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Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies Third 2025 Meeting

Saturday, September 27, 2025

Chair Vicky Chirnside opened the third 2025 FCBS meeting at 10:04 am following a buffet breakfast at the 2025 Bromeliad Extravaganza hotel in Kissimmee, Florida. The following FCBS Member Representatives and guests were present:

Bromeliad Society of Central Florida: Mike Saunders and Betsy McCrory
Bromeliad Society of South Florida: Alex Bello and Patty Gonzalez
Bromeliad Society of the Palm Beaches: Jim Jackson and Tom Ramiccio
Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society: Vicky Chirnside and Julie Stein
Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society: Calandra Thurrott and Jack Dunlop
Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society: Jean Homan
Gainesville Bromeliad Society: Steven Provost and Brian Dey
Sarasota Bromeliad Society: Dr. David Denholm and Marian Kennell
Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society: Greg Kolojeski and Barbara Whittier

Unable to attend—Webmaster, Michael Andreas
Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society of Tampa: Steve and Marilyn Byran

Guests: Rick Ryals, BSI President

REPORTS AND UPDATES:

Secretary Jim Jackson — Minutes of June 28, 2025, meeting had been provided previously. Steven Provost moved to approve the minutes with the corrections. Julie Stein seconded. Motion approved.

Treasurer Betsy McCrory —The Treasurer's Report had been provided previously. Betsy McCrory reported that FCBS had a net worth of \$42,341.66

Webmaster Michael Andreas—A written report had been distributed previously.

Weevil Committee, Tom Wolfe was not present. Tom Ramiccio had previously suggested that the Council move onto conservation efforts to build up the population of *Tillandsia Utriculata* impacted by the weevil by working with selected nurseries to raise the seeds to a point that they could be distributed throughout the state as part of a major promotional campaign. Tom Ramiccio will prepare a presentation on this for the February 2026 FCBS meeting. Julie Stein said we need to look at the growing conditions of the different regions and ensure that seedlings be distributed back to the region from where they originated.

Archives Steven Provost—reported that the University of Central Florida is slowly beginning to digitize the bromeliad information provided to them to fill out their collection. He met with the

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Director six weeks earlier. You can access UCF materials via the BSI website under “archives”. A critical issue is to have the “search function” working for newly added materials as well as previously added materials. The Journals have previously been digitized but currently there is no index or search function. Calandra Thurrott indicated she had additional historical scientific materials for donation.

BSI President Rick Ryals spoke briefly supporting the FCBS Extravaganza. He announced that to celebrate BSI’s 75th Anniversary they are offering digital BSI membership for \$7.50 for the year. He encouraged individual clubs to consider sponsoring BSI memberships for their members. He also announced that the 2026 World Bromeliad Conference would be in Costa Mesa, CA on April 14-17, 2026. Then, he discussed a BSI sponsored conservation project to repopulate native bromeliads in Brazil. Rick and Tom Romiccio will be going to Thailand to do advance work for the 2028 World Bromeliad Conference in Thailand. Rick and the FCBS members then had a discussion on making more presentations available from BSI, recording the current bromeliad leaders, and the challenge of preparing Journals and newsletters.

OLD BUSINESS:

2025 Extravaganza

The 2025 Extravaganza at Ramada by Wyndham Kissimmee Gateway September 26—28th, 2025, hosted by the Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society has started. Extravaganza Chairman is Greg Kolojeski. The speakers for the three seminars are Leonardo M Versieux, Bryan Windham, and Dennis Cathcard. Vendor Chairman Tom Ramiccio has secured approximately a dozen vendors. Jim Jackson announced that he has the consent of the three Extravaganza presenters to make video recordings of their presentations with the FCBS having nonexclusive authorization to use them.

FCBS Newsletter: No one has been found to replace Carol Wolfe. The Council discussed ways to make the task less burdensome for a new editor. Vicky mentioned the possibility that each club could work on providing content specifically for a newsletter on a rotating basis and/or the newsletter could make greater use of articles from local member societies.

FCBS Roster: An Editor is still needed, but Betsy McCrory volunteered for this year. It has taken her longer to complete than anticipated due to the scope of the project and need convert the document from Adobe to Microsoft Word. She wants to be able to distribute the roster at the February 28, 2026, FCBS meeting. She also has developed an email database of members. She needs information on bromeliad speakers and growers. Alex Bello agreed to provide the information for her if she sent him an email detailing what she needed. Since the roster will be distributed in early 2026, it will be the 2025-2026 FCBS Roster.

NEW BUSINESS:

Alex Bello brought up two items to discuss. First, He is encouraging clubs to visit and support other clubs. He has arranged a bus to take members of his club to the Caloosahatchee

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Bromeliad Plant Show and Sale December 6, 2025. He is encouraging other clubs to come to the BSSF Plant Show and Sale Memorial Day weekend 2026. These are the only clubs currently having both shows as well as sales.

Second, he would like to utilize the Speaker Reimbursement Program to have an out-of-state speaker present to the BSSF-BSPB-CBS clubs. Betsy volunteered to provide the form for this to the members.

Vicky requested that clubs that currently do not have bromeliad shows consider doing some form of bromeliad show. Options could include doing it along with a sale like BSSF and CBS do and/or consider a mini show with just one genus. With only two clubs currently having shows there are very limited opportunities for bromeliad judges to maintain their certification.

MEMBER SOCIETIES NEWS, SPEAKERS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

FWCBS—September- Dr. Terrie Bert

BSPB— August Dave Johnston “Billbergias Are Awesome”
September- Alex Bello “Bromeliads in Peru”

SBTPS—July- Byran Windham “Growing & Hybridizing Terrestrial Bromeliads”
August- Fall Plant Sale,
September- Jason Mellica “New Bromeliads Hybrids for 2025”
October- Marty Baxley Bromeliad Topic
November TBA elections, December Holiday Party

GBS—July- Greg Kolojeski Bromeliads B-J
August- Dave Johnston “Billbergias”
September- tour Brian Dey’s garden
October- Dr. Terrie Bert Pitkernias and current efforts
Oct.28th Sale and Garden Expo with Garden Club
November- Holiday meeting, December- no meeting

BSSF—June- Matt Bagley presentation on Terrestrials
July- Alex Bello “Billbergias”
August- Dr. Terrie Bert
September- Alex Bello Presentation on their last bromeliad show

CBS— August- Chip Jones talked about his interviews with hybridizers
September- A deeper dive into plant prep, potting and top dressing.
October- David Sand “Mini Bromeliads”
November- Displaying member-owned bromeliads at a local Orchid and Bromeliad 25th
Anniversary Sale to answer questions and share information with prospective new members
December- Bromeliad Show and Sale December 6-7, 2025

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SBS—July- Dr. Terrie Bert “Bromeliads from A-Z:

Greenhouses and Yard Tours

August- Ray Lemieux "Bromeliads in the Selby Greenhouses"

September- Dr. David Denholm “Hanging Bromeliads”

October- Chip Jones talked about his interviews with hybridizers at the 2024 WBC

FECBS—July- Chip Jones talked about his interviews with hybridizers at the 2024 WBC

August- Bromeliad Bingo

September- Jack Dunlop’s Trip to Cuba and Calandra Thurrott’s trip to Western Cuba

The meeting was adjourned at 11:34.

Thanks to the Seminole Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society for hosting the buffet and Extravaganza.

Next FCBS Meeting will be held Saturday, February 28, 2026, at 1:00 PM following a lunch hosted by the Bromeliad Society of the Palm Beaches at the Mounts Botanical Garden Auditorium in West Palm Beach, FL.

Submitted by Jim Jackson, 2025 FCBS Secretary