

Application to Serve

Committee Choice

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Vegetation Committee: Submitted

Qualifications required for the MPO SUP Advisory Committee Position.

Question applies to multiple boards

Of Committees Marked How Many Meetings Have You Attended?

All

Question applies to multiple boards

New Member

Yes No

Question applies to multiple boards

Returning Member

Yes No

Profile

Barb
First Name

J
Middle Initial

Wyskowski
Last Name

6027 Henderson Road
Street Address

Suite or Apt

Sanibel
City

FL
State

33957
Postal Code

Home: (908) 285-9314
Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

sancapnativeplantdesign@outlook.com
Email Address

NUMBER OF MONTHS RESIDING ON SANIBEL ANNUALLY

12

Year Round Resident

Yes No

SanCap Native Plant Design

Employer

Florida friendly certified
professional landscape
designer

Occupation

BACKGROUND: (EDUCATION & EXPERIENCE)

Required Information

Rutgers BS 1988 Rutgers Law JD 1992 8/2022 Advanced Florida Master Naturalist & Land Steward 8/2023 Florida Friendly Landscaping Certification 9/2023 U of F Restoration Naturalist (Coastal, marine, freshwater) City of Sanibel Vegetation Card

Upload a Resume

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Required Information

Volunteer- Ding Darling. Started out at front desk, became an ambassador, currently hosting Bailey Tract Plant Walks and Naturalist Walks. Back up guide for meditative walks through the Bailey Tract. Responsible for redesign of common areas and new butterfly garden and children's learning center. Leading "Planting Seeds of Connection" workshop for Ding, part of its' fourth annual Wellness in Nature. Instructor for Lee County at Sanibel Rec Center, "Island Roots: A Native Gardening Series" Volunteer- SCCF Terrestrial and Freshwater Turtles Volunteer- Haven on Earth Animal League. Responsible for trapping and spay and neuter of stray/feral cats on island, some are adopted, some I fundraise for to send them to a farm sanctuary. Member Florida Native Plant Society & Florida Wildflower Foundation Started a speaker series at the Vegetation Committee Meetings with experts from University of Florida, Florida Wildflower Foundation, SCCF, etc.

WHY ARE YOU INTERESTED IN THIS APPOINTMENT?

Required Information

Native plants play a crucial role in the ecosystem. They provide biodiversity support (provide essential habitat and food sources), ecosystem stability (adapted to climate and soils, making them more resilient to local pests, diseases and environmental changes), soil health (they improve soil structure, promote water filtration and reduce erosion), water conservation (they are drought tolerant and require less water than non-native plants), pollinator support, cultural significance (used by indigenous peoples for food, medicine, and crafts), reduced maintenance, invasive species mitigation, aesthetic value, and climate resilience. Native plants are better equipped to withstand Florida's unique climatic conditions, including hurricanes and flooding. Utilizing them in landscapes can help create more resilient communities. After Ian, Helene and Milton, I watched neighbors continue to plant the same exotics that perished in the storms, and which require fertilization and irrigation. I hope it is because of a lack of information. I have never used fertilizer or pesticides, and my garden (about an acre) has never required irrigation other than 2 weeks post installation. I had been contacted by Gulf Shore Life Magazine to have my no lawn, no pesticides, no herbicides, no fertilizer garden featured in their magazine. Sadly they decided to wait a few months and then we were hit by Helene and Milton. The Florida Wildflower Foundation will be photographing my yard in the spring for an article on native gardens, and SCCF is using my backyard for their Weeds & Seeds walk focusing on seasonal wetlands. My garden may not be the showpiece it once was, but in a year or two it will be. I already see my natives popping up, not necessarily where I had originally planted them. The storms have been a learning experience, and salt spray is now something I keep in mind more than ever when designing yards, and not just ones on the gulf. People don't want to plant native plants if they are going to die, so it is up to the Vegetation Committee and others involved in landscaping on our island to promote the use of the right plant in the right place. Being a part of the Vegetation Committee puts me in a group with like minded individuals who truly care about our sanctuary island and its' native flora and fauna. To me, promoting the use of native plants in landscaping is essential for preserving Florida's natural heritage and ensuring a healthy environment for future generations. As an advocate for landscaping for wildlife (several types of turtles live in my yard, along with raccoons in my strangler fig, marsh rabbits, pileated woodpecker, red bellied woodpecker, hummingbirds, a red shouldered hawk, bats, black racers, corn snakes, and many others), I understand the importance of creating habitats that foster biodiversity and contribute to the overall health of ecosystems. Being on the vegetation committee gives me the ability to write articles and teach people through my speaker program.

MPO Application to submit for your respective Advisory Committee

Please be certain you have completed the "Background: (Education & Experience)", "Community Involvement", and "Why Are You Interested In This Appointment?" text box fields before submitting your application. Thank you.

Please Enter In Today's Date

12/4/25

Name of Applicant

Barb J. Wyskowski