



orlandiana

**Newsletter of the
Bromeliad Society of Central Florida**
Volume no. 49, Issue no. 4

Next meeting: April 20, 2022

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

6:30 –7:00 is time for displaying and purchasing plants

Program officially begins at 7:00 pm

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Visit the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida Website at:
www.bromeliadorslando.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

How times change. In November 1981, the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies published a poll of society members across the state. Even though more than a third of the respondents had been a member of a society for less than 4 years, 83% participated in judged shows. Not anymore. The stress of competition is what a lot of folks raise broms to escape. The time it takes to prepare seems pointless for those who do not grow picture-perfect plants. None of that matters if it is all fun among friends, but over the decades the fun has gone out of it for many. There is something sad about it, but time passes, things change.

In a few weeks, we are going to forget about competition and not worry that a plant has a small flaw. As long as it is healthy and cleaned up, with no scale or bugs, any brom you consider attractive can be part of the fun. We are putting broms on display for everyone to enjoy, our members and the public. We will let everyone see something they've not seen before. It builds the hobby, too. Our Mother's Day Bromeliad Exhibition & Sale can be a win for everyone, but it takes participation.

I worry that a lot of work gets done, but nobody brings a plant to display. But, in my imagination, every member brings one of their favorite broms, maybe three. Most bring small and moderate-sized plants they can easily transport, each one colorful, or in bloom, or so naturally ugly in a weird sort of way that they have a beauty of their own. A couple of folks bring big fellows. We have a challenge placing the big guys where they won't stab someone. We end up with too few tables and have to place pots on the floor. There are spills and dirt on the floor. We didn't bring rags or stuff to clean with. "Anyone have paper towels in their car?" Some plants are labeled wrong. Somebody did not clean the oak leaves out of their plants. A tree frog goes jumping from table to table. Somebody shrieks. Plants get knocked over as people try to catch the frog. More messes. Someone is stabbed by the big monster brom. Real blood!? Disaster time.

...Then folks start trading tales about jumping frogs, and the time a lizard looked like a snake. A voice says, "I've never seen one of those." Another asks, "How do you grow that? Mine always looks terrible." A shopper walking by asks, "What's that?" A companion says, "Ask those people". Strangers are standing around talking broms.

Everybody wins.

March Minutes

BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA, INC. Meeting Minutes March 16, 2022

President Mike McMahon convened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Tim Dreggors, Vice President and Program Chair, introduced the speakers Tom and Carol Wolfe and announced that Marty Folk will be the guest speaker for the April meeting.

Tom and Carol did a presentation showing the exotic bromeliads they have at their homestead in Lutz, Florida.

President Mike McMahon announced the plants that were available for secret bid auction. Bidding will be done during the break. Phil Wright is coordinating the auction. The selling member will contact the winner directly after the meeting. Mike also reminded everyone to check out all the different *Aechmea chantinii* brought in by members on the Plant of the Month tables.

Refreshment Break was taken, with a variety of dishes, snacks and desserts provided by members and laid out by Hospitality Coordinator, Joe Ventura.

Business Meeting was called to order by President Mike McMahon at around 8pm.

We welcomed new members and guests.

New Member: Jason Fernandes.

Guests: Sylvia Arana (mom), Sylvia Arana (daughter) and Rick Dalpay.

January meeting minutes were published in the Orlandiana Newsletter. No corrections were made and they stand approved as filed. Phil Wright moved the motion to approve.

Joyce Gibault gave the treasurer's report.

Telka diFate, Librarian, spoke briefly reminding everyone about the books available for members to check out. Books checked out have to be returned the following month.

Mike Saunders, Leu Gardens Plant Sale Co-Chair reported our total sales receipt for the event. The sale grossed approximately four thousand less than the last plant sale but considering the

inclement weather experienced on the first day of the event, our group still did very well. Mike thanked the sellers and volunteers that helped to make the event a success. The sellers were Evan McCrory, Joyce Gibault, Eloise Beach, Dave and Cathy Schubert, Phil and Maxine Wright, Bonnie and Al Friedrich and Lisa Robinette. The volunteers included Tim Dreggors, Katherine Vaccaro, and Don Sawyer .

Mike Saunders also reported on the Florida Council's February meeting he attended with Greg Kolojeski in Sarasota. The Florida Council is asking all bromeliad societies to contribute 4 to 5 raffle baskets for the World Bromeliad Conference.

BSI Vice-President and World Bromeliad Conference Co-Chair Greg Kolojeski spoke about the World Conference. It will be held in Sarasota on June 7-11, 2022. Host hotel is Hyatt Regency Sarasota. He urged everyone to book their reservations as room inventory is getting low and prices are going up in the surrounding areas. Please contact Greg Kolojeski if you have further questions.

Old Business – none.

New Business

World Conference tote bags. For the 250 tote bags WBC wants, the cost is \$690. With shipping and freight, the total would be \$767.73. Given increasing delivery costs, this amount could be somewhat more by the time we finalize and place order. Board has approved going forward. A motion was made to authorize acquiring 250 bags to donate to the World Bromeliad Conference. Joe Ventura moved the motion to approve. Tim Dreggors seconded. The motion passed.

While cleaning out the locker in Leu Gardens, a couple of things were found.

- Photo slides of the First Bromeliad World Conference
- Epson EX3212 Multimedia projector

President Mike McMahan asked for help to review the slides to determine their condition and possibly converting the slides into digital if in good condition. Pam Marion offered to help. Mike McMahan also asked if anyone can help to figure out the condition and utility of the projector. Mike Saunders mentioned that Marty Folk used it last year and should be able to help.

Leu Gardens will be doing renovations in July that will coincide with our monthly meeting and the Florida Council meeting. President Mike McMahan solicited suggestions for an alternate

venue to hold the July meeting. The venue should be able to fit around 55 people and all the tables we use for refreshments, door prizes, silent auction plants and plant of the month. BSCF is sponsoring the Florida Council meeting on June 25. Similarly, we need to provide a venue and lunch for around 35 people. Please contact Mike if anyone has venue ideas for the 2 meetings mentioned.

Mother's Day sale in Fashion Square Mall – Last year our group voted not to hold the judged plant show part of the event anymore. Instead, the event will showcase the bromeliads for educational purpose only. Instead of requiring sellers to enter five plants for the judged show, we are now requiring each seller to bring in at least five plants for the educational display. A motion was asked to approve allowing vendors to sell the plants in the educational display but released only after the show. Katherine Vaccaro moved the motion to approve and Bob Smedley seconded.

The turnout of our first Plant of the Month activity was a success. Members brought in a lot of *Aechmea chantinii*, showing off the different cultivars for this species. John Boardman will be responsible for coordinating the Plant of Month activity starting next meeting.

A few people participated in the show and tell. John Boardman and Tim Dreggors each brought in large Neoregelias. Pam Marion brought in a native Tillandsia and corrected the name she gave it in the last meeting. Peggy presented an *Aechmea fasciata* which she has kept in a plastic bag with a ripe apple. If it comes into bloom, she will bring it to a future meeting. Mike McMahon showed off two blooming Tillandsia. Joyce Gibault showed the Brothers labelling machine she uses to label her bromeliads.

The meeting concluded with the drawings for door prize and raffle plants donated by members. Every one of the approximate 55 persons attending the meeting received at least one plant, if they wanted one.

Adjourned at 8:55 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Liesl Haas, Secretary

Upcoming Events

47th ANNUAL BROMELIAD EXHIBITION & SALE

May 6-8, 2022: Mother's Day Weekend

Fashion Square Mall: 3201 East Colonial Drive, Orlando, Florida 32803



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday, May 5:

Set-up Exhibition & sale..... After 7:00 p.m.

Exhibition plants received. 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Friday, May 6:

Late entry of exhibition plants By 10:00 a.m.

Plant sale opens 11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Exhibition open 11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 7:

Plant sale opens 11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Exhibition open 11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 8:

Plant sale opens 12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Exhibition open 12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Dismantle exhibition & sale 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

.....*All plants must be removed by 7:00 p.m.*.....

World Bromeliad Conference 2022

June 7-11, 2022 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Sarasota. **Refunds** From April 1, 2022 through May 7, 2022 (which is 30 days before the conference), a refund will be granted for half of the registration fee. There will be no refunds within 30 days of the start of the conference. For more information: www.bsi.org/new/conference-corner/

Events will include tours of two of the world's leading Bromeliad nurseries ([Michael's Bromeliads](#) and [Tropiflora](#)), a visit to the renowned [Marie Selby Botanical Gardens](#) (with free admission for conference registrants), a number of notable speakers, an opening conference reception and welcome address, a banquet with a rare plant sale and auction, a plant sale with numerous sellers, a fantastic judged plant show, and more.



Guest Speaker

Marty Folk

Kissimmee, Florida

My father shared a bromeliad with me 30 years ago and thus began my long-time hobby of growing these wonderful plants. I also grow other tropical plants such as orchids, gingers, and heliconias, but bromeliads are my favorite, mainly because they thrive with little care! I am active in the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida (Orlando) and the Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society (Sanford), and a member of the Bromeliad Society International and a previous board member. I am a semi-retired wildlife biologist and a

long-term volunteer at *Give Kids the World Village*. When not employed with wildlife or working at the Village, I am usually working with plants. But the bottom line is that I am crazy about bromeliads and enjoy visiting with people about them!

About the talk:

"*Growing Bromeliads: Secrets Revealed from 3 Decades of Trial and Error*". In the talk, I use photos and example plants to showcase the diversity of bromeliads and share many tips on how to grow and enjoy them.



Marty (right) sells bromeliads at a club fund-raising sale.

Plant of the Month

APRIL PLANT OF THE MONTH:

Aechmea nudicaulis

Aechmea nudicaulis is a species native to central and southern Mexico, the West Indies, Central America and northern and central South America. This old favorite

remains popular due to its elegant shape and beautiful inflorescence. It is found growing in spreading clumps as an epiphyte in trees and sprawling over rock outcrops. It tolerates a range of conditions, but bright filtered light with some occasional direct sun brings out the best in both form and foliage color. There are at least four varieties recognized by botanists, and another half dozen botanists argue over, plus at least 25 registered cultivars and more that are not registered. Most forms are around 14 inches tall, but there are larger and smaller forms, and the foliage can be anything from yellow-green to brick red to purplish brown or almost black, all with or without silvery banding or colorful blotches of black or purple. The one trait you can always recognize is each leaf has a 'thumbprint' notch in the lower part of the leaf. With so many forms around, the April Plant of The Month table should be wild.



Please bring your specimen to show at the meeting.

What Is It?

We believe this beautiful neoregelia with popping red and green coloration to be a full grown specimen. The dimensions are 20 inches wide by 10 inches high. It has 4 layers of leaves. If you can identify this beauty or have a thought on its identity, please send an email to Cathy Schubert at chefgrill@bellsouth.net. Thank you for your participation.



The possible identification of this neo will published in the next edition of the Orlandiana.

Fighting Scale

FIGHTING BLACK FLYSPECK SCALE

From the BSCF Facebook Group Page

- Mike McMahon

Perhaps the one pest everybody finds on broms raised outdoors is the Black Flyspeck Scale. They hide on the underside of the leaves and can cause serious damage as well as being unsightly. It thrives when plants are crowded and in moist conditions. I've not found any good, easy way to get rid of it. If you have a solution that works for you, please post what you do as a reply. Your way may be the best way for someone else.



For regular garden plants, oil sprays are effective (if you spray the undersides of the leaves). But, oil sprays should NEVER be used on broms. They clog pores in the leaves and can literally smother the plant. If you have just a couple of plants, you can scratch them

off with your fingernail & then lightly spray with an insecticidal soap to kill off the larval stage that has not formed the hard black shell of the adult stage. But, who has just a couple of broms? Insecticidal soap can work without the work of scratching off the scale, but spraying it on the underside of the leaves is impractical when the plants are in the ground, and an unpleasant task if you have a lot of pots of broms. Plus, the insecticidal soap has to be repeated to get all the scale. Otherwise, it just keeps coming back stronger than before.

Systemic insecticides work, but be sure you are using one safe for broms. It seems that over the past 40 years, whenever I found a systemic that does the trick and was safe for the broms, it got removed from the market due to human health risks. The systemic currently being most recommended is Safari, which is effective, but too expensive for a lot of folks. I have had good results using Bayer Tree & Shrub liquid systemic pesticide. The directions say to use it as a soil drench & not to spray on foliage. But, that does not work well with broms in fast draining potting mix & in the garden you can't drench the soil without drenching the foliage. So, I mix about two tablespoons per gallon of water and give a light spray to the foliage. And, I do mean light. I do not try to wet the entire leaf surface, just a light misting. I



do NOT pour into the cup of the plant. I spray once per year in the late Spring and later in the year I may spray again if there seems to be more than an isolated scale here or there. The only broms I've had a problem with are *Vriesea splendens* (*Lutheria splendens* now), *glutinosa* and their hybrids. I do not know if the spray caused them injury or something else, but it is enough of a suspect that I do

not use it on those. Also, with any systemic, no plants visited by bees or butterflies should be sprayed. The nectar is poisoned by it for an indeterminate period of time, perhaps a month or longer. You risk injuring a whole colony of pollinators. So, flowering broms should not get sprayed unless in a screened enclosure where pollinators can't get to them.

Killing the scale does not get rid of the black spots. The black shell of the individual adult scale insect is hard-glued to the leaf. It does not fall off on its own. You know you are getting control when the new foliage is free of the wretched critters. So, before thinking the spray did not work, wait a while for new growth. If it is free of scale, you know you are on the right track. And, after a month or so, if the hard black scale is dead, it will come off much more easily, which is a sure sign of success.

In a month or so it will be time for my annual spraying for scale. I sure wish I did not have to do it.

Blast from the Past

March thru July 2020 the Bromeliad Society of Central FL had no meetings due to covid. With no meetings there was nothing much to talk about as far as the Orlandiana Newsletter goes. So with the help of Steven Wagner Young we filled those months with subjects like "Glossary of Bromeliaceae Terms", "Bromeliaceae Subfamilies". "Bromeliaceae Genera", "Bromeliad Pests and Treatments". The most wonderful pics of broms the members sent me for the newsletters. It really turned out to be a very fun time. A big thanks to Steven and all who sent pics of their broms to me.

Why is the A upper case, the l lower case and the M uppercase with single quotation marks?

You will find the answer in April and May 2020 Newsletters.

The Bromeliad Society International has a great web page to use for research. The BSI is made up of bromeliad societies worldwide. <https://www.bsi.org/new/affiliate-society-newsletters/>

Also Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies has a great web page for research as well. [fcbs.org](https://www.fcbs.org). The fcbs is made up of Florida bromeliad societies. FCBS also has past newsletters for the societies that are members.

You may not find what you are looking for on one of these sites so try them both. Be adventurous and click on the options offer by both of these fine resources.

Marilyn Howser



Aechmea lueddemanniana 'Mend'

Pictures at Leu Gardens



Photos courtesy: Catherine Schubert



I would love to have members submit pictures and articles that can be published in our newsletter. It's not that hard to do and can even be a picture or article from another source as long as you reference it.

Submit to lordvec54@gmail.com and type BSCF somewhere in the subject so I don't miss it. Submissions should be received by the 8th of the month to insure publication that month.



2022 Bromeliad Society of Central Florida MEMBERSHIP FORM



____ NEW MEMBER ____ RENEWAL

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City, State Zip +4 _____

Phone /Email _____

\$15 for one member, plus \$5 for each additional family member at the same address.

Name Tags are optional. The price for a name tag is \$7 per member.

If so desired please insert number ordered _____ \$ _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____ Make checks payable to BSCF

Either **bring payment to the next meeting.** OR If mailing please send to:

Bromeliad Society of Central Florida, PO Box 568872 Orlando, FL 32856-8872.

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 monthly newsletter. Please come join us!

Treasurer: Date _____ Check # _____ Cash \$ _____

