

Gainesville Bromeliad Society Meeting Minutes - May 25, 2025

Brian Dey called the meeting to order at 2pm. There were 30 members present and one new member, Ryan Fessenden, who was last month's speaker. Brian showed a poster board display on Bromeliads made by Karen Beaty for a Gainesville Garden Club event. Brian thanked Karen for donating it to us to use at future sales & events. The silent auction had 6 items 3 plants. All were sold.

Steve Provost introduced the guest speaker, Kenneth Stokes, an antique and fine art dealer and restorer from Tampa who is also a long-time Bromeliad grower and enthusiast. Kenneth said years ago when he began, information was scarce, with no internet, no FCBS photo/plant database and few books. This necessitated a "boots on the ground" approach. His talk: "On Bromeliads: This and That" addresses the essentials.

First, you need to duplicate its growing conditions in the wild. Broms come from every ecological niche: sunny and shady, hot and cold. Tank broms need water in the tank and are fed by the organic materials that fall in them. Some organic material is bad; i.e. camphor tree oil, which will kill them. Also, heavy metals such as copper, iron, lead, arsenic. If plants are indoors, feed them with fertilizer free from copper, etc. Any water is better than none, but rainwater, which carries nitrogen, is best. Epiphytic broms use roots only to secure themselves to trees and do not feed the plant. Foliar feeding is best for them. After plants bloom and are beginning to pup, place the plant where the pup will do best when grown up.

Admire the beautiful, commercially grown perfect bromeliads, but grow some "ugly" broms in your yard for diversity's sake. The commercially available hybrids produced by the thousands from tissue culture are meant to be discarded after blooming. They will not survive in your yard.

For Show and Tell, Nancy Mason displayed a nice Till caputmedusae in bloom and David Silverman showed a large and beautiful Cryptanthus 'Elaine' which he donated the plant to the Raffle table.

A short business meeting followed:

- Mary said there was \$939.19 in checking and \$3,863.31 in savings.
- The minutes were approved from April. Steve announced that Gail Roser has agreed to be Secretary for 2026. She is currently learning the ropes from Elaine.
- We will meet at the Tower Hill library instead of the Millhopper for our July 27th meeting.
- June's speaker, Bonnie Friedrich, will talk about Unusual Bromeliad Mountings. The complete list of speakers for 2025 is on our webpage & on FB.
- Upcoming: Sept 26 & 27- Florida Bromeliad Extravaganza in Kissimmee: Oct. 18th Fall Expo at the Equestrian Center – we will sell plants: and the World Bromeliad Conference April 14-18th 2026 in Costa Mesa, California.
- Gainesville Garden Club short course, "Feeling Florida" has 5 spots available for non-members. It runs from June 1 to June 3 at the Straughn Center at UF.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 with 30 present, following the raffle.