

MAY 26, 2024 MINUTES of Gainesville Bromeliad Society

The meeting began with President Bob Stevens announcing that the speaker did not bring plants for sale today; instead there would be a silent auction with 30% of the proceeds to GBS. At Show and Tell Nancy Mason showed two Neoregelias: Neo. Tom Linham which is a slow grower and Neo. 'Florida'/'Red Band'. Also offered for silent auction was a painting by Barbara Rush with a starting bid of \$100 with all proceeds to GBS. Doug Phillips mentioned that he had an Alcantara bromeliad that was huge.

Steve introduced our speaker, Marc Minno, who's topic was Insect Pollinators: Florida's Flowering Plants and Their Pollinators and who wrote a book on butterflies. Marc used to work for St Johns Water Management District as an entomologist and developed small booklets to identify butterflies for trail use.

Marc talked about how the flower shape, color, odor, and structure determine who will visit it – plants and their pollinators have had 140 million years of co-evolution. A tubular flower attracts hummingbirds and swallowtails whereas open flowers attract different pollinators. Many pollinators are specifically adapted to just one plant and some plants have developed means of actively placing pollen on a visiting insect. Other than butterflies and birds other pollinators are a variety of wasps and bees.

The business meeting began at 3:00 with Bob Stevens introducing new members and guests. Then the March minutes were approved. Two new members were announced – Steve and Michael. There was a motion to approve the April Minutes which was passed and a motion to approve the change in bylaws that were sent with the announcement of the May meeting – also approved.

Steve said the speaker for June would be Jason Mellica from the Sarasota Bromeliad Society and in July, Kenneth Stokes would talk about water and soil. Steve mentioned the recent World Bromeliad Conference in Palm Beach that included a tour of a wholesaler with 10 acres of bromeliads . The 2026 meeting will be in Costa Mesa California.

Sandy gave the Treasurer report: GBS receive \$185 from the plant sale of leftovers and has \$2,634.03 in savings and \$1,427.03 in checking.

Mary White began the plant drawing by calling new members first.

Meeting adjourned about 3:30 pm with 44 attendees.