title is “Landowner Outreach and Conservation of Florida Torreya.”

Grant applications submitted for 2020/2021:

1. Florida Forest Service grant for TorreyaKeepers
2. Florida Forest Service grant for *Dicerandra modesta* and *Dicerandra cornutissima*

2020 Annual Conference – 13th – 17th

- Rescheduled for 2021 due to exponential growth of Covid-19 cases and CDC recommendations for meetings and groups.
- Both UNF and Hotel “rolled us over” without any penalty. Contract addendums are finalized.
- All registrants have been refunded.

2021 Annual Conference – 13th-16th

- The venue – University of North Florida
- The hotel is Embassy Suites (also the site for the socials and dinners).

2022 Annual Conference – 11th – 14th

- Venue is reserved on their calendar (no commitments, just holding the spot) – University of Central Florida (UCF)

Volunteer & Educational Outreach Hours

18 chapters (out of 34 total chapters) have reported volunteer and educational outreach hours in 2020.

The total number of volunteer hours reported to-date is 8,487. Of that total, 7,967 were volunteer hours and 520 hours are for educational outreach. The value of the volunteer hours (at \$24.04 per hour*) is \$191,527.

*Independent Sector (for Florida): <https://www.independentsector.org/resource/the-value-of-volunteer-time/>

Chapter	Total # hours including education
Passionflower	1,798
Pawpaw	1,484
Martin County	976
Magnolia	901
Hernando	687
Cuplet Fern	675
Suncoast	538
Pinellas	387
Sweetbay	255
FNPS project or committee	173
Sea Rocket	134
Tarflower	133
Mangrove	130
Conradina	75
Citrus	70
Naples	34
Lake Beautyberry	32
Heartland	6
Serenoa	2
Grand Total	8,487

Category

Chapter volunteer work	5,713
Chapter Board of Directors	1,762
Education Hours - For attendees (members and non-members) attending your chapter meeting or other education event	520
Chapter Representative	261
Service on State Committee - Conservation	161
Service on State Committee - Communication	45
Service on State Committee - Education	21
Service on State Committee - Policy & Legislation	3
Service on State Committee - Membership	2
Grand Total	8,487