

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY—THE VILLAGES CHAPTER

Friday, April 27, 2018

Big Cypress Recreation Center, 3110 Hendry Drive – Periwinkle Room

Before meeting was formally called to order, Steve Turnipseed made an announcement to those gathered that they can place pre-orders for pine straw from Georgette Gerry, at the back of the room. He answered questions about the different types of pine straw.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Steve Turnipseed at 1:31.

Present: 51 members and 23 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. There are annual dues to become a member of the Florida Native Plant Society and about 30% of the dues come back to our Villages Chapter.

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

Green Isle Gardens – Steve thanked Green Isle Gardens for their monthly donation of plants. On May 5, there will be an outing to Green Isle Gardens in Groveland. To carpool, meet at Big Cypress Recreation Center parking lot at 8AM on May 5.

Outings: Georgette Gerry has arranged for two outings:

- April 30 – DeLeon Spring State Park
- May 5 – Green Isle Gardens, Groveland

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

Pine Straw Orders – Bales of longleaf pine straw are \$5 each. Pay in advance. See Georgette Gerry in the back of the room. We will donate 25 bales to the Lake Griffin State Park and we need some volunteers to help with that on May 11 at 9:30AM. It will take about 30 minutes of your time.

Spring Master Gardner Plant Sale – The sale was March 24th, 8:30AM-2:30PM at the Wildwood Community Center on Powel Road. Our chapter sold 190 plants and cleared almost \$500. One unsold plant is in today's raffle. Steve asked all the volunteers to stand and be acknowledged.

Spring Garden Tour June 1st - This year there will be a spring tour of gardens converted to Florida Native Plants. It will be 8-10 sites with more mature growth, from 7:30AM-12:30PM.

You must be a member to go on the tour. Sign up at the next meeting, May 25, to get the addresses. If you want your yard to be included, see Steve after the meeting.

Member Plant Donations for Raffle – We appreciate all plant donations from members for the raffle. Please bring the plants to the meeting by 1PM, so they can be included.

Teaser – A member of our chapter will be getting an award for their yard which was converted to a Florida Native Plant Landscape. Announcement at the May meeting.

Our Special Presentation for April - **Rare and Endangered Wildflowers of Florida: A look at some of the rarest and most vulnerable wildflowers in the sunshine state**, by Author / Photographer, Roger Hammer a returning speaker from South Florida.

Roger L. Hammer is an award-winning professional naturalist, author, botanist and photographer who offers entertaining and informative programs to orchid societies, garden clubs, butterfly organizations, Audubon societies, environmental groups, botanical gardens, and civic organizations. Also on his resume is, survivalist instructor for the Discovery Channel's reality TV program, "Naked and Afraid".

A few facts presented about plants in the state of Florida:

Federal Endangered: 50 species

State Endangered: 445 species

Federal Threatened: 11 species

State Threatened: 117 species

Major threats: Habitat loss, displacement by invasive exotic plants, imported pests / diseases, fire suppression.

The presenter covered 74 plants from across the state and told a few interesting stories on what he had to do to get some of the photos. Of the plants covered: at least 2 are known to excellent landscape plants in Central Florida. The False Rosemary (*Conradina grandiflora*) and the Skyblue Clustervine (*Jacquemontia pentanthos*). Roger Hammer 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 May 25, at 1:30pm at the Big Cypress Recreation Center

Jo Hudak, Secretary