

CITRUS CHAPTER of FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
Meeting Minutes October 6, 2020
Virtual Meeting via YouTube and Facebook

Meeting chaired by Athena Phillips, Co-President

Attendance: 16 persons watched live. As of 4PM on Oct 7, 19 had viewed on YouTube and 101 on Facebook.

Current Membership: 135

Athena Phillips introduced herself and welcomed everyone and wished everyone a "Happy Florida Native Plants Month.". She encouraged viewers to say hi in the written comments section and to post questions during the program..

Deb Daniels, Vice President, presented the Plant of the Month. She highlighted Chaptman's Goldenrod, *Solidago Odora*, a hardy perennial with medicinal uses that is often confused with ragweed in regards to allergies and hayfever.

Athena explained that we need volunteers in many different capacities. Opportunities include presenting The Plant of the Month and helping to maintain our Demo Gardens in the east and west side of the county. We also have a new project about to start in Floral City where we could use some extra hands. If you can help with any volunteer activities, please send a message on Facebook or send an email.

Athena presented a slide of photos of activities that took place in September: the plant walk in Withlacoochee State Forest and our nursery crawl at Color Country. She also showed a slide of upcoming events in October and November:

Oct 10, Nursery Crawl at Anson's Nursery

Oct 13, Native Plant Month Proclamation .

Oct 16, Cypress Lakes Preserve

Oct. Member Seed and Plant Swap

Nov. - Chapter Elections, members will receive an email with details and link

Nov 10 – Online meeting, FNPS Pres. Bonnie Basham will present Wildflower Corridors

Nov 14 Nursery Crawl at Carr Creek Nursery, Brooksville & Botanical Garden

Dec. 5 – tentative Chapter Holiday Picnic, venues are being explored

Athena encouraged everyone to check our website and Facebook for short-notice events and details on all events.

Athena then introduced our guest speaker, Dr. Charles Guy, professor of plant physiology and biochemistry in the Department of Environmental Horticulture at University of Florida. She indicated that questions would be welcome during the presentation. Dr. Guy presented a study on the therapeutic effects of plants with conclusions including that being in nature, gardening, and horticulture therapy are therapeutic. The study demonstrated quantitative improvements for anxiety, depression mood disturbances, and perceived stress.

The meeting concluded at 8:15PM.

Minutes submitted by Gwen Dunaway, CCNPS Secretary