

Gainesville Bromeliad Society Meeting Minutes - July 26, 2026

Brian Dey called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm, welcoming the 32 members, 2 visitors, and 2 new members, Leslie Brown and Joy Alden. He opened bidding for the 3 plants in the silent auction.

Steve reminded all that the library prohibits commercial sales in their meeting rooms. They allow the guest speaker to display plants in the room so club members can select and set aside broms to buy. The guest speaker will take the selected plants outside and collect payment in the parking lot.

Steve introduced the guest speaker, Greg Kolojeski, President of the Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society. Greg lives in Winter Springs and has a 1/3 acre yard full of bromeliads. Though particularly fond of Aechmeas, he's an advanced hobbyist with a large variety of other bromeliads, too.

Greg's program was titled, **Bromeliads in Bloom, Month-by-Month** and his cover slide was a photo of Aechmea fasciata - the species, and Aechmea Pronto, a fasciata cultivar with a white bloom. Greg said Ae. fasciata was his first purchased bromeliad and still one of his favorites. He acquired it 6 years before he became a serious bromeliad enthusiast in 2013. It's beautiful, long-lasting bloom, ability to survive in his yard with little care, along with the profusion of new pups it produces enticed him into collecting bromeliads. Greg said Ae. fasciata is still the best selling bromeliad in the world, behind pineapples, of course. Soon after Greg joined the Seminole Bromeliad and TPS, he became the Treasurer and then President in 2016, a post he still holds.

Greg enjoys photographing bromeliads and 9 years ago began the "Plant Picture of the Day" post on the Seminole Bromeliad Society Facebook page. His Blooming Bromeliads by month slide show and handout was created from his large stock of photos. All enjoyed his slide presentation of beautiful broms in bloom and his commentary on various broms. We learned that Ae. Pronto, the white fasciata in the cover photo, is rarely available now as it fell out of favor since the bloom stays deeper in the vase than in the species. Greg said Guzmanias love shade and survive for him, but the 2nd and 3rd generation blooms are not as good. He said though most landscape broms do not need fertilizer, all agree that Alcantareas do benefit from fertilization. A beautiful June bloomer, Alcantarea PITA lined halls at the World Bromeliad Conference in West Palm Beach in 2024 and sold for \$200. Greg said this plant lives up to its name and to be consoled if you did not purchase one. His died, as did those of several of his friends who purchased them. As many bromeliads have long-lasting blooms, many of the same varieties appeared in multiple month slides.

Greg said there is a new Plant Picture of the Day at 9 am each morning on the Seminole Bromeliad Society's FB page. Also, the Seminole Bromeliad Society will have a large plant sale August 15th and 16th at the Sanford Garden Club.

Brian Dey commented that if you have a Deutercohnia, don't cut off the flower spike since it blooms on the same spike time after time.

Show and Tell - Steve brought back the Hohenbergia 'Purple Majesty' with the tall bloom spike that he brought in last month. It looked just as nice and had other little flowers opening up higher on the stalk. As Greg displayed in his slide show, blooming can progress over multiple months.

Brian said:

- June minutes were sent to all. There was a motion to approve, it was seconded and all approved.
- He has been in talks with Cedar Lakes Woods and Gardens about our October meeting visit. There's no guided tour of the gardens, but they will give a brief presentation of its history.
 - Their normal entry fee is \$12 per person. They will reduce that to \$9 per person with the donation of a bromeliad. The GBS board will meet in early August and discuss the visit, but it is expected that the club will underwrite the visit for members.
 - Cedar Lakes told Brian they welcome members of the Bromeliad Society to come and donate some of their time for garden maintenance in exchange for a future free visit.
 - We can meet in the Hobby Lobby parking lot at 1pm on October 25th to drive out together and maybe car pool.
- Gail gave Mary's treasury report: as of 7/25/26, we have \$522.02 in checking and \$4,468.40 in savings.

Steve said:

- The August speaker, Dave Johnston will give a talk on Orthophytums, Sincoraeas and hybrids thereof.
- The Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies is still discussing whether to have a 2027 Bromeliad Extravaganza. There will be a zoom meeting on Aug. 2nd to discuss if, when, and where it will be. South Florida is the favored site.
- The 2028 World Bromeliad Conference will be held in Bangkok, Thailand in May 2028.
- Steve reminded all of the Gainesville Garden Club and Master Gardener program Fall plant sale at the Alachua County Agriculture and Equestrian Center on October 17 from 9 - 4. Please consider volunteering for this event. Brian, who usually helps set up and run it, will have his own booth selling his Aloes, Agaves, and Sansevierias so we will need extra help this year.

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

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 pm.