

AUGUST 25, 2024 MINUTES of Gainesville Bromeliad Society

Bob Stevens mentioned visitors (maybe 2) and 2 new members. There was a thank you from Nancy Mason for the crushed pineapple and the lifetime membership awarded her.

Greg Kolojeski from Winter Springs was the speaker. Greg is the President of the Florida Council and the Seminole County Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society and gave a talk on Aechmeas, Alcantareas and Ananas. He discovered bromeliads in 2013 and since has acquired a large collection of Aechmeas because he liked the variety of blooms. Greg showed a number of photos of Aechmea blooms that varied from white to pink, blue, purple, and yellow with diverse shapes.

Business Meeting. Nancy Mason brought 3 plants for Show and Tell: a *Neoregelia ampullacea*, a *Neoregelia ampullacea* X *punctatissima*, and a *Neoregelia* 'Hot Embers'. She explained that the first 2 have been crossed and re-crossed so many times that some of the plant names are now in doubt.

The July minutes were approved. The Treasurer's report showed \$2,634.69 in Savings and \$1,211.03 in checking accounts. She also noted that we had gained 2 new members. Steve Provost went over the upcoming speakers who are listed on the website. In September David Johnston would speak about his favorite *Neoregelias*. In October the library will be closed preparing for the election and we will visit to Keith and Susan Legg's home; November is our holiday meeting and there is no meeting in December. Steve is working on next year's speaker list. Steve noted a poster in the library announcing the Gainesville Museum of Science would be handing out pollinator plants on Saturday, September 7 from noon to 3 pm.

GBS will participate in the October 18-19 Fall Expo at the Equestrian Center in Newberry where we will have a table for selling plants on the 19th. Anyone who wants to donate a potted plant is welcome – all proceeds to the Gainesville Bromeliad Society. The plant needs to be in good shape and labeled with genus and species. Steve also mentioned that there will be an Extravaganza in 2025 and the World Bromeliad Conference will be in Costa Mesa, California in 2026.

The raffle began by calling new members first.

Meeting adjourned about 3:30 with 34 attendees