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**Newsletter of the
Bromeliad Society of Central Florida**
Volume no. 47, Issue no.02

February 2020

Next meeting: Wednesday, February 19, 2020

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

6:30 –7:00 is pre-meeting time for purchasing plants from our guest speaker

Meeting officially begins at 7:00 pm

Please bring a snack, raffle/door prize plants, and show & tell plants to the meeting.

Please try to label your raffle and door prize plants, even if you can only write something such as “unknown Aechmea hybrid”, every little bit helps the members who are trying to learn about different types of bromeliads! Plants should be clean and insect free.

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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!

The President's Message

A fabulous February to all. Hope everyone is enjoying another mild winter. Hope I haven't jinxed it. A reminder that all members can sell at our booth at the Leu Gardens plant sale on Saturday and Sunday, March 14 and 15. Please email Evan at s15stinger@gmail.com. Remember that all plants for sale need to be clean and pest free. You will also need two tags, one with the plant name for the buyer and one with the price and your member number. We can't give you the 80% of the selling price if we don't know who is selling the plant.

We have a great speaker this month in Jay Thurrott. Hope everyone can make it. And make the Leu Gardens sale. It's a fantastic time to add to your bromeliad and plant collections.

Please check out our new officers at the end of the newsletter!

Enjoy the rest of the month,

Mike



December & January minutes

BSCF Monthly Meeting Minutes December 18, 2019 (Revised)

The evening began with a meal provided by the club members.

At 7:51, Mike Saunders called the meeting to order.

Two new members were welcomed: Ahmed Hart and Nihal Hafez.

Mike Saunders thanked the members for the delicious food they brought.

Mike drew the number for the table centerpieces, which were Vriesea 'Intenso Pink'. These normally bloom in June. Because these were forced to bloom in December, winners were advised to keep the plants in shade and leave them alone, no water, for the near future. It was noted that they may not bloom again until June 2021.

The drawings were held for the gift exchange.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40. Members were given Neo 'Serendipity' by the club.

Respectfully submitted by Pat Neff

Old or Unfinished Business: none.

New Business: none.



Matthew Bagley of Bonita Bromeliads LLC

Meeting Minutes – January 15, 2020

Bromeliad Society of Central Florida

The meeting began with members and guests gathering for food and fellowship.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. There were 33 people in attendance.

Program

Marilyn Howser introduced Matthew Bagley of Bonita Bromeliads LLC, who spoke about the soil that he uses in his bromeliad business. He reviewed the various components that were used in growing bromeliads. Matt's preferred growing mixture is 1/3 pine fines bark, 1/3 cypress mulch, 1/16 perlite, and 1/6 peat moss. (Pine fines mulch is available locally at Sunrise Landscaping Supplies and Lowes.) Matt noted that using this soil mixture results in development of a stable root ball. In the Q and A session, Matt discussed the products he uses to control scale, weevils and mealy worms.

Business Meeting

President Mike Saunders called the meeting to order.

There was no business meeting at the December meeting, which was the club's holiday party. Minutes of the October, November, and December 2019 meetings as presented in the December 2019 and January 2020 newsletters were reviewed. There being no changes, the minutes for October through December 2019 were approved.

President Mike Saunders thanked members for the food that everyone brought.

Vice President Marilyn Howser reported that our February program will be Jay Thurrott, A Visit to Northern California Bromeliad Gardens.

Our club has been invited to the SBTPS February meeting, which will be a tour of McCrory's Sunny Hill Nursery, 35152 La Pl Ct, Eustis, FL 32736. The tour will be on February 16, 2020 at 2 pm.

Marilyn had one position to fill in relation to planning the Mother's Day Show and Sale. Pam Morris volunteered.

There were no guests at this meeting.

Betsy McCrory presented the Treasurer's Report, which was accepted for audit, and reported the financial results of the 2019 Bromeliad Extravaganza.

President's Report:

Mike Saunders asked members to submit bromeliad photos and articles to the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies through the website, fcbs.org.

Leu Gardens Sale – March 14-15 – Member can sell their plants at this sale and should contact Evan McCrory for details. The club will be allotted one vendor parking space at Leu Gardens, so all sellers will meet at Fashion Square to consolidate plants in one truck. Plants must be disease-free and have 2 tags – one with the name, the other with the price and vendor number. The club receives 20% of the sale price. The club needs help at the sale; helpers should wear club shirt and name tag.

Mother's Day Plant Show and Sale – May 8-10 – In addition to the plant sale, there will be a judged show. Members may sell, but each seller must exhibit 5 plants in the show. The show schedule will be provided in March.

World Bromeliad Conference, Sarasota – June 10-13 – There will be a judged show, to be held in the boat house. The rare plant auction will be held on Friday night, and the banquet on Saturday night. The deadline for the lowest registration rate has been extended to January 31st. The following events are open to the public and do not require registration at the conference: Plant Show; Plant Sale; Rare Plant Auction (Friday evening, 7-10 pm). More information about the World Conference can be found at [bsi.org](https://www.bsi.org/bsi_info/WBC%202020%20Time%20Schedule.pdf). Schedule of events is available at https://www.bsi.org/bsi_info/WBC%202020%20Time%20Schedule.pdf

Old Business: There was no old business.

New Business: Katherine Vaccaro asked if anyone had found a brown and black zipper bag after the December 2019 meeting. If found, please contact her.

Our next meeting will be February 19th.

February Board Meeting Minutes

Board Meeting of February 1, 2020

Bromeliad Society of Central Florida

Present - Mike Saunders, Marilyn Howser, Leann Burton, Betsy McCrory, Pat Neff

Call to Order - President Mike Saunders called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

Mother's Day Sale and Show – Marilyn Howser provided an update. She has printed flyers to be handed out at Leu Gardens. The show schedule has been approved. The club needs donations towards show awards. A motion was made to offer free membership for 2020 to first-time members who sign up at the 2020 Mother's Day sale and show. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Leu Gardens sale – the club has been assigned the same space as last year, near the Leu House. One parking pass will be available and will be given to Evan, who will provide a truck for all plants to be delivered for sale set up. All sellers in the club must be aware of Leu's rules for vendors. Mike has them and will share the rules with sellers. NB - sellers cannot set up or restock on Saturday and cannot drive vehicles into the gardens on Saturday. A motion was made to pay Evan \$100.00 for the use of the truck and services provided at the sale. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Bromeliads: A Cultural Manual – The board is considering purchasing this informative booklet to have available for members to purchase and to sell at plant sales. Seminole recently ordered copies of this book. Mike Saunders will ask if they will sell some to us at their cost so we can re-sell them to our members.

World conference in June – BSA has asked for assistance with registration, plant sales. The chair of education asked whether our society will do an educational display at the conference. The board decided not to do this.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:40.

Vice Presidents Comments

Hi Everyone

Jay Thurrott is the Feb. 19th speaker for the Bromeliad Society of Central FL. (Please see attachment copied with Jay's permission) Jay will be speaking on "A visit to Northern California bromeliad gardens". Jay will be bringing plants to sell. Jay is now the VP for the Cryptanthus Society. I jokingly emailed him, "I'm not sure if I should send you congratulations or condolences." He sent back a reply and we both laughed.

Please bring plants for the door prize table and for the raffle table and also a snack to share.



IT'S PLANT SALE TIME!

First is Leu Gardens plant sale March 14th & 15th. Attached is a sheet telling how to groom plants for show and/or to sell. Also attached is Leu Garden's plant sale rules. **These rules must be followed.** Please print them out so you'll have them - there will be no hard copies available at the meeting.

Mother's Day Show

Now is the time for everyone to start choosing plants to enter in the Mother's Day Show. Remember they don't have to be perfect, but they do need to be clean. We are now accepting donations for the awards. A minimum of \$15 is being accepted. If you are sponsoring one of the special awards, please note that on your check. Remember that your donation will be tax-deductible. Everyone who sponsors an award will have their name on the sponsor board near the awards table. Someone will talk about that at the March meeting.

See you then 🍍
Marilyn

SBTPS (Seminole) has scheduled a field trip to McCrory's Sunny Hill Nursery for February 16th. They have invited BSCF to go too!
Meet there at 2 PM.

Our Guest speaker

Jay Thurrott is a retired environmental chemist and worked in the public service sector for over 30 years. He grows over 1,000 varieties of bromeliads at his home in Port Orange, Florida and has been growing bromeliads since the 70's. A lifetime member of the Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society (FECBS), Jay is their newsletter Editor and has served as Secretary, Vice-president and President of that organization. He has served as his club's representative to the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies (FCBS) for many years and was Chairman of that organization several times. Also active in local garden club activities, he is a Past President of the Halifax Council of Garden Clubs (consortium of 7 garden clubs in the Daytona Beach area). He has two three year terms as President of the Bromeliad Society International (BSI) after having served as a Director and Vice-president of the organization. He now serves BSI on their By Laws review committee. Jay is also a BSI accredited master judge and has judged bromeliad shows in and out of the USA. Jay accompanies his wife, Calandra Thurrott, the current CS Southern Regional Director, on the CS Board. Welcome, Jay to our Family. His contact information is on the inside front page of the CS Journal.



Leu Gardens' Plant Sale Policy 2020

This policy is set forth to ensure fairness to all, to make this the best plant sale in Florida, for the safety of all and to protect Leu Gardens' plant collections.

1. **No Pets.**
2. **Sales are not permitted during Set Up Days.**
3. **Booth Area:** Leu Gardens' staff will assign each vendor a booth based on the following criteria: first, a completed registration form with full payment and second, sun tolerance of the plants.
4. **Do not put anything in the plant beds.**
5. **Signage:** Signage is only allowed to be displayed in **your booth.**
6. **Booth Sharing:** Booth sharing is prohibited. **Do not allow another vendor to share your space and/or selling items for other individuals/businesses/organizations.** Each registration is a contract between Leu Gardens and the specific to the contracted vendor. If it is determine booth sharing has occurred, the vendor or plant society will not be considered for future plant sales.
7. **Electricity:** One **110-volt** circuit per booth. Please mark the registration form if you require electricity. If you require additional electricity, please contact Leu Gardens.
8. **Water:** Please mark the registration form if you require water for your plants. Due to some limitations in various areas, water hoses will be shared between vendors.
9. **Vendor/Society Parking:** Parking is extremely limited. Each vendor will receive **one (1)** parking pass per booth, it is good for a vehicle and trailer to park in the vendor lot. **Please inform your extra help that parking is not provided.** Everyone must check in and out at the Vendor Gate.
10. **Set-up & Breakdown:** each vendor will be allowed 1 vehicle/trailer in the gardens during set-up and breakdown times.
11. **Selling:** **Do not sale plants /product on set-up days.** Do not make arrangements to have plants/products picked up on set-up days. Presales are allowed to pickup during the Plant Sale on Saturday or Sunday.
12. **Tax:** Each vendor/society is required to collect and pay 6.5% Florida Sales Tax.
13. **Staffing Booths:** Booths must be staffed at all times during the event. **Be on time.**
14. **Invasive Plants:** Invasive plants are banned from being sold at Leu Gardens' Plant Sale.
15. **No alcoholic beverages.**
16. **No one is allowed to stay on property overnight.**



2020 Bromeliad Society of Central Florida MEMBERSHIP FORM

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

____ NEW MEMBER ____ RENEWAL

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City, State Zip +4 _____

Phone /Email _____

\$15 for first member, plus \$5 per each additional family member at the same address. Name Badges \$7 per member, if desired. Please check ____ if you would like a name badge ordered for you.

AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____ Make checks payable to BSCF MAIL TO: **Bromeliad Society of Central Florida, PO Box 536961 Orlando, FL 32853-6961. Or bring to the January meeting.**

Meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday of every month, from 6:30-9:00 pm (buy plants from the speaker between 6:30-7pm) at Leu Gardens, 1920 N Forest Ave, Orlando, FL 32803. You'll enjoy informative programs, Show & Tell, plant sales, refreshments, and door prizes. Members also receive a newsletter. Please come join us!

Treasurer: Date _____ Check # _____ Cash _____

Upcoming Events

February 16, 2020

Field trip to McCrory's Sunny Hill Nursery. Sponsored by SBTPS (Seminole).

March 14 & 15, 2020, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Free Admission all Weekend!

Shop Leu Gardens' Annual Spring Plant Sale! Over 50 growers and vendors selling a variety of plants and outdoor accessories to enhance your landscape and home. Bring a wagon or plant cart for your purchases. All vendors take cash and most take credit cards.

Leu Gardens' Members shop early on Saturday, March 14 at 8:00 a.m., please show your membership card and photo ID to be admitted early. Guest(s) of members will be able to enter at 9:00 a.m. Guest Passes and AHS Reciprocal are not accepted during the Leu Members' early shopping hour.

May 8-10, 2020

The BSCF's Mother's Day Show and Sale at the Fashion Square Mall. Lots of information to follow.

June 9–14, 2020

World Bromeliad Conference 2020 Celebrating the 70th Anniversary of the Bromeliad Society International!

Hyatt Regency, 1000 Boulevard of the Arts, Sarasota, FL 34236

www.bsi.org/new/conference-corner/



Our Meeting Next Month: Wednesday, February 19th, 2020

The Bromeliad Society of Central Florida meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday of every month from 7–9 PM at Leu Gardens, 1920 N. Forest Avenue, Orlando, FL 32803. Guest speaker plants are for sale before the meeting from 6:30–7:00. You'll enjoy informative programs, Show & Tell, plant sales, refreshments & door prizes. Members also receive a monthly newsletter—all for an annual membership fee of \$15 per member, plus \$5 per additional family member (no charge for full-time students). Visitors are always welcome.





Officers

Introducing the new officers of the BSCF!

- PresidentMike Saunders presbyter@cfl.rr.com
- Vice President Marilyn Howser marilynhowser@gmail.com
- SecretaryPat Neff..... prneff04@verizon.net
- TreasurerLeanne Burton leanne@naturalbird.com
- FCBS RepsBetsy McCrory betsymccrory@aol.com
-& Mike Saunders..... presbyter@cfl.rr.com
- EditorJohn Vecchitto..... lordvec54@gmail.com
- Hospitality Marilyn Howser marilynhowser@gmail.com
- LibrarianOpen Position
- PhotographerCheryl Reynolds calba11@cfl.rr.com

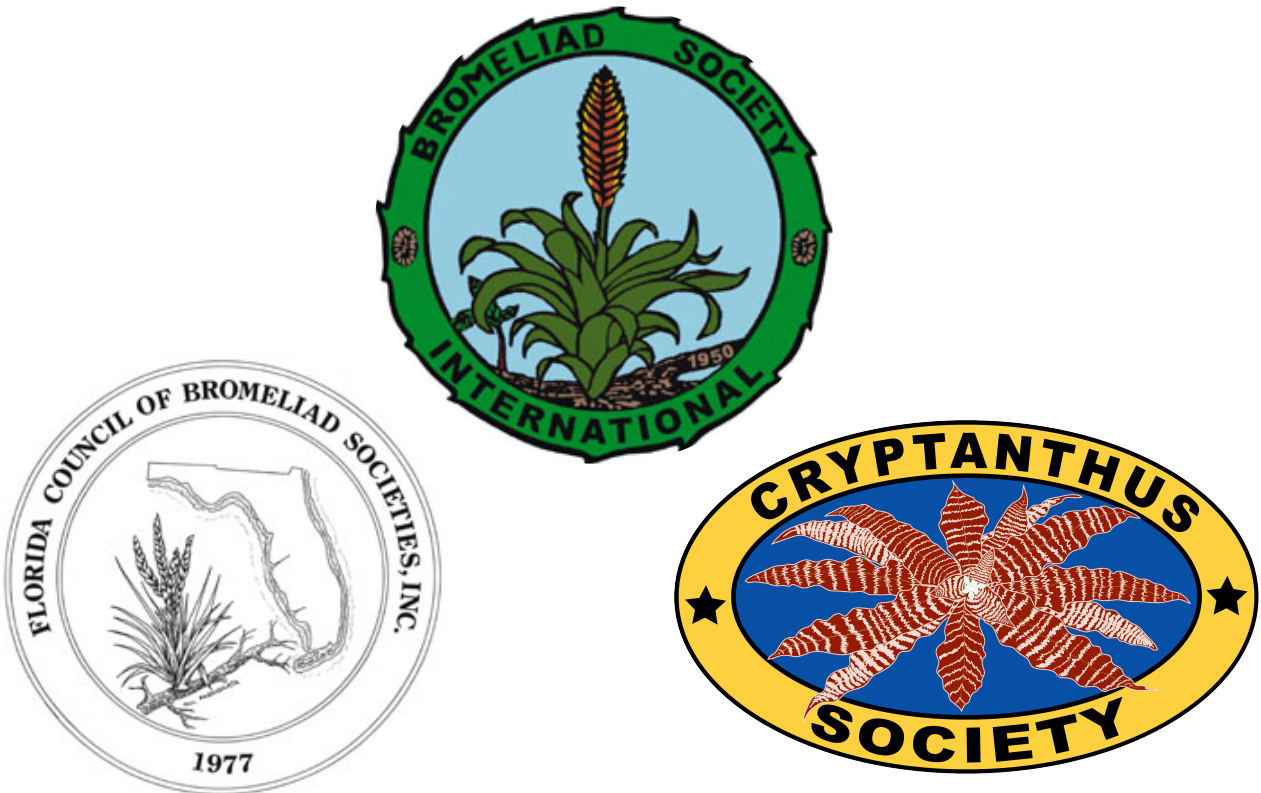
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Bromeliad Society of Central Florida, Inc.

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.

Grooming Plants for Show

By Odean Head

It's almost show time again and we need to get started preparing our show plants. These shows provide our best means for educating the public about bromeliads and how beautiful they will grow here.

Putting on shows is not easy but can be very rewarding when we all work at it. Of course, having beautiful plants is the main ingredient for impressing the public. Each one of us probably have something that will add beauty to the show and our best effort will be attained if we all participate. So group, let's get motivated and start getting our plants ready.

Remember, they do not have to be worthy of top show awards in order to add beauty to the show. We will be discussing some of the criteria for selecting potential entries and grooming procedures that can add beauty and judging credits to the entry.

SELECTING PLANTS

Sometimes we have a problem getting started in our selection process because we are looking for a plant that is ready to be on the head table. I usually have to make several trips through my collection before I get very many plants to consider. I can move on faster with this process when I decide to defer making the final evaluations and selections until after the grooming has been attempted. This will allow me to be a little more lenient in my initial evaluation. We should also familiarize ourselves with the show schedule and try to get entries in as many of the categories as we can to make it a better balanced show.

CLEANING PLANTS

I use a water hose with a spray nozzle that will furnish a good solid stream without too much pressure to wash out dirt, tree leaves and other debris. After the first wash, look deep into the plant for tree leaves and dirt that did not come out. Be careful about digging too much with your fingers because you may break or tear a leaf. It is best to use some long tweezers or a surgical hemostat to pull out the debris. You can loosen the stubborn dirt inside the base of the outer leaves with a small artist brush. Rinse the plant again to remove loosened dirt and debris. Clean the surfaces of leaves individually. The cleaning intensity will vary from plant to plant depending on how delicate the leaf is and whether it has scurf or not. If it has scurf, be careful not to remove any of it because it may not regenerate and will be obvious to the judges. On most of my plants I will suds each leaf with ivory soap and a heavy artist brush. If the leaves are not too treacherous I will pull each leaf through my fingers to loosen the more stubborn dirt. This should also remove any dead scale that might be attached to the leaf. If the scale does not rub right off it may still be alive and the plant should be treated with safer soap. Scale on show plants is a big NO. Next I rinse the plant with clean water again using the spray nozzle.

I then set this plant to one side and work on the next plant while that one is drying. You really can't tell whether some plants are clean or not until they dry. You may have to go back and touch up some spots that you missed and rinse again (be sure to get all of the soap out).

REPOTTING

It is usually easier to repot a plant than to clean the pot. This is also a good time to select a pot size that is in proper proportion to the plant. A larger pot will also make it easier to center the plant and cover any exposed caudex caused by leaf removal. Do not pot it too deep unless you have something to hide because the judges may assume you are hiding something and take off accordingly. Also be aware of what constitutes a standard pot. A pretty pot will probably be classified as decorative and be placed in the Artistic Container Division under a different set of judging rules (If you have some pretty or unusual pots, you should consider entering this division). Set the plant down and look at its conformation both from the top and from the side. Straighten the plant if needed and firm the soil around it so that it will stay straight. Be sure the mix on top is neat. Some use a special top dressing, but I don't think it's necessary so long as it is neat.

TRIMMING LEAVES

Leaf damage is a common cultural problem in growing bromeliads and you can bet money that the judges will see any that exist. They can also usually see where you have trimmed. If you have done a good trimming job they may not take off any points at all unless too much was required. Before you start cutting, try to visualize what effect the cut will have on the plant's appearance. If you have to cut a leaf tip back too far it could change the overall shape of the leaf as well as its conformation. Normally you should trim a leaf tip to its natural shape but how should you treat a fingernail tip? Analyze the damage and the effect of the trim before you act. You may want to only trim the brown, changing its shape rather than take off the color. You may decide not to trim it at all if it will do more harm than good. In those cases the judges can usually see your dilemma and will be lenient if there is little else wrong with the plant. Some trimming of leaf edges close to the base can also be done where there are no spines, but try to keep a smooth leaf edge.

FINAL EVALUATION FOR SHOW ENTRY

Look at the overall appearance of the plant. Does it appear healthy and well grown? Does its foliage have the good sheen or scurf appropriate for the plant? Are the colors rich and the markings clear? How about its symmetry, is it appropriate? Is the size close to maturity? Check the leaf damage. Is it too severe? Does it need more grooming? CAUTION - Do not be overly critical. You can expect to be short in one or more of these areas since there are few if any perfect plants.

TRANSPORTING PLANTS

Getting all your plants groomed for the show can be frustrating enough without any trauma on the way to the show. Take some extra time in packing your plants to make sure they do not damage each other or topple over. You would be smart to take some of your cleaning tools and maybe some extra mix with you for a last minute check just in case you have a little mishap on the way.

Excerpt from Bromeliad Society/Houston Newsletter, "Cultural Tips -- 2007", by Odean Head.