



# orlandiana

**Newsletter of the  
Bromeliad Society of Central Florida**  
Volume no. 51, Issue no. 2

**Next meeting: February 21, 2024**

**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

<b>President's Message</b> . . . . .	<b>2</b>
<b>January Minutes</b> . . . . .	<b>3</b>
<b>List of Upcoming Events</b> . . . . .	<b>6</b>
<b>Dues</b> . . . . .	<b>9</b>
<b>Guest Speaker</b> . . . . .	<b>9</b>
<b>Some Historical Bromeliads</b> . . . . .	<b>9</b>
<b>Snacks</b> . . . . .	<b>12</b>
<b>Plant of the Month</b> . . . . .	<b>13</b>
<b>Pictures</b> . . . . .	<b>13</b>
<b>Membership form</b> . . . . .	<b>15</b>
<b>Officers</b> . . . . .	<b>16</b>

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!

Cover Photo: Neoregelia 'Treasure Chest', courtesy John Vecchitto

## From the Editor

Just a reminder. From this point on please send any communication for the Orlandiana to: [orlandiananews@outlook.com](mailto:orlandiananews@outlook.com).

John Vecchitto, editor

## President's Message

The deadline to write a President's Message has arrived. There has to be something to write about. This is the time of year when all I can think about is the Central Florida Koi & Goldfish Show. I am in charge of getting vendors to fill the 50+ vendor spaces. I get them signed up and hound them to pay up. Then I need to keep them happy so they will return. So, I have to arrange whatever they need to have in place when they arrive with their koi. If things aren't ready, there could be dead koi. You would think they would be sure I understand exactly what they need, right? But, they wait until the last minute and seem to think I'm clairvoyant. "No, I did not know you were arriving at 2:00 AM on a red-eye from California with \$10,000 in fish that need to go in a water-filled vat. It's 3:30 in the morning. You want to know which vats are yours? It's dark. Got a flashlight? Uh, OK. I'll get dressed. I'm 30 minutes away. Yes, I'll bring a flashlight."

Bromeliads are so much easier. The Leu Gardens Spring Sale is the same weekend as the koi show. If you sell plants at Leu, you just put them in a shady spot while helping put up the tents and tables. In fact, nobody has to get anything in place ahead of time. Instead, everyone participating gathers everything they need and hauls it to a parking lot at Fashion Square. That's where everything - plants, tables, tents, chairs – gets loaded into the big McCrory's Nursery truck. Leu only allows one vehicle per vendor in the Gardens during set-up on Friday. It takes a really big truck to hold everything. Then everyone drives to Leu, parking outside while the truck goes in. The participants hike to the spot and share in the work of putting up tents, setting-up tables and putting up a few signs. Each is allocated table space for the plants they've brought and they arrange their broms to make a nice display.

It can be chaotic for a couple of hours. A lot has to be squeezed into limited space. Everything seems totally confused, but suddenly the chaos evaporates and all is in order. Sort of like Brigadoon. Except, Phil has too many big plants and keeps switching them around until he gives up and puts some under the tables to pull out later. And, Eloise always has second thoughts and gets frustrated over where to put some juvenile plants she says she probably

should not have brought, because nobody is going to buy them so small. (Except, of course, they do sell right away since they are something nobody else has and there is a photo of a gorgeous mature plant too wonderful not to give a little green one a try.) And, Marty's sure he would have more table space than there is. And, when Georgia arrives she will go behind Evan re-arranging their Guzmanias and Vrieseas to be how she prefers them to be displayed. Little foibles. The broms are happy in their pots. No need for an operating airstone so they don't suffocate.

During the course of the bromeliad sale nobody has to run around with extension cords so an additional air pump can be plugged in. There is no need to track down the vendor who has not paid for an extra vat rental. There's no need to explain for the umpteenth time that water changes can only be performed after hours, nor to go hunting for the hose someone used and did not return. ("Sorry. I got to talking with a customer and left it over there somewhere.") At Leu you do not need to separate competing koi dealers by placing a filter vendor in-between. Brom folks actually help sell each other's plants. At the bromeliad sale what is needed are volunteers to pull price tags at check-out and help keep things orderly, especially from 8am to Noon on Saturday. During those 4 hours there is a huge crush of people grabbing broms. Even the guy from Tropiflora shows up because he says he finds broms at the BSCF booth that he cannot find anywhere else.

Bromeliads are so much easier than koi. Rationally, I should quit the koi show and just do broms. But, there is nothing rational about keeping either broms or koi. Fortunately, BSCF has Mike Saunders to be in charge of the Leu Gardens sale. He does not sell anything, but still spends the whole 3 days seeing that everything goes smoothly and keeps the check-out operating. Without him, BSCF would have a big challenge. I'll spend the weekend working the koi show and getting splashed with water. I'll not be in the hunt for a new brom treasure... and there is always a new brom treasure to be found at Leu.

I guess my message for the month should promote the Leu sale. What's to say? Everyone who likes plants will be there... like over 12,000 plant crazies show up! It really is the biggest, most diverse plant festival in Central Florida, with not only BSCF selling broms, but Tropiflora and other nurseries as well. Definitely bring a cart... the bigger the better. The plant vendors are spread over 40 acres with tons of every sort of beautiful plant imaginable. Volunteers really are needed on Saturday morning, even if only for an hour or two. Mike Saunders is a super guy, but not Superman. Even he has a tough time when 30 people swarm him trying to pay for their broms all at once. It's a big help just to have somebody point out where to stand in line for check out. That line can get really long. A couple of people are needed to pull tags, and a couple more to help people fit their new broms in their carts. (And it's good if somebody sticks a membership form in the cart, too!) The volunteers can be novices or

experienced bromeliad growers. They'll be asked questions, like "Is it true they only bloom once?" At the koi show I'll be asked, "Is there another extension cord?"

So, I need to stay focused on the koi show, but I'm thinking about how I'll be running around in water-soaked shoes looking for an extension cord while somebody else finds that brom treasure. It's not rational at all.

*Mike McMahon*

## January Minutes

### Draft Meeting Minutes

January 17, 2024

**Will be approved with potential corrections at the February 21, 2024 meeting.**

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Mike McMahon at Leu Gardens Orlando, Florida.

**Program:** Vice President Tim Dreggors introduced speakers; Steve Beaudoin spoke on the topic of Hohenbergias; John Boardman discussed Mounting Bromeliads on Driftwood; Pam Marion showed the 2018 New Zealand Conference video. Pam also mentioned the May 2024 World Conference to take place in West Palm Beach, Florida from May 22-25<sup>th</sup>.

**Announcements:** Mike McMahon announced renewal of membership is at the membership table. Renewal dues are \$15, plus \$5 for additional family members; Plants are for sale at the Members Market; Check-out Plant of Month Neoregelia's 4-6 inches. Meeting break was from 7:41 p.m. until 8:01 p.m.

**Business Meeting;** was called to order at 8:01p.m.

Phil Hancock announced the 2 new members: Bridget Hielscher and Melissa Newton plus guests.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the October 18, 2023, meeting were published in the November 2023 *Orlandiana* with a correction that "heavy-duty plastic sheeting" should be "heavy duty freeze cloth." This was under the summary of Show & Tell. ***A motion was made by Tim***

***Dreggors and seconded by John Vecchitto that the minutes be approved with the stated correction. The motion passed unanimously.***



**Treasurer's report:** Joyce Gibault reported that the organization was financially stable. Income and expenses were presented. The books are ready for the audit committee.

**Committee reports: Field Trips:** Karen Steinberg was absent. Mike reported that if anyone has ideas for outings or garden tours to please contact either of them.

**Leu Garden:** Chairman Mike Saunders discussed the plant sale. Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup> is set up. Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup> is the sale from 8:00 am-5:00 p.m. Leu Garden members get in early and Sunday from 9:00 am-5:00 p.m.

It was also announced that on February 18, 2024, a tour and plant sale to McCrory's will take place.

**Mead Garden:** Sale that was this past November had 14 members selling. This raised the most funds for the year.

**Audit Committee:** Chairman Tim Dreggors, Dan Lott and Bob Johnson. The treasurer's financial books are ready for audit.

**President's Report:** Mike McMahan thanked everyone that participated and helped with the holiday party. All those who have volunteered for positions in 2024 were also thanked.

Mike discussed the Mother's Day Plant Sale at Fashion Square Mall. Although the location is not the best, it is free. In addition to the Mead Garden and Leu Garden sales this event does financially support the society. Friday and Saturday were the busy days last year for the sale thus it was suggested to have the sale only on those two days. Mike McMahan promoted the sale on Facebook in many Bromeliad groups, and that brought in many interested people Friday and Saturday. ***Motion to have the Mother's Day Plant sale and display at Fashion Square Mall by Phil Wright, seconded by Tim Dreggors. Discussion of other locations took place. Motion passed unanimously.***

Discussion took place on how to publish the minutes in the newsletter for members to read. The issue being that they are not approved by the membership before publication.

Paula Edwards volunteered to chair the 2024 Holiday Party.

Bonnie Friedrich volunteered to be the new meet and greet person. This position entails arriving by 5:00 p.m. at Leu Gardens each month and assist the speaker to set up.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** President Mike McMahon discussed that per the bylaws, motion to approve dues remaining unchanged at \$15, plus \$5 for each additional family member joining. ***Motion by Peggy Bohl, seconded by Paula Edwards. Motion passed unanimously.***

**Show & Tell:** Several interesting specimens were shown and explained by various members.

**Door Prize/Raffle giveaways:** President Mike McMahon announced the ticket numbers.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dr. Telka diFate  
Bromeliad Society Central Florida  
Recording Secretary

## Upcoming Events

### Spring Home Bromeliad Garden Tours

If anyone is interested in being part of a home garden tour this spring, please let me know. We are trying to pull together some homes to visit – remember, your home garden doesn't have to be crazy large and spectacular, everyone really enjoys seeing how others do things. So whether you have a new small garden with bromeliads in pots or a larger property that has evidence of years of bromeliad addiction, think about opening up your space to a tour. We will be trying to do one in May and possibly two tours, depending on interest.

Contact info:

Karen Steinberg

407-579-6445

[steinberg.km@gmail.com](mailto:steinberg.km@gmail.com)

**Bromeliad Society International Presents**  
**World Bromeliad Conference 2024**  
**May 22-25, 2024 • West Palm Beach, Florida**

WBC 2024 will feature an exciting slate of events including a welcome reception, botanical tours, a banquet dinner, several world-renowned speakers & guests, the world's largest bromeliad sale and a professionally judged bromeliad show.

**Conference registration for attendees includes:**

- Welcome Reception — International poolside barbecue
- Historic WBC 2024 tote bag
- World conference banquet dinner with speaker Andrew Devonshire on 'Hybridising, The Kiwi Way'
- Mounts Botanical Garden tour by luxurious motor-coach
- Access to world renowned speakers & honored guests
- World's largest bromeliad sale
- Professionally judged bromeliad show



**Don't wait — register and reserve a hotel room online soon to save!**

*(Special reduced rates are available to all current BSI members)*

**Grant's Farm Nursery Tour**



Join us for a special, behind-the-scenes tour to Florida's oldest bromeliad nursery! Reserve your space online for only \$25.

**WBC 2024 World-Renowned Speakers**

 Andrew Devonshire	 Peter Tristram	 Herb Hill	 Pedro Nahoum
 Dr. Hiroyuki Takizawa	 Dennis Cathcart	 Dr. Terrie Bert	

Find the latest WBC 2024 news and registration links online:

[www.bsi.org/new/conference-corner/](http://www.bsi.org/new/conference-corner/)

**We look forward to seeing you at WBC 2024!**

Conference Chairman Tom Ramiccio (Tramiccio@aol.com) & Conference Co-Chairman Alex Bello

**Post-Conference Ecuador Field Trip with Plant Expeditions**

	<p>Complete your conference experience with a 15 day tour through Ecuador. See over 150 bromeliad species in their native habitat! Also see wildlife—butterflies, birds, insects and monkeys! For more tour information and to reserve your space visit:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="http://www.plantexpeditions.com/plant-tours/2024/ecuador">www.plantexpeditions.com/plant-tours/2024/ecuador</a></p>	
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**McCrary's Bromeliads Tour:****Date:** Sunday, February 18, 2024**Time:** 2:00 pm**Location:** McCrary's Bromeliad Nursery  
35152 La Place Court  
Eustis, Florida 32736  
352-357-9876**Link to [Google.com](https://goo.gl/maps/YwkaMMu6LEPq5yNBA) map:** <https://goo.gl/maps/YwkaMMu6LEPq5yNBA>

We are joining the Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society for this outing. If you were not able to go when we toured in 2022, you should really make a point of going. McCrary's Bromeliad Nursery is one of the largest growers of bromeliads in the country. You will be inspired by all the beautiful bromeliads, and you will most certainly learn something new and interesting even if you have been before.

- Everyone meets at the Nursery at 2:00 pm to begin the tour. Be on time or you'll miss something. Plan on being there for a couple of hours.
- You do not need to register, just show up at the nursery at 2:00 for the event
- This is a walking tour – some of the areas are a bit sloped and some gravel areas, so wear comfortable shoes.
- There will be beautiful plants for sale, please bring cash or a credit card (cash preferred)
- You can bring a guest if you like
- You may want to bring along your own bottle of water or other drink.

You will definitely LOVE this tour and have a great time!

Hi all field trip lovers! I will be attending and taking some beverages in case anyone needs one and some little trail mix snacks – sometimes it gets pretty hot after a nursery trek! Come prepared for a little hike around the property/greenhouses, wear comfortable shoes for sure.

I'd like to encourage everyone to join in the field trip, the nursery is very impressive and I learn something new every time that I visit. They make constant improvements and changes to adapt to the market; it is very interesting to get a glimpse of how a large scale operation functions!

*Karen Steinberg*



## Dues!

### Article V Dues

Section 1. Annual dues shall be determined or reaffirmed at the first meeting of the Society in January of each year. **This was done at the Jan. 2024 meeting.**

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 ( emailed). 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.

**This means if you haven't paid your dues by Feb. 1st you will not receive Society publications. Also you must be in good standing to participate in BSCF plant sales.**

## Guest Speaker

Marty Baxley, the owner of Jungle Gems Nursery in St. Petersburg will speak on: "A Trip To The Netherlands"



## Some Historical Bromeliads

### Mike McMahon

Over the years of growing bromeliads one tends to become a bit jaded. The newest hybrids are more colorful, more exciting. Broms that once claimed space in the garden start seeming too dull, too common. They get discarded to make way for the bright new thing. For many people new to bromeliads, however, the old broms are still beautiful. It takes a few years to 'outgrow' them. Unless, like me, you have grown a bit too fond of them to toss all away.

A common *Neoregelia* nearly everyone has had at some point is an old hybrid I do not believe ever got named. It is generally accepted as a hybrid of *N. spectabilis* and *N. marmorata*, but sometimes the undersides of the leaves will have markings that cause some to suggest that a bit of *N. zonata* got mixed in. (I disagree, but who really knows?). A clone of it with particularly strong blotches reached Australia back in the 1960s or so. It got named *N. 'Julian Nally'* and was registered by Derek Butcher, who credited Julian Nally as the hybridist. Nally was one of the early bromeliad pioneers in Florida. He resided in western Orange County and got drawn to bromeliads as a result of the early efforts of Mulford Foster in the post-World War II period. Nally died around the time I moved to Orlando in 1977. The old Nally homestead in Gotha was pretty much abandoned for a time. It had been the home of Henry Nehrling. A remnant of the property is now Nehrling Gardens. The rest was bulldozed and houses built. But, in the '70s there were acres and acres of old time Neo hybrids, including at least an acre of what we call *N. spectabilis x marmorata*. They thrived there, exhibiting their cold hardiness and endurance. Huge clumps of it dotted the ground under tall oaks. Most of the clumps looked all the same, but here & there the clumps were sort of the same, but sort of different, too. I suspect different seedlings developed just a little differently. The one that reached Australia was a little more different, but the same. This old hybrid may not be grand like Skotak's newest creations, and it may be common, but in its day, it was grand, rare and much desired. It was so popular (and prolific) that everybody seemed to want it. It became so widespread that even today it is probably among the top 3 bromeliads grown in the landscape around Central Florida, the other two being *N. spectabilis* and *Billbergia pyramidalis*. I got rid of a bed of it some years ago, but still have a small clump that is spreading into a neighbor's yard. I tell people not to worry that they do not have a name for it. "You have history."

Another Neo that was once commonly kept is *N. Fosperior*. In the 1970s, Neo lovers all had it. It was the subject of much conversation and debate because there were two other Neos that were very similar. Mulford Foster had made a cross and obtained an abundance of seed. He shared the seed with a Dr. Morris Dexter who resided in St. Petersburg, Florida, and Morris Henry Hobbs, who lived in Louisiana. They were each so impressed with the red Neos that sprouted up that both named their plants. Foster named his 'Fosperior'. The good doctor's became 'Dexter's Pride'. And, off in Louisiana the seedlings went into circulation as *N. 'Morris Henry Hobbs'*. Fifty years ago, people would debate which grew bigger, which was redder. The three are indistinguishable to my eye when grown in identical conditions, but some folks say they can see differences. I think they just convinced themselves because they did not want to admit they paid good money for three Neos that looked alike just because they had different names on their labels. I planted some at the base of a palm decades ago. They never get any protection from winter freezes and survived the historic Christmas 1983 freeze, albeit rather damaged. They now grow up the trunk.

There is a *Billbergia* that was once very common and has begun enjoying a bit of re-newed popularity – *Billbergia pyramidalis* ‘Foster’s Striate’. For a long time this *Billbergia* was in cultivation as *B. pyramidalis* v. *striata*. That was wrong because it appeared as a variegated seedling in a batch of seedlings grown by Mulford Foster. That makes it a cultivar, not a variety of a species. So, it should not have had a latinized name. Only plants found in the wild get latinized names. Derek Butcher studied the matter when he was in charge of the BSI Cultivar Registry and named it ‘Foster’s Striate’ to comply with the international naming code. It is still often seen labeled as *pyramidalis* v. *striata*. Old habits endure. It is not uncommon to get a pup that is solid yellow-green. These are now named ‘Gloria’. At one time it seemed everyone had bulging pots of this prolific Bill. I had a bed of several hundred plants around a tree. They were gorgeous when they bloomed during the winter and the variegated foliage made them attractive year-round. Like most of the *Billbergias* popular 40 years ago, the colorful hybrids of Don Beadle displaced the old *striata*. For a time, it was seldom seen except in the back corner of some old-timers’ gardens. In recent years, however, it seems to have been re-discovered. Nicely grown specimens in bromeliad sales are low-priced and sell quickly. When extras are placed on the door prize tables at society meetings, they are grabbed.

Some old stuff is still worth a square foot in the garden. Beauty and hardiness are never out of style.

*(This article is derived from a series of postings which first appeared in the BSCF Facebook Group.)*

N. ‘Nally’ brom



The commonly seen N. *spectabilis* x *marmorata*.

N. ‘Julian Nally’



The Australian clone registered as N. ‘Julian Nally’.

N. ‘Fosperior’ on Canary Island Date Palm



N. ‘Fosperior’, the Mulford Foster hybrid, climbing a palm.



N. 'Fosperior-Morris' Henry Hobbs



The Louisiana seedlings became N. 'Morris Henry Hobbs'.

N. 'Fosperior-Dexter's Pride'



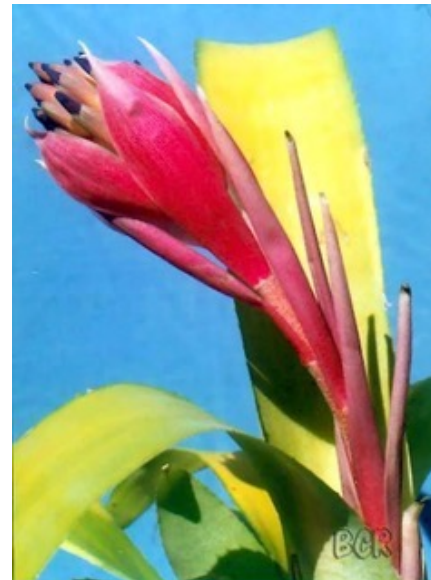
The seed raised in St. Petersburg became N. 'Dexter's Pride'.

Billbergia 'Fosters Striate'



Originally called Billbergia pyramidalis v. striata, but now registered as B. 'Foster's Striate'.

B. 'Gloria'



The solid yellow-green sport of B. 'Foster's Striate' registered as Billbergia 'Gloria'.

## Snacks

Wow, the food table had only gotten better! It was a cold night and we were impressed by Dave and Kathy bringing a delicious ham soup. An unknown person brought a 8 X 11 dish of fabulous meatballs. Other accouterments added to a scrumptious feast! Deserts, salads and Katherine's salted nuts provided an unparalleled feast. The point is, all of us gathered around the table, got to know one another better and shared information about our common



interest! Keep it up !!! Your participation is valued and appreciated and greatly adds to the evening...

Although Valentine's Day is a week after our next meeting, let's paint the food table red! Valentine's Day is always in our hearts, when it comes to bromeliads of all kinds and colors!

## Plant of the Month

Since Valentine's Day falls within the month of February, let's show off our prettiest bromeliads that feature the Valentine's colors of **red** or **pink**. Scout your gardens now for those bromeliads that are popping with dazzling Valentine's color and bring them to the next meeting for the rest of the club members to enjoy!



## Pictures







## 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**  
 Recording Secretary: **Dr. Telka diFate**  
 Membership Secretary: **Marilyn Howser**  
 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)  
 Welcome Table/Raffle Coordinator: **Robin Norton** Helpers: **Katherine Vaccaro, Kathy & Phil Hancock.**  
 Recycling Coordinator: **Dan Sawyer**  
 Meeting Breakdown Coordinator: **Pam Marion** Helpers: **Tina Self, Karen Steinberg, Robin Norton, Katherine Vaccaro, Marilyn Howser & others who pitch in.**  
 Secret Bid Auction Coordinator: **Phil Wright**  
 Plant Of The Month Coordinator: **Cathy Schubert**  
 Speaker Helper: **Bonnie Friedrich**  
 Librarian : **Dan Sawyer**  
 Newsletter Editor: **John Vecchitto**  
 Newsletter Proofreader: **Marty Folk, Marilyn Howser**  
 Audit Committee: **Bob Johnson, Dan Lott and Tim Dreggors (Chair).**

### PLANT SALES -

Plant Sale Chair for Leu Gardens Spring Plant Sale: **Mike Saunders.**  
 Plant Sale Chair for Mother's Day Show: **VACANT**  
 Plant Sale Chair for Mead Garden Fall Plant Sale: **Mike McMahon**  
 Field Trip Organizer: **Karen Steinberg**  
 Holiday Party Coordinator: **Paula Edwards**  
 Webmaster: **Greg Kolojeski**



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**PO Box 536961**

**Orlando, FL 32853-6961**

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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.