

## OCTOBER 23, 2022 MINUTES OF GAINESVILLE BROMELIAD SOCIETY

The meeting was held at the Entomology Building on UF campus.

Terri Bert from Bradenton brought a number of specimen plants for her talk. Terri is a member of the Sarasota club.

Succulent bromeliads such as *Dyckia* and *Orthophytum* reflect an adaptation to a dry climate. *Orthophytum* grows true stems with flowers that lead directly to pups. They are lithophilic and the inner leaves change color around the inflorescence. The size of these plants can be controlled by the size of the pot. .

Most bromeliads are terrestrial but when they got to Brazil, they adapted to trees. *Tillandsia* and *Nidularia* grow in variable habitats because the East coast of Brazil has several climates. Plants from moist coastal areas have soft leaves – they don't like bright light, burn easily, and must be protected – but are cold hardy. In contrast, *Aechmea* doesn't tolerate cold well but tolerates more light. "Discolor" (green on top and wine color underneath) is an adaptation to low light - the top of the leaf uses one wavelength of light and the underside uses another wavelength; consequently, these grow on the forest floor..

*Billbergia* is tall and skinny and can grow in close areas; *Alcantharea* doesn't bloom often but has no spines - it is a large plant good for landscaping. *Neoregelia* – has many hybrids – the maternal genome contributes more than the paternal. All of Terri's plants used in her lecture were then put on sale.

The business meeting began at 3:30. Mary White called for an approval of the minutes from the September meeting. There was a vote on the election of officers for next year: President, Bob Stevens; Vice President, Steve Provost; Treasurer, Sandy Burnett; and Secretary, Elaine Young. Julieta Brambila was elected as member at large.

Mary noted that next month's meeting would not have a speaker but that there would be a gift exchange. She requested people to bring a bromeliad-related gift – wrapped – and to bring food.

Sandy reported we have \$3,134.44 in savings and \$733.28 in checking.

Visitors were asked to introduce themselves - Wendy Wilbur, June Littler, Judy McKendrick, Steve Stevens and a few others whose names I could not catch.

Steve mentioned next year's program – there will be one house tour and he will produce a full list next month.

Steve reported that the BSI council claimed that \$120,000 worth of plants were sold at the World Conference and that 35% of people who are members of BSI are located in Florida. In 2024 WBC will be in Miami and in 2026 in Orlando. On July 28-29 2023 there will be an extravaganza in Palm Beach at the West Palm Beach Marriott. Speakers will be Chester Skotak from Costa Rica, David Shigii from Hawaii, and Eloise Beach from Apopka, Florida. Finally, there was a new glossary produced and anyone interested can contact Steve.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 with 24 people signed in. I HEAD COUNTED 26.