

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY—THE VILLAGES CHAPTER

Friday, Nov. 24, 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: 42 members and 9 guests.

New Business:

- Steve welcomed members and guests, and reported on our meeting structure. He thanked Green Isles for their monthly donation of 6 plants.
- The Native Plant of the Month in the Master Gardeners Journal is the firebush.
- Steve attended the FNGLA (Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association) Nov. 2 to promote Florida native plants and the Native Landscape Design Book.
- Although the Native Landscape Designs Book was not acceptable to the ARC Committee, it will be brought again before the Committee on Dec. 20 (if a meeting is held) after some slight changes are made
- Pictures of the progress on the landscape conversions were shown. They included the Russells' (design in progress), Lapinskis' (just approved), Lambs' (herbicide applied to grass), Oppedisanos' (planting complete), Komorskes' (back and side done), Lippmans' (completed 2 years ago and can apply for an award), and the Wheeler/Buchovic's (views of plantings in late Feb. and last week).
- The next field trip is on Thurs., Nov. 30 to Wekiva State Park at 8:00. It is for members only.
- There will be a work party at Lake Griffin State Park on Dec. 8 at 8:30. Our chapter will weed, mulch and plant the entrance area.
- There will be an election at the January meeting. The slate includes these new officers to be elected: Jo Hudak for Secretary and Roger Selch for Vice-President of Programs, as well as the current officers.

Speaker: Cammie Donaldson, the Executive director of FANN (Florida Association of Native Nurseries) spoke on Florida's Fabulous Native Plant Movement. She discussed the history of the native plant movement. A book was written in 1901 called, The Flora of Southeast U.S.: it was a list plants, and included tropical plants in Miami/Dade and the Keys' areas. In the 1920's, there was a population boom. In 1929, a book was written by John Kunkel Small called from Eden to Sahara: Florida's Tragedy; it began the conservation movement. In the 1930's, the Cross Florida Barge Canal was being developed to provide jobs during the depression. (The area is now the Marjorie Harris Carr Greenway.) In the 1940's, a map was made and promoted by UF; it showed the complex native plant communities in the state. Everglades National Park was formed in 1947.

In the 1960's, phosphate mining was begun in central Florida. In 1963, a causeway was built to Sanibel Island, and the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation was formed by Dick Workman to plan for the use native plants in that area. In the 70's, the Florida population was soaring, and the peat bogs in the

Everglades were burning due to drainage projects. In 1975, the Florida legislature enacted the Florida Growth Management Plan, and the Mine Reclamation Act to restore the mined land with native plants.

Bill Partington of Winter Park met with and Dick Workman in 1980, and the Florida Native Plant Society (FNPS) was formed. The first conference was in 1981 at Rollins College in Winter Park. In 1984, the Institute for Regional Conservation was formed for southeast Florida, and the Warren S. Henderson Wetlands Protection Act made a market place for native plants. In 1986 Florida Association of Native Nurseries (FANN) was started. In the 1990's, land ordinances were being made in Florida's counties that included the use of native plants. In 2001, the Florida Wildflower Foundation was started. (License plates for the Foundation are the major source of funding.) In 2003, the Florida Wildflower Cooperative was started for seed growers. In 2015, the Native Plant Horticulture Foundation was started by FANN to help make native plant communities sustainable.

So since the last 40 years, there is more awareness of native plants, more support for their preservation, and more plants available and used. Landscape aesthetics are changing, and the leading organizations are slowly growing. The challenges include preserving the plant biodiversity with urban expansion and availability of plants. Challenges also include enough professionals to design, install and maintain native landscapes. The number one priority is education and outreach.

After questions were answered, Steve presented a check to Tammie for \$250 for the Native Plant Horticultural Foundation to find and start developing local talent for yard maintenance.

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 Jan. 26, at 1:30 at the Big Cypress Recreation Center.

Jeanie Powell, Secretary