



# orlandiana

**Newsletter of the  
Bromeliad Society of Central Florida**

Volume no. 44, Issue no. 09

## **December 2017**

**Next meeting:** Wednesday, December 20, 2017

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

**6:30 Party begins!**

**Meeting officially begins at 7:00 pm**

### **It's 2017 Holiday Party Time!**

Please bring your favorite appetizer or dessert to share.

You'll need a nice, cleaned up, wrapped plant for the plant exchange – remember to be inventive and inspired with your wrapping...good things can come in odd looking packages!

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## The President's Message

Happy December and Happy Holidays,

We had a great 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration last month. A special thanks to Marilyn for planning it and making sure it was a marvelous event. Also thanks to Betsy for the cake & punch and other food and thanks to Karen for also helping out with food. And I really appreciate anyone else that brought food or raffle items for last month's celebration. And a special thanks to those members who brought magnificent plants for our members market.

I hope the December cold snap didn't hurt you too bad. Let's hope the rest of the month and winter don't have a repeat of the mid December cold front. Am rooting for mild, mild winter. Hope you all can make our December meeting and celebrate the holidays with your bromeliad friends. Remember to bring a wrapped plant for a gift exchange and a tasty appetizer or dessert. I am sure it will be a great time.

And I am sure you will want to renew your membership for 2018 as Marilyn has planned a lot of great speakers and other events. Take care and a fantastic 2018 to each one of you.

See you the 20<sup>th</sup>,  
mike

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## A Little Bit of Housekeeping!

**Your annual BSCF member dues are due by January 1<sup>st</sup>.**

Please fill out the form on the next page and include when mailing your dues or bring to the meeting.

**Dues can be paid at the meeting or mailed to:**

BSCF, PO Box 536961, Orlando, FL 32853-6961.



Lots of beautiful Billbergia blooming currently – look around, they're popping up everywhere!



# 2018 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 \$6 ea 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 next meeting**

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

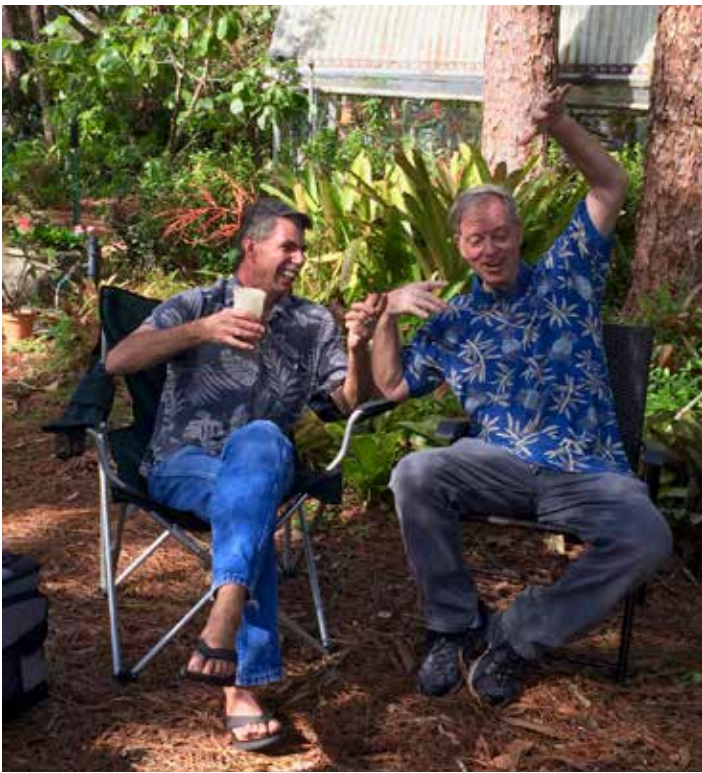
Treasurer: Date \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_



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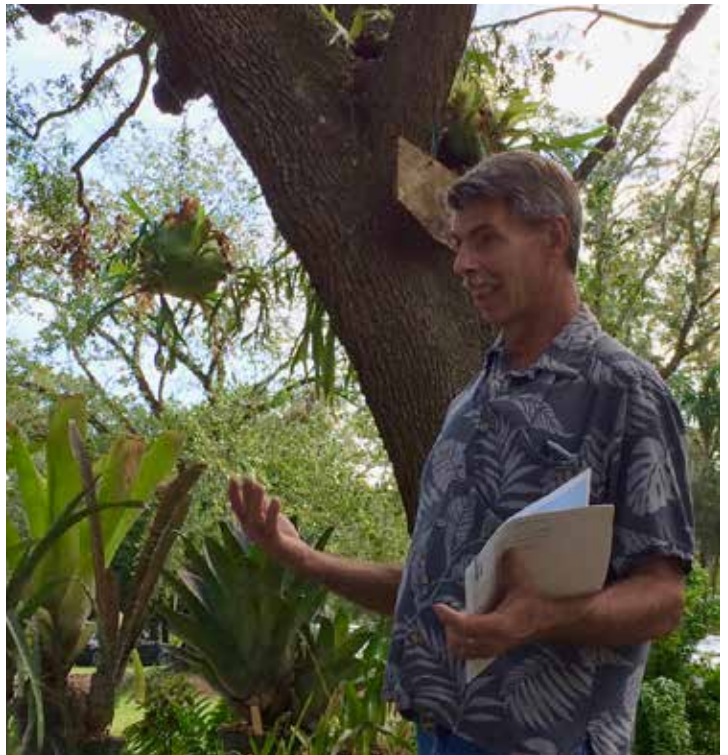
## October Tailgate Social at Mead Gardens

On October 21<sup>st</sup> we had a tailgate social at Mead Gardens. Beautiful weather and beautiful surroundings, lots of lovely trails to explore. Greg Spak spoke about *Hohenbergia* and brought a number of plants for chatting purposes...and some young plant freebies! We had a guided greenhouse tour, some lunch on picnic tables, and a plant exchange. It was a real relaxing way to spend a late morning/early afternoon on a Saturday!



It was an animated day for all at Mead Botanical Gardens! A great *Hohenbergia* presentation, greenhouse tour, food, and fun!





Mead Gardens has great strolling paths and a naturalistic planting plan, if you've never visited check it out soon – it is a real treat for plant and garden lovers.



# The Ultimate Bromeliad Guide to *Hohenbergia*

Author: Celeste Booth

## CARE AND CULTURE, CLASSIFICATION

*Hohenbergia* is a genus of bromeliad that is made up of about 52 species. It is closely related to *Achmea* and some scientist argue that they should be included within that genus. *Hohenbergia* are native to Jamaica and other tropical islands as well as parts of South America, particularly Brazil and Venezuela. In Brazil, they are primarily found in the sandy and arid northern coasts. Species in the genus can range in habitat from sandy, dry areas to humid cloud forests.

## Appearance

*Hohenbergia* are beautiful flowering bromeliads with very attractive foliage. They can grow quite large and typically have broad strap like leaves that are stiff and leathery. Some *Hohenbergia* remain upright, while others have leaves that bow out at the ends. The leaves often come together to form a tight rosette shape. *Hohenbergia* usually produce tall flower spike. Their flower spike is what distinguishes them from their close relatives in the *Achmea* genus. *Achmeas* produce a tall flower spike that is not branched while the inflorescence of the *Hohenbergia* is often branched with small clusters of flowers.

## Growth Habit

*Hohenbergia* can be epiphytic plants, meaning they grow attached to a substrate rather than planted in the ground. The rosette shape of the leaves form a large central tank that collects rainwater and other nutrients that fall from the canopy. Special scales on the leaves take in the water and the nutrients, while the roots act as anchors. Although *Hohenbergia* are often found as epiphytes in nature, they can also be planted terrestrially. There are also *Hohenbergia* found growing terrestrially in very sandy or rocky soils. Some *Hohenbergia*, both terrestrial and epiphytic are very attractive grown in containers.

## Potting Medium

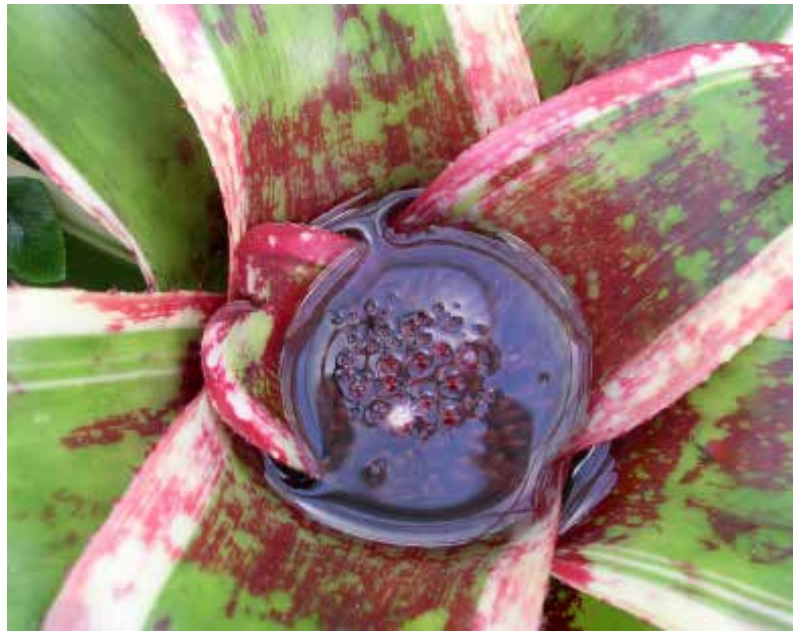
Be sure to use a very well draining potting mix. Mixes that are specially crafted for bromeliads or orchids are ideal. You can also create your own potting medium using potting mix, perlite, and coarse sand. Never use garden soil because it is too dense and will not drain fast enough. When the potting soil remains too soggy it will encourage root rot and crown rot.



Like this bromeliad, the *Hohenbergia* doesn't need to grow on the ground.

## Light and Water Requirements

Many *Hohenbergia*, especially those native to sandy beaches and coasts prefer full sun. There are some that thrive better in indirect light or dappled shade. *Hohenbergia* should be watered in their central tank. However, be careful not to allow the water to stagnate. Rinse the tank out regularly and use distilled or rain water to avoid mineral build up on the leaves.



Be sure to rinse out the tank of your bromeliad.

## Flowering

Like most other bromeliads *Hohenbergia* produce only a single inflorescence. The inflorescence is very long lasting, up to several months in some cases, but once it dies the plant will begin to die as well. However, *Hohenbergia* generously set on offshoots called pups. These offshoots can be removed and replanted or allowed to remain with mother plant as a clump. It can take some *Hohenbergia* as long as 5 years to reach maturity and produce a flower.

## Species

There are not many varieties of *Hohenbergia* found in cultivation. Their close relatives *Achmea* are much more popular. Many species are difficult to grow because of their large size. However, a few species and cultivars of *Hohenbergia* can be found from specialty bromeliads retailers.

*Hohenbergia stallata* is a common *Hohenbergia* found in cultivation. It can make an excellent landscape plant in warm, tropical climates. It can be planted in containers indoors or outdoors during the summer in mild climates. The plant has broad, flat, bright green leaves that bend outwards. Its most stunning characteristic is its inflorescence. It sends up a tall flower stalk with bright salmon colored star shaped inflorescence. The blooms are long lasting and mature to a deeper red color. This plant can grow up to three feet tall and two feet wide. It prefers shade or dappled shade.

*Hohenbergia* 'Chocolate Fudge' is a beautiful cultivar. It has rich chocolate colored leaves with gray horizontal banding. Its leaves stand mostly erect and grow to about two feet tall. The flower stalk is a bright red with clusters of white, fuzzy looking inflorescence that shoot off on branches. This plant requires partial shade and makes an excellent container plant.

*Hohenbergia castellanosii* has very broad leaves that begin as bright green, but blush bright red from the tips inward when flowering. It grows up to 28 inches tall and 18 inches wide. The flower stalk is green and rather inconspicuous. This plant is grown for its stunning foliage. It does best outside in direct sunlight.

*Hohenbergia leopoldo-horstii* has a very beautiful shape and form. Its wide leaves taper off to a distinctive point at the tip. It is a smaller *Hohenbergia* that forms a very tight tube shaped rosette. When grown in full sun the leaves become a lovely purplish black color. The more sun the plant gets the darker the leaves will be. If the plant gets too much fertilizer or not enough light, it will remain entirely green.

*Hohenbergia salzmanni* is not grown in cultivation due to its massive size. In a Bromeliad Society Bulletin Mulfred Foster mentions encountering this giant on a trip to the state of Bahia in Brazil in 1939. He found it growing on the sandy beaches of the coast. Foster noted that the very stiff upright leaves were individually eight to ten inches wide and up to four feet long. It produced a thinly branched inflorescence that was up to eight feet tall with very small purple flowers.

*Hohenbergia rosea* is a large plant that can grow up to three feet tall and wide. It can tolerate shade to full sun. Its leaf coloring will depend on how much direct light it gets. In full sun the leaves will become a darker burgundy. In the shade the leaves will have a mottled green and purple appearance. The leaves are stiff and broad with sharp spines all the way around the margins. The plant produces a tall flower spike with pink egg shaped inflorescence and purple flowers.

### **Adding to Your Collection**

Some *Hohenbergia* can be difficult to grow indoors due to their size, but they can thrive easily in landscapes in tropical climates. A rare and unique *Hohenbergia* would be an attractive addition to an outdoor landscape. They will grow to fill out a large space and pup generously creating large clumps of beautiful plants.

If you would like to grow a *Hohenbergia* in a container or indoors choose a species that grows to a more manageable size.

It can be difficult to find *Hohenbergia* for sale but some online specialty retailers have pups or seeds available. They can also be found in shows or special collections. If you have grown an *Aechmea* they behave very similarly and will not be difficult to grow. Consider expanding your collection to include a charming *Hohenbergia*. Have you grown a *Hohenbergia*? Where did you find it?

### **Sources:**

"*Hohenbergia stellata*." Bullis Bromeliads.

"*Hohenbergia* 'Fudge Ripple.'" Bullis Bromeliads.

"*Hohenbergia Castellanosii*." Bullis Bromeliads.

"***Hohenbergia stellata***." National Tropical Botanical Garden.

Foster, Mulfred B. "**Hohenbergia in Horticulture.**" *The Bromeliad Society Bulletin*. Vol. VI No. 4

"***Hohenbergia leopoldo-horstii***." TJ Bromeliads.

"**PlantFiles: Bromeliad**" Dave's Garden.



## 2017 Mead Botanical Garden GROWvember Fall Plant Sale

On November 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> our society completed it's fourth sale of the year – at the Mead Gardens Fall Plant Sale, GROWvember. It was a great time and we had many gorgeous bromeliads for sale. The weather was beautiful and Mead Gardens drew a nice crowd of plant shoppers! Many thanks to Marilyn for getting everything organized and supplying all of us with a breakfast casserole and muffins. Our food spread was so awesome that some of the shoppers even wanted to purchase food! A big thanks to our members who brought their plants to sell, we had a good variety and some local folks got some fabulous deals! Our sellers were Eloise & Jim, Marilyn, Lisa, Marty, Mike Mc, Grant & Kelli, and Greg S. The sale was a great success!



This was our second year participating in the Mead Botanical Garden GROWvember event. Once again there was beautiful weather and a wonderful relaxed crowd of shoppers!





Beautiful plants for sale and a lovely setting made for a great sale!





Our society had a great variety to offer the public – even a dried bromeliad wreath!



Buddy enjoyed all of the activity and noticed a speedy gopher tortoise heading toward our food table!



Later in the weekend my cat Gordon enjoyed some of my purchases, he loves a good display.



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## BSCF 45th Anniversary Meeting

On November 15<sup>th</sup> we had a little celebration, some great food, and a member market. Best of all was getting to socialize with everyone right before diving into Thanksgiving! It is wonderful that the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida is still thriving and everyone is still sharing their love of bromeliads...and still sharing Betsy's pineapple punch!

We're still gathering photos from our Anniversary Meeting, so I leave you with a few Holiday inspired shots!





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## Monthly Meeting Minutes

### Bromeliad Society of Central Florida — 20 September, 2017

The meeting was opened at 7:00 pm by VP Marilyn Howser who introduced Ken Hicks, our guest speaker. Ken did a hands-on presentation, showing how to pot and mount different types of bromeliads and explaining how to use the many supplies that are available to the grower. The entire Hicks family can be seen at different area shows, busy making items with custom jigs, ringing up plants, and giving general bromeliad advice to all that ask! Ken also had plants for sale and wonderful plant stands to show off our bromeliads! Great job Ken!

### The meeting was called to order at 8:00 pm by President Mike Saunders

Mike thanked Ken and Jen Hicks for the wonderful presentation.  
August 2017 meeting minutes were approved:

#### Welcome!

Guests Chris Dudding and Ivan Moguear

#### Treasurer's Report:

Mike gave the Treasurer's Report in Betsy's absence and Betsy will file the report for audit.

#### Vice President's Report:

Marilyn gave us the run down of the upcoming events:

- Terry Bert will be the speaker for October
- We need to decide where to have the 2017 Holiday Party – we will decide at next month's meeting.
- November 3<sup>rd</sup>–4<sup>th</sup> is GROWvember at Mead Gardens
- October 21<sup>st</sup> is the Tailgate Social and greenhouse tour at Mead Gardens
- November 15<sup>th</sup> is our 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a Society! No speaker will be at the meeting but we'll have a pot luck event and a member market

#### Old or Unfinished Business

Webmaster! Would somebody like to take care of a BSCF website? We are still in need of a volunteer!  
Newsletter Editor needed – if interested please let one of the officers know!

#### New Business

None

#### Show and Tell

Plants were brought in by Mike McMahon, Lisa Robinette and John Boardman. Thanks for sharing your beautiful plants and knowledge.

#### Door Prizes and Raffle Plants

Door prizes and raffle table tickets were drawn.

The meeting concluded at 9:00 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Karen Steinberg.

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## Monthly Meeting Minutes

### Bromeliad Society of Central Florida — 15 November, 2017

We had our BSCF 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration and a member market in lieu of a speaker.

### The meeting was called to order at 8:00 pm by President Mike Saunders

Mike thanked everyone for the lovely event, it was great to see everyone and get a chance to chat.

#### Welcome!

Our guest the lucky Isabella and renewed member Robin Norton!

#### Treasurer's Report:

Betsy gave the Treasurer's Report and will file the report for audit. We did really well at the Mead Gardens GROWvember event, we sold 344 plants, tripling our sales from last year!

#### Vice President's Report:

Marilyn gave us the run down of the upcoming events:

- 2017 Holiday party will be at Leu Gardens on Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>. Appetizers! Bring a "disguised" or wrapped plant for the gift exchange!
- In January Greg Spak will speak on Dyckia.
- In February Teresa Cooper will speak – we will possibly do a trip to the Enchanted Forest to see her work there fighting the "evil weevil" and stop by Black Point Wildlife Drive.

#### Old or Unfinished Business

Webmaster! Would somebody like to take care of a BSCF website? We are still in need of a volunteer!  
Newsletter Editor needed – if interested please let one of the officers know!

**New Business:** None

#### Florida Council Report

- The FCBS met in Miami, they are working on revising the FCBS bylaws.
- Previously there was a \$3.00 per member fee paid to FCBS from all Societies, this has been changed to a flat fee of \$100. per Society.
- There was a question raised by the FCBS about the printed rosters – are they being utilized? A pdf file could be emailed instead of the costly printed/mailed versions.
- Contact Carole Wolfe if you have any articles for the newsletter!

#### Announcements

Judges School! Mike has applications if anyone is interested.

#### Show and Tell

Pam brought in some Bayer Advanced 3-In-1 Insect, Disease & Mite Control, a systemic insecticide containing imidacloprid, which will kill the "Evil Weevil".

#### Door Prizes and Raffle Plants

Door prizes and raffle table tickets were drawn.

The meeting concluded at 9:00 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Karen Steinberg.



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## Monthly Meeting Minutes – just so that you don't think that we forgot them...

### Bromeliad Society of Central Florida — 18 October, 2017

We had no meeting in October because the scheduled speaker had to cancel due to Hurricane Irma damage. Many of the professional and hobby growers in Florida suffered tremendous damage to their greenhouses and plants due to the high winds and rains of Irma. Because we already had our Tailgate Social scheduled for October 21 we decided to cancel the meeting.

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## List of Upcoming Events

### May 29–June 3, 2018

BSI World Conference in San Diego, California

<http://www.bsi.org/new/conference-corner/>

**The next World Bromeliad Conference will be held in San Diego, California. It will be held May 29–June 3, 2018. Now is a great time to join the Bromeliad Society International as we are offering 25 discount to new memberships! [www.bsi.org](http://www.bsi.org)**



### Our Meeting Next Month: Wednesday, January 17th, 2018

The Bromeliad Society of Central Florida meetings are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month from 7–9 PM at Leu Gardens, 1920 N. Forest Avenue, Orlando, FL 32803. You'll enjoy informative programs, Show & Tell, plant sales, refreshments & door prizes. Members also receive a monthly newsletter—all for only \$15 per member, plus \$5 per additional family member (no charge for full-time students). Visitors are always welcome.

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.

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