

MINUTES
FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY—THE VILLAGES CHAPTER
Friday, Aug. 25, 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: 44 members and 6 guests.

New Business:

- Steve welcomed members and guests, and reported on our meeting structure. He thanked Green Isles for their monthly donation.
- On Friday, Sept. 29, our chapter will have our second Native Landscape Garden Tour from 7:30 to 1 p.m. It will be a various members' homes in the north, central and south parts of The Villages. It is for members only, and they can sign up and get a map at our next meeting on September 22.
- Our chapter will have native plants for sale at the Master Gardener Vendor sale at the Wildwood Community Center on Powell Road on Sat., Oct 21 from 8:30 to 2 p.m. M. J. Walsh is in charge and asked for volunteers to set up and arrange plants brought from Green Isles Garden nursery on Friday, and take shifts on Saturday. Members are encouraged to go to the sale; there is a \$1 admission fee per person.
- Steve reported on the North Carolina Native Plant conference which he recently attended. Speakers included Doug Tallamy on making insects, David Mizejewski from the National Wildlife Federation—Garden for Wildlife Program, and Mike Berkley on Pure Native Species versus cultivars of Natives.

Speaker:

Steve introduced our speaker, Stacy Matrazzo, Program Manager from the Florida Wildflower Foundation. The three goals of this organization are research, planting and education.

Sponsored research includes Dr. Jaret Daniels and students from the University of Florida studying pollinators use of native plants, Florida Friendly plants and others plants, and USF students updating computer information. It includes work with the Florida Department of Transportation mowing of roadside areas (there is reduced mowing when natives are planted resulting in reduced costs). It also includes the Florida Milkweed Project which the Coleman Correctional Facility is now involved in to grow native milkweeds.

Planting includes seedlings for schools and the roadside wildflower resolution that Sumter County is involved in. If citizens see wildflowers near one of the state roads in our county or the other counties involved in this resolution, the area might be considered a wildflower area and included is a reduced mow area.

The Foundation improved website flawildflowers.org, which has examples of landscape plans, pictures of landscapes and brochures. It includes activity kits for 3rd and 4th grades, and pamphlets. It also includes information on the upcoming 2-day Florida Wildflower Symposium on Sept. 22 and 23 at the Orange County UF/IFAS Extension in Orlando, where there are field trips, plant sales and talks including one by Dr. Jaret Daniels.

Stacy then discussed the advantages of using wildflowers, including the fact that 1/3 of our food comes from foods that are pollinated and wildflowers are host plants for many pollinators. She reported that the Florida Wildflower Foundation has a landscapes recognition program. To obtain a certificate, a form is completed proclaiming that no more than 25% of the plants are non-native; food, water and shelter are provided for wildlife; there are no invasive plants; plants are appropriate for the region; and the wildflower area must be at least 50 square feet. There is no cost for the application for their members, and for others it is \$15. Those recognized will get a certificate and flag for their landscape. This might encourage others in the area to create their own wildflower area.

A membership brochure was included in the handouts she provided, and if one has a current State Wildflower license tag for their vehicle, he or she need to contact her organization for free membership. When she concluded the talk, Steve gave her a check from our chapter for \$200 for the Florida Wildflower Foundation.

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 Sept. 22, at 1:30 at the Big Cypress Recreation Center.

Jeanie Powell, Secretary