



# orlandiana

Newsletter of the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida  
Volume no. 44 Issue no. 04

April

2017

Next meeting – Wednesday, April 19, 2017

Where – Leu Gardens

1920 N. Forest Ave. Orlando, FL 32803

6:30 to 7:00 pm purchase plants from speaker

7:00 pm meeting begins

**No Member Market**

**Please bring snack, raffle and show and tell plants, to the meeting.**

## **This Month's Speaker**

Tom Wolfe is the speaker for our April meeting. Tom will be discussing Aechmeas. Tom joined the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay in 1965. Holding many positions including serving as President a number of times. Tom has always been instrumental in encouraging and working with the BGTB members to present annual shows, participating in community shows and sales to promote bromeliads, refurbishing bromeliad beds at Lowry Park Zoo, Eureka Springs Park, and Ybor City Museum State Park. Tom helps create displays at the Florida State Fair annually promoting bromeliads and club members pass out literature to thousands of attendees. Tom has represented the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay for many years on the FCBS as well as serving as Chairman.

Tom has designed and installed many residential and commercial landscapes featuring bromeliads. He is in demand as a speaker throughout the United States presenting programs on bromeliads to garden clubs, botanical gardens, horticultural clubs and bromeliad societies. Tom was General Chairman of the successful World Bromeliad Conference "Bromeliad Safari", held at Saddle Creek Golf & Tennis Resort and hosted by the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay. Because of Tom's leadership, the Club was able to make financial contributions to the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, the Evil Weevil Fund, funding for local parks, improvements to the Guild's meeting & library facilities as well as secure the financial future of the club.

Tom became an accredited BSI Bromeliad Judge in 1982 and is now a Master Judge. He served on the BSI Board of Directors for 14 years serving as Director, Secretary, and 6 years as Vice President and 6 years as President. Tom is the first BSI President to serve two consecutive terms. Under Tom's leadership, the Board operated effectively and efficiently to serve its members. He has worked tirelessly through the years, providing leadership when needed and promoting bromeliads on the local, state, national and international levels.

Tom and his wife Carol live in Lutz and grow their bromeliads on their 2.5 acres of land and greenhouses. Their family includes two children and their mates and six grandchildren, three boys and three girls.

### President's Message

Happy Tuesday to all,

Attached is the April edition of our *Orlandiana*. Just wanted to mention that tomorrow night's (Wednesday, 4/19) meeting time is listed at 7 pm, but would suggest you arrive at Leu Gardens between 6:30 and 7:00 pm to check out bromeliads that will be for sale by our speaker, Tom Wolfe. We will be starting his presentation at 7 pm. The plants will still be for sale after his talk, but am sure all of the good ones will have been snapped up in that half hour between 6:30 and 7 pm.

I would like to recognize our Editor, Steven Wagner, and thank him for another great edition. He has done a great job over these past few years and I have always enjoyed reading them. Unfortunately, Steven has decided to retire from being our Editor to focus more on his family. Next month will be his last issue. So we are looking for another member that would like to take up this responsibility and be the Editor of the *Orlandiana*. You can reply to my email, contact one of the officers or talk to us tomorrow at the meeting.

I was negligent in getting a President's message to Steven, so am including it in this email. Please bear with me, as there is a lot of information I would like to share.

**Mother's Day Sale (May 12-14):** Our Mother's Day sale is still on for Fashion Square Mall. Our location in the mall will be different, but same mall. Our sale and show will be Friday, May 12 through Sunday, May 14. We will need help on Thursday night, May 11, starting at 9 pm to unload plants and set up for the show. Will discuss tomorrow night at the meeting.

Also, please remember that beside selling bromeliads, we have a Judged Show with ribbons and awards. I encourage everyone to find your favorite bromeliad, get it cleaned up and enter it in the show. Will need all entries at Fashion Square on Thursday night. Betsy will bring copies of the Show rules for tomorrow night's meeting. Please mark it on your calendar.

**Central Florida Orchid Society's "Out of this World Orchids" (June 10 and 11):** The Board has decided to sell bromeliads at this show in addition to having a display table. Our sales area will have three 8' tables. If you are interested in selling, please let myself, or one of the officers know of your interest. We won't have as much space as at Leu Gardens, but will be an excellent opportunity to showcase bromeliads and sell some beautiful plants. We will discuss tomorrow night at the

meeting. We will also have an additional table in the display area of the show. Please mark it on your calendar.

**Seminole Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society Annual Spring Plant Sale (April 22 and 23):** Seminole will have their Annual Spring Plant Sale this Saturday and Sunday at the Sanford Garden Club, 200 Fairmont Dr, Sanford, 32773, from 9 am – 4 pm, both days. A lot of fantastic plants are for sale. And not just bromeliads. I know I have found many great plants to feed my addiction at their great sales.

**Many thanks to the following BSCF members:**

1. Evan McCrory for hosting our Society and the Seminole Society on Sunday, February 19 for a tour of McCrory's Sunny Hill Nursery. Was a great time and got a couple of great bromeliads also.
2. Evan McCrory for heading up our Leu Gardens Sale last month. Was a great plant sale and we had one of our best years ever, if not the best. Was great weather and lots of beautiful bromeliads. Many thanks to Evan McCrory, Grant & Kelli Groves, Lisa Robinette, Penny Bullard and Marty Folk for all of the gorgeous bromeliads they offered for sale. Thanks to members Pam Flesher, Betsy McCrory, Greg Spak for providing a lot of help with the customers, and to those other Society members that attended or helped out. If I forgot to mention your name, was not intentional. Either I forgot or wasn't there at that time. Thank you. Betsy will give us a financial update at tomorrow's meeting.
3. Betsy McCrory opened her home, and more importantly, her acreage for our Treasure Hunt earlier this month. We were there for three hours and found many treasures. Many members had their vehicles packed to the gills with fantastic bromeliads. I know I really appreciated for the first time having a car load of plants without having to open up my wallet. Look forward to another visit. We left many, many bromeliads.

Our speaker last month was Nick Bethmann. He spoke on *Aechmea orlandiana*, which was named after Orlando, The City Beautiful by Mulford Foster. He and Racine Foster collected *Aechmea orlandiana* and *Aechmea fosteriana* during their 1939 trip to Brazil. I have attached a great picture of *Aechmea orlandiana*. I would also like to thank Lisa Robinette for bringing many of her collection of various beautiful plants from the *orlandiana* tribe. Really was a great addition to Nick's presentation.

One of the attendees at the March meeting on March 15 was Dean Fairchild. It was so sad when we lost a great member and very knowledgeable resource and presence within the bromeliad community just a few days later. He will be greatly missed at our meetings and as a judge at our Mother's Day Show. On March 19<sup>th</sup> at the silent auction at the Seminole's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, I won the bid on a very large *xAndeolaechmea 'Dean' (Androplepis skinneri x Aechmea marie-reginae)*. I didn't realize that this gorgeous bromeliad was named after the hybridizer, Dean Fairchild. That made my winning bid an even better addition to my collection (addiction). I am sending a picture via another email as I couldn't figure out how to reduce the size of the file. It also has a pup on it.

Remember to bring any of your beautiful plants for show and tell, or for raffle or for auction. Look forward to seeing everyone tomorrow night. Sorry for the long email. And mark the Mother's Day sale and June orchid show on your calendars.

Mike  
President BSCF

*Aechmea orlandiana*



xAndeolaechmea 'Dean' (*Androplepis skinneri* x *Aechmea marie-reginae*)





**BSCF members** Eloise Beach and Jim Pearce are attending the 19th annual Bromeliad conference in Australia, Sunny Broms on the sunshine coast. Eloise was invited to speak and is giving two talks.



## **Cork A Natural Renewable Product**

**By: Pamela Koide Hyatt**

Cork has been used for mounting orchids and bromeliads for years. Tillandsia air plants grow best when attached to cork bark. The uneven surface is perfect for finding just the right spot to attach them to. They will quickly root and become permanent.

I just returned from ten days in Portugal and spent several days in Alentemol, walking in some old cork oak forests. Alentejo is in south central Portugal and is where the majority of the cork trees are farmed.

Most of the farms have been operated by the same owners for many generations. They tend to stay in the family, as it takes 43 years for the first viable crop of cork to be harvested.

Once the tree is planted, the first harvest is twenty-five years later. This first harvest is the “virgin cork”, the same type that is used for mounting plants. The bark is thick, rough and uneven. The bark is then harvested every nine years. The second harvest is less rough, but not acceptable for cork stoppers. This harvest is ground up and used for other production such as flooring. It is not until the third harvest, (the tree is now 43 years old) that the cork quality is the type that can be used for making cork stoppers.



This Article and more, may be found at Bird Rock Tropicals Blog <http://blog.birdrocktropicals.com>

Pictures from the Leu Garden's Plant Sale taken By Marty Folk



## **Board Meeting Minutes**

We had a quick Board meeting after the Bromeliad Treasure Hunt at Betsy McCrory's home, thanks again to Betsy for hosting the Hunt and the meeting also!

The meeting was called to order by President Mike Saunders.

### **Items of discussion:**

#### **BSCF Mother's Day Show and Sale**

Betsy let us know that the Fashion Square Mall has moved our Show/Sale to the other end of the mall, down by the fountain. There is more mall traffic in this area and because of different stores being closed in the mall our old spot wouldn't receive the security that it needs. There is still no fee and they supply the tables. There is a question about the table coverings, Betsy will be finding out about their availability.

Also: advertising for the BSCF Mother's Day Show and Sale. Karen agreed to work on placing some advertising for the Show/Sale, the following publications/websites were discussed:

- icFlorida.com
- Orlando Sentinel
- Bungalower
- Orlando Weekly
- Conway News
- Facebook
- Federation of Garden Clubs

We discussed including the sales tax in the pricing, it was decided that we would not be doing that as the State really frowns on it, the signage needed, and hassle on the bookkeeping back end.

A new award for Best Aechmea will be presented in Dean Fairchild's name. One of our members has donated funds for the award, a lovely way to remember Dean who was always very involved in the Show.

#### **Dean Fairchild Donation**

We discussed a donation in honor of Dean Fairchild, possibly tied to bromeliad judging or judges school in some way because of Dean's long involvement in bromeliad judging. Betsy is going to talk to some members of the Florida Council/BSI about the possibilities. Or...possibly an award at the Tampa Extravaganza. No final decision was made.

#### **Leu Garden's Sale**

We did a great job at the Sale! Betsy is still finalizing numbers, but was really excited about how well we did.

#### **Central Florida Orchid Society 2017 Show and Sale, "Out of this World Orchids"**

We will have a table exhibit utilizing Teresa Cooper's Bromeliad Weevil education boards and also some Zika Virus information. Possibly half of a table could be used to show examples of different types of bromeliads. A floor display of bromeliads is up in the air at this point because we will have a 10 x 10 booth for plant sales, which will have beautiful plants. We also need to get on the advertising for this event soon and get with Chad about the ad in the event program.

Respectfully submitted by Karen Steinberg

## **Bromeliad Society of Central Florida — 15 March, 2017**

### **Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was opened by VP Marilyn Howser who introduced our guest speaker, Nick Bethmann.

#### **Program:**

Nick Bethmann, currently the VP of the Bromeliad Society of the Palm Beaches and a lover of hybridizing, presented a program on the *Aechmea Orlandiana*. He shared with us his favorite cultivars and discussed the differences that can be seen in coloration from growing in various light levels and different feeding practices. Interesting historical background about the origins of the species name and the collector who named it! Nick made us all wonder if we had ever seen the original species plant...! Lisa Robinette brought a great variety of *Aechmea Orlandiana* for us to look at for Show and Tell, so Nick integrated them into his presentation allowing us to benefit from his knowledge and also Lisa's! Everyone that was interested received a tiny, seed grown plant – a little 1-year old cross that Nick made.

After a brief break the meeting was called to order by President Mike Saunders.

Minutes from the February meeting were approved.

Betsy gave the Treasure's Report and the report was filed for audit.

New and renewed members attending the meeting: Mark and Terry Walters, Pam Flesher, Chad Brinkerhuff, Leanne Burton.

Mike gave a special thanks to Lisa Robinette for her wonderful service to the Society over the years, she is certainly a hard-working member and information resource for us all.

Another special thanks went out to all the members who sold plants at the Leu Gardens Sale – great job!

VP Marilyn Howser reminded members about a few events that are quickly coming upon us:

- **Special Field Trip!**  
We're having a very special field trip to Betsy McCrory's house on Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>. Betsy has been busy preparing to sell her home and is holding a special scavenger hunt for the bromeliads on her property! Come prepared with tools to cut through tough growth...machetes are completely a good idea along with the regular loppers, pruning shears, pruning saws, etc. One might want to wear long pants and boots as there may be some snakes...a great chance for those of us with bromeliad hunting in our veins! We'll be planning a lunch at East Lake Fish Camp.

- On Sunday March 19<sup>th</sup>, Bud Martin will be the special host of the Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting!  
The meeting will include a slide show on popular bromeliads over the years as well as an exploration of the society's history. All BSCF members are welcome to come and join in the celebration! The meeting starts at 2:00 pm.  
[www.bromeliads.club](http://www.bromeliads.club)

#### **Old Business:**

Betsy is still totaling the numbers from the Leu Gardens Sale...looks like it was a great sale for all the members, she thinks our profits exceeded those of last year!

BSCF Website: we're still looking for a member or members that want to be involved in creating a BSCF website! Please contact Karen Steinberg if interested.

#### **New Business:**

The Central Florida Orchid Society 2017 Show and Sale, "Out of this World Orchids" at the Florida Army

National Guard Armory. There is now an opportunity to have a booth for plant sales at the show, Tropiflora cannot make it to the show/sale and that has opened up a spot. It was decided that this would be discussed at a separate Board meeting, to be held after the McCrory Treasure Hunt field trip on April 8<sup>th</sup>.

John Boardman announced that Eloise Beech and Jim Pierce were in Australia presenting two programs to bromeliad organizations. It is very exciting that we have such knowledgeable members! Maybe we can ask them to give a presentation about their experiences "down under" when they return.

#### **Show and Tell:**

Pam Flesher brought a Cryptanthus 'Thriller' and an Ananas "Lava Burst", both stunners. John Boardman shared his Neoregelia 'Tangerine', a great looking Grant Groves hybrid with variegation. He also brought Neo 'Lucifer', a Chester Skotak hybrid and an unnamed Skotak hybrid trial plant. John additionally brought a Michael Kiehl unnamed hybrid, Neo "Cane Fire" x 'Giant' and Neo 'Rainbow Leopard Shark' for us to covet. Mike McMahon brought in a beautiful large Vriesea fosteriana to round out the Show and Tell. We really appreciate everyone going to the trouble to bring in their wonderful plants to share!

#### **Auction, Raffle and Door Prizes:**

John Boardman brought an Aechmea Loie's Pride and donated it for auction – Mike Saunders was the lucky winner of this variegated grey-green beauty. Thanks again to John for his donation, he certainly has some lovely plants.

Raffle and door prize tickets were drawn, lots of goodies!

#### **Upcoming Events:**

**April 22–23, 2017**

Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society Spring Sale  
Sanford Garden Club  
200 Fairmont Drive, Sanford, FL 32773  
www.bromeliads.club

**April 22–23, 2017**

Bromeliad Society of South Florida Annual Show and Sale  
Fairchild Tropical Botanical Garden  
10901 Old Cutler Rd., Coral Gables 33156

**May 12–14, 2017**

Bromeliad Society of Central Florida Annual Mother’s Day Show and Sale  
Fashion Square Mall  
3201 E. Colonial Drive, Orlando FL 32803

**June 10–11, 2017**

Central Florida Orchid Society 2017 Show and Sale, “Out of this World Orchids”  
Florida Army National Guard Armory  
2809 Ferncreek Avenue, Orlando, FL 32806  
BSCF will have a bromeliad education and information table along with a plant display.

**August 4–6, 2017**

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies’ Extravaganza: Bromeliads by the Bay hosted by the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay and the FCBS  
<http://www.fcbs.org/>  
<http://www.fcbs.org/2017-Extrava-Flyer-Clarion.pdf>

**November 3–4, 2017**

Mead Gardens GROWvember Fall Plant Sale  
Mead Botanical Gardens  
1500 S. Denning Dr., Winter Park, FL 32789  
BSCF will have a booth at the event for Plant sales.

**May 29–June 3, 2018**

BSI World Conference in San Diego, California: <http://www.bsi.org/new/conference-corner/>

**Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.**

Respectfully submitted by Karen Steinberg

The next World Bromeliad Conference will be held in San Diego, California. It will be held May 29 - June 3, 2018. Now is a great time to join the Bromeliad Society International as we are offering 25 discount to new memberships! [www.bsi.org](http://www.bsi.org)



Meetings are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month from 7-9 PM at Leu Gardens, 1920 N. Forest Ave, Orlando, FL 32803. You'll enjoy informative programs, Show & Tell, plant sales, refreshments & door prizes. Members also receive a monthly newsletter — all for only \$15 per member, plus \$5 per additional family member (no charge for full-time students). Visitors are always welcome.

**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.

<b>President</b>	<b>Mike Saunders</b>	<a href="mailto:presbyter@cfl.rr.com">presbyter@cfl.rr.com</a>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Marilyn Howser</b>	<a href="mailto:marilynhowser@gmail.com">marilynhowser@gmail.com</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Karen Steinberg</b>	<a href="mailto:steinberg.km@gmail.com">steinberg.km@gmail.com</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Betsy McCrory</b>	<a href="mailto:betsymccrory@aol.com">betsymccrory@aol.com</a>
<b>FCBS Reps</b>	<b>Betsy McCrory &amp; Lisa Robinette</b>	<a href="mailto:lisasbromeliads@hotmail.com">lisasbromeliads@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Editor</b>	<b>Steven Wagner</b>	<a href="mailto:StellaLunaGardens@Yahoo.com">StellaLunaGardens@Yahoo.com</a>
<b>McCrory</b>		
<b>Refreshments</b>	<b>Marilyn Howser</b>	
<b>Librarians</b>	<b>Sudi Hipsley</b>	<a href="mailto:sudii@embarqmail.com">sudii@embarqmail.com</a>



Mailing Betsy



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Bromeliad Society of Central Florida, Inc.  
 PO Box 536961  
 Orlando, FL 32853-6961  
*Address Correction Requested*

**April 2017**  
 Next Meeting Wednesday, April 19, 2017