

min NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY—THE VILLAGES CHAPTER
Friday, Oct. 27, 2017
Big Cypress Recreation Center, 3110 Hendry Drive – Periwinkle Room

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

Present: 51 members and 15 guests.

New Business:

- Steve welcomed members and guests, and reported on our meeting structure. He thanked Green Isles for their monthly donation.
- Steve and Carol Spears were given a proclamation by the Sumter County Commissioners declaring October as Native Plant Month.
- Our chapter had native plants for sale at the Master Gardener Vendor sale, Plantoberfest, at the Wildwood Community Center on Powell Road on Sat., Oct 21. We had 220 plants and 30 species. Steve thanked M. J. Walsh for her leadership and also thanked the volunteers for this successful event.
- The Native Landscape Designs books co-funded by Lloyd Singleton are available for sale for \$15. Examples of the designs are on the posters located in the left side of the room, and designs and the plant list will be available on the FNPS-The Villages Chapter website. The book was reviewed by the ARC on October 25, but that was not a satisfactory experience.
- Pictures of the progress on the landscape conversions of Mike and Gigi, Minora, and Lori and Joe were shown.
- The next field trip is on Wed., Nov.1 to Flat Island in Lake County. It is for members only.
- Myrna Farquhar needs some help with her membership duties. Barbara Wertz needs help with pictures and stories for our website.

Speaker: Tonya Clayton, PhD, who has a background in coastal environment, spoke on the Observed Impact of Sea Level Rise on Florida's Coastal Vegetation. She reported that the sea is rising one inch per year all over Florida. She quoted studies on levels of barnacles and oysters on bridge pilings, and high and low tide levels. Coastal cities all over the U.S. will be affected, and out of the 10 cities to lose most, 5 are in Florida (as we have 1200 miles of coastline) with Miami being number 1.

Because Florida is flat, a problem from the sea water rising (SWR) includes flooding because of high tides; this can cause increase costs of auto maintenance. Under our soil is porous limestone, and under that is "ground water" where we get most of our drinking water. Under that is salt water. With the SWR, salt water is able to get into our ground water and springs. Behind our beaches are mangrove plants. The beach and plants normally shift backwards with SWR, but cannot with sea walls. Salt marshes and coastal forests are also disappearing with SWR. There is a decline in the oyster industry in the Big Bend area of Florida with SWR.

Two things can be done: to mitigate to slow the process down and to deal with the problem. It is not just a coastal problem, since it can affect our drinking water. To get more information, we can read a book she contributed to: [Sea Level Rising in Florida](#), or go online to the Florida Climate Institute.

Donations: Donated plants were then awarded to members and guests in the chance drawing.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:00.

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

Jeanie Powell, Secretary