

## SEPTEMBER 24, 2023 MINUTES OF GAINESVILLE BROMELIAD SOCIETY

The meeting was held at the Millhopper Branch of the Alachua County Library. The speaker was Michael McMahon who talked about Vrieseas. They are attractive because they are easy to grow and have no spines. There are more than 213 species and 30 years ago there were more but the genus has been split up into several new genera. Commercial growers only produce a couple of species that can be predictably grown in pots. Vriesea are more similar genetically to Tillandsia than anything else so that the two general can be crossed and will provide viable seed. There are 3 main types of Vriesea: Feather, Foliage, Stoloniferous and they require different light conditions. The feather group needs 25-45% sun; the foliage group needs 40-50% sun, and the stoloniferous need 35-50% sun. They all prefer frequent low strength fertilizer and like rainwater. Lava rock is potting medium of choice since they are VERY sensitive to overwatering. The stoloniferous group mostly resembles Tillandsia – they love to clump and prefer cool weather and morning light for blooming.

The business meeting began at 3pm. Steve Provost noted that the minutes had been sent to members and asked if there were any corrections. There being none, the minutes were accepted as presented.

Treasurer's report indicated \$881.54 in checking and \$2,632.28 in savings.

Steve noted that plant sale opportunities were being investigated and asked members to start potting up extra pups for sale. Bob Stevens is coordinating volunteer work in the bromeliad section at Wilmot Gardens and will be in touch concerning the next work date.

The World Bromeliad Conference on May 22-25, 2024 will be in West Palm Beach. Go to [BSI.org](http://BSI.org) to register and get the schedule.

Sandy will deliver the purchased books by the Venezuelan photographer Francisco Oliva Estere(a) after October 28<sup>th</sup>.

New Business: The October speaker cancelled so Steve suggested a visit to Cactus Island Nursery. Everyone approved the visit and Steve will send information. Steve indicated that November meeting would not have a speaker and he was working on 2024 field trips and speakers. One possible is Mark Mineo who is local and can talk about insect pollinators in Florida gardens.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 with 35 people signed in.