

MINUTES
FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY—THE VILLAGES CHAPTER
Friday, April 28, 2017
Big Cypress Recreation Center, Periwinkle Room

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

Present: 62 members and guests.

Old Business:

- **Field Trips:** There was an update by Georgette Gerry about recent trips to Green Isles Garden where members purchased plants and Silver Springs State Park where members saw lots of native plants and rode on a glass bottom boat.
- **State Conference:** Steve reminded members about registering for this event which will be held in River Ranch, Florida from May 18-21.
- **Natives in the News:** Steve presented pictures of the native plants in the Daily Sun and the Chickasaw plum in the Master Gardener Journal. Linda Hunt had her picture in the paper for Earth Day at our Florida Native Plant Society table.
- **Update on Recent Lawn to Native Plant Conversion:** There was an update on the landscape of Mike and Michelle and Dave and Carrie who have approved designs, Dave and Carrie's neighbors who are planting natives, Martin and Ni who just got their grass removed and Kim and Molly who have just gotten their plants installed. _
- **Membership:** There are over 3,700 memberships in the state, and membership is tax deductible. To go on field trip or to special classes, membership is required.
- **UF Landscape Design:** Steve showed a picture of the Courtyard Villa model as an example of the no-turf all native landscape designs. He reported revisions have been submitted for all of the designs.

New Business:

- **Welcome:** Steve welcomed members and guests.
- **Sponsors:** Native plants this month were donated by Green Isle Gardens and members of our chapter.
- **May 26 Meeting:** Peggy Sias Lenz will present edible native plants.
- **Upcoming Field Trips:** The next trip will be to Chiappini Farm Native Nursery in Hawthorne, Florida on May 8. The Ocala National Forest trip will be to Clearwater Lake all day on June 1.
- **Florida Flip My Yard:** Steve showed a video of Chad Crawford's new series, Florida Flip My Yard. It is Episode 102, and it is entitled "Going Native in The Villages". It featured Steve's yard, and is available on YouTube; it will be shown on a local TV channel in May or June. _

Speaker:

John Moran is the co-founder of Springs Eternal Project. His presentation combined photography with comments on Florida's springs. He showed pictures of alligators, beaches, birds, clouds, rivers, lakes, trees, turtles and flowers. He called Florida, "Land of 1000 springs". He showed pictures of many springs taken several years ago and then pictures of more recent times, pointing out the

change in clarity of the water and growth of algae from pollution of fertilizers, sewage and manure caused by abuse and neglect, and in some cases, over-pumping.

He stated that our landscape choices have a direct impact on water consumption, the amount pulled from the aquifer and the flow from the springs. He reported that each Floridian uses approximately 134 gallons of water per day, half of that for landscape, and Floridians would like to decrease water use, but not change landscape use. He reported 100 million visitors come to Florida not only for sunshine, but also for water, and we need to take action before it becomes a crisis. To see his exhibit, go to UF Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville.

Adjournment: After a chance drawing, the meeting adjourned at 3:15.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be May 26, 2017 at 1:30 at the Big Cypress Recreation Center.
Jeanie Powell, Secretary