

FEBRUARY 23, 2025 MINUTES of Gainesville Bromeliad Society

The meeting began with a Show and Tell. Nancy Mason brought 2 examples of 'Red Bird' grown under different conditions – one was fertilized and not red but was large, and a red one that was small. The silent auction contained frost cloth, plant stakes, etc.

Steve introduced the speaker, Paula Waterman from the Gainesville Garden Club who talked about the Home Grown National Parks project that was originally created by Doug Tallamy. The HGNP project is a grassroots call to action to create new ecological networks using native plants. The goal is to restore private land, shrink the lawn, remove invasives, plant keystone genera provide food for moth and butterfly larvae. Only 14% of plants support 90% of larvae. Some examples of good support plants and the larvae they support include parsley, dill, passionflower, hollyhock. A complete list can be found at nwf.org – **click down to Native Plant Finder and enter your zip code** for tailored information. Oak trees host 395 species of larvae, willows 190, maple 171, and sabal palms only 2. Spanish Moss also supports 3. Host plants can be purchased at the Florida museum, the Master Gardener plant sale, and the fall expo. GrowHub in Gainesville is a nonprofit. Doug Tallamy wrote 3 books on the subject.

Business Meeting - Minutes for October and January were approved. Sandy reported that the checking account had \$1,159.19 on hand and the savings account \$3,862.98. We made \$354 at the recent plant sale. She is collecting dues today and by March, if not paid, names will be removed from membership.

Steve announced that the next speaker would be Tom Wolfe speaking on Aechmea. Tom was hit hard by the hurricanes. April's speaker would be Terri Bert and she would talk about Pittcairnia.

GBS hosted the Florida Council meeting this year. He reported there is a need for a newsletter editor for the Florida Council newsletter and to let him know if you are interested. The fall expo would be October 18 and we will sell plants. Any plants for sale should be named at least to genus. The extravaganza will be in Kissimmee at the Ramada Inn on September 26-27. Cost hotel is \$86/night. Information at 2025 Bromeliad Extravaganza Registration and Schedule.pdf.

Bob Stevens announced that the GBS needs to find a new secretary to share responsibilities with Elaine who has been doing it since 2018.

The meeting adjourned about 3:25 with 33 present.