

MINUTES

FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY—THE VILLAGES CHAPTER

Friday, September 23, 2016

Big Cypress Recreation Center, Periwinkle Room

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

Present: 76 members and guests.

Old Business:

- Steve welcomed guests and members, a membership expires a year after it was paid.
- Plants were donated by Green Isles Nursery, members and our speaker, Jason Smith, donated 3 types of trees: torreaya which is declining in its native Panhandle area, Florida willow, a 10 foot tall flowering willow and swamp cottonwood.

New Business—Upcoming Meetings and Events:

- Today and tomorrow: Florida Wildlife Symposium at Silver Springs State Park.
- September 30: Native Plant Garden Tour 8:00 am to 12:00 noon. Eight of our members will be opening their landscapes for viewing by FNPS members only.
- October 1: Master Gardener Fall Sale at the Wildwood Community Center on Powell Road from 9-1.
- October 1: Green Isles Nursery will have a special plant sale (20 % off for FNPS members) and tour of the Godts' (the owners') property in Groveland.
- September 30 to October 2: Florida's Springs Restoration Summit at the College of Central Florida in Ocala.
- October 12: Steve will teach a class on Lawns to Natives Plant Landscapes at the Belvedere Library at 12:30.
- October 14-16: Wings and Wildflowers Festival sponsored by the Lake County in Leesburg.
- October 25: Steve will give a presentation at the Master Gardener speaker series at the Savannah Center at 9:00 a.m. on Lawns to Florida Friendly Landscapes.
- October 28: Craig Huegel will be our speaker on Native Florida Plants for Shady Places.
- November 25 membership meeting: Steve will talk on Low Maintenance Native Plants.
- October is Native Plant month.
- Steve asked for volunteers to help schedule field trips for the next couple of months as Georgette Gerry, our Vice-President of Field Trips, is not available.
- Steve asked members to bring native plants for our drawings.

Speaker: Jason Smith from the University of Florida, School of Forest Resources and Conservation presented information on Urban Tree Diversity: Alternatives for your Landscape. He discussed the importance of trees: for wildlife, retention ponds, buffers, cityscapes and increasing property values. He is concerned that climate change will increase stress on trees making them susceptible to diseases and insect infestation. He discussed diversity tree landscapes. In the past millions of Dutch elm trees were planted all over the US. A fungus attacked them, and because there were so many, they died. They were replanted with green ash trees, and an insect borer killed all of them. He discussed trees that have the same genus and species like the red maple, are not the same in Florida as they are in the North. When buying a tree from the big box store, make sure it will grow in central Florida, and it is not pot-bound (unless you know the proper method of planting pot-bound trees). He then discussed many native and non-native trees.

The natives included trees that are small, medium, narrow, weeping and those with fall color.

Small natives: Acacia farnesiana (15' with a pleasant odor, but has thorns), Acer rubrum (red maple that needs wet area), Alnus serrulata (hazel alder needs wet area), Illicium floridanum (8-10' Florida anise having red flowers can be used as a hedge in moist soil), Magnolia ashei (flowers early and needs part shade), oaks: myrtle (Quercus myrtifolia) and Chapman's oak (Quercus chapmanii) and Viburnum rufidulum (likes sandy soil, has flowers and fall color).

