

DRAFT MINUTES

FLORIDA COUNCIL OF BROMELIAD SOCIETIES MEETING

Saturday, June 27, 2026, Home of Jack Dunlop, Ormond Beach, Florida

The meeting was called to order at 1:15 pm by President Jack Dunlop, who thanked everyone for coming.

Representatives attending:

Bromeliad society of Central Florida: Mike Saunders, Betsy McCrory

Bromeliad Society of South Florida: Richard and Maureen Adelman

Bromeliad Society of the Palm Beaches: Jim and Shirley Jackson

Caloosahatchie Bromeliad Society: Vicki Chirnside, Julie Stein

Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society: Jack Dunlop, Calandra Thurrott

Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society: Joe Ventimiglia

Gainesville Bromeliad Society: Steve Provost, Brian Dey

Sarasota Bromeliad Society: Marian Kennell, David Denholm

Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society: Greg Kolojeski

Unable to Attend: Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society of Tampa

Guests: Lisa Kramer, Caloosahatchie; Bill Hazard, FECBS; Joe Biflesprole; Mark Kennell, Sarasota Bromeliad Society

REPORTS AND UPDATES

Minutes: Maureen Adelman, secretary, presented the minutes from the February 26 meeting in West Palm Beach. Minutes amended to delete monetary amounts and make minor name changes. Minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report: Reminders were made about dues. A donation to BSI was made. Report approved and filed for audit.

Webmaster's Report: Received and approved.

Judging: Vicki Chirnside was asked about a future judging school as several people were interested. She explained how complicated setting up judge's school can be and stated she only had 3 people finish the last judge's school. She suggested the societies ask their membership who is interested. She would need 10 people minimum and classes would last at least a year. Societies were again urged to have judged shows, even smaller and genus specific shows. Bromeliad Society of South Florida offered to share planning information to anyone interested.

Archives: Steve Provost reported the archives, once housed at Selby Gardens and now at UCF, are open to anyone. The records are now being digitized. He reports privacy issues with members' names, addresses and phone numbers as UCF will not redact documents to remove this information. Also federal web contact accessibility guidelines are increasing the cost of digitizing. It was suggested we make the documents available only to BSI members. The BSI board is to respond. Additional materials may be donated by Selby Gardens (Bruce Holst) to UCF as the new building at Selby will not hold them. This decision is in the hands of the BSI board. Steve needs to resign as of the 2028 World Conference so a replacement will be needed. The archives chair meets 3 times annually with the Director of the UCF archives.

OLD BUSINESS

FCBS Roster – Betsy McCrory is attempting to finish the roster despite some health delays. She is still accepting additions.

Newsletter – Terrie Bert is unable to accept the editor position at this time but will consider something in the future. No volunteers were put forth by the societies. The newsletter is published quarterly and assembling the roster is another part of the job.

Weevil Committee – Tabled. Tom Wolfe not present.

Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society of Tampa – Tom Wolfe does not want to give up on the struggling society and will let us know in the fall if things are any better. The society has no money and no regular meeting place.

NEW BUSINESS

Florida Speaker Reimbursement Program – Three societies will be cooperating to bring 2 speakers to their upcoming meetings: Bromeliad Society of South Florida, Bromeliad Society of the Palm Beaches and Caloosahatchie Bromeliad Society. Andy Siekkinen and Pamela Koides-Hyatt have been contacted and agreed to speak. FCBS is to contribute \$1000 per speaker. The Sarasota rep asked about joining the group but would need 30 days prior notice to participate. It was noted that \$1000 is the maximum contribution by FCBS no matter how many clubs participate. A motion was made by Steve Provost to accept and fund the speakers. Seconded by Marian Kennell. The motion passed.

2027 Extravaganza – Several societies do not have facilities with the requisite 6000 sf of meeting space, including Caloosahatchie. South Florida could tie in the Caribbean. West Palm Beach is not interested as Tom Ramiccio is already working on the 2028 World Conference in Bangkok, Thailand. The financial risk of guaranteeing hotel rooms was also discussed. FCBS may need to be the host committee. Four areas were listed for possible division among different societies: Registration with data base; Speakers; Vendors; Hotel or other venue. Several reps suggested dividing the responsibilities between several societies but that would be complicated by how any profits are to be divided. Jim Jackson stated the location and date are important and the cost of the hotel determines the date. Vicki Chirnside stated the affair does not have to be fancy and could consist of dinner and a sale. Greg Kolojeski suggested the sale

could be in one location and attendees could be responsible for their own accommodations. Various botanical gardens were suggested as venues and members were encouraged to contact their local botanic gardens for prices. Naples Botanic Garden was ruled out as there are no local societies in Naples to handle coordination. Late summer or early fall were suggested as good times.

Societies in south Florida were asked to look for a location and date. Jim Jackson suggested a Zoom meeting to further discuss venues before the next scheduled FCBS meeting. Sales space needs to be indoors with security. The zoom meeting is scheduled for Saturday, August 1 at 1 pm, the same time as regular FCBS meetings.

MEMBER SOCIETIES NEWS, SPEAKERS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sarasota Bromeliad Society

- March – David John Turner, Spanish Moss in Florida: A Social and Economic History
- April - Ray Lemieux, Captain Kaleidoscope, Pollinating bromeliads and identifying genus by examining seeds
- May – 4 member show and sale: Ray LeMieux, David Denholm, Terrie Bert, Jason Mellica
- June – Dr. David Denholm, 2026 BSI World Conference

Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

- April – Dave Johnston, Billbergias
- May – Jason Mellica, Hybrids
- June – Pam Marion, Naming Bromeliads/tools

Bromeliad Society of the Palm Beaches

- March – Jim Jackson, Keeping Your Bromeliads Safe in Cold Weather
- April – CJ McCartney, Creating Vibrant, Sustainable Landscapes with Native Wildflowers, Meadows and Ground Covers
- May – Terrie Burt
- June – Overview of World Bromeliad Conference 2026
- July – David Sands
- August – Andy Siekkinen
- September Steve Byran
- October – Dave Johnston
- November – Pam Koide-Hyatt
- December – Holiday Party

Gainesville Bromeliad Society

- March – Marty Baxley, Bromeliads: Facts and Fiction
- April - Ray Lemieux, Tillandsias and Terrestrials
- May – Kenneth Stokes, Plant collecting considerations
- June – Steve Beaudoin, Hohenbergias
- July - Greg Kolojesky, Bromeliad Flowering Characteristics

Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society

- March – Anthony Warfield, Cryptanthus
- April – Annual Spring Plant Sale
- May – Stephanie LaRusso, The Many Forms of Bromeliaceae
- June – Alex Bello, Vrieseas: Show Beauties

Caloosahatchie Bromeliad Society

- March – Annual Auction
- April - Party
- May – Plant Sale and Swap
- June – Pineapples, themed meeting
- July – Alex Bello
- August – Andy Siekkinen

Bromeliad Society of Central Florida

- January – Alex Bello, S. Florida Tillandsias, Hybrids and More
- February – Jason Mellica – New Bromeliad Hybrids
- March – Chip Jones and Lew Gardens Sale
- April – Lee Magnuson
- May – Mother's Day Sale
- June - Stephanie LaRusso – History

Bromeliad Society of South Florida

- March – Show Preparation, Getting your plants ready
- April – Making Pots with potter
- May - Dave Johnston, Billbergias
- June - Terrie Burt
- July – Bromeliad Bingo

A motion was made by Steve Provost to adjourn, seconded by Marion Kennell. The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 pm.

Thank you to Jack Dunlop for hosting at his home in Ormond Beach.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Adelman, FCBS Secretary

