

MINUTES  
FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY—THE VILLAGES CHAPTER  
Friday, April 22, 2016  
Big Cypress Recreation Center, Periwinkle Room

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

Present: 75 members and guests.

Old Business:

- Steve welcomed guests and new members, and announced we are ninth in the State in number of memberships, and we have about 118. A membership expires a year after it was paid.
- The trip to Biosphere on April 6 was a success, as was the bus trip yesterday to Ocala National Forest where we experienced several pine and mixed hardwood ecosystems in the Ocala National Forest.
- A Special Thank You was given to the Members who participated in the Lake Griffin Native Plant Maintenance Project on April 12.

New Business:

- All those members in good standing will receive a native milkweed, asclepias incarnate, in celebration of Earth Day today.
- Upcoming field trips:  
April 28: Fort Cooper State Park tour that will be led by Ranger Tammy Roberts at 3100 S. Old Floral City Road, Inverness, FL 34450. There are over 700 acres of nature (details and sign-up sheets were at the meeting.)  
May 16: There will be a trip to Pear Park in Lake County on Rt. 27. The carpools will leave at 8:30.
- Today, April 22--Earth Day Celebration at Sumter Landing 3 to 7 pm – FNPS will have a table with native plants. There will be tent talks on native plants, Butterfly Gardens and Florida-Friendly Landscaping..
- May 19 – 22—The annual FNPS State Conference will take place in Daytona Beach, FL. There will be 44 topics on Friday and Saturday and field trips on Thursday and Sunday.  
<http://fnps.org/conference>
- Upcoming meetings:  
May 27's speaker will be Peggy McDonald who wrote a biography of Marjorie Harris Carr.  
June 24's speaker will be Amanda Martin who will discuss landscape design.

Speaker:

Brooke Moffis, Residential Horticultural Extension Agent spoke on “Exotic Invasive Plants and Lake County Success Stories”. She suggested that members check out the IFAS Assessment of Invasive Plants. The definition of an invasive plant is one that displaces native vegetation, and the seeds can be spread by birds. There are different categories of invasives, and some plants are just considered aggressive. She mentioned that some plants are invasive in some parts of Florida, but not in others. An example was the

queen palm which is to be avoided in south Florida, but cautioned in central Florida. She also mentioned that some plants on the prohibited list are allowed to be sold in our area. An example was the Mexican petunia. She then discussed many common invasives.

Brooke then discussed Lake County CISMA (Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area). This is an organization composed of members of various agencies, and some of their goals are to provide education, CEU's for those who apply herbicides and actual hands-on removal of invasives. Most CISMA's are comprised of several counties, but Lake County is alone. But it is in the process of talking with Marion County about a joint venture, since Marion has no CISMA. (Sumter County is part of Nature Coast CISMA.) Some of the volunteers who have helped eradicate invasives in the Lake County CISMA have included high school and college students and other interested members of the community. Their activities have included an air potato round-up and release of the air potato leaf beetle and a tropical apple snail round-up. She asked potential volunteers contact her at 352-343-4101, ext. 2713.

She also mentioned that anyone wanting a Landscaper license in Sumter or Lake Counties need only pay a \$15 fee for a business license. Those interested in care for their trees should make sure that their landscaper is licensed and insured for \$1,000,000. A good place for to find care for trees is "treesaregood.com

Donations: Donated native plants from Green Isles Nursery and members were awarded to members and friends.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:00.

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

Jeanie Powell, Secretary

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