

JULY 23, 2023 MINUTES OF GAINESVILLE BROMELIAD SOCIETY

The meeting was held at the Millhopper Branch of the Alachua County Library. The speaker was Marty Baxley from St. Pete Jungle Gems. He showed many photos of the Corn. B.V. Nursery in the Netherlands which is fully automated and can produce plants that are identical to one another. Any plant not identical is discarded. They are growing a spineless *Ae. fasciata* which took 14 years to predictably produce and they currently have one with white flowers instead of blue.

The business meeting began at 3:20 with approval of the June minutes by a show of hands. The Treasurer's report indicated balances of \$1,071.54 in checking and \$2,631.84 in savings.

Sandy Burnett announced 3 new members today. She said the website is being modified to help in joining and members will receive emails. On Facebook, pictures are posted.

Steve brought up the location for our meetings possibly moving to Tower Road but after consideration, decided to stay at Millhopper at least through 2024.

Bob Stevens talked about expenses versus revenue and whether we should raise our dues. Our current dues are similar to other groups in Florida, so other forms of revenue are being sought. Perhaps joining the Garden Club plant sale or the Master Gardeners plant sale. Nancy Mason said we used to join Kanapaha's sale but it would cost \$125 per table. Sandy suggested the 4th Avenue plant sale – we participated last year as a way to promote GBS but did not sell any plants. Perhaps replace one speaker with an auction. Ideas are being sought – please contact Sandy.

Bob said that 5 people showed up at Wilmot to help get the bromeliads there in shape. They spent a few hours and got about one-quarter finished. The plants need splitting and replanting.

Steve announced August 27 speaker as John Boardman who will talk about on native bromeliads.

Sandy gave the final notice on the Extravaganza and the meeting adjourned at 3:45 with a head count of 31