

Suncoast Native Plant Society, Board of Directors Meeting- Minutes

April 18,2018 Beef O'Brady's , Seffner

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 pm : Virginia, Niki, Andy and Tina attending;

1. **Minutes:** The February/March minutes were approved.

2. Treasurer's Report : Niki Cribbs

- All signatories to the SunTrust account were changed in March. Gar was removed and Niki and Virginia added.
- Niki is now the OnLine cash manager. She is still working with the bank to get online access.
- Niki has ordered a debit card for our organization.
- The treasurer's report was approved by the board and will be filed with the minutes.
- The board gave approval in January to move \$580 from Grants into Other Garden Support in order to fund Joel Jackson's project making long-lasting native plant id and informational signs for county parks including Lettuce Lake, Flatwoods , Morris Bridge and Trout Creek. Joel has completed the printing and hopes to have the signs out by Earth Day.
- Jared from Morris Bridge has asked for funding to buy native plants for Morris Bridge Park parking area. He received \$400 from the county and is buying coontie and mimosa. He needs to complete a grant request as outlined on our website.

3. PR Report: Andy Taylor

- The Suncoastnps.org website homepage is being managed by Shirley Denton and Tina Patterson.
- It was decided not to set up a new SNPS email account at this time. Since no one knows the holder of the suncoastnps@gmail account, it has been removed from the website.
- Andy, Janet, Virginia and Nanette are all able to post to the Facebook page.
- Devon and Shirley are organizers for the MeetUps for meetings and field trips. Tina now has access and is updating the page.
- The board discussed the use and value of the MeetUp page and whether the cost was justified. We should monitor its use this year to see how many signups we get through this medium. We should also use the Facebook page more frequently to advertise meetings and field trips.

4. Gardens and Outreach: Tina

- The next walk at Lettuce Lake is April 28. MeetUps and county parks' calendar have walks scheduled every 4th Saturday except for July, August and December. Tina will continue to coordinate with Joel Jackson.
- Karen Elizabeth asked that we buy edging for the native plant area of the HCC community garden. We should ask Janet what she wants to do and when. HCC Community Garden has a United Way Volunteer Day scheduled for May 29. This is a Tuesday. We should wait for her to send out an official notice. She is looking for several SNPS members to serve as team leaders and organize placing the edging and laying gravel in the native plant area. Availability will depend on the date.
- The University of Tampa Roots & Shoots is sending volunteers to Lettuce Lake on April 21. They will pull invasive plants and help install the new signs and place the new edging.
- Niki proposed we develop and offer a professional development course in plant identification. This would help park employees, environmental groups and land managers better understand plant communities. We would need to develop a curriculum and find sites with an indoor and outdoor space for lessons and fieldwork. Suggestions made were Bell Creek, Lettuce Lake, Upper Tampa Bay Park and Mosaic.

- Rosebud Continuum in Land O'Lakes is having an open house on May 12 and is asking for our participation. We will include the information in the newsletter and maybe Teresa Nowik would like to do a table there. Virginia or Andy will check with Pasco County chapter to see if they are doing a booth.

5. Membership Meetings/Speakers: Virginia

- Apr 18 – Tonya Clayton- “Sea Level Rise in Florida”
- May 9 – open mic night - request contributions to the program from grant recipients and members
- June 20- Rachel Arndt – Tampa Bay Watch
- July 18 – joint meeting with Sierra and Audubon will be at the Extension Center
- Some members have expressed interest in a weekend daytime meeting or a meeting in another location. Virginia could get access to the Seminole Heights Library for an evening meeting but maybe not for Sunday.
- It was suggested that we auction donated books not needed for the library at meetings as an additional fund raiser. We might also sell t-shirts at meetings again.

6. Field Trips/Campouts:

- Shirley Denton has provided a list of field trips for this year. She consulted with Devon and Janet.
- Apr 21- Duette Preserve, wagon tour in Manatee County, Steve Dickman is organizing
- Sep 22 - Lake Marion Creek Wildlife Management Area, Huckleberry entrance, to look for *Dicerandra modesta* and pine lily. This is east of Davenport in Polk County.
- Oct 27-29 - Silver Springs State Park. Tina has reserved two cabins for Saturday and Sunday nights. Tent and rv sites are available from the park. The cost of the cabins is \$62.73 per person for 4 people in the cabin and \$42 per person for 6 people.
- A few members have asked for some weekday field trips. This could also be a survey question in the newsletter. Shirley had suggested a November weekday canoe trip on the Hillsborough River starting at Sargeant Park and ending at Morris Bridge. We would need to reserve boats with Canoe Escape but we could not make this an official outing because of insurance restrictions.
- The Holiday Party is set for December 1 at Brooker Creek in Pinellas County. Virginia is coordinating with their president.

7. Plant Sale :

- Saturday morning was very busy and we really needed more volunteers.
- It would be more efficient to set up a second table for cash only sales.
- We sold 11 memberships and sold out of some books.
- Troy says he will not do the plant sale after the one in October. We will need to consider other options.

Action Items:

Virginia :

- Book speakers and obtain bios and talk summaries from them. Send bios to Janet for newsletter and Tina for MeetUp and website.
- Attend Council of Chapters meetings.
- Communicate with Pasco and Pinellas chapters about May 12 and December 1 events.
- Send Jared information about the grant process.

Niki:

- Prepare Plant Sale reports and pay vendors and USF.
- Continue to work on SunTrust account details.
- Investigate interest in and possibility of offering a plant id continuing education course.

Tina:

- Make contacts and communications with those listed in minutes.
- Maintain MeetUp and website.

Andy:

- Publicize chapter events and activities. Post events on our Facebook page.
- Contact county about funding for native plant id and informational signs.

The next board meeting is May 9 at Beef O'Brady's **at 5 pm.**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Tina Patterson , secretary