

## MARCH 24, 2024 MINUTES of Gainesville Bromeliad Society

The meeting began with President Bob Stevens introducing the board (Steve Provost, VP, Sandy Burnett, Treas., Elaine Young, Sec'y, and Julieta Brambila, keeper of the facebook page) and then announcing the silent auction.

Nancy Mason did show and tell with 2 spectacular plants: *Tillandsia fasciculata* ssp. *Densispiea* and *Neoregelia* 'Red Bird'.

Steve introduced our speaker, Terri Bert who talked about *Neoregelia*. She indicated that there are more than 5 thousand Neo hybrids and that many of them were developed by Skotak who is best at growing them but that many revert. Many Neos are dry adapted and may succumb to too much water. Some of the Neos can take almost full sun. When reading hybrids names, the first name in a cross is the maternal parent and the second is the paternal – and the offspring usually resembles the maternal. Any hybrid of *Neo concentrica* will have concentric lines somewhere on its leaves – this is a very hardy plant. Red Neos like a lot of light; maroon or purple require less light. Albomarginated is descriptive of a leaf pattern that white along leaf edges.

The business meeting began at 3:20 with Steve telling the group that the Florida Council has minutes of all memberships on their website. He spoke about the plant sale with the Gainesville Garden Club and that we contributed about 130 plants and sold about one-half. We donated \$50 to the Garden Club and will probably be invited to do it again next year. At our April meeting, members will have an opportunity to buy the ones that did not sell at an extremely reduced price. Steve then mentioned that the April speaker will be Theresa Watkins from Orlando, a landscape designer, and she will speak on bromeliads in containers. In May, Marc Minno will talk about butterflies. He also mentioned the World Conference on May 22-25.

Sandy Burnett said that the Master Gardeners were having their plant sale on May 4 at the Equestrian Center in Newberry and that we would have an information table from 9-1. The February minutes were approved by those present. Sandy reported \$2,633.84 in savings and \$1,071.54 in checking. We spent \$80.63 on business cards for the club.

Bob closed the meeting with a mention of the Wilmot Garden weeding getting rained out.

Meeting adjourned about 3:50 pm with 40 attendees.