

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies

Saturday, June 28, 2025

Hosted by the Sarasota Bromeliad Society at Selby Gardens main meeting room. Lunch was at noon. Chair Vicky Chirnside opened the meeting at 1:02 pm. The following FCBS Member Representatives and guests were present:

Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society of Tampa: Steve and Marilyn Byran
Bromeliad Society of Central Florida: Mike Saunders and Betsy McCrory
Bromeliad Society of South Florida: Maureen and Richard Adelman
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 Brenda Loring
Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society: Jean Homan and Joe Ventimiglia
Gainesville Bromeliad Society: Steven Provost and Brian Dey
Sarasota Bromeliad Society: Dr. David Denholm and Jason Mellica
Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society: Greg Kolojeski

Unable to attend—Webmaster, Michael Andreas
Jack Dunlop, Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society
Bob Stevens, Gainesville Bromeliad Society
Miguel Nichols, Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society

Guests: Ray Lemieux, Marian Kennell, Johanna Rehmanii

REPORTS AND UPDATES:

Secretary Jim Jackson — Minutes of February 28, 2025, meeting had been provided previously. Secretary Jim Jackson identified three corrections. Tom Ramiccio moved to approve the minutes with the corrections. Steve Byram seconded. Motion approved.

Treasurer Betsy McCrory —The Treasurer's Report had been provided previously. Betsy McCrory reported that FCBS had a net worth of \$42,046.56. Jim Jackson reported that the audit committee reviewed the Treasurer's Report for 2024 and associated audit file and that it was complete, documented, and well done.

Webmaster Michael Andreas—A written report had been distributed previously. Greg Kolojeski reminded everyone that you have to use the full URL address (<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 and vision on the evolution of the website and what he would like to see on the website in the future.

Weevil Committee Tom Wolfe—While there was no Weevil Report, Tom Ramiccio 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 at the February 2026 FCBS meeting.

Archives Steven Provost—reported that he will be meeting with University of Central Florida next week to continue the process of UCF archiving bromeliad information to fill out their collection. Calandra Thurrott reported that she had given Steven Provost her husband's "Bug Book" and related notes concerning the efforts to counter the impacts of the weevil for archiving

OLD BUSINESS:

2025 Extravaganza

Registration is now online for the 2025 Extravaganza at Ramada by Wyndham Kissimmee Gateway **September 26—27th, 2025**, hosted by the Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society. Extravaganza Chairman Greg Kolojeski has sent out registration forms 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. Leonardo M Versieux, Bryan Windham, and Dennis Cathcard are the speakers for the three seminars. Vendor Chairman Tom Ramiccio has secured approximately a dozen vendors. Greg reminded the representatives that each club needs to bring five plants for the rare plant auction at the Extravaganza.

FCBS Information Booth at Spring Fever in the Garden Festival:

Greg reported that while the FCBS Information booth at the Spring Fever in the Garden event was helpful in promoting several local plant sales as well as the Extravaganza, it was not particularly useful in promoting participation in the various bromeliad societies around the state. Tom Ramiccio commented on the overall usefulness of participating in such events in promoting awareness of bromeliads and encouraged participation.

FCBS Newsletter Editor needed: No one has been found to replace Carol Wolfe. The Council 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. Also discussed was the possibility of renaming the position E-mail Provider rather than Editor to appear less imposing.

FCBS Roster Editor needed: Betsy McCrory is volunteering for this year. She needs information from the member societies by the end of July. Currently she only has two. She wants to be able to distribute the roster at the Extravaganza in September.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was discussion concerning the availability of Zoom or other types of programs. The La Ballova Valley Bromeliad Society (CA) did many good programs during COVID. Some appear to still be available on-line. Jim Jackson mentioned that several programs are available from the BSI website; some with audio, while others apparently were intended for a local person to provide the audio. Jim also mentioned that he had done a Zoom presentation with South African bromeliad grower Adrian Van Rensen. Due to the time difference, it was pre-recorded using Adrian's materials with Jim interviewing him.

The 2025 World Bromeliad Conference will be April 14-18, 2025, in Costa Mesa, CA.

MEMBER SOCIETIES NEWS, SPEAKERS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

FECBS—February Dave Johnston "Foliage Vrieseas, Take 2"
March Greg Spath "Ten Years and After Dyckias and other Sharpies"
April Judy Rafter "Cocodama Moss Balls"
May "You Show Me Yours and I'll Show You Mine"
June Teresa Watkins "Lighter Than Air"

SBS—February Dr. Rick Batt: "A Look at Terrestrial Bromeliads"
March Captain Kaleidoscope "Bromeliads: A family of Fascinating Genera"
April Jason Mellica "New Bromeliads Hybrids for 2025"
May Tom Wolfe "Aechmea: My Favorite Genera"
June Ray Limieux "Bromeliads in the Selby Greenhouses"
July Greenhouses and Yard Tours
August Dr. Terrie Bert "What is a Bromeliad Collector"

BSCF— March Steve Beaudoin Aechmea Mike McMahon Bulbous Tillandsias
April Bonnie Friedrich Talk on Trip to Hawaii
May Mike McMahon "Growing Tillandsia" and Mother's Day Show and Sale
June Alex Bellow Bromeliads in Peru

BTPST—March Carol Wolfe "Bromeliad Websites"
April Tom Wolfe "Highlights of the 2024 World Bromeliad Conference"
May Ken Stokes "My Favorite Bromeliads"
June Jason Mellica "New Bromeliads Hybrids for 2025"

GBS—March Tom Wolfe "Aechmea: My Favorite Genera"
April Ryan Fessenden "Biodiversity in the FMNH Butterfly Rainforest"
May Ken Stokes "Bromeliads This and That"
June Bonnie Frederich "Unusual Bromeliad Mountings"
July Greg Kolojeski Bromeliads B-G

SBTPS—March Alex Bello “Billbergia’s Tubular Beauties”
May Steve Beaudoin “Hohenbergias: Addicted Yet?”
June Michael McMahon “Vrieseas: What’s To Be Afraid Of?”
July Byran Windham “Growing & Hybridizing Terrestrial Bromeliads”
August Fall Plant Sale, September TBA
October Marty Baxley Bromeliad Topic
November TBA elections, December Holiday Party

CBS— March annual plant auction to allow us to contribute to the “Weevil Fund”
April is our annual society party marking our founding.
May Dave Johnston spoke about Billbergias,
June Pineapple themed meeting. Larry Giroux presented The Dole Pineapple Plantation, and we discussed several of the ornamental pineapples plus a brief discussion about the hybridization being done by Chester Skotak for edible pineapples with red flesh.
July speaker will be Matt Bagley, owner of Bonita Bromeliads
August Chip Jones Probably will talk about hybridization
September the program will be a deeper dive into plant prep, potting and top dressing.
November Alex Bello

FWCBS—March Dave Johnston “Foliage Vrieseas, Take 2”
April Jason Mellica “Mounting Stoloniferous Bromeliads on Driftwood”
May Annual Auction
June Ken Stokes “Preventative and Corrective Measures to Overcome Plant Defects”

BSSF—March David Sand “Hybridizing Bromeliads”
April Annual Judged Show and Sale
May Mike Michaiski “Hybridizing Billbergias”
June Alex Bello “Bromeliads in Peru”

BSPB— April Jason Mellica “New Bromeliads Hybrids for 2025”
May BSI Presentation “Not Your Mother’s Neoregelias”
July Chip Jones Interviewing Prominent Bromeliad Growers and Hybridizers
August Dave Johnston “Billbergias Are Awesome”
September Alex Bello “Bromeliads in Peru”

Thanks to the Sarasota Bromeliad Society hosts for setting up the lunch and meeting location. The meeting was adjourned at 2:50.

Next FCBS Meeting to be held Saturday, September 27, 2025, at 10:00 AM following a buffet breakfast at the 2025 Bromeliad Extravaganza hotel in Kissimmee, Florida.

Submitted by Jim Jackson, 2025 FCBS Secretary