



# orlandiana

Newsletter of the  
Bromeliad Society of Central Florida

Volume no. 45, Issue no. 08

## September 2018

**Next meeting:** Wednesday, September 19, 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 September!

**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

Super September to all. Fall is almost upon us. At least by way of the calendar. Still pretty hot.

We will be doing our last sale of the year on November 3 at GROWvember at Mead Gardens. Think about selling some of your plants. Maybe pups, or those bromeliads that you have lost interest in or to make room for some new treasures. Just clean them up and bring them to Mead Gardens. Would be nice to have a number of different members selling plants, even if it's just a handful or two. Or bring them and donate them to the Society and we will sell them for you. Just let me know if you plan to sell. We will have to explain the tag process to you. So just email me at [presbyter64@gmail.com](mailto:presbyter64@gmail.com). And you keep 80% of the selling price.

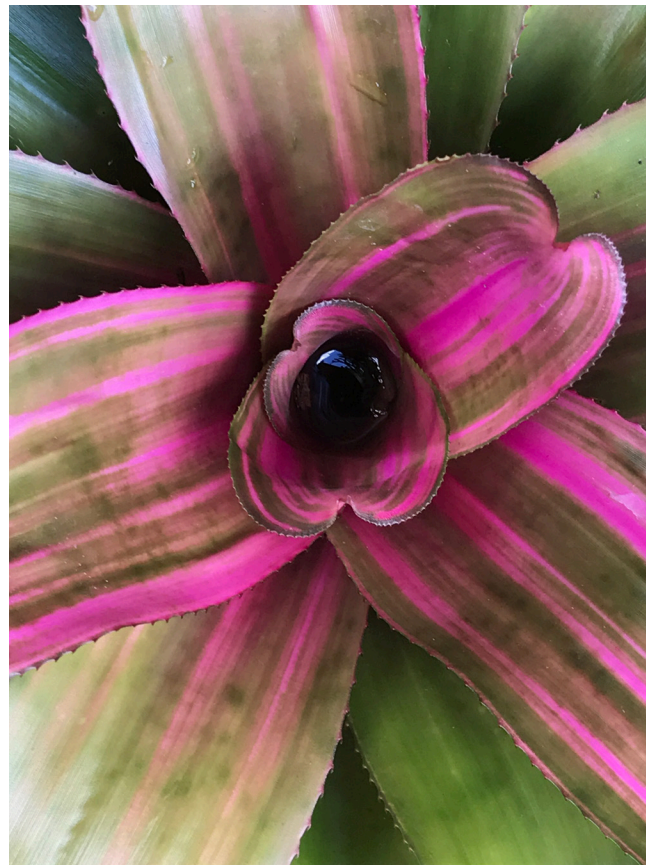
As we come upon the fall, we will think about our holiday celebration in December. Last year we did it at our regular meeting and it was a great success. We can talk about it at our September meeting. Also, we will look towards electing new officers for 2019. Marilyn and I are termed out, so are not eligible to serve our current positions. Karen and Betsy are not saddled with that limitation and I hope they will continue on in their respective offices. Think about serving your Society as an officer. I am working on putting together a Nominating Committee that will present a slate at the October meeting and will announce that at our September meeting.

Please come out Wednesday to listen to our great speaker, Terrie Bert. Sounds like it will be a great presentation. And she will be bring some her fantastic bromeliads for sale.

mike



Neoregelia cruenta 'Silver Bullet'



Neoregelia 'Donna'



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## This month's speaker is Dr. Terrie Bert

Terri's topic is "Sun, Sand, and Sea: Bromeliads that Rise to the Occasion". Terrie has this to say, "We who live in Florida always look for plants that can withstand the salt air, the bright sun that bathes our homes, as well as bromeliads that can tolerate our twice-yearly dry season. Even people who live some distance from the coast can experience these conditions. In this talk, we'll learn about a number of bromeliad species that can withstand high levels of sunlight, salty air, and dry conditions. A surprising number of bromeliad species can tolerate at least two of these three challenging conditions."



### Terrie will be bringing plants to sell so try and get to the meeting early!

Dr. Terrie Bert is a longstanding member of the Sarasota Bromeliad Society (SBS) and the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society and has held multiple offices in the SBS. She also served the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies (FCBS) as a representative and officer for eight years and has authored articles for the FCBS Newsletter. For the Bromeliad Society International, she has been a Florida Director, chaired several international committees, judged several shows, contributed articles to the BSI Journal, and has been an invited speaker at world conferences. Currently she is Curator of the Wally Berg Award of Excellence and a Master Judge. Terrie has given over 150 presentations on bromeliads to numerous U.S. and international bromeliad societies and other groups, including regional and international bromeliad conferences. She cultivates more than 2,500 different bromeliads in about 35 genera. She's won multiple top awards in local bromeliad shows and BSI world conferences. Terrie has a Ph.D. in marine biology and recently retired from her position as a research scientist for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

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## Look closely!



This spring/summer's airplant seed babies are starting to be visible. They should be easy to see now on the old dried seed heads and anywhere else they have taken hold!

If you'd like some please let me know, I'll have them at the meeting.  
(unknown Tillandsia, possibly fasciculata)





## Some shots from our August meeting!

Ray Lemieux gave a great presentation on genera that start with "P"... Pepinia, Pitcairnia, Puya, Portea, etc. We learned about many interesting, beautiful, "lesser known" plants and their cultural preferences. Ray brought a ton of sample plants to speak about and also showed us some of his hybrids.

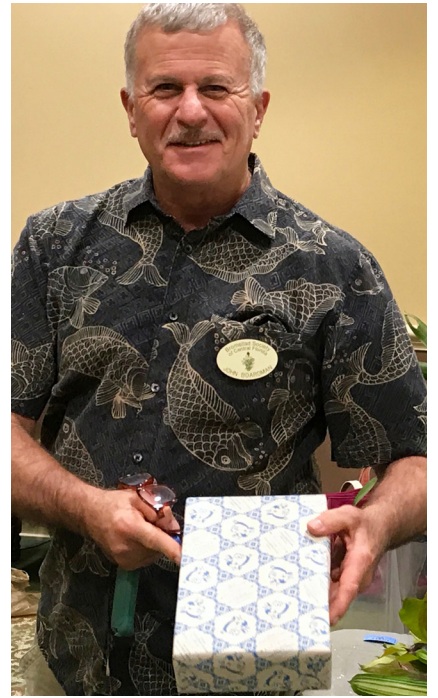


Thanks again to Ray for braving the rain to come and speak to us!



The raffle and door prize plants made for lots of interesting expressions!





Yum... plants, more plants, and of course, imported bisquits!

Lisa and her mammoth "show and tell" plant – I wish that I could remember it's name!

Below, a box of plants purchased from our speaker and raffle table "mixed haul".





# Squirrel!

By (newish member) Katherine Vaccaro

One of my favorite cartoon movie characters is Dug, the dog in the movie *Up* who's easily distracted by . . . squirrels!

This summer, I've felt like Dug often as squirrels took over my back yard. I'd see them chasing each other around my sycamore, chittering with glee. They'd leap from the top of my blue bamboo onto nearby trees. Worse, I found a bromeliad I'd put in an oak torn to pieces. What else but squirrel could have done that?

Then I caught one in the act -- sitting on the ground, holding something upright. The thing was tall and green. Knowing romaine hearts end up on my compost pile, I first figured that was it. Then I crept closer and saw it: a bromeliad. The squirrel was tearing off each leaf, eating the white core and then tossing the rest aside. It looked so much like a human eating an artichoke that I wanted to bring out some drawn butter.

Now that I'm aware, I've started noticing "pup corpses" all over the yard. Most seem to be young *Neoregelia cruentas*.

I looked online for squirrel remedies and found the typical stuff one hears about for deer — pepper spray, mothballs and more. But none of these are very practical in a landscape that's half bromeliads.

Deeper research uncovered a 2011 story from Alan Herndon of the Bromeliad Society of South Florida, "Bromeliads and Squirrels." He grows bromeliads for sale and complained about all manner of squirrely destruction. He said one of their favorites is *neoregelia* 'Sheba'. Sure enough, that's the one I'd put in my tree that made such a tasty snack.

I wish I could end this story with a sure-fire cure for squirrel destruction. Instead, I'm probably going to hear from the longtime growers, "Suck it up. We've been dealing with squirrels for years."

The best solution might be to look for a dog named Dug. Only I don't remember him catching many of the varmints. 😊



What, ME . . . a destructive nuisance?



*Neoregelia* 'Sheba' was delicious!

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## Monthly Meeting Minutes

### Bromeliad Society of Central Florida — August 15, 2018

The August meeting featured speaker Ray Lemieux “P’s” Pepinia, Pltcairnia, Puya, Portea.” Great presentation, very informative, many of us were unfamiliar with some of the genus. Ray also brought some wonderful plants to sell.

### The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Mike Saunders.

#### Vice President’s Report:

- Terrie Bert is the speaker for September, “Sun, Sand, and Sea: Bromeliads that Rise to the Occasion.
- We received a thank you from the Central Florida Orchid Society for participating in their June event.
- Phil Elting of Elting’s Exotic Plants will be the speaker in Oct. He’ll be discussing Quesnelia & tissue culture.

#### Secretaries Report:

- We welcomed guests: Arlene Sabitsch and Jacque Irving, sisters that met Marilyn at the last Mead Gardens GROWvember. We also welcomed new member Beth Stella!

**Treasurer’s Report:** Betsy gave the Treasurer’s report and it will be filed for audit.

#### President’s Report:

- The June and July 2018 meeting minutes were approved.
- GROWvember Festival at Mead Gardens. It will be a one day event, Saturday November 3<sup>rd</sup> from 8am–4pm. Set up is Friday 9am–4pm and there is to be no early tear down on Sat. The fee is \$65 and we will need to provide a speaker. Plan on cleaning up your plants and selling.
- The Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies was told that we would like to host the Summer 2019 Bromeliad Extravaganza. Tom Wolfe is sending some of his documents from last year to use for reference. Phil Wright, our point person for hotel negotiations, is currently researching local hotels. We’ll be starting up committees soon – plan on participating in this fun event by heading up a committee!
- Send Carole Wolfe articles and photos for the FCBS newsletter
- If you think that you might not be receiving email from BSCF, please let Marilyn or Karen know.
- Our next meeting is on Sept. 19th
- The Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society Sale is this weekend – get there early! 26 members selling in airconditioning!

#### Old or Unfinished Business:

- Webmaster and Newsletter Editor needed – if interested please let one of the officers know!

#### New Business:

- Marilyn Howser made a motion that we donate \$200. to the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies Weevil Fund, Karen Steinberg seconded, the motion was passed. Bob Smedley made a motion to raise the amount to \$500. and Lisa Robinette seconded. The motion was passed. Marilyn mentioned that she has talked to Teresa Cooper about the research happening at the Enchanted Forest – our seeds are growing! Remember that they are always looking for volunteers.

**Show & Tell:** Thanks to Lisa Robinette, John Boardman, Jim Pearce, and Mike McMahon – beautiful plants!

#### 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

### September 29, 2018

ABCs of Bromeliads  
Leu Gardens class taught by Jay Thurrott  
Leu Gardens, 1920 N. Forest Avenue, Orlando, FL 32803  
[www.leugardens.org/classes/](http://www.leugardens.org/classes/)



### October 5–7, 2018

Tropiflora Nursery Fall Festival  
3530 Tallavast Road, Sarasota  
[tropiflora.com/events](http://tropiflora.com/events)

### November 2–3, 2018

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

## Our Meeting Next Month: Wednesday, October 17<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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