



orlandiana

Newsletter of the
Bromeliad Society of Central Florida
Volume no. 51, Issue no. 3

Where: Leu Gardens, 1920 N. Forest Avenue, Orlando, FL 32803

6:30 –7:00 is time for displaying and purchasing plants

Program officially begins at 7:00 pm

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Visit the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida Website at:
www.bromeliadorslando.com

You will find an activities page that lists our speakers for upcoming meetings, downloadable copies of newsletters, plant photos, a map to Leu Gardens, and more! This is a great place for the public to find out about our Society or send us a message. Check it out!

Cover Photo: *Werauhia sanguinolenta*, courtesy: Miguel Nicolas

President's Message

Everyone likes to get compliments. Our February speaker complimented us. He praised our high level of member involvement and all our activities compared to the meetings of other societies he has attended. The next day I received a report to Florida Council from a member society bemoaning problems it has had and the lack of interest among its members. A number of societies around the state are challenged in attracting members, and even more challenged in getting members enthused.

Complimentary comments about BSCF may make us feel good, but they only mark one moment in time. Compliments can be dangerous if you allow them to make you feel too comfortable, if they cause you to think success has been accomplished. We are not in a competition with other societies. We have a mission, not a contest. The mission is to promote bromeliads, especially by educating members and the public. Helping one another grow bromeliads so each of us can enjoy their beauty and bizarre forms, spreading the word about bromeliads, that is the mission. The mission is not to be "better" than some other society, whatever that might mean. We could be "the best" by some measure, but a complete failure in furthering our mission.

In fact, we know we have not succeeded. We haven't come close. Our members have not learned all they want to learn about bromeliads. We know there are vast numbers of the public still to be introduced to bromeliads. We have a long way to go. Compliments do not necessarily mean we are even on the right path. If we get too comfortable in our ways, we may find we've hit a dead-end or crashed on a curve. We cannot let ourselves become self-satisfied. We need to find more ways to reach out to the public. We need to expand our efforts to spread knowledge. Everyone has a part to play.

(Uh-oh, he wants me to do some work!)

Yes, I do. I want everyone to do something. Each of our more than 100 members has knowledge, experience or skills that can serve the mission. It need not seem like work. Lend a hand on something that interests you. Post about an experience in our Facebook Group. People will learn from it. Take photos we can use in the newsletter. Bring in extra plants for the door prize table. Those freebies have taught newbies a great deal. Give one of your extras to the neighbor who has admired your broms. Addict them and invite them to a meeting. Why not bring a plant for the Show & Tell table? Share your idea for a weekend brom outing,

a speaker, a program topic. There is something you can do, even if just some little thing. A hundred little somethings are a really big deal.

It all matters.

Mike McMahon

February Minutes

BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA, INC.

Meeting Minutes

February 21, 2024

Will be approved with potential corrections at the March 20, 2024, meeting

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Mike McMahon at Leu Gardens Orlando, Florida.

Program: Vice President Tim Dreggors introduced speaker Marty Baxley of Jungle Gems Nursery, St. Petersburg on, "A Trip to the Netherlands."

Announcements: Mike McMahon announced that the silent auction returns; No members market this month; Plant of the month is any Bromeliad that is red or pink; Advice table is available and renew your membership. Meeting break was from 7:43 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Business Meeting; was called to order at 8:00 p.m. by Mike McMahon. Robin Norton announced new member Betty Elliot and guests.

Minutes: The minutes of the January 17, 2024, meeting were published in the February 2024 *Orlandiana* with no corrections. *A motion was made by Joyce Gibault and seconded by John Vecchitto. The motion passed unanimously.*

Treasurer's report: Joyce Gibault reported that the organization was financially stable. Income and expenses were presented.

Committee reports: McCrory Tour was postponed, due to inclement weather until Sunday, February 25, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. Report on that tour will be by Karen Steinberg next month.

Field Trips/Outings: Karen Steinberg distributed a questionnaire on field trips for members to complete and return.

Leu Garden: Chairman Mike Saunders discussed the plant sale. Friday, March 8th is set up. Saturday and Sunday , March 9-10th with the sale from 9:00 am-5:00 p.m. Leu Garden members get in at 8:00 a.m. each day. Contact Mike if you want to sell.

Audit Committee: Chairman Tim Dreggors, Dan Lott and Bob Johnson. Tim reported that the treasurer's financial books were audited by the committee and no issues were found.

President's Report: Mike McMahon thanked the audit committee. Florida Council meeting will be February 24, 2024, and is hosted by Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society. Mike Saunders will be attending. A volunteer is needed to handle the statewide directory. If no one volunteers, then our society will look at doing BSCF member directory for 2024 just for its members.

Membership renewal reminder was announced and those who have not paid will be dropped.

Greg Kolojeski could not make the meeting since he is recovering from surgery at home.

Old Business: A couple of steps have been taken to address concerns expressed last month about the publication of the minutes prior to approval. First, in the February Orlandiana, Telka is clearly noting that the minutes are a non-final draft and are subject to correction. She is distributing her draft to the Board for review prior to publication. Also, a second proofreader has been added to review the newsletter before it is finalized for distribution. We will be considering any additional ideas, so if you have any please send them to the president.

New Business: None.

Show & Tell: Several interesting specimens were shown and explained by various members.

Door Prize/Raffle giveaways: President Mike McMahon announced the ticket numbers. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Telka diFate
Bromeliad Society Central Florida
Recording Secretary

Guest Speaker



Marty Folk will present - "**Growing Bromeliads: Secrets Revealed, Part 2, Large Plant Edition**" Marty's practical pointers are always a hit. Definitely a program not to be missed.

Plant of the Month

The BSCF has hosted speakers with presentations on variegation, so let's implement our learning skills with a twist. The March plant of the month is, "Bromeliads with red-striped variegation." So, as many members as can, please take a tour of your gardens to spot the beautiful red stripes peering through your clusters of bromeliads in the landscape. Many of us have red-striped variegated broms such as Aechmea 'Red Ribbon', Aechmea 'Candy Stripe', Neoregelia 'Amazing Grace', Cryptanthus 'Ruby', as well as many Skotak's and so on to bring in for Plant of the Month. There was an amazing showing of red bromeliads and pink bromeliads for the February Valentine's plant of the month. Let's continue the participation with a show of a full table of amazing red-striped bromeliads.



Neoregelia 'Rosea Striata', a cultivar of *N. farinosa*, courtesy Mike McMahon

Cathy

Upcoming Events

Bromeliad Society International Presents World Bromeliad Conference 2024

May 22-25, 2024 • West Palm Beach, Florida

WBC 2024 will feature an exciting slate of events including a welcome reception, botanical tours, a banquet dinner, several world-renowned speakers & guests, the world's largest bromeliad sale and a professionally judged bromeliad show.

Conference registration for attendees includes:

- Welcome Reception — International poolside barbecue
- Historic WBC 2024 tote bag
- World conference banquet dinner with speaker Andrew Devonshire on 'Hybridising, The Kiwi Way'
- Mounts Botanical Garden tour by luxurious motor-coach
- Access to world renowned speakers & honored guests
- World's largest bromeliad sale
- Professionally judged bromeliad show



Don't wait — register and reserve a hotel room online soon to save!

(Special reduced rates are available to all current BSI members)

Grant's Farm Nursery Tour



Join us for a special, behind-the-scenes tour to Florida's oldest bromeliad nursery! Reserve your space online for only \$25.

WBC 2024 World-Renowned Speakers



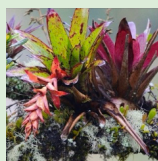
Find the latest WBC 2024 news and registration links online:

www.bsi.org/new/conference-corner/

We look forward to seeing you at WBC 2024!

Conference Chairman Tom Ramiccio (Tramiccio@aol.com) & Conference Co-Chairman Alex Bello

Post-Conference Ecuador Field Trip with Plant Expeditions

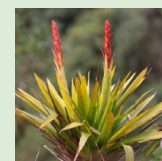


Complete your conference experience with a 15 day tour through Ecuador. See over 150 bromeliad species in their native habitat!

Also see wildlife—butterflies, birds, insects and monkeys!

For more tour information and to reserve your space visit:

www.plantexpeditions.com/plant-tours/2024/ecuador



Home tours / Outings: TBA

Karen Steinberg will talk about the results of her recent survey about tours at our next meeting.

The Difference Between A Variety And A Form

Mike McMahon

When dealing with bromeliad nomenclature people can easily become confused. The term 'variety' gets used in common conversation to cover just about everything. In a technical sense, however, a variety is a particular subset of plants within a species found in Nature. It really should only be used when dealing with an officially recognized variety of a species. If someone has an *Aechmea chantinii* that has yellow bracts when it blooms instead of the usual red-orange, they may call it "the yellow variety" and we understand what they mean, but technically speaking, there is no such 'variety'. They may have a cultivar (a plant that first appeared in cultivation), but there is no such plant in Nature (as far as I am aware) and none has been botanically described. How we talk is effective for communication at a general level, but also creates inaccuracies.

Centuries ago people began to systemically group together the different types of living things in an effort to bring order to the chaos of Nature. To create a sense of order, taxonomic ranks were created. For current purposes, we can skip down to the species level. The species *Aechmea chantinii* is variable and widespread. There can be size differences, color differences and growth habit differences. All of these different sorts of *chantinii* can be



considered different forms of the species. As generally occurs with wide ranging species, there can be a lot of differences between plants found in one locale and those found elsewhere. When there is a distinct population in a particular geographic area with all or nearly all of the plants of *chantinii* in that area having the same traits that make them different from *chantinii* found elsewhere, that distinctive population may well be considered

a variety. The question is, has that group of *chantinii* evolved particular characteristics making them materially different?

Botanists get into great debates over whether any particular difference is of any importance. After all, every individual plant sprouting from a seed is genetically different. If you look closely enough, you may well find that every individual plant has some distinctive trait however tiny. Some taxonomists get called 'splitters' because they are more inclined to see a difference as 'different enough'. Others are hard to convince even when there are several differences from the so-called normal form of the species. When there is a general consensus that a set of different traits is different enough, an official new variety of a species will be recognized. Thus, a population of large *Aechmea chantinii* found in Ecuador that has long pink bracts when in bloom has been recognized as a variety... *v. fuchsii*.

So, you ask, since there are *chantinii* with bracts in all sorts of different shades of red and orange, why not give different variety names to each different color group? There is no easy answer, which is why botanists get in long debates. The simple answer is that the range of hues of red and orange are not obviously distinctive in Nature. Plants growing in the same stand of trees can have many different color shades when compared to a color chart. Color variations are often not geographically distinct nor uniform. An official variety needs to represent a distinct population of plants in Nature. Often, however, a distinctive plant found in Nature has not been recognized as a variety simply because nobody has devoted the time and effort necessary to study the plant, its place of origin and the naturally occurring range of variability with the thoroughness required to justify claiming it is a new variety. Botanic careers are measured by the numbers of species discovered, not splitting hairs over describing varieties. So, there is less interest in writing up formal Latin descriptions of proposed new varieties. There are undoubtedly numerous populations that could rightfully acquire variety status, but these wait for someone to make the effort.

In the meantime, what do we call the odd *chantinii*? If it appeared in cultivation, call it a cultivar of *chantinii*. If it came from the wild, call it a form of *chantinii*. And, if you don't know the origin, just call it beautiful and enjoy it.


In Memoriam

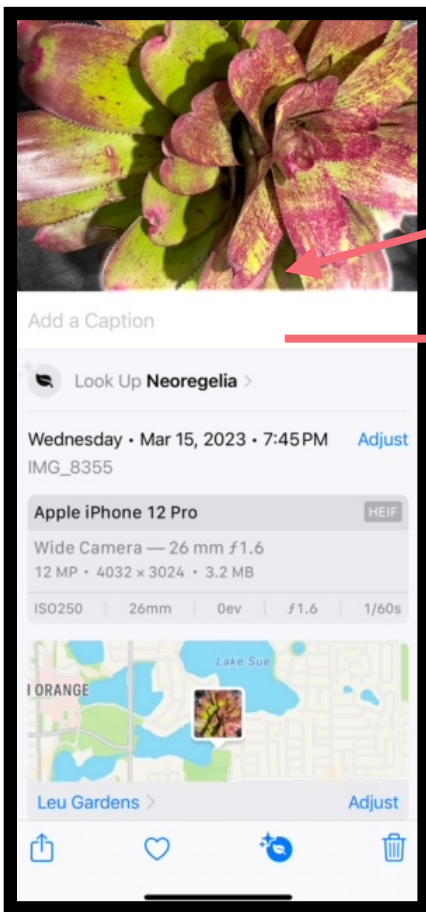
We are sad to report that our beloved member Gene Hafich passed on March 2, at home very peacefully. Gene had valiantly battled cancer for 4 years. He was a great UF extension agent and loved being a part of our Bromeliad Society. How his eyes would light up at the sight of a beautiful plant.

We extend our condolences to Victoria Black and take solace that Gene is now enjoying the beauty of heaven.

Making Use Of Our Smartphones

John Vecchitto

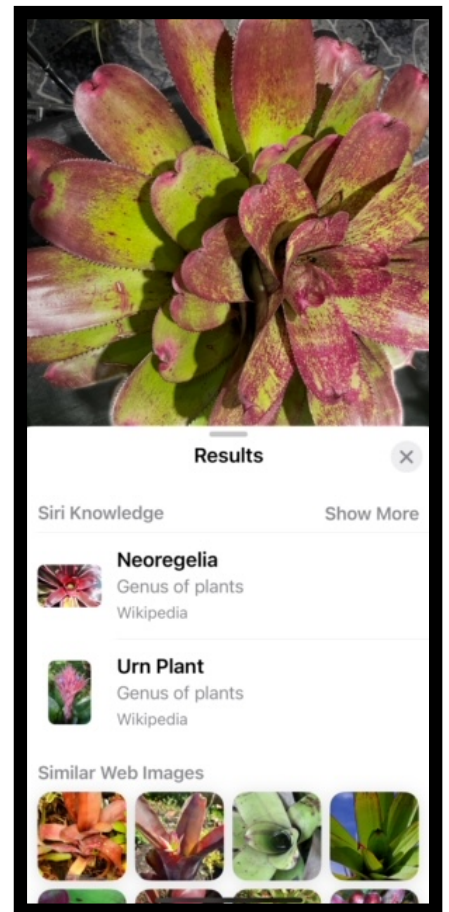
By now most of us are not only used to using smartphones but can't go anywhere without one. But there are other ways to make use of 'smart' features besides just texting, playing games and (ugh) having to use it as a telephone. One of the simplest ways is to use the camera to take pictures of all those wonderful bromeliads we see. I tend to take two pictures, one of the full plant and one of the name tag. Another more elegant way of identifying your plant is to select the picture from your iPhoto library, click the information button , then add a caption to the picture. The iPhone also will notice plants and animals and give you web information about your picture.



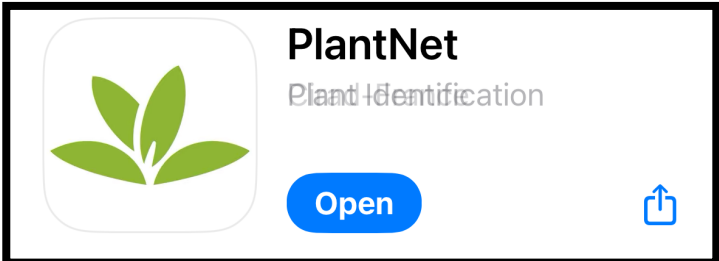
Write the name of the plant here

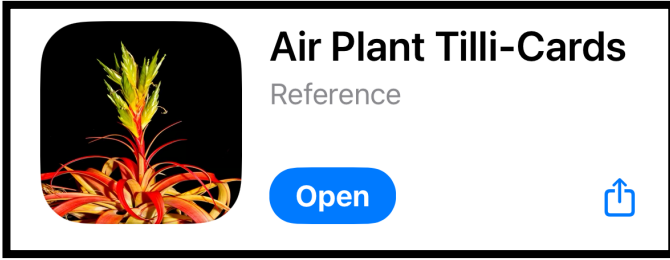
Clicking the 'Look Up' button will give you more information about the assumed genus of the plant.

Samsung phones have some of the same features, but I am not well versed in them, (sorry).



Another way to make use of your smartphone is to add apps that are useful in identifying and giving further data about your searches. My favorite is Plantnet, totally free and incredibly accurate.

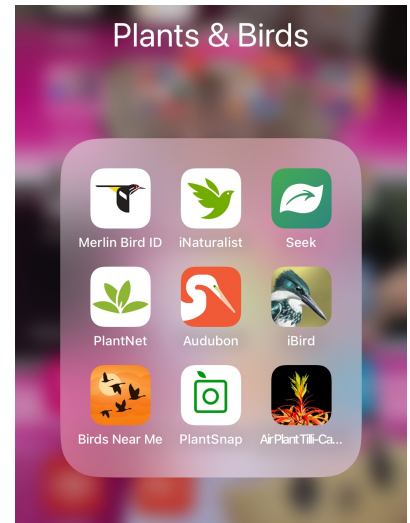




Air Plant Tilli-Cards is a flash card like app for all of your tillandsias. Once again, it is free.

If you don't mind paying a small fee there are several other apps available out there. I keep all of my nature apps

in their own folder for easy access. Here is my file of favorites, as you can see, I also love birds.



If you have any apps that you feel have been of value please forward them to me at: orlandiananews@outlook.com and I will include them in future editions.

The final thing I do is I run a database for all the bromeliads I have. This is very helpful for someone when they are buying

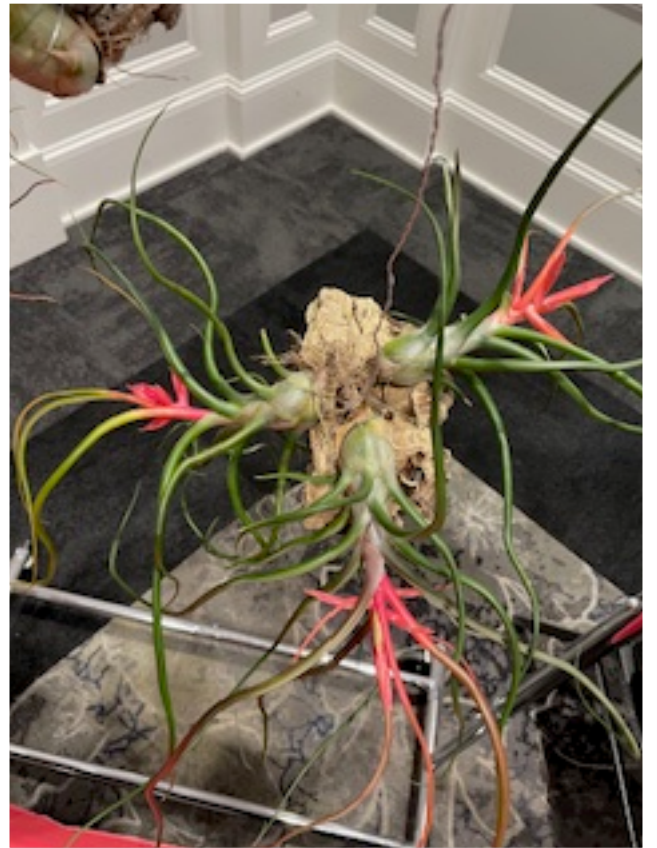
new plants can't remember if they already own it. The problem here is that it is work intensive to keep it up to date. I would love to see someone like BCR come up with a way to login and check off any plant in your collection, (hint, hint).

	Genus	Species	Traits	Notes
117		'Hyperspace'		
118		'Raphael'		
119		'Goldlocks'	Cruenta 'sun king' variegated	
120		'Voodoo Doll'		
121		'Clarise'	'Hannibal Lechter #2'	
122		'Catherine Wilson'		
123		'Valyrian Steel'		
124		'Dark Energy'		
125		'Passion'		
126		'Freddy'		
127		'Flash Fire'		
128		burlemanxii		
129		'Blueberry Smoothie'		
130		'Pemento'		
131		'Evan'		
132		'Treasure Chest'	Pink Sensation' x 'Royal Burgundy'	
133		'Royal Beauty'		
134		'Spines'		Dave & Cathy
135		'Tatiana'		Bonnie
136	Nidularium	innocenti		
137		procerum		
138		Francois Spaer'		
139	Orthophytum	'sunset'		
140		foliosum		
141		vagans		
142		'Red Frost'		
143		zanonii		
144	Pitcairnia	'Flaming Arrow'		
145	xPitcairnia	'FalseTeeth'	Deuterocochlia longipetala' x Pitcairnia burke-marxii	
146	Portea	'atropurpurea'		
147		'alatisepala'		
148	Puya			
149	Quesnelia	quesnelliana		
150		Farro'		Marginated testudo, filtered sun
151		testudo		turtle head'
152	Sincoraea			
153	Tillandsia	seleniana		
154		lorenziana		Mislabeled?
155		x may-patii	Natural hybrid	
156		funcikiana	small	bright, indirect sunlight
157		stricta	black tip'	
158		tectorum		
159		richondoensis		
160		xerographica		
161		capitata-medusae		
162		'Red Fountain'	capitata x baibisiana	
163		'curly slim'	intermedia x streptophylla	
164		schiedeana		
165		butzii		
166		bulbosa	Guatemala	
167	Vreisea	fenerstralis		
168		Red Chestnut'		
169		lubbbersii		
170		'Nova'	gigantea var seideliana	
171		'Eternal'		Grant Groves

Personally, I use Apple's Numbers as my spreadsheet rather than Excel for the same reason I use Pages rather than Word, more features than I need equals more complexity than I want. But if you are already proficient with Excel I would stick with it. It does the same thing.

I hope you found this useful and I am always around to field questions.

February Meeting Pictures



Miguel Nicolas / McCrory Tour Pictures



Leu Gardens Sale Pictures





2024 Bromeliad Society of Central Florida MEMBERSHIP FORM

_____NEW MEMBER _____RENEWAL

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name (s) _____

Address _____

City, State Zip +4 _____

Phone/Email _____

\$15 for one member, plus \$5 for each additional family member at the same address.

Name Tags are optional. The price for a name tag is \$7 per member.

If so desired please insert number ordered _____ \$_____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$_____ Make checks payable to BSCF

Either **bring payment to the next meeting.** OR If mailing please send to:

Bromeliad Society of Central Florida, PO Box 568872 Orlando, FL 32856-8872.

Meetings are held at Leu Gardens, 1920 N Forest Ave, Orlando, FL 32803.

On the 3rd Wednesday of every month, from 6:30-9:00 pm. Buy plants from the speaker between 6:30-7pm. The meeting starts promptly at 7:00. You'll enjoy informative programs, Show & Tell, plant sales, door prizes and raffles. Members also receive a monthly newsletter. Please come join us!

Treasurer:

Date _____ Check # _____ Cash \$ _____

Officers

President: **Mike McMahon**

Vice-President: **Tim Dreggors**

Treasurer: **Joyce Gibault**

Recording Secretary: **Telka diFate**

Membership Secretary: **Pam Marion**

Immediate Past President: **Mike Saunders**

Florida Council Reps: **Mike Saunders & Mike McMahon**

POSITIONS

Meeting Layout Coordinator: President.

Meeting Hospitality Coordinator: **Kathy Hancock** (Beverages); **Peggy Bohl** (Snacks)

Welcome Table/Raffle Coordinator: **Robin Norton** Helpers: **Katherine Vaccaro, Kathy & Phil Hancock.**

Recycling Coordinator: **Dan Sawyer**

Meeting Breakdown Coordinator: **Pam Marion** Helpers: **Tina Self, Karen Steinberg, Robin Norton, Katherine Vaccaro & others who pitch in.**

Secret Bid Auction Coordinator: **Phil Wright**

Plant Of The Month Coordinator: **Cathy Schubert**

Speaker Helper: **John Boardman**

Librarian : **Dan Sawyer**

Newsletter Editor: **John Vecchitto**

Newsletter Proofreader: **Marty Folk**

Audit Committee: **Bob Johnson, Dan Lott and Tim Dreggors (Chair).**

PLANT SALES -

Plant Sale Chair for Leu Gardens Spring Plant Sale: **Mike Saunders.**

Plant Sale Chair for Mother's Day Show: **Mike McMahon**

Plant Sale Chair for Mead Garden Fall Plant Sale: **Mike McMahon**

Field Trip Organizer: **Karen Steinberg**

Holiday Party Coordinator: **Paula Edwards**

Webmaster: **Greg Kolojeski**

Permission to reprint is granted with acknowledgment. Please send all correspondence to the address below:

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BSCF is a nonprofit Florida corporation recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) organization.

Donations to this society are tax deductible in accordance with IRS regulations.

BSCF is an affiliate of the Bromeliad Society International, Inc., and a member of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, Inc. and the Cryptanthus Society.