BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Monthly Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2025
Forest Glen Golf and Country Club Community Center

President Richard Davenport called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

In attendance were Bob Castonguay, Richard Davenport, Debbie Goldman, Marie Harris, Jim Rawson, Steve Plumer, Karen Davenport, Terre Moore, Linda Van Blerkom, Rae Jean Walker, Sue Roehl, Arlene Cluff, and Stu Rubin.

1. The Minutes from the December 10, 2024, meeting were reviewed. Marie Harris moved to approve them, Bob Castonguay seconded and the motion passed.
2. Treasurer Steve Plumer reported that we have $13,563.70 in the NOS checking account and $33,236.15 in CD's. Steve reported that our 5 year CD is earning very little interest. He proposed we cash in the CD, take the penalty and move the money into other larger interest bearing CD's. Karen Davenport moved that Steve be given permission to move the money, it was seconded by Bob Castonguay, and the motion passed.
3. Membership Co-Chair Debbie Goldman advised that there are still many members who have not renewed their memberships. She and Arlene Cluff, Membership Co-Chair, will send renewal information to Bob Castonguay so that he can send out an eblast reminding members that as of January 31, 2025, their name will no longer appear on the NOS membership list available on the website. Debbie and Arlene will also call members to remind them.
4. 2025 Programs: Vice President Marie Harris provided a calendar of Program Speakers for 2025. She reviewed the topics that would be discussed and asked for other ideas for future programs.
5. Education Director Linda Van Blerkom suggested we need more education support and guidance on the NOS Website. She advised that some of the current links on the website need to be reviewed as they do not link to the correct subject. Linda asked Board Members to send suggestions of additional educational items that could be included in an update. She will also include topics in our monthly Newsletters for the "Education Corner."
6. Richard Davenport updated the Board that he has submitted an application to the Florida Forestry Service for research access to the Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest for orchid research. Dr. Jason Downing, from AOS, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens, recently sent several flasks of very large Ghost Orchid seedlings to our former intern Adam Herdman at UF.
7. Culture Class Update: Richard Davenport advised the Board that potential speakers for the Culture Class Series had been contacted and they had confirmed their availability. There were two openings which were filled at the meeting by Board members. Richard is editing the NOS Handbook created by Dick Pippin that will be reprinted and used as the Culture Class Series handbook. Now that the Culture Class application is on the NOS Website, Richard will write a short article to be included in this month's Newsletter.
8. The next Board meetings will be February 11, 2025, March 11, 2025, and April 8, 2025. They will be held in the Forest Glen Golf and Country Club Community Center and begin at 6:00 p.m.

Marie Harris moved to adjourn the meeting, Jim Rawson seconded and the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

SHOW COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Show Chair Jim Rawson called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

1. Membership Co-Chair Arlene Cluff spoke about volunteers for the Show. She emphasized the need for experienced members for the two Membership tables, one outside at the entrance to the Garden and the other on the lawn with the vendors. She provided a list of volunteer needs for the Show.
2. Sponsor Chair Stu Rubin reviewed the current sponsors and their pledges. He advised that even using the Naples Chamber Of Commerce contacts, that response was not encouraging.
3. Jim Rawson discussed the current rack card, and that NOS would be placing a second order to include new verbiage on the back which will include our sponsor names, some membership information and the QR Code that will be a direct link to the NOS Website. Rae Jean Walker and Terre Moore will be taking the new cards to various hotels and other tourist destinations in Naples and Marco Island so that we can reach visitors who will be in our area during our Show.
4. It was agreed that we would once again invite the Gulf Coast Orchid Alliance to enter plants and exhibits at our Show. Richard will speak at the next GCOA meeting and issue an invitation.
5. At the recent Naples Botanical Garden Meeting with the Show Committee, Jim advised the following:
   - NOS will be allowed to use the patio area outside the Fogg Café as our designated location for food for the volunteers and judges.
   - NBG will provide all signage. Richard Davenport and Jim are working to provide them with templates.
   - NBG will improve lighting.
6. David Orr will supervise Show setup on Tuesday, February 18.
7. Plant and exhibit registrations will be on Wednesday, February 19, from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. No exceptions.
8. The AOS Judges invitations will be mailed within a week.
9. Judging will begin on Thursday, February 20, at 10:00 a.m. and should be completed by 4:00 p.m. Judges box lunches will be provided from Fogg Cafe.
10. Food for volunteers will be sandwiches, sides and drinks. Terry McQuillen is the coordinator.
11. Jim advised that he would be attending the Tamiami Orchid Show, where he would be collecting vendor checks and purchasing 60 of the Motes handbooks.
12. Bactra Benches has requested to be on the lawn with the plant vendors and will pay the vendor fee of $1000.00 instead of the $800.00 supply vendor fee.

Jim Rawson moved to adjourn the meeting, Debbie Goldman seconded, and the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Davenport, Secretary