



# orlandiana

**Newsletter of the  
Bromeliad Society of Central Florida**  
Volume no. 51, Issue no. 4

**Next meeting: April 17, 2024**

**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](http://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!

## President's Message

Late March is a wonderful time of year. Mornings are cool. Days are comfortably warm. Oaks have stopped dropping leaves and pollen tassels. The garden can be cleaned up without being covered in mess the next day.... at least until mid-May when the pecan tree drops its tassels and covers everything in yellow pollen. So, it was that I spent a morning removing dead leaves from a couple of beds of Neoregelias and using the hose to flush the cups. I've done these chores so many times I do not have to think about what I'm doing. The mind wanders.

I started thinking of garden chores and projects I had put off, which led to thinking about upcoming BSCF activities, which got me thinking about what we might do different at our monthly meetings. We have space to add one table for an additional 'activity'. But, what? We have the Plant of the Month, silent auction, door prizes and raffles, Show & Tell, the Advice table and the Library. What more can we do in limited space and without taking up time? I'd like to do more 'hands-on' activities, but there is no time for group discussion. We already run close to the edge in clearing the room by 9:00 PM. I couldn't think of anything, but maybe that was because my arm was getting scratched up. Where did I put those long gloves I got? I'll ask the members for ideas.

That reminded me that I had asked for ideas for new outreach activities. There were suggestions that BSCF participate in the Mt. Dora and Apopka spring festivals. Those would be great outreach opportunities, but the booth prices were high. We would need to sell plants for BSCF to cover at least some of the expense, and the timing was so close to other plant sales that our regular sellers were not much interested. The Fall festival in Mt. Dora conflicts with the Mead Garden sale. I guess it is time to ask members for more ideas.

Then I began thinking about our upcoming Exhibition & Sale at Fashion Square. While there are no big crowds of mall shoppers as in yesteryear, there are shoppers that wander through, especially on Friday and Saturday. They check out the plants on display and vote for their favorite. Can we do a better job of reaching them? I guess I can ask our members for ideas on that, too.

By then it was time to use the hose and my back was aching from bending so much. Is there a way to clean up garden broms without bending so much? I wonder if some member has an idea about that?

That got me thinking that too often we rely on the folks who hold some office to come up with ideas. Then the officers have to work at getting volunteers to do stuff that wasn't the

members' idea at all. It could be easier to get things done if the ideas about what we do came from the members. Uh, Duh.

So, members, what are your ideas?

Mike McMahon

## March Minutes

### **BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA, INC.**

#### **Draft Meeting Minutes**

**March 20, 2024**

**Will be approved with potential corrections at the April 17, 2024, meeting.**

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by President Mike McMahon at Leu Gardens Orlando, Florida.

**Program:** Vice President Tim Dreggors was unable to attend the meeting, therefore Mike McMahon introduced speaker Marty Folk. The presentation topic, "Growing Bromeliads: Secrets Revealed, Part 2, Large Plant Edition."

**Announcements:** Mike McMahon announced the names of individuals who had not paid their dues yet.

Plant of the month, Bromeliads with red-striped variegations. Examples include: Aechmea 'Red Ribbon', Aechmea 'Candy Stripe', Neoregelia 'Amazing Grace'.

Meeting break was from 7:45 p.m. until 8:10 p.m.

**Business Meeting;** was called to order at 8:10 p.m. by Mike McMahon. Raffle tickets could still be purchased.

**Membership Secretary:** Pam Marion, informed members that they could pay dues at the back table where she was sitting. Members could order name tags at \$8.00 each. New members introduced were Nelson Blackmore, John Beasley, Brian McKeon and Craig Allen along with numerous guests. Pam also announced that members should check off their names on the roster when they come into the meeting and check to make sure that their contact information is correct. This helps to make sure that the state roster is correct when it is published.

**Minutes:** The draft minutes of the February 21, 2024, meeting were published in the March 2024 *Orlandiana* with no corrections. ***A motion to accept the minutes as written was made by Karen Steinberg and seconded by Terry Eddy. The motion passed unanimously.***

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

**Committee reports: Field Trips/Outings:** Karen Steinberg distributed a questionnaire on field trips last month and she reported the results. As a result, home tours will be arranged and various workshops.

**Leu Garden:** Chairman Mike Saunders discussed the plant sale and thanked members who sold plants and all those individuals that were volunteers.

**Florida Council:** Mike Saunders reported that he attended the Florida Council meeting February 24, 2024. It was hosted by Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society. This council meets three times per year. Mike will be Parliamentarian and Betsy McCrory will be the new treasurer. It was announced that Betsy Herp, from BSCF, volunteered to organize and produce the statewide membership directory for 2024.

Information on the International Conference in May was provided.

**President's Report:** Mike McMahon thanked all the members from our society who volunteer. Information on the Mother's Day weekend Exhibition and Sale at Fashion Square was provided.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** None.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Telka diFate

Recording Secretary

Bromeliad Society Central Florida

## Guest Speaker

THIS MONTH'S SPEAKER: Dave Johnston

Dave's interest in Bromeliads began in 1985 when he purchased two, a *Cryptanthus* 'Pink Starlight' and a *Neoregelia carolinae* type. Soon after he learned there were bromeliad clubs and dove into the hobby. By 1990 he had



acquired so many that he launched Bromeliads Galore as a collector's nursery to sell his extra plants. Eventually he had over 2,000 different species and hybrids, but as time passed he scaled back. He now grows something over 1,000 different bromeliads and has taken up creating hybrids of his own. His talk is entitled "My Favorite Neos", and he will be bringing plenty of bromeliads for sale.

## Plant of the Month

April's plant of the month is *stoloniferous bromeliads*. Typically, bromeliad pups or offsets form at the base or stem of the mother plant. In the case of a stoloniferous bromeliad, it generates a long branch that produces a new plant at its tip. Once the offset reaches full size, it will commonly send out its own stolon(s), so you end up with chains of progressively younger plants as you get further from the original mother plant.

Stoloniferous bromeliads create a unique and charming cluster of plants and are typically displayed in a basket or some form of hanging pendant. Various forms of stoloniferous bromeliads are also seen adapting well as tree climbers or ground cover. There are a number of stoloniferous Bromeliads with probably the most popular being the *Neoregelia* 'Fireball'. Other stoloniferous bromeliads include the *Neoregelia mcwilliamsii*, *Neoregelia* 'Bossa Nova', *Canistrum seidelianum*, and *Billbergia amoena*, along with many others. You might also look amongst your Orthophytum and Cryptanthus for examples of stoloniferous bromeliads.



*Neoregelia wilsoniana*

An excerpt from an article in the BSI journal dated Oct -Dec 2015, titled [Stolons in the genus Neoregelia, Part II](#), (Vol. 65, Issue 4) by Alan Herndon, explains that in nature, "a long stolon can be advantageous to a plant whose survival depends on finding suitable patches for

rooting when those patches are discontinuous. However, the long stolon could be a disadvantage when they reach the edge of supporting vegetation. The long stolons are simply not strong enough to support the weight of a single growing offset. We often take advantage of this by using the plants in hanging baskets. Once the offsets start growing, they tend to cascade down the sides of the basket. This might be desirable from the horticultural point of view, but in the wild, it just means that the plants must cope with an unstable environment."

From this article, we can appreciate the function and purpose that stolons provide a plant and the insight that it gives us in growing, mounting, and displaying our stoloniferous bromeliads. Please bring a stoloniferous bromeliad or two to the April 2024 meeting for the, "Plant of the Month, display. All of us enjoy stopping by the display table(s) and taking a look at the variety of plants brought in by members. It generates quite a bit of conversation, and it's great to see what others are growing in their collections. The March 2024 Plant of the Month table was full to the edges of the table. *Let's do the same for April's Plant of the Month table!*

Cathy

## Upcoming Events

### **BSCF'S 49th ANNUAL BROMELIAD EXHIBITION & SALE**

Our annual Mother's Day weekend event will be just two days this year, Friday and Saturday, May 10 & 11 from 11:00 AM to 8:00 PM at Fashion Square mall. (Use the entrance by the movie theatre.) With the event scaled back to two days, members can more conveniently participate in displaying some plants and still be with family on Mother's Day. Members not selling get special preference. They can bring their display-only plants either Thursday afternoon (4pm to 7:30pm) or on Friday morning at 10:00 AM. And, they can remove their display plants on Saturday anytime after 4:00 PM without waiting for the 8:00 pm closing. With just a few exceptions, past participation in the display has been mostly those selling. BSCF can put on a better display than that if more members give it a try. There are still shoppers at Fashion Square who check out the displays. All can help spread the 'bromeliad bug' by displaying even just one plant. It should be in display-worthy condition, cleaned-up and free of any pests. Each plant needs to have a correct name label and pots should be cleaned-up, but need not be pristine. It is OK if the pot is mossy.

There is still room for more sellers. If you are interested in selling (bromeliads only), email Mike McMahon ([mike.mcmahon2024@outlook.com](mailto:mike.mcmahon2024@outlook.com)). Set up is Thursday, May 9 (Officially after 7pm, but we will start at 4pm.) Tables are needed to hold all the plants, so sellers are encouraged to bring as many as they can. Breakdown begins at 8:00 PM Saturday. The rules for the sale appear below.

And, even if you are neither displaying nor selling, come check it out. There will definitely be some bromeliads available that you have not seen before!

#### RULES FOR 2024 MOTHER'S DAY WEEKEND EXHIBITION & SALE:

1. Only members of BSCF in good standing may participate in selling plants.
2. All sellers are required to work in the Sales Booth during sale hours: 4 HOURS (50 or fewer sale plants) or 8 HOURS (51 or more sale plants) over the course of the Sale (not per day). This requirement can be met by the seller arranging for someone else to work in their stead for all or part of the required hours.
3. All sales must go through the central cash register. No individual sales allowed.
4. Only bromeliads shall be sold. (Supplies, such as pots, mounting materials, etc. are generally not to be sold, but a limited quantity may be sold with advance permission so long as there is sufficient space.) Table space is limited and will be assigned by the Chair.
5. 20% of your gross sales will be deducted as a donation to BSCF. (Sales tax collected by BSCF)
6. Plants must be priced in EVEN DOLLARS. The minimum price shall be \$1.00. Plants should be priced & labeled before they are brought to the sale.
7. All plants must be CLEARLY marked with two labels:
  - A. Label with PRICE and Member ID number on SAME side of label. (Or, you may use your initials with advance permission of the Chair.) (This tag is taken at register as record of the sale & used after the sale to calculate amount BSCF pays to selling member.)
  - B. Label with correct plant name (stays with plant when sold).

Sellers are strongly encouraged to affix a small self-adhesive PRICE sticker to a prominent place on a leaf. Experience has shown that plants sell faster when the price is easily seen.

8. Your BSCF Membership Number will be your seller ID number. (If you do not know it, the Membership Secretary can provide it, or ask the sale Chair.)

9. Plants must be clean and in good condition, free from insects or disease. You may sell mounted or bare root plants, but labels must be secure. Bare roots with soil attached should be bagged for neatness. (Bring some empty pots or trays for displaying bare root plants.) Questionable plants will be removed from the sale by the Sale Chair.

10. Plants not picked up by the close of the sale on Saturday will be considered a donation to BSCF.

11. Reasonable care will be taken, but the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida, Inc. cannot assume responsibility for any loss or damage to your plants, nor prevent theft.

12. The BSCF Treasurer will issue a check in payment to selling members of their 80% share of the sale proceeds attributable to their plants following calculation and certification of same by the plant sale committee. Payment generally occurs within 10-14 days following the sale, but on occasion may take longer.

13. All Sellers must place a minimum of five (5) specimen plants on display. The display plants may be sold, but cannot be removed from the display prior to 6:00 PM on Saturday. The Chair may grant exceptions in its sole discretion so long as the integrity of the display is maintained, or may require substitution with another specimen plant.

14. All sellers are expected to participate in set-up and break-down. Exceptions may be granted by the Chair in special circumstances. Set-up is on Thursday evening beginning at 4:00 PM (but may be as late as 7:00 PM if required by the mall). Break-down commences at 8:00 PM on Saturday upon the Sale closing. All plants (both sale and display), tables and other property must be removed as promptly as possible on Saturday evening. All plants to be sold should be brought on Thursday evening. With permission of the Chair, a limited number may be brought on Friday morning at 10:00 AM. Re-stocking may occur on Saturday morning at 10:00 AM and shall be completed by the opening at 11:00 AM. See the Chair for directions in gaining entry to the mall prior to 11:00 AM on the sale days.



**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**

Andrew Devonshire   Peter Tristram   Herb Hill   Pedro Nahoum  
 Dr. Hiroyuki Takizawa   Dennis Cathcart   Dr. Terrie Bert

Find the latest WBC 2024 news and registration links online:

[www.bsi.org/new/conference-corner/](http://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](http://www.plantexpeditions.com/plant-tours/2024/ecuador)

## 2024 Spring Garden Tours!

The tours will be from 9:00 am through 1:00 pm, these are "go at your own pace, revolving door" type of tours – just show up at the locations any time from 9–1, tour the garden, then move on to the next location. We try to get the gardens close enough to each other that the trips are enjoyable. Please bring your own beverages, it can get a bit hot towards the afternoon!

APRIL 27th

9:00 am through 1:00 pm

- Katrina Kruse

5280 Oxbury Ave, Cocoa, FL 32926

Garden: many interesting plants merged with bromeliads. The garden has 2 acres with a couple concentrated landscape beds and a shade house.

- Carl Zeak

1080 Mercedes Dr, Merritt Island, FL 32952

The gorgeous bromeliads seen posted on Facebook can be seen in person. A diverse collection of bromeliads throughout the landscape among big beautiful mature trees, along walkways and everywhere you turn.

MAY 4th

9:00 am through 1:00 pm

- Steve Beaudoin

2817 Clemwood Street, Orlando, FL 32803

Garden: many, many different kinds of bromeliads in the garden along with other tropical plants. Steve will also have plants available for sale.

- Mike McMahon

1021 Wald Road, Orlando, FL 32806

Garden: many Bromeliads, mature trees, tropical plants, and a beautiful Koi pond.

MAY 18th

9:00 am through 1:00 pm

- Penny Potter

1360 Canterbury Road, Winter Park, FL 32789

Garden: Penny is an Orange County Master Gardener and her garden has a large variety of plants and beautiful bromeliads.

- Karen Steinberg

517 Mayfair Circle, Orlando, FL 32803

Garden: bromeliads, orchids, and other tropical plants used in the landscape.

I'm really looking forward to seeing the gardens! Our first tour, at the end of April is in Brevard County, the two tours in May are in the Orlando/Winter Park area.

If anyone wants their garden to be part of a garden tour, please let me know and we'll try and set one up or add you to one of the 3 existing tours.

Update on the pollination workshop: I'm still working on it, if any info is available before the next Orlandiana we'll send out a separate email.

Thanks,  
Karen Steinberg  
517 Mayfair Circle, Orlando, FL 32803  
407-579-6445  
[steinberg.km@gmail.com](mailto:steinberg.km@gmail.com)<<mailto:steinberg.km@gmail.com>>

## 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: **Bonnie Friedrich**

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:

**Bromeliad Society of Central Florida, Inc.**

**PO Box 536961**

**Orlando, FL 32853-6961**

**[facebook.com/BromeliadSocietyOfCentralFlorida](https://www.facebook.com/BromeliadSocietyOfCentralFlorida)**



**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.