

## **Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies**

*Saturday, February 22, 2025*

Hosted by the Gainesville Bromeliad Society at Oak Hammock in Gainesville.  
Lunch was at noon. Outgoing Chairman Greg Kolojeski opened the meeting 12:55 pm.  
He then turned it over to the new Chairman, Vicky Chirnside.

### **2025 FCBS OFFICERS**

Vicky Chirnside, Chairman  
Calandra Thurrott, Vice Chair  
Jim Jackson, Secretary  
Betsy McCrory, Treasurer

### **Introduction of Representatives and Guests**

#### **FCBS Member Representatives Present:**

Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society of Tampa: Tom and Carol Wolfe  
Bromeliad Society of Central Florida: Mike Saunders and Betsy McCrory  
Bromeliad Society of South Florida: Maureen Adelman and Richard Adelman  
Bromeliad Society of the Palm Beaches: Jim Jackson  
Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society: Vicky Chirnside  
Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society: Calandra Thurrott and Shelly Hansen  
Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society: Jean Homan and Joe Ventimiglia  
Gainesville Bromeliad Society: Steven Provost and Brian Dey  
Sarasota Bromeliad Society: Dr. David Denholm  
Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society: Greg Kolojeski

Unable to attend—Webmaster, Michael Andreas  
Jack Dunlop, Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society  
Tom Ramiccio, Bromeliad Society of the Palm Beaches  
Julie Stein, Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society  
Bob Stevens, Gainesville Bromeliad Society  
Jason Mellica, Sarasota Bromeliad Society  
Miguel Nichols, Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society

### **REPORTS AND UPDATES:**

**Secretary**, Minutes of 10/26/24 Meeting prepared by outgoing Secretary Calandra Thurrott. Jim Jackson made the motion to approve. Motion passed.

**Treasurer**—Betsy McCrory—Submitted Treasurer’s Report of FCBS for 2024 and announced that she had prepared audit file. Dues notices were sent out to the member societies. The dues check from BSSF was returned since they were in the process of changing bank accounts. She reported that as of December 31, 2024, FCBS had a net worth of \$40,173.89. After discussion about having the audit file reviewed, Jim Jackson agreed to serve as an audit committee to review the file.

**Webmaster**—Michael Andreas—previously distributed a written report. Greg Kolojeski reminded everyone that you have to use the full URL address ([https:// www.fcbs.org](https://www.fcbs.org)) in order to view the photographs. There was discussion about developing some backup capability within the FCBS Board concerning the FCBS website and online account. Vicky will follow up with Michael to obtain access credentials and to get Michael’s thoughts on what he would like to see in the website in the future.

**Weevil Committee**, Tom Wolfe—Selby Gardens doesn’t have anyone on staff to do DNA analysis. The new labs are there but it is not certain that they are staffed yet. No problems or outbreaks noted at present.

**Judge’s School**, Vicky Chirside reported that there is no judge’s school scheduled at present. There was a symposium a few months ago.

**Archives**, Steven Provost—reported that he met with David Benjamin, chair of Archives at the University of Florida and turned over BSI journals and other materials to fill out their collection. Bruce Holtz, Selby Gardens, sent him black and white photographs from his time at the gardens. The University of Florida is interested in having historical documents from the member societies in Florida. Steven is working with Andrew Flowers, BSI, for articles on archiving of bromeliad information. Steven is looking for someone to begin transitioning to take over the archiving role from him.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **2025 Extravaganza**

Registration is now online for the 2025 Extravaganza at Ramada by Wyndham Kissimmee Gateway **September 26—27<sup>th</sup>, 2025**, hosted by the Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society. Tom Ramiccio has agreed to be Vendor Chairman. Greg sent out a pdf of the registration form on February 20, 2025, to all FCBS Board members for distribution to the membership of their respective clubs and encouraged early registration to both the Extravaganza and the hotel.

### **FCBS Information Booth at Spring Fever in the Garden Festival:**

FCBS participation at the Garden Festival requires a 501(c) (3) Exemption determination letter and affirmation letter from FCBS so there can be a waiver of the \$200 registration fee. There are several plant sales and the Extravaganza that the FCBS can promote while participating in the festival.

**FCBS Newsletter Editor needed:** After over twelve years of editing the FCBS newsletter, Carol Wolfe has resigned. Greg discussed ways to make the task less burdensome for a new editor. One possible option suggested by Greg is to use a template similar to the SBTPS short newsletter for the FCBS Newsletter. The newsletter also could make greater use of articles from local member societies.

**FCBS Roster Editor needed:** Betsy is volunteering for this. She needs information from the member societies during the next few months. She wants to be able to distribute the roster at the Extravaganza in September.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

A question was raised about the possibility of cost-sharing the cost for out-of-state speakers. Standing Rule 10 was pointed out that provides for reimbursement for some costs of out-of-state speakers if two or more societies are participating. The members stated what each society offers as honorariums for speakers.

## **MEMBER SOCIETIES NEWS, SPEAKERS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**FWCBS**— Jan. Ray Lemieux “Tearing up Terrestrials”; Feb. Steve Littlefield presented lithographs of his artwork of bromeliads.

**FECBS**— Nov. Teresa Eddy “Holiday Backyard Florist” using bromeliads in Christmas decorations; Jan. Kenneth Stokes “This and That” culture tips for growing bromeliads; Feb. Dave Johnston “Foliage Vrieseas Take Two.”

**BSCF**— Oct. Lee Magnuson and Jonathan Lallier; Jan. Alex Bello presentation on hybridizing by Chester Skotak; Feb. Stephanie LaRusso “Mindfulness of Gardens.”

**BTPST**— Oct. Terrie Bert; Nov. Tom Wolfe; Jan. Herb Hill WBC presentation on hybridizing- He has now retired from making presentations, so this was his last presentation; Feb. Kenneth Stokes.

**GBS**— Oct. visit to member’s home; Jan. Jason Mellica “Bromeliad Basics 101”; Feb. Member of Gainesville Garden Club presentation “Home Grown National Parks” promoting native plants.

**SBTPS**— Oct. Greg Kolojeski “The A List” Aechmea, Alcantaras and Ananas Bromeliads”; Stephanie LaRusso “Bromeliad Whispering”; Jonathan Lallier “Brilliant Bromeliads 101”; David Sand Bromeliad Hybridizing.

**BSPB**— Oct. Teresa Watkins “Bro-Mance: Companion Plants and Containers for Bromeliads”; Nov. Alex Bello Hybridizing; Jan. Michael Michalski showed pictures from Ecuador; Feb. Tom Ramiccio with Jim Jackson presented Basics of Raising Bromeliads.

**CBS**—Nov. David Sand "How and Why to Stab a Bromeliad"; Dec. Bromeliad sale; Jan. Jason Mellica "New Creations"; Feb. Alex Bello "Billbergia's Tubular Beauties"; March Auction to raise funds for the Evil Weevil.

**SBS**—Sept. Tour of New Selby Gardens Phase 1 with Bruce Holst and Dr. John Clark; Oct. Terrie Bert; Jan. Terrance Hoffman "Mounting Bromeliads"; Feb. Dr. Rick Bott "A Look at Terrestrial Bromeliads."

**BSSF**— Oct. Alex Bello "Billbergia's Tubular Beauties"; Nov. Auction; Jan. Matt Bagley from Bonita Bromeliads on Dyckias; Feb. Plant preparation for show; March David Sand.

Thanks to the Gainesville Bromeliad Society hosts for setting up the lunch and meeting location. The meeting was adjourned at 2:48.

Submitted by Jim Jackson, Secretary

*Next Meeting to be held Saturday, June 28, 2025, hosted by the Sarasota Bromeliad Society at Selby Gardens main meeting room at 12 PM. RSVP to David Denholm (941) 441-7618.*