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**Newsletter of the
Bromeliad Society of Central Florida**
Volume no. 49, Issue no. 1

Next meeting: January 19, 2022

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

6:30 –7:00 is pre-meeting time for purchasing plants

Meeting officially begins at 7:00 pm

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Visit the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida Website at:
www.bromeliadsorlando.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!

The President's Message

Aren't we all tired of Covid? With Omicron surging, everyone will have to wear a mask at the January meeting. It is a City of Orlando requirement that applies to Leu Gardens (indoors). It's a pain, but for our own good. Covid may become as endemic as the flu, but I'm determined to make 2022 a wonderful year for my bromeliad addiction. I invite everyone to join in pursuing new adventures in the hobby during 2022.

If your brom addiction causes cravings during the day, go check out our BSCF Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/263882333744906> There are now over 1,800 people in our BSCF Facebook Group, and we grow every day. If you have not joined Facebook for privacy reasons, you can sign up under a pseudonym and not post any identifying information. Then you can join the Group without privacy worries. There are always great photos of bromeliads. If you have a question or need advice, you usually get helpful responses within a few hours... or even just minutes! There is something to be learned or a neat useable idea nearly every day.

One adventure you might try is raising some broms from seed. Many years ago, I raised several species from seed. It was fun. I ended up with a lot of plants. Aechmeas and Billbergias were easiest for me. Back then I never succeeded with Vrieseas, my favorite genus. Fungus always killed off the seedlings. A few years ago, I tried again by crossing a hybrid of *V. fosteriana* and *V. hieroglyphica* with itself. This time I sterilized the planting medium in the microwave (cooking dirt produces a weird smell), and used the Daconil fungicide. I beat the fungus and got lots of seedlings. Hundreds! They were doing pretty good, but I got busy and forgot to mist them. Most died off. There were about a dozen survivors. After 3 years, they began to look like real broms! I did not have room to keep them all, so I gifted or sold most of them. The couple I have left will be kept, at least for now. There is a special attachment when you grow a brom from seed... even if it is not all that special. I now have some *Tillandsia malzenei* (formerly classified as a Vriesea) coming along and there are about 50 f2 seedlings of Grant Groves' hybrid *V. Static Shock*. In 3 or so years they may look like something... if only I keep misting them! For 2022, I am going to try my hand at crossing some complex Vriesea hybrids, hoping for a huge diversity. Maybe there will be a real treasure. Or, maybe they all fungus. Either way, the journey will be fun.

Then there is the World Bromeliad Conference coming up in Sarasota in June. I'm going to register so I can go to all the seminar talks. Some of them can get rather technical, but

that means there is an opportunity to learn more about broms. Some stuff is even practical. Best of all, of course, is the WBC plant sales. Vendors will come from all across Florida and from elsewhere in the country. Anyone can go to the plant sales without registering, but registrants get in the night before it opens to the public. At the last World Conference I attended I could have spent my entire bank account and barely made a dent in all the broms offered that I had never seen before. I am saving up for June.

And, I know this year I am going to enjoy working with everyone on BSCF projects. Our plant sales are always fun. They feed my addiction and are great occasions for ‘talking broms’. (I know, sometimes I talk too much... and write too much also.) Tim Dreggors is really focused on getting informative speakers for our meetings, so I’m looking forward to what he arranges. Hopefully, covid takes a backseat and we can have some special ‘field trips’ this year. There will be one in February. We will join the Seminole Society in visiting the McCrory’s nursery on February 20. (The visit begins at 2:00 PM. All who want to go drive there on their own. More details to come.) I’ve been before, but it is so awesome to see a gazillion broms in bloom and I learn something new every time. For anyone who has not been, it is a definite ‘must do’. You will be awestruck.

There is “serious business” BSCF will need to handle during the year... like updating our bylaws. Ugh!! Talking about bylaws is never fun, and it always gets folks debating things they don’t really care about. Six months later they don’t even remember what the bylaws say. So, I am going to put that off. We will get to it eventually. My New Year’s resolution for BSCF is to minimize the boring stuff (but get it done ‘soon enough’); maximize the opportunities to learn; enjoy bromeliads; and encourage everyone to join in the fun of discovery.

I challenge each of our members to do something new this year. Raise some Aechmeas from seed. Start growing a genus you never tried before, whether it be shade-loving Cryptanthus potted in composted cow manure or a full sun Hechtia grown in a cactus mix. Are all your broms in the ground? Mount some broms in a tree. Try hanging a couple of pots from a tree branch or from a fence. Try your hand at building the mini-shadehouse or pergola/arbor you dream about so your favorite Neos finally get that perfect light. Add adventure to your hobby by trying something new. The worse that can happen is it doesn’t pan out. If it succeeds, all the rewards are yours.

Bromeliads are so amazing, and bromoholics are amazing people. It’s going to be a wonderful year.

- Mike McMahon

December Minutes

No December meeting = no minutes.

Respectfully submitted,

John Vecchitto

Upcoming Events

World Bromeliad Conference 2022

The **World Bromeliad Conference** was rescheduled from 2021 to **June 7-11, 2022**. The host hotel will be the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Sarasota. If you are unable to attend, your registration will be refunded following our conference refund policy. Up to the year the conference is to be held you can get a 100% refund, once the year of the conference begins you get a 50% refund, and within 30 days of the conference there is no refund. Since the date of the conference was moved by one year, you can get a 100% refund until **December 31, 2021**.



Events will include tours of two of the world's leading Bromeliad nurseries ([Michael's Bromeliads](#) and [Tropiflora](#)), a visit to the renowned [Marie Selby Botanical Gardens](#) (with free admission for conference registrants), a number of notable speakers, an opening conference reception and welcome address, a banquet with a rare plant sale and auction, a plant sale with numerous sellers, a fantastic judged plant show, and more.

McCrary's Bromeliad Nursery Field Trip in February!

The Seminole Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society has a field trip to McCrary's Bromeliad Nursery planned in February. Traditionally the BSCF also goes on the same field trip at that time...a great chance for the two Societies to mingle and be wowed by McCrary's together!

McCrary's Bromeliad Nursery was started in 1977 by Buddy & Dolores McCrary in the hills of Lake County, Florida. Their bromeliad business started as a hobby on the porch of the house and has expanded to 30-acres, making them one of the largest growers of bromeliads in the country.

You'll see how they handle plants from the time they receive the tissue culture to the time orders get shipped out. Along the way you will learn about the different ways they deal with the climate and other ins and outs of everyday growing.

This is not to be missed, Evan McCrary gives a great tour and we promise you will learn something new even if you've been there before. McCrary's is a wholesale commercial nursery and this is a wonderful chance to see how the pros grow all those beautiful bromeliads!

We will be discussing the field trip at our January and February meetings – if anyone has any initial questions or concerns please contact field trip coordinator Karen Steinberg at steinberg.km@gmail.com and she'll get back to you with answers!

Event Date and Location Info:

Sunday, Feb. 20th at 2:00 PM
McCrary's Bromeliad Nursery
35152 La Place Court
Eustis, Florida 32736



Leu Gardens' Annual Spring Plant Sale

March 12 & 13, 2022, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Free Admission all Weekend!

Over 50 growers and vendors selling a variety of plants and outdoor accessories to enhance your landscape and home.

Bring a wagon or plant cart for your purchases. All vendors take cash and most take credit cards.

Leu Gardens' Members shop early on Saturday, March 12 at 8:00 a.m., please show your membership card and photo ID to be admitted early. Guest(s) of members will be able to enter at 9:00 a.m. Guest Passes and AHS Reciprocals are not accepted during the Leu Members' early shopping hour.



Guest Speaker

The speaker for January is Calandra Thurrott who was one of the judges at the BSCF Mother's Day Show and Sale. Calandra Thurrott grows bromeliads in Port Orange, Florida. She serves as the Membership Chair for the Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society (FECBS) and has served as Secretary for many years. Calandra has been given the FECBS Lifetime Member Award for her long time dedication to her home Society.

Her interest in bromeliads is evident in her jewelry, appliqué, and quilt designs. Among her interests besides growing bromeliads are fiber art, sewing and photography; she is a longtime member of ArtsEtc, a fiber arts group.

She is currently a representative for FECBS to the Florida Council of Bromeliad Society (FCBS) and serves as a Copy Editor for the FCBS Newsletter.

She is a BSI Accredited Bromeliad Judge and Student Judge Instructor. One of her duties is as an Administrator for the BSI Website (www.BSI.org).

She is currently an Eastern Regional Cryptanthus Society Director, member of San Francisco Bromeliad Society and recently joined the Seminole Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society.

Calandra's program revolving around the "Bromeliads Downunder 18th World Conference in Cairns, Australia." will be a PowerPoint presentation: "**Australia and New Zealand a Photo Journal**". This is part two of her program on tropical plants and the World Conference. Part one was during our October 2021 meeting.



Tillandsia aeranthos (Loisel.) Desf.

Pictures



Neoregelia 'Victoria Red': Telka diFate

I would love to have members submit pictures and articles that can be published in our newsletter. It's not that hard to do and can even be a picture or article from another source as long as you reference it.

Submit to lordvec54@gmail.com and type BSCF somewhere in the subject so I don't miss it. Submissions should be received by the 8th of the month to insure publication that month.



Hanging Gardens *T. winkleri*
Brazil Rio Grande du Sul Luiz Filipe Varella



June 2021 *Vriesea ensiformis*



Tillandsia aeranthos varieties



April 2021 *T. fasciculata* hybrid 3

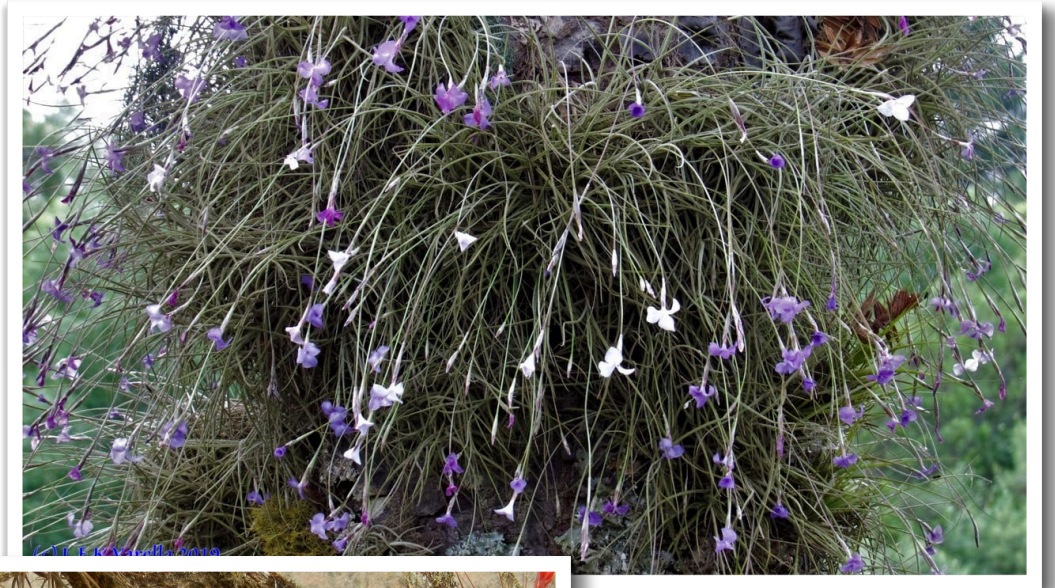


Aechmea 'Maginali' June 2021.

The uncredited photos here come from
the BSCF Facebook Group.
Please check us out!
[https://www.facebook.com/groups/
263882333744906](https://www.facebook.com/groups/263882333744906)



Hanging Gardens *Tillandsia engleriana*
Central Andes Columbia Sergio Botero



T. mallemonii



Tillandsia zoquensis



Cryptanthus 'Strawberry Flambe': Telka diFate

2022 Bromeliad Society of Central Florida MEMBERSHIP FORM



PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

____ NEW MEMBER ____ RENEWAL

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City, State Zip +4 _____

Phone /Email _____

\$15 for first member, plus \$5 per each additional family member at the same address. Name tags are optional. The price of the name tag is \$7 per member. If so desired please insert the number of tags ordered _____ \$ _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____ Make checks payable to BSCF. Either bring the payment to the next meeting OR mail to: **Bromeliad Society of Central Florida, PO Box 536961 Orlando, FL 32853-6961.**

Meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday of every month, from 6:30-9:00 pm (buy plants from the speaker between 6:30-7pm) at Leu Gardens, 1920 N Forest Ave, Orlando, FL 32803. You'll enjoy informative programs, Show & Tell, plant sales, refreshments, and door prizes. Members also receive a newsletter. Please come join us!

Treasurer: Date _____ Check # _____ Cash _____

Officers

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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.