

orlandiana

**Newsletter of the
Bromeliad Society of Central Florida**
Volume no. 50, Issue no. 2

February 2023

Next meeting: February 15, 2023

Where: Leu Gardens, 1920 N. Forest Avenue, Orlando, FL 32803

6:30 –7:00 is time for displaying and purchasing plants

Program officially begins at 7:00 pm

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Visit the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida Website at:
www.bromeliadorslando.com

You will find an activities page that lists our speakers for upcoming meetings, downloadable copies of newsletters, plant photos, a map to Leu Gardens, and more! This is a great place for the public to find out about our Society or send us a message. Check it out!

Cover: *Quesnelia testudo* courtesy John Boardman

The President's Message

It seems bromaholics are always acquiring more broms. There is always 'room for just one more'. But, is there?

The same idea deceives koikeepers, my other hobby. With koi, the 'room for just one more' works for a time, but the fish grow bigger and the day arrives when there is some stress placed on the fish. A power outage shuts down the air pump. A heat wave lowers the dissolved oxygen level in the water. In a crowded pond the result is a mass die-off or an outbreak of disease. The koi hobbyist learns the hard way to limit how many fish they keep. The same thing happens with bromeliads, except instead of dying quickly, broms linger.

One of the great things about bromeliads is their will to survive. They can put up with a lot of abuse. They evolved to endure Nature's abuses. Over the years it takes a seedling on a tree branch to mature, the tree keeps growing and getting more leafy. Despite increasing shade, the brom endures. Its leaves extend longer capturing more of the light. A drought comes along, but the brom has its own reservoir of water. It endures. Pay attention to the broms you see in photos taken in their habitat. Most are not all that good looking. Leaves are blemished. Many plants in a clump will have limp, lanky leaves. Or, there are sunburnt edges and bleached-out colors. They bear the scars of battling the forces of Nature. Still, the broms endure.

We bromoholics can crowd our broms, keep them in too much shade or too much sun. We can forget to water them, or leave them in a potting mix that has become mushy sludge. The broms endure. They may lose color and the leaves may be too lanky, but it lives and produces pups. We deceive ourselves into thinking all is well. Or, at least, good enough to fit in 'just one more'. You know, a great looking little Alcantarea in a 4-inch pot. It will take years to grow big. By then some spot for it will be figured out. Won't it? Well, let's worry about it later.

I'd like to think that after nearly 50 years of keeping broms I had overcome the need to acquire more. But, the fact is that I still acquire broms without knowing where I will put them. There is often a brom set off to the side until I can figure out a spot. It is an addiction, not just to broms, but to having something new, something different. Each is a celebration of the wonder of Nature. There must be room for 'just one more'...someplace.

What is there to do? There is no cure. More will be acquired. I think the first step is to get control over what you already have. Clean up the collection and get rid of duplicates to reduce crowding. Put the extras on the door prize table, or give them to a neighbor or sell

them at a Society sale. Toss out the ones too cruddy for any of those options. Move them so each is in as good a spot as you can make available. The goal should be to have potted plants placed so no leaves touch, or just slightly overlap; and have those in the ground separated enough that they can grow into their distinctive shapes and forms, to be what captured your heart when you acquired it. To reach the goal may require creating a new growing area, or eliminating plants from the collection. Maybe it is time for a greenhouse/shade structure.

The next step is to get control over what you acquire. Take a good look at your growing conditions, particularly the light exposure. Then consider what will grow best in those conditions. There is some brom well-suited for your conditions. Research it. Ask folks at a meeting what would grow well in that sort of spot. Check out what other members grow in similar conditions. Then you can go on a treasure hunt for those broms. They're out there just waiting to be your personal discovery of something new, something different. That's when there really is room for one more. One that will thrive in the spot you know you have.

This month BSCF will have a garden tour for members to visit other members' gardens. Another tour is in the works for April. These are opportunities to see how different broms grow in different conditions. Each garden takes a different approach. Some things you'll like; some you won't. There will be broms thriving and some just getting by. There will be ideas you can readily adapt to your situation. Something may trigger an idea uniquely your own. You may learn that you really do have room for 'just one more'.

January Minutes

BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA, INC.

Meeting Minutes

January 18, 2023

Member Market/Plant of the Month: Because the speaker didn't sell plants, members were offered the opportunity and took good advantage of it before the meeting and during the break. As the meeting commenced, John Boardman also highlighted our Plant of Month, *Aechmea* 'Bert.'

Program: Vice President Tim Dreggers introduced speaker Valerie Anderson, who talked about Split Oak Forest, a protected land preserve in Orange and Osceola counties now threatened by an expressway. She highlighted the many native bromeliads in the preserve, using plants supplied by John Boardman and Pam Marion as examples.

Business Meeting was called to Order by President Mike McMahon at 8:00 pm. He thanked Valerie, as well as all who brought plants for the auction and raffle tables. He gave special kudos to Peggy Bohl and Kathy Hancock, who have resurrected the refreshments table and thanked the members who brought treats.

New Members and Guests: we welcomed two new members, Valerie Anderson and Lynette Anderson; also guests Joan and Jim Erwin, Laura Hoven, Katrina Kruse, and Nicholas Pisano.

Minutes: The minutes of the October, 2022 meeting were published in the Newsletter. There being no corrections, they stand approved as filed.

Treasurer's report: Joyce Gibault gave a comprehensive report on our income and expenditures from October through December. There was substantial income from the Mead Gardens sale. Suggestions were made from the floor that we explore better options for earning interest on our accounts. Joyce will pursue and report back. The complete report will be filed for audit.

No VP Report.

President's Report:

All members were reminded that 2023 membership dues should be paid as soon as possible.

Special Events: Since Chair Karen Steinberg was absent, President Mike announced that several activities are planned. Members are encouraged to gather at 10am Sat 1/28 for a walking tour of Split Oak Forest. Then on Sat 2/18 from 9am to 1pm there will be garden tours of three members' homes: Steve Beaudoin (Neoregelias), Mike McMahon (Tillandsias) and Katherine Vaccaro (Xeriscaping).

Plant Sales:

Mike Saunders will chair our Leu Gardens Plant Sale. He announced that setup will be on Friday, March 10, with the Sale on Sat & Sun March 11th & 12th in our usual location.

There was discussion about our traditional Mother's Day Show & Sale, which may take place at Fashion Square Mall or another location. Mike Saunders moved that we explore planning a show/exhibit and sale; Phil Wright seconded, and the motion was approved.

Membership Dues:

A motion was made, seconded and passed to keep our annual Society dues at \$15/member + \$5 for each additional family member.

Audit and Bylaws:

An Audit Committee has been formed, chaired by Mike Saunders, with Gail Padgett and Sandy Shearer/Caruthers also serving.

Work is underway on revising our ByLaws to conform to current practice. Mike has sent an initial edit out for review and is taking comments. The process will continue until we reach consensus. Any substantive changes will then be brought to the membership for approval.

Show & Tell and Door Prize/Raffle giveaways rounded out the evening.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Vaccaro, Recording Secretary

In Memoriam: Dr. J. Howard Frank

With deep sadness, we report that Dr. J. Howard Frank passed away on Saturday, January 21, 2023. A distinguished entomologist, Dr. Frank began studying the immigration of insects to Florida in the 1960s. For nearly 50 years he worked on saving Florida's native bromeliads from the 'evil weevil'. BSCF was honored to have him present a program on the weevil last summer. He never allowed advanced age to stop his work, nor his devotion to teaching others. Decades into retirement he was still researching and teaching about native bees and the weevil to the very end. He will be deeply missed.



Plant of the Month



Quesnelia testudo and *Quesnelia quesneliana* share the honor of plant of the month, both species are native to Brazil. And are popular landscape plants throughout Florida. Both plants are cold tolerant, and are known to survive temps down to 20 degrees and show little damage from frost. Their long stolon's enable them to climb trees. They thrive in our climate and can be acclimated to full sun. *Q. testudo* has a bright pink flower spike while *Q. quesneliana* is more reddish in color. *Quesnelia testudo* has variegated forms. Please bring to the meeting if you have either one.

Guest Speaker

Dave Johnston will be speaking on Bi-Generics part 2. Dave did the first part last time he was here and will be bringing plenty of plants to sell.

“My interest in Bromeliads began in 1985 when I purchased the only 2 Bromeliads that Frank’s nursery had for sale. A *Cryptanthus Pink Starlight* and a *Neoregelia carolinae* type. Soon thereafter, I learned there were Bromeliad clubs that shared similar interests which I joined. By 1990, I had acquired so many Bromeliads – I launched Bromeliads Galore a collector’s nursery. Over the past 37 years, I acquired over 2000 different species and hybrids. As time passed, I became much more sensible and significantly scaled back the number of plants I grow to over 1000 different now. As for club bio. I have served 5 terms as President of The Bromeliad Guild of Tampa and 2 terms as President of the Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society. I have pretty much served every office there is in these clubs in addition to the Florida Council.”



BSCF Garden Tours

Our first outing will be on **February 18th, 10am – 1:00pm.**

Gardens we will be visiting:

Katherine Vaccaro

Katherine's garden is a peaceful corner oasis filled with large beds of beautiful bromeliads; bamboo, aloe, and other exotics lend a natural feel to the garden. Strolling through Katherine's garden is a calming experience, with interesting things to see at every turn...and a cool hanging Tillandsia display!

Steve Beaudoin

Steve has roughly 900 different kinds of bromeliads in the garden spread out over 42 different genus. Wow! I suspect we will see many miniatures in his garden. He also has a nice collection of other exotics such as ferns, orchids, succulents, gingers, lilies, heliconias, and more.

Mike McMahon

Well...if you like all of those Viresea you've been seeing at the meetings I suspect that you'll love Mike's garden! Mike has a stunning plant collection and is also a Koi enthusiast with fish that will wow us!

I will be sending out information next week that includes the 3 participating garden addresses; the tour is set up so that one can start at whichever garden they choose and stay as long as desired within the 3 hour time period, driving to the next gardens when ready. This should keep a stream of people visiting each of the gardens at different times during the morning and nobody should feel rushed.

The second Garden Tour outing will be on April 22nd, watch for info on the participating gardens in coming orlandianas...and let me know if you'd like to have your garden added to the roster!



Split Oak Forest Hike



2023 Bromeliad Society of Central Florida MEMBERSHIP FORM



_____ NEW MEMBER _____ RENEWAL

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name (s) _____

Address _____

City, State Zip +4 _____

Phone/Email _____

\$15 for one member, plus \$5 for each additional family member at the same address.

Name Tags are optional. The price for a name tag is \$7 per member.

If so desired please insert number ordered _____ \$ _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____ Make checks payable to BSCF

Either **bring payment to the next meeting.** OR If mailing please send to:

Bromeliad Society of Central Florida, PO Box 568872 Orlando, FL 32856-8872.

Meetings are held at Leu Gardens, 1920 N Forest Ave, Orlando, FL 32803.

On the 3rd Wednesday of every month, from 6:30-9:00 pm. Buy plants from the speaker between 6:30-7pm. The meeting starts promptly at 7:00. You'll enjoy informative programs, Show & Tell, plant sales, door prizes and raffles. Members also receive a monthly newsletter. Please come join us!

Treasurer:

Date _____ Check # _____ Cash \$ _____

Officers

President: Mike McMahon

Vice-President: Tim Dreggors

Treasurer: Joyce Gibault

Secretary: Katherine Vaccaro

Immediate Past President: Mike Saunders

Florida Council Reps: Mike Saunders & Mike McMahon

POSITIONS

Meeting Layout Coordinator: President.

Meeting Hospitality Coordinator: **Kathy Hancock** (Beverages); **Peggy Bohl** (Snacks)

Helpers:

Welcome Table/Raffle Coordinator: **Robin Norton** Helpers: **Tracy Kochmann, Katherine Vaccaro**

Secret Bid Auction Coordinator: **Phil Wright**

Plant Of The Month Coordinator: **John Boardman**

Speaker Helper: **John Boardman**

Librarian : **Telka diFate**

Newsletter Editor: **John Vecchitto** Would be good to have a couple of people as 'reporters', supplying John with photos, news blurbs and articles.

Newsletter Proofreader: **Marty Folk**

Membership Secretary: **Marilyn Howser**

PLANT SALES -

Plant Sale Chair for Leu Gardens Spring Plant Sale: **Mike Saunders.**

Field Trip Organizer: **Karen Steinberg**

Webmaster: **Greg Kolojeski**



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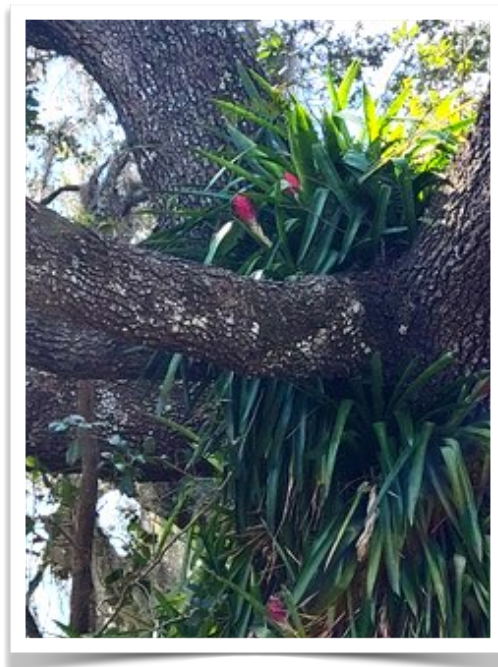
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BSCF is a nonprofit Florida corporation recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) organization.

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.



Quesnelia testudo