

From Stephen Turnipseed

President: FNPS – The Villages Chapter

Florida Native Plant Society – The Villages Chapter: 2015 Highlights

- Exceeded 110 Memberships
- Conducted 10 general meeting presentations (guests are welcome)
- Organized 8 group outings
- Completed two workshops on Landscaping with Native Plants
- A dozen members have replaced significant amount of turf grass with native plants.
- One local nursery has dedicated an area to native plants
- Positive media exposure on the chapters activities and on using native plants;
- Developed and maintain an interesting website: <http://thevillages.fnpschapters.org/>

New Years Resolution: I will remove a significant amount of my turf grass lawn and replace with Florida-Friendly native plants and-or groundcover, because:

1. My irrigation water usage/bill is too high
2. My grass is not healthy
3. Do not feel good about the frequent application of chemicals needed to maintain my grass
4. Want a 3-dimensional landscape that is more visually interesting
5. Want to provide an environment beneficial to the local birds, butterflies and pollinators

Advice on landscape conversions:

- Obtain Architectural Review Committee approval for all changes
- Meet the Florida Water Star standard by having a minimum of 40% landscape as beds (trees, shrubs and-or groundcover)
- Select plants from the Florida-Friendly list, preferably natives, that are adapted to zone 9A and suitable for your site (size, sun and water requirements)
- Plant in layers, with various heights and textures/colors
- Group small plants into mass plantings
- Use organic mulch around plants (not rock)
- Dedicate an irrigation zone(s) for landscape beds; Keep turf grass irrigation zones separate