



# FLORIDA COUNCIL OF BROMELIAD SOCIETIES

Volume 42  
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**Best of Show -Morris Henry Hobbs Artistic  
Div. VIII A - Canistrum arvrantium  
by Bob Stickney  
Sarasota Bromeliad Society**



**Best of Show Morris Henry Hobbs Artistic  
Div. VII B Quesnelia marmorata  
'Tim Plowman' by Kathy Risley  
Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society**



**Mulford Foster Best of Show Horticulture  
Commercial Div. XII  
Aechmea phaeophlebia  
by Michael Kiehl - Caloosahatchee and  
Florida West Coast Bromeliad Societies**



**Mulford Foster Best of Show Horticulture  
Div IA - Vriesea 'Rainbow'  
by David Fell  
Hawaii Bromeliad Society**



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**January 15 for February issue**

**April 15th for May issue**

**July 15 for August issue**

**October 15th for November issue**

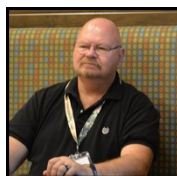
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**FRONT COVER: BSI Show Winning Bromeliads** Photo by Carol Wolfe



## 2022 FCBS OFFICERS & MEMBERS



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Seminole Bromeliad & Tropical  
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Mike Saunders

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Tom Ramiccio &  
Nick Bethmann

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### **COMMITTEES MEMBERS:**

*The following Committee Members and  
guests have a standing invitation to FCBS  
Meetings as Non-Voting Members unless  
serving in the dual role of Member Society  
Representative.*

**Al Muzzel Weevil Fund:**  
Tom Wolfe, Chairman  
Richard Poole, Nick Bethmann

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Calandra Thurrott, Copy Editor

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Barbara Partagas, Secretary

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Richard Poole





*I Love Bromeliads... by Carol Wolfe, Editor*

Greetings FCBS members,

The BSI has now completed 50 years of World Conference shows beginning in 1972 through 2022! The first World Conference was held in Houston, Texas and was the first of the twenty-four conferences and ending with the 50 year crowning jewel, "The Big Show" in Sarasota! Seven of these twenty-four conferences have been held in Florida.

Congratulations to Greg Kolojeski and Richard Poole, Co-Chairs of the 24th World Bromeliad Conference held in Sarasota, Florida and the host, Sarasota Bromeliad Society, the 2022 Committee Chairs, and their many volunteers, for a very successful conference and a great bromeliad show!

Congratulations to Terrie Bert and Betty Ann Prevatt, Co-Chairs of the BSI Judged plant show. The judged show plants were exceptionally well grown and gorgeous, displayed in the boathouse where the show was staged, and was an excellent venue to view the bromeliads in natural light. I'm sure it will go down in history as one of the most beautiful and unique BSI shows.

In addition to viewing the excellently grown bromeliads, manatees were swimming in the water around the boathouse. For the guests that had never seen a manatee, it was a special treat.

The winning bromeliads are on the front cover of this Newsletter and there are many more "winners" for you to enjoy on the following pages. Unfortunately, we can't print all the entries but it will be a happy day when we get to the point that we can increase the size of the newsletter and print all the entries.

My thanks to Mike McMahon, Mike Michalski, Greg Kolojeski, Calandra Thurrott and Nick Bethmann for their contributions to this newsletter. I appreciate you all!

On a sad note, my brother, after a long battle with cancer, passed away on Sunday, the day after the conference. He had served in special forces in the US Army and had been exposed to agent orange during his service. Thank you for your expressions of condolence.

We extend our prayers and love to Terrie Bert in the loss of her beloved husband of forty years, John McCullum Stevely, on May 27, 2022. Like Terrie he was also a marine biologist, lived a life of many accomplishments which are listed in his obituary on the next page, and we extend our sympathy to Terrie and their son, John Bert Stevely.





**John McCullum Stevely Obituary**  
April 10, 1950 - May 27, 2022  
Bradenton, Florida

John McCollum Stevely passed away during a walk at Robinson Preserve. He and his beloved wife of 40 years, Dr. Theresa Bert, both marine biologists, had just returned from Cape Canaveral where they witnessed a rocket launch and landing with their son, John Bert Stevely. A fitting last act for a scientist who treasured the seas and skies.

He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in biology from Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania and a Master's Degree in marine science from the University of South Florida. He would go on to be selected as a Smithsonian Research Fellow and a member of USF's Outstanding Alumni. During his long career as a Marine Extension Agent, John served as a University of Florida Sea Grant scientist and coauthored 15 scientific research publications. Following retirement, he became an Agent Emeritus. Among the nearly 20 awards and commendations he received, he was a Gulf Coast Guardian Award recipient and in 2015, he was inducted into the Manatee County Agricultural Hall of Fame. John is best known for his passionate efforts to preserve and protect the local natural environment and fishing industry.

He was a founder of the Cortez Fishing Festival and served on the planning committee since its inception in 1981. He also assisted in the development of the Florida Institute for Saltwater Heritage (F.I.S.H.), the establishment of the F.I.S.H. environmental preserve in Cortez, and in other efforts to restore coastal habitats. He was an international expert in sponge ecology and sponge fishery management. His accomplishments also include the introduction of the fish venting tool, the development of best management practices for catch and release of deep-water reef fish, and the study of the economic impact of artificial reefs and red tides. Accolades aside, John would argue his proudest accomplishment was his family. He was a hands-on father that relished taking his wife and son to acclaimed dive spots all over the world. He was a friend to all and his patient and kind demeanor will be missed by everyone who knew him.





## THE LADIES FROM TRINIDAD

by Mike McMahon

It has been just two months since the World Conference and specific memories are already fading. I learned much at the many presentations by learned speakers, but recalling anything specific tires the brain. There were beautiful broms in the show and on display, but whose display? And, what award did the clump of *Goudaea* win? It is all a blur. Memory has a way of capturing moments and discarding hours.

I will remember the Sarasota WBC as the one where the ladies from Trinidad were on a buying spree. For the entire Conference, if there were broms for sale, the four of them were there in their brightly colored clothes and gleaming bracelets and rings. Courteous, but determined, no more serious a group of buyers could be found over the course of the week. Boxes upon boxes were filled with the unique and rare. When they went through check-out, a team was needed to gather their price sticks and assist in re-loading boxes, and loading boxes into wagons and carts so the plants could be hauled to their rooms for safekeeping. Then, after only minutes of rest, they were back, filling more boxes and carts, haggling and laughing among themselves over who saw which plant first, and once more jamming the check-out with the volume of their treasures.

On Friday morning, I was slow to go into the plant sales. I had been thorough Thursday night. I had acquired a number of *Tillandsias* I had wanted and a few I was surprised to find available. I had been disappointed, however. My passion is for the foliage *Vrieseas*, the colorful hybrids with their glyphs, fenestrations and bands so often seen in photos from Australia, New Zealand and Hawaii. As is so often true in Florida, only fairly common ones had been available. There was no reason for me to be present when the doors opened Friday morning. So, after a leisurely breakfast, I strolled along, chatting with vendors I knew, greeting fellow hobbyists I had not seen for a long time, uncertain how I would spend my time before the seminars began. Then, I saw a gorgeous red-banded *V. fosteriana* hybrid go by.

It was exactly what I had looked for on Thursday night. I was told it came from Michael Kiehl's booth. I immediately rushed there to find Michael on the floor inside his booth bent over trays of foliage *Vrieseas*. He had just brought them in to re-stock his booth. Some were Grant Groves' hybrids. Some were from the Hawaiian nursery of David Fell. With broms piled high on his tables, Michael could hardly be seen scrunched down on the floor. I did not see another red-banded one, but there were others that looked interesting in shades of pink and purple, with the exotic markings that make foliage *Vrieseas* unique. I would need to wait, but I was in the way of the jostling Friday morning crowd reaching for *Neoregelias* and other broms on the tables. I was gradually pushed to the side, and toward the back wall where there were no broms to grab... at the opening into the booth. By accident, I was perfectly placed. As a *Vriesea* got tagged, I could decide if I wanted it before it went on the tables. Then the ladies from Trinidad arrived.



The first *Vriesea* ready was one I liked, so I placed it on the floor at my feet. One of the ladies asked about it and tried to talk me into letting her have it. She was so eager and had such a big smile, I almost let her have it. But, it really was different from any I already had. I declined her entreaties, which made her friends smile. The next *Vriesea* up was similar to others I have, so I was about to place it on the sales table when another of the Trinidad ladies spoke up, "I'll take it!". The group cheered and moaned her quickness. And, so, a system developed. After a foliage *Vriesea* was tagged, I would lift it up, and either place it at my feet for myself, or show it to the Trinidadians. One or another of them would raise their hand and take the plant... every plant. Sometimes two or all would want the plant I held up, and I would hand it to one or leave it to them to chatter among themselves over who got it. In no time, the floor around them was covered with all the huge plants. The walkways were getting blocked, but none of the troupe was willing to go find boxes for their haul out of fear of missing out on the next plant up. For how long a time it went on I cannot say, but it was only when there were no more plants to be tagged that the *Vriesea* express line ended. Every plant was sold and the ladies were off to check-out.

In all the clamor and excitement, I had lost track of how many *Vrieseas* I had set aside for myself. I gathered them up and found I had held onto one that was much like one I already had. After debating with myself, I decided there was no need to have two so much alike. I was about to take it back to the Michael's Bromeliads booth when I heard a peal of laughter. The ladies from Trinidad were coming back into the plant sale room for another round. There were sure to be more treasures to find and none of them was going to lose out by taking a break. That extra *Vriesea* is now luxuriating on a Caribbean isle.

In years to come I may not recall at which World Conference I learned something or met someone, but I'll always recall when the ladies from Trinidad were in Sarasota.

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### **My Thoughts about the 2022 WBC**

by Mike Michalski

I had a great sale and went home with only 12 plants. Thursday night, when it was open to raffle ticket holders, people spent a ton of money on rare plants. Registrants then went for all the Skotak's and other rare plants.

The next day more people purchased the normal plants. Tropiflora and Michaels brought in more plants each day. Everyone who sold plants did well with sales.

The hotel rooms were great. There were some free appetizers outside the sales area before opening up and also before the banquet there was a hospitality room with food for the volunteers and sales people. There were a lots of raffle baskets to be won. The only complaints I heard were about the food prices in the hotel.



## Bromeliads Under My Neighbor's Mango Tree

by Nick Bethmann



When I started collecting bromeliads 15 years ago, I had plenty of space for the few that I had and over time my collection spread out over my suburban yard. There was one spot along a fence that I kept putting off using because my neighbor had a mango tree about twenty feet away. Although I tried to trim the branches of the huge tree I finally gave up because they were just too high to reach.

Mango trees are not great companions for bromeliads. In the winter they will bloom and produce great amounts of flowers that will eventually fall and completely cover any bromeliads. Falling mangos are the next problem. The iguanas, squirrels and other

animals will climb the tree and munch on the fruit and more often than not they will detach the fruit and when it falls it will do great damage to any plants underneath.

Then one day I read about a book, “Bromeliads Under the Mango Tree” by John Catlan. He’s an Australian grower and wrote a short book that I’ve never seen for sale here in the USA. I’ve seen a few reviews and quotes and it appears to be a basic book on how to grow bromeliads (in Australia). But the title got me thinking I should try to grow bromeliads under my neighbor’s spreading mango tree.

I started to put potted bromeliads in the light shade of that mango tree knowing that I’d probably need to move them somewhere else when the flowers started to fall like snow over a two to three week period. The first few years I had enough space under a native gumbo limbo tree to stash my bromeliads during the mango flower blizzards but then that became a pain but I made it work. However, the real problem was the two month period from June through July when mango bombs landed on my bromeliads and gave them a serious beating. Two months was way too long to stash those plants somewhere else temporarily.

I’ve given up on having anything really nice in that area and I’ve put some very grassy Pitcairnia under the mango tree and they seem to handle the flower showers and mango bombs. In fact, the Pitcairnia are doing quite well and you can’t really see any damage. As of early August, all the mangos are finally gone and it’s time for me to thin out the Pitcairnia.



**Judging in the Boat House - WBC Sarasota 2022**  
**By Calandra Thurrott**

The beginning of my week there was in the Boathouse at Sarasota's Hyatt Regency setting up and judging the World Conference Judged Show. This was a perfect venue! What a neat place with a neat view of the marina!



Rick Richtmyer, Jerry Cowley,  
& Jeff Sorenson

*Photos by Calandra Thurrott*

Best view of the marina  
and Boathouse end of day



Tom Cowell, Terrie Bert, &  
Betty Ann Prevatt



Steve Seal, Rick Ryals,  
& Tom Cowell



Alison Ackerman, Vicky Chirnside, & Ruby Adams







**SEMINOLE BROMELIAD & TROPICAL PLANT SOCIETY**  
**2022 Annual Fall Plant Sale: August 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>**  
**from 9 AM to 4 PM**  
**200 Fairmont Dr., Sanford**  
**By Greg Kolojeski**

The SBTPS plant sale features a large selection of Bromeliads, Gingers, Orchids, and many other tropical plants. August Plant Sale The Annual Fall Plant Sale will be on August 20-21, 2022. We will need volunteers for the many roles including cashiers, tag takers, customer helpers (to help buyers take plants to their cars), and tropical plant experts to answer customer questions.

Every member qualifies as a tropical plant expert to some degree and plant buyers will greatly value your advice. One of the most frequent comments we receive from plant buyers is how they love the information they get from our members at the plant sales.

Our Online Auction/Presale started on July 30<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM and runs through August 15<sup>th</sup> at 9 PM. It features a number of unusual and hard-to-find plants including some larger Alcantareas. It's well worth checking out if you haven't already. The Friday preceding the sale features the same changes that were implemented in April. Setup will commence at 11 AM and end at 3:30 PM. There will be a Presale for Members Only on Friday, August 19<sup>th</sup> from 4 to 6 PM. You will be able to shop early and take your new plants home on Friday.

**More Plants from the 2022 Spring Plant Sale Plants at the 2022 Spring Plant Sale** We have 27 members signed up so far as vendors and hope to have many more as volunteer helpers, tag takers, and cashiers. Saturday morning will be particularly busy as customers will line up outside prior to opening and we will be quite busy all morning long. Then it will change to a more moderate but steady pace for the rest of the sale. We can use the help of members as volunteers during the sale and especially for Saturday morning. We will have the same wide aisles and controlled access (up to 40 customers at one time) that worked so well at recent plant sales.







THE BIG SHOW  
WORLD BROMELIAD CONFERENCE 2022  
SARASOTA, FLORIDA

Photos by Carol Wolfe



Beautiful Display by Tropiflora







THE BIG SHOW  
WORLD BROMELIAD CONFERENCE 2022  
SARASOTA, FLORIDA

Photos by Carol Wolfe



Best Artistic Arrangement Using Cryptanthus  
Starry Night Scape  
by Larry Giroux  
Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society



Best Decorative Container - Natural Materials  
Div. VII A Cryptanthus bivittatus  
by Terrance Hoffman  
Sarasota Bromeliad Society



Cryptanthus Best Decorative Container  
Div VIII A - Cryptanthus 'Elaine'  
Bob Whitman Award by Catherine Windham  
River Ridge Bromeliad Society



The Warren Loose Best Cryptanthus Group  
Hybrid Award - Cryptanthus 'Living Color'  
by Michael Kiehl - CBS & FWCBS





THE BIG SHOW  
WORLD BROMELIAD CONFERENCE 2022  
SARASOTA, FLORIDA

Photos by Carol Wolfe



*Aec. nudicaulis* 'Frosty the Snowman'  
by Betty Ann Prevatt  
Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society



*Araecococus flagellifolius*  
by Tom Cowell  
Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society



Painting: *Alcantarea* Bloom  
by Stephen Littlefield  
Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society



*Billbergia domingensis martins*  
by Katie Smith  
Bromeliad Society of Baton Rouge





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SARASOTA, FLORIDA

Photos by Carol Wolfe



*Aechmea orlandiana*  
'Black Marble'  
by Terrance Hoffman  
Sarasota Bromeliad Society



*Billbergia calcita*  
by Tropiflora  
Sarasota Bromeliad Society



*Billbergia* 'Lots of Spots'  
by Tom Cowell  
Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society



*Crypt.* 'Racing Stripes'  
by Alison Ackerman  
Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society





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SARASOTA, FLORIDA

Photos by Carol Wolfe



Billbergia 'Dancing Water'  
by Tropiflora  
Sarasota Bromeliad Society



Canistrum arvrantium by Bob Stickney - SBS





THE BIG SHOW  
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SARASOTA, FLORIDA

Photos by Carol Wolfe



Aechmea 'Black on Black'  
by Debbie Hughes  
Sarasota Bromeliad Society



x Enchotia  
by Ray Lemieux  
Sarasota Bromeliad Society



Vriesea 'Voodoo Magic'  
by Michael Kiehl -  
Caloosahatchee and Florida West Coast  
Bromeliad Societies



Vriesea 'Uncle Bob'  
by David Fell  
Hiawahi Bromeliad Society



THE BIG SHOW  
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SARASOTA, FLORIDA

Photos by Carol Wolfe



*Vriesea fenestralis* variegated  
by Michael Kiehl - Caloosahatchee and Florida  
West Coast Bromeliad Societies



*Tillandsia tectorium* x *palacea*  
by Terrie Bert - Caloosahatchee and  
Sarasota Bromeliad Societies



*Neoregelia* 'Black Olive'  
by Michael Kiehl - Caloosahatchee and Florida  
West Coast Bromeliad Societies



*Gouda ospinae* gruber 'Streaker'  
by Terrie Bert - Caloosahatchee and  
Sarasota Bromeliad Societies





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SARASOTA, FLORIDA

Photos by Carol Wolfe



*Sincoraea 'Rafaelii'*  
by Tropiflora  
Sarasota Bromeliad Society



*Neoregelia samentosa* #8 x fosperior  
by Bryan Windham  
River Ridge Bromeliad Society



*Dyckia 'The Hulk'*  
*platphylla x snaggletooth*  
by Bryan Windham  
River Ridge Bromeliad Society



*Tillandsia barthlottii*  
by Jerry Raack - Ohio - BSI





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**Lutheria splendide**  
by John Boardman  
Bromeliad Society of Central Florida



**Gouda ospinae gruber 'Streaker'**  
by Terrie Bert  
Caloosahatchee and  
Sarasota Bromeliad Societies



**Dyckia 'Ruby Snow'**  
by Katie Smith  
Baton Rouge Bromeliad Society



**Neoregelia 'Hotwire'**  
by Tom Ramiccio  
Bromeliad Society of West Palm Beaches





THE BIG SHOW  
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SARASOTA, FLORIDA

Photos by Carol Wolfe



**Mezobromelia barfusaii**  
by Jerry Raack - Ohio- BSI



**Navia lacteal**  
by Michael Kiehl  
Caloosahatchee and Florida West Coast  
Bromeliad Societies



**Cryptanthus on the Beach**  
Debbie Gerstner-Wolf - RRBS, HBS, BRBS



**Neoregelia 'Dazzle'**  
by Terrie Bert - Caloosahatchee and  
Sarasota Bromeliad Societies



**Cryptanthus in Flight**  
by Debbie Gerstner Wolf and Daniel Wolf  
River Ridge Bromeliad Society, Houston Bromeliad Society, Baton Rouge  
Bromeliad Society





THE BIG SHOW  
WORLD BROMELIAD CONFERENCE 2022  
SARASOTA, FLORIDA

Photos by Carol Wolfe



**Neoregelia 'Wideload'**  
by John Boardman  
Bromeliad Society of Central Florida



**Neoregelia 'Broken Heart'**  
by John Boardman  
Bromeliad Society of Central Florida



**Billbergia stenopetala**  
by Betty Ann Prevatt  
Caloosahatchee  
Bromeliad Society



**Billbergia violacea**  
by Tom Cowell  
Caloosahatchee  
Bromeliad Society





THE BIG SHOW  
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SARASOTA, FLORIDA

Photos by Carol Wolfe



Neoregelia Arrangement  
by Christopher Dualik  
BSI



Neoregelia rubravittata  
by Jack Dunlop  
Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society



Neoregelia 'Lucifer'  
by Tom Ramiccio  
Bromeliad Society of West Palm Beaches



Orthophytum 'Heavy Medal'  
by Paul Wingert  
Michigan Bromeliad Society





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SARASOTA, FLORIDA

Photos by Carol Wolfe



Neoregelia 'Hondillo Don'  
by John Boardman  
Bromeliad Society of Central Florida



Neoregelia 'Rainbow Explosion'  
by Michael Kiehl - Caloosahatchee and Florida  
West Coast Bromeliad Societies



Neoregelia 'Treasure Chest'  
by Alison Ackerman  
Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society



Neoregelia 'Yang'  
by Susan Sousa, Novice winner  
Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society