

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY—THE VILLAGES CHAPTER
Friday, February 23, 2018
Big Cypress Recreation Center, 3110 Hendry Drive – Periwinkle Room

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

Present: 53 members and 29 guests.

New Business:

Steve welcomed members and guests. He thanked Green Isles for their monthly donation of 5 plants. He noted that we are one of 37 chapters of a state-wide Society – Florida Native Plant Society. Our Villages' chapter has been in existence about three years and we are #7 in the number of members.

New Business:

Wekiwa Springs State Park Outing took place on Thursday February 22, 2018, organized by Georgette Gerry. The outing included a tram tour and an excellent guide. No new outings are currently scheduled.

FNPS in the Media:

- Steve Turnipseed and Carol Spears were on WVLG 640AM on Monday, February 19, 2018. Between 10AM-11AM, they were interviewed in 3 short segments about FNPS.
- ***Group Makes Lake Griffin State Park Greener*** was a headline in the Villages Daily Sun. Volunteers from our chapter replanted a median strip there, in December 2017. Steve Turnipseed recognized member Susan Hamilton, who has been watering the median strip regularly, and was featured in the February 3, 2018 article.
- Member Linda Bishop's garden was featured in the Villages Daily Sun on February 17, 2018, Home & Garden Section.

The Native Plant of the Month in the MG Journal is the Wild Boston Fern or Sword Fern. There are other ferns with similar names. If you go to buy one, be sure you are getting the correct Florida Native Plant.

With February's warm weather, some plants are blooming. Carol Spears provided a photo of the Carolina Jessamine vine that is in full bloom around her lamppost.

Volunteers needed – Judy Mason has the signup sheets for various events at the back of the room.

- March 23, 2018 – after our regular meeting, volunteers are needed to go directly to the Wildwood Community Center on Powel Road to help set up for the Master Gardener

Plant Sale on March 24th. At the FNPS booth, we will be selling a variety of 1-gallon plants.

- March 24, 2018 – volunteers are needed to continue set up and man the FNPS booth at the Master Gardener Plant Sale at the Wildwood Community Center.
- Plant sale for Members Only – volunteers are needed at the March 24, 2018 meeting to take orders and collect money from members who want to order plants from Green Isle Gardens. At the April 27, 2018 meeting, volunteers will be needed before and after the meeting to help those who placed order to pick up their plants. Since there is a one month gap between order & delivery, there is a chance that your plant won't be available – then you can decide to take a refund or choose another plant.

FNPS March 24th presentation will be How Roots Work by Craig Huegel. Mr. Huegel is the author of several books and one chapter in one of the books is How Roots Work. Steve Turnipseed has seen his presentation before and it's very good.

Creative Garden Structures - March 8, 2018, 9AM, members are invited to meet at Big Cypress parking lot and either carpool or caravan to Creative Garden Structures. Creative Garden Structures has re-opened their store – they provide bee, bat and bird boxes and cedar furniture. Georgette Gerry is organizing this informal get-together.

Our Special Presentations for February

Spring Landscape Maintenance by Kathy Porter and **Pruning** by Steve Turnipseed

In January we experienced the coldest low temperature since 2010. Many species of cold sensitive landscape plants, both exotic and native, have visual damage to foliage. Both speakers discuss and demonstrate what to do now to begin the recovery from the freeze. When it is time to prune, learn the basics on how to make the cuts.

Our 1st presenter, Kathy Porter, is a Sumter County Master Gardener where she is the editor of the monthly Gardener's Journal and the annual Calendar. Kathy served as the program VP for our FNPS chapter for 3 years, is the Treasurer of the Marion County Rose Society, President of the Bookworm Book Club and is a Supervisor for District 1.

Kathy Porter mentioned a publication that Villagers would find helpful – Gardening in Sumter County Month-by-Month, presented by the Master Gardeners of Sumter County University of Florida IFAS Extension Services. She went on to talk about How Cold Does It Get here, When to Prune, When to Mulch, Seedlings Sprouting Everywhere (except where you want them), Plant or Transplant, Pre-Emergents and Fertilization.

The co-presenter, Steve Turnipseed is also a Sumter County Master Gardener, serves as The Villages FNPS Chapter President and is a Florida Water-Star Accredited Professional.

Steve Turnipseed then presented on various tools and their uses for pruning. He demonstrated the proper way to prune hedges, trees, plants, clump grasses depending on your goal. He also discussed the timing for pruning various plants and showed examples of the right and wrong way to prune.

Both presenters then addressed questions from the audience until 2:45.

Donated plants were awarded to members and guest in the chance drawing.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00pm.

The next general meeting will be March 23, at 1:30pm at the Big Cypress Recreation Center

Jo Hudak, Secretary