

MINUTES
FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
Friday, November 25, 2016

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

Present: Approximately 60 members and guests.

Old Business:

- Steve welcomed guests and members.
- He introduced Kirsten Sharp-Ortega, a student intern who works for Green Isle Gardens. He reported that she is completing her degree in horticulture and landscape design, and is available to perform freelance landscape designs. Her contact info is Kirsten@SustainableDragonflyGardens.com, (407) 603-1107.
- Steve reported on the presentation and guided walk at Pear Park on 11/16.
- He also reported on the native landscape maintenance at Lake Griffin State Park's entrance.
- Steve wrote an article in The Daily Sun on "It matters what you plant, if you want to draw wildlife".
- The "Master Gardener's Journal's" Native Plant of the Month was the wild petunia.

New Business—Upcoming Meetings and Events:

- Steve asked for a volunteer for treasurer by Jan. 17. Other chapter offices and Executive Committee positions are available as well.
- On Jan. 27, the speaker will be Renee Stambaugh on Natives in the Landscape.
- On Feb. 24, the speaker will be Scott Davis on Monarch Migration and Native Milkweeds.
- On March 24, the speaker will be Roger Hammer on Central Florida Wildflowers.
- On April 28, the speaker will be John Moran on the Springs Eternal Project.

Speaker: Our President, Steve Turnipseed is a full-time resident of The Villages, is a UF/IFAS certified Master Gardener and is a Florida Water Star Accredited Professional. He talked on "How to Create a Low Maintenance Landscape". First he discussed turf grass and all its maintenance including water and chemical needs. In The Villages, Florida Friendly Landscaping is permitted as a substitute for sod, and owners are encouraged to and may add or replace landscape that is more water conservative and drought tolerant than originally provided. He discussed planting in groups of the same species and using 2-3 inches of organic mulch (pine straw or pine bark, but not cypress bark and never rock). Then he discussed planting trees, woody shrubs and clump grasses, putting the right plant in the right place. He suggested hand pruning rather than shearing. He reported on planting: avoiding geometric patterns,

spacing plants to touch at maturity and defining edges and separation between groups of plants. He suggested limited use of annuals and short lived perennials, and placing them in a highly visible location, and more use of slow growing long lived plants.

The plants he focused on included dwarf yaupon holly, yaupon holly, coontie, Walter's viburnum, Simpson stopper, Florida privet, dwarf wax myrtle, yellow star anise, silver saw palmetto, sabal minor, sand cord grass, fakahatchee grass, dwarf fakahatchee grass and muhly grass. He said to avoid vines because they need regular attention. He also said to avoid a water feature because it takes a lot of maintenance and creeping ground cover because it needs regular trimming. He also said to avoid using all rocks or gravel landscape as it is not Florida Friendly as does not meet the deed restrictions.

Update On New Business:

- Judith Mason volunteered to be Treasurer.

Donations: Donated native plants from Green Isles Nursery and members were available for members and friends.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be January 27 at 1:30 at the Big Cypress Recreation Center.

Jeanie Powell, Secretary

