

MINUTES
FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY—THE VILLAGES CHAPTER
Friday, May 27, 2016
Big Cypress Recreation Center, Periwinkle Room

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

Present: 89 members and guests.

Old Business:

- **Update on Recent Lawn to Native Plant Conversion:** There was an update on the landscape of John Ressler and Diane Clemmons, Al and Joan Lippman, Susan Dickson, Daryl and Patty Dianis, Ken and Gail Hawes, Steve Turnipseed and Rog Selch.
- **Council of Chapters:** Carol Spears reported on the new native landscaping brochure, the new chapter, Passionflower, in south Lake County and the Landscape Award to our own Steve Turnipseed. _
- **Membership:** There are over 3,000 memberships in the state, and membership is tax deductible. Membership runs from the date one signs up to the same month of the next year—renewal notices lasts for 30 days. 30% of the dues come back to the chapter. Our goal is 150 memberships. We need help with marketing—with renewals, growing our contact list and promoting The Villages chapter and FNPS membership. Interested members should see one of the officers.

New Business:

- **Sponsors:** Native plants this month were donated by Green Isle Gardens and members of our chapter.
- **June 24 Meeting :** Amanda Martin will present Landscape Design with Native Plants.
- **July 8 at 6:30, FNPS Evening Social at big Cypress:** This will be a chance to talk with fellow members. We will be getting together for light refreshments, mixer games and conversations. Guests are welcome.
- **July 22:** Lisa Dougherty from Boggy Creek nursery will give a presentation on Sabal Palm, Our State Tree. _

Speaker:

The Biography of Marjorie Harris Carr, Defender of Florida's Environment was written by the speaker Peggy McDonald. Ms. Carr was born in 1915 and was raised in Bonita Springs; she received a degree in biology from Florida State College for Women, and was the nation's first wildlife technician. She worked at the Welaka Fish Hatchery (near the western part of the Oklawaha River) and the Bass Biological Lab in Bonita Springs. She married Archie Carr, a pioneering conservation biologist. She launched her career in conservation in the 50's in Micanopy, and her efforts included the establishment of Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park. In the 60's she helped preserve and restore Lake Alice on the U of F campus in Gainesville.

Ms. Carr is best known for leading the fight to protect the Oklawaha River. She formed a group called the Florida Defenders of the Environment (FDE) which challenged a project of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This project was building the Cross Florida Barge Canal from the Gulf of Mexico to the Atlantic coasts; this was destroying the river. Using the science of ecology to challenge the questionable benefits of this canal, the FDE sued the Corps 1971 for violating public interest. They won a temporary injunction, and days later, in President Richard Nixon halted the construction of the canal. Ms. Carr then led an ongoing battle to preserve and restore the Oklawaha River Valley until her death in 1997. In 1998, the lands purchased along the canal right-of-way were named the Marjorie Harris Carr Florida Greenway in her honor.

Adjournment: After a chance drawing, the meeting adjourned at 3:00.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be June. 24, 2016 at 1:30 at the Big Cypress Recreation Center.
Jeanie Powell, Secretary