

MINUTES
FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY—THE VILLAGES CHAPTER
Friday, March 25, 2016
Big Cypress Rec Center, 3110 Hendry Drive – Periwinkle Room

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Steve Turnipseed at 1:30.

Present: 44 members and guests.

Old Business:

- Steve welcomed members and guests.

New Business:

- Upcoming field trips: a \$5.00 donation will be collected for leader honorarium or charity for the trips except when there are other costs. Direct questions to Georgette Gerry (714) 661-7868, butterflylady601@gmail.com. Steve thanked Georgette for her work in arranging these trips.
 1. March 22 – (Tomorrow) **Green Isle Gardens – Native Plant Nursery**
11303 Hwy 33, Groveland 34736
Visit an 8 acre native plant nursery with tour by owner/operator Marc Godts. Purchase trees, shrubs, flowers, vines, and clump grasses. 10% FNPS discount. Marc donates plants each month for our chapter chance drawings.
 2. April 6 – **Biosphere Nursery** led by owner – Jim Thomas
14908 Tiden Road, Winter Garden FL 34787
Native plant nursery, creating habitats to conserve water, decrease maintenance and use little or no pesticides. Very reasonable prices.
 3. April 21 – **Ocala National Forest** (Bus/walking tour with lunch – price \$65 includes transportation, lunch & tour leader fee) Experience several pine and mixed hardwood ecosystems in the Ocala National Forest. Bus will depart the parking lot at Sumter Landing. Tour leader to be announced.
 4. April 28 – **Fort Cooper State Park** - Led by Ranger Tammy Roberts
3100 S. Old Floral City Road, Inverness, FL 34450
Over 700 acres of nature (details and sign-up sheets at the meeting)
- Other upcoming events:
 1. March 31 – April 1 - The Native Plant Show in Kissimmee, FL www.NativePlantShow.com
 2. March 31– 6:00 La Hacienda Rec Center District 1 meeting: discussion of the proposed \$100,000 wetland vegetation maintenance.
 2. May 19 – 22 - Annual FNPS State Conference in Daytona Beach, FL
 3. April 9 – 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Spring Native Plant Festival in at Wilcox Nursery in Largo, FL
- Membership:

FNPS membership is tax deductible and runs 12 months from the date you sign up. Forms and annual dues are accepted at the meeting or you can join on-line at www.fnps.org. Our chapter has exceeded 120 paid memberships and still growing. If you have not joined, please consider doing so. Those who joined in 2015 will receive renewal notices the month before they are due.

Ross T. Morton, P.W.S., CO-OP® is a certified professional wetland scientist from Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFMD), a regulatory program. He presented a brief history of Florida from the 1907 formation of the Everglades Drainage District, through the hurricanes of '26, '28, '47 and '60, to the 1971 creation of the Cross-Central Florida Barge Canal. Florida is unique from all the other states because of our wetlands, and five Water Management Districts were created in 1972 to regulate the water supply and quality (but not drinking water) in the wetlands, springs, ponds, lakes and rivers and help prevent flooding. SWFMD is one of the five and regulates the water in 15 counties (including Sumter) of the 67 of Florida. It is not a government agency, but is supported by property taxes. It issues permits for water use, environmental resource, and well construction. It manages nuisance and exotic vegetation in wetlands with herbicides and physical and mechanical means. The various plants that might be affected were discussed, as well as the roll of fire and control burns. Steve reported that The Villages has a wetland vegetation maintenance proposal with a cost of \$100,000 which will be rolled out at the District 1 meeting March 31.

Donations: Green Isle Gardens was thanked for providing us with six 1-gallon plants. Donating members and friends were also thanked. Donated plants were then awarded to members and friends.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:00.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be April 22 at 1:30 at the Big Cypress Recreation Center where Brooke Mofis will speak.

Speaker:

