

Suncoast Native Plant Society, Board of Directors Meeting- Notes

January 7, 2020 – 6 pm, Virginia's house

The meeting began at 6 pm: Virginia, Niki, Tina, Luanna Prevost and Janet Bowers attending. The first 45 minutes were discussion of January workshop.

1. Minutes: The November minutes were posted to the website. There was no board meeting in December.

2. Treasurer's Report: Niki Cribbs

- The treasurer's report was sent to all board members, showing activity for November and December.
- Niki has begun changes to the chapter name on all renewals. She and Virginia will change the bank account name after the By Laws show the correct name and the IRS forms are correct.
- Niki sent the proposed 2020 budget to all board members. Categories and amounts are about the same but adjusted to reflect last year's actual revenues and expenditures.
- The board voted via email to accept the budget proposal for 2020 as written.

3. Grants and Expenditures: Niki Cribbs

- Niki sent \$250 to FNPS for a quarter page ad in the conference program. She needs a print quality copy of our logo. Janet will look for one.
- A motion was made and carried in November to pay the cost of one complete research or conservation grant to be given in our name at the conference. The cost should be about \$1500. Shirley will report costs and details.
- Shirley will advertise our old projector for auction in the next newsletter. Minimum bid of \$50.
- A motion was made to give a \$250 donation to Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve to thank them for hosting holiday parties and to further their efforts in conservation and environmental education. The motion passed in a 6-0 email vote.
- We still have an excess of about \$1000 from last year's budget. Niki suggested a new computer. Board members can bring their requirements or recommend models at the next board meeting.

4. PR Report: Tina Patterson

- Niki will bring extra Squares to the next meeting so that Tina or other officers can sign up new members immediately. This is from a suggestion made at Council in November.
- Another conclusion from Council meeting was that our chapter should look for a membership chair to call or write new members and to talk to renewing members.

5. Gardens and Outreach: Tina Patterson

- Native Plant Walks in 2020 will be on the first Saturday of each month except July, August and December.
- Chris Kiddy has asked Suncoast to help with a restoration project and demonstration native plant garden at Bell Creek. Grayson McCormick has volunteered to help.
- We still need garden signs at Flatwoods and Morris Bridge. Janet has some suggested copy for consideration. Some of the plant signs need replaced as well.

6. Membership Meetings/Speakers: Virginia Overstreet

- January 15- Seffner Extension Office, Keying Workshop. Luanna will lead the workshop with Niki and Shirley assisting. It was suggested we renew Luanna Prevost's SNPS membership at the meeting or give her an honorarium.

- February 19- John Miller on Florida Geology at Seminole Heights. Tina will need to sign-in and set up for this event.
- March 18- Troy Springer at Seminole Heights Library.
- April and May in Seffner, June at Seminole Heights.
- We are hosting the joint meeting on July 15 for Suncoast Chapter of FNPS, Sierra Club and Tampa Audubon. Valerie Anderson has been invited to speak about the Split Oak toll road project near Orlando and about the FNPS mission.
- The Seminole Heights Library will not be available in January, April, July or October.
- JoAnn will be retiring sometime in the next few years. Virginia will inquire about using the Extension Office after that. Tina will look into library spaces in East Hillsborough.

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

- January 18 – Boardwalk at Lettuce Lake, Shirley Denton, possible tree emphasis for Florida Arbor Day.
- **Suggested trips for 2020** : Ask Steve about February, Blackwater Creek, Colt Creek and /or Anuteliga Hammock in spring, HRSP in May or June after burning (check with Brian Pinson)
- Janet Bowers has suggested field trips to Bok Tower, an October camping trip at Kissimmee Prairie and possible hikes at Blackwater (Sep/Oct), Little Manatee River SP (March for Styrax), Lake Dan, Wolf Branch or Green Swamp West (February) and Alderman’s Ford (April).

8. Plant Sale

- Spring Plant Sale is April 11 and 12. This includes Easter Sunday. The hours are 10 – 4 on Saturday and 11 – 3 on Sunday.
- Fall Plant Sale is October 10 and 11. There is a scarecrow contest and the winner receives free registration for three years. We may try to participate.

9. Election of Officers:

- In February. Shirley will announce in newsletter.
- Nominating Committee: Nanette O’Hara, Barbara Fite and Cliff Brown
- Virginia, Tina, Niki, Mike and Shirley have stated their interest in remaining at their present positions.
- Shirley has been reviewing our By Laws and has some changes that we could vote on at the membership meeting in February. These include the chapter electing Board members and the Board assigning officers. She will give a summary of these via email. We also need to correct our chapter name on the By Laws.

10. Newsletter: Shirley Denton

- Submissions for the February newsletter should be sent by January 20.

Action Items:

Virginia:

- Reserve Seminole Heights Library for future meetings, as needed.
- Book speakers for the remainder of 2020.

Niki:

- Organization name changes.
- Donation to Friends of Brooker Creek.

Tina:

- Volunteers for Lettuce Lake, Plant Sale and July Joint Meeting.
- Learn sign in and set up procedures for Seminole Heights Library.

Shirley:

- Publish February meeting elections and By Laws changes.
- Find out how we can sponsor a research grant for the conference.
- Advertise projector for auction.

Steve : February field trip location and suggestions for later months.

The meeting was adjourned at 8 pm.

The next Board of Directors meeting has not been set.

Tina Patterson, secretary