



orlandiana

**Newsletter of the
Bromeliad Society of Central Florida**
Volume no. 49, Issue no. 3

Next meeting: March 16, 2022

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

6:30 –7:00 is pre-meeting time for purchasing plants

Meeting officially begins at 7:00 pm

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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

My mind was wandering. That happens when sitting in a shady spot of grass cleaning up some *Neoregelias*. The Neo was labeled *N. carolinae* cv *Meyendorffii* "Mike's Orange". It got that label in the 1970s because it had a vague orangish blush in a few leaves, but grew smaller than Dot McNulty's similar one. She labeled the one she got from me 'Mike's Orange' and I labeled the one I got from her 'Dot's Orange'. Dottie left this world long ago. I think of her when I get around to cleaning up that clump. Dot and her husband Ed were retired. I was in my late 20s. We had nothing in common except a shared love of broms and wanting to know more about them. There were lots of different versions of 'Meyendorffii' and everyone had them. Folks got into serious discussions about labels. Differentiating 'Meyendorffii' from 'Marechallii' could result in actual arguments.

Pulling off dead leaves, I thought how comical that had been. Today, hardly anyone grows any of those plants, and for good reason. They were plain green rosettes that mostly stayed green for the couple of years it took to get them to bloom. Then the centers turned some shade of red or orange. A whole bunch of green rosettes cannot compete with their descendants. Today's hybrids have year-round colorful foliage.

Removing pups from some bloomed-out plants, I thought about one of the people who brought us year-round colorful Neos. Grant Groves was a young guy back then. He was already a BSCF member when I joined. Barely out of his teens, he was among the most knowledgeable of the members. He did not talk much. What he said was spot-on. Grant's 40 years of hybridizing since those old days were a major factor in creating Neos seen in every garden center. All of our members probably have at least one of his creations, but may not know it.

Eloise Beach was another 20-something back then, and really knowledgeable. She did speak up. She was so far ahead on the learning curve that I could not absorb it all. Today, she is instrumental in bringing us the amazing Skotak hybrids we all drool over.

There were several members in their 20s back then. I did not feel out of place. I like to think the enthusiasm of us 20-somethings brought a contagious energy to the group. There were oldsters, too. Racine Foster kept folks straight on botanic details, and Bill Frase always had practical advice. Tom Lineham, a retired military librarian, kept us orderly. He went on to serve as editor of the BSI Journal and made it respected in academic circles worldwide.

So, why is this old guy filling up space with old stuff nobody cares about anymore? Well, as I sat there tossing away some plants beyond salvage, I thought about how BSCF could use a dose of youthful energy. I'm told that times have changed, that those in their 20s and 30s aren't interested in a plant society, that they don't go to meetings and such. But, at Mead Gardens and Leu Gardens, I see a goodly number of under-40 people buying broms.

Why does anyone belong to BSCF? I think it is because our members want to learn more. They want to see the rare, the exotic, the bizarre and the beautiful. They want to acquire them too. All of that is the same as ever. The only thing really different today is the internet competes as a source for information, and as a source for acquiring broms. Around the world, hobby clubs of all sorts have declined, whether it's plants or scrapbooking, because clubs are no longer the sole source for learning. But, some clubs thrive. Competition makes you better or you lose.

Can BSCF compete with the internet? Covid has taught us that in-person learning is better than on-line. Seeing the bizarre and rare in person is better than a photo. BSCF provides opportunities to acquire a greater variety of broms more affordably... and no shipping charges. So, it seems to me that we can thrive, if we keep focused on doing better.

Doing better means providing more learning opportunities, having our experienced members do more teaching. It means bringing more of the exotic and beautiful before our eyes. BSCF has to do these things better than the internet. That may sound insurmountable, but it just means doing more of the very things we all enjoy. If members aren't eager for the next meeting, we aren't doing it right.

And, we need to find the right media for communicating what BSCF offers. Today's media is so pervasive it is easy to get lost in the stream. Our Facebook presence helps, but it's small as such things go. Among the 80 people on our roster, I'm sure there are some who can help us meet the challenge.

When we find our fellow crazies, or they find us, we can keep them coming back by filling their minds, awing their imaginations and sharing our mutual fascination with a smile and laughter. ...And, those tasty treats on the refreshment table don't hurt, either.

- Mike McMahon

January Minutes

BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA, INC.

Meeting Minutes

February 16, 2022

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

Tim Dreggors, Vice President and Program Chair, introduced the speakers Nick Bethman and Lee Magnuson, and announced that Tom and Carol Wolfe will be the guest speakers for the March meeting.

Nick did a presentation focusing on hybridizing, freezing of pollens as well as sowing of seeds. Lee showed a container full of germinated seeds he had sown a few months back and answered detailed questions on how to do it successfully. He also brought in three of his own hybrids and one of Nick's to show the group.

President Mike McMahon announced the plants that were available for secret bid auction. Bidding will be done during the break. Phil Wright is coordinating the auction. The selling member will contact the winner directly after the meeting.

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.

We welcomed new members and guests.

New Member: Betsy Herp

Guest: Bonnie Hansen

January 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. John Vecchitto seconded.

Joyce Gibault gave the treasurer's report.

Telka diFate, Librarian, spoke about the books available for members to check out. She reminded everyone that books checked out have to be returned the following month. She will be developing a policy on which books are for reference only.

Karen Steinberg spoke about the planned field trip to McCrory's nursery on the Sunday, February 20 at 2:00 pm. Meeting place will be at the nursery site in Eustis, FL. This field trip will be attended by both our society and the Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society. She will send out all the field trip details by email. There will be plants for sale.

Mike Saunders talked about the Leu Gardens Plant Sale. On March 11, Friday morning, all participating sellers will meet at a designated place to load all plants in Evan McCrory's truck

and then drive to setup their plants at Leu Gardens. Volunteers are still needed especially for the Saturday morning rush. Please contact Evan McCrory or Mike Saunders for more details about the sale and volunteering.

BSI Vice-President and World Bromeliad Conference Co-Chair Greg Kolojeski spoke about the World Conference. It will be held in Sarasota on Jun 7-11, 2022. Host hotel is Hyatt Regency Sarasota. Registration is currently open. You can get refund through March 31. If you cancel by May 7, you can get 50% refund. Start thinking about entering plants for the show. Please contact Greg Kolojeski if you have further questions.

President Mike McMahon announced the following:

- Donations of 2 more rare/special plants are still needed for the Rare Plant Auction at the WBC. Please consider donating.

- Treasurer's books have been brought up to date and turned over to Joyce Gibault. Josh Goenner has volunteered to head the Audit Committee.

- We need a great-looking photo of an *Aechmea Orlandiana* in high resolution as the background photo for our WBC ad. We are also considering having cloth tote bags as giveaways in the conference, Karen Steinberg is looking into the cost but we are expecting it to be under \$750. If the board supports the tote bag giveaway idea, it will be brought up for a vote at the March meeting.

- Plant of the month will be introduced at the March meeting as an experiment. If everything goes ok, it will be made into a regular part of the monthly meeting.

- Green BSCF T-shirts are available for free for volunteers and those selling at the Leu Gardens Plant sale. Volunteers and sellers are urged to wear the green shirts.

Old Business – none.

New Business - none.

Five people participated in the show and tell. John Boardman brought some colorful bromeliads like Neo Sanctuary, Neo Cherry Float, and a very interesting Neo Inferno with a pup coming out from the center of the plant. Mike McMahon brought in a couple David Shiigi Vriesea hybrids. Lisa Robinette showed off two Tillandsias, one big and one small. Pam Marion showed some native Tillandsias she rescued from a neighbor's tree that was being cut down. Liesl Haas brought in and showed off the variegated Billbergia 'Alan Ladd'.

The meeting concluded with the drawings for door prize and raffle plants donated by members. Every one of the approximate 50 persons attending the meeting received at least one plant, if they wanted one.

Adjourned at 8:55 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Liesl Haas, Secretary

Upcoming Events

Leu Gardens' Annual Spring Plant Sale

March 12 & 13, 2022, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Free Admission all Weekend!

Over 50 growers and vendors selling a variety of plants and outdoor accessories to enhance your landscape and home.

Bring a wagon or plant cart for your purchases. All vendors take cash and most take credit cards.

Leu Gardens' Members shop early on Saturday, March 12 at 8:00 a.m., please show your membership card and photo ID to be admitted early. Guest(s) of members will be able to enter at 9:00 a.m. Guest Passes and AHS Reciprocals are not accepted during the Leu Members' early shopping hour.

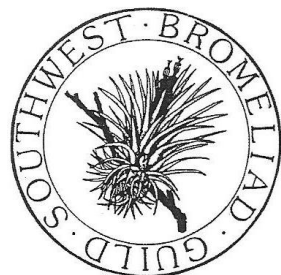


World Bromeliad Conference 2022

The **World Bromeliad Conference** was rescheduled from 2021 to **June 7-11, 2022**. The host hotel will be the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Sarasota. **Refunds for the 2022 conference will be granted in full up through March 31, 2022.** From April 1, 2022 through May 7, 2022 (which is 30 days before the conference), a refund will be granted for half of the registration fee. There will be no refunds within 30 days of the start of the conference.

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.





TO: Southwest Bromeliad Guild Affiliates

The River Ridge Bromeliad Society presents **THE 41st ANNUAL SOUTHWEST BROMELIAD GUILD SHOW**

**DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel
2150 Veterans Memorial Blvd
Kenner, LA 70062**

May 13, 14, and 15, 2022

The BSI Standard Bromeliad Show, Bromeliad Market (Sale), Southwest Guild Fall Meeting, and the Southwest Bromeliad Guild Auction, as well as the Banquet, will be held at the DoubleTree Hotel.

The DoubleTree Hotel room rate is \$129.00 per night + tax & fees (1-King or 2 Double beds) for May 12th thru 15th, 2022. Please register before **May 1, 2022**, to guarantee the room rate.

www.neworleansairport.doubletree.com USE CODE SBW

The plant sale will include general Guild member sales and commercial booths (See Sales Rules). The sales will be open on Friday evening, May 13th, to registrants only. Rare plants for the Guild Auction will be appreciated.

REGISTRATION: The \$80.00 per person fee includes the right to enter exhibits in the Show, sell in the general Guild member sales or the commercial sales, the Banquet, and the Southwest Guild Auction. Everyone registered by April 12th will be mailed the schedule of events, the show schedule with entry sheets and entry cards (if needed), and any additional information before the show date. **Please reserve early. No reservations will be accepted after May 12th or when the Banquet Room capacity is reached if this comes earlier.**

Registrant greeting and show plant entry are Friday, May 13th from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m.; Vendor and Member sales setup begins at noon. A sales fee of 25% will be taken for general sales, or \$100 per table (no percentage charged) for commercial sales.

The Southwest Bromeliad Guild and the River Ridge Bromeliad Society invite you to join us for a weekend of fun at "Bromeliads on the Lake"

Bryan Windham
President, River Ridge Bromeliad Society

REGISTRATION FORM**41ST ANNUAL SOUTHWEST BROMELIAD GUILD SHOW****DoubleTree Hotel, 2150 Veterans Memorial Blvd,****Kenner, Louisiana 70062****May 13-15, 2022**

NAME: _____ (for name tag)

NAME: _____ (for name tag)

ADDRESS: _____ PHONE: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL: _____

NAME OF SOCIETY: _____

TOTAL REGISTRANTS: _____ X \$80.00 (registration fee per person) = \$ _____

I plan to bring (Please enter number of plants/entries):

- 1) _____ Plant(s) to enter in the Southwest Bromeliad Guild Show (Cat. 1, Horticulture)
- 2) _____ Plants in Decorative Containers to enter in the Southwest Bromeliad Guild Show
- 3) _____ Artistic Arrangement(s) to enter in the Southwest Bromeliad Guild Show
- 4) _____ Plants for the General Guild Sales (see **sales rules**) Sales # _____
Contact Bryan Windham (see below) for Sales #, unless you are a RRBS member.
- 5) _____ Plants for the Commercial Booth (see **Table Reservation Form**)
- 6) _____ Plants or Bromeliad related items for the Rare Plant Auction

BANQUET (Saturday night) – check your choice of entrée (or entrees if multiple registrants):_____ Sautéed Redfish with Seafood Etouffe sauce **OR** _____ Grilled Chicken Alfredo with Penne Pasta**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM WITH REGISTRATION FEE BEFORE APRIL 12, 2022 TO:**Bryan Windham, 2401 43rd Street, Kenner, LA 70065

Make checks payable to: River Ridge Bromeliad Society, or RRBS

For more information contact Bryan Windham @ 504-722-2808 or email brykool69@yahoo.com

SOUTHWEST BROMELIAD GUILD PLANT SALE
DoubleTree Hotel, 2150 Veterans Memorial Blvd, Kenner, LA 70065
MAY 13 – 15, 2022

GENERAL GUILD SALES:

1. Sales are limited to the **registrants** of the SWBG Show.
2. Sellers are limited to displaying 25 plants at a time. More plants may be displayed as these are sold.
3. Bromeliads are the only plants that may be sold. Bromeliad related items may be sold if space is available and with permission of the Sales Chairman.
4. Plants for the sale **MUST** be clean and free of pests and disease.
5. Plants must be double tagged, with the plant name on one tag and the seller's sales number with the price on the other tag.
6. Plants and related items must be priced to the nearest dollar.
7. RRBS will retain 25% of the gross sales of each seller. Proper accounting and remittance will be made within two weeks.
8. The Seller is not required to remain in the sales area all the time but is expected to assist throughout the Sale.
9. Sellers may bring their plants to the sales area beginning at 12:00 noon, Friday, October 22nd and anytime during the sale's hours.
10. Sales hours: Friday 5/13/22 – 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (**Registrants only**)
Saturday 5/14/22 – 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 5/15/22 – 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
11. All unsold items must be removed from the DoubleTree Hotel by 7:00 p.m. Sunday, (5/15/22)

COMMERCIAL SALES:

Sales tables are available for a rental fee of \$100.00 per table. There is no limit on plant or related items. No commission/bookkeeping. Advanced reservation and rental fee required. Reservation deadline is April 12, 2022.

SALES TABLE RESERVATION FORM

Reserve _____ sales table(s) at \$100.00 per table. TOTAL = \$ _____

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL _____

Return this form with fee to: Bryan Windham, 2401 43rd Street, Kenner, LA 70065

Make checks payable to: **RIVER RIDGE BROMELIAD SOCIETY** (or to **RRBS**)

Guest Speakers

MARCH PROGRAM: BROMELIADS IN PARADISE

At our March meeting, Tom and Carol Wolfe will be presenting their 'Bromeliads In Paradise' program. This presentation is the first in which Tom and Carol are teaming up on the narration to present interesting and humorous stories and experiences with bromeliads and the people that love them. Their PowerPoint program features beautiful, brightly colored specimen bromeliads photographed by Carol. Most were grown by Tom. There are also views taken at various gardens, bromeliad shows and venues around the country.

Tom joined the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay in 1965 and became an accredited BSI Bromeliad Judge in 1982. He is now a Master Judge. He served on the BSI Board of Directors for 14 years serving as Director, Secretary, Vice President, and two terms as President. Together, Tom and Carol have held every office in the BGTB. Tom is presently serving as a Director and Carol as Vice President. Carol was editor of the monthly BGTB Newsletter for eight years and has been editor of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies Newsletter since 2014.

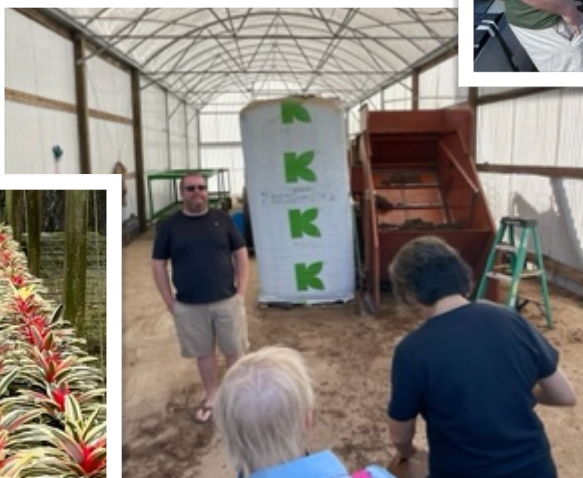
Tom and Carol live in Lutz and grow their bromeliads on their 2.5 acres of land and greenhouses. But, they say their biggest "production" is their six grandchildren. They love being grandparents!

Plant of the Month: *Aechmea chantinii*

Aechmea chantinii is relatively common in the Amazon watershed of Brazil, Peru, Columbia, Venezuela and Ecuador. Like many plants with a wide distribution, it comes in many versions. Although there are only a couple of formally recognized varieties, there are several dozen cultivars varying in foliage color, the amount of silvery scurf, banding patterns and color of the bracts when in bloom. The bloom is fantastic, but it seldom blooms in March in Orlando. Nonetheless, it's popularity has made it the first choice for the new Plant of The Month display. All members are encouraged to bring their *Aechmea chantinii* to the March meeting to display on the Plant of The Month table.



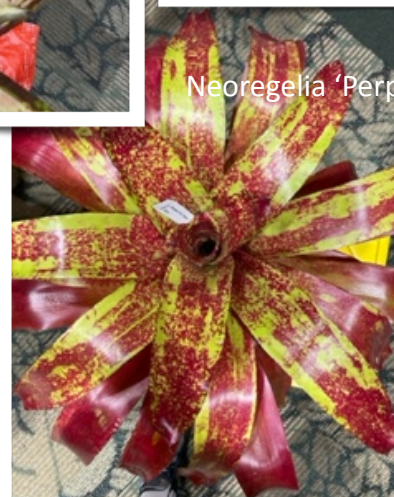
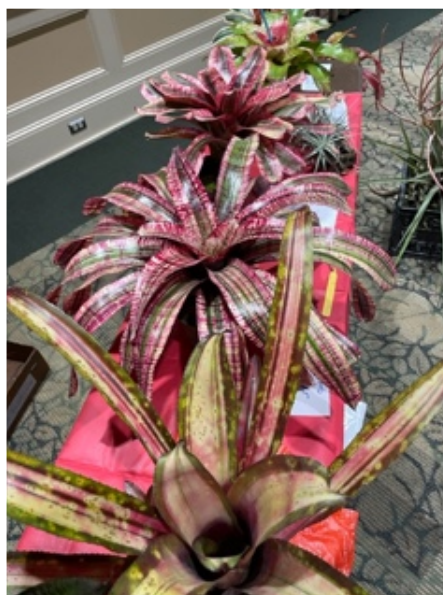
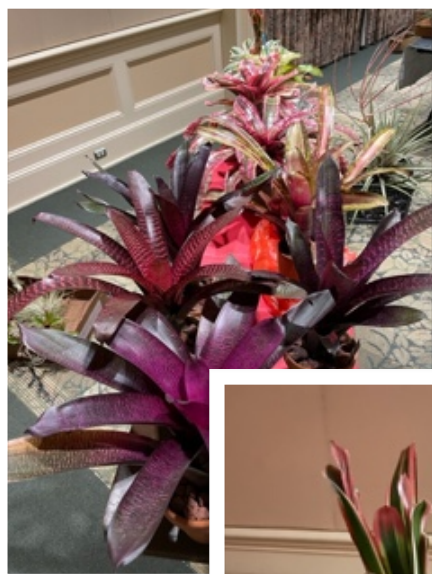
Pictures from McCrory's



Squirrels drive me nuts and I'm sure they may drive you nuts too! I top dressed a few potted broms with rocks yesterday and the squirrels didn't bother them. Give it a try! - Marilyn



March Show & Tell



Neoregelia 'Perpetual Motion'

Neoregelia Inferno

Neoregelia 'Fruity Pebbles'

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

President	Mike McMahon	michael.mcmahon@akerman.com
Vice President	Tim Dreggors	tdreggors@gmail.com
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Webmaster	Greg Kolojeski.....	gkolojeski@gmail.com

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.

Also check out our Facebook Group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/263882333744906>

