



Orlandiana

Newsletter of the
Bromeliad Society of Central Florida
Volume no. 52, Issue no. 3

Next meeting: March 19, 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!

Cover Photos courtesy: Katrina Kruse

President's Message

While attending University of Florida in the Landscape Architecture program, the faculty treated us to a senior lecture from Roberto Burle-Marx. It was a truly amazing lecture, and we were excited to talk with him. One of our classmates Raymond, who obviously isn't shy, went straight up to him face-to-face, and said "When can I visit?" After graduation, I ended up taking a position in a landscape architecture firm where I spent the better part of three years working on a 2 mile beachfront restoration on Miami Beach, including boardwalks, and three public parks. The Florida Native Plant Society was starting to form, and I was part of the group of 9 people that started the South Florida chapter. The beachfront project sent me to many of the native plant nurseries. Many of the species that we were needing for our project weren't available in the trade at that time, and pushed them into the nursery trade. I joined Fairchild Tropical Gardens, strolled around Matheson Hammock, and enjoyed the more robust and tropical planting abundant in South Florida. Fairchild would host their annual sale, where I met the Cathcarts of Tropiflora, buying my first bromeliad *Racinaea dyeriana* and eventually others.

During this time, when Roberto needed to visit Miami because of projects and lectures, he would stay with Raymond. I was always invited over and enjoyed my time with him. On one of his trips, he asked me "When are you going to visit? In 1984, I made my trek to Rio de Janeiro, and with the Varig Air Pass I spent a few days at each stop: Brasilia, Manaus, and Foz do Iguaçu. The projects of Roberto, the plant collection at his Sítio, the abundant growth of vegetation, especially in the Mata Atlântica (the coastal rainforest) overwhelmed me with joy and ideas.

I spent the next 3 years in Colorado, amazed at the scenery and vegetation. Upon my return to Brevard County, I started work at an engineering firm working on various types of projects. During this time I was able to visit Miami when Roberto came to visit a few times. He asked "When are you going to visit Brazil again?" So I made plans for a two week trip; but the workload at the firm dried up and I ended up asking him if it was OK to stay for three months, the length of a the visa. Most of the time was spent in Rio staying at the Sítio and going into the office. On the off days, I would visit with the employees, walk through the Rio Botanical Gardens, and even went to São Paulo during carnival with one of the employees.

Upon my return to the states, I found myself full of creative ideas and a thirst for knowledge for all the plants that I witnessed. Freelance work, consumed my time in the central Florida area. Post hurricane Andrew, friends of mine with an office in

South Miami asked me to join them, working on several projects. I divided my time between the two locations. In South Miami on my off hours, I would take a collection of grocery bags, walk the neighborhood and collect Bromeliads from piles of hurricane debris that were there for nine months before they were finally removed. When I would bring loads of plants from these trash piles up back to Brevard County, I would distribute them to friends who have since returned progeny back for my new home. A Landscape Architecture firm out of Coral Gables contacted me for a job opening. Once again I found myself living in South Florida with projects in South Florida and Columbia. My interest compelled me to join the Bromeliad Society, the Palm Society, and the Tropical Flowering Tree Society. Back at that time, the species were mostly available, although I do remember Aechmea 'Lil Harv' being available.

My friends that I work with post hurricane Andrew invited me to a dinner party where I met someone who later became my wife. She was living in Colorado. I relocated there, spending 25 years learning about Colorado native plants being in the Native Plants Society, the Daylily Society where I was a sale co-chairman for 20 years, and the Cactus and Succulent Society where I was a sale co-chairman for 8 years. Being a member of the Denver Botanic Garden I volunteered for the annual Mother's Day Sale, where I was co-chair and chair for the Perennials division for 7 years, and chair of the Tropicals division for 2 years. While in the Tropical division, I convinced DBG to bring in the Cathcarts to give a lecture and supply plants for the sale. When the internet became more accessible in my area, accessing plant information became much easier. After joining Facebook, I found several groups including the Planet series from Barry Landau, including Planet Bromeliad.

My wife succumbed to Breast Cancer, my children were in college away from home, and my mother was diagnosed with Dementia, so I decided to return to Brevard. I joined BSCF a month after purchasing my house. A year later I joined the Seminole County Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society.

Takeaways:

1. Never be afraid to speak or ask questions to members, speakers, or heavy hitters in the field. I used that during the Extravaganza '24 when I saw Chester Skotak sitting by himself during the plant sale setup. I introduced myself, told him of friends that are building a vacation house near Arenal Volcano NP, Costa Rica, and want me to help them with the garden. He replied he was very close, and when I go, he invited me to visit his operation, where he would give me a tour and sell plants to my friends for their new garden. We have a few very knowledgeable and important members within our society.
2. The internet is a wealth of information and purchasing options.

3. The BSCF has a library that contains books of general bromeliads and some that specialize in specific genera; but because of the age of the publications, mainly species are covered.

Thanks.

Dan Sawyer

February 2025 Minutes

BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA, INC.

Draft Meeting Minutes: February 19, 2025

Will be approved with potential corrections at the March 19, 2025 meeting

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

Program: Vice President Dr. Telka diFate introduced speaker Stephanie LaRusso who spoke on the topic 'Mindful Garden Design' with a focus on Bromeliad gardening.

Announcements: No announcements were made prior to the break.

Meeting break was from 8:00 p.m. until 8:12 p.m.

Business Meeting was called to order at 8:12 p.m. by Dan Sawyer .

Membership Secretary: Pam Marion introduced three guests:

Donna Narup from Alton, IL.

Yveline Wilnau from Orlando

Glenn Spitzer from Ormond Beach

Minutes: The draft minutes of the February 19, 2025 meeting were published in the February 2025 *Orlandiana* with no corrections. ***A motion to accept the minutes as written was made by Paula Edwards and seconded by John Vecchitto. The motion passed unanimously.***

Treasurer's report: Joyce Gibault was not able to attend. Vice President Dr. Telka diFate _____ provided the Treasurer's Report stating that the organization is financially stable. Income and expenses were presented.

Board Report: At the January 19th Board meeting the Board approved holding the Mother's Day Weekend Display and Sale at Fashion Square Mall and authorized Mike McMahon to execute the agreement with the Mall.

Committee Reports:

Mike Saunders discussed the upcoming Leu Gardens plant sale to be held March 8-9.

Mike McMahon discussed the Mother's Day sale to be held at Fashion Square Mall on Friday and Saturday only, May 9-10.

President's Report: None.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Show & Tell: Mike McMahon and Dan Sawyer displayed and discussed several plants from their collections. John Vecchitto presented his technique for storing frost cloth.

Door Prize/Raffle giveaways: President Dan Sawyer announced the order of seating rows to select door prizes.

Dan then drew and announced raffle ticket numbers.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Norton

Recording Secretary

Bromeliad Society Central Florida

Date Approved

Member's Market

A Member's Market will be held at this meeting. Please make sure all your plants are disease free and free of bugs and debris. There is a possibility that a speaker will be available for this meeting. As of press time there is no confirmation of this.

Upcoming Events

BROMELIAD SHOW & MOTHER'S DAY SALE

Friday, May 9 : 11am - 8pm

Saturday, May 10: 11am - 8pm



**Fashion Square Mall
3463 East Colonial Drive
Orlando, FL 32803
(Use entry by Panera)**



OVER 1,000 BROMELIADS ON DISPLAY AND FOR SALE

**Bromeliad Society of Central Florida's
50th Annual Mother's Day Exhibition & Sale**

**Our annual Mother's Day event! Watch this space for more
information!**

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.

CLARIFICATION: THOSE CONFUSING NAME CHANGES, TWICE AGAIN

By Mike McMahon

Articles in Orlandiana really do get read. In the February Orlandiana there was an item summarizing my comments at the January meeting about how the 'Pink Quill' plant commonly known as *Tillandsia cyanea* is *Wallisia cyanea* and that the plant known as *Tillandsia guatemalensis* should now be correctly labeled as *Tillandsia cyanea*. That item was read by botanist Eric Gouda, the internationally known authority on bromeliads. He contacted me to clarify that actually, the 'Pink Quill' plant should never have been known as *T. cyanea* because the article in which that name was given was not a valid publication under the governing standards. Thus, the name *cyanea* was technically still available when the plant known as *T. guatemalensis* was initially described and named *cyanea*. What hobbyists knew as *T. cyanea* was always incorrectly named, and the plant known by hobbyists as *T. guatemalensis* should always have been known as *T. cyanea*. Lyman Smith erred in the 1950s when he ascribed the name *guatemalensis* to that plant, because it was actually validly named as *cyanea* in the initial publication in the 1800s. It is incorrect to consider the move of *T. cyanea* to the genus *Wallisia* as triggering a re-naming.

So, what should the 'Pink Quill' plant have been known as back before it was placed in the genus *Wallisia*? The correct name was *Tillandsia lindenii*, the name originally given to the plant long ago. Wait, you say, there is another *Tillandsia* named *lindenii*. Well, yes and no. For a long time hobbyists have grown two very similar, but somewhat different plants as *T. cyanea* ('Pink Quill') and *T. lindenii*. Even today, if you search the Tropiflora website you will find what was *T. lindenii* for sale as *Wallisia lindenii*. However, Dr. Gouda writes that the two must be considered synonymous. What was known as *T. cyanea* ('Pink Quill') was first described and published as *T. lindenii*. What has been labeled as *T. lindenii* is a plant of unknown origin and is perhaps a cultivar.

In the 1970s I acquired a plant labeled *T. lindenii*. It has a longer inflorescence than the standard 'Pink Quill' generally seen and does not become quite as bright pink as the *Wallisia cyanea* I grow next to it. Otherwise, it is the same. Like Tropiflora, I re-labeled mine as *Wallisia lindenii*, but I was wrong to do so. There is no such thing as

Wallisia lindenii. They are all *Wallisia cyanea* at this point even if a little different from one another. (There is a *Wallisia lindeniana*, but it is what was previously known as *T. umbellata*, not what hobbyists kept as *T. lindenii*.)

By the way, one point of confusion may get cleared up. The plant Lyman Smith called *T. guatemalensis* that should be labeled *T. cyanea* soon may be properly labeled *T. guatemalensis* after all. Dr. Gouda writes: "In order not to create further confusion, a proposal to the Committee for Spermatophyta to conserve *T. guatemalensis* against *T. cyanea* is in progress."

So, keep your eraser handy. What was may be again.

(If you are interested in Dr. Gouda's detailed explanation with citations to the relevant publications, and translations of key passages, contact Mike McMahon.)



Hobbyists have known this plant as *Tillandsia lindenii*, but it is considered synonymous with *Wallisia cyanea*. There is no recognized *Wallisia lindenii*.

NEWS FLASH: BSCF FACEBOOK GROUP NOW BIGGEST IN FLORIDA

As of February 28, BSCF's Facebook group crossed the 10,000 member threshold, making it the largest FB group based in Florida. Second largest is the Florida Bromeliads group with 9,800 members. The Bromeliad Society of South Florida FB group has 2,100 members. The Bromeliad Society of the Palm Beaches FB group has 499 members.

Thanks to all who post in the BSCF group, and especially Katrina Kruse, Steve Beaudoin and Marilyn Howser for their frequent postings. If you have not joined, try it. There is something new and worthwhile to see and read every day. You never need to post anything to see what's there.

Plant of the Month

March: Theme Mini Bromeliads

This month's theme is to showcase mini bromeliads. These are the extra small bromeliads. Think of your small bromeliads such as *Neoregelia* fireball and then go smaller for these amazingly special plants. Here is a list of potential suspects:

Neoregelia: lilliputiana, midget, gizmo, small fry, tons more!

Aechmea: brevicollis, calyculta alaya, covata too, suenos.

Tillandsia: There are a lot of Tillandsias that fit the "mini" parameter.

Billbergia: tequila sunset, poquito mas, nutans mini, party pink.

Cryptanthus: Most of these fit the "mini" parameter.

Dyckia: There are lots of mini Dyckias to choose from.



Neoregelia 'Midget'

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: **Dan Sawyer**

Vice-President:

Treasurer: **Joyce Gibault**

Recording Secretary: **Robin Norton**

Membership Secretary: **Pam Marion**

Immediate Past President: **Mike McMahon**

Florida Council Reps: **Mike Saunders & Dan Sawyer**

POSITIONS

Meeting Layout Coordinator: President.

Meeting Hospitality Coordinator:

Welcome Table/Raffle Coordinator:

Recycling Coordinator:

Meeting Breakdown Coordinator: Helpers:

Secret Bid Auction Coordinator: **Phil Wright**

Plant Of The Month Coordinator: **Steve Beaudoin**

Speaker Helper: **Bonnie Friedrich**

Librarian :

Newsletter Editor: **John Vecchitto**

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

Audit Committee: **Dr. Telka diFate (Chair).**

PLANT SALES -

Plant Sale Chair for Leu Gardens Spring Plant Sale:.

Plant Sale Chair for Mother's Day Show:

Plant Sale Chair for Mead Garden Fall Plant Sale:

Field Trip Organizer:

Holiday Party Coordinator:

Webmaster: **Greg Kolojeski**

Permission to reprint is granted with acknowledgment. Please send all correspondence to the address below:

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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.