

orlandiana

**Newsletter of the
Bromeliad Society of Central Florida**

Volume no. 49, Issue no. 5

Next meeting: May 18, 2022

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

CONTENTS

| | |
|-------------------------------|----|
| President's Message..... | 2 |
| January Minutes | 3 |
| List of Upcoming Events | 6 |
| Guest Speaker | 6 |
| Plant of the Month | 7 |
| What is it? | 7 |
| Pictures | 9 |
| Membership form..... | 12 |
| Officers | 13 |

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 photo: *Goudea ospinae gruberi*, courtesy: John Boardman

The President's Message

Well, we pulled it off! For the 47th year, BSCF reached out to the public and put on a show and sale. It was great. It was a celebration of how awesome bromeliads are in all their diversity. There were giant broms. There were little broms. There were blooming broms and twisted broms and spiny broms. There were 58 broms on display. There were only a couple that would have done well in a judged show based on technical points, but they were beautiful and all of them together made a grand display. And, Sandy Caruthers' calligraphy was so elegant that the name signs transformed even the least of the broms on display into a study of Nature.

Although the mall does not draw crowds these days, for three days there was always someone wandering around the display tables, taking photos, making notes and voting for their favorite display plant. Half the plants received a vote and none received more than 4 votes. The public loved them all. Many people learned something about bromeliads. Over 900 handouts with information on growing broms were picked up. I overheard people saying such things as "I didn't know they grew that big". "I've never seen anything like that." There was the usual perplexed comment, "Pineapple is a bromeliad?" One Ananas on display had a softball-sized pineapple with Spanish moss draped on it. That triggered the conversations about pineapples and Spanish moss both being bromeliads. And, no, they are not cactus even if some Dyckias are really spiny. Learning has to start somewhere for each of us.

The bee hive, of course, was the sales tables when we opened on Friday morning. Everyone was kept busy, and many brom-lovers left with big smiles and arms-full of new plants. Folks from St. Petersburg and Vero Beach posted on Facebook about their acquisitions. It always seems there are too many plants and fear that nobody will show up to buy them all. Then the hordes swarm and we worry about getting more plants so people will not be disappointed when they come. Everyone who came seemed to find at least one new brom they could not pass up.

We served our mission of promoting broms and educating the public. There was something for everyone to enjoy. And, that's what it was all about. It was fun, even if folks began to drag as mall hours went into the evening. To everyone who lent a hand, from tackling a major chore, to handling the small task that needed to get done, bringing a brom to display, or hanging around to chat with people who had questions: THANK YOU! Pat yourself on the back. As my granddaddy would have said, "You did good." Hopefully, you also enjoyed it.

Now that we've had the experience of putting on an exhibition oriented toward education, maybe we can improve on the format. Next time, perhaps a member or two could take on a project of doing a table displaying native bromeliads, with a handout about the natives. Possibly someone could do a display table of a couple of parent species and their hybrid offspring, with a handout on hybridizing. The possibilities are endless, and not much work if kept simple. Keeping things simple is the key. Then it can be fun. The focus stays on the broms, not the work.

It's all about having fun while learning, seeing and doing. Mother's Day weekend, people were learning and seeing. For the 47th time, we did it.

Mike McMahon

April Minutes

BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA, INC.

Meeting Minutes

April 20, 2022

President Mike McMahon convened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Tim Dreggors, Vice President and Program Chair, introduced the speaker Marty Folk.

Marty did a very informative presentation on how he cares for his bromeliad collection. He discussed his experience and shared valuable tips, tricks and techniques.

Mike McMahon, President, announced the plants that were available for secret bid auction. Bidding will be done during the break. Phil Wright is coordinating the auction. The selling member will contact the winner directly after the meeting. Mike also reminded everyone to check out all the different *Aechmea nudicaulis* brought in by members for the Plant of the Month tables.

Refreshment break was taken, with a variety of dishes, snacks and desserts provided by members and laid out by Hospitality Coordinator, Joe Ventura.

Business Meeting was called to order by President Mike McMahon at around 8pm.

We welcomed new members and guests.

New Member: Susan Golden and Cheryl Schaad

Guest: Brenda Meeks, Doris Odom and Nora Hezonja

Telka diFate, Librarian and husband John Vecchitto were not in attendance as John was having surgery.

March meeting minutes were published in the Orlandiana Newsletter. No corrections were made and they stand approved as filed. Joe Ventura moved the motion to approve.

Joyce Gibault gave the treasurer's report.

Vice President, Tim Dreggors, announced that Dave Johnston will be the guest speaker for the May meeting.

President Mike McMahon reminded everyone that this year's Mother's Day Bromeliad Sale will be a little different as there will no judged bromeliad show this year. Instead, every participating vendor will be required to show 5 bromeliads in an educational oriented display. Mike Saunders will be handling all vendor related activities while Mike McMahon will coordinate the educational display aspect of this event.

Mike Saunders asked all members who are interested in selling at the Mother's Day sale to get in touch with him. Vendor setup will be between 7-9 pm Thursday, May 5th at the Fashion Square Mall, near the movie theater entrance. The sale will be a 3-day event starting on Friday, May 6th through Mother's day on May 8th, during mall hours. The plants on educational display can we marked for sale but can only be picked up at around 4pm on Sunday.

President Mike McMahon announced that the educational display will be arranged by genus. Neoregelias, Aechmeas, Billbergia, Vrieseas, Guzmanias will have at least one table for each genus. If someone brings in Hechtias or Dyckias, they will be on one table. All members, not just vendors, are encouraged to bring in bromeliads for educational display. Volunteers to assist customers are still needed for this event, please contact Mike if anybody can help out.

President Mike McMahon mentioned that Gregg Kolojeski, the co-chair of the World Bromeliad Conference is not in attendance and was busy organizing the WBC. Volunteers are still needed for the WBC and Mike encouraged members to sign up for it.

If anyone is interested in entering plants to the WBC judged show, contact Mike right after the meeting as he would be communicating this to the WBC. Each plant in the judged show will need a name tag that has to be made in advance.

Karen Steinberg designed the tote bag that we are donating to the WBC as give-aways. Final design approval by WBC is still pending but imminent. Once approved, the tote bags can be ordered.

Right after our June meeting, Leu Gardens will be shutting down the main building for renovations. It will reopen just before the August meeting. For the July meeting, Katherine Vaccaro was able to secure the Orlando Garden Club facility in Loch Haven park. Emails will be sent to all members on the details of the location.

We are still looking for a place to hold the Florida Council meeting on Saturday, June 25. The venue should be able to accommodate up to 35 people and where lunch can be provided. We are running against weddings as competition to event spaces. One option discussed was to hold the meeting in restaurant private rooms, but that is going to cost around \$1,000. If anyone has any other venue ideas, please contact Mike as soon as possible

Mike announced that we need more volunteers for the monthly meeting welcome table.

Joe Ventura will not be able to handle the hospitality table any longer due to health concerns. We need someone to volunteer and take on the hospitality chair role.

Old Business – none.

New Business – none.

President Mike McMahon thanked everyone that brought in *Aechmea nudicaulis* plants to show in the plant of month table.

A few people participated in the show and tell. Dave and Cathy brought in 3 plants, a beautiful *Neoregelia* which they needed help identifying, an *Aechmea aquilegia* “Falkland” variegated (a Skotak cultivar) and a *Wittrockia* “Miranda” (Michael Kiehl hybrid). Steve Beaudoin brought in a smaller *neoregelia* that looks similar to Dave and Cathy’s mystery neo. Tim Dreggors brought in a David Shiigi hybrid, *Vriesea Kilauea* F2. John Boardman showed a nice clump of *Goudea ospinae v. gruberi* and *Neoregelia* “Casoba”.

The meeting concluded with the drawings for door prize and raffle plants donated by members. Every one of the approximate 55 persons attending the meeting received at least one plant, if they wanted one.

Adjourned at 8:55 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Liesl Haas, Secretary

Upcoming Events

World Bromeliad Conference 2022

June 7-11, 2022 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Sarasota. There will be no refunds within 30 days of the start of the conference. For more information: www.bsi.org/new/conference-corner/



Events will include tours of two of the world's leading Bromeliad nurseries ([Michael's Bromeliads](#) and [Tropiflora](#)), a visit to the renowned [Marie Selby Botanical Gardens](#) (with free admission for conference registrants), a number of notable speakers, an opening conference reception and welcome address, a banquet with a rare plant sale and auction, a plant sale with numerous sellers, a fantastic judged plant show, and more.

Guest Speaker

Dave Johnston will be sharing some of his knowledge at our May meeting. He was asked to tell us about himself: 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 36 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.



Plant of the Month

Neoregelia cruenta is endemic to Brazil and is usually found growing amongst the rocky cliffs, sand dunes and restingas in the coastal regions. *Cruenta* is one the few Bromeliads that can grow in direct Florida sun. There are approximately 22 identified cultivars of *cruenta*, several have beautiful different forms of variegation, others can be green with pink tips and or solid red. *Cruenta* also comes in many different sizes. If you have *Neoregelia cruenta* in your collection please bring them to the next meeting as we will have a special table set up for displaying them.

John Boardman

What Is It?

There were some very interesting discussions from last month's, "What Is It?" article. The following lovely bromeliads were suggested as the identity of the unknown *Neoregelia*, or comparable to it. The unknown bromeliad is pictured to the right.



The photo below is from a neighbor's collection and is a *Neoregelia* 'Harlequin'. 1977 (BSI)



Steve Beaudoin brought in a beautiful Neoregelia, (below left), as a comparison for Show & Tell at the March 2022 BSCF meeting. The origin is from Florida, USA, Tropiflora (BSI).



Neoregelia 'Red Band'

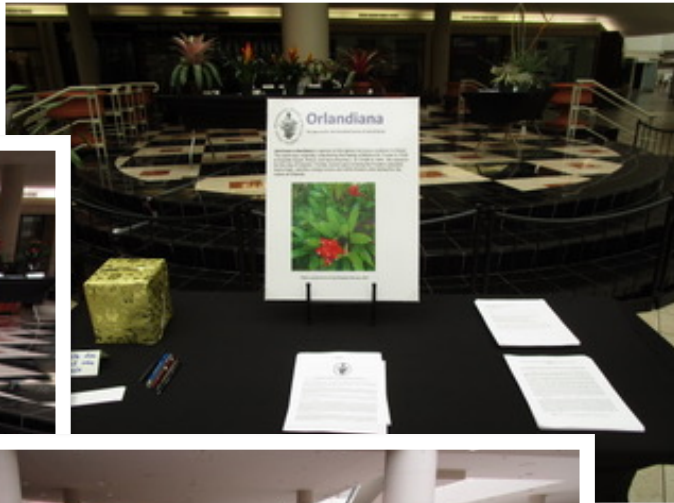
© Michael Andreas
Shown by Betsy McCrory
2003 Mothers Day Show, BSCF

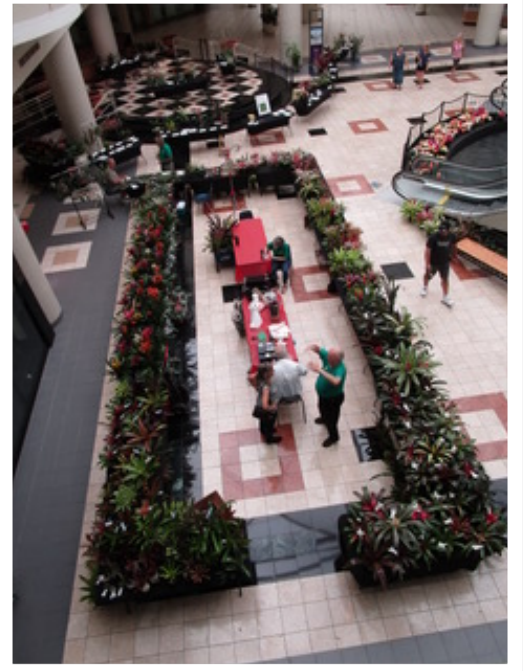
Julia thought that the Neoregelia could be a Neoregelia 'Red Band.' Other 'Red Band' pictures on the web look more like Cathy's but the name may not be from a reliable source.

The "What is it?" bromeliad for May comes from Telka diFate. We purchased this plant last year with a tag on it as "Neoregelia unknown hybrid". It's about 18" across with small purple flowers in the tank. It has developed into a real beauty. We would love to have an idea what it is. Please respond to Telka at: mywc2016@gmail.com.



Pictures







05.05.2022



05.05.2022



22



05.05.2022

2022 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 the 3rd Wednesday of every month, from 6:30-9:00 pm (buy plants from the speaker between 6:30-7pm) at Leu Gardens, 1920 N Forest Ave, Orlando, FL 32803. You'll enjoy informative programs, Show & Tell, plant sales, refreshments, and door prizes. Members also receive a monthly newsletter. Please come join us!

Treasurer: Date _____ Check # _____ Cash \$ _____

Officers

| | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| President | Mike McMahon | michael.mcmahon@akerman.com |
| Vice President | Tim Dreggors | tdreggors@gmail.com |
| Secretary | Liesl Haas | liesl.haas@cfl.rr.com |
| Treasurer | Joyce Gibault | gardengal1022@yahoo.com |
| FCBS Rep..... | Mike McMahon | michael.mcmahon@akerman.com |
| | Mike Saunders..... | presbyter@cfl.rr.com |
| Editor | John Vecchitto..... | lordvec54@gmail.com |
| Hospitality | Joe Ventura | joemaggi98@gmail.com |
| Welcome Table/Raffles..... | Robin Norton | robin407@att.net |
| Librarian | Telka diFate | mywc2016@gmail.com |
| Membership Secretary.... | Marilyn Howser..... | marilynhowser@gmail.com |
| Webmaster | Greg Kolojeski..... | gkolojeski@gmail.com |

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Bromeliad Society of Central Florida, Inc.

PO Box 536961

Orlando, FL 32853-6961

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BromeliadSocietyOfCentralFlorida



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