

FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY—THE VILLAGES CHAPTER

Friday, October 25, 2019

Big Cypress Recreation Center, 3110 Hendry Drive – Periwinkle Room

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Steve Turnipseed at 1:32pm.

Present: 51 were in attendance, 13 of whom signed in as guests.

New Business:

**Steve welcomed members and guests.** Steve welcomed all first time attendees and explained that we are not a Villages club, but a Chapter of the statewide FNPSociety.

**Evans Native Landscaping** – Jared and Jeremy Evans have business cards and info in the back.

**Green Isle Gardens Sponsors** our plant drawing. They contribute 6 plants, plus there are plants provided by various members. This month, Steve Turnipseed also contributed some books.

**October is Florida Native Plant Month** – In addition, individual counties were encouraged to make a proclamation. President Steve Turnipseed was present when Sumter County proclaimed October as Florida Native Plant Month.

**Upcoming Outings** - Pam Powell has been busy planning outings. Contact Pam if you want to sign up for an outing. Her phone number is on our website.

- November 3 – Organic Farm in Citra (Ladies Only) – this is a lunch; not related to FNPS. In January 2020, there will be an outing to this same location, men & women invited. When you sign up Pam is asking for a \$20/person deposit. She needs minimum 10 participants. It will include a tour of the greenhouse, Bee Demo, sit-down three-course lunch.
- December 14 Moonlight Kayak Float on the Ichetucknee has been cancelled
- February 2020 - Mt. Dora
- April 2020 - Flat Island Preserve in Leesburg

Barbara Wertz spoke about how enjoyable the last field trip was to Scrub Point Preserve, and how knowledgeable the ranger who led the trip was.

**2020 Chapter Officer Positions** – Our Villages chapter **must have** someone to step up into positions of President, Speaker Coordinator and Chapter Representative. Steve Turnipseed is stepping down after four years as President. He noted that he “learned on the job” and you can too. Speaker Coordinator – we have resources of potential speakers. Speakers are scheduled through February 2020. Carol Spears spoke briefly about the Chapter Rep position. Steve assured anyone willing to participate that they would have help. Secretary and Treasurer will continue to be filled by those currently holding the positions.

**10 minutes on Keeping Grass and Ground Cover Separated by Steve Turnipseed** – Most of us with Native yards will have a ground cover that abuts neighbor's grass. We are required to have a single species of groundcover, of uniform height. Ground cover and grass will mix. Deed restrictions limit our options to keep them separated. We can't do anything that would impede access to the area, mowing, or drainage.

- 12-inch "DMZ" \\_\_\_ not allowed in The Villages; problems with any mulch etc. being
- Mulched area / washed into street, other yards
- Mechanically edged area – small mechanically edged area can work
- Herbicide anything trying to grow there
- A 4"-5" straight edge composite is technically not allowed, but if you risk it, bury it – then it will not impede any access, mowing, etc., and it won't be seen.

**Presentation: Sex in the Garden – Plant Reproduction by Craig N. Huegel.** Craig Huegel is a prolific author with degrees in zoology, wildlife ecology and animal ecology. He is passionate about the joy and satisfaction native gardens and landscapes bring to our lives.

The general public often buys a plant for the garden without really knowing what that plant needs to thrive. Plants do most everything animals do to reproduce except move – they have to grow and reproduce where they are rooted.

Many plants can reproduce asexually OR produce seeds / fruits without a partner – self-fertilization or cleistogamy.

Sex requires preparation. Some plants separate the sexes completely. Plants looking to be pollinated by others can be done by timing, chemical barriers, gene/chemical markers. 80% of plants are flowering. More than 70% rely on a pollinator.

Plants can use lures – pollen is a high-energy food source, costly to produce, provides essential proteins and fats to rear "young" (plants). Nectar – bees and butterflies are attracted to purple and yellow flowers, hummingbirds are attracted to red and orange flowers. All pollinators will go to all color flowers for nectar even though they have preferences. Not all pollinators are active at the same time so plants are not universally active either. Flowers stop production of nectar once they are pollinated.

Fragrance is costly to produce, too. A fragrant rose will wilt in the vase sooner than a non-fragrant one. Fruit is the result of millions of years of evolution. It's the ideal package to protect the "embryo" (seed) and disperses the seeds, too.

Plant's ability to have sex depends on Energy, Health/Condition and Age.

Craig took questions from the audience for about 10 minutes until 2:50PM.

**Plant Drawing** – Jeanette Bacon managed the native plant drawing.

The meeting adjourned just at 3PM.

The next general meeting will be November 22, at 1:30pm at the Big Cypress Recreation Center.

Jo Hudak, Secretary

## Results of SURVEY / Request for VOLUNTEERS

Volunteer to pick up plants monthly from Green Isle Gardens on Thursday or Friday morning

**Linda Bishop**, 399 Arbella Loop, The Villages, FL 32162

352-751-3896 (home)            815-751-2862 (cell)

Volunteer to notify Village Daily Sun about meetings & events

**LuAnn Kuder**                            978-270-4816            (gave her card to Carol Spears)

Volunteered to GIVE A FULL TALK ON NATIVE BEES / HONEYBEES anytime

Says she's given this talk to other clubs / groups before

**Nina Conner**                            407-896-9818            [padmepaws@gmail.com](mailto:padmepaws@gmail.com)

14 survey responses:

**Do you like this idea?**                            Unanimously - YES

**Would you like to talk on a topic of interest to you, one time in 2020?**

4-YES            3-NO            5-MAYBE LATER            2-no answer

Nina Conner, Barbara Wertz, Jo Hudak, Susan Hamilton,

Myrna Farquhar (October-groundcover)

## Suggestions for 10-minute talk topics

- Converting to Native Yard
- Suggestions, Guidance on Design (include reference to the archives & what's in there)
- Working with ARC (what's allowed, not allowed, where to find forms, tips on completing forms, how to answer questions from the committee – general guidance on the process)  
ARC wins
- Plant failures
- Resources - flat rocks, helpful books and web sites, designers, successful plants, locations of mature, labeled native plants
- Maintaining your Native Yard
- How to manage weeds – how to tell what's a weed – how to prevent weeds
- Vegetable gardening
- What to plant when tree roots are a problem
- When how to prune various plants
- Integrated pest management to reduce (through education) the desire to kill insects
- Insects – identify, helpful, harmful, control
- Turf alternatives
- Natural alternatives for diseases
- Disease ID
- Best time / method to plant seeds collected from native plants, wildflowers –
- Installing & maintaining rain barrels
- Keeping your yard separate from neighbor's lawn
- Is there a place to post our gardens (Cynthia Fellows-White, 316-680-9649 call or text)

## Other ideas for meetings:

“hands-on” clinic

“plant of the month” – include sample for all to see at meeting, describe life-cycle