

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY—THE VILLAGES CHAPTER

Friday, March 23, 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: 63 members and 15 guests.

New Business:

Steve welcomed members and guests. Guests are welcome to all meetings, but you must be a member to participate in the outings and garden tours. Steve thanked Green Isles for their monthly donation of 5 plants.

New Business:

The Villages chapter of FNPS is giving away small 3" pot size organically grown milkweed plants to every member who attends the chapter meeting today. Pick one up on your way out.

The FNPS Annual Conference for 2018 will be held May 17-20, at the Miccosukee Resort in Miami. You can register at: www.fnps.org/conference/2018

Outings: Georgette Gerry has arranged for three outings:

- April 16 – Blue Spring State Park
- April 30 – DeLeon Spring State Park
- May TBD – Paynes Prairie Reserve

For the two April outings, please sign up and pay a \$5 donation to hold your reservation. The \$5 donations also go to the guides as an honorarium. Meet in the Big Cypress Recreation Center parking lot at 8AM to car pool.

Lake Griffin State Park Maintenance Update: Volunteers are needed on Wednesday, April 4 to help spread 25 bales of pine straw. There may also be a short tour. Volunteers, please sign up.

Creative Garden Structures: Taryn Evans let the audience know that she is once again selling Florida Native Plants. She has re-arranged her plant nursery for a better experience and has improved parking options. She also has a demo garden. Her husband, Terry Evans, sells custom garden furniture, solitary bee boxes and trellises. She has photo reference cards for plants so purchasers can keep track of what they bought; they can also be used as labels. The nursery is "Serendipity Garden Nursery", but shares the website with Terry's "Creative Garden Structures". The hours are Tuesday-Saturday 9AM-4AM. Creative Garden Structures will be at the Master Gardner Plant Sale tomorrow, March 24th.

Yard Conversions to Florida Native Plants Update – Green Isle Gardens' Kirsten Sharp-Ortega updated the audience on yard conversions in The Villages. Four designs have been completed and are waiting for approval and four designs have been approved and installation is next.

The Butterfly Garden Club meets the 3rd Friday of the month at 1:30pm at Fish Hawk Recreation Center. On April 20 their speaker is Scott Davis on Monarch Butterflies. Scott presented at our FNPS chapter last year.

Update on The Villages & UF/IFAS Native Landscape Plans – Last year, a book of native plant landscape designs was created, but not approved by the ARC. The designs were amended to meet Villages' rules and restrictions. Steve has been trying to collaborate with the Villages Community Standards but in the end, they would not comment on the designs as this might be considered 'endorsement'. Designs should be submitted directly to the ARC for consideration and possible approval. Adjustments have been made by hand and revised designs are available on the FNPS Villages Chapter website. We hope to have the designs re-done by CAD later in the year.

Spring Master Gardner Plant Sale – Steve reminded everyone that the sale is tomorrow, March 24th, 8:30AM-2:30PM at the Wildwood Community Center on Powel Road. Our chapter will have a white tent / booth and have 190 plants, 20 different species for sale. If anyone can volunteer to help, please sign up at the back of the meeting room.

FNPS April 27th presentation will be Roger Hammer, retired senior naturalist from Dade County. Topic: Rare and Endangered Florida Wildflowers.

Our Special Presentation for March

How Roots Work by Craig Huegel

Craig Huegel is a widely recognized environmental consultant and educator who loves plants. Though formally educated as a wildlife biologist, he is an enthusiastic gardener that has studied and worked with plants his entire life. Craig has written five books on Florida native plants and lectures throughout the state on a variety of topics related to plants and wildlife.

Some of Craig's books are:

1. Native Florida Plants for Shady Landscapes
2. Native Wildflowers and Other Ground Covers for Florida Landscapes
3. Native Plant Landscaping for Florida Wildlife

The presenter addressed questions from the audience until 2:50.

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

The meeting adjourned at 3:00pm.

The next general meeting will be April 27, at 1:30pm at the Big Cypress Recreation Center

Jo Hudak, Secretary