

Suncoast Native Plant Society, Board of Directors Meeting- Notes

May 19, 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 April minutes were posted to the website.

2. Treasurer's Report: Niki Cribbs

- The treasurer's report was sent to all board members on May 18, showing activity for March and April. There was no further discussion.
- Niki has completed changes to the chapter name on all renewals and documents. She and Virginia will meet at Suntrust Bank on Tuesday, June 2, to change the account names. Niki has the letter from FNPS telling us we needed to correct our name to Suncoast Chapter of FNPS.
- If other documents are needed to show the organization name is official, they are in the BY Laws and the change was approved by the membership at the February 2020 chapter meeting and recorded in the April 2020 minutes. Both documents are available on the website.

3. Grants and Expenditures: Niki Cribbs

- Niki has received information that our domain name, suncoastnps.org, will expire in July. Shirley researched and found that we obtained it through Wild West Domains. No one knows who did this or who is being billed for renewals. If we do nothing and the domain expires, we will use suncoast.fnpschapters.org, which works through FNPS.
- Niki continues to receive information about the Fall Plant Festival at USF.
- Tina asked for reimbursement of \$59.40 for plants for the Flatwoods garden.

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

- Mary Miller and other volunteers have returned to Flatwoods Park to maintain the native plant garden. The rangers there have repaired the irrigation, added stone edging and put up the new sign which acknowledges the contributions of Suncoast Native Plant Society (don't tell FNPS admin)
- Virginia said that she and other members can offer property native plant surveys and advice on plants when requested.

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

- **May 20 – Virginia Overstreet**, "Why Native Plants" online presentation with photos from Joel Jackson
- **June 17- Randy Mears** on grasses if he can get a Powerpoint done in time. Niki volunteered to help him.
- **July 15- Joint meeting with Tampa Bay Sierra and Tampa Audubon, Valerie Anderson from FNPS** will talk about fighting the Split Oak Forest road project in central Florida. We will invite Sierra and Audubon to participate online. Tina suggested incorporating some plant, membership or gift certificate giveaways to add some fun.
- **August – maybe another online meeting**, Shirley has some ideas
- **September 16– Troy Springer**, reschedule of the March talk
- **October 21-**

- **November – member share**
- **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

- May 23 – Green Swamp West by reservation only
- June 20 – Steve will look for a wetland area in Hillsborough County where Randy can lead us in sedges.
- July 18 – a visit to The Nectary, the new native plant nursery in Lakeland. Start time probably 9 am. A plant availability list will be put out ahead of the trip.
- 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. Membership:

- Shirley and Virginia attended an online meeting about using the FNPS membership features.
- FNPS sends an email to expiring memberships a month in advance. They also send a postcard and continue to send reminder emails after expiration.
- Shirley says we need to make personal contact with members who have lapsed, especially if they are long term members.
- The easiest way to renew is online but members can also call FNPS to check on their membership and/or renew.
- Our current membership is 140 memberships representing 176 people.

10. Newsletter: Shirley Denton

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

Action Items:

Virginia: Go to bank with Niki. Communicate with Audubon about July 15.

Niki: Change bank account name with Suntrust. Assist Randy Mears with Powerpoint.

Tina: Communicate with Kent Bailey of Sierra about July 15.

Shirley: Talk to Randy about June meeting. Look for August online speakers.

Steve: Make suggestions for June field trip.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 pm.

The next Board of Directors meeting has not been set.

Tina (Mable C) Patterson, SNPS secretary