



orlandiana

**Newsletter of the
Bromeliad Society of Central Florida**
Volume no. 52, Issue no. 8

Next meeting: August 20, 2025

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.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!

Cover photo: Neoregelia 'Sugar Buzz', courtesy: John Boardman

President's Message

The 2025 Bromeliad Extravaganza will be held next month, September 26th and 27th. This will be an opportunity to see great speakers, mingle with bromeliad growers and sellers. The quantity and quality of plants that will be offered will make even the seasoned collector excited. It is rare that we get a show and gathering so close to our location. Next year it will be held in California. What a great opportunity to meet people with our mutual interests and passion, discuss ideas, plants, and maybe even travel opportunities.

The board has been working hard in the background trying to find a meeting place for the October meeting, since Leu Gardens informed us that we are unable to meet then due to events happening at that time. By the time the newsletter is mailed out, it should be finalized.

The rain seems to be hit or miss the last couple of weeks depending on your location. The heat index has been incredibly high. Remember, don't over do it in this heat, take breaks frequently, and stay hydrated!

Dan Sawyer

July 2024 Minutes

BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA, INC.

Draft Meeting Minutes

July 16, 2025

Will be approved with potential corrections at the August 20, 2025 meeting.

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

Program: Vice President Bonnie Friedrich introduced speaker Ray Lemieux who spoke on the topic Cleaning Up Bromeliads, demonstrating his methods on several that he brought.

Announcements: President Dan Sawyer announced a meeting break at 7:43 pm to be resumed at 8:00 pm.

Business Meeting was called to order at 8:00 pm by Dan Sawyer.

Membership Secretary: Pam Marion announced that there were 40 members in attendance. She also introduced new guests:

Chester & Lorena Skotak from Costa Rica
Glen Klausman from Winter Park
Brad Baldwin from Moline, Illinois
Bobby Felix, guest of Merely Spitzer
Glenn Spitzer, guest and husband of Merely Spitzer

Randall Baker from Orlando renewed his membership.

Minutes: The draft minutes of the June 16, 2025 meeting were published in the July 2025 Orlandiana. **A motion to accept the minutes as written was made by Greg Spak and seconded by Katharine Vacarro. The motion was passed unanimously.**

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

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Show & Tell:

Mike McMahon reported on the successful progress of his work growing his tillandsias on coir.

John Boardman along with Chester Skotak displayed and discussed various plants in his collection originally developed and hybridized by Chester:

Neoregelias 'Time Warp', 'Innovator', 'Pyromania', 'Eye Candy', and 'Legend'.

His Legend was voted Best Neoregelia at the 2024 World Bromeliad Conference.

He also brought an Aechmea 'Roberto Menescal'

Door Prize/Raffle giveaways: Dan Sawyer announced the order of seating rows to select door prizes.

Dan then drew and announced raffle ticket numbers.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m .

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Norton
Recording Secretary
Bromeliad Society Central Florida

Date Approved

Guest Speaker

Marty Baxley is the owner of Jungle Gems Nursery. Marty was first introduced to bromeliads in 1986 by his next door neighbor, who at that time was a member of FWCBS and introduced him to the then-president of FWCBS, who in turn invited him to attend an FWCBS meeting. By 1987 he was collaborating with Michael Kiehl growing bromeliads on wooden pallets. By the 90's he was collaborating with his father in building what would become Jungle Gems. Marty will be speaking on bromeliads, "Fact or Fiction".



A Marty Baxley hybrid

Upcoming Events

2025 Bromeliad Extravaganza

September 26th to 27th, 2025
Kissimmee, Florida (near Disney)
Conference Registration Fee: \$125

Hosted by:



The Bromeliad Extravaganza is a special event that is held every two years in Florida. It is sponsored by the **Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies** and hosted this year by the **Seminole Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society**. It is the biggest Bromeliad event of 2025 in Florida and will be back in the Orlando area for the first time since 2019.

You may register for the conference for \$125 and have exclusive access with other Bromeliad enthusiasts to a Friday night dinner with early access to the plant sale on Friday evening. Registrants will also have exclusive access to three Saturday afternoon seminars with speakers from Brazil (**Leonardo Versieux** on "Brazil: Bromeliads of the Tropics"), Florida (**Dennis Cathcart** on "Remembering Ray Coleman"), and Louisiana (**Bryan Windham** on "Growing & Hybridizing Terrestrial Bromeliads") as well as a dinner banquet prior to the Rare Plant Auction on Saturday night. Registration also includes a Conference Logo bag with a

\$10 plant sale coupon (if you register by the end of August), a free ticket to enter in a drawing for extra-early access to the plant sale on Friday evening, and access to several members' gardens early Sunday afternoon.

The **2025 Bromeliad Extravaganza** will be held Friday evening and Saturday on **September 26th and 27th** at the Ramada Gateway Hotel, 7470 W. Irlo Bronson Memorial Hwy., Kissimmee, FL 34747. There will be a huge Bromeliad plant sale on Saturday, Sept. 27th from 9am to 4pm and a Rare Plant Auction starting at 8pm. These are open to the public with free parking.

Enter [BromeliadX.com](https://bromeliadx.com) in any browser for more information on the **2025 Bromeliad Extravaganza** including special hotel rates if booked before August 26th. Register now online at <https://sbtps.square.site/>.

Sponsored by:



GROWvember AT MEAD GARDEN, NOV. 7-8, 2025

BSCF is once more participating in Mead Botanical Garden's GROWvember Fall Festival, which has become the most fun bromeliad sale of the year.

WHERE: Mead Botanical Garden, 1300 S. Denning Drive, Winter Park, FL 32789

WHEN: Friday, November 7 (officially, 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM) and Saturday, November 8 (8:00 AM to 4:00 PM).



All members are able to sell bromeliads at this event. Each selling member provides their own tables, chairs, tent or whatever else they need. All sales are through the central society check-out, with BSCF retaining 20%. There will be dozens of other booths selling all sorts of plants, but only bromeliads may be sold at the BSCF booth. If you are interested, contact Chair Mike McMahon (mike.mcmahon2024@outlook.com) so he can reserve a spot for you. He will send you the rules for the sale. NOTE: Although the festival opens to the public at 2:00 PM on Friday, November 7, all BSCF participants should plan to be ready by Noon. This allows BSCF members to have a chance to be 'first' before the brom-crazies from outside the Orlando area start showing up.

Species Spotlight

TILLANDSIA CHIAPENSIS

By Mike McMahon

Tillandsia chiapensis is one of the most frequently used species for hybridization, but not well-known by bromeliad hobbyists who do not focus on Tillandsias. It was first described by Sue Gardner in 1978. As soon as it became available, it quickly spread among Tillandsia enthusiasts because of its beauty and unique traits. It was found in an area of the Mexican state of Chiapas known as the Central Depression. This is an area bounded by mountain ranges and composed of a number of distinct valleys. It can be very hot and the primary vegetation is inhospitable dry thorn woodland. However, during the summer the humidity soars due to the large volume of rain received in July and August. Here, on limestone canyon walls rising as much as 1,000 feet above the river below, are dense colonies of *T. chiapensis*. These colonies extend along the canyon for miles, but are not easily reached. The plants thrive in full sun. The natural bloom period is October-November following the summer wet season. Companion bromeliads



T. chiapensis in habitat



T. chiapensis nursery grown

include various species of *Hechtia*. Also found in the vicinity are forms of *T. fasciculata* and *T. concolor*. The plants currently available commercially, however, are mostly grown in Central American nurseries under shade cloth and imported to the U.S.



T. chiapensis (Giant form)

T. chiapensis gained quick popularity because it is both beautiful and versatile. It thrives in bright filtered light or full sun. It can endure long dry spells and is happy with daily summer rain. Although it needs protection from frost/freezes, low temperatures are otherwise of no concern. The foliage is a soft silvery gray, becoming pinkish in bright light. It forms clumps, often pupping before blooming as well as afterwards. It grows well without extra fertilizer, but it also responds well to regular fertilization, doubling or tripling the rate of growth. Although



T. *chiapensis* x *jalisco-monticola*



T. 'Majestic' (*T.chiapensis* x *concolor*)



T. 'Silverado' (*chiapensis* x *xerographica*)

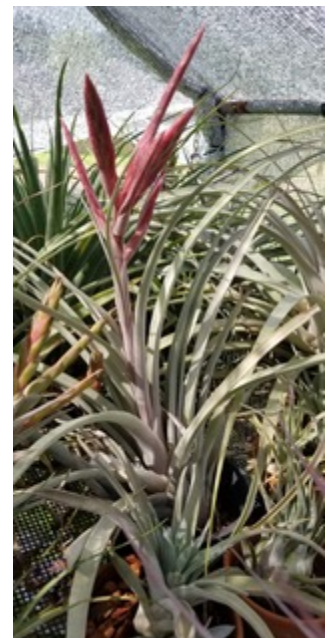
the plant can reach about 18-inches across, it is more typical for the species to be 8-12 inches across when it blooms. There are some forms that grow larger. The flower spike starts as silvery green, turning pink as it rises over a period of 4-6 weeks. Flowers emerge one by one over a period of more than a month. The spike then becomes a deep rose pink after flowering. The flowers are a dark blue, appearing nearly black when viewed from a distance. The spike retains attractive color for many months, sometimes for nearly a year.



T. Madeleine (*T chiapensis* X *exserta*)



T. 'King Cobra' (*chiapensis* x *botteri*)



T. schusteri x *chiapensis*

Hybridizers have loved crossing it with nearly every other species they can get to bloom at the same time. Its hybrids generally are not as welcoming of full direct sun, but do like bright light and often can tolerate more direct sun than many Tillies, especially in cool periods of the year. The pink inflorescence color is often passed to its hybrid offspring, together with the trait of retaining color for an extended period.

For those interested in giving Tillies a try, *T. chiapensis* is a good introduction. It forgives all the hobbyist's mistakes, except putting it in deep shade.

Plant of the Month

August: Show us your bigeneric crosses!

This month's theme is to showcase any bromeliad, which is the result of a cross of two different genera. There are some really interesting crosses, resulting in unique shapes, sizes, colors, and blooms! You may not realize it, but most everyone has a cross or two in their collection.

Here are some more common bigeneric crosses:

- xAnamea (Aechmea x Ananas)
- xBillmea (Billbergia x Aechmea)
- xCanmea (Canistrum x Aechmea)
- xHohenmea (Hohenbergia x Aechmea)
- xNeomea (Neoregelia x Aechmea)
- xPortmea (Portea x Aechmea)
- xQuesmea (Quesnelia x Aechmea)



xNeomea 'Mars'

Sad news to announce that BSCF member, Christie Stacey, passed away in May after a long illness. Christie was the lifetime partner of BSCF member, Greg Spak. Our deepest sympathy and thoughts go out to Greg. She will be missed.

Pictures



Neoregelia Legend - won Best
Neoregelia the World Bromeliad
conference in 2024



Neoregelia Time Warp



Aechmea Roberto Menescal



Chester Skotak and John Boardman talking about
Chester's hybrids during show and tell.



This is a picture of our speaker, Ray Lemieux, who is demonstrating how he cleans up Bromeliad plants.

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 \$10 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!

Date _____ Check # _____ Cash \$ _____

www.bromeliadsorlando.com

Officers

President: **Dan Sawyer**

Vice-President: **Bonnie Friedrich**

Treasurer: **Joyce Gibault**

Recording Secretary: **Robin Norton**

Membership Secretary: **Pam Marion**

Immediate Past President: **Mike McMahon**

Florida Council Reps: **Mike Saunders & Dan Sawyer**

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:

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: **Steve Beaudoin**

Speaker Helper: **Bonnie Friedrich**

Librarian :

Newsletter Editor: **John Vecchitto**

Newsletter Proofreader: **Marty Folk, Katherine Vaccaro, Destini Coiner**

Audit Committee: **Dr. Telka diFate, Bonnie Friedrich, Steve Beaudoin, John Vecchitto**

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.