



orlandiana

Newsletter of the
Bromeliad Society of Central Florida
Volume no. 49, Issue no. 6

Next meeting: June 15, 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 m

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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!

Cover: *Alcanterea imperialis rubra*, John Boardman
Photo courtesy: Robin Norton

The President's Message

It is getting to be that time again. The part of the year when it is just too hot to enjoy working in the garden. June gets hot, but at least the mornings are bearable most days. In a couple of weeks, it will be too hot to exert much effort doing outdoor chores. So, I try to do as much as I can before the end of June. Early mornings are good for going through the collection and garden beds cleaning up plants, removing pups that are ready, re-potting/re-mounting as needed, etc. From the 4th of July until October, everything is going to get neglected. I don't mean to neglect them, but I know I will.

There are broms that do not like the heat, like the higher altitude beauties that I'm always wanting to try and eventually kill when I do. The broms most often grown in our area do not mind the heat. Some may not be as colorful as they are during cooler seasons, but the warmth makes them grow fast. What can be problems are wind and rain.

Our hottest months are also our rainy season. Storm winds can knock over potted broms, damaging leaves and breaking flower spikes. June is a good time to be sure pots are large enough and heavy enough to anchor the brom during a typical thunderstorm. Maybe we will be lucky and not get a hurricane or tropical storm force winds this summer, but you know there will be plenty of thunderstorms. If a plant is unstable or has outgrown its pot, now is a good time to get the re-potting done.

We can also count on there being periods when it rains every day for a week and such high humidity that nothing seems to ever dry out. The wet can be as dangerous as a winter freeze. Potted broms are at risk of rot if not in a well-drained mix. What was well-drained when you potted up the plant a year ago may not be now. The organics in a potting mix decay. What was great may become sludge when constantly wet. Then roots suffocate and rot can get a start at the base of the plant. June is a good time to check that all is OK before those daily rains arrive. I think more people lose Vrieseas, Guzmanias and Tillandsias from soggy potting mix than any other cultural cause. Neos, Aechmeas, Billbergias and the rest need good drainage too.

The hot season also makes folks neglectful. We stay in the A/C rather than walking around the whole garden. We don't check the pots tucked in their out-of-the-way niches. We aren't there to notice the blown-over pot until after the plant has become deformed, twisting itself to grow toward the light. If a fallen branch gets removed right away, the plants underneath have a chance. A week later, they may not. Hanging broms blown out of a tree aren't so pretty

after the lawn mower runs over them. The lawn service guys never seem to see anything until after they mow it.

Every year I tell myself I need to do a better job of checking up on the broms during the hot months. And, I do try... at least I mean to. Then comes that week when it is already a steam bath when I open the door at 7AM, and the forecast is 97 degrees. My glasses are fogged and I haven't even stepped outside. I just shut the door. I tell myself I'll do it later And I do mean to.

Then one day I find an old favorite laying on its side and nearly smothered by some weedy vine. Where did that vine come from? Weeds sure grow fast in the heat and the rain. It will take months for the brom to recover, and I regret I did not pay closer attention weeks before. Well, this year I'm going to do better. Really. I mean it.It's just that it gets so hot.

Mike

May Minutes

BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA, INC.

Meeting Minutes

May 18, 2022

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

While technical issues with audio-visual connections were fixed, we welcomed new guests, Barbara Murray, Shawn Murray, Sarah Arnold and Bonnie Stinemel.

Tim Dreggors, Vice President and Program Chair, introduced the speaker David Johnston of Bromeliads Galore.

David did a presentation titled Bad As_ xBigenerics. He discussed the different kinds of known bigenerics with pictures of each.

Mike McMahon, President, announced the plants that were available for secret bid auction. Bidding will start during the break and close at the end of the break. Phil Wright is coordinating the auction. The selling member will contact the winner directly after the meeting. Mike reminded everyone to check out the different *Neoregelia cruentas* brought in by members for 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.

April meeting minutes were published in the Orlandiana Newsletter. No corrections were made and they stand approved as filed. Joe Ventura moved the motion to approve.

Joyce Gibault gave the treasurer's report.

Vice President, Tim Dreggors, announced that Dr. Howard Frank will be the guest speaker for the June meeting. Dr Frank is an expert on the weevil bug that has been a big problem for bromeliads in Florida.

Mike Saunders talked about the very successful Mother's Day Bromeliad Sale. The society sold a total of 724 bromeliads. He thanked everybody who sold plants and volunteered to help. He gave a special mention to Sandy Caruthers who hand wrote most of the display plant tags. President Mike McMahon also noted that there was a total of 58 display plants. There was a very good turnout on the People's Choice award for voting their most favorite bromeliad on the display. Half of the plants on display were voted as most favorite and not one plant had more than 4 votes. This is a sign that the general public loved the educational display. There were around 900 educational handouts picked up.

Marilyn Howser, on behalf of the BSCF presented Sandy Caruthers with a membership pin as a token of our gratitude for her wonderful writing of the display plant tags during the plant sale. Her wonderful calligraphy made even the plainest bromeliads on display look special and elegant.

Due to the upcoming Leu Garden renovation, BSCF is not going to host the Florida Council meeting in June, the council will instead meet at the WBC in Sarasota.

President Mike McMahon thanked Katherine Vaccaro, Kathy Hancock and Tracy Kochmann who stepped up and handled the welcome table while Robin was out.

President Mike McMahon showed the beautiful tote bag that Karen Steinberg designed.

Greg Kolojeski, the co-chair of the World Bromeliad Conference spoke about the upcoming event and is asking for volunteers who can help as cashiers, register operators, tag takers, baggers and general helpers even for just an hour or two on any of the sale days of

Thursday, June 9th : 7pm – 9pm (registrants only)
Friday, June 10th : 9am - 6pm, rare plant auction starting at 8pm
Saturday, June 11th 9am - 4pm

There will be 18 plant sellers from Florida, California, Michigan, Missouri, Louisiana, Peru. Anyone interested please contact Greg. There will also be a rare plant auction on Friday evening starting at 8 pm.

Joe Ventura will not be able to handle the hospitality table after the June meeting. We need a couple of people to step up and take the hospitality chair role.

For the July meeting, we will be meeting in the Orlando Garden Club facility in Loch Haven park. Emails will be sent to all members on the details of the location.

Old Business – none.

New Business – none.

President Mike McMahon thanked everyone that brought in *Neoregelia cruenta* plants to show on the plant of month table.

A few people participated in the show and tell. John Boardman brought in 2 of Skotak's *Neoregelia* hybrids that are being trialed for commercial production. He also showed the very beautiful *Neoregelia* 'Frenzy'. President Mike McMahon brought in a couple of *Guzvriesea* 'Elaine' (or Eliane for the rest of the world). He also displayed his blooming *Tillandsia tricolor*.

The meeting concluded with the drawings for door prize and raffle plants donated by members.

Adjourned at 8:55 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Liesl Haas, Secretary

Member Market

Since our June speaker will not be bringing plants for sale, we will be having a Member Market instead of the secret bid silent auction. Any member can bring one or more broms to sell. (At Member Markets, the sellers are selling on their own account. The society does not get a cut.) I am preliminarily having the Gardens set up six 6-foot tables

near the entry for member sales. **If you plan to bring more than a handful of plants to sell, let me know.** I'll have more tables set up if it seems we will need them.It will be a good time to sell your extras to make room for all the new ones you get at the World Conference. (And, fill the door prize & raffle tables, too.) There will be no 'secret bid auction' in June.

Mike McMahon

June Speaker

Dr. Howard Frank of the University of Florida The Evil Weevil

Dr. Howard Frank is a renowned entomologist and Professor Emeritus from the University of Florida. Dr. Frank has worked hard since the early 1990's to try and find a solution for the "Evil Weevil," aka, *Metamasius collizona* problem. *Metamasius collizona* is an invasive species destroying our Florida native bromeliads since 1989.



Plant of the Month

The entire genus of *Cryptanthus* is our Plant of the Month for June. Sometimes called Earth Stars, *Cryptanthus* are mostly smaller sized plants that are found in the dappled light of clearings in tropical forests. Although there are only a little over 40 species, almost 1,300 cultivars and hybrids have been registered. Foliage colors range from bright green to brown, to red and nearly black, with some having so much silvery scurf the plant seems metallic. There are variegated ones and many with bizarre silver or gold patterns overlaying the foliage. *Cryptanthus* are grown for their foliage, but when they bloom the small white or cream flowers add a note of distinction. Unlike many bromeliads, *Cryptanthus* are true terrestrials that lack a 'cup' to hold water. Do not mount them on driftwood or rocks. They like a rich soil that never goes dry. If in doubt, water them. They can be fertilized at full label strength. The best foliage color will be achieved in bright filtered sun, but they do well in shadier conditions, too. Avoid direct sun except early in the morning. Bring yours to the June meeting. It will take a lot to fill a table!



What Is It?



Telka diFate submitted this unknown *Neoregelia*, (left), to the *Orlandiana* in May for identification. Cathy and Dave Schubert felt this may be a *Neoregelia* 'Lorena', (right), or a 'Little Louis'. Someone also suggested *Neoregelia* Picasso. There were no submissions to be identified for this issue. If you have a brom that you



are curious about please send a short description and photo to lordvec54@gmail.com and I will post it for all to see.

Help Wanted

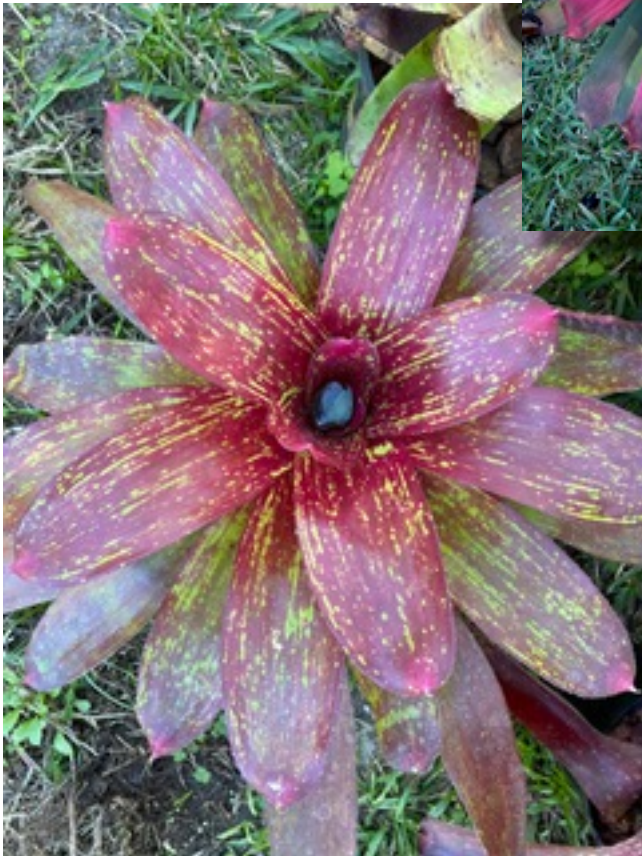
The June meeting will be the last at which Joe Ventura serves as our Hospitality Coordinator. Thereafter there will no arrangements for refreshments unless some folks step up to take care of setting things up. The task is to have tables covered and set out the utensils, napkins, plates, cups, ice bucket and drinks by the time folks begin arriving (by 6:15 or so); storing 'the stuff' between meetings; and shopping for supplies as needed. After the Leu renovations are done, we may be able to have some of the items stored in our cabinet, but probably not everything.

Trivia Question

What bromeliad society in Florida has the most members in its Facebook Group? BSCF does. As of June 3, BSCF's FB Group reached the 2,200 mark, passing the Bromeliad Society of South Florida's FB Group (at 2,100). Check it out & you'll learn something about broms every day. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/263882333744906>

Pictures

A TOUR of LIESL'S GARDEN:







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 \$ _____

Officers

- PresidentMike McMahon michael.mcmahon@akerman.com
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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.