

CITRUS CHAPTER of FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
Meeting Minutes Sept. 3, 2019
Crystal Oaks Civic Association 7:00PM

Attendance: 37 Members 13 Guests
Plant Donations: 53 plants plus seed packets
Current Membership: 129

6:15 PM Barbara's Bits – Pollinator plants. Barbara McCormick gave us tips on attracting bees and butterflies and some insight into the shapes of flowers (rays, spikes, and mounds) that attract them more than colors.

7:00 PM Co-President Athena Philips welcomed everyone and recognized guests and new members. Three new members were present at tonight's meeting and were invited to pick a plant from the donation table.

Several drawings were held for the plant donation table.

Athena announced that we have been incorporating more Member Exclusives, activities and events open only to members, such as the Movie and Mingle afternoon in August and this month's Pollinator Pot workshop.

First time guests were given a free ticket for the plant donation drawings. Information sheets regarding the selections on the donation table are available. In addition to donation plants from members, plants were also donated by Color Country Nursery.

Athena gave shared information about FNPS. It is the only organization in Florida dedicated to plants. In addition to our chapter projects, the Society at the state level has several committees working for native plant habitats, such as the Conservation Committee. This committee wants everyone to be participate in events such as plant rescues and to act as watchdogs regarding questionable problems on conservation lands. Our mission is vital to the future of Florida and Athena encouraged everyone to be a part of this and join our chapter.

Several drawings were held for the plant donation table.

Special thanks to Color Country Nursery for delivering and donating 3 large plants for tonight's donation table. Anson's has made a monetary donation to our chapter. We are using it to help this civic association replace 3 invasive trees out front. Yea!

Plant of the Month: Pam Ricker highlighted Simpson Stopper which can be a shrub or up to 20' tall like a holly tree. Birds love the berries, it is a slow grower and is green all year long.

Gail Taylor brought in a bouquet of native plants that are currently blooming.

Several drawings were held for the plant donation table.

Committee Reports

T-Shirts: Some ordered T-shirts are available for pick-up. Membership vote is needed to approve the new shirt purchase of \$230. Carol Sweeney made a motion that we approve the \$230 for the T-shirt purchase and Gail Taylor seconded. Membership vote approved the motion.

Membership: we currently have 139 members in our chapter

Roadside Wildflowers: On Sept. 10 at 1:00pm, Deb Daniels will present a resolution to the Board of County Commissioners at the new courthouse in Inverness. This would mean that

wildflowers would not be mowed for the sake of beauty and a wildlife corridor. Members are asked to attend and show support. If possible, please wear one of our T-shirts. After the short presentation, attendees can visit the Community Garden across the street.

Upcoming Events Needing Volunteers: Sept. 11 – Weedy Wednesday; September 28 - National Public Lands Day, Homosassa, and Crystal River Preserve State Park. Sign up sheets are in the back.

Pollinator Pot Workshop for Members only: Gail Taylor discussed the Nov. 15, 10-12:00 workshop at Crystal Oaks. This will be a fun, hands on class creating a pollinator container garden. Participants should bring their own pot (16” or smaller). There will be 5 varieties of plants available for \$1 each, including Frogfruit, Salvia, Dune Sunflower and Twinflower. Potting soil will also be available for purchase at cost the workshop. This is an opportunity to grow your Pollinator Pot entry for the 2020 Citrus County Fair.

State Legislation is coming up. Athena said that she attended previously. If anyone is interested in becoming involved, please let her know.

There will be a coastal clean up along Ozello Trail. To receive a free T-Shirt and lunch, RSVP by Thursday to Olivia Lease, 419-215-2204. A previous email stated incorrect contact information.

Several drawings were held for the plant donation table.

Athena reminded everyone that we try to share an assortment of events that may be of interest in emails and on Facebook. In addition, you can always find our chapter and area chapter events on our website – Citrus.fnpschapters.org.

We will have a plant walk this month but there are 2 sign-ups for outings in October and November. The trip size in October is limited to 15 (members only) and will include a tram ride through CRPSP. The November trip will be shared with 3 area chapters so Athena wanted to provide everyone present tonight with an early notice.

October is Native Plant Month. Special events include presentations by Craig Huegel, Donna Carrigan, our Native Plant Month Proclamation, the October tram outing, and hopefully our Wildflower Resolution will be approved.

On November 16, from 10-2:00 we will have a special speaker and plant sale focusing on trees and shrubs. This will be held at the Ellie Schiller Homosassa Wildlife State Park.

Several drawings were held for the plant donation table.

Due to Hurricane Dorian, our scheduled speaker was unable to attend. Athena introduced herself as the speaker and presented a program on Dry and Sandhill Plants.

Drawings were held for the remaining plants on the donation table.

Minutes submitted by Gwen Dunaway, CCNPS Secretary
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