

CITRUS CHAPTER of FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
Meeting Minutes November 10, 2020
Virtual Meeting via YouTube and Facebook

Meeting chaired by Athena Phillips, Co-President
Attendance: 13 viewed on YouTube and 33 on Facebook.

Athena Phillips introduced herself, welcomed everyone and encouraged viewers to say hi in the written comments section and to post questions during the program.

Athena expressed thanks to all of our volunteers. She explained that our outreach and volunteering opportunities were less this year due to the coronavirus but that we have some very dedicated volunteers, especially those that maintain our Demo Gardens. She also thanked all those that volunteered including the many that helped with the huge spring plant sale before the shut down, the Executive Committee and officers, and the Council of Chapters representative.

Athena announced that our current membership is 137 and that we have several levels of membership: individual, multi-member, full-time student and business or non-profit organization. She encouraged viewers to join at FNPS.org and to share the information with possible businesses.

What's Blooming: Athena showed a slide of a bouquet of native flowers she found blooming on her property. Plants blooming included scrub holly, calamint, saltbush, blazing star, dotted horsemint, tall jointweed, goldenaster, large flowered conradina, wild coffee, dogfennel, beautyberry, winged sumac, silkgrass and garberia. She also included the scientific names on her slide.

Upcoming events were highlighted. All events require social distancing and an rsvp. They are listed on our website.

Sat Nov 14 – Nature Coast Botanical Gardens and Rita Grant's Carr Creek Nursery with a presentation on seed collection (please bring a chair)

Tue Nov 17 – Chapter elections online via Google Meet (details will be in an email)

Sat Nov 21, 8:30-11:00) – Lecanto Demo Garden maintenance (this is a great learning opportunity)

Sat Dec 5, 10:00-1PM – Holiday Picnic for Members at Whispering Pines Park (bring your own food, there will be no sharing of food)

Tue Jan 5 – next chapter meeting. Guest speaker Andrew Koeser will discuss storm resistant trees.

Regularly check our website and Facebook for short notice events and all details.

Athena encouraged everyone to sign up for our chapter emails.

There were no questions presented so Athena introduced our guest speaker, Bonnie Basham, president of the Florida Native Plant Society. She read Bonnie's biography and Bonnie presented a power point presentation on roadside wildlife corridors in Florida. Some of the highlights of her presentation included:

- *Acknowledging* Gail Taylor, our past president and Council of Chapters representative, for being awarded the Silver Palmetto award at last year's annual conference.

- FNPS and Florida Wildflower Foundation are now partners in wildflower conservation
- The project for wildflower corridors is working with FDOT to develop a protocol for chapters to be notified of local road projects.
- The Friday Lunch and Learns on social media are excellent and available to all members.
- She is pleased that the Citrus Chapter has a resolution with our Board of County Commissioners to work on roadside wildflowers and mowing programs.

Following her presentation, Athena led a question and answer session:

- Athena explained where the currently designated roads are in Citrus and the parameters for selection. Anyone with knowledge of eligible roads or wanting to volunteer with the project should email at citrusnps@gmail.com
- Youpon Brothers tea company has partnered with FNPS. They have our logo on their packaging and FNPS receive a percentage of their profits. Chapters may be able to purchase tea packages in bulk for resale.
- FNPS license plate will be available if 3000 are presold. \$25 of the \$33 charge will go to FNPS
- Bonnie explained about a grant opportunity available from a legacy donation. This is an opportunity for members or chapters to do research. More information on the focus of the grant will be forthcoming
- The annual state conference will be entirely virtual next year.
- Athena asked Bonnie about any FNPS special achievements of which she is particularly proud. Bonnie said that navigating the new virtual world has been challenging and she is looking forward to when she can travel and meet other chapters. She also said that the society has a committee working on inclusion and diversity.
- In efforts to increase membership, Bonnie has ordered M&Ms with Members Matter and our logo. Send her a padded envelope and she will send a package to you.

Athena thanked everyone and adjourned the meeting at 8:10PM.

Minutes submitted by Gwen Dunaway, CCNPS Secretary

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