

MARCH 23, 2025 MINUTES of Gainesville Bromeliad Society

Steve introduced the speaker, Tom Wolfe who presented a slide show on “My Favorite Genera” that consisted of photos of Aechmeas. Tom gave brief descriptions of each plant and how it was found or created. Aechmeas are very versatile and colorful – growing as either epiphytes or terrestrials. In the wild, they grow in tree tops and high elevations and are fairly cold hardy. The first one introduced into Europe was *Ae. Fasciata*.

Business Meeting - Minutes for February were read. Steve announced that Sandy was retiring from the Treasurer position due to illness. She has pancreatic cancer. There was brief discussion of what GBS could do for her. Steve called for ideas and said that it would be discussed at the next GBS board meeting. Mary White served in the Treasurer position for the meeting and reported that the checking account had \$1,059.19 on hand and the savings account \$3,862.98 as of March 22.

Show and Tell - Mary Ann Rizzo presented a Fosters Favorite and a plant identified as *Ae. recurvata*.

Past publications of the Council were displayed on the back table along with a list of keystone plants that were discussed at February’s meeting.

Steve announced that next month’s speaker would be Terri Bert and she would talk about *Pitcairnia* and some of her favorite bromeliads.

He reported there is a need for a newsletter editor for the Florida Council newsletter and to let him know if you are interested. On April 11, the Florida museum is having a plant sale beginning at 10 am. Also on the 5th and 6th there will be a Spring Festival in the Garden in Winter Garden. April 14-18 2026 will be the Costa Mesa World Bromeliad Conference in California. The fall horticultural festival will again be held at the equestrian center and we will sell plants. The fall expo will be October 18 and we will sell plants. 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.

The meeting adjourned about 3:25 with 31 present.