

AUGUST 24, 2025 MINUTES of Gainesville Bromeliad Society

Brian Dey called the meeting to order and introduced the speaker, David Johnston who talked about Billbergias. Many of his slides were from Don Beadle who hybridized hundreds of bromeliads. David explained that most Billbergias originate in Bolivia, Brazil, Peru, or Colombia and some will not grow in Florida. Photos showed very colorful plants, many with spots or stripes with colors ranging from wine to green to white. David explained how to hybridize Billbergia using pollen from one plant onto the stigma of another plant, waiting 3-4 months to see if any seeds develop, putting them on seed starter soil and placing it in a plastic bag for humidity. It might take 1-2 years to develop any color and 2 generations of breeding true in order to register the hybrid.

Business Meeting - Elaine gave a brief report on the board meeting where it was discussed how to honor Sandy Burnett. The Gainesville Garden Club offers a brick for \$100. This was put to the membership for a vote and was approved. A second idea proposed by Mary was a lecture in Sandy's name in basic bromeliad care to be offered every other year and a third idea was to post the "Sandy Burnett Crushed Pineapple Award" to be given to someone active in bringing bromeliads to others – Nancy Mason won this award last year. The board also discussed the possibility of a day trip to Cedar Lake Gardens in lieu of one of the meetings next year.

Show and Tell – Larry Hines brought some Celosia which is an annual (not a bromeliad) and offered several for the raffle. Gail Roser brought a large, beautiful Tillandsia fasciculata in bloom.

Mary reported that the savings account had \$3,859.28 on hand and the checking account had \$651.19.

The September meeting will take place at Brian Dey's house with a tour of his collection. October 18 will be the Fall Horticulture sale at the Equestrian Center – we will sell plants. Steve has obtained a larger table than last year and asked members to begin choosing which plants they would like to contribute.

Meeting ended at 4 with the raffle and 27 present.