

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY—THE VILLAGES CHAPTER

Friday, Sep. 22, 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: 64 members and 5 guests.

New Business:

- Steve welcomed members and guests, and reported on our meeting structure. He thanked Green Isles for their monthly donation. They have reopened for retail since Hurricane Irma.
- On Friday, Sept. 29, our chapter will have our second Native Landscape Garden Tour from 7:30 to 1 p.m. It will be at 8 members' homes in the north, central and south parts of The Villages. It is for members only.
- 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. There will be 30 species and over 200 plants.
- The Native Landscape Designs books will be available for sale in October; they will be full color and be bonded. The FNPS/UF funded the 6 designs for 3 typical lots. It will be reviewed by the ARC on October 25. 24' x 36' posters will be available as well. Files will be available on the FNPS website.

Speakers: Susan Carr reported that the southeast coastal plain is the new biodiversity hot spot. Florida has many native species due to history and geology, tropical and sub-tropical climate and soil diversity. There are many native plant community differences: sandhill, scrub, uplands, lowlands, flatwoods, pinelands, dry prairies, ridges, wetlands, and marshes.

The threat to this area is loss of habitat, change in environment, poor public land management, lack of public awareness, and invasive species. The public land in the state comprises 25 %. We have an urgent need to save plant species and plant communities.

Juliet Rynear described the mission, aspirational goals, operational goals, and organizational structure of the Florida Native Plant Society. Some of the purposes are to preserve, conserve and restore. The FNPS Committees include Land Management Partners, Policy, Education, Landscaping, Conservation, and Citizen Science. They also collect seeds, propagate plants, restore protected lands, monitor sites, maintain a milkweed map and a rare species map, and are pushing nurseries and big box stores to stock native plants.

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 Oct. 27, at 1:30 at the Big Cypress Recreation Center.

Myrna Farquhar for Jeanie Powell, Secretary

