

**Suncoast Native Plant Society
Board of Directors Meeting**

Date: September 22, 2009 (rescheduled to this date due to schedule conflicts)

Board Members

Present: Troy Springer,
 Kristina Herz,
 Daphne Lambright,
 Shirley Denton,
 Bob Upcavage
Absent: Ron Chicone
Quorum present? Yes
Other Present?

Proceedings:

- Meeting called to order by President Troy Springer at 7:30pm
- August meeting minutes were read and Daphne made a motion to accept and the motion was seconded by Troy. The board passed the minutes unanimously.

Treasurer's report as submitted by Daphne Lambright

Cash in Bank	8042.85
CD with Sun Trust	6361.59
Petty Cash	40.00
Total	<hr/> 14,444.44

- Daphne proposed that a savings account or money market be opened instead of allowing money sit in checking. BOD signed savings account agreement.
- Canopy is an asset, not an expense, so it is not shown in educational expenses
- Troy needs to make a seed purchase soon. He will purchase approximately \$300 worth. He will also purchase limited butterfly mixed seed bags. The October season may be the best season for people to purchase seeds that can be planted immediately. Troy will order 2 (700-square foot) wildflower mixes, 4 350-square foot butterfly blends and 2 350-square foot coastal blends, and individual seed packages. Troy hopes to sell \$400 worth of seeds at the October plant sale.

Reports and Committees:

- 1) Membership
 - a. Shirley reported we are down approximately 4 members compared to the same time last year. She suspects some people are saving by purchasing individual memberships rather than family memberships. We have a majority of individual memberships, 3 contributing membership, and 4 supporting memberships. Shirley stated that 26% of all types of membership go to the chapter.
- 2) Field trips
 - a. Shirley reported that the next field trip will be at Citrus Tract, Withlacoochee State Forest planned for October 25.

3) Speakers

- a. Bob reported that he currently does not have a speaker for the October meeting. Troy suggested Mary Miller as a potential speaker or someone who would know a speaker. Shirley recommended that other chapters may have good speakers that we would also like to invite. Troy also suggested Joe Murphy (golf restoration network lobbyist) or the guy who spoke two years ago at the FNPS annual conference about tsunamis and native plants. Shirley also mentioned that Joel could speak about the history of the park service. Daphne mentioned Jim Gore, fisheries researcher and local water issues with SWFWMD. Troy also suggested the Marks' (bat researchers) to correspond with Halloween (Shawna would be a good connection to this potential speaker)

Old Business:

1) October Plant Sale

- a. Troy recruited BOD members to work at the plant sale (Daphne and Shirley as cashiers plus volunteers, Troy as sales/outreach plus volunteers)
- b. Many people volunteered at the previous meeting for all days of the plant sale including a small setup effort on Thursday evening. Daphne has suggested doing a 10% discount off plants for members joining or renewing, however Troy reminded the BOD of the challenge of doing a plant sale without the guidance of Sally. The BOD decided to keep the plant sale simple and avoid any price changes for this year. Discounts may be reconsidered for the spring plant sale along with public service announcements through USF, WMNF, and St. Pete Times. Shirley brought up the idea of advertising through Creative Loafing and the TBT as well.
- c. **Troy will be purchasing a variety of sizes and species of plants.** Troy would like to revisit the quality of plants vs. costs from vendors after this fall plant sale and prior to the spring plant sale. Daphne recommended creating plant standards and distributing them to the vendors prior to the plant sales for next year.
- d. Troy recommends keeping the outreach booth at the entrance to avoid traffic flow and sales confusion.
- e. Daphne suggested that we get large copies of brochure to advertise why we support native plant species. **Daphne will get copies of the brochure.**

2) 2012 FNPS Annual Conference

- a. Hernando and Nature Coast chapters have potentially volunteered to sponsor the annual conference in a venue in Tampa. SNPS may be able to coordinate committees for the event. General membership approval of the idea was extremely limited at the October general membership meeting. Further conference discussion is currently tabled.

New Business:

1) Grants

- a. Troy received a grant proposal for landscaping projects at three fire stations in Hillsborough County. The total cost is estimated at \$60,000. Part of Mayor Pam Iorio's Green Initiative. Troy reminded us that SNPS grants are only \$500. A list of plant material would be necessary prior to consideration of sponsorship. One of these projects may be appropriate for a grant and may be considered on specific conditions (native plant species, funding sources, maintenance budgets, longevity of project, etc.). Troy will contact the applicant and remind them of our sponsorship limitations and necessary landscaping and maintenance plan.
- 2) Nominating Committee
 - a. Troy asked BOD members if they will be available for nominating committee or to stay on as BOD members. Nominating committee has previously been selected by asking for volunteers at the October meeting. Shirley recommended checking the bylaws to see if we can ask for nominating committee members prior to the October meeting. People recommended for the nominating committee include Harriett, Mike Fike, Mary and John Miller, and Kristina). Troy will ask members prior to the November meeting via calls and personal communication.
 - b. Daphne suggested potentially changing the bylaws to nominate BOD in 2-year staggered increments. According to Shirley, to change the bylaws, members need to vote at the upcoming meeting and the change needs to be published in the newsletter. Shirley mentioned that the BOD does not have a fixed number of people, rather there is a range. Daphne will send the bylaws to all members and Kristina will do the research of steps to change bylaws. An article may need to be added to the October newsletter to inform general membership. Deadline for the October newsletter is September 30. The change that may be entertained is changing the BOD commitments to 2-year staggered increments.
 - 3) Field trip release form
 - a. A member of another chapter has asked Troy for the field trip release form. Shirley says that the form is available on the FNPS website in Chapter Resources.

The next board meeting will be held at Troy's house on **Wednesday**, October 14 at 6:30pm with a *Liatris* viewing.

Daphne made a motion to adjourn at 9:30pm and Bob seconded. The meeting adjournment was unanimously approved.