

Suncoast Native Plant Society, Board of Directors Meeting- Notes

February 9, 2021 – 7 pm, on GoToMeeting

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

1. Minutes: The January minutes were posted to the website.

2. Treasurer's Report: Niki Cribbs (sent via email)

- Virginia asked about buying at wholesale prices and donating to gardens. We will ask Niki if this is legal and if we need to pay sales taxes for plants we are using in projects.

3. Grants and Expenditures:

- Virginia is going to SweetBay on February 27 to help select plants using the \$250 approved last month for the USF Riverfront Park garden project.
- Mike has requested, and the board approved, using money from 'garden support' to buy a Shumard oak for Trout Creek. He would like a 3-gallon. Mike will also be at SweetBay for the buying trip.

4. PR Report:

- Virginia is sending an article on the Middleton High School garden project to the Sabal Minor. She asked anyone else with article ideas to submit them.
- Steve was asked by Valerie Anderson if we would like an intern to help with projects. The deadline is 2/10/2021 so the board declined to pursue.

5. Gardens and Outreach:

- Troy plans to host an open house and plant sale in the spring. He will probably need volunteer assistants.
- Date is confirmed for the Plant Swap on March 20. Details in a separate item.

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

- **February 17 – Troy Springer**, native landscaping lessons learned
- **March 17 – Jeff Norcini**, roadside wildflower program. Shirley has contacted him and he has agreed.
- **April 21- Randy Mears**, on *Carex*. Steve will see if he is interested.
- **May 19- Joel Jackson**, history of Lettuce Lake and planning of conservation parks.
- Anita has offered space for a December holiday party at the butterfly conservatory.
- Tina suggested that if we are having trouble finding a speaker we could show and discuss videos of other presentations. Shirley says we have free access to FNPS YouTube programs. Tina suggested Archbold and Mike suggested Florida Wildflower Foundation.
- We will try "Ask a Gardener" again at the next meeting. Virginia will cut off recording at the end of the speaker and will upload to FNPS' YouTube channel.

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

- We will continue to allow only Suncoast (FNPS) members and require masks.
- **February 27 – Town n' Country Preserve.** Parking at Upper Tampa Bay Trail lot with car shuttle and parking on the right-of-way near Alonso.

- **March 27-** Ft. Desoto in Pinellas County. There is a \$5 entrance fee. Janet suggested Caladesi Island State Park for some future trip.
- **April 24** – not determined;
- Steve contacted Bryan Ames, FWC, about Split Oak to try for a 10 person or less motorized tour. He has asked for the first or second Saturday in May. This requires advance approval and we may have to go for a later date. **Steve** will forward the account information.
- **Fall Camping Trip:** Highland Hammock SP, October 22-24 and Collier Seminole SP, December 9-12. We have 4 campsites at each park and 6 people already signed up. That means we have 2 openings remaining. We can still get reservations but people need to decide early or book on their own.

8. Plant Swap – Saturday, March 20, 10 am – 12 pm

- Will be held at Shirley’s house and open to SNPS (or FNPS?) members.
- Participants must rsvp to get the address and directions. These will **not** be printed in the newsletter.
- The rules are “bring a plant, take a plant”. After a first round, we will decide how to divide up remaining items.
- Plants or seeds should include a card or envelope with: **scientific name, water and light requirements and mature size**. They can also include information like common name, value to wildlife, pest or disease problems etc
- People must wear **masks and social distance** and should bring their own water, snacks, carts, etc.
- Janet will bring her folding table and Shirley has an area under her carport that could be used for display of small items. Tina can bring the storage shed table.
- It was not decided if we should cap the number of participants.

9. Plant Sale

- We paid registration for the USF Plant Sale last year. We will plan for the dates April 10-11. If USF cancels again, we will still hold some kind of sale, maybe the same as in the fall.
- Virginia would like us to order more plants, including 3-gallon, for spring. Troy is interested in working with us.

10. Newsletter: Shirley Denton

- Submissions for the March newsletter should be sent by February 28.

Action Items:

Virginia: Create link for next week’s meeting and send to Tina. SweetBay trip.

Niki: FDACS renewal, check tax exempt regulations, wholesale/retail procedure

Steve: Randy Mears, forward Split Oak information

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 pm.

The next Board of Directors meeting is Tuesday, March 9 , at 7 pm.

Tina (Mable C) Patterson, SNPS secretary