

MINUTES
FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY—THE VILLAGES CHAPTER
Friday, March 24, 2017
Big Cypress Rec Center, 3110 Hendry Drive – Periwinkle Room

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

Present: 67 members and 17 guests.

New Business:

- Steve reminded members who ordered plants last month to pick them up after the meeting; they will be at the picnic area to the east of the rec. center.
- Steve welcomed members and guests, and reported on our meeting structure. He thanked Green Isles for their monthly donation.
- Steve reported on The Daily Sun native plant focus this month. He mentioned that Kathy Porter also highlights a native plant in the monthly Master Gardener's Journal.
- Steve showed designs by Kirsten and/or pictures taken by the drone of Rodge Selch of the landscapes of John and Mary Wolf, Carl and Jerry Taylor, Julie Wheeler and Joe Buckovic, Kim and Molly, and Martin and Ni Prada (plants to arrive on Monday).
- Steve showed pictures of the UF landscape design students and aerial images of the typical rectangular, corner and courtyard villa homes that will have native plant landscape designs by them.
- Steve reported on the speaker at the next meeting: John Moran, who has written a book, Our Water, Our Future. John is also the co-champion on The Springs Eternal Project.
- Georgette Gerry reported on the upcoming field trips for members: March 30 to Silver Springs State Park, April 4 to Green Isle Gardens, and a bus trip on April 20 to Clearwater Lake in the Ocala National Forest.
- Carol Spears reported on the upcoming state conference from May 18 to 21 at River Ranch. Our speaker today will also be speaking at the conference.

Speaker:

Kathy Porter introduced Roger L. Hammer, author of Central Florida Wildflowers, and a retired senior naturalist of Miami-Dade Parks Department (1977–2010) who is also a botanist and photographer.

He reported that he is completing a wildflower book for all of Florida, so has been busy photographing north Florida and the Panhandle. He opened his talk with a map of the 26 counties he chose to be central Florida. Roger proceeded to present slides of the various wildflowers in his book often in a humorous way because of the common name or the Latin name, which may have been given by Carolus Linnaeus, the father of nomenclature. Each wildflower shown included a map on where they have been found. Many have not been documented to be present in Sumter County, though many have been found in surrounding counties.

Some of the flowers included clasping warea and Joe Pye weed (the Native Americans used it to treat typhus)—both good butterfly plants, whitemouth dayflower that closes by 11 a.m., groundnut or Indian

potato--the tubers and leaves of which were eaten by native Americans and pioneers, happy hour flower that opens from 4-6 p.m., blue butterwort and pink sundew whose leaves close over and digest insects, savannah meadowbeauty whose petals fall off when touched, cardinal flower that needs hummingbirds for pollination, pine barren frost weed that will take frost, different "worts" which means "plants", Florida Rosemary which suppresses seeds germinating near-by, Adam's needle which makes soap, spotted water hemlock which is the most poisonous plant in Florida and looks like elderberry, West Coast prickly apple which opens from 11 p.m. to 2 a.m. and many lilies and paw paws and some of the 21 orchids in Florida (the most in the U.S.) including the one on Spanish-moss. He also showed composite flowers that contain disc and ray flowers.

Donations: Donated plants were then awarded to members and guests. Steve asked members and guests that if they have any real Florida native plants that they are willing to share, to bring them early to the meetings for the drawing, and to try to verify that they are Florida Natives. He also asked them to return clean empty plant liners and trays to the general meeting for reuse.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:00.

Next Meeting: The next general meeting will be April 28 at 1:30 at the Big Cypress Recreation Center.
Jeanie Powell, Secretary