

FEBRUARY 25, 2024 MINUTES of Gainesville Bromeliad Society

The meeting kicked off at the Millhopper Library with a “show and tell” of some of Nancy Mason’s outstanding plants: *Neophytum* ‘Galactic Warrior’, *Tillandsia vericosa*, and *Aechmea victoriana* *discolor* (variegated). Then Bob Stevens introduced officers for the year and reminded members that January is “dues month” - \$20 for single and \$25 for family membership.

The guest speaker this month was Tom Wolfe who talked about the diverse genus, *Tillandsia*. *Tillandsias* are strictly epiphytic and cannot be grown in pots and soil so Tom recommended planting them on cedar because it is a long-lasting wood. The plant can be attached with zip ties around the stolon and can be reinforced with glue (E6000) which is safe for plants. They can also be placed in baskets and some actually grow upside-down. Tom also discussed mounting *Tillandsias* on driftwood with attention paid to matching the size of the plant to the size of the driftwood. He showed many photos of plants which comes in a large variety of forms – some have curly leaves that actually grab into tree branches much as a vine would. Some have thick leaves – some thin, “grassy looking” leaves. The flowers are also varied in shape and color. The main distinguishing characteristic of *Tillandsia* is its epiphytic growth habit and now DNA typing.

The business meeting began at 3:15 with an introduction of new members and the Treasurer’s report. Sandy Burnett reported \$2,633.38 in savings and \$1,015.66 in checking. Steve revealed that Flora and Fauna got cancelled due to rain and was rescheduled for March 3 but our members couldn’t make that date and so we would not participate this year. The plant sale was also cancelled and rescheduled for March 10. Steve indicated we had about 130 plants for sale which will take place from 2-6 at First Magnitude Brewery.

Steve said the speaker program for the year was complete and posted on the website. Terry Burke will speak in March on “*Aechmea* – the trash can genus” and Theresa Watkins from Orlando will speak in April. The World Bromeliad Conference was posted on the BSI website and has an outstanding list of speakers. Steve recommended if going for only 1 day, it should be Saturday – there is no cost and parking is free.

Bob Stevens wants to set up another Wilmot Gardens day on March 9 (Saturday at 9 am).

Meeting adjourned about 3:30 pm with 42 attendees.