

## **Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies**

*Saturday, October 26, 2024*

Hosted by Bromeliad Society of South Florida at the home of Mike Michalski and Patty Gonzalez

Lunch was at noon & the meeting started at 1:00 pm.

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

Bromeliad Society of South Florida: Patty Gonzalez, and Mike Michalski; Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society: Vicky Chirnside; Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society: Calandra Thurrott; Gainesville Bromeliad Society: Steven Provost; Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society: Jean Homan and Joe Ventimiglia; Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society: Greg Kolojeski; Bromeliad Society of the Palm Beaches: Jim Jackson, Tom Ramiccio; Bromeliad Society of Central Florida: Betsy McCrory

Unable to attend—Webmaster, Michael Andreas; Parliamentarian, Michael Saunders; Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society of Tampa; Tom and Carol Wolfe; Sarasota Bromeliad Society: Marian and Mark Kennell

### **2024 FCBS Officers**

Greg Kolojeski, Chairman  
Vicky Chirnside, Vice Chair  
Calandra Thurrott, Secretary  
Betsy McCrory, Treasurer

**Introduction of Representatives:** In addition to our representatives, welcome to new reps for Bromeliad Society of South Florida, Maureen Adelman, and Bromeliad Society of the Palm Beaches, Jim Jackson

### **Reports and Updates:**

**Secretary**, Calandra Thurrott: Minutes of 6/22/24 Meeting. Betsy McCrory made the motion to approve. Motion passed.

**Treasurer**—Betsy McCrory—Submitted a report of FCBS financial Status & Treasury Notes update.

**Webmaster**—Michael Andreas—submitted a written report.

**FCBS Newsletter**, Carol Wolfe gave notice of resignation at our June meeting

**Weevil Committee**, Tom Wolfe—No new report

**Judge's School**, Vicky Chirnside mentioned there are four new BSI Judges. The next tentative BSI Judged show will be hosted by Bromeliad Society of South Florida April 12—13<sup>th</sup> at Fairchild Gardens

**Archives**, Steven Provost—reported that FCBS hard materials are all cataloged. Digital materials will be entered by the end of the year

### **Old Business:**

**FCBS Roster for 2024:** Distribution of printed roster to Society Reps at the present meeting. There is still a call for an FCBS roster editor

### **2025 Extravaganza**

Greg Kolojeski gave a list of statistics for past Extravaganzas. He proposed that Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society host the next Extravaganza. A motion was made by Vicky Chirnside to approve SBTPS as host. A motion was approved to hold the 2025 Extravaganza at Ramada by Wyndham Kissimmee Gateway **September 26-27th, 2025**. Confirmation is pending. More information to follow.

A discussion was made to hold the third FCBS meeting of 2025 at the Extravaganza in September. Time and day to be announced. A motion was made by Jim Jackson to change the rotation so that in February 2026 the Bromeliad Society of the Palm Beaches will host. SBTPS would host that third meeting. Motion carried.

The **hosting rotation** reads:

Feb 2025—Gainesville Bromeliad Society

June 2025—Sarasota Bromeliad Society

September 2025—Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society

February 2026—Bromeliad Society of the Palm Beaches

**FCBS Newsletter Editor needed:** Newsletter options suggested by Greg K. to use a template similar to the SBTPS short newsletter for our FCBS Newsletter

**FCBS Roster Editor needed:** Discussion to explore/recruit a new editor

### **New Business:**

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

Discussion of FCBS participation at the Garden Fest requires a 501(c) (3) Exemption determination letter and affirmation letter from FCBS so there can be a waiver of the \$200 registration fee. A white tent with weights is a requirement too. A tent was offered for use. Motion to participate by Vicky Chirnside and approved.

#### **Destruction of Tropiflora Nursery:**

A discussion was made about the damage to members' and commercial growers' collections, with deep concern for Dennis and Linda Cathcart. Many are still putting their homes and gardens back together after the effects of Hurricane Milton. Members of FCBS donate as individuals and take requests back to their individual societies for help with relief efforts.

### **Member Societies News & Announcements**

Speakers and other club events

**FECBS**—Bingo, centerpiece arrangements, hypertufa pots with Pinky Ormand

**BSCF**—Mead Gardens, Bonnie Friedrick's: mounting Bromeliads, David Sand: "Mistakes in Growing Bromeliads—His and Others", Dennis Cathcart—presentation on Ray Coleman, Lee Magnuson, and also Brilliant Bromeliads owner Jonathan Lallier

**SBTPS**—Alex Bello: "South Florida Tillandsia Hybrids and More!!"

McCrory's Bromeliad nursery tour; David Sand: "Stabbing Bromeliads: When & Why You Would"; annual plant sales, Dave Johnston: "Foliage Vrieseas: Take Two"; Keith & Dina Emig: "Orchids 101"; pineapple day; John Boardman/Pam Marion: "Red, White & Bloom! Ideas for Growing Great Bromeliads"; Jason Mellica: "Mellica's 2024 New Bromeliad Hybrids"; Greg Kolojeski: "The A List: Aechmea, Alcantarea and Ananas Bromeliads" and possible B List to come; Stephanie LaRusso: "Bromeliad Whispering".

**GBS**—Ken Stokes: "Everything Your Mother Never Told You about Light, Air Water and Soil", Dave Johnston: "Favorite Neos", field trip, plant sale, and author, Doug Tallamy: "Homegrown National Park" website

**FWCBS**—speakers, Ken Stokes and Greg Kolojeski

**BSSF**—"Plant of the Month", Alex Bello, Mike Michalski: Trip to "Ecuador and the Amazon" and program on hybridizing, Alex Bello: "Billbergia", Tram ride in Fairchild Gardens, auction

**BSPB**—speaker Brian Sidoti, director of The Kampong and speaker Tom Wolfe, Teresa Watkins: "Bromance", Adrian Van Rensen of South Africa as a *WhatsApp* presentation, Terrie Bert

**CBS**—speakers Chip Jones, David Sand, Terrie Bert, and upcoming sale the first weekend of December

Thanks to our BSSF hosts Patty Gonzalez and Mike Michalski for great food and a great location

Meeting adjourned at 3:00

Submitted by Calandra Thurrott

*Next Meeting on Saturday, February 22, 2025, hosted by the Gainesville Bromeliad Society*