



orlandiana

**Newsletter of the
Bromeliad Society of Central Florida**
Volume no. 51, Issue no. 6

Next meeting: June 19, 2024

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

I was at the World Conference grumbling that when I got home it would be time to come up with a 'Message'. Some folks suggested I should write about the WBC. I turned that over in my mind. The programs could be summarized, but that would be more like articles than a 'message' and I had not kept notes. The judged show had some gorgeous bromeliads. I could write about it and John Boardman winning tons of blue ribbons, including the 'Sweepstakes' award for the most winners in the show. (It makes me proud that one of our own dominated the show!) But, that would be a good news item or photo spread, not a 'message'. What else?

What really brings most people to the Conference is the plant sale. It has the biggest crowds. Everyone talks about what they got, their regrets over the ones they missed and what they saw. 'Did you see that \$600 Tillandsia at Tropiflora's booth!?' There wasn't nearly as much talk about what the speakers said.

There were a lot of expensive broms at the sale. I overheard one person saying they thought everyone had inflated their prices. I did not have that impression (except for one vendor who will remain nameless). Rather, it seemed to me that the vendors went all out to bring their best and rarest. So, of course, many of the broms were pricey. Rare plants are. I acquired a variegated *Pseudalcantarea macropetala* known as 'Silver Candelabra'. How rare is that? Well, how many have even heard of a *Pseudalcantarea*, much less a variegated one? I also got an *Alcantarea* 'Totara Orange' nearly a meter in diameter (sorry, Miguel). I had never heard of it until one of the Thursday speakers, Andrew Devonshire from New Zealand, showed a photo of one. Both of these broms were priced well below the latest Skotak hybrid Neos. In fact, the two together were less than one of the latest Skotak hybrids.... which IMO did not look much different than some older Skotaks, but then, I'm not focused on Neos. I think I got good deals.

Even with such 'good deals', I busted the budget. With four major Tillandsia dealers selling, I was proud my self-control kept me only 50% over budget. There were so many Tillies I could have spent ten times the budget without getting everything I would have liked. There were about 20 vendors with Neoregelias. Neo lovers had to go crazy.

There were lower priced broms to be found here and there, but it was not a sale geared to the beginner. The vendors did not travel long distances and incur the expense of hotels and restaurants to sell the usual run of plants at bargain prices. Of course, budget-conscious folks do not use a tank of gas and spend hours driving to buy a brom either.

For bargains, the best place to buy is a BSCF member sale. The overwhelming majority of the plants at BSCF sales are priced well below what commercial nurseries charge. The member selling a plant is probably the best source of advice for how to successfully grow it in our area. We do not get a lot of the truly rare broms at our sales, but there are always some and the number of rare ones has been increasing. It makes for a good mix. Something for everyone and lots of good deals.

What makes a good deal? Buying bromeliads is like buying wine. If the \$10 bottle tastes just as good to you, don't buy the \$100 bottle. It doesn't matter whether you can afford it. If the taste difference is not appreciated, the extra cost is a waste. If you already have several Skotak hybrids, you may see the traits that make the new \$175 one different. What looks a lot alike to my eye may be exquisitely different in the eye of an afficiando. If it looks the same to you, then you will be just as happy with an older one that costs less. If you do see the differences, then the issue is time and alternatives. Do you spend what it takes to enjoy it now, or do you wait some number of years for the price to come down? Each of us makes our own decision what waiting is worth. The older I get, the less willing I am to wait. If there are lower priced broms you like as much, then buy them. The new and rare are more costly, but that does not mean they are better. Every month there are Neo hybrids you can get for free from the door prize table. There was a time when some of them sold for big bucks. It may be a freebie today, but it brings just as much beauty into your life as it would if you paid for it. The question is not really about pricing, it is about your 'eye'. Do you see the beauty?

And that brings me to the 'message' in this ramble. I acquired a *Lemeltonia acosta-solisii* for \$8. I already have a bunch of *Lemeltonia narthecoides*, a little oddball with grass-green, grass-like leaves and a grass-green inflorescence that rises out of the little grassy tufts.... sort of like a St. Augustine grass plug that hangs in the air. It has nothing much to say for itself, except the white flowers are fragrant, especially at night. It makes me happy. Yeah, it's just a green tuft, but how amazing that it thrives just hanging in the air, drinking in the rain and rewarding the universe with a wiff of perfume. It does amaze me... when I notice it. Unless you are into dissecting flower parts, *Lemeltonia acosta-solisii* looks identical, but grows a bit bigger. (OK... So, get this straight. One looks like a tuft of grass and the other looks like a tuft of grass that didn't get mowed.) Did I waste the \$8? A lot of folks would think I did. At least the look-a-lot-alike Skotak hybrids are brilliantly colorful.

I think it was a cheap spend. It makes me happy. And, that's the 'message'.

Measure value by the level of happiness you experience and you will have no regrets.

Mike McMahon

May Minutes

BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA, INC.

Draft Meeting Minutes

May 15, 2024

Will be approved with potential corrections at the June 19, 2024, meeting

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by President Mike McMahon at Leu Gardens Orlando, Florida.

Program: Vice President Tim Dreggors was absent, so Mike McMahon introduced speaker Grant Groves who spoke on, "How Bromeliads Shaped My Life."

Announcements: Mike McMahon announced that the Member Market is still open; Check-out Plant of Month table that are Grant Groves hybrids; and Special display table with- Neo. silvomontana seedlings; Also, drop by the Advice Table to make suggestions or learn from the suggestions of others.

Meeting break was from 7:50 p.m. until 8:13 p.m.

Business Meeting; was called to order at 8:13 p.m. by Mike McMahon. Mike announced that raffle tickets could still be purchased.

Membership Secretary: Pam Marion introduced the new member Dee Sutphin along with numerous guests. Pam reminded members to sign in when entering the room.

Minutes: The draft minutes of the April 17, 2024, meeting were published in the March 2024 *Orlandiana* with no corrections. ***A motion to accept the minutes as written was made by John Vecchitto and seconded by Karen Steinberg. The motion passed unanimously.***

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

Committee reports: Mother's Day plant sale and exhibition at Fashion Square Mall: Mike Saunders discussed the success of the Friday and Saturday sale at Fashion Square Mall.

Field Trips/Outings: Karen Steinberg reported how impressed everyone was with the Spring Garden Tours. This weekend will be two more with Penny's in Winter Park and Karen's in Orlando.

World Conference: Greg Kolojeski reported that the conference will be in West Palm Beach next week with 23 vendors selling. They are from all over the USA and Peru. Parking at the hotel Friday and Saturday will be free.

President's Report: Mike McMahon had nothing else to report.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

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

Door Prize/Raffle giveaways: President Mike McMahon announced ticket numbers. Members bringing plant of the month got to go up first to pick a plant.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Telka diFate

Recording Secretary

Approved

Date

Bromeliad Society Central Florida

Guest Speaker

Jason Mellica to give a program entitled "My Big Neos", which is about his efforts making some big ones.

Jason is a Botany Graduate of the University of Florida and has been in business since 1995. He has studied Bromeliads in the wild in Northeastern South America with over 20 trips to Venezuela and Guyana. He also supports many environmental groups working to preserve natural forest systems throughout the tropics.



Plant of the Month

June's plant of the month is Nidularium. This species is native to Brazil and prefers lower to medium light conditions with moderate temperatures. Many Nidulariums bloom in late spring/early summer, so June is a great month to showcase our members' Nidulariums. Some Nidularium species are Nidularium fulgens, Nidularium innocentii, Nidularium antoineanum, Nidularium fulgens, and Nidularium rubens. There are a number of cultivars as well.

So, prep your Nidularium(s){you are welcome to bring in more than one!} for the June 2024 Plant of the Month display and, in addition to awing our meeting attendees with the beautiful display, for your participation, there is an added bonus of being first to select a plant from the door prize table.

Cathy

Attached photo: Nidularium Leprosa, a hybrid of N. regeliodes and N. rosulatum. In the early 1980s it was widely distributed in the Orlando area under the incorrect name Nidularium 'Sao Paulo', an entirely different cultivar. It can still be found mis-labeled in old collections in the area.



Want more to show off?

If so, share the adventure! At the May meeting the display of Neoregelia silvomontana seedlings (perhaps crossed with something?) triggered lots of conversation. For June there will be another special display table. This time, members are encouraged to bring any bromeliad they have personally raised from seed. It can be a batch of seedlings that just sprouted, a full-grown specimen, or anything in-between. The only requirement is that the member sprouted the seed. Be sure they have a legible name label so folks do not have to pull tags to see what the seedlings are. There will be notecards where you can write down how old the seedling(s) are, if you recall. How many members are having fun with seed? Let's find out. Share the fun!



John Boardman Wins 9 Top Awards at World Bromeliad Conference

By Eloise Beach

In the weeks leading up to the World Conference, John Boardman was obsessed with cleaning his potential show plants to the point of exhaustion, even questioning his sanity.

Day after day with cloths and toothbrushes, he scrubbed away at dirt, algae, and dreaded lichens. Unless you have experienced this madness, people cannot believe how much work goes into show plant prep! All done in hopes of beating the stiff competition he would soon face.

John was rewarded with winning the highly coveted Sweepstakes Award for the most Blue ribbons, plus 7 other top awards.

Best Neoregelia: Neo. 'Legend'

Best Variegated Bromeliad & Bronze Medallion: Androlepis 'Party Dress'

Best Vriesea & Silver Medallion: Vr. 'Hawaiian Fantasy'

Silver Medallion: Vr. fenestralis variegated

Bronze Medallion: Ae. brassicoides

His superbly grown Neo. 'Yukon Jack' won the Visitor's Choice Award.

That massive Neo. even impressed Chester Skotak, who created that beauty oh so many years ago.

Congratulations to John for representing BSCF in stellar style, bringing home the most awards of any exhibitor at the WBC.



Neo. 'Legend'



Androlepis 'Party Dress'



Vr. 'Hawaiian Fantasy'



Vr. fenestralis variegated



Neo. 'Yukon Jack'



Ae. brassicoides

WBC Medallion Awards

By Eloise Beach

BSI World Conference show winners received medallion awards created by BSCF Life Members John Boardman and Pam Marion. They worked hard to put together a wonderful group of awards that reflected the show theme of a treasure chest in a beach setting..."A Florida Treasure." The shells, coral, driftwood and other treasures dressed up the Gold, Silver and Bronze BSI medallions.

A huge THANK YOU to Pam & John for coming up with such unusual ways to mount the medallions.

They didn't get the recognition they deserved for doing such an outstanding job!

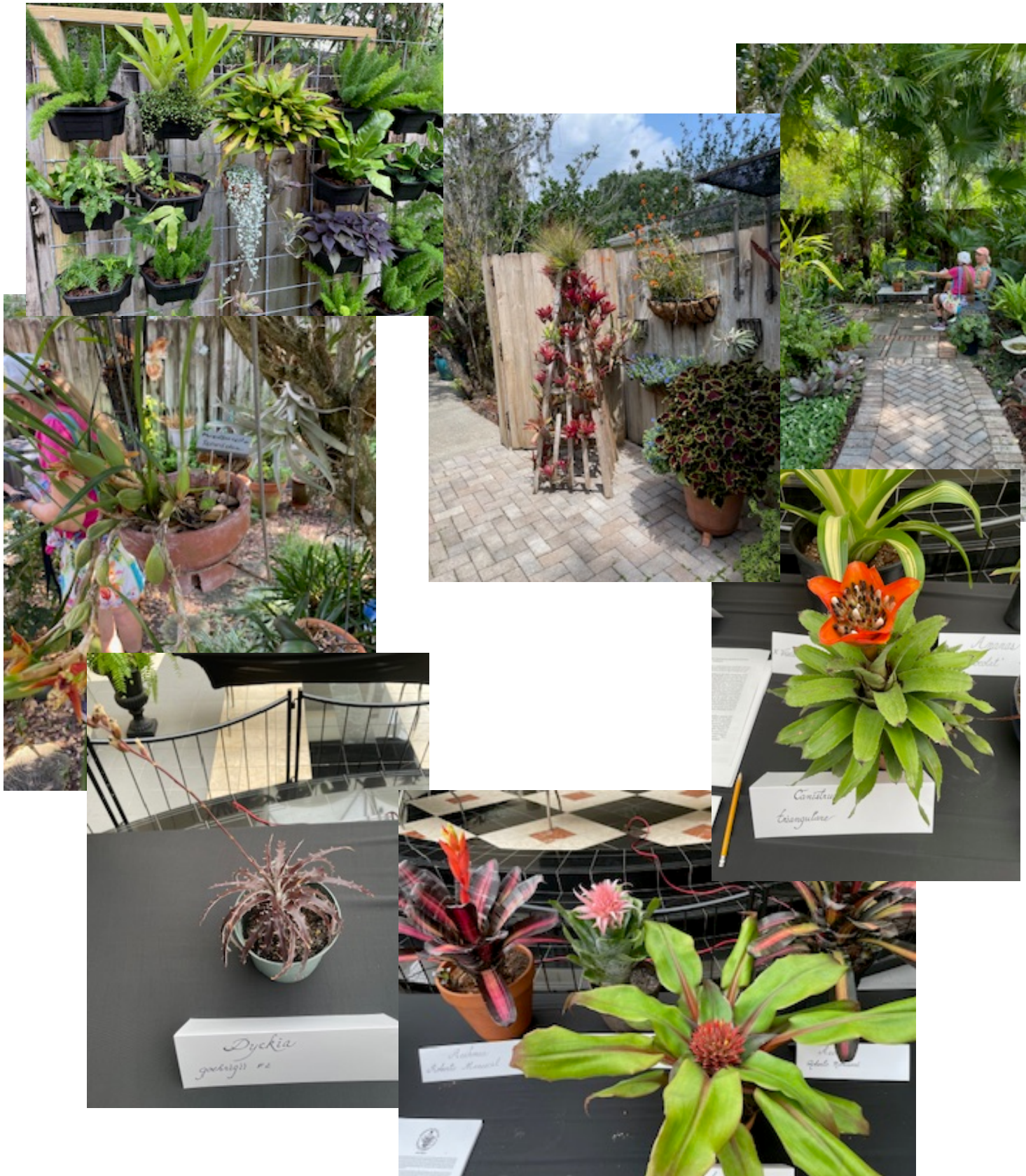


More BSI Pictures





Garden Tours & Mother's Day



2024 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 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!

Treasurer:

Date _____ Check # _____ Cash \$ _____

Officers

President: **Mike McMahon**

Vice-President: **Tim Dreggors**

Treasurer: **Joyce Gibault**

Recording Secretary: **Telka diFate**

Membership Secretary: **Pam Marion**

Immediate Past President: **Mike Saunders**

Florida Council Reps: **Mike Saunders & Mike McMahon**

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: **Dan Sawyer**

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: **Cathy Schubert**

Speaker Helper: **Bonnie Friedrich**

Librarian : **Dan Sawyer**

Newsletter Editor: **John Vecchitto**

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

Audit Committee: **Bob Johnson, Dan Lott and Tim Dreggors (Chair).**

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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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.