



# orlandiana

**Newsletter of the  
Bromeliad Society of Central Florida**  
Volume no. 50, Issue no. 6

**Next meeting: June 21, 2023**

**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**

## CONTENTS

President's Message .....	2
February Minutes.....	3
List of Upcoming Events .....	4
Plant of the Month.....	6
Guest Speaker .....	7
Hospitality .....	8
Mother's Day Sale Photos .....	8
Membership form.....	12
Officers .....	13

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

We now have over 120 members. Attendance at our meetings is regularly around 60, and bumped the 70 mark a couple of months ago. There are other societies around the state with as many or more members. However, I'm told such high attendance is uncommon. Outsiders see us as energized and successful. That's nice. But, I learned long ago that it is when things seem to be going well that it is time to change. That's why there is something new from Apple every time you turn around, and nobody owns anything branded 'IBM'.

I would like to see over 70 at a typical meeting, and break 100 from time to time. That may seem crazy until you recall the typical attendance back when we met in that drab room at Reeves Methodist Church. That wasn't so long ago. There are 2.7 million people in the Orlando area. Aren't broms able to addict 0.01% of the population? That's just one person out of every 10,000. Sure they can. If we get more people in touch with broms, the broms will hook them. And, I don't mean the spines. To thrive, all BSCF needs to do is get broms in front of people and then provide information and activities that will allow the people to succeed. If we can find a venue for our annual show & sale that gets significant general public exposure, we will have taken a big step in the right direction.

At the same time, we must always focus on our meetings being worthwhile. To attend a meeting, a lot of people have to rush from work, squeeze in dinner, walk the dog, make childcare arrangements, etc., etc. Why would somebody go through all that hassle? There has to be a really good reason, even for a plant person. Having everyone leave with a door prize brom is a big deal, and so is learning something new each month and enjoying the time spent. The social and educational elements of our meetings are important. Having a routine is comfortable until it becomes boring. So, we need to keep trying new things at our meetings.

So, what do we change? Should something be eliminated? Can something be added? This month we are making a little change. When we give out the door prize broms, the first group called will be those who bring a Plant of the Month... a Big Neo. (Whether it's a 'Big Boy With Spines' or a 'Giant Gal With Spines', bring it on!) We will see how folks like it. Maybe we keep the practice, maybe not. Perhaps in the future we let Show & Tell participants choose first, too. It isn't much of a change. Sometimes, a little spice can make a dish. Maybe in July or August we change something more significant? Or, add some activity? Have an idea?

Mike McMahon

## May Minutes

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

#### **Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, May 17, 2023, 7-9pm**

**Program:** President Mike McMahon introduced speaker Grant Groves, a longtime member of BSCF who currently lives in Hernando Beach. Grant presented a stunning slide show on Bromeliads in Costa Rica, showing many species in the wild and in cultivation.

**The Business Meeting** was called to order by President Mike McMahon at 8:05 pm.

**New Members and Guests:** Recording Secretary Katherine Vaccaro invited us to welcome guest Jim Miller and new members Frances Denizard, Raquel Rivera, Jeanne Scarbraugh, Linda Scherer, and Adrie & Rick Schupp.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the March, 2023 meeting were published in the Newsletter. A motion was made by Tim Dreggors and seconded by Kelli Ahnen that they be approved. The motion passed.

**Treasurer's report:** Joyce Gibault gave an abbreviated report on April's expenses. A detailed account of our income and expenses for May, including the Mother's Day Show and Sale, will be given in June.

**Plant Sale report:** Mike Saunders gave initial figures for the Mother's Day event. 765 plants were sold by 10 sellers. Gross sale proceeds are believed to be a new record for the event.

**President's Report:** Mike McMahon thanked everyone for making the Mother's Day event a success. He pointed out that the Fashion Square location no longer supports our mission to educate the general public about bromeliads. He invited all members to submit ideas for a 2024 location.

There was no **Old Business**.

**New Business:** A motion was made by Marilyn Howser and seconded by Robin Norton to approve the revised Bylaws. There was no discussion and the motion was approved by a super majority of the membership.

A motion was made by Joyce Gibault and seconded by Paula Edwards to approve the revised Standing Rules. There was no discussion and the motion was approved by a majority of the membership.

President Mike McMahon invited all members to submit input on additional changes to both documents.

A motion was made by Phil Wright and seconded by Tim Dreggors to authorize participation in the November GROWvember plant sale at Mead Gardens in Winter Park. The motion was approved.

All members are invited to reach out to longtime member William (Bill) Clark, who had shoulder replacement surgery.

**Show & Tell** continues to draw beautiful specimens, including one of Marilyn Howser's billbergias from the plant sale that popped out a bloom after purchase!

**Door Prize/Raffle giveaways** rounded out the evening.  
Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Vaccaro, Recording Secretary

## Upcoming Events

2023 FCBS Bromeliad Extravaganza  
hosted by the Bromeliad Society of the Palm Beaches  
*where Bromeliads meet*

Our exciting guest speakers will include:

Chester Skotak  
Eloise Beach  
David Shiigi

*More details to come*

## 2023 BROMELIAD EXTRAVAGANZA, July 28-29

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, in partnership with the Bromeliad Society of the Palm Beaches, presents its largest event of the year. Don't delay. Register today. This event sells out!

### World Renowned Guest Speakers

Chester Skotak, Costa Rica

David Shiigi, Hawaii

Eloise Beach, Apopka

\*Chester's final appearance, don't miss this historical event

### Registration

\$150 register by April 30

\$175 register on or after May 1

- Friday Night BBQ
- Early Access to Plant Sale
- Afternoon Lectures
- Saturday Night Banquet
- Rare Plant Auction
- Silent Auction

Optional: \$25 Sunday garden tour and brunch



### Saturday Agenda

- Bromeliad sale 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
- Dutch treat boxed lunch available
- Lectures
  - David Shiigi 1:00 to 1:45 pm
  - Eloise Beach 2:00 to 2:45 pm
  - Chester Skotak 3:00 to 3:45 pm
- Reception 6:00 pm cash bar
- Banquet dinner 7:00 pm
- Raffle 50/50
- FCBS Rare Plant and Silent Auction

### Schedule at a Glance

#### Friday

Registration opens at 3:00 pm

Welcome reception and BBQ 6:00 to 7:30 pm

Registrants only plant sale 7:30 to 9:30 pm

#### Saturday

Plant sale 9:00 am to 4:00 pm (Open to the public)



Lectures 1:00 pm to 3:45 p.m.

Reception 6:00 pm

Banquet 7:00 pm

\*Registrant guest \$75 for banquet dinner

### Sunday: Optional Garden Tour

9:00am Garden tour and brunch \$25.00

Hosted by Joe Libertucci

\*Travel on your own, about 20-minutes from the hotel

### West Palm Beach Marriott

1001 Okeechobee Blvd

West Palm Beach, FL 33401

[www.marriott.com](http://www.marriott.com)

[561-833-1234](tel:561-833-1234)

Rooms are \$139 until June 30th

Parking is \$8 per day

Register online or download and print the registration form at:

[www.fcbsextravaganza.org](http://www.fcbsextravaganza.org)

## Plant of the Month

For June I thought it would be fun to feature "Big Boys with Spines" from the Brazilian rain forest. I grow several of these sun-loving large species in my St Cloud greenhouse. Often referred to as Carcharodon types, these species include *Neoregelia* Giant, Rainbow, Spines, Silver, Skotak's Tiger, *silvomontana*, *gigas*, *retrorsa*, *rothinessa* and *viridovinosa*, among others. Some of these "Big Boys" can have a diameter of over 24" and even grow tall and upright. They can be found growing epiphytically in trees or as terrestrials. If you have any of these large spiny species, even if they're young specimens, please bring 'em in for our plant of the month table. Any questions? Email John Boardman at [jboard55@yahoo.com](mailto:jboard55@yahoo.com)



*Neoregelia gigas* (species): John Boardman

## Guest Speaker - Dr Theresa Bert

Topic: “Bromeliad Taxonomy: the Taxonomists’ Conundrum with the Bromeliaceae Phylogenetic Quagmire-- OR, What the Heck are They Calling This Thing Now, and Do I Need to Worry about That?”

Scientists who study and classify bromeliad species are currently involved in a whirlwind of studies using genetics to define and organize bromeliad genera and species. They are finding that many bromeliad species don’t belong in the genera that they’ve been assigned to.

We’ll learn about the new genera that have been split off Tillandsia, Vriesea, and other genera in the Tillandsioideae subfamily. The new genera will impact us as bromeliad growers because, sooner or later, we’ll have to change the names of some of our favorite bromeliads; and we’ll need to be careful not to purchase bromeliads that we already have but don’t recognize the genera names.

Dr. Terrie Bert is a longstanding member of the Sarasota Bromeliad Society (SBS) and the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society and has held multiple offices in the SBS. She also served the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies (FCBS) as a representative and officer for eight years and has authored articles for the FCBS Newsletter. For the Bromeliad Society International, she has been a Florida Director, chaired several international committees, and contributed articles to the BSI Journal.

Currently, she is Librarian, Curator of the Wally Berg Award of Excellence, and a Master Judge. Terrie has given over 100 presentations on bromeliads to numerous U.S. and international bromeliad societies and other groups. She cultivates more than 2,000 different bromeliads in 30 genera. She’s won multiple top awards in local bromeliad shows and BSI world conferences. Terrie has a Ph.D. in marine biology and recently retired from her position as a research scientist for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.



## Hospitality

The May Members' Market Sale was fabulous and fun.....so were the treats! I was embarrassed that John ate so much of the meatball and noodles casserole. It was delicious! Keep the food coming so we all can enjoy a variety. Personally, I love Katherine's salted nuts!! The varied drinks are a nice addition to the food. Hauling all of the ice is no easy task. So a special thank you to Kathy and her husband! Look forward to seeing you in June and enjoying more tasty treats!

Peggy Bohl

## Mother's Day Sale

So many photos, so little space.  
Thank you Cathy











## 2023 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  
**Secretary:** Katherine Vaccaro  
**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) Helpers:  
**Welcome Table/Raffle Coordinator:** **Robin Norton** Helpers: **Tracy Kochmann, Katherine Vaccaro**  
**Secret Bid Auction Coordinator:** **Phil Wright**  
**Plant Of The Month Coordinator:** **John Boardman**  
**Speaker Helper:** **John Boardman**  
**Librarian :** **Telka diFate**  
**Newsletter Editor:** **John Vecchitto** ..... Would be good to have a couple of people as 'reporters', supplying John with photos, news blurbs and articles.  
**Newsletter Proofreader:** **Marty Folk**  
**Membership Secretary:** **Marilyn Howser**

### PLANT SALES -

**Plant Sale Chair for Leu Gardens Spring Plant Sale:** **Mike Saunders.**  
**Field Trip Organizer:** **Karen Steinberg**  
**Webmaster:** **Greg Kolojeski**

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

**PO Box 536961**

**Orlando, FL 32853-6961**

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

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



**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.