



orlandiana

**Newsletter of the
Bromeliad Society of Central Florida**

Volume no. 48, Issue no. 07

July 2021

Next meeting: July 21, 2021

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.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!

The President's Message

Happy July to all. Has certainly been a wet month so far. Thanks Marilyn for sharing Mike McMahon's post on Facebook. And thanks Mike for great information. Very useful.

And we will get to hear more of Mike McMahon's knowledge and insight at our July meeting when he educates us on Tillandsias and how not to kill them. I have certainly sent many to the landscape beyond over the years. Guess it gives me room to restock my collection. 🤔 So plan to visit us at Leu Gardens on July 21.

I don't have an account with Facebook but thought I would share some pages for bromeliad information. The Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, www.fcbs.org, has a FB page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/FloridaCouncilofBromeliadSocieties>

There is an older Council Facebook page that is not currently active, so visit the link above. Looks like an Aechema "MEND" on the home page. Great picture Greg K. Our Society also has a couple Facebook pages, one public and one private. <https://www.facebook.com/BromeliadSocietyOfCentralFlorida>. These are great pages to post new pics of your favorite bromeliads. And to get great information. Another bromeliad Facebook page I have heard has great content is Planet Bromeliads. Over 26,000 members.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/planetbromeliad/>

We have started the last half of 2021. We hope to have one more bromeliad sale at Mead Garden. Their Growvember is set for Friday, November 5 and Saturday, November 6. Will keep everyone posted when we get more information. We also will be discussing at a meeting this fall on whether to continue with the show part of our 2022 Mother's Day Show and Sale.

The most important part of this last half of 2021 is filling officer positions. We will be electing all four officers for 2022. We need members to step up and volunteer. Marilyn has announced she will not be serving as Vice President next year. The main job of the VP is program chair, that is lining up our speakers and planning our meeting activities. Marilyn does a lot of other jobs that aren't part of being VP. So please contact Marilyn to talk about her position as VP and the responsibilities of VP. And the other, non VP, jobs Marilyn will continue to handle in 2022.

The other three offices of Pres, Sec and Tres are pretty self explanatory. We need to fill all four positions this fall for running BSCF in 2022. If we don't have members willing to serve as officers, then we will need to discuss the future of BSCF. So please think about it. I will be setting up a nomination committee. Please email me at presbyter64@gmail.com if interested in serving on the committee or serving as an officer in 2022. Thank you for considering BSCF.

Again for bromeliad information: www.fcbs.org and www.bsi.org.

Hope to see everyone at the July meeting.

Mike

June Minutes

Bromeliad Society of Central Florida Meeting Minutes Wed June 16, 2021, 7 - 9pm

Program: Marilyn Howser introduced speaker Dave Johnston who owns a greenhouse in Pinellas Park. His presentation on “Beautiful Billbergias” covered both species and hybrid varieties. His photos showed many different characteristics of color, shape and markings. Dave has hybridized a number of billbergias himself. He and others working on this variety are making a special effort to extend the bloom time of the billbergias’ short-lived inflorescences. Dave also brought a number of beautiful plants for sale, which were eagerly added to members’ collections.

Business Meeting was called to Order by President Mike Saunders at 8pm. He thanked Dave, as well as all who brought plants for the door prize and raffle tables and food for the refreshments table. He stated that the latest issue of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies newsletter contains photos from our Mother’s Day Show and Sale.

We welcomed one new member and three guest/visitors:

New member Suzette Baird lives in the SODO section of Orlando.

Guest/visitors: Nina Abrahan, Thutam Freeman and Peggy Thomas.

Minutes: The minutes of the May, 2021 meeting were published in the Newsletter. There being no corrections, they stand approved as filed.

Treasurer’s report: Mike announced the balances in our checking and money market accounts.

VP Report: Marilyn Howser announced that next month’s meeting will be held **Wed, July 21**. Mike McMahon will speak about Tillandsias.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Show and Tell: Telka diFate brought two examples of Orthophytum ‘Starlight’ to show their unique pups and blooms. Mike McMahon brought a Vriesa/Tillandia mix, ‘Nouveau,’ which he’s been cultivating for about 40 years.

Door prize and Raffle: The meeting concluded with tickets bring drawn for our ever-popular door prize and raffle plants donated by members.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Vaccaro

Upcoming Events



World Bromeliad Conference 2022

The **World Bromeliad Conference** was rescheduled from 2021 to **June 7-11, 2022**. The host hotel will be the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Sarasota. If you are unable to attend, your registration will be refunded following our conference refund policy. Up to the year the conference is to be held you can get a 100% refund, once the year of the conference begins you get a 50% refund, and within 30 days of the conference

there is no refund. Since the date of the conference was moved by one year, you can get a 100% refund until **December 31, 2021**.

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.

Vice Presidents Comments

Hi all

Just a reminder the next Bromeliad Society of Central FL meeting will be July 21st. Please bring clean bromeliads with no water in the tank for the door prize table and for the raffle table. If you're a new member and don't have broms to bring, that is fine. We'll help you build your collection. If you have a special brom please feel free to bring it for show and tell. Also bring a snack to share for the food table.

Masks are no longer required.

Hope to see you all then

Marilyn Howser 🍍

Guest Speaker

Our guest speaker for July is Mike McMahon. He will be speaking on “Tillandsias: When A Bromaholic Runs Out Of Space”. Mike first came across bromeliads in 1973 when he was in law school in Philadelphia. A biology professor at the University of Pennsylvania kept a personal collection of Billbergias in a corner of a small greenhouse hidden behind a classroom building. It was not open to the public, but that greenhouse was an escape from Philly’s cold, wet and gray winter days. Mike acquired his first bromeliad in 1975 when he moved to Tallahassee, and has been acquiring them ever since.

After moving to Orlando in 1977, Mike joined BSCF and volunteered to write a monthly article on different broms for the newsletter, which back then was on actual paper, hand assembled into a booklet with color photos hand pasted into each copy mailed to members. He has held various positions in the BSCF, including serving as president during the 1980 World Conference.

Mike chaired the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies when it completed publication of its glossy, full-color Grande magazine. Subscribers had been promised four issues, but only two had been published and there was no money for refunds. Getting the third and fourth issues published was Mike’s proudest accomplishment with FCBS.

Family and career responsibilities grew and it became rare for Mike to attend meetings, but he remained a BSCF member until he overlooked renewing his membership when BSCF switched to emailing. He re-joined in 2015 as he was heading into semi-retirement.

At one point in the 1990s, Mike’s collection numbered over a thousand species and hybrids, much grown outdoors among a wide variety of other plantings. As his garden became increasingly shaded by large oaks, Mike’s focus shifted to raising mostly Vrieseas and Guzmanias, and eventually nearly only Vrieseas. Mike’s other horticultural interests include cycads, camellias, begonias and epiphytic ferns. After Hurricane Charlie took down several trees, what had been shade gardens became full sun overnight. Much of the bromeliad collection was lost, except for Vrieseas, a few Tillandsias and some ‘oddballs’ kept in a 300-square foot shadehouse. New gardens were established, together



with a large koi pond. Today, Mike's bromeliad collection is mostly composed of Vrieseas and Tillandsias, but there are many other types spotted around the garden in one place or another.

Mike's alternate program title was: 'How I Learned Not To Kill Tillandsias'. He says, "People told me they are really easy to grow. I probably killed a hundred trying to learn how to grow them. But, then I found they really can be easy. You just have to learn how not to kill them."

Please bring any blooming Tillandsias you have to the meeting so everyone can see how diverse they are.

Mike has also forwarded the following advise for our rainy season...

CULTURAL HINT: The rainy season has arrived. For the past 2 weeks, there has not been a single day at my house without at least a sprinkle. On several days there has been brief showers multiple times during the course of the day. Broms really love rain water compared to the hard tap water most folks must use to water their plants. But, this time of year they can get too much water.Actually, it is more a problem of the potting mix getting too much water rather than the plant. This is a good time to check that potted plants are draining well and the mix remains open and airy. If the mix has decomposed into a muddy, mucky condition, consider re-potting. If you are separating pups from plants that bloomed early in the year, make sure the freshly cut portion hardens before planting in a potting mix. Just set the pups in empty pots for a few days to let the cuts heal. This reduces the risk of rot, which is more likely when the mix keeps getting soggy from all the rain. For my Vriesea pups, I often let them 'air root' before potting them up.... I just set them in an empty pot until some roots begin to form, perhaps putting a couple of rocks in the pot to give weight to prevent it falling over when storms come through. They do fine as long as I remember to water if there is a multi-week dry spell (which doesn't much happen in July in Orlando!!). You can do good by being a bit lazy and putting off the day you pot up the pups. Also, check for insect problems. Scale and mealy bug populations love the warm, wet conditions. It's good to attack the buggers before the population explodes. Of course, watch out for yourself in the heat. Don't over do it!



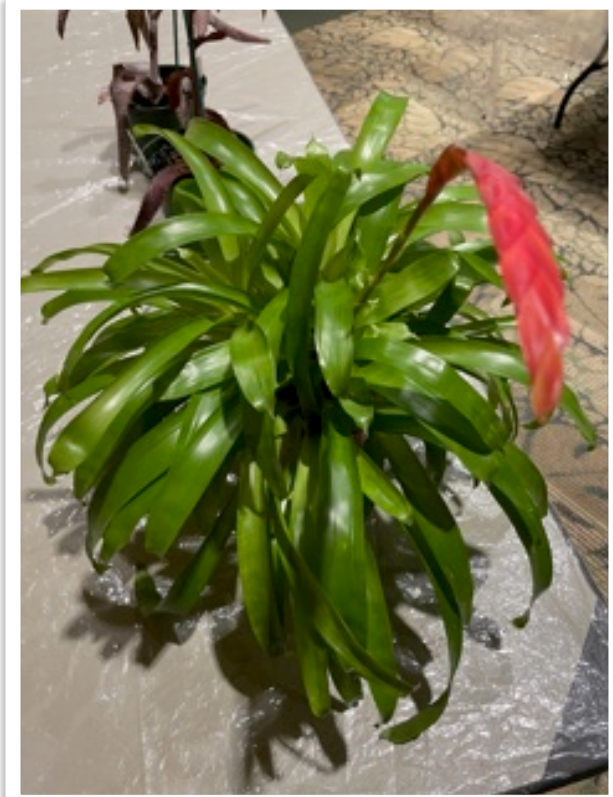
Tillandsia xerographica

June Pictures





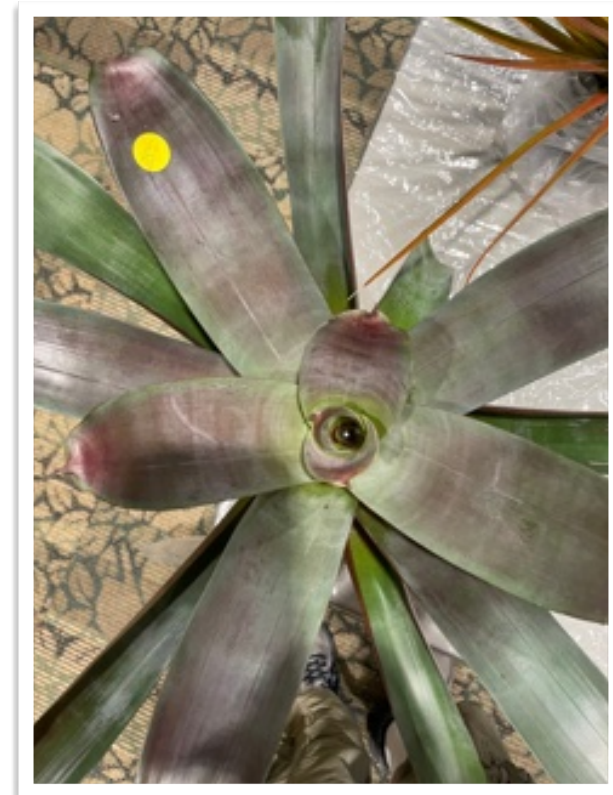
Vriesea hieroglyphics



Vrieslandsia nouveaux



Neoregelia tots



Vriecantarea 'Julietta'

2021 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.**

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.