



orlandiana

Newsletter of the
Bromeliad Society of Central Florida
Volume no. 52, Issue no. 1

Next meeting: January 15, 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.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!

President's Message

Happy 2025 BSCF members! I hope you had an excellent holiday season and this past cold front was kind to your plants. After 3 years I am taking over the presidency from Mike McMahon who served us well. This is all new to me and I will work hard to meet his standards.

We are unable to meet at Leu Gardens next October. Ideas are being accepted now since we will have to reserve the space early.

The Leu gardens Plant Sale will be upon us before you know it. These sales help keep our bank account strong and our society thriving. If you have never sold plants at the sales before, think about joining in on the fun this year.

Volunteer positions that are needing to be filled: Library, Refreshments, Plant of the Month, and others will be announced during the meeting. Because there were changeovers with no meetings in between to recruit, if anyone is available prior to the meeting to come in earlier, your help would be appreciated.

Thanks.

Dan Sawyer

October 2024 Minutes

BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA, INC.

Draft Meeting Minutes: October 16, 2024

Will be approved with potential corrections at the January 15, 2025 meeting.

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Mike McMahon at Leu Gardens Orlando, Florida.

Program: Vice President Tim Dreggors was absent therefore Mike McMahon introduced speakers Lee Magnuson and Jonathan Lallier, from Brilliant Bromeliads. They spoke on the topic, "Bromeliads 2024 Natures Beauty."

Announcements: Mike McMahon announced that a cake to celebrate BSCF's 52d anniversary is on the table with refreshments and the Silent Auction is continuing; check-out Plant of the Month table and cast your vote; holiday party sign-up table needs your attention; We need someone to cook two turkey's that can be turkey breasts, for the holiday party, otherwise we will have fried chicken; Steve is driving to pick up the plants at McCrory's for the holiday party and needs another person with a large vehicle or truck to drive there also. They then need to bring the plants directly to the party before 6:00 p.m.; Marilyn is selling Orlandiana's on the back table to benefit BSCF. Many thanks Marilyn.

Meeting break was from 7:44 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Business Meeting; was called to order at 8:00 p.m. by Mike McMahon. Mike announced that raffle tickets could still be purchased.

Membership Secretary: Pam Marion introduced the new member Mita Desai and one member that renewed membership Merely Spitzer, along with numerous guests.

Minutes: The draft minutes of the September 18, 2024, meeting were published in the October 2024, *Orlandiana* with no corrections. ***A motion to accept the minutes as written was made by Karen Steinberg and seconded by Liesel Haas. The motion passed unanimously.***

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

Committee Reports: Nominating Committee: Mike McMahon announced the slate from the Nominating Committee for 2025 and conducted the election.

President: Dan Sawyer

Vice President: Dr. Telka diFate

Treasurer: Joyce Gibault

Recording Secretary: Robin Norton

Membership Secretary: Pam Marion

The floor was opened for nominations, but no nominations were suggested. The vote from the membership present was unanimous to accept the Nominating Committee's slate. Mike McMahon was thanked for all his hard work as president by the membership.

Holiday Party Committee: Paula Edwards was absent therefore Sue Fischer reported that the November Holiday Party will be a tropical theme. She asked that all attending to dress festive

by wearing tropical clothing and prizes will be awarded. Sign up to bring various side dishes along with how many will be attending. The list is on the table as you enter this room. We will

continue with the plant gift swap . Anyone who wants to participate can bring a wrapped Bromeliad with a value of at least \$20.00. Games and more fun activities are planned.

Favorite Halloween Bromeliad Display Winners was announced by Cathy Schubert and prizes were presented. For 3rd place the prize was awarded to Leslie Kinnaird, 2nd place Phil Hancock and 1st place Telka diFate with her Bromeliad display of Dennis Carthcart Wanna-Be.

President's Report: Mike McMahon reported that the Tillandsia duratii (Bolivian form) was donated by Leanne Burtan to auction off and benefit the BSCF. Mike Saunders stepped in as the auctioneer. The plant sold for \$155.00.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Mike McMahon recommended that the membership elect Mike Saunders as representative to the Florida Council in his place. Mike McMahon stated that he really does not want to continue serving & Mike's experience is valuable to keep on the Council. *A motion to have Mike Saunders be the second person from BSCF as the representative, besides the President, for the Florida Council was made by Teresa Eddy and duly seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

A motion was made by Peggy Bohl to donate \$50 to Tropiflora on the GoFundMe page to help with hurricane relief efforts. It was seconded by Kathy Hancock. An amendment to the motion was then proposed by Robin Norton to donate \$500 instead of \$50 to Tropiflora for hurricane relief efforts and was seconded by Kathy Hancock. The motion to amend passed unanimously.

At the suggestion of Joyce Gibault, a further motion to amend was proposed by Kathy Hancock and duly seconded to have a check sent directly to the owners of Tropiflora rather than on the GoFundMe site. Motion passed unanimously.

The main motion by Peggy Bohl and seconded by Kathy Hancock as twice amended was then voted on and passed unanimously.

A motion by Marilyn Howser was made to donate \$500 to David Sands with Michaels for hurricane relief, it was seconded by Tina Self. The motion was not approved.

Show & Tell: Numerous interesting specimens were shown and explained by various members.

Door Prize/Raffle giveaways: President Mike McMahon announced that the first-place winner of the Halloween Brom contest could go first to pick a plant from the raffle table. After

that all the participants that brought in a Plant of the Month could pick a plant. Mike then, drew tickets.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Telka diFate
Recording Secretary
Bromeliad Society Central Florida

Date Approved

Guest Speaker

Alex Bello is a collector and an avid grower of tropical plants ranging from bromeliads, orchids, ferns, aroids and beyond. He has been collecting all types of tropical plants for over 25 years with his specialty being bromeliads. Alex first became addicted to bromeliads when he was gifted a variegated neoregelia which set off his out-of-control hobby that he truly loves.



Alex has held high level positions in the plant industry ranging from Southern Regions Director for the Bromeliad Society International, President of the Bromeliad Society of South Florida, Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies and President of the International Aroid Society plus Show and Sale Chairman for both organizations.

He is an avid outdoorsman whose love for the Everglades and Florida's ecology is truly remarkable. He also enjoys fishing, swamp walks and "any outdoor adventure in any environment."

Alex is also a 23-year veteran of the Miami-Dade County public schools as a high school administrative assistant over school operations, budget, and personnel.

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.

What Is A Clone?

by Mike McMahon

Bromeliad lovers are often heard talking about clones. "It is a special clone." "This is my favorite clone." "Let me show you a clone I got a few years ago." A novice can get confused. As is often the case with terminology used by brom lovers, the term is actually simple. It's the people who confuse things.

A "clone" is a group of genetically identical plants. Every seedling represents the beginning of a new clone. All of its vegetatively reproduced progeny, whether reproduced using its pups or by tissue culture, are members of the distinct clone. All are genetically the same. (Let's ignore the possibilities for mutation through cosmic rays and such like.) If I raise 10 seedlings of *Billbergia pyramidalis*, I will have 10 clones of that species. They may all look the same, but each represents its own clone. There probably isn't anything special or distinct about any of them, but I could shout from the rooftop ..." I have 10 different clones of pyramidalis!!!" ...and I would be correct. Big deal, huh?... No.

The confusion comes from the fact that we almost never refer to a clone unless we are wanting to emphasize that the clone is different in some way. If one of those *B. pyramidalis* seedlings grew up to have red foliage, it would be a big deal. We could call it "a special clone" or maybe "the red clone". Something so dramatically different as a red-leaved pyramidalis would lead us to give it a name, something colorful like 'Martian Red Menace'. Then we would not have to talk about it as "the red clone" or being "a different clone". It would have its own name.

The fact that every plant is part of some clone can lead to confusion because the term often is used as if synonymous with "form" or "cultivar". Since our hypothetical red pyramidalis appeared in cultivation, it is not only a "clone", it is a "cultivar". We could register it as *Billbergia* 'Martian Red Menace'. If it showed up in Nature, and some botanist stumbled across a clump of it while whacking their way through a jungle, they would undoubtedly want to collect such a novel "form" of pyramidalis. If they got especially excited about the discovery, they might become energized to do the work required for a formal peer-reviewed description (in Latin) and proclaim it as a new "variety" of the species pyramidalis... variety marsianrubrominas. (Botanic variety names are latinized.) The same applies when dealing with hybrids. Each seedling from a hybrid cross is the beginning of a new clone, whether worth giving individual names or not.

About 15 years ago, there was a lot of talk around Florida about the bromeliad hobby losing old clones that had been popular in the early years of the hobby. Some people got very serious about it, issuing emotional calls for anyone who had this or that clone to take steps to preserve it by making a record of it, sharing offsets with others, or donating it to a botanical garden. A whole series of reports were issued. The effort sputtered out after about a year. After all, if a "special" clone had ceased to seem special enough for people to keep it, why would other hobbyists or botanical gardens want it? Some rather plain stuff seemed special in the 1880s. Hardly anyone keeps a "nothing much to talk about" brom just to preserve its genotype. Such broms do get kept, but usually for personal nostalgic reasons, or just to have something different.

So, how many clones do you have? For most folks, about as many as there are pots of broms and clumps in the garden.

Dealing with the Cold

This is an article by Mike McMahon from our Facebook Page. Even though it was written with other dates in mind, it is still pertinent for the upcoming weeks.

A BIG FREEZE IS COMING!!... MAYBE. MAYBE NOT.

Weather forecasters are busy warning Floridians that it looks like the polar vortex is going to slip south, resulting in hard freeze conditions as far south as Lake Okeechobee around January 10-12. After scaring us, they then say it is really too early to be sure, so don't get too anxious. Duh?? A lifetime's collection of bromeliads and exotics at risk and I'm supposed to stay calm? Actually, yes. Calmly focus on what you will need to do if these warnings prove accurate and get prepared. So, how to prepare? Here are some things I'm doing:

1. I have a shadehouse that will need to be covered with plastic. It's time to be sure I have on hand all the plastic sheeting and supplies required to attach it to the shadehouse. If I wait until 2 days before the freeze, I may not be able to find what I need. Good to have on hand in any event. If not needed in 10 days, it will be needed some time.
2. A lot of broms that can't be squeezed into the shadehouse will go in the garage. It's time to get some 10-ft poles that can be placed between ladders to create spots for hanging plants to be hung in the garage. With 3 or 4 ladders and a bunch of poles, I can hang a couple hundred of my Tillandsias, plus some orchids and tropical ferns. The space under the hanging plants will be for heavy pots of plants. I want to maximize how much can be stuffed into the garage while the cars are moved to the driveway. Folks who use the bathroom shower as a plant shelter can do something similar to max out the space on a smaller scale.

3. A bunch of stuff is in the ground and will need to be covered. If there are not enough old sheets and the like on hand, it's time to get some freeze cloth. Since this hard freeze might last for multiple days, I'll get the heavy weight cloth (1.5 oz to 2 oz per sq. ft.). I also need to get some landscape staples to hold the freeze cloth in place when it gets windy. (The staples have 6-inch prongs to stick through the cloth into the ground.) I used some the last time we had a freeze and they worked better than putting big rocks on the edges of the cloth to hold it in place, and a lot easier, too.

4. I need a new wagon. My old garden wagon broke following Hurricane Milton. It gave me a couple of decades of service and I've not gotten around to replacing it. A new one will be essential for hauling all the pots, heavy staghorns, etc. My back cannot take carrying arms full of pots anymore.

5. Some of my staghorns cannot be moved, and there are broms I've got growing on trees. The typical freeze in Orlando is no worry for the hardier types. But, this polar vortex freeze could go down to near 20F for several hours for 3 nights in a row. That's like Georgia weather decided to visit Mickey Mouse. I will try to wrap freeze cloth around the tree branches I can

reach from a ladder. I need to check if I have enough rope on hand to tie around the branches and tree trunks to hold the cloth in place. The stuff up higher will just have to fend for itself. Well, that's what I can think of right now. I'm sure there is something I'm forgetting. Isn't there always? The good thing is that as much as I hate Amazon, I can get everything I need there and have it delivered for free. It would take me a whole day, maybe two, to run around to Lowe's, HD and greenhouse supply places to get all the stuff I need.

And, you know what? If I'm 100% ready to deal with it, maybe that vortex stays in Canada where it belongs. Hope so. It's a lot easier to store all the stuff for when it is needed than deal with all that work. And, someday it will be needed. It's good to have everything on hand. Good luck to all of us!

Plant of the Month

January: Winter Theme

This month's theme is anything and everything about "Winter". Some key words are, frost, snow, ice, clouds, santa, storm, blizzard, icicle, sleet, artic, zero, chill, etc. There are many more to draw upon as well. Here are some examples to search your collection.

Aechmeas: frost, cold snap, frostproof, snowball, orlandiana snowflake, frosty the snowman, nudicaulis cranberry frost.

Billbergia: storm, snowflake.

Cryptanthus: alpine frost, frostbite, fire and ice, ice age, very cold tooth, absolute zero, chill factor.

Dyckia: ruby snow, snowball, winter's edge, icicle.

Guzmania: snowball, tropical snow,

Neoregelia: marble snow, snow flake, obsidian ice, black frost, cosmic storm, storm front, Christmas lights, storm cloud blueberry blizzard, black frost.

Othophytum: red frost, snow queen, clouds.

Vriesea: white cloud, frost bite, snow in summer, snowman, snow white.



Neoregelia 'Arctic Blast'

Pictures

Mead Gardens pictures that were submitted after the November deadline:





In the picture, we have John Boardman proudly showing off his beautifully grown *Neoregelia gigas*, a species native to Brazil. This particular plant (along with many others) was truly a sight to behold. Did you happen to spot this stunning plant at the Mead Gardens GROWvember sale? If you didn't, you missed out! It was quickly snatched up by an enthusiastic buyer right at the beginning of the sale on Friday, along with a number of other bromeliads that were eagerly purchased by fellow bromeliad enthusiasts.



Holiday Party:

(As many as I could fit)





Telka and John's beautiful work



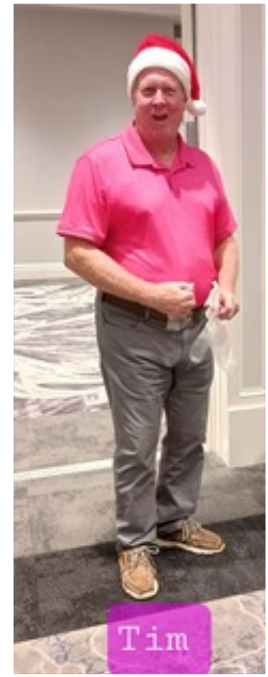




Tracy



Kwang



Tim



Pres elect
Dan



Laura





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 \$8 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 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.bromeliadorslando.com

Holiday Party Question



At our annual Holiday Party bromeliad exchange, I often choose more by the packaging than what I think is inside. Last year (2023), I chose this vintage gift bag from the much-missed Jordan Marsh department store. I'd love to know who it came from, so I can thank them for giving me a wonderful "new" Christmas collectible.

Katherine Vaccaro

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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.