

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY—THE VILLAGES CHAPTER

Friday, Jan. 26, 2018

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: 53 members and 23 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.

Opening business was the election of officers for 2018. Steve asked for any nominations from the floor, to be added to the slate. Nominations, including self-nominations, will remain open until the vote for any chapter member in good standing that has indicated a willingness to serve. No additional nominations were received.

Following is the current slate:

President: Stephen Turnipseed

Vice President of Programs: Roger Selch

Vice President of Field Trips: Georgette Gerry

Secretary: Joannene (Jo) Hudak

Treasurer: Judith Mason

Chapter Representative: Carol Spears

Membership: Myrna Farquhar

Web site: Barbara Wertz

A motion to close nominations was received and seconded. The secretary, Kathy Porter, casts a vote for the current slate, where all positions were unopposed, and the new board was elected.

Thank you, Volunteers. The eleven volunteers were recognized for their work in re-planting and cleaning up the entrance to Lake Griffin State Park on December 8, 2017.

Veronica Cates  
Marcia Gould  
Susan Hamilton\*  
Linda Hunt  
William Hunt  
Dan Lapp  
Judy Mason  
Karen McKoon  
Dan Smith

Steve Turnipseed  
Philip Zumanis

\*Susan Hamilton continues to make return trips to water the new plants.

Outing to Wekiwa Springs State Park will take place on Thursday February 22, 2018. Donation is \$5.00/person. The group departs from Big Cypress Recreation Center at 7:30AM. Georgette Gerry is coordinating.

Villages Chapter of FNPS receives requests for presentations on what we are doing in The Villages. Steve Turnipseed attended an event hosted by the Pelican Island Audubon Society, January 19-20, 2018 – Transforming Landscapes for a Sustainable Future. Dr. Doug Tallamy, of Delaware, was the keynote speaker. Dr. Tallamy asked Steve for examples from The Villages to be including in his next book.

Steve recognized Will and Linda Hunt who were featured in The Home & Garden section of The Villages Daily Sun.

The Native Plant of the Month in the MG Journal is Scarlet Sage.

Potential Drip Irrigation Installers. Steve had two meetings with Massey Services that included office managers and irrigation techs. He delivered a presentation and took them on a tour of 5 homes that converted to drip irrigation. Massey may be up to speed now on what Village homeowners are looking for when converting to drip irrigation, and ready to take on their first jobs in doing that.

Rescue a Pygmy Fringe Tree – This tree is listed as endangered. It is in the yard of one Villager, but another taller tree is taking away needed sunlight. If you are interested in taking this 4' tall tree for your yard, see Steve after the meeting.

Steve & Carol are each looking for new FNPS neighbors – homes for sale immediately adjacent to them.

Impact of Freeze on our plants – This winter, we have had 3 events where the temperature dropped to 28 degrees and 1 event where it dropped to 24 degrees. Steve showed photos with examples of how these freezing temps affected a variety of plants, grasses and trees. He gave some tips on when to prune a variety of plants. St. Patrick's Day – March 17 – is the date, after which, the chance of a subsequent hard freeze drops to less than 10 percent. Reminder to cover your plants *down to the ground* when freezing temperatures are predicted – the warmth from the ground radiates to keep plant warm. You can also use Christmas lights, with covered plants, to generate some warmth.

Survey was passed around the audience, asking them to note the extent of visible foliage damage they have seen on plants in their yards after these cold temperatures. Results will be posted on The Villages FNPS website.

Our Special Presentation for January was by Jeff Pardue:

*“Preserves in The Villages: Creation of the Sharon Rose Wiechens Wetland”*

Jeff Pardue, is Senior Vice President and Senior Scientist at Breedlove Dennis & Associates, Inc, an environmental consulting firm. Mr. Pardue is a certified environmental professional with 42 years of experience as an environmental professional. He holds B.S. and M.S. degrees in biology as well as an M.B.A. Prior to joining BDA in 2000 Mr. Pardue spent 24 years as an environmental professional in the electric utility industry culminating as Director of Environmental Services at Florida Power Corporation in St. Petersburg, FL.

Jeff provided an overview of all 14 Preserves in The Villages, as well as details of the construction methods and native planting of the Sharon Rose Wiechens Preserve and Wildlife Corridor.

Jeff addressed questions from the audience to close his presentation.

Steve introduced Villages Daily Sun reporter Lurven Fernandez. Ms. Fernandez is writing an article about people who live near the nature areas. Anyone living near such an area should see Ms. Fernandez after the meeting.

Donated plants were awarded to members and guests in the chance drawing.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00pm.

The next general meeting will be February, 23, at 1:30 at the Big Cypress Recreation Center.

Jo Hudak, Secretary