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Newsletter of the
Bromeliad Society of Central Florida
Volume no. 47, Issue no.12

December 2020

Next meeting: January 20, 2021

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

Happy Holidays.

I hope this December finds everyone safe and healthy. Finally 2020 is coming to an end. It has been a scary year for all of us. Unfortunately 2021 doesn't look like it will start out as a better year. We can hope that improves and we can get back to some version of normalcy. Keeping our fingers crossed that we will be able to do our two huge plant sales in March and May.

It is disappointing that we had to cancel our December holiday meeting. We are postponing our annual gift exchange to our May meeting where we normally celebrate our Mother's Day Show and Sale success. We are keeping our fingers crossed that we won't have to cancel any further meetings.

Wishing all of you healthy and safe holidays. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year . Look forward to seeing everyone next year. And hoping for a mild winter.



Mike



November Minutes

Meeting Minutes – November 18, 2020 Bromeliad Society of Central Florida

Teresa Eddy aka “The Backyard Florist” was the guest speaker at the November meeting. The topic was, “Holiday Arrangements,” with a Florida theme. Teresa shared some great tips with the group on the limitless possibilities of creating easy festive holiday decorations from fresh outdoor plants and other interesting items.

Teresa created a colorful floral arrangement using the Serendipity pups from the gift bromeliad given to each member at last year’s December holiday meeting. The arrangement included fresh plants from her landscape to include colorful coleus, coontie palm, and foliage sprayed with sparkles.

Teresa also created a red cedar fireball wreath and a metal pale arrangement of dried inflorescence. Teresa invited anyone who would like to create arrangements and is in need of fresh plant clippings to visit her property to obtain those items. Teresa’s November 21, 2020, workshop at Leu Gardens was sold out.

Vice President Marilyn Howser’s Report

December 2020 Meeting - Due to COVID social distancing considerations, there will be no round tables. There will be finger food and desserts provided by Mike Saunders and Marilyn Howser. No one is to bring any food. There will be no door prizes or raffle tickets. There were 28 members at tonight’s meeting.

December 2020 Meeting Gift Exchange – Wrap a mystery package with a gift of \$15 or more from the garden, bromeliads, or buy something. The gifts are to be cleaned and free of bugs, please!

President Mike Saunder’s Report

- October 2020 minutes were approved.
- Thank you to Teresa Eddy for her demonstration on, “Holiday Arrangements.”
- Thank you to all who brought door prize and raffle items.
- A big thanks to all for the food items.
- Thank you to those who participated in this evening’s Members sale. The Members sale generated a lot of activity between buyers and sellers with interesting discussion on various plant topics.
- The BSCF website is bromeliadorslando.com. Thank you to Greg Kolojeski for updating and keeping current the website.

Telka’s Holiday Arrangement



- There was one new guest at tonight's meeting who was introduced to the group. Jackie, neighbor of Tracy Kochmann, is from Colorado and is learning about plants that grow in Florida.

Treasurer's Report:

Mike Saunders gave the Treasurer's Report in Leanne's absence.

The Mead Botanical Garden's sale was very successful. Seven members participated. . Thanks to Marilyn for coordinating the sellers, coordinating the tags, and thanks to all who showed up.

- **No old business.**
- **New business:**
 - The Leu Gardens plant sale will be on Saturday, March 13, and Sunday, March 14, 2021. Friday, March 12, 2021, is set up day. Any members can sell. 80/20 Member/Society split on sales. More news to come in February 2021.

BSCF annual membership dues are due in January 2021. \$15 per individual; an additional \$5 for another member of the household. Marilyn informed the group that there are no membership dues for new members who are covered through December 2021.

BSCF elections will be held for all positions for next year – President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Please provide your email address if you are interested in running for office.

Announcements:

- The World Bromeliad Conference (WBC) is scheduled for June 9 to 12, 2021, in Sarasota, Florida. Greg Kolojeski, Vice President of the Bromeliad Society International (BSI), stated that there are 160 registrants who paid to attend the conference. The original deadline to receive a 100% refund was December 31, 2020. Due to the unknown status of the conference because of the COVID pandemic, an extension of this deadline to obtain a 100% refund of the registration fee was extended to March 31, 2021.
 - Five of eight of the speakers were from international areas; none of them are coming due to quarantine restrictions upon return to their countries. The WBC committee will obtain replacement speakers from the United States.
 - There will be a rare plant auction at the WBC, and there will be a plant sale which will be open to the public.
- Marilyn shared with the group the itinerary for speakers at upcoming FCBS meetings.

- January 2021, Steve Byram, Vice-President of the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay, Topic-Bromeliads 101
- February 2021, Pam Marion and John Boardman, Members of the BSCF, Topic-How to Prepare Plants for the Mother's Day Sale
- March 2021, Tom Wolfe, President of the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay, Topic-Aechmeas
- Mother's Day Weekend Show and Sale - Mike shared with the group that there will be a plant judging. Win prizes and ribbons. The event will be located near Panera Bread at the Fashion Square Mall in Orlando. Anyone can enter plants in the show.
- Wednesday, December 16, 2020, is the next BSCF meeting.

Show and Tell

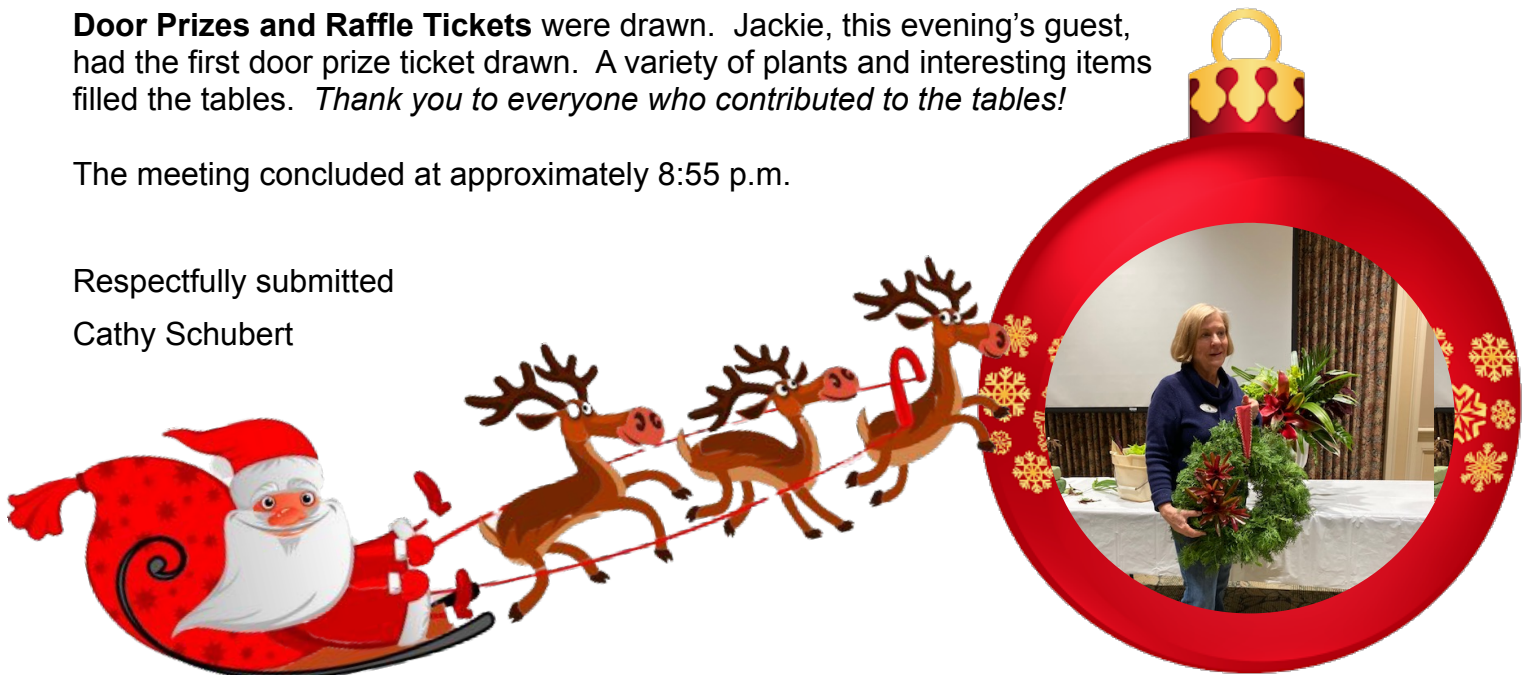
- John Boardman shared the following bromeliads with the group:
 - Pitcarnia Smithiorum, rainforest, blooms for 2 months, moderate morning sun. Note: The Pitcarnia Smithiorum Bromeliad was the "Plant Picture of the Day," for November 23, 2020, on the [Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society](#) facebook page where you may view this bromeliad.
 - Neoregelia Determine, Ray Coleman hybrid
 - Orthophytum 'Heavy Metal', Paul Wingert hybrid, flowering
 - Neoregelia 'Wide Load', Chester Skotak hybrid, slow to grow. Note: The Neoregelia 'Wide Load' was the "Plant Picture of the Day," for November 24, 2020, on the [Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society](#) facebook page where you may view this bromeliad.

Door Prizes and Raffle Tickets were drawn. Jackie, this evening's guest, had the first door prize ticket drawn. A variety of plants and interesting items filled the tables. *Thank you to everyone who contributed to the tables!*

The meeting concluded at approximately 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Cathy Schubert



Upcoming Events

Leu Gardens Annual Plant Sale

Saturday, March 13, 2021

9 AM to 5 PM and

Sunday, March 14, 2021

9 AM to 5 PM

[Leu Gardens Plant Sale](#)

1920 N. Forest Ave.

Orlando, FL 32803

The **Bromeliad Society of Central Florida** will have a booth with a large selection of great Bromeliads.



Bromeliad Society of Central Florida Annual Mother's Day Show and Sale

May 7th to 9th, 2021

10 AM to 9 PM, Friday and Saturday

11 AM to 6 PM, Sunday

[Fashion Square Mall](#)

3201 E. Colonial Dr.

Orlando, FL 32803

The **Bromeliad Society of Central Florida** has had a plant show and sale for many years on Mother's Day weekend.

World Bromeliad Conference 2021

June 9–12, 2021 - Sarasota, Florida

For more information check here:

<https://www.bsi.org/new/world-bromeliad-conference-registration/>



**Signup for BSI
Membership
& Register for
WBC 2021**

Vice Presidents Comments



CHOOSING THE RIGHT BROMELIAD FOR YOUR SITUATION



Just like choosing a plant based on whether it will be placed in full sun, partial sun or shade, you may want to consider the 'cold hardiness' of your Bromeliad selections. With all the information available on the internet in this day and age, there is now substantial information on individual plant cold tolerance. You can also inquire about this information from your supplier if they specialize in Bromeliads. Large "box stores" are generally not a good place for these type of specifics. Below is a generalization of some of the more common genera:

[Aechmeas](#): Most individuals in this group are generally considered hardy to 32 degrees

[Billbergias](#): With some exceptions this group is hardy down to the low 30's.

[Cryptanthus](#): Known as "Earth Stars" it is better to provide for min. temps. Above 45 degrees.

[Guzmanias](#): This group generally are considered more tropical and do not like temps. below 45 degrees.

[Neoregelias](#): Another hardy group with most member able to withstand lows to 32 degrees.



What's Cold for Bromeliads? By Jay Thurrott

Here's a question that I hear nearly every spring after the threat of cold weather has passed and bromeliad growers are taking stock of their collections: "Why is it that after some winters with relatively mild temperatures some of my plants show cold damage, yet after other supposedly colder winters, the same plants show no damage at all? This is one of those questions that can have several possible answers (beside the obvious "Cold, what's cold? Anything lower than 75 degrees is cold to me") so let's see if any of the following fit your situation:

1. It's not the cold, it's the frost. Aren't you tired of that same whiny old Summer time adage "it's not the heat, it's the humidity" - makes you want to just slap somebody, doesn't it? Well, in the wintertime it isn't just the cold temperatures that injure bromeliads. Frost that forms during the early morning hours can severely damage leaves on many plants and frost can form at temperatures well above freezing depending on the relative humidity! The answer to the question, then is that frost may form during cool days – even though overall, it is a mild winter. And, that frost may end up damaging your plants more than an overall cold winter. So, it's not the cold, it's the humidity!
2. It's not the cold, it's how long the cold lasts. Many, if not most of the bromeliads that we have in our collections can stand short periods of quite cold weather – and by that, I mean temperatures dipping into the low 30's (keep in mind that 32°F is the freezing point for water). It's the number of hours that the plant is subjected to these temperatures that is important though. This means that you could easily have a single "cold" night where temperatures fall into the 20's for a brief time but returning to the upper 30's during the daytime with little or no resultant plant damage. In contrast, several continuous days of temperatures in the low to mid 30's can cause far greater damage to your plants...and that's why bromeliads don't grow in the wild in North Carolina!³
3. The Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society January, 2017
3. It's not the cold, it's when the cold weather shows up. Often, if a cold winter sort of eases in - and by that, I mean that the weather becomes steadily cooler over a period of many days or weeks –tropical plants become hardened to the cooler temperatures and are better able to tolerate occasional dips in temperature without damage. In contrast, one of the worst situations for injuring bromeliads occurs when we have a warm autumn followed by a long spell of balmy winter weather and then ending in a sharp drop in temperatures. Another worst case scenario occurs when we have frost in the early spring after we've had a number of days of warm weather. Both of these conditions catch bromeliads at their tenderest and they are most likely to suffer cold damage. So, a single day of cold weather following an otherwise warm winter can cause more cold damage to your plants than many cold days during a so-called cold winter.

4. It's not the cold, it's the wind chill. I've always heard that the "wind chill factor" is something created by Florida's Chamber of Commerce to make snowbirds feel that much more smug when they hear weather forecasts for their home towns back up north. Actually however, the wind chill is intended to give a more realistic picture of what outside temperatures feel like when you combine the actual temperature with the wind speed. Obviously, low temperatures feel that much colder when they are accompanied by gale force winds. This wind chill factor concept is important also to tropical plants, but for a different reason. Our soils act as reservoirs of heat when sudden blasts of cold air pass through. Plants either in the ground or in pots on the ground benefit from the radiant heat that continues to rise from the soil for quite some time after air temperatures plummet. When cold weather is accompanied by moderate to strong winds, this radiant heat is quickly dissipated before our plants can draw any benefit from it. This can easily result in a situation where cold damage is seen in plants exposed to moderately low temperatures and strong winds. In contrast, plants may be well protected by higher soil temperatures even during brief periods of very low temperatures as long as they are protected from the wind.



Well, there you have it – four possible situations where plants can suffer more damage during mild winters than colder ones. Feel free to pick any of these that may apply to you and you will have a ready-made excuse for why your bromeliads are not looking so good following our winter period. Cheer up – spring can't be far behind and those same ratty looking plants will soon put on a fresh spurt of growth, new leaves, and maybe even a beautiful bloom!



2021 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 _____

Officers

- PresidentMike Saunders presbyter@cfl.rr.com
- Vice President Marilyn Howser marilynhowser@gmail.com
- SecretaryPat Neff..... prneff04@verizon.net
- Treasurer Open Position
- FCBS RepsBetsy McCrory betsymccrory@aol.com
-& Mike Saunder.... presbyter@cfl.rr.com
- EditorJohn Vecchitt..... lordvec54@gmail.com
- Hospitality Marilyn Howser.... marilynhowser@gmail.com
- LibrarianPam Marion birdofparadise@mindspring.com
- PhotographerCheryl Reynolds calba11@cfl.rr.com

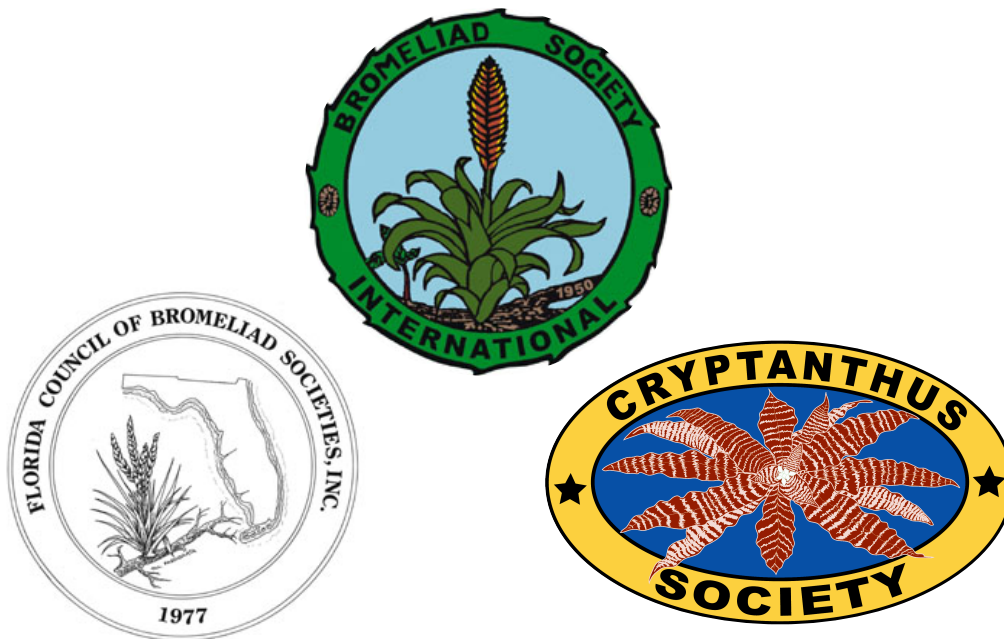
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Bromeliad Society of Central Florida, Inc.

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.