MINUTES
FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY—THE VILLAGES CHAPTER
Friday, April 24, 2015
Big Cypress Recreation Center, Periwinkle Room

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Steve Turnipseed at 1:30.
Present: over 84 members and guests.
Old Business:

* Steve reported that there are 76 paid memberships, some of which are couples. He mentioned that there are 2 more nurseries that are carrying native plants—Exterior Spaces and Fernview Farms. The field trip to Ocala National Forest was a success; 15 attended Jim Buckner’s tour.

New Business:

* The upcoming field trips include Biosphere in Winter Garden on May 19 and Creative Garden Structures in Weirsdale on May 26.

Speakers:

* Anne Cox, President of the Native Plant Society of Florida was introduced. She discussed the structure of their Board, and their publications including Sabal Minor which gives chapter information and Palmetto which gives scientific information.
* Dr. Gail Hansen, from the University of Florida gave the keynote speech on the 3 P’s of Landscape Design, People, Plants and Plans. She reported on the barriers to planting natives: too wild and messy, difference from neighbors, unsure of maintenance and attracting unwanted wildlife. To start a design, an individual needs to ascertain how an area will be used—those who will use it, what activities will be done there, what space is needed for those activities (like storage shed or play structure). Then drawings should be done to include the house and any cemented area with circles for the spatial configurations. A theme should be decided on, like formal, informal, cottage style, etc. A plan should then be done to include the above and the plants. Inspiration for the plan can come from books, botanical gardens, architecture, shapes, etc. When planting, right plant, right place needs to be determined. Texture, form and color of the plant also need to be determined, and when planting in a small area, small plants should be used. Dr. Hansen ended her talk by listing helpful books and websites.

Raffle: Anne Cox assisted with the raffle of native plants.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:00.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be May 22, at 1:30 at the Big Cypress Recreation Center where Craig Huegel will present “Planting with a Purpose”.

Jeanie Powell, Secretary