

MINUTES
FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY—THE VILLAGES CHAPTER
Friday, June 23, 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: 61 members and 35 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, and announced that we have over 25 others that were donated by members.
- Guest Kirsten Sharp-Ortega, a landscape designer from Green Isles Garden., was introduced.
- A before and after picture of the landscape of Sam and Barbara Tripple was shown.
- Pictures of the outing to the Ocala National Forest at Clearwater Lake this month were shown.
- A trip for members of the state organization to the Rain Forest and Waterfalls of the Appalachians on Sept. 10-15 was introduced.
- A tour of at least 6 homes will be held for members only on Friday, Sept. 29 from 7:30 to 1:00.
- Guest Cammie Donaldson and her husband were introduced. Cammie is the Executive Director of FANN, which helps the 150 companies in the business of native plants be more successful. She discussed the Native Plant Horticulture Foundation that helps expand the supply of native plants and helps recruit young folks to the native plant businesses. She mentioned the tour of homes for landscape professionals on Oct. 6, one week after our garden tour.
- Steve reported on the TV series, “How to Do Florida” by Chad Crawford. “Flip My Yard” has 5 episodes in this series, and it promotes water conservation. One of these episodes is “Going Native in The Villages”, and it is on YouTube.
- Our next meeting will be presented by our own Carol Spears. Her talk is “From Invasive to Native: Creating a Home for Florida’s Plants and Animals”.

Speaker:

Steve Introduced Dr. Gail Hansen, a professor at UF in science based and art centered landscape design. She began her talk by reporting on research that showed neighbors tend to mimic other neighbors regarding plant choices. She reported on a town called Freemantle in Australia. Everyone in that town converted their yards to native plants; the town government got all the local nurseries to sell natives and provided free mulch to their citizens and gave rebates for native plants. She suggested books for homeowners: Principles of Ecological Landscape Design and Urban Ecology.

She then discussed The Villages Native Plant Landscape Plan. She and her students in her advanced class of residential landscape design toured 3 typical landscapes in The Villages: a courtyard villa, a corner home and a rectangular lot. The Pattern Book includes the students’ 2 plans for each typical landscape: one plan using a low number of species and one using a higher number of species. The species used are ones that are typically found in native nurseries. They placed natives that would be appropriate

together. They made height variations for attracting wildlife, used trees to block some views, and used the principle of repetition. They also used color, although Dr. Hansen explained that natives are more pastel than non-natives. They used our HOA documents for compliancy, and did not change any hardscape

In the villa, they reduced the stone and gravel, but did not eliminate it, drew in a pergola for shade, and also added trellises. On the corner lot, they made sure the vision triangle was clear for vehicles. On both the corner and rectangular lots, they made pathways of mulch and of stepping stones and used groundcovers.

Dr. Hansen has placed the plans in a pattern book that can be used by homeowners. Even though a homeowner's whole yard might not look like the ones on the plans, parts of their yard might. The book includes each plan in color and in black and white. There is a list of plants with their biological name and common name, their needs for sun and water and their size when mature. There are directions on how to read the plans, and an explanation of why plants are next to one another. There are blank forms in the back for homeowners to draw their own landscapes. The book does not include an estimated cost of each landscape, and did not include irrigation.

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

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:00.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be July 28 at 1:30 at the Big Cypress Recreation Center.

Jeanie Powell, Secretary