

Gainesville Bromeliad Society Meeting Minutes - June 22, 2025

Brian Dey called the meeting to order at 2pm. He welcomed the 31 people present and announced that Joyce Trunk has become a member. The silent auction of 4 plants was opened.

Steve Provost introduced the guest speaker, Bonnie Friedrich, a member of the Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society. Steve Beaudoin, owner of Exotic Bromeliads in Orlando accompanied Bonnie and offered a large variety of bromeliads to purchase. Bonnie's presentation was titled Creative Mountings.

Bonnie stood behind a long table covered with an interesting and amusing assortment of objects repurposed to support and hold bromeliads. She used bird cages, mattress springs, votive holders, disassembled CD holders, little pots constructed from corks, bird baths, plant saucers, wreaths, to name a few! Many of the metal items were not intended for outside use. Bonnie recommended coating such items with either Permalac or POR 15. Both products work well, but there are pros and cons to each. Permalac is a clear coating that can be removed with acetone. POR 15 cannot be removed, but comes in different colors.

Bonnie said be sure to secure the bromeliad securely when you mount it. The mother plant won't root around the object, but the pups will. When using any kind of mesh or open metal basket, put pine bark below the brom. The pup roots to that more easily and you can move the brom, if need be. Be aware that metal may get hot and burn the brom leaves where they touch it. Prevent that by putting some coco fiber on the metal. This is a small sampling of the practical information Bonnie shared. In closing, she encouraged all to be creative and brave in mounting their bromeliads, they love to be mounted and you'll be amazed at the results.

A short business meeting followed:

- The May minutes were approved as written.
- Mary was unable to attend but provided Steve with the Treasurer's report: \$785.19 in checking and \$3,863.63 in savings.
- Steve asked for a volunteer to help conduct the raffle. Larry Hice has been handling the attendance roster and the raffle for years and requests assistance. Darlene Waite volunteered to call raffle numbers at the current meeting and Chris Waldman volunteered to assist in the future.
- We will meet at the Tower Road library instead of the Millhopper for our July 27th meeting.
- July's speaker, Greg Kolojeski, will speak on Bromeliads, B - G. In August, David Johnston will speak on Bilbergias. The complete list of speakers for 2025 is on our webpage & on FB.
- Steve and Brian Dey will attend the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies meeting Saturday, June 28th.
- Steve said there are some old BSI journals available for members. He is the chair of the BSI Archives and expects there to be more duplicates available in August, also, after they meet.
- Upcoming Events include:

- o Sept 26 & 27- Florida Bromeliad Extravaganza in Kissimmee.
- o Oct. 18th Fall Expo at the Equestrian Center – Bob Stevens will be in charge. We will have a larger space this year, a 30' table, for our plant sale and poster information. Please plant up or mount your pups and label them for the sale.
 - A member asked if she can donate unknown broms to the sale. Steve said properly labeled plants are preferred, but a nice looking unidentified brom is OK.
- o World Bromeliad Conference April 14-18th 2026 in Costa Mesa, California. The speaker information is now on their web site.

Following the meeting, the plant raffle went 3 rounds thanks to everyone's generous contributions. The meeting was adjourned at 3:30pm