FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY—THE VILLAGES CHAPTER

Friday, September 8, 2022
Big Cypress Recreation Center, 3110 Hendry Drive – Periwinkle Room

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Sue Egloff at 1:30pm.

Present: 48 were in attendance, 33 of whom signed in as members.

New Business:

Chance Drawing: Green Isle Gardens sponsors our Chapter and provided 6 plants for the chance drawing. There were no plants today however as Linda Bishop was unable to pick them up.

Sue welcomed members and guests. She introduced board members and those in attendance stood up to be recognized. President-Sue Egloff, Secretary-Cheryl Vickroy, Treasurer-Marcia Gould, Program Chairs-Vicky Mclean & Kat Manczak, Chapter Rep-Gary Babic, Membership Chair-Linda Neff and Field Trips-Pam Powell.

VOTE ON BY-LAWS CHANGE: Sue reviewed changes to by-laws that were sent ahead of time to all members. Sue asked for questions or discussion, but no issues were raised. She asked only members to vote. Member **Lisa Willis** made a motion to adopt the By-Laws of the Villages Chapter of FNPS as presented in the August newsletter delivered via email on September 1, 2022. **Dan Lapp** seconded. Sue asked for all member who approved to raise hands -33 raised hands – unanimous as all members in attendance. **Carol Lapp** voiced “so moved”.

Linda Hunt spoke for Linda Neff on Chapter MEMBERSHIP: The chapter did not hold meetings June-July-August and Linda Neff realized she hadn’t been monitoring membership. Linda Neff will be sending out renewal reminders in the upcoming week. Thank you to all those who have renewed their memberships on a timely basis.

Sue’s Pitch for Board Members in 2023: Sue made a pitch to the audience that a strong chapter needs strong leadership. She appealed to audience / chapter members to consider stepping up to the Board for open positions in 2023 so The Villages Chapter can continue.

Marcia Gould Treasurer’s Report: Marcia noted that the chapter is in a strong financial position, even though we had no income / from plant raffle for 3 months.

Marcia Gould on PlantOberFest: Marcia also informed the group that on October 22, 2022 the Master Gardeners are holding their PlantOberFest at the Wildwood Community Center grounds. Our chapter plans to have a table their to provide literature, advice, education on Native Plants. In the past we sold plants, but will not be doing that this year. Volunteers would be appreciated to help with set up the night before and maybe in 2-hour shifts to man the table during the event.

Sue Egloff on Florida Native Plant Month: Sue Egloff was able to get Sumter County Board of Commissioners to proclaim October as Native Plant Month. Sue will be accepting the proclamation at Everglades Rec Center on Tuesday, Sept. 20, 5PM.

Salvation Army’s Soup’s Off Fundraiser: Sue introduced Doris Reeves & Patty Pritz (FNPS members) who are taking on the task of putting together a basket for the Salvation Army. The Villages Chapter FNPS has been asked to put together a basket of Florida Native Literature, small garden tools, seeds. If anyone can donate anything see these two ladies.

SHARE YOUR FLORIDA NATIVES: If you have a Florida Native plant photo, send it to the Daily Sun: photos@thevillagesmedia.com for the Wednesday’s Home and Garden Section. All photos must be from the villages. Include your name, your village, and the common name of the plant. Also, please feel free to share photos on our Facebook page. For inclusion in the TV-FNPS newsletter, send photo, name, plant name & attributes to FNPSthevillages@gmail.com.

KUDOS to JOHN NICHOLSON: For keeping the entryway to Lake Griffin State Park neat. Our chapter adopted this area and provides plants and maintenance.

PAM POWELL on FIELD TRIPS: Pam has a boat trip planned for members & guests December 10 on the Blue Heron Boat in Deland. There is a Boat Parade. $25 non-refundable / attendee, guests are welcome. She also has a walk at Lake Griffin State Park on Dec. 13th. Ranger-led, limited number of people. Sign up with her at the back.

HAPPENINGS: 29 Sept Board Meeting. All members are welcome to attend. Zoom info is on the website. 1 Oct Sue was able to arrange for our chapter to have a table to distribute literature and information, with the Master Gardeners at the Library building (Gold Dome bldg.) on Powell Road. She has arranged it for 3 months to see how effective it might be in reaching those new to the area. 14 Oct – our NEXT MEETING will be at the 7th Day Adventist Church – not at Big Cypress.

REMINDERS: Sue reminded audience to check out of Facebook page and out Chapter website as resources.

Kat Manczak introduced Jo Hudak for a presentation on “How I Converted to a Native Landscape.”

How I Converted to a Native Landscape: by Jo Hudak. People have asked how long it takes and how to convert a yard. Jo described what process she followed and showed photos comparing newly planted yard with photos taken 2-3-4 and 24 months later. Answered questions from the audience.

Kat Manczak introduced Bob Galbraith for a presentation on “What You Don’t Know About Bees.”

Our September Presentation is: **What You Don’t Know about Bees** by Bob Galbraith Bob described some “Bee History” (even ancient Egyptians raised bees for honey), how to become a bee keeper; how a beekeeper harvests honey. Following his presentation, Mr. Galbraith addressed questions from the audience.

SUE SURVEY: Before closing the meeting, Sue asked the audience to show by a show of hands, how many might be amenable to holding one meeting in 2023 in a Rec Center in the newer southern area of the Villages like Ezell Rec Center (769 Marilee Place). It would be a one-time meeting, in an effort to reach the Villagers in that area.

The meeting adjourned at 2:58pm.

The next general meeting will be October 14, at the Seventh Day Adventist Church (231 Lake Griffin Road, Lady Lake – home of the Fred Funk Butterfly Garden) in conjunction with The Butterfly Club. Alycyn Culbertson will be providing an entertaining talk on BUTTERFLIES and a tour of the Fred Funk Butterfly Garden is included.

Jo Hudak,

Filling in for Secretary, Cheryl Vickroy