

# orlandiana

Newsletter of the  
Bromeliad Society of Central Florida  
Volume no. 52, Issue no. 6

**Next meeting: June 18, 2025**

**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.bromeliadsorlando.com](http://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!

Photos from the garden of Steve Beaudoin

## President's Message

### Those pesky tags!

All it takes is a look on social media, a bromeliad club meeting, or a walk around your own garden to experience lost or unreadable tags. Tags have definitely been a sore spot since I resumed collecting bromeliads in October 2021. Since attending my first BSCF meeting upon returning back to Florida, there has been 4 hurricanes (3 collapsed eyes going right over my house), a few non-hurricane wind events, and 3 nights of below 32°. Every one of these events cause a major movement of all the bromeliads that were not planted in the ground. It never fails that a few tags jump ship in the movement. Fortunately, I have had a tag mentor in our VP Bonnie Friedrich. I would like to share some of her words of wisdom and some of my experiences and methods.

### Make a second tag immediately!

Use a #2 pencil. Don't sharpen it too much so you will have a wider swath of graphite in your lettering. Pressing hard when writing, almost embosses the tag. This will be more likely legible after a year or 2, where markers, even permanent Sharpies, tend to fade into illegibility. The tags I have been using seem to have a smooth and rough side. Pencils on the smooth side aren't as dark as the rough side. Sometimes a back and forth once with a sheet of sandpaper will help with a darker transfer of graphite and will last longer.

### Useful information to add:

- \* In case of loss so you know who to contact for a possible replacement: Who you bought it from and/or what sale, who gave to you, what dig you acquired it from, cost (to help price it if you sell pups later).
- \* Purchase price (in case you need a starting point for selling in the future).
- \* Purchase, acquisition, or dividing date to see age.
- \* ? marks are important. The name or genus may be in doubt. (The taxonomists are always keeping us busy.)
- \* #'s, signifies a plant ID number prior to naming. F2 designation is important.
- \* Unnamed is different than unknown.
- \* If using a hanging basket, secure tag to basket, If mounting, secure tag to hanger, or mounting surface. Over time as the plants die, tags attached to them fall off. (Cair liners don't dry out as fast as you think. I have had a few bromeliads die from rotting at the root this way. Aechmea orlandiana hybrids and Tillandsias are great candidates to put directly in the wire basket. Mine are thriving that way.)

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**What I have started to do personally:**

I have made display tags to put in the front of the plant once I put them in the ground or display area so I can reinforce my memory of what these species, hybrids, cultivars, and similar looking Skotak releases are named. Things were easier to remember or guess back in my earlier collecting days in the '80s & 90's when everything available was mostly species. That was when hybrids like "Lil Harv" were new. I use the plastic ones with a 2 inch ellipse on a small stake for the ground or pot. I also use a regular tag in the dirt of the pot, or if in the ground, right next to the base of the mom, facing inward toward the plant, the elements don't affect it as much. Some of my first bromeliads I purchased are still in pots, in the same location I put them in over 3 years ago while I am constructing my garden to have their permanent location available. My tagging was very substandard back then. After some being like this, unmoved for 3 years, the original mother plant has died. Some tags were left in the mother plant easily fell out of the dead, disintegrating foliage causing me to get on my hands and knees searching the area trying to find them, if at all. If you are repotting in a pot, put a tag in the bottom of the pot if you really want the tag to be present when dividing.

If your plant comes with a tag with a paper printout or a taped wrapped paper print out, make a tag ASAP. I might start bringing a few tags to sales to just jot down the name quickly. I have had a few plants that had these and all it takes is rain to your vehicle, or forgetting about them for a week with rain or watering, making them illegible.

Try to be accurate with tags! Your tag follows that plant. It can continue on with the wrong spelling, etc. If in doubt check the BSI OR FCBS website.

Another helpful step is one that Steve Beaudoin clued me into a few years ago, the "**Plant Album**" app. This allows you to catalogue all your plants (not only bromeliads), allows you to add pictures, and notes such as location in your garden. With digital cameras, the cost is nothing to take a quick picture holding the tag against the plant before you even purchase it or right after. It is easier to rename plants with a catalogue of what you have purchased than trying to do a search of thousands of bromeliads on the net.

Thanks.

Dan Sawyer

## May 2024 Minutes

### BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA, INC.

#### Draft Meeting Minutes: May 21, 2025

**Will be approved with potential corrections at the June 18, 2025 meeting.**

**Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.**

**Program:** Vice President Bonnie Friedrich introduced speaker and past president Mike McMahon who gave an informative program called "The Nuts and Bolts of Making Tillandsias Easy."

President Dan Sawyer announced a meeting break at 8:05 pm to be resumed at 8:15 pm.

**Business Meeting** was called to order at 8:20 pm.

**Membership Secretary:** Pam Marion introduced new and renewing members and guests:

New Members:

- Jeff Lain from Orlando
- Linda Swanson from Kissimmee
- Wendy Doromal from Orlando

Renewing Members:

- Stuart Henderson
- Sonia Priore and son Leo

Guests:

- Susan Fortune
- Christa Thompson
- Glenn Spitzer
- Terra Weems

Pam noted that we currently have 102 members including 8 life members. The price for name badges has increased from \$8 to \$10. Pam has copies of the 2024 state rosters if desired.

**Minutes:** The draft minutes of the April 16, 2025 meeting were published in the May 2025 Orlandiana with no corrections. **A motion to accept the minutes as written was made by Pam Marion and seconded by Sue Fischer. The motion was passed unanimously.**

The draft February minutes were not approved at the April meeting. The draft of the amended February minutes was published in the May 2025 Orlandiana with no corrections. **A motion to accept the minutes as written was made by Joyce Gibault and seconded by John Vecchitto. The motion was passed unanimously.**

**Treasurer's report:** Joyce Gibault reported that the organization was financially stable. Income and expenses were presented.

**Mother's Day Sale Report:** Mike McMahon reported on the success of the Mother's Day Sale. Fourteen members participated in the sale and 625 plants were sold. People commented that it was great display of plants. Mike gave special thanks to Sandy Caruthers for her work at the sale, noting particularly her handling of the name tags virtually by herself. Special thanks were also given to Sue Fischer and Mike Saunders for volunteering their time although they were not sellers. Dan noted that only about five people already shopping at the mall came over to the sale. He credited the large turnout to Mike McMahon's Facebook postings.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** Dan announced that the garden tours scheduled for May were cancelled and that Karen Steinberg will resume scheduling them in September when the weather cools down.

The plant of the month was Aechmea Orlandiana. Members brought in a number of specimens for display.

**Show & Tell:** Several specimens were shown and discussed.

**Door Prize/Raffle giveaways:** Dan Sawyer announced the order of seating rows to select door prizes.

Dan then drew and announced raffle ticket numbers.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Norton  
Recording Secretary  
Bromeliad Society Central Florida

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Date Approved

## Correction

The previously published Board meeting minutes should be corrected to read:

- That Treasurer Joyce Gibault reimburse herself for having paid a late fee of \$25 to the US Postal Service on behalf of the Society in 2024.

## Upcoming Events

### 2025 Bromeliad Extravaganza

September 26th to 27th, 2025

Kissimmee, Florida (near Disney)

Conference Registration Fee: \$125

(Online Registration or Mail-In)

Sponsored by the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies and hosted by the Seminole Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society, this will be Florida's biggest Bromeliad event of the year!

The **Bromeliad Extravaganza** will include a Friday night dinner (BBQ buffet), three Saturday afternoon seminars (including Leonardo Versieux from Brazil), a Saturday night banquet (Italian buffet) with a rare plant auction, and last (but not least), the biggest Bromeliad sale of the year in Florida. The Bromeliad sale (an area of almost 6,000 square feet) is open to the public on Saturday from 9 to 4.

Bromeliad growers and enthusiasts from all over Florida will bring a large selection of top quality Bromeliads for your purchasing pleasure. Those who register for the Conference will get first stab at acquiring some of these fantastic plants on Friday evening.

The hotel is the **Ramada Gateway**, 7470 W Irlo Bronson Memorial Hwy 192, Kissimmee, FL 34747. To obtain the conference rate, call the hotel (407-396-4400 or 407-997-6662 from 9am to 5pm) and ask for the special **Bromeliad Extravaganza** rates.

The special hotel room rate for Conference registrants is only \$85.80 per night (\$67.80 plus \$18 resort fee) plus 13.5% taxes. This rate includes free parking and breakfast discounts. Deluxe tower rooms are also available for only \$105 (\$87 plus \$18 resort fee). Rooms are King or 2 Queen bed rooms.

A deposit for one night's room rate plus taxes (\$67.80 plus \$9.16 or \$76.96 for the courtyard or poolview rooms) will be required at the time of booking (refundable up until 72 hours before the scheduled arrival date). The special rates will also be available from Sept. 23rd to 30th for those who would like to make a vacation out of their stay, but you need to book before August 26th to get this special rate. Hotel check-in time is 4pm and check out time is 11am. You should book the hotel as soon as possible.

## Guest Speaker

The June speaker will be Alex Bello. Alex is a serious rare and unusual tropical plant collector specializing in Tillandsias, Bromeliads, Orchids, Aroids and Ferns from Tropical areas. He has been collecting for over 24 years. His topic will be: "Bromeliads from Peru".

### Upcoming Speakers

July: Ray Lemieux

August: Marty Baxley

September: David Johnston

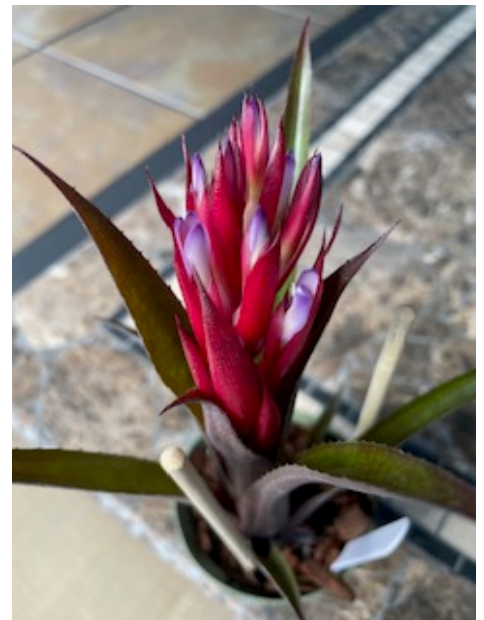
October: ?

## Plant of the Month

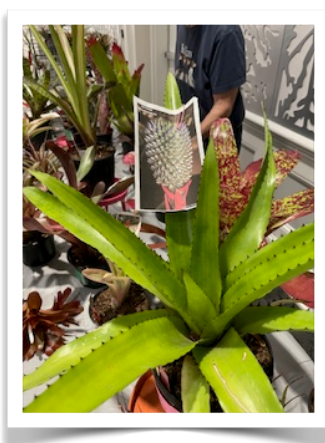
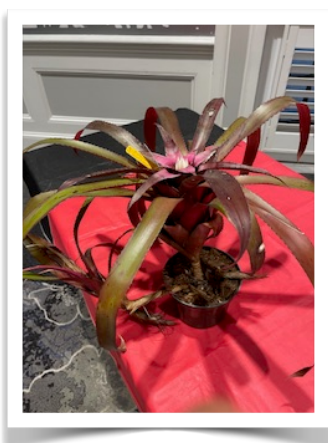
### June: Show us your blooms!

This month's theme is to showcase any blooming bromeliad in your collection. This covers a large variety within the bromeliad family.

Some good examples more common to most collections to bring to the June 2025 meeting are: Aechmea, Alcantarea, Ananas, Billbergia, Canistrum, Cryptanthus, Dyckia, Goudaea, Guzmania, Hohenbergia, Nidularium, Orthophytum, Portea, Tillandsia, and Vriesea. Happy hunting and looking forward to seeing all your blooms!



## Pictures









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## **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 \$10 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.**

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Meetings are held at Leu Gardens, 1920 N Forest Ave, Orlando, FL 32803.

On the 3rd Wednesday of every month, from 6:30-9:00 pm. Buy plants from the speaker between 6:30-7pm. The meeting starts promptly at 7:00. You'll enjoy informative programs, Show & Tell, plant sales, door prizes and raffles. Members also receive a monthly newsletter. Please come join us!

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**[www.bromeliadsorlando.com](http://www.bromeliadsorlando.com)**

## Officers

President: **Dan Sawyer**

Vice-President: **Bonnie Friedrich**

Treasurer: **Joyce Gibault**

Recording Secretary: **Robin Norton**

Membership Secretary: **Pam Marion**

Immediate Past President: **Mike McMahon**

Florida Council Reps: **Mike Saunders & Dan Sawyer**

### POSITIONS

Meeting Layout Coordinator: President.

Meeting Hospitality Coordinator: **Kathy Hancock** (Beverages); **Peggy Bohl** (Snacks)

Welcome Table/Raffle Coordinator: **Robin Norton** Helpers: **Katherine Vaccaro, Kathy & Phil Hancock**

Recycling Coordinator:

Meeting Breakdown Coordinator: **Pam Marion** Helpers: **Tina Self, Karen Steinberg, Robin Norton, Katherine Vaccaro & others who pitch in**

Secret Bid Auction Coordinator: **Phil Wright**

Plant Of The Month Coordinator: **Steve Beaudoin**

Speaker Helper: **Bonnie Friedrich**

Librarian :

Newsletter Editor: **John Vecchitto**

Newsletter Proofreader: **Marty Folk, Katherine Vaccaro, Destini Coiner**

Audit Committee: **Dr. Telka diFate, Bonnie Friedrich, Steve Beaudoin, John Vecchitto**

### PLANT SALES -

Plant Sale Chair for Leu Gardens Spring Plant Sale: **Mike Saunders**

Plant Sale Chair for Mother's Day Show: **Mike McMahon**

Plant Sale Chair for Mead Garden Fall Plant Sale: **Mike McMahon**

Field Trip Organizer: **Karen Steinberg**

Holiday Party Coordinator: **Paula Edwards**

Webmaster: **Greg Kolojeski**

Permission to reprint is granted with acknowledgment. Please send all correspondence to the address below:

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**PO Box 536961**

**Orlando, FL 32853-6961**

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



**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.