

FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY—THE VILLAGES CHAPTER

Friday, January 24, 2020

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: 59 were in attendance, 13 of whom signed in as guests.

New Business:

**Steve welcomed members and guests.** Steve welcomed all first time attendees and explained that we are not a Villages club, but a Chapter of the statewide FNPSociety which as 37 chapters and over 3,000 members state wide.

**Green Isle Gardens Sponsors** our plant drawing. They contribute 6 plants, plus there are plants provided by various members.

**Amendment to our Chapter Bylaws** - All members in good standing need to vote on updating our Chapter By-Laws. We added Vice President and Chapter Representative to the list of officers. We added some detail on the duties of each of the officers. The motion was made and seconded from the floor. The motion was passed unanimously.

**Recognition of Steve Turnipseed** – Before we vote on the slate of Chapter officers, Carol Spears wanted to recognize the effort of Steve Turnipseed, who founded The Villages Chapter, and served as President 2015 to present and is stepping down. On behalf of the chapter, Carol presented Steve with a marker that will be placed at the Lake Griffin State Park entrance saying *“This display of Florida native plants is in tribute to Steve Turnipseed, founder and first President of The Villages Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society, for the dedication and inspiration to others in establishing the chapter in 2015.”*

**2020 Chapter Officer Positions** –

The Chapter Officers & Executive Committee slate for 2020 as it currently stands is:

- President – Nini Conner
- Vice President – Jean Vasicek
- Secretary – Jo Hudak
- Chapter Representative – Gary Babic
- Treasurer – Susan Hamilton
- Assistant Treasurer – Marcia Gould
- Speaker Coordinator – Julie Wheeler
- Field Trip Coordinator – Pam Powell
- Membership Coordinator – Myrna Farquahar
- Web Site – Barbara Wertz

- Membership Outreach – (your name here)

Steve asked if there were any other nominations from the floor. Members can self-nominate. We need a Membership Outreach person. There were no other additions to the slate.

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**Long Leaf Pine Straw Orders** – Rodge Selch is taking order for bales of long leaf pine straw for \$5/bale, to be delivered February 4. Buyers must pick up their pine straw from the drop off point on the day of delivery. Delivery will start at the Lake Griffin State Park and proceed to drop off points below 466A, then go north. So the farther north in The Villages you are, the later in the day the delivery / pick up. Rodge is looking for some volunteers to lead the driver from one drop off point to the next. Jo Hudak will meet the driver at Lake Griffin State Park – then on to Rodge’s drop off point. See Rodge either at the back of room, or call or text him if you have questions.

**Volunteers Needed at Lake Griffin State Park Feb. 5** – The chapter is looking for 4-6 volunteers to help spread pine straw at Lake Griffin State Park, about 9AM on Wednesday, Feb 5. We will also add the plant labels to the plants there. Should not take more than 90-minutes. Volunteers please sign up at the back tables.

In addition to supplying the pine straw, our chapter funds the Evans Native Landscaping business to do monthly maintenance at the park entryway.

**Outings / Field Trips** – February 12 there is a field trip / outing at Cross Creek, about 1-1/2 hour drive from The Villages. Lars Anderson will be tour guide. \$40 for members / \$50 for non-members. If you are interested, you must contact BOTH Pam Powell and the Outfitter (386-454-0621). You can be in a canoe or a kayak; you can bring your own boat / kayak. You can be in a boat with an experienced paddler. There is a description on TV-FNPS web page. The tour guide talks about birds, plants & animals.

March 31 there will be a trip to Hidden Waters Preserve in Eustis, Florida. It will be led by a naturalist from the Lake County Water District.

**FNPS Annual Conference** is May 14-17 in Jacksonville, Florida.

**Presentation: Native Grasses Rushes and Sedges for your Florida Landscape**. Nancy Bissett is a restoration ecologist, botanist and Native Plant horticulturist. She has 37 years of professional

experience growing and planting native plants throughout Florida. Nancy is renowned for developing successful techniques for site preparation, planting, direct seeding of native groundcovers and weed control to restore scrub, sandhill and flatwoods native plant communities.

Recommended books: Grasses of Florida by David W. Hall and A Guide to Florida Grasses by Walter Kingsley Taylor.

- Grasses are the largest genera in the world. A grass has a narrow blade, sheathing, leaves, jointed stems and distinctive flowering system.
- Rushes have cylindrical stalks, hollow stem-like leaves.
- Sedges have 3-sided stems, leaves in three rows and spike-lets.

Flatwoods are the most dominant eco-system in Florida.

Nancy encouraged photographers to share their photos of native grasses.

Nancy took questions from the audience for about 10 minutes until 2:50PM.

**Plant Drawing** – Jeanette Bacon managed the native plant drawing.

The meeting adjourned just at 3PM.

The next general meeting will be February 28, 2020, at 1:30pm at the Big Cypress Recreation Center.

Jo Hudak, Secretary

## VOLUNTEERS

New at November 2019 meeting:

**Roger Selch (slechr@gmail.com)** – Pine Straw Sale starting with signing up orders at January 2020 meeting

**Lynn Robinson (970-690-0040, [LynnFairwind@aol.com](mailto:LynnFairwind@aol.com))** – willing to coordinate, handle the Earth Day event that is sponsored by The Villages in April 2020. I told her that involved signing up with The Villages that our Chapter wanted to participate; getting volunteers to man the booth; collecting handouts (leaflets, ets); signing up contacts – people interested in joining the Villages' Chapter of FNPS.

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## Suggestions for 10-minute talk topics

- Converting to Native Yard
- Suggestions, Guidance on Design (include reference to the archives & what's in there)
- Working with ARC (what's allowed, not allowed, where to find forms, tips on completing forms, how to answer questions from the committee – general guidance on the process)  
ARC wins
- Plant failures
- Resources - flat rocks, helpful books and web sites, designers, successful plants, locations of mature, labeled native plants
- Maintaining your Native Yard
- How to manage weeds – how to tell what's a weed – how to prevent weeds
- Vegetable gardening
- What to plant when tree roots are a problem
- When how to prune various plants
- Integrated pest management to reduce (through education) the desire to kill insects
- Insects – identify, helpful, harmful, control
- Turf alternatives
- Natural alternatives for diseases
- Disease ID
- Best time / method to plant seeds collected from native plants, wildflowers –
- Installing & maintaining rain barrels
- Keeping your yard separate from neighbor's lawn
- Is there a place to post our gardens (Cynthia Fellows-White, 316-680-9649 call or text)

## Other ideas for meetings:

“hands-on” clinic

“plant of the month” – include sample for all to see at meeting, describe life-cycle