

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

President Mike Saunders   Vice President Bonnie Friedrich  
Treasurer Joyce Gibault   Recording Secretary Sandy Caruthers  
Membership Secretary Robin Norton  
Immediate Past President Dan Sawyer

**January 21, 2026**

**Bonnie Friedrich called the meeting of the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida to order at 7:00 pm.**

**Program:** Bonnie introduced speaker Alex Bello, owner of Bello Tropicals Nursery, who spoke on the topic of South Florida Tillandsias, Hybrids and More.

### **Announcements:**

President Mike Saunders announced a meeting break at 7:45 p.m. to be resumed at 8:00 p.m.

**Business Meeting** was called to order at 8:02 pm.

**President's Report:** Mike Saunders was appointed Vice President by the President to fill that vacant position when Bonnie had moved into the vacant President's position according to the Bylaws. Then Bonnie resigned as President resulting in Mike, the Vice President, becoming President. Mike then appointed Bonnie as Vice President to fill the vacancy created when Bonnie resigned as President and Mike became President. The Board voted to confirm those appointments.

There were no changes or amendments to the draft minutes of the October, 2025, meeting which were published in the October, 2025, *Orlandiana*. **A motion to accept the minutes as written was made by Mike McMahon and seconded by Craig Allen. The motion was passed unanimously.**

Those who brought food and plants of the month were thanked.

Volunteers are still being sought for open positions. Editor of the *Orlandiana* is vacant. Please contact Mike or Bonnie if interested. A new list will be forthcoming.

Two spots have been paid for Saturday, March 14, 2026 and Sunday, March 15, 2026, at the Leu Gardens Spring Plant Sale. Set up will be Friday, March 13.

For information about The World Conference see BSI.org. An electronic membership for one year is \$7.50 for first time subscribers.

**Vice President's Report:** Bonnie announced the February 18 speaker will be Jason Mellica. Leu Gardens will be compensating the club's overpayment by extending the room contract one month.

**Membership Secretary's report:** Robin reported that 36 members and one guest were in attendance. Please pay your 2026 dues which are now due.

**Treasurer's report:** Joyce reported that the organization was financially stable. Income and expenses were presented. The financial reports have been submitted to the audit committee.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** Robin Norton moved and Steve Beaudoin seconded, according to the Bylaws, to keep the 2026 annual member dues at \$15.00 for individuals and \$5.00 for additional family members.

**Show & Tell:** Members John Boardman, Mike McMahon and Mike Saunders presented and discussed the specimen that they brought for the Show and Tell table followed by the raffle and door prize drawings.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Caruthers, Recording Secretary

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### **Minutes for February 18, 2026 (amended April 15, 2026)**

**Mike Saunders called the meeting of the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida to order at 7:00 pm.**

**Program:** Bonnie introduced speaker Jason Mellica who presented a program on “New Bromeliad Hybrids 2026.”

#### **Announcements:**

President Mike Saunders announced a meeting break at 7:48 p.m. to be resumed at 8:00 p.m.

**Business Meeting** was called to order at 8:05 p.m.

**President’s Report:** Those who brought food and helped set up the meeting were thanked.

Volunteers are still being sought for open positions to supply beverages and as editor of the *Orlandiana*. John Vecchito was thanked for his several years editing the *Orlandiana*. The Society reimburses receipts for beverages purchased for the meetings. Please contact Mike or Bonnie if interested. Volunteers are also needed to continue helping with breakdown of the room after the meeting. John Boardman will coordinate Plant of the Month. The position of Librarian is still open.

Two spots have been paid for Saturday, March 14, 2026, and Sunday, March 15, 2026, at the Leu Gardens Spring Plant Sale. Set up will be Friday, March 13. More volunteers would be appreciated particularly Saturday morning. Any member may sell plants. If you are selling plants, please let Mike know by March 10. If you have an extra tent that the Society could use, please contact Mike Saunders. He and Bonnie will oversee the sale.

For information about The World Conference see BSI.org. Electronic membership for one year is \$7.50 for first time subscribers.

**Vice President's Report:** Bonnie announced the March 18, speaker, Chip Jones, will speak on "Showing Cultural and Fertilizer Effects and How to Grow Bromeliads." The April 15 meeting will be Lee Magnuson speaking on 'Something Old and Something New- 16 Years of Collecting and Hybridizing Bromeliads.' It was suggested to Google "cold sensitive bromeliads" for advice by Dale Jenkins.

**Membership Secretary's Report:** Robin reported that 37 members and one new member were in attendance. Please pay your 2026 dues which are now due. Please notify her of any name or address changes for the roster. Only current members may sell plants at events. Dues were due in January. Please rejoin if you haven't already paid.

**Treasurer's report:** Joyce reported that Mike McMahon paid the post office box rental fee and the state organization fee. Income and expenses were presented. The financial report will be filed for audit. The annual report was prepared. Joyce stressed how important club fundraisers are to pay expenses beyond what our dues cover. The audit committee report was given to the members by its chairman, Paula Edwards. The audit committee met on January 25, 2026 and reported that the financial paperwork was in good order and that they had no recommendations.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

The next meeting is March 13.

**Show & Tell:** John Boardman showed a *Hechtia texensis*, a Texas native from the Big Bend area.

**Raffle and door prize drawings.** Guests, new members, people who worked at the registration table and those who set up the room were asked to go first. Craig Allen donated a tee shirt that was auctioned for \$9.00.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Submitted by,

Sandy Caruthers, Recording Secretary

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### **Minutes for March 18, 2026**

**Bonnie Friedrich called the meeting of the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida to order at 7:05 pm.**

**Program:** Bonnie introduced speaker Chip Jones

**Announcements:** After thanking the speaker, Bonnie announced the meeting would resume after a ten-minute break.

**Business Meeting** was called to order at 8:05 p.m.

**President's Report:** Mike Saunders was absent. Vice President Bonnie Friedrich thanked those who brought plants for the door prizes and the raffle, food and helped set up the meeting.

Volunteers are still being sought for open positions to supply beverages and as editor of the *Orlandiana*. Please contact Mike or Bonnie if interested. Volunteers are also needed to continue helping with breakdown of the room after the meeting.

The silent auction was closed.

Last year's Leu Garden sale had 10 sellers. This year there were only four, but the sale produced only three thousand dollars less than last year.

Set up for the Mother's Day sale will be on Thursday, May 7, and the sale will take place on May 8 and 9. Plants will be arranged by genus. Any paid member may sell. Mike Saunders and Bonnie Friedrich are in charge. Sue Fisher is learning to run the next sale. Mike McMahon is the Mall contact.

Members were reminded that a first year membership in BSI is \$7.50.  
For information about The World Conference see BSI.org.

**Vice President's Report:** The April 15 meeting will be Lee Magnuson speaking on 'Something Old and Something New- 16 Years of Collecting and Hybridizing Bromeliads.' On May 20 Rick Ryals will make a power point presentation about the BSI World Conference.

**Membership Secretary's Report:** Robin reported that there were two guests and that 75 members had been renewed.

**Treasurer's report:** Joyce reported that the speaker had been paid as well as the membership in the Cryptanthus Society. Income and expenses were presented. The financial report will be filed for audit.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

The next meeting is April 15.

**Show & Tell:**

**Raffle and door prize drawings.** Guests, new members, people who worked at the registration table and those who set up the room were asked to go first.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Submitted by,

Sandy Caruthers, Recording Secretary