

Suncoast Native Plant Society, Board of Directors Meeting- Minutes

August 10, 2026 – 6:30 pm on Google Meet

In Attendance: Board Members Merrilee Wallbrunn, Michelle Anaya, Linda Steele-Green, Tina Patterson;

Board Candidates Mary Lou Dahmers, Carlos Frey, Mary James, Anita Crnjac, Neal Halstead, Katelyn Belser;

Guest Rebekah Kaufman, Council of Chapters

Board Meetings will normally be held on the *second Monday of each month*. One candidate has said they cannot attend meetings on Mondays.

1. Minutes: Tina Patterson

- The June minutes were posted to the website. There was no official meeting in July.

2. Treasurer's Report: Theresa Blanchard (not in attendance)

- Theresa will send a treasurer's report to all board members via email when she returns.

3. Grants and Expenditures

- The board received a grant request from Doug Ponticos at Hillsborough College Ybor for \$500 to buy native plants. Merrilee will set up a site visit. No vote was taken at this time.
- Michelle will write a grant application that will ask for more detailed information from anyone requesting a grant.

4. PR Report: Michelle

- Michelle created a downloadable gopher tortoise coloring page which received thousands of views and shares on Facebook. The page now has 4871 following.
- Michelle conducted a survey that showed people asked for more basic gardening classes, different days and times for activities, and more children's programming.

5. Gardens and Outreach:

- Westchase has invited Suncoast to participate in a 2-day event on September 19-20.
- Suncoast has also been invited to table at the Hiking Spree on November 7.
- Rebekah offered advice from Council discussions that events hosted by Suncoast would be more productive than tabling at someone else's event.
- Michelle has discussed joint events with Tampa Audubon president, Jessica Parrish. She agreed to share our events on their calendar and will put our literature at Lettuce Lake.

6. Membership Meetings/Speakers: Michelle

- **August 19:** Election Meeting. Neal Halstead "Gopher Tortoises" at Seminole Heights Library, 3:30 pm.
- **September 16:** John Clarke at Jimmie B Keel Library, 6:30 pm
- **October 21:** Tia Saracino "Fall Native Planting" at UF/IFAS Extension, 7 pm
- **November:** Anita Crnjac
- The board should continue to look for a permanent location and try weekend meetings.
- Rebekah suggested assigning specific roles at the meeting such as greeter, name tags, and plant drawings

7. Field Trips:

- **Linda** would like to get the county to offer wagon tours to local nature preserves again.

8. Plant Sale: October 10 and 11, 2026

9. Newsletter and News:

- Michelle will send the meeting reminder and August newsletter to members this week.
- Michelle will post events to Facebook.

10. Elections: Michelle

- Michelle introduced candidates. She stated her goals to streamline processes, introduce technology, and make volunteering easier. She would also like to make joining easier, create new programming, and provide more volunteer opportunities.
- Rebekah emphasized the need for clear roles and responsibilities with the board. She suggested adding participation requirements.
- Voting will take place online from August 19 to August 29.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 pm.

The date of the next Board of Directors meeting is September 14.

Tina (Mable C) Patterson, Secretary, Suncoast Chapter of FNPS