

Gainesville Bromeliad Society Meeting Minutes - June 28, 2026

Brian Dey called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm, welcoming the 28 members and 1 visitor, Jen Hillman. He opened bidding for the silent auction of 8 plants and a print from Ron.

Steve said the library told us commercial sales are prohibited in their meeting rooms and our guest speakers can no longer sell plants during the meetings. They will, however, allow the sale of plants in their parking lot following the meeting. The GBS feels that the opportunity to sell plants helps draw good speakers to our meetings and the members enthusiastically buy the different bromeliads to add to their collections. To ban the plant sales is not an option. We can investigate other sites such as the Gainesville Garden Club for the meetings, but we think the library, with its foot traffic and public profile, has helped increase interest and membership in our club. The parking lot sales may be the best option. Accordingly, Steve Beaudoin, the guest speaker, requested that members put the plants they want to buy in bags under the table. Following the meeting, Steve B. collected the bags, took them to his vehicle where members retrieved and paid for them. It worked well.

Steve P. said Steve Beaudoin has been collecting bromeliads for over 20 years. Exotic Bromeliads, his home-based business is located just south of downtown Orlando. You can visit by appointment by texting him at 407 222-0204. You will find both of his side yards and his entire back yard are virtually full of bromeliads! He is particularly fond of Hohenbergias, the topic of his lecture today.

Steve B didn't love the bromeliads at his first house. In fact, he ripped them up and tossed them out. But at his next place, he became intrigued with a Billbergia 'Foster's Striate', joined a bromeliad society and began his lifelong love affair with bromeliads. When he retired 9 years ago he had amassed over 1,750 varieties of 45 different genera. He has cut down that number considerably and these days is focusing on Hohenbergia, his favorite genus.

Steve B. said some Hohenbergias can live a long time. At the 2012 Florida Bromeliad Extravaganza auction, he was amazed at how much he was outbid on one beautiful Hohenbergia. Though he didn't get that one, he was able to buy a small Hohenbergia leopoldo-horstii for \$10. He still has that exact plant from 2012 in his collection. It has never flowered, but looks good and has given him many pups.

Steve B. showed how to remove and pot a Hohenbergia pup and gave other advice on their care:

- Hohenbergia pups, like Cryptanthus pups, can be easily wiggled off when they are ready.
- When potting, he uses a mesh screen to cover the drainage holes, puts a layer of lava rocks over that, a layer of pea gravel follows and then the soil mixture (which contains a lot of perlite). Pack the soil down and top with 3 large pieces of lava rocks to stabilize the plant.
- His plants are outside so get natural fertilizer only - the leaves and debris that fall into them.
- If he has removed the pups from a mother plant, he will fertilize the mother with Nutricote 360 to encourage more pups. That is the only time he fertilizes.
- Once adapted, Hohenbergias can take more sun and get a more tight, compact form with higher light. His Hohenbergias are grown on the western side of his house under a 40% shade cloth.

Steve next presented a slide show of some of the Hohenbergias in his collection, both species and hybrids, describing each. He said Castellanosii can take a lot of sun, Lemei is very cold sensitive, as is anything with Chantinii in it. He showed some beautiful imports from Thailand, which we all hope will pup and be available someday!

Bob Stevens asked about trimming the bottom of Hohenbergias. Steve B likes to trim them tight, but he only cuts the dead tissue off. If you cut the live tissue, you are opening the plant to pathogens.

Show and Tell

In keeping with the Hohenbergia topic, Steve P. brought in a nice Hohenbergia 'Purple Majesty' with a tall bloom spike.

Nancy Mason brought 3 plants to show.

- Her Nidularium 'Leprosa' had a beautiful pink bloom. It can take higher light than many Nidulariums, but not full sun, and is fairly cold-hardy. Hers were left uncovered during this past winter and were damaged some, but have recovered.
- Neoregelia 'Rock Candy' is a small Skotak hybrid with thick, tough leaves. The one Nancy got at a meeting a few years ago has turned into a whole beautiful basketful of them, She grows them in high light and noted that some of them don't come true to color.
- Her Nidularium innocentii had pretty red blooms. She grows them in the shade where they contrast nicely with lighter green varieties. They pup easily and create a nice mass.

Brian said:

- May minutes were sent to all. There was a motion to approve, it was seconded and all approved.
- He encouraged all to help themselves to the handouts and old BSI journals on the table.
- Gail gave Mary's treasury report: as of 6/27 /26, we have \$672.02 in checking and \$4,468.03 in savings.

Steve said:

- The July meeting will be back at the Millhopper library. The speaker will be Greg Kolojesky. He will give a talk on which bromeliads are in bloom each month.
- Steve and Brian attended the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies meeting June 27th. They discussed the 2027 Bromeliad Extravaganza. South Florida is the preferred location, but none of the societies in that area have volunteered as sponsors. Florida Council, itself, may sponsor it with assistance from several clubs. They will have a zoom conference soon to discuss this.
- The 2028 World Bromeliad Conference will be held in Bangkok, Thailand. This will only be the 2nd time it has been held outside of the US. Australia was the first location chosen outside of the US and that conference was very successful.
- Steve reminded all of the Fall plant sale at the Alachua County Agriculture and Equestrian Center on October 17 from 9 - 4. We will have a booth and will need volunteers. Brie Arthur, (The Plant Lady on YouTube) is the main speaker. She has been on the PBS show, Growing A Greener World and is known for foodscaping -mixing edibles with other plants.

The business meeting was followed by the Raffle. Thanks to all who donated plants.

The meeting adjourned at 3:33 pm.