

FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY—THE VILLAGES CHAPTER

Friday, January 25, 2019

Big Cypress Recreation Center, 3110 Hendry Drive – Periwinkle Room

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

Present: 95 were in attendance, 23 of whom signed in as guests.

New Business:

Steve welcomed members and guests. Steve welcomed all first time attendees.

Chance Drawing: Green Isle Gardens sponsors our Chapter and provided 6 plants for the chance drawing.

Officer Positions for 2019: Opening business will be election of officers for 2019. Nominations, including self-nominations. We need a volunteer for Vice President of Programs. There will be lots of support for this position. It is mostly a matter of calling to enlist speakers and coordinating dates, etc.

Following is the current slate:

President: Stephen Turnipseed

Vice President of Programs: **Need a Volunteer!**

Vice President of Field Trips: Pamela Powell

Secretary: Joannene (Jo) Hudak

Treasurer: Susan Hamilton

Chapter Representative: Carol Spears

Membership: Myrna Farquhar

Web site: Barbara Wertz

Members in good standing are eligible to vote. There were no additional nominations. There was a motion from the floor to close the slate and it was seconded. The current members were re-elected to the board. Steve said if anyone was interested in the VP of Programs position, feel free to see him after the meeting.

Upcoming Chapter Outing for FNPS Members to Gold Head State Park

Trip date: Wednesday, February 27th carpool from Hacienda Rec Center at 10:00am. If there are participants who live farther south, a carpool can be arranged from another location. It is a 1 hour 40 minute trip to Keystone Heights. There will be a Ranger led tour of the Gold Head State Park followed by lunch at Florida Cracker House Restaurant. Then it will be a short drive to the Palatka Ravine where you can drive to the bottom. Contact Pamela Powell 352 750 2420 or pamelynn1943@gmail.com .

Longleaf Pinestraw Pre-orders for February delivery

Our chapter will be taking pre-orders for Longleaf Pine Straw for delivery in mid-February. All orders will be delivered to three drop points in The Villages; one location each in the North, Central and South. Cost is \$5.00 per bale including tax. Orders must be prepaid and picked up on the delivery date. Minimum order 10 bales. This is Longleaf Pine Straw; most local pine straw is slash pine.

Lake Griffin State Park – Volunteers needed

Our chapter will be ordering 60 bales of Longleaf Pine Straw to be placed at Lake Griffin State Park. Steve is looking for volunteers to help with that as well as replacing about 12 plants at the entrance sign. It will be about 30-60 minutes work. Date to be determined by the delivery of the Pine Straw. Please keep it in mind.

2019 UF/IFAS REVISED SAMPLE NATIVE YARD DESIGNS

All six designs have been reworked to be in compliance with current Villages ARC rules and have been converted to CAD. Our goal is to publish them in February and have them on our chapter website. Please note that if you want to convert your property to a native yard and use one of these designs, you still need to get approval from the ARC.

Serendipity Garden Nursery

Serendipity Garden Nursery in Weirsdale offers 10% discount off your total purchase with proof of membership in the Florida Native Plant Society.

February 22 Topic – Practical Pruning

Next month, our presentation topic will be Practical Pruning. This is the perfect time for this topic. March 22 will be The Life of Butterflies in Native Plant Gardens.

FNPS 39th Annual State Conference - Crystal River

The state conference this year will be at The Plantation on Crystal River, May 16-19th. Please consider attending as the location is very close to us. Thursday May 16 & Sunday May 19 are days for field trips. On Sunday, May 19, one of the field trips will be a garden tour of Native yards in The Villages. Direct link to the 2019 conference information:

<https://www.fnps.org/conference> .

You can sign up for single days rather than the entire conference. Registration opens in February. If you want to sign up for field trips, read over the descriptions, note the letter of the trip for signing up. Sign up, early as field trips fill up. There will be general and technical presentations. For the tour of Native Yards in the Villages, addresses will **not** be published on line for privacy reasons. Addresses will be given to those who sign up. It is “self-guided” – you choose which yards to see and what route you want to take.

Our January Presentation is: **Native Plants in Your Yard** by Renee Stambaugh

Speaker Bio: Native Plant Consulting, St Augustine, FL

A lifelong resident of northeast Florida, Renee Stambaugh has extensive knowledge in the field of native plants, birds and butterflies. She is the founding member and past president of the Sea Oats chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society, Stambaugh recently co-authored the informative brochure "[Invasive Plants You Should Know](#)". Stambaugh enjoys teaching about the beauty and benefits of northeast Florida's diverse flora and is a dynamic public speaker.

Presentation:

In 2015, the Florida legislature named October "Florida Native Plant Month." Renee based much of this presentation on the book, *Bringing Nature Home* by Doug Tallamy.

In your yard, you want to have "seasonal interest," because (1) you'll have something of interest to look at all year round (2) if you are only here during the winter months, you want to have something to enjoy in our yard (3) you want to attract and support native wildlife all year round.

There are varieties of holly trees native to Florida, which are compact (for small yards) and which are not prickly, but have berries for color and for the birds.

Blue birds eat primarily insects – in fact 96% of native birds need insects (protein) to feed their young.

Winter bloomers include: Walter's Viburnum (there are dwarf and mini varieties), Yellow Jessamine (fragrant), Hollies like Yaupon, Doohan.

A native plant is one that was thriving here before European settlers arrived. There are 3,000 documented Florida native plants. Native plants have adapted to the soil (sand, clay, rich), the climate (freezes, hurricanes, drought). Native wildlife evolved with the native plants.

You don't have to convert your entire yard to help native wildlife. An easy half-day project could be to just create a well-defined bed of natives. Could be one corner of your yard, or one area anywhere permitted. Use Pine Straw as mulch because (1) it breaks down and enriched the soil, (2) it's sustainable, (3) it eliminates the need for fertilizer.

Put "the right plant in the right place". All natives will not thrive equally in the same location. Florida bayberry / Wax myrtle is a great plant for screening. Berries attract wildlife; the plant smells good; the plant deters pests like fleas. Bayberry candles were originally made from melting down the berries. The Wax myrtle can be trimmed to keep it neat and tidy.

Following her presentation, Ms. Stambaugh answered questions from the audience until 2:25pm. She stayed to talk to individual audience members.

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

The meeting adjourned at 2:45pm.

The next general meeting will be February 22nd, at 1:30pm at the Big Cypress Recreation Center

Jo Hudak, Secretary

