

Suncoast Native Plant Society, Board of Directors Meeting- Notes

April 14, 2020 – 7 pm, on GoToMeeting

The meeting began at 7 pm: Niki, Steve, Virginia, Tina, Shirley and Mike attending. The meeting was held remotely via GoToMeeting.

1. Minutes: The January minutes were posted to the website. There was no board meeting in February or March.

2. Treasurer's Report: Niki Cribbs

- The treasurer's report was sent to all board members on March 29, showing activity for January, February and March. There was no further discussion.
- Niki has completed changes to the chapter name on all renewals and documents. She and Virginia still need to complete the name change on our checks through Suntrust Bank. She can provide copies of updated certificates as needed.

3. Grants and Expenditures: Niki Cribbs

- Niki sent \$250 to FNPS for a quarter page ad in the conference program. The board voted not to ask for a refund of the conference ad which will appear in the program in 2021.
- Diane Ingram of Manatee County Agricultural Museum sent us a grant request for buying plants and supplies for a sensory garden at their Palmetto center. The board voted not to fund any of the request. We will use our reduced funding this year to support projects in Hillsborough County or for statewide needs of FNPS.
- USF Botanical Garden wanted to know if they should apply our Spring Plant Festival payment to the June sale. The board decided not to participate in June but to move our payment to the Fall Plant Festival, October 10-11.

4. PR Report: Tina Patterson

- Tina requested that new members' names be announced at the online meeting and included in the newsletter.

5. Gardens and Outreach: Tina Patterson

- Due to all county parks being closed, plant walks and volunteer activities in the parks are on hold.
- Virginia said that she and other members can offer property native plant surveys and advice on plants when requested.

6. Membership Meetings/Speakers: Virginia Overstreet and Shirley Denton

- **April 15 – Shirley Denton**, "Can I Grow It? Should I Grow it Here -- Implications of moving species outside of their natural ranges", the meeting will be held online via GoToMeeting
- **May 20 – Virginia Overstreet**, a presentation on gardening for wildlife, most likely online
- **June 17-** to be determined
- **July 15- Joint meeting with Tampa Bay Sierra and Tampa Audubon**, Virginia will contact Mary Keith and Shirley will check with Sierra to see how they feel about continuing with this large group meeting. Valerie Anderson has already agreed to speak but if we go ahead, we might want to change the location and format to increase social distancing. Steve suggested Eureka Springs as an alternative site.
- **August – no meeting**
- **September 16– Troy Springer**, reschedule of the March talk
- **October 21- Randy Mears**, to speak on grasses and perhaps lead a field trip related to his talk. Virginia has tried to contact him and not heard back.

- **November – to be determined**, perhaps have members share their native gardening successes and questions
- **December – Holiday Party**, Pinellas County and Brooker Creek had previously decided not to host. A Suncoast party in the park was suggested, maybe Upper Tampa Bay or Alderman's Ford.

7. Field Trips/Campouts: Steve Dickman/Tina Patterson/Shirley Denton

- Steve and Shirley suggested looking into trails that are open for small field trips with proper social distancing.
- Tina has reserved two sites and Janet Bowers has reserved one site at Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park for the weekend of October 23-25. We have sites #9, 11 and 13 and there are a few more available.

8. Plant Sale

- Spring Plant Sale, April 11 and 12, was cancelled. We will participate in the Fall Sale and discuss later how to recover the lost revenue.
- Fall Plant Sale is October 10 and 11. There is a scarecrow contest and the winner receives free registration for three years.

9. Election of Officers:

- At the February 19 membership meeting, the members voted unanimously to approve several changes to the by laws of Suncoast, which included (1) changing the name on the By Laws to read Suncoast Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society, (2) to drop the requirement to conduct meetings using Robert's Rules of Order, and (3) to have the members vote on the Board of Directors and to direct the Board of Directors to choose the officer positions.
- Nominating Committee: Nanette O'Hara, Barbara Fite and Cliff Brown
- Virginia Overstreet, Niki Cribbs, Tina Patterson, Shirley Denton, Mike Fite and Steve Dickman all volunteered to serve on the Board for another year. There were no new nominations from the nominating committee or from the floor.
- By a vote of all members present at the February 19 meeting, the new Board was elected unanimously.
- At the April 14 Board of Directors meeting, the board approved the following officer positions:

President – Virginia Overstreet

Vice President- Shirley Denton

Treasurer – Nicole Cribbs

Secretary- Mable (Tina) Patterson

In addition, Shirley will remain as newsletter editor, Steve Dickman will be field trip chair and Mike Fite will be assist with the newsletter and serve as member -at- large.

Membership Chair and Council of Chapters Representative were not discussed.

10. Newsletter: Shirley Denton

- Submissions for the May newsletter should be sent by April 25.

Action Items:

Virginia: Contact Mary Keith about July 15 meeting

Niki: Inform USF Botanical Garden of our decision regarding the June Plant Sale

Tina: Send updated officer information to FNPS. Inform Diane Ingram of Board decision on grant.

Shirley: Contact someone with Sierra Club about July 15 meeting

Steve: Make suggestions for a May or June field trip.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 pm.

The next Board of Directors meeting has not been set.

Tina (Mable C) Patterson, SNPS secretary