



# orlandiana

**Newsletter of the  
Bromeliad Society of Central Florida**  
Volume no. 47, Issue no.07

## July 2020

**Next meeting: TBA** following covid 19 restrictions

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

**6:30 –7:00** is pre-meeting time for purchasing plants from our guest speaker

**Meeting officially begins at 7:00 pm**

Please bring a snack, raffle/door prize plants, and show & tell plants to the meeting. Please try to label your raffle and door prize plants, even if you can only write something such as "unknown Aechmea hybrid", every little bit helps the members who are trying to learn about different types of bromeliads! Plants should be clean and insect free.

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Visit the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida Website at:  
[www.bromeliadorslando.com](http://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

July is certainly aiming to be a really hot month. Have to get any gardening done early, unless a morning or noon rain drops the temperature. I hope everyone is surviving this pandemic and staying healthy.

Please join me in thanking all those who have submitted pictures of their gardens and beautiful bromeliads. They make for a wonderful bright spot during these trying times. Make sure to check out the great pics in this edition of the Orlandiana. Just glad I don't have any rabbits to worry about. 😊

And a big congratulations and thanks to Marilyn for getting all the pictures and putting them together for an awesome read. She has really done a fantastic job at keeping us informed and our days brightened. Please let her know you are grateful by sending her some pictures of your favorites. Stay healthy and safe. Keep cool. And keep your fingers crossed for a meeting in August.

Mike

## June Minutes

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### Meeting Minutes – June, 2020 Bromeliad Society of Central Florida

The June 2020 meeting was cancelled due to covid 19 concerns

## Upcoming Events

None

## Vice Presidents Comments

Hi everyone.

Here are more pictures of what some of the BSCF members are growing. If you haven't sent me any pictures yet please do so. That is what I'll be doing for an Orlandiana Newsletter until we can meet again.

Please send pictures to me in a separate email - [marilynhowser.com](mailto:marilynhowser.com).

Hope you're all doing well

Blessings

Marilyn Howser 🍍

Marty Folk



Branch damage



Cold damage





Rabbit damage



Scale damage



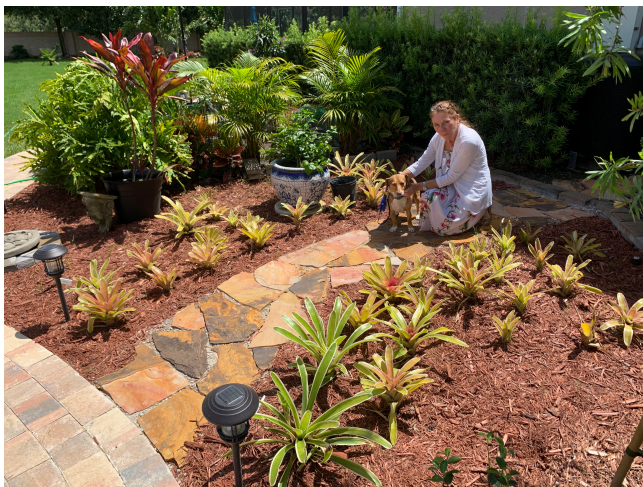
And to that I just had to add  
my terribly sun burned  
*Aechmea fasciata*



John Vecchitto and Telka diFate. John is the Orlandiana Newsletter Editor. Thank you John



John is allergic to broms so Telka is the brom gardener.









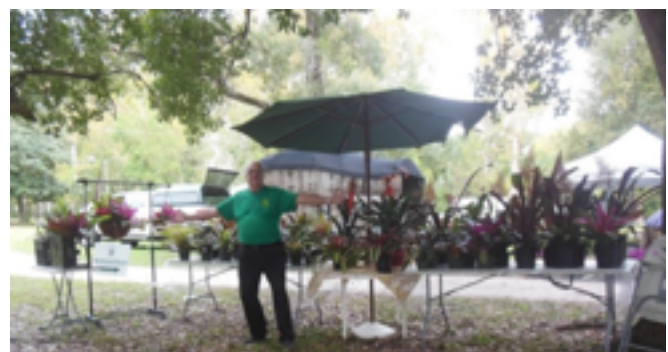
Phil and Maxine Wright



All loaded up for the Leu Garden Plant Sale March 2020 and it was cancelled last minute due to the Corona Virus.



Phil all ready to sell at the Mead Garden Plant sale in Nov. 2019.



Dave & Cathy and a group of bromeliad enthusiasts visited Michael's Bromeliads in Venice, Florida, on June 13, 2020.

This is a photo of Dave and Cathy with the Alcantarea John Stoddard dawning a beautiful effervescence, a very unique bromeliad.

Michael's Bromeliads declined an offer of \$6,000 for this plant.



Pat Neff says

I used a couple of the tillandsia I received at the BSCF holiday party in an ikebana arrangement. The arrangement also includes sanseveria and a manipulated aspidistra leaf. I'm in PA for the next few months.





# *Most Common Bromeliad Pests and How to Fight Them*

Author: **Celeste Booth** **10 Comments**

CARE AND CULTURE, INSECTS

The good news is that bromeliads have relatively few problems with pests. Growing bromeliads indoors typically means that your bromeliads are protected from the pests more commonly found in their range. Landscape bromeliads face a few more pest problems, but are still easily managed.

Here are a few tips for pest prevention as well as some of the most common pests that can infest your bromeliads and how to get rid of them.

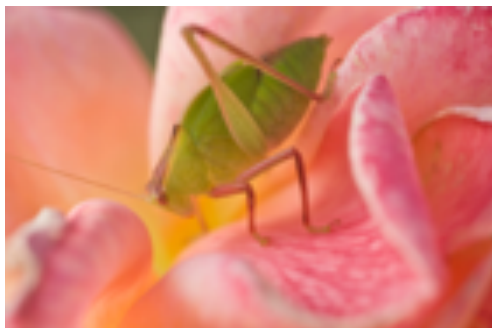
## **Prevention**

When adding a new bromeliad or any other purchased plant to your indoor collection, keep it quarantined for at least three weeks before exposing it to other indoor plants. This will allow any pests that may have traveled on your plant as eggs to reach a size that will be visible. Check the plant regularly during those three weeks and look carefully at the leaf axils, undersides of leaves and where the plant meets the soil to be sure there are no pests. At the end of those three weeks your plant is safe to introduce into your collection.

Maintaining a healthy plant with proper humidity will also prevent your plant from being susceptible to a major infestation.

Use insecticides as little as possible on outdoor landscape plants. While the insecticide may help eliminate the pest for a time, it can also harm natural predator populations. This will lead to more devastating infestations in the future.

## **Aphids**



Close up of an Aphid

Aphids are small bugs that can be green, yellow or red. They feed on roots or leaves of plants, sucking the important sugary syrup from the plants. Often aphids won't cause major damage to a plant, but your plant will struggle if there is a major infestation that goes unchecked.

Aphids are very susceptible to many natural predators such as lady beetles and lacewing larvae. When present, these natural predators will keep any infestations in check.

If you have a plant that is severely infested, while other bromeliads in your collection remain healthy, remove the infested plant and dispose of it to prevent the spread of aphids to other plants. Spraying the plant well with a stream of water will easily knock off aphids, but you will probably have to repeat this method of control regularly.

Rice Root aphids are the most common aphids found on landscape bromeliads in Florida. They are difficult to see because they often feed on the roots of a bromeliad. These aphids can be treated with insecticide. Be sure to get instructions from a professional grower before applying insecticide to your plant.

## **Thrips**

Thrips are tiny bugs with narrow bodies. Many types of thrips have wings. They can be hard to spot because most adults are no bigger than an eighth of an inch. They are often only detectable by their damage.

Thrips can be seen when a leaf is shaken over a white piece of paper. A heavily infested plant might also produce a small cloud of thrips when disturbed. Thrip damage will include deformed leaves and blotches on flowers. Like aphids, thrips feed on the soft tissues of the plant. They also lay eggs in the leaf tissues of the plant.

Thrips reproduce quickly, so it is important that they are quickly controlled. Thrips have been known to produce 8 generations annually. Thrips can be treated with insecticidal soap. Once the plant has been thoroughly coated rinse the plant well to prevent it from suffocating. Be sure to repeat treatments weekly for at least two weeks to make sure the thrips in all developmental stages are removed.

## Mites

Mites cause similar damage as aphids and thrips. They are related to spiders and puncture leaf surfaces to suck out the sugary juices of the plant. Spider mites are the most common on bromeliads. Mites can reach maturity in 7-10 days from hatching and multiply rapidly. Mites can be detected by a fine webbing on the undersides of leaves. Applications of insecticidal soap can help eliminate mite populations.

## Snails and Slugs

-Small snails often go unnoticed on bromeliad leaves.



Snails and slugs can feed on outdoor landscape bromeliads. They feed on leaves and flowers and leave behind large holes or chewed edges of plants. They also leave slimy trails on the plants. Slugs are active at night. If you suspect them as a culprit, check your plants after dark.

Slugs like to hide under things in dark places during the day. To cut back on the presence of slugs keep your landscape area free of debris and items such as boards or logs that lay on the ground.

It is best to remove slugs by hand. You can also set a slightly elevated board near the infested plants during the night. Once the sun is up in the morning you can remove the board and all of the slugs that have taken shelter there. Baits and traps are also available, but chemicals should be used as a last resort.

## Mealybugs

Mealybugs are one of the most common bromeliad pests. They are a soft bodied insect that develop in masses. Their waxy coating and waxy egg sacks give their infestations a cottony appearance. Mealybugs cause damage to leaves and flower parts by sucking out the sugary juices from the plant. Mealybugs can also hide in the roots. If your plant experiences a sudden unexplainable decline in health, lift it

up a bit and check for cottony masses in the roots. To avoid root mealybug infestations don't let water from one pot run into another and always use clean potting medium and containers.

Mealybugs can be removed by swabbing with rubbing alcohol..

## **Scale**

Scale is also a significant pest found on bromeliads. It can be found both on indoor and outdoor plants. Most often it appears as small brown ovals or dots on the leaves. The ovals are the hard shield around the adult scale. Scale can be managed by removing the adult by hand or with a cotton swab and rubbing alcohol. Wash the plant thoroughly after removing adult scale to ensure that any eggs are also removed. Insecticidal soaps can also be used to manage scale, but it must be applied several times every three to seven days.

## **Weevils**

Weevils are a common pest of outdoor bromeliads. Adults lay eggs in the leaf tissues. When hatched the larvae mine the tissue deep into the base of the plant. Adults also feed on leaf tissues. Weevils can cause significant damage and can be difficult to control. Sevin dust can work on some bromeliad weevils, but is not proven effective on the Mexican Bromeliad Weevil. To prevent infestations remove the damaged plants from your collection

## **Maintaining Healthy Plants**

In general, healthy plants will withstand minor attacks from common pests. Bromeliad pest problems are rare and careful, regular inspection will turn up any problems before they are out of control. Most often hand removal and quarantining infested plants should prevent any major damage. As a last resort you can use chemical insecticides. However, bromeliads can be very sensitive so always test a small portion first and use only as directed.

### Sources

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## 2020 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. Name Badges \$7 per member, if desired. Please check \_\_\_\_\_ if you would like a name badge ordered for you.**

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_ Make checks payable to BSCF MAIL TO: **Bromeliad Society of Central Florida, PO Box 536961 Orlando, FL 32853-6961. Or bring to the January meeting.**

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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 newsletter. Please come join us!

Treasurer: Date \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_

# Officers

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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.