

MINUTES
FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY—THE VILLAGES CHAPTER
Friday, Jan. 27, 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: 63 members and 27 guests.

New Business:

- Steve reported that he has a 30 gallon potted little gem magnolia that is placed in a silent auction for today.
- Steve welcomed members and guests, and reported on our meeting structure. He thanked Green Isles for their monthly donation.
- Steve presented the current slate of officers: President: Steve Turnipseed, Vice-President of Programs: Kathy Porter, Vice-President of Field Trips: Georgette Gerry, Secretary: Jeanie Powell, Treasurer: Judith Mason, Chapter Representative: Carol Spears, Membership: Myrna Farquhar, and Website: Barbara Wertz. He then asked for nominations from the floor. There were none. He then called for a vote. The vote was unanimous for the slate that was presented.
- Steve reported that we now have 3,000 color brochures of native plants recommended for central Florida. He thanked Myrna for accepting delivery for all of central Florida's chapters.
- Steve reported that Cammie Donaldson from FANN brought Chad Crawford and his film crew to some of our members' homes on Jan. 16 to film an episode of "Flip My Yard". It will be shown on commercial TV in April.
- Steve reported on The Daily Sun article of member Linda Hunt and the weekly Native Plant Focus in the Saturday paper. He reported on the naïve plant landscape of Julie Wheeler and Joe Buckovic. He mentioned that Kathy Porter also reports on the native plant of the month in the Master Gardener's Journal.
- Steve reported that there is an amendment in Community Standards that states when sod is removed, there should be no large area of exposed mulch for 14 months; that groundcover must be planted and example species are listed.
- Steve reported on the speakers in the upcoming meetings. On Feb. 24, Scott Davis from St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge will talk about the monarch butterfly migration. On March 24, Roger Hammer will talk on central Florida wildflowers. We have two field trips for members: Pear Park on Jan. 4 and Lake Griffin State Park on Feb. 16. A \$5.00 donation will be collected for leader honorarium or charity for the trips. Steve thanked Georgette for her work in arranging these trips.
- Devon Higginbotham, an FNPS member of the Suncoast Chapter reported on the upcoming North Alabama Spring Wildflower tour April 17-22.
- Taryn Evans from Creative Garden Structures discussed additions to their functions. Besides providing native plants, and garden structures like bird houses and furniture, they will help maintain home owners' native gardens and install drip irrigation.
- Steve thanked Veronica Cates for her cash donation and Roger Selch for use of his drone.

- Steve reported that we will have a future re-planting at Lake Griffin State Park, and our Board approved funding for maintenance during the summer months. He also reported that we will have a one-day session to help plant conservatories catalogue their vast collections.

Speaker:

Renee Stambaugh with Native Plant Consulting in St. Augustine spoke on “Using Natives in Your Landscape”. She reported that there are 3,000 native plants in Florida, (half are wild flowers), and there is a link between the native plants and wildlife. She reported on the “dependable dozen” interspersed with principles of landscape design.

The twelve included coral honeysuckle (a vine), and the next three provide screening: yaupon holly (a large shrub or small tree), Simpson’s stopper, Walter’s viburnum (there is a dwarf and a mini variety). The next was Fakahatchee grass (4 feet tall, but there is a dwarf variety half the size; it has a flower and the seeds feed the birds), then cabbage or sabal palm, live or other oak tree, coontee (3-4 feet tall), crossvine (it can be planted on a structure or up a tree), Spanish needle (a flower that is a pollinator attractor for fruits and vegetables), wax myrtle (there is a dwarf variety; it is home to the yellow rumped warbler; it is a natural insecticide) and finally saw palmetto. She also mentioned gallardia and beach sunflower.

Some landscape principles she reported on were: first make an objective, and then stick to the objective. If there are lines in the landscape like trees or your home, add texture. It is best to have evergreen plants in the front yard. There should be texture around the trunk of a tree. The Latin names of plants are most helpful when trying to purchase plants. Coontees are always nice in the front and especially at the entranceway to your home. Make planting beds in triangle or “funky” shapes rather rectangles, and make defined edges. Know your yard. The southeast is warmest and the northwest is coldest. Make mulch of leaves and pine needles, and paths of pine bark.

She concluded with a humorous story of God talking to a present day St. Francis about Florida landscaping.

Silent Auction: There were no bids for the auction, so Steve asked for oral bids, and his donated plant brought in \$60.

Donations: Donated plants were then awarded to members and friends.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:00.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be February 24 at 1:30 at the Big Cypress Recreation Center.

Jeanie Powell, Secretary

