

## MINUTES

### FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY—THE VILLAGES CHAPTER

Friday, October 28, 2016

Big Cypress Recreation Center, Periwinkle Room

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Steve Turnipseed at 1:30.

Present: 52 members and 15 guests.

#### Old Business:

- Steve welcomed guests and members, and reminded us that wildflower seeds are available for a donation, and can be planted in fall or spring.
- He reported on the Native Plant Landscape tour. Eight homes were on the tour, and those touring included the Cammie Donaldson, the Executive Director of FANN (Florida Association of Native Nurseries) and members of several other chapters.
- Steve showed a slide of the back yard of Myrna Farquhar our Membership Officer. It was being solarized to kill the grass. He reported on Mary Wolf who removed grass from her front yard.

#### New Business—Upcoming Meetings and Events:

- November 16: There will field trip for members to Pear Park.
- November 20: Lake County's Native Plant Society's chapter, Beautyberry, will have a presentation at 2:30 at Trout Lake Nature Park by Brent Mc Callister, landscape architect, on "Sustainable Landscaping".
- November 25: Steve will present "Create a Low Maintenance Native Plant Landscape".
- Native Plant members in the news: A picture of some of Dan and Marcia Wolfe's landscape plants appeared in The Villages Daily Sun, as well as an article about Carol Spears, our chapter rep.
- Native plants in the news: There is now a Native Plant Focus in the Saturday Home and Garden section of The Villages Daily Sun and a native plant of the month in the Sumter County's Master Gardener's "Gardener's Journal".
- Treasurer: We will need a new treasurer by Jan. 17.
- Cathy Porter, our Vice-President of Programs reminded us that some natives including coontie are poisonous. We need to be aware of those plants that are poisonous especially if we have pets and children in our yards.

Speaker: Dr. Craig Huegel, an author of 5 books and science teacher from St. Petersburg College was our speaker on "Landscaping in the Shade". He reminded us that the purpose of using native plants for landscaping was to create a natural environment. When choosing plants for our landscape, we need to know the light requirements. The definition of shade is "not full sun". Sunlight changes depending on the time of the day and changes with the season: it can be directly overhead in the summer, and lower in the sky in other seasons. He said that sun is the real plant food, and some plants are heavier feeders than others.

Shade plants grow slower, take more time to establish and need less water. The challenge to plant in the shade is that the tree roots are near the surface. He suggested planting with plants in one gallon containers to decrease the damage to tree roots. He likes deciduous trees and plants for maintenance purposes, they drop leaves all at one time in comparison to live oaks which drop their leaves all year round. (Leaves make great mulch.) The plants underneath will get full sun after the leaves drop, so knowing the light requirements of your plants is essential.

He then suggested a trip to Torreya State Park in the spring to see plants under deciduous trees. Understory trees include: dogwood, fringe tree, silver bell, red buckeye (15 feet tall and draw hummingbirds), parsley haw (produce "crab apples"), flatwoods plum (will grow in sun, too), wild cinnamon bark, stoppers, (like Simpson's) and black ironwood. Multi-stemmed bushes include Florida flame azalea, pipe stems, privets (need some sun), oak leaf hydrangea, yaupon hollies (need some sun), Walter's viburnum (need some sun), marlberry, myrsine, firebush (needs some light) and coffee (2 species—the dwarf 3 foot one will not freeze). Palms include needle palm and dwarf palm (sabal minor). Coonties are the native cycads. Ferns include swamp ferns.

