

## APRIL 27 2025 MINUTES of the Gainesville Bromeliad Society

Bob Stevens called the meeting to order at 2:04.

He directed members attention to the silent auction plants provided by society members. The rules were amended prior to the meeting to allow members to bring up to 12 plants instead of the usual 3, when the speaker is not bringing broms to sell. There were 21 plants in the silent auction- Brian Dey brought 12, Nancy Mason 6, and Bob Stevens 3. All were sold.

Nancy Mason brought a *Canistropsis triangulate* to show the group. She has been growing this nice cluster mounted on wood under high light, not full sun, and bringing it in during winter weather.

Steve Provost gave an update on Sandy Burnette, who is battling cancer. She is not doing great, has good and bad days but welcomes calls and visits from members. Please don't call before 11 or show up without calling first.

Steve introduced the speaker, Ryan Fessenden, the Manager of the Butterfly Rainforest at the Florida Museum of Natural History. Ryan presented a slideshow titled, *Butterflies and Bromeliads - The Trials and Tribulations of Displaying Bromeliads in a Butterfly House*. Though bromeliads are not a nectar source for butterflies, their inclusion shows the biodiversity of the rainforest and adds much visual interest to the exhibit. As they are epiphytes, they are great fillers that can be placed high or low, on tress, rocks, logs, stumps, and on the ground. They are low maintenance and are varied in color and form, adding to their interest. During Ryan's time at the museum, he has steadily increased the variety and number of bromeliads displayed.

There are challenges to growing bromeliads in such a setting, though. The same zebra finches and canaries that enjoy a drink of water from them, tear the foliage to make nests. The mesh that covers the facility limits the sunlight, altering the color of the "full sun" bromeliads. Some of the broms age well and can be left in place as they pup after flowering, while others look too shabby and must be removed. In a regular public garden, plants can be swapped out when they become visually unappealing, but since the Butterfly Rainforest imports exotic butterflies, it is a USDA regulated facility requiring removed plant materials to be destroyed via freezing 3 days at -20 degrees or incineration. However, the museum has been shut down for renovations and the existing butterflies will soon die off. Ryan will be able to remove some broms and their pups and plans on selling some of them at a plant sale in the Fall.

### BUSINESS MEETING

Mary gave the treasurer's report. As of 4/25 there was \$794.19 in checking and \$3,863.31 in savings.

The minutes from March meeting were amended to correctly name the person who presented show and tell as Joann Winn.

Steve said he looked at a meeting roster from 2014 - 11 years ago, and found that there were 8 people who are still active in the club - Gail Cook, Larry Hice, Nancy Mason, Cyndee Park, Ron Schoenau, David Silverman, Mary White, and Tootie Richey!

Steve gave an update on the 2025 program. In May, Ken Stokes will give a talk on *Bromeliads: This and That*. In June, Bonnie Fredrerich will speak on *Unusual Bromeliad Mountings*. Terrie Bert, who had to cancel this month, will speak in October.

Several upcoming Garden events were mentioned-May 3 Master Gardener sale; May 10th, the Gainesville Garden Club tour and luncheon. Mark your calendars for the Florida Extravaganza in Kissimmee on September 26th & 27th. The Ramada Gateway in Kissimmee has a special rate available for the Extravaganza. On October 18th is

the Fall Horticultural plant sale at the Equestrian Center; October 14-18 is the World Bromeliad Conference in Costa Mesa. The Bromeliad Society (BSI) website will post.

The meeting ended with the raffle with 35 people present.