



# Orlandiana



**Newsletter of the  
Bromeliad Society of Central Florida**  
Volume no. 50, Issue no. 11 & 12



**Next meeting: November 15, 2023**

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

**Dinner will be served at 6:00 pm**

Volunteers should arrive 5:00 pm or earlier

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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!

PHOTO COURTESY: JOHN BOARDMAN

## President's Message

What a wonderful time of the year. The mornings are cool. Working in the garden is a pleasure. We have the Mead Garden sale, which is becoming as big a deal for BSCF as the Leu Gardens spring sale. And, we close out our year with the holiday party. As I write this, there are 89 people coming to the party! Maybe more by the time this is published. Back before covid, we did not even have that many members. Now, BSCF and our sister Seminole society are the two largest brom societies in the state with over 120 members each. Which is larger depends on the day you ask. And, we continue to grow.

At the October meeting of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies (which John Boardman generously allowed to be held at his home), the side talk was about the difficulties societies around the state are experiencing. Some are declining in membership. Some barely keep even. Many are dependent on an 'old guard' holding things together, and those folks can lose energy after too many years of holding things together. The repetitive routine can wear down a person. There are even two groups that do not belong to Florida Council. The reason is simple. They do not have anyone to go to Council meetings or do anything.

Why are so many other societies not growing? Some societies say they have a lot of competition from other plant groups focused on palms or orchids or begonias or whatever. They are happy just not to be losing members. It seems to me that societies in larger population centers should be proportionately larger ... some bigger than BSCF and Seminole combined. But, they are not. Having a flat year is a success for a business only if it has been hit with a recession. Of course, plant societies are not businesses. Still, a lack of growth suggests being on the edge of decline. It would be good to know why so we can avoid the problems other societies are experiencing.

Look at it the other way around. Why are BSCF and Seminole each growing larger than they've ever been? Both operate in close proximity and their "service areas" largely overlap. It would be reasonable to expect there would be competition. Instead, the energy of both societies has fostered an environment for both to thrive and there are folks who are members of both. Instead of competition, there is cooperation. I do not think there are more brom lovers in east central Florida than elsewhere. I think the answers are found elsewhere.

This past weekend I learned that like BSCF, Seminole has not had an in-person meeting of its board in over 5 years... maybe 6 years. Decisions get made quickly by email, an occasional phone call and conversations at meetings. There is no waiting around for a monthly meeting. Nobody is made to feel guilty because they missed a board or committee meeting to go to their grandkids' ball game. Nobody feels obligated to talk for 10 minutes on every subject

that comes up just because somebody else talked that long. Hours are not spent in meetings discussing an agenda for no purpose beyond having the discussion. Likewise, at BSCF's monthly meetings the business portion typically takes no more than 15-20 minutes, even when we have amended bylaws and held elections. We keep focused on the plants, not internal organizational 'stuff'.

It may not seem logical that by "ignoring" organizational "stuff" the organization becomes stronger, but I think that is part of the answer. Of course, the truly important things are not ignored.... The things directed at the mission of learning and teaching about bromeliads, creating opportunities to acquire them and sharing our love for broms. The core things get done. All the other stuff takes time away from the plants. People do not join to go to a meeting to discuss whether the table covers will be red or green or blue, but if you have a meeting they will. They become members to discuss bromeliads, to learn about bromeliads and to acquire bromeliads. A business focused on its "organizational stuff" can get bogged down in corporate bureaucracy, diluting what should be its focus on products and customers. The same is true for a plant society. Our society is not about the society. It is about bromeliads.

Figuring out what we are doing right, and what others have done wrong, goes to the heart of BSCF planning for success. Not having a lot of in-person meetings is not the answer per se. Rather, it is the fact that the focus is not on processes and formalities people really do not care about. Resources of time and energy need to be devoted to what people do care about. I think it boils down to public outreach, inclusiveness and focusing on why members join. It is all about the plants. That, I think, is why our society is growing when so many others are not. It's keeping focus.

It's all about the broms.

Mike McMahon

## October Minutes

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

#### **Meeting Minutes**

**October 18, 2023**

The evening's events kicked off with a special Plant of the Month Halloween contest, which drew huge participation and enthusiastic voting. We also enjoyed the always-popular Silent Auction of member plants and the beautiful specimens offered for sale by our speakers.

**Program:** Vice President Tim Dreggors introduced speakers Lee Magnuson and Jonathan Lallier of Brilliant Bromeliads, who presented a slideshow on the new hybrids they've bred. Jonathan also conducted a secret auction for two miniature plants from overseas that are unavailable in the U.S.

**The Business Meeting** was called to order by President Mike McMahon at 8:00 pm.

**New Members and Guests:** There were none this month.

Our President made the announcement we'd all been eagerly anticipating: the winner of the Halloween plant of the month contest. Kathy Hancock won for her clever creation of Cousin It from the Addams Family, using a tomato cage and *tillandsia usneoides*.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the September, 2023 meeting were published in the *Orlandiana*. A motion was made by John Boardman and seconded by Peggy Bohl that they be approved. The motion passed.

**Treasurer's report:** Joyce Gibault reported on our income and expenses for September, which were minimal. We continue to have healthy reserves in both our checking and money market accounts.

**Holiday Party report:** Teresa Eddy and Joyce Gibault reported that our November 15th celebration will begin at 6pm, an hour earlier than our usual meeting time. Those who are helping with decorations should arrive by 4:30 and those bringing food should arrive by 5:30. Signups have been excellent. Those who don't register in advance will not receive a Society gift plant, since they must be ordered in advance.

### **President's Report:**

Mike reported that the November 10th and 11th Mead Gardens GROWvember Sale has excellent seller signups. Setup should be complete by noon on Friday, so plan to arrive early to get the best choices before out-of-towners descend at 1pm.

There was no **Old Business**.

### **New Business:**

Mike called on Julia Jensen from the Nominating Committee, who presented the Slate of Officer recommendations for 2024. They are:

President Mike McMahon  
Vice President Tim Dreggors  
Treasurer Joyce Gibault  
Recording Secretary Telka diFate  
Membership Secretary Marilyn Howser

There were no nominations from the floor.

Teresa Eddy made a motion that the Slate be accepted and Mike Saunders seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Congratulations to our new Board!

As an aside, our President announced that Dan Sawyer agreed to take over Telka's old duties as Librarian if he is also appointed Recycling Czar at meetings. This means he'll make sure we don't toss our cans and other recyclables. Thank you, Dan!

### **Show & Tell**

Several interesting specimens were shown and explained.

In addition, Pam Marion demonstrated giant bamboo tongs that can be ordered inexpensively online to remove leaves and other debris from our plants without getting "bitten" by their thorns. (Also available in stainless.) Pam also showed a system she and her husband devised for covering plants in cold weather: buy heavy-duty plastic sheeting; buy an inexpensive rivet gun and put rivets around all sides; buy metal prong stakes to hold down. No more blowing away in the wind!

**Door Prize/Raffle giveaways** rounded out the evening.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Vaccaro, Recording Secretary

## Upcoming Events

### GROWvember AT MEAD GARDEN

BSCF is once more participating in Mead Garden's Fall Festival. All members are able to sell bromeliads at this event, but let Mike McMahon know if you want to sell bromeliads so space can be arranged. He will send you the information you need to get your plants ready.

All members will want to check out the sale. Last year there were way over a thousand plants for sale. Brom-a-holics came from as far away as Tampa, Vero Beach, St. Augustine and Ocala because there were so many broms not usually found for sale. With Brom Crazies coming from all over, the folks selling are saving up special plants just for the Mead Garden sale. There will be some truly rare varieties, and there will be plenty in all price ranges. BSCF has worked to make the Fall Mead Garden sale as big as any brom sale in the area, and it is catching on. Plus, there will be numerous nurseries and specialty growers with booths... orchids, ferns, begonias and all sorts of exotic plants, trees and shrubs.

There is going to be something for everyone. Don't miss out! Mark your calendar.

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

**Nov. 10 FALL**  
2 - 6 P.M. **PLANT**

**Nov. 11 SALE**  
8 A.M. - 4 P.M. **AND MORE!**

Mead Botanical Garden  
1300 S. Denning Dr.  
Winter Park, FL 32789

**FREE ENTRY**

**FREE PARKING**

**VARIETY OF PLANTS**

**SPEAKERS & WORKSHOPS**

**KIDS ACTIVITIES**

**FOOD, MUSIC & BEER GARDEN**

Visit [MeadGarden.org](http://MeadGarden.org)  
for more information!

**GROWVEMBER**

MEAD BOTANICAL GARDEN

**WHEN: Friday, November 10 (2:00 PM to 6:00 PM) and Saturday, November 11 (8:00 AM to 4:00 PM) (Those are the official times. We'll actually be ready by Noon on Friday for the brom-addicted. 😊 )**

If you want to beat folks from Georgia and everywhere else who will be loading up cars full of broms, we will be ready at Noon on Friday.

## Holiday Party

Instead of a normal meeting this month, we close out the BSCF year with the annual **Holiday Party**. BSCF is supplying turkey, ham and Polish sausages. Attendees bring a potluck dish. It is always a big spread, and with 90 or more members and their spouses/guests coming, everybody will have more delicious specialties to choose from than ever.

The big entertainment for the evening will be the gift exchange. Even those not participating will enjoy the surprises as bromeliads are unwrapped. Those who want to participate bring a bromeliad (\$20 value range) wrapped up so it cannot be seen. Fancy wrapping or plain brown bag, it is what's inside that will delight. For the Holiday Party the Welcome Table will be outside the room. Stop there to get a raffle-type ticket. Then take your wrapped bromeliad to the tables at the front of the room (where speakers have their sale plants). When the time comes, tickets will be drawn and participants get to pick a package from among all those brought. Then they unwrap the package where everyone can see. Always ooohs and aaahs, and some laughs. Bromeliads only, please.

Along the way, all members (not their guests), will get to select a gift bromeliad BSCF has acquired from McCrory's Nursery just for this event.

The evening is topped off with a game of blackjack at each table with the winner receiving the centerpiece bromeliad on their table.

**DATE: Weds., November 15 at Leu Gardens.**



**TIME:** Dinner will be begin being served at 6:00 PM ... so, arrive earlier! (Those helping set-up, decorate, etc. should arrive by 5:00 PM. We are asking for the room to be available for set-up beginning at 4:30, but this is not yet confirmed.) If you cannot arrive until after 6:00 PM, it's OK. Food service will be continuous.

## BSCF Hosts Florida Council



On Saturday, October 28th, representatives from the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies met at the home of BSCF member John Boardman, for their regular quarterly meeting. The eighteen council members in attendance had lunch on the patio next to John's Koi pond and waterfalls. They enjoyed lasagna, salad, and garlic bread prepared and served by BSCF members Pam Marion and Tina Self. After lunch the business meeting took place lasting about



an hour. A retirement party was held for Sudi Hipsley as she is retiring from serving as long time treasurer of the FCBS. A special cake in her honor was prepared by Marian Kennell for the occasion. After the meeting and festivities, members toured John's greenhouse to see his bromeliad collection. A good time was had by all.

Submitted by John Boardman and Pam Marion

## BSCF Dues

By Laws of the Bromeliad Society of Central FL

### Article V Dues

Section 1. Annual dues shall be determined or reaffirmed at the first meeting of the Society in January of each year.



Section 2. Family membership is available upon payment of annual dues by one family member, and payment of \$5.00 by each additional family member.

Section 3. **Dues are due and payable January 1 and delinquent February 1.** One notice of delinquency shall be mailed. Only those who have paid full annual dues, student members, Life members, and others designated by the Board of Directors will receive Society publications. All Life, paid regular and student members will be listed in the annual roster.

The last page of each Newsletter is a Membership Form. Please print one and fill in your name(s). If your name, address, phone no. or email address has not changed just write SAME in that area. If you have any updates please provide in the appropriate area.

**I will be accepting dues at the January meeting. Please pay with a check. Your cancelled check is your receipt. Or you can mail your check and Membership form to the address on the form.**

Dues are \$15.00 for one person and \$5.00 for each additional person.

Wishing you all a Wonderful Thanksgiving, Happy Holidays and a very blessed New Year

Thank you

Marilyn Howser

Membership secretary

## ***Aechmea orlandiana***

***Where did the name Orlandiana first come from?***

*By Marilyn Howser*

*Aechmea orlandiana*

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

***Aechmea orlandiana*** is [species](#) in the [genus \*Aechmea\*](#) [endemic](#) to [Brazil](#).<sup>[1]</sup> The plant was originally collected by the family of [Mulford B. Foster](#) in 1939 in [Espírito Santo, Brazil](#), and described by in 1941 [L. B. Smith](#). He named it for the city of [Orlando, Florida](#), based upon it being the Foster's adopted home town, and the orange bracts and white flowers also being the city colors of Orlando

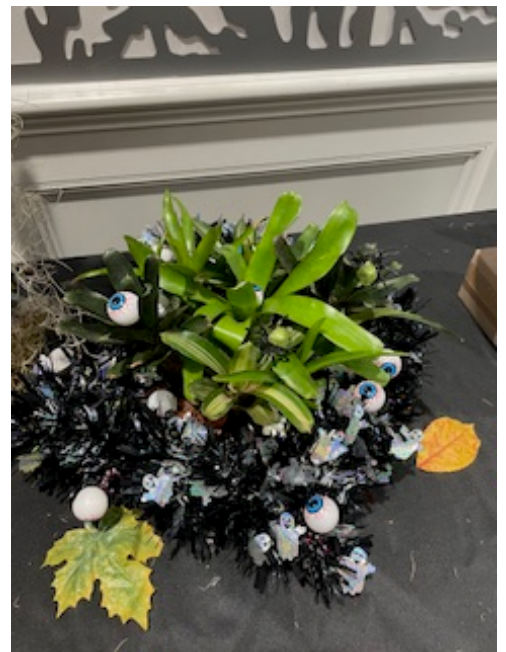
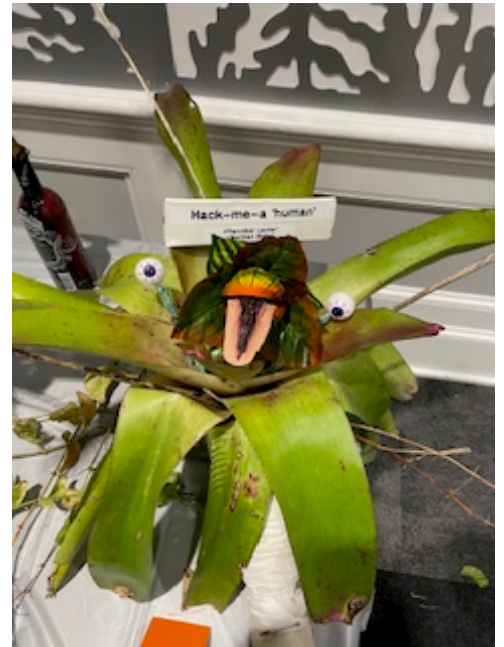


The people that first started the Bromeliad Society of Central FL decided the newsletter would be called *Orlandiana*. They drew a sketch of the *Aechmea orlandiana* which is still the logo on name tags, the green shirts worn by members when selling at plant sales and of course is still the name of the Newsletter.

## Pictures

## HALLOWEEN MADNESS!







October Speakers: Lee Magnuson, owner of Brilliant Bromeliads, and Jonathan Lallier

Photos courtesy: Pam Marion

Lee's front yard (below) and greenhouse (right)



## 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  
**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**

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

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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.