

Minutes of the NOS Monthly Meeting July 6, 2017 Submitted by Cynthia Bock, Secretary

President Dick Phippen called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm and reviewed the emergency exits and procedures. He thanked Mary Jo Shivley and all those who made and brought in the refreshments. Eunice Walker is having a private plant sale, on July 22 from 9am to 12 noon, on her lanai. (107 Warwick Hills Dr. (off Rattlesnake by Hibiscus.) Dick introduced Donna McGuinness, Pres. & CEO of Naples Botanical Gardens, and Rich Ackerman, Allan Fogar and Craig Barry from Ft. Lauderdale Orchid Society. Dr. Larry Zettler and his interns (Adam and Connor), from the Orchid Recovery Program at Illinois College are also visiting and will be speaking later; and Grant Morton, a former student of Dr. Zettler now working on his Ph.D at University Wisconsin, studying Vanilla orchids. Also David Riera from FIU whose research we have supported. Our August meeting will feature Jim Roberts from Florida SunCoast Orchids. Membership chair Veronica announced that we have 214 members and 215 Facebook likes. New website will be out soon. Kit Kitchen-Maran announced that this is the 7th year of the internship program. We have almost 20 interns. Kit presented a poster illustrating the projects they have done. Kit thanked the Board for approving the request for additional funds (\$5k) and Bill Overton for donating funds to reach our goal. The studies work on the ghost orchid in the Fakahatchee Strand. We have provided over \$26k in support of these projects. We are one of the few societies supporting such research. Kit announced a matching challenge for the 2018 scholarship fund and asked for members to donate. David Orr introduced our speaker, Dr. Larry Zettler and his interns, who updated us on their project in the Fakahatchee Strand, re-introducing native orchids. Kit introduced David Riera who is researching orchid seed viability. David reported that his research focuses on orchids: threatened and endangered orchids, specifically, the cow horn orchid and its seed propagation. He has developed a method for protecting the tiny orchid seeds and duplicating them while maintaining genetic viability. David thanked NOS for its support. Kit introduced Dr. Larry Zettler, Illinois College, head of the orchid recovery program. He and his students have carried out research here in SW Florida on the native Florida orchids. Dr. Zettler thanked the members for supporting his projects. He spoke about his projects. Plant Table winners were announced and raffle winners were drawn.