

FEBRUARY 2022 MINUTES OF GAINESVILLE BROMELIAD SOCIETY

Speaker: Mike McMahon discussed Tillandsia and their relation to Vriesea. There are 2 types – one is “green leaf type” that grow like Vriesea and the other is “silver leaf” which is the more common Tillandsia or “atmospheric”. There are about 650 to 730 species with lots of variety. Tillandsia have trichomes which are basically one-way valves and are what gives Tillandsias their silvery look. They are the most highly evolved bromeliads and there are 20 different forms of *T. usneoides*. Growth conditions range from shade to full sun and varied amounts of water. “Epiphytes Delight” or orchid fertilizer should be used since they have free nitrogen (anhydrous ammonia).

Business meeting: Sandy thanked Steve Provost for setting up the display for today’s speaker and for all his work.

Sandy, Steve and Howard Frank attended the Florida Council meeting in Sarasota. The World Bromeliad Conference is June 8-11 and the agenda will be on the website. Registration requires membership in BSI. There will be 8 international speakers. New membership costs \$15 which includes the journal. The meeting registration is \$335 before May 26. Rooms will be \$149 plus tax. There will be 2 visits to local gardens (Tropiflora and Michaels). The meeting organizers are looking for a variety of donated items (5 baskets for the Silent Auction; 5 plants for the Rare Plant Auction; a 10’x10’ display and items for the welcome tote.) Sandy thought we should pledge volunteers rather than money.

Treasurer’s report: The checking account balance is \$1,537.28 and the Savings account is \$3,378.29.

Show and Tell: Nancy Mason brought *Tillandsia caulescens* and *Aechmea recurvata* *benrathi* and Ron Schoenau brought *Tillandsia guatemalensis* and *T. scalaris*. Steve Provost brought *T. bartramii* and *Ae. distichantha*.

Tootie announced that there was a rare yellow cardinal that had taken up residence across the street from the meeting place.

Steve announced that BSI.org has a new facebook group. Steve announced the March 27 meeting speaker would be Renee Stambaugh to talk about landscape design to attract wildlife. The August speaker (Richard Daly) would not be coming and Steve will find a replacement. The time for the next meeting may change from 2pm if there will be another baseball game. Steve will notify all.

Meeting adjourned at 3:50 with 21 people present.

