



Central  
Florida

# orlandiana

Newsletter of the  
Bromeliad Society of

Volume no. 43 Issue no. 02

February

**2017**

Next meeting – Wednesday, February 15, 2016

Set up

6:30 pm Where – Leu Gardens

Refreshments 6:30-7

1920 N. Forest Ave. Orlando, FL 32803

7:00 pm meeting

begins

**There Will Be NO Member Market**

**Please bring snack, raffle and show and tell plants, to the meeting.**

## **This Month's Speaker**

*James (Jay) Thurrott*

Jay Thurrott is an environmental chemist who has worked in the public service sector for 30-plus years, recently retiring as Manager of Treatment Operations for the City of Daytona Beach. He began growing bromeliads in the 70's and now grows more than 700 varieties of bromeliads at his home in Port Orange, Florida and been growing bromeliads since the 70's. A longtime member of the Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society (FECBS), Jay is their newsletter editor and has served as secretary, vice president and president as well as chairman of the 2011 Bromeliad Extravaganza, which was hosted by the FECBS. He has served as a representative to the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies (FCBS) for many years, is a past-Chairman of that organization and a coeditor of their newsletter. Also active in local garden club activities, he is a past president of the Halifax Council of Garden Clubs (a consortium of 7 garden clubs in the Daytona Beach area). He is currently President of the Bromeliad Society International after having served as a director and vice-president. Jay is also a BSI accredited judge having judged bromeliad shows throughout and occasionally, outside the USA.



## President's Message

Happy February. I'm Mike Saunders and have the privilege of being the new President for BSCF. I look forward to working with all of you in the upcoming year to strengthen our knowledge and love of bromeliads and our Society. We are lucky to have a great set of officers for 2017. Marilyn Howser is our new Vice President, and Karen Steinberg and Betsy McCrory are continuing to serve as our Secretary and Treasurer, respectively.

Marilyn has been working hard in getting all of our monthly programs planned out. She has put together a great calendar, which also includes some field trips. Our first field trip is coming up on Sunday, February 19 at McCrory's Sunny Hill Nursery ([www.mccrorysnursery.com](http://www.mccrorysnursery.com)) in Eustis, FL. We will be meeting up with the Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society at 2:00 p.m. at the nursery. Hope you can join us for a great nursery tour.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, February 15 at our great new meeting location, Leu Gardens in the Rose Room. Marilyn has lined up the former president of Bromeliad Society International, Jay Thurrott for February's program. Look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting and Jay's program.

Please remember to mark your calendar for the big Leu Gardens Annual Plant Sale, Saturday, March 11 and Sunday, March 12. We will again have a booth this year with many beautiful bromeliads for sale. Please come out to this great plant sale and look for our society's booth. And invite your neighbors and friends.

If you haven't paid your dues, you can pay Betsy at our next meeting. And please contact Karen to update your email address and information.

Lisa Robinette has left the Board and she will be missed. She put together a lot of great programs and served our Society well. Thank you Lisa for your service.

Please contact myself or any of the other officers with any questions or concerns. And please invite your family and friends to our meetings and to join our Society. I look forward to serving you and BSCF.

Mike

## **The Central Florida Fruit Society Member is looking for contributors for their newsletter**

Do you know a lot about growing a specific tropical fruit tree? Have some important information for us or expertise? Have some photos of what's in bloom or fruiting this month? Why not write a short article or paragraph or send us some pictures? We would like to invite you to contribute photos, articles, etc. to the latest edition of our newsletter. This will help make it more exciting and relevant to our members.

You say that your writing skills aren't the greatest? Not to worry. We will gladly edit or polish up your contribution, edit your photos, etc.

Just send what you have, to: [dbraverman48@gmail.com](mailto:dbraverman48@gmail.com)  
Looking forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

2 February 2017

[facebook.com/BromeliadSocietyOfCentralFlorida](https://www.facebook.com/BromeliadSocietyOfCentralFlorida)

David Braverman, CFFS Vice President and Newsletter Editor.

## **The Extensive and Broadly Overlapping Habitats of the Cactus and Bromeliad Families— by Paul Wingert**

The Cactus family-- with more than 10,000 species, and Bromeliad family—with approximately 3,500 species, are two of the largest New World plant families which are almost entirely endemic to the American continents. The cactus family has a more extensive range due to the great number of species which have adapted to winter cold. In the American tropical and subtropical regions, the two plant families share an incredible range of habitats, and are frequently to be found growing side by side.



Till tenuifolia/ Aporocactus sp.  
growing on a granite inselberg  
Pernambuco, Brazil (Photo by Andy  
Siekkinen)



Agave species (undescribed).  
Neobuxbaumia nizandensis  
(columnar cactus),  
Mammillaria nizandensis  
(small white cactus),  
Hechtia isthmusiana  
(pinkish-apricot colors).  
Southern Oaxaca AS292 dry  
season (trees deciduous and  
Hechtias have color). (Photo  
by Andy Siekkinen)

Best known to most cactus and succulent growers are the succulent leaved bromeliads. These include the genus Hechtia-- a Mexican and Guatemalan endemic consisting of app. 50 species;

the genera *Dyckia* (164 spp.), *Encholirium* (28 spp.), *Deuterocohnia* (18 spp.), and *Orthophytum* (65 spp., up significantly from the 2 known species in 1939!)-- which range from Brazil and Bolivia, Paraguay, Uruguay, and northern Argentina. Many are quite hardy, and survive in habitats that experience winter temperatures as low as 20 F. and even occasional accumulating snow! Most of them experience seasonal rains, as well as extended dry seasons. There is a great diversity of these plants found in sunny niches throughout a number of ecosystems-- they are found from southern Texas through Mexico and Guatemala in North America, and in the Caatinga, Pampa, Restinga, and more often Campos Rupestres (“rocky fields”) and Cerrado vegetation of South America. In southwest-central Brazil (primarily Mato Grosso and Minas Gerais), the rocky outcroppings of the Cerrado biome shelter numerous species of *Dyckias* and *Encholiriums*.



*Dyckia delicata* is a recently described species from southern Brazil.  
Photo credit- Constantine Gastaldo.



MG, Brazil, undescribed *Encholirium* species.  
Photo credit- Eddie Esteves

Another common plant association is that of Cacti and numerous species of the genus *Tillandsia* (a recent count shows 627 spp.). Many varieties of *Tillandsias* can be found growing epiphytically upon cacti. Each family has evolved to take advantage of the limited water resources, and while rain may be in short supply, many of the ecosystems are visited by periodic fog. It is well known that most cacti have abandoned the typical leaves as a means of water conservation. The spines (areoles/modified leaves) have developed not only as a means of protection, but also can act as “condensers” of the fog, directing tiny rivulets of precious moisture to the base of the plant. *Tillandsias* have a significantly different approach. Foliar trichomes have evolved to become very efficient atmospheric “sponges”. They also serve to protect the leaf surfaces from intense solar radiation. All cacti, and most *Tillandsias*, share the strategy of Crassulacean Acid Metabolism (CAM). This is a strategy adapted by many arid dwelling plant species, where the leaf stomata are closed during the day in order to reduce moisture loss from transpiration, and then open during the night-time hours (basically the reverse of what students learn about plants in elementary school biology classes).

## **Bromeliad Society of Central Florida — 18 January, 2017 Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was opened by Mike Saunders introducing our guest speaker, Dennis Cathcart.

### **Program:**

Dennis Cathcart, the force behind Tropiflora in Sarasota, Florida, gave a “Bromeliads on the Rocks” presentation filled with photos of bromeliads in their natural habitats. It was fascinating to see the lithophytic bromeliads...crazy how giant Alcantarea cling to cliff sides and whole mountainsides were covered with different bromeliads. A wonderful presentation, giving us all sorts of ideas for possibly utilizing some rocks in our own gardens...and maybe vacationing somewhere “on the rocks”!

Please stop by the Tropiflora website:  
[www.tropiflora.com](http://www.tropiflora.com)

After a brief break the meeting was called to order by President Betsy McCrory

### **Old Business:**

Betsy gave the Treasure’s Report and the report was filed for audit.

The nominating committee nominated Mike Saunders for BSCF President and Marilyn Hower for Vice President. Dean Fairchild made a motion to approve the nominations and Phil Wright seconded the motion. Congratulations to our 2017 President and Vice President! We all know that Mike and Marilyn will do a fabulous job. Betsy McCrory will be continuing to serve as Treasurer, Karen Steinberg as Secretary.

The Leu Gardens Annual Plant Sale, March 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>.

Evan McCrory has agreed to chair the Sale Committee. He will also be providing the plant transportation to Leu Gardens. Please contact Evan by March 1 if you would like to sell plants at the Society booth!

More information to come on the specifics of loading the truck, times, etc.

BSCF Annual Mother’s Day Show and Sale

Betsy announced that the Fashion Square Mall is still the location for the Show and Sale even though the owner of the Mall has filed Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

### **New Business:**

Chad Brinkerhuff from the Central Florida Orchid Society was a guest at our meeting and asked if our Society would like to have a table and display at their 2017 Orchid Show and Sale, “Out of this World Orchids”. The event is to be held June 10–11, 2017 at the National Guard Armory, 2809 Ferncreek Ave., Orlando. For our society, this would not be a sales event, it would be a cross marketing opportunity to educate the public a bit on bromeliads and our Society. Chad will

have more information on advertising in the program/brochure to come. Mike Saunders made a motion to participate in the event, John Boardman and Karen Steinberg seconded the motion. Betsy is going to contact the commercial growers that are Society members to see about getting plants for a floor display. More information to come...and start saving some of your bromeliad funds for orchids!

[www.cflorchidsociety.org](http://www.cflorchidsociety.org)

Greg Kolojeski, a Circle President of the Seminole Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society, was also a guest at our meeting! Greg discussed briefly his experience making the new SBTPS website and offered to assist us if we were interested in creating a new website for our Society. He has been very gracious, supplying us with information and costs, even extending an offer to build our site and help train someone a bit on maintaining the site. Information regarding the development of a new BSCF website will be sent out separately in an email...one of the determining factors would be finding a key member to be webmaster. Congratulations, Greg, your new site is a wonderful feat! Especially fitting as 2017 is the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Seminole Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society.

[www.bromeliads.club](http://www.bromeliads.club)

### **Auction, Raffle and Door Prizes:**

Grant Groves donated a stunning Guzmania ‘candy’ for auction! Mike played auctioneer and Dean Fairchild won the beauty. Also auctioned off was a beautiful Cryptanthus ‘cinnamon’...and the winner was the lucky Sudi Hipsley. Many thanks to Grant for his donation and to whomever donated the lovely Cryptanthus, I did not catch that information for my notes, I apologize.

Raffle and door prize tickets were drawn, lots of goodies!

### **Show and Tell:**

Grant Groves brought in some striking Neoregelias and Viresias that he has been cultivating...nameless beauties that we will hopefully see more of and be able to acquire in the future! (and one that might have been a Guzmania...the info was going really fast!)

Lisa Robinette had two large, dramatic Tillandsia to show, a Tillandsia botteri with a lovely bloom and a long, twisty Tillandsia albida. (Grant presented Lisa’s plants as she was unable to attend) That Tillandsia albida looked really wonderful hanging on my pergola...Lisa almost only got one plant returned!

### **Upcoming events:**

#### **August 4–6, 2017**

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies’ Extravaganza: Bromeliads by the Bay hosted by the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay and the FCBS

<http://www.fcbs.org/>

<http://www.fcbs.org/2017-Extrava-Flyer-Clarion.pdf>

**May 29–June 3, 2018**

BSI World Conference in San Diego, California:

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

**Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.**

Respectfully submitted by Karen Steinberg

## **Bromeliad Society of Central Florida — 26 January, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was called to order by President Mike Saunders.

### **Business Discussed:**

#### **The Central Florida Orchid Society 2017 Orchid Show and Sale, “Out of this World Orchids”.**

The event is to be held June 10–11, 2017 at the National Guard Armory, 2809 Ferncreek Ave., Orlando. Marilyn suggested trying a photo of a *Aechmea orlandiana* (the species) for use in our Society program/brochure advertisement given its significance to our Society. Betsy thought that Lisa Robinette would probably have one that we could photograph, Karen will contact Lisa to find out. The advertisement will be a general promotional type, promoting the club, probably a ½ page size.

#### **Other facets of this event that were discussed:**

- Displaying some bromeliads that are native to Florida and also possibly having some educational material on the bromeliad weevil and mosquitos.
- Showing a pineapple and a specimen of *Tillandsia usneoides* (Spanish moss)
- 2 members to man the table/display at all times
- Betsy has a lovely card table that can be used
- Decorative floor display of Bromeliads – Betsy to contact commercial growers on this
- The possibility of acquiring some inexpensive plants from commercial growers to give away with new Society memberships – Karen to follow up on this.

#### **The Leu Gardens Annual Plant Sale, March 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>.**

Evan McCrory has agreed to chair the Sale Committee. He will also be providing the plant transportation to Leu Gardens. Members need to contact Evan by March 1 if they would like to sell plants at the Society booth. We can load the truck in the Sears parking lot at the Fashion Square Mall, we will send out time information shortly to those selling plants – Karen to send out an email reminder to members.

We also discussed the idea of having giveaway plants at this event to drive new membership.

#### **McCrory's Sunny Hill Nursery Tour**

A field trip to the Nursery is planned along with the Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society on Sunday, February 19th. We will be meeting at the Nursery at 2:00 pm in Eustis, FL. Karen to send out a separate email reminder to members.

#### **Development of a new BSCF website**

We discussed the advantages of having a website...and the reality that it really hinges on a person to volunteer to be webmaster. All the good PR we desire won't happen if we don't maintain the site, it is really necessary

for someone to step forward and want to do this task. Karen to send out a separate email to members asking for a volunteer.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Karen Steinberg

**The Bromeliad Society of Central Florida, Inc. was formed in 1972 to encourage the exchange of information concerning the culture, identification and hybridization of the plant family *Bromeliaceae*; to promote & maintain public interest in bromeliads and to assist in the preservation of all bromeliads for future generations.**

Meetings are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month from 7-9 PM at Leu Gardens, 1920 N. Forest Ave, 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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**February 2017**

Next Meeting Wednesday, February 15, 2017



2017 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.

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_ Please make checks payable to BSCF. Checks may be brought to the January 2017 meeting and given to Betsy McCrory, the Treasurer, or you can mail your check to: Bromeliad Society of Central Florida, PO Box 536961 Orlando, FL 32853-6961

Meetings are held the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Wednesday of every month, from 6-9 pm (social between 6:30-7pm) at Leu Gardens, 1920 North Forest Avenue, Orlando, FL 32803

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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