



orlandiana

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

Volume no. 51, Issue no. 10

Next meeting: October 16, 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

CONTENTS

President's Message	2
September Minutes	3
Guest Speaker	5
List of Upcoming Events	6
Plant of the Month	7
Pictures	7
Membership form	9
Officers	10

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!

President's Message

It's October. Happy 52nd Anniversary, BSCF!

52 years may seem like 'forever' if you are 30-something. For those of more advanced age, it is just about how long it takes to start to gain some perspective. In a happy coincidence, this October also sees the encore return of "Halloween Broms" as the Plant of the Month. That underscores an important point. Bromeliads are fun.

Back when BSCF was founded, it was common to have clubs focused on specific plant groups. There was a local daylily society, a fern society, a begonia society, a palm society, a cycad society and more... bamboo, bonsai, philodendrons. There were lots of other hobby clubs, too, focused on everything from tropical fish and rabbits to stamp collecting and building model ships. From the mid-19th century to the end of the 20th century, hobby clubs were how people learned about a subject that interested them. You could buy a book, but the fun way to learn the practical stuff was by sharing experiences with people who shared your interest.

Then along came the internet and big box stores. Got a question? No need to wait until a meeting, just google it. Many Mom & Pop nurseries and shops were the outgrowth of the owners' hobby. They supported clubs focused on their hobby. Interested in begonias? That little nursery on Edgewater Drive had hundreds of types and you were guaranteed lots of chit chat about each of them. Over on Michigan St. there was a postage stamp garden shop that always had some type of fern you never saw before. Brook's Nursery & Bird Farm mixed camellias and dozens of different tropical finches and parakeets. The mega-garden centers put the Mom & Pops out of business, and the friendly chatter at check-out ended. Support for hobby clubs went with them.

Bromeliad societies have survived, but not all. The Imperial Polk Bromeliad Society based in Lakeland was once very active. It's gone. One in Jacksonville evaporated. Others around Florida have declined in membership. Across the country, the story is much the same. Still, bromeliads are more commonly seen today than they were back in the day. The "limited number" of bromeliads typically seen in a Lowe's garden center would have been "an abundance" in 1972. The societies of yesteryear were successful to that extent, opening the way for mass produced commercialization. There is some sort of irony in that.

Some societies have declined because they have been too self-satisfied. If you are happy doing things you've always done, why do new things? Well, the world moves on and those left behind can scratch their heads all they want. Repeating the same old stuff isn't so much fun.

Some societies lost sight of their mission. They still called themselves a bromeliad society, but their energy really went into social activities. That can be fun, but people do not join a bromeliad society to fill their social calendar. People join because of the plants. Friendships follow.

The mission can also be forgotten when a small group of members dominate everything. The organization becomes static. Tasks become just another job to get done. It stops being fun when it's all about the jobs. Promoting knowledge about bromeliads requires focus on the plants. The plants bring smiles.

"Halloween Broms" is an example of a new idea being embraced. It is a simple thing, a different way of appreciating bromeliads. Making bromeliads part of the seasonal celebration broadens their appeal. Lots of smiles make bromeliads accessible to all.

BSCF has stuck around for 52 years, spreading the word about bromeliads. Much has changed, but the core focus is the same. It's all about the plants. Broms are fun.

Happy Birthday, BSCF!

Mike McMahon

September Minutes

BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA, INC.

Draft Meeting Minutes

September 18, 2024

Will be approved with potential corrections at the September 18, 2024, 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 introduced speaker Dennis Cathcart. Dennis, the founder of Tropiflora discussed his experiences with Ray Coleman, who created many

Neoregelia hybrids. The program included Dennis's collecting trips with Ray and a focus on Coleman hybrids.

Announcements: Mike McMahon announced that plants are still for sale; check-out Plant of the Month table: that are cultivars and hybrids registered by Dennis Cathcart, any hybrid or cultivar named after Dennis or Linda Cathcart, any species Cathcarti in any genus; silent auction continues and drop by the Advice Table.

Meeting break was from 7:50 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Business Meeting; was called to order at 8:05 p.m. by Mike McMahon. Mike announced that raffle tickets could still be purchased.

Membership Secretary: Pam Marion introduced the new member John Cifor along with numerous guests.

Minutes: The draft minutes of the August 21, 2024, meeting were published in the September 2024 *Orlandiana* with no corrections. ***A motion to accept the minutes as written was made by Norin Stone and seconded by Liesl Haas. The motion passed unanimously.***

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

Committee Reports: John Boardman, chairman of the Nominating Committee announced the slate, at this time, for 2025:

President: Dan Sawyer, who has been a member of the BSCF for 2 years.

Vice President: Dr. Telka diFate, who has been a member of the BSCF for 6 1/2 years. Telka has also been the BSCF Librarian for 2 years and is presently the Recording Secretary. She has held many positions in volunteer organizations on state and local levels as President, Vice President, Secretary and more.

Treasurer: Joyce Gibault will continue on as treasurer and has done a great job. Joyce has been collecting Bromeliads since the 1970's. Many thanks.

Recording Secretary: Robin Norton, been a member of the BSCF for a number of years and enjoys collecting Bromeliads.

Membership Secretary: Pam Marion is presently membership secretary and will continue on in that position. She has been a long-standing member of the BSCF and is a life member. Many thanks Pam.

Holiday Party Committee: Paula Edwards reported that the November Holiday Party will be a tropical theme so please dress festive by wearing tropical shirts. Sign up to bring various foods and how many will be attending. The list is on the table as you enter the room. We will continue with the plant gift swap plus more fun activities are planned.

President's Report: Mike McMahon announced cultural handouts are now on the website. Greg has completed this project, and we thank him for doing this. - Mead Garden Sale

– November 8-9, 2024, could be the best plant sale of the year. At least 12 participating sellers will be there but it's not too late to sign up. Just see Mike.

- BSCF Facebook Group is now over 8,400 members from around the world. Mike stated that he would continue doing the Facebook page in 2025 for the society until someone else volunteers to take it over.

- Fashion Square Mall plant sale doesn't get many people so the idea at this time is to do a possible outreach table at festivals. We would set up a tent with maybe 6 tables to hand out literature to join the Bromeliad Society. We would have to pay for this spot, and it would be staffed by volunteers all weekend. One festival is in early April and the other in late April. These events are outside. See Mike if you want to volunteer. If not enough people want to do this outreach, we will drop the idea.

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 that participants that brought in a Plant of the Month can go up first to pick a plant, then, ticket numbers were drawn.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Telka diFate
Recording Secretary
Approved

Date
Bromeliad Society Central Florida

Guest Speaker

Our guest speakers for September will be Lee Magnuson along with Jonathan Lallier.

Lee has been collecting, growing and hybridizing bromeliads for over 13 years. Lee is a Member of Bromeliad Society International, current member and President of Bromeliad Society of the Palm Beaches.



Lee Magnuson, owner of Brilliant Bromeliads, and Jonathan Lallier

Jonathan is the owner of Brilliant Bromeliads along with his wife Nikole. They will be speaking on "Bromeliads - Natural Art and World Conference Recap".

Upcoming Events

GROWvember Festival at Mead Garden

BSCF is once more participating in Mead Botanical Garden's Fall Festival. It is a fun, casual event with dozens of vendors selling all sorts of plants, from begonias and orchids to blooming annuals for Fall planting. And, of course, there will be bromeliads. All members are able to sell bromeliads at this event. (Only bromeliads may be sold at the BSCF booth.) If you are interested, contact Mike McMahon so the society space can be laid out. He will send you the rules for the sale. Each seller provides their own tables, chairs, tent and whatever else they need. All sales are through the central society check-out, with BSCF retaining 20%.



Everyone will want to check out the sale. There will be more bromeliads available than at any other BSCF sale, literally thousands! And, folks save some special ones just for this event. Plus, there are all sorts of garden plants available from other participants. It's a fun event.

Officially, the festival opens to the public at 2:00 PM on Friday, November 8. But, brom-crazies from as far away as Jacksonville, Tampa, Ocala and Vero Beach will be coming, and they arrive early, usually by 1:00 PM. So, to allow BSCF members a chance to be 'first', BSCF will be ready by Noon. Even if you work, you have a chance for a lunch hour visit.

WHERE: Mead Botanical Garden, 1300 S. Denning Drive, Winter Park, FL 32789

WHEN: Friday, November 8 (officially, 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM) and Saturday, November 11 (8:00 AM to 4:00 PM).



Plant of the Month

It was so much fun last year, we are doing it again. The October Plant Of The Month will be any bromeliad with a fall or Halloween decorative theme. Everyone will get to vote for their favorite entry and there will be Tropiflora gift cards to the first, second, and third place winners. Participants may wish to arrive at the meeting a little early, so voting may start early.

So, let your creativity go wild!

Cathy.



“Cousin Itt was a Hitt”

Pictures





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.bromeliadsorlando.com

Officers

President: **Mike McMahon**
Vice-President: **Tim Dreggors**
Treasurer: **Joyce Gibault**
Recording Secretary: **Dr. 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:

Bromeliad Society of Central Florida, Inc.

PO Box 536961

Orlando, FL 32853-6961

facebook.com/BromeliadSocietyOfCentralFlorida



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.