

MINUTES
FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY—THE VILLAGES CHAPTER
Friday, May 26, 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: 48 members and 19 guests.

New Business:

- Steve welcomed members and guests, and reported on our meeting structure. He thanked Green Isles for their monthly donation.
- Steve showed designs by Kirsten Sharp-Ortega. He also showed pictures taken by the drone of Roger Selch of Steve's neighbor's landscape before as well as an ARC approved plan for the side and back yard. Steve also showed a drone image taken by Al & Joan Lippman of their own landscape a year after the conversion.
- Steve showed a picture of the UF landscape design students design for a courtyard villa.
- Georgette Gerry reported on the trip to Chiappinni Farm, and upcoming trip to Ocala National Forest .
- Carol Spears reported on the state conference, May 18 to 21 at River Ranch; there were many good field trips at the conference. Carol is member of Education Committee which is working on a template for schools to use; the committee wants input from all chapters. Next years conference will be in Miami.
- There are Modified Phase III water restriction in place which started June 1. These restrictions include watering once a week, but does not apply to hand watering and drip irrigation.
- Georgette Gerry was awarded a merit award and presented with a plaque from the state FNPS Landscape Committee in recognition of her native plant landscape.

Speaker:

Kathy Porter introduced Peggy Sias Lantz author of *Florida's Edible Wild Plants*, who edited *The Palmetto* for 15 years and *The Florida Naturalist* for 6 years. She has authored or coauthored several books and is a volunteer instructor with The Florida Master Naturalist Program.

Peggy brought several buckets of 'weeds'. She showed these plants, offered samples, described locations for collection and mentioned how to cook and serve them. She considers this a hobby and does it for fun.

Peggy stressed three things to keep one safe when foraging: know what you're gathering--don't guess, don't gather where plants may be contaminated with poisons and leave some of the plant behind to feed wildlife and for plant reproduction.

Cattail blossom spikes, pollen, sprouts, rhizomes & roots can be eaten. Spanish needle leaves and flowers can be cooked or placed in a salad. Smilax can be eaten off its vine, placed in a salad or stir fried. Pepper Grass has a tiny bud like fruit which is spicy like arugula, and is good in salads. Don't

eat coontie—the whole plant is toxic. Beauty berry makes great jam. The red berries of sumac make a drink tasting like lemonade. The leaves and flowers of spiderwort can be placed in salads. Most of the elderberry plant is good to eat; the berries can be made into syrup, jam or even wine.

Peggy's book is an absolute delight; it is a field guide as well as a cookbook. She also covers plants that are to be avoided and leaves mushroom gathering to the experts.

Donations: Donated plants were then awarded to members and guests. Steve asked members and guests if they have any real Florida native plants that they are willing to share, to bring them early to the meetings for the drawing. 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 June 23, at 1:30 at the Big Cypress Recreation Center.

M. Farquhar, Acting Secretary for Jeanie Powell