



# orlandiana

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

Volume no. 45, Issue no. 03

## March 2018

**Next meeting:** Wednesday, March 21, 2018

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

**6:30 –7:00** is pre-meeting time for purchasing plants from our guest speaker!

**Meeting officially begins at 7:00 pm**

### No Member Market in March!

**Please bring a snack, raffle/door prize plants, and show & tell plants to the meeting.**

Please try to label your raffle and door prize plants, even if you can only write something such as “unknown Neo hybrid”, every little bit helps the members who are trying to learn about different types of bromeliads! Plants should be clean and insect free.

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## The President's Message

Spring is almost here, bringing two shows/sales in May and June. Our biggest event will be the weekend of Mother's Day, May 11, 12 and 13 at Fashion Square Mall. Our Society will have a huge bromeliad sale with several of our members participating. A great chance to expand your collection. The other half of Mother's Day will be our judged show, with awards and prizes. Every member of our Society can enter your favorite, prized or interesting bromeliad in the show. We will also have a category for bromeliad related art work. So start looking for possible entries. John Boardman has already lined up our judges for the show.

We will be selling bromeliads on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Set up will be Thursday evening. If you are going to place an entry or two or ten in the judged show, you will need to bring them that Thursday night.

Jay Thurrott will be speaking at our March meeting on preparing your plants for judging. Will be very informative. I hope to have information at the meeting describing the various categories. Hope you can make it.

Georgia Orser will be in charge of plant sales for Mother's Day and our second sale at the Central Florida Orchid Show/Sale on Saturday, June 2 and Sunday, June 3. So if you want to sell at either of those two show/sales, please contact Georgia.

Our winter show at Leu Gardens was a huge success. And I only called it our winter show since by the calendar it is during our winter season. The fantastic weather didn't feel anything like winter. And the rain held off. Was our best Leu Gardens sale ever. I would like to thank those members of our Society that brought bromeliads for the sale. They were Eloise & Jim, Grant & Kelli, Evan, John, Marty, Lisa, Penny and Greg S. I thank you for allowing me to keep my addiction fed. Marvelous additions to my collection. Thanks to Evan for providing the truck for transportation and more thanks to Lisa, Evan, Eloise and Grant for supplying tents and tables. It was a great show and time.

Our trip to the Enchanted Forest was a fun time and was really nice seeing the conservation efforts by Teresa Cooper and her team.

Look forward to seeing everyone at our March and April meetings and at our next two sales/shows.  
mike



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## This month's speaker is Jay Thurrott!

Jay Thurrott is an environmental chemist who has worked in the public service sector for 30-plus years, recently retiring as Manager of Treatment Operations for the City of Daytona Beach.

He began growing bromeliads in the 70's and now grows more than 700 varieties of bromeliads at his home in Port Orange, Florida. A longtime member of the Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society (FECBS), Jay is their newsletter editor and has served as secretary, vice president and president as well as chairman of the 2011 Bromeliad Extravaganza, which was hosted by the FECBS.

He has served as a representative to the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies (FCBS) for many years, is a past-Chairman of that organization and a coeditor of their newsletter. Also active in local garden club activities, he is a past president of the Halifax Council of Garden Clubs (a consortium of 7 garden clubs in the Daytona Beach area).

He is currently President of the Bromeliad Society International after having served as a director and vice-president. Jay is also a BSI accredited judge having judged bromeliad shows throughout and occasionally, outside the USA.



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## Our Fabulous Enchanted Forest Field Trip

Dr. Teresa Cooper and her volunteer assistant Angie Howell led us on a trip through the Enchanted Forest, where Dr. Cooper and her tireless group of volunteers are striving to save Florida's native bromeliads. Twelve of Florida's native bromeliad's are threatened by the invasive bromeliad-eating Mexican bromeliad weevil, *Metamasius callizona*. Seeing the work that they are doing and having a first hand explanation while at the same time surrounded by such beauty...a rare treat. It is one thing to read articles and hear presentations but it is very impactful to see first hand the damage that the weevil is doing to our native plants and the impact it is having on our wild areas.

The Enchanted Forest is in Titusville, FL and if you have never visited I'd highly recommend it! While you are there, check out the work being done by Dr. Cooper – you'll see signs posted on cages that hold the giant airplants as they go to seed; the "promise of the future". Seeds harvested from these giant airplants will be used to help our native bromeliads continue to be a part of our lives. The "evil weevil", as it has been dubbed, is destroying the airplants faster than they can reproduce. To read about the research and conservation work being done by Dr. Cooper and volunteers go to [savebromeliads.com](http://savebromeliads.com)





The giant airplants live in cages to protect them while they are going to seed

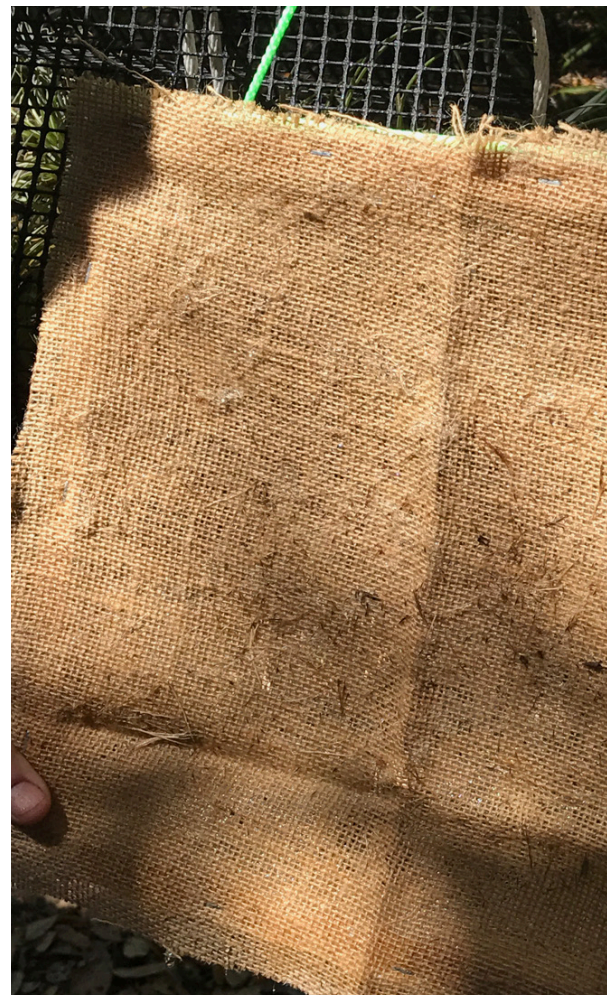


Dr. Cooper and Angie led us through trails lined with the research subjects...mounted airplants. As we walked the plants were watered and data was recorded. Smaller plants were clustered in "garden areas"; hung from supports in boxes so that they could catch the wind.





Earlier in the day, burlap covered frames were prepared to hang in the forest once covered in Tillandsia seeds. Numerous methods have been tried for germinating the seeds, vertical hanging methods have seemed to work the best.



In time the seeds will germinate and one day the plants will be large enough to move into one of the hanging garden grow stations.

## Some shots from the Leu Gardens Annual Spring Plant Sale!

As Mike mentioned in his President's message, this year's Leu Gardens sale was super! Beautiful weather, gorgeous plants and long lines...who could ask for anything more! It was great to see so many members turn out to sell plants and do community outreach, letting folks know that growing bromeliads as house plants or in their landscapes can add some beauty to their lives...and that they are relatively carefree!



We had a great turn out! A bit more sun this year thanks to Hurricane Irma damage at the Garden, but some quick tent organization kept everyone cool.





Long lines, happy customers, and great member participation! Thanks to everyone for a really fun event.



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## **BSCF Board Meeting Minutes**

### **Bromeliad Society of Central Florida — February 17, 2018**

**The meeting was held at Keke's restaurant and attended by Mike Saunders, Marilyn Howser, Betsy McCrory, and Karen Steinberg.**

#### **Do we want to do an advertisement for the BSI bulletin?**

Consensus: no.

The BSI needs information on members that have passed away in the last year.

#### **Leu Gardens Annual Plant Sale: March 10-11.**

Evan will be there on Friday with his big truck, we can use the parking lot at the Orlando Fashion Square Mall for loading up the plants and gear. Emails will be sent out to members. We are in the same spot as last year at Leu Gardens. Betsy will email the folks at Leu Gardens and let them know that we do need electricity. Evan is coming to the next meeting to discuss loading the truck, etc.

#### **BSCF Mother's Day Show and Sale**

We'll know soon about the Orlando Fashion Square Mall. We'll need the electronic banner done for the mall, Karen to do. We'll also need more of the cut-apart little info strips to put with plant purchases. Karen to contact Eloise and see if she is available to help with advertising/publicity. Karen to work on any ads needed.

#### **June Orchid Show/Sale**

Yes, we will have a sales table and also a display area. We can do an ad for the program – Karen to contact Central Florida Orchid Society for sizes/specs. Marilyn has an idea to do the display based around miniature bromeliads, something that the public isn't very aware of.

#### **FCBS upcoming meeting**

Karen to attend with Mike next Saturday in Gainesville, Betsy feeling under the weather.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Karen Steinberg.



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## Monthly Meeting Minutes

### Bromeliad Society of Central Florida — February 21, 2018

The meeting was opened at 7:00 pm by VP Marilyn Howser who introduced our speaker, Dr. Teresa Cooper and her guest Angie Howell, a volunteer who helps Dr. Cooper with the bromeliad research at The Enchanted Forest. Dr. Cooper and Angie gave a great presentation on the conservation work being done with our native bromeliads, showing the damage that the Mexican bromeliad weevil has done and informing us on what research has found.

### The meeting was called to order at 8:10 pm by President Mike Saunders

Mike thanked Dr. Cooper and Angie Howell for the wonderful presentation and Q & A session. January 2017 meeting minutes were approved.

Mike spoke about the upcoming sale at Leu Gardens. We will be meeting on Friday at 10:00 am on the North side of Dillard's. Evan is bringing his big truck to transport the bromeliads and gear. Marty, Grant, John, Lisa, Penny, Greg, and Evan will be selling plants. Bring tents!

### Welcome!

Guests Bob Webb and Barbara Hayes.

### Treasurer's Report:

Mike gave the Treasurer's Report in Betsy's absence and Betsy will file the report for audit.

### Vice President's Report:

Marilyn gave us the run down on the upcoming events and also some updates:

- Maps are available for The Enchanted Forest - bring your own lunch.
- Jay Thurrott will be the speaker for March, he'll be speaking on Bromeliad Shows and Judging.
- Field trip to John Boardman's home on April 14<sup>th</sup>. John lives in St. Cloud and has a love of variegated plants...some of which will be for sale. He also has a water garden with koi.
- The February, May, and November meetings will have Member Markets
- The Leu Gardens plant sale is coming up in March on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> – volunteer, there is always plenty to do at our sales!
- It is still the game plan to use the Orlando Fashion Square Mall for our Mother's Day Show/Sale this year.

### Old or Unfinished Business

- Webmaster! Would somebody like to take care of a BSCF website? We are still in need of a volunteer!
- Newsletter Editor needed – if interested please let one of the officers know!
- Judges School – sign up now!
- Don't forget about the World Conference in San Diego, it should be great!
- Send Carole Wolfe articles and photos for the FCBS newsletter

**New Business** – None

**Door Prizes and Raffle tickets were drawn.**

The meeting concluded at 9:00 pm.  
Minutes respectfully submitted by Karen Steinberg.

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## Upcoming Events

### May 11–13, 2018

BSCF Annual Mother's Day Show and Sale  
Held at the Orlando Fashion Square Mall, 3201 E. Colonial Dr, Orlando, FL 32803

### May 29–June 3, 2018

BSI World Conference in San Diego, California <http://www.bsi.org/new/conference-corner/>

**Now is a great time to join the Bromeliad Society International as they are offering a discount to new memberships! [www.bsi.org](http://www.bsi.org)**

### June 2–3, 2018

Central Florida Orchid Society 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Show and Sale, "An Orchid Garden Party!"  
BSCF will have a sales booth and also a display area.  
Held at the National Guard Armory, 2809 S. Ferncreek Ave, Orlando, FL 32803

### November 2–3, 2018

Mead Botanical Garden GROWvember Fall Plant Sale  
1300 S. Denning Avenue, Winter Park, FL 32789



## Our Meeting Next Month: Wednesday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018

The Bromeliad Society of Central Florida meetings are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month from 7–9 PM at Leu Gardens, 1920 N. Forest Avenue, Orlando, FL 32803. Guest speaker plants are for sale before the meeting from 6:30–7:00. You'll enjoy informative programs, Show & Tell, plant sales, refreshments & door prizes. Members also receive a monthly newsletter—all for an annual membership fee of \$15 per member, plus \$5 per additional family member (no charge for full-time students). Visitors are always welcome.

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.

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