



# orlandiana

Newsletter of the  
Bromeliad Society of Central Florida  
Volume no. 49, Issue no. 11

## Holiday Edition



**Next meeting: November 16, 2022**

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

**Program officially begins at 6:00 pm**

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Visit the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida Website at:  
[www.bromeliadorslando.com](http://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!

## The President's Message

Well, folks decided I should serve in this position another year. I think the reason is summed up in the old saying, "If it's not broken, don't fix it". But, of course, we all know that when it comes to society jobs, the preferred choice is always somebody else.

There is a problem in the 'don't fix what's not broken' philosophy. It leads to stagnation. People become comfortable with how things are, in doing things a certain way. Slowly, almost imperceptibly, success turns to failure. You are left out in the cold for no reason you can discern. You did things like always.

In 1980 the most highly valued company in the world by market capitalization (how much all the company's stock added together was worth) was IBM. Computers were the future and IBM was 'the company' when it came to computers. Everybody knew that. Now, the most valuable company in the world is Apple. Where is IBM? It isn't even among the top 100. IBM did not tinker with its success. It was comfortable. Nothing was broken.

The countervailing truism is that "there is no worse reason for doing something than that it has always been done". Whenever you hear the words "We've always done it this way", beware. It's great it was done that way in 2010... or 1810 or even 2021. Why are you doing it the same way now? Does it need to be done at all? Sometimes a thing needs fixing before it breaks. In fact, we would all be better off if we could fix everything before anything broke. Things never break at a convenient time. Waiting for something to break invites disaster. The 1990s entrepreneurial philosophy became: "If it's not broke, break it". Yes, break it so you are not in a comfortable rut. In a continually changing world, there must be continual adaptation. In Nature it is evolve or be doomed.

So, what does any of this stuff have to do with BSCF? Well, the same dynamics affect all human endeavors, even a plant club. It is all about staying focused on your goals, and not confusing tasks with goals. You can prepare a great planting bed by digging down 12 inches, turning the soil, and mixing in a cart load of manure and a ton of compost you've spent six months creating. Are you now better able to raise your Tillandsias? Something can be done very well, but if it does not bring you closer to the goal, all the effort was irrelevant. Driving a hundred miles an hour may get a person to their destination quicker than they ever imagined, but it was a waste if they headed toward New Orleans and the goal was to be in Miami.

Over the course of 2022 we have done some things differently. We probably should be doing a whole lot more things differently. A person gets comfortable with a favorite chair and

doesn't see when it is past time to replace it. People will say 'I'm open to change', but then stretch their brains to come up with reasons why not to change.

The broad goals of BSCF have always been to spread knowledge about bromeliads and promote growing them. Embracing change means stretching our minds to come up with ways to accomplish those goals. Let's ask ourselves: Does this need to be done? How does it help spread knowledge about bromeliads? What is a better way? And, remember, there is always a better way. Just look at IBM. Anybody want a selectric typewriter with memory? It's still the best typewriter... If only people wanted typewriters.

Mike

## October Minutes

### **BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA, INC.**

#### **Meeting Minutes**

**October 19, 2022**

A plant sale by speaker Dennis Cathcart preceded the October meeting.

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

Happy 50<sup>th</sup> birthday to BSCF! Eloise Beach and Jim Pierce are the only remaining original members of the BSCF. In recognition of this and as a token of the club's appreciation for their continuous work and support, President Mike McMahon presented them with a 1<sup>st</sup> edition of the BSI Cultural Handbook inscribed by Mulford Foster.

Tim Dreggors, Vice President and Program Chair, introduced Dennis Cathcart, owner and founder of Tropiflora and author of "Koulev, Adventures of an American Snake Hunter". Tim also reminded everyone that there will be no speaker slated for the November meeting as that will be the Holiday Party.

Dennis presented "A Naturalist Visits Cuba", his new program that focused on the bromeliads and reptiles he encountered during his most recent expedition to Cuba. He took part in herpetological surveys that gave him opportunities to explore the different virgin forests of the country not normally visited by tourists. He shared pictures of the wild bromeliads and reptiles he saw thriving in the wild as well as just everyday life in Cuba.

Mike McMahon, President, announced that Dennis Cathcart plants were still available for sale and reminded everyone to check out the *Aechmea orlandiana* bromeliads brought in by

members to the Plant of the Month table in celebration of BSCF's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and the historical items and posters on display. He also suggested members drop by the Advice Table to make suggestions or learn from suggestions of others.

Refreshment break was taken. A Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary cake was made available for members to share.

Business meeting was called to order by President Mike McMahon at around 8pm. Liesl Haas, Secretary, introduced new members and guests:

**New members:**

- Ruth Geniac
- Orlando Diaz
- Mauricio Patino
- Jack Mustacato

**Guests:**

- Ray Roberts
- Phil Hancock
- Tatiana and Felix Blishenko
- Bruce Brazaitis
- Claudia and Wayne Walworth
- Calandra Thurott
- Jack and Kathy Dunlop

The September meeting minutes were approved as published in Orlandiana.

Treasurer Joyce Gibault gave the treasurer's report.

Dave and Cathy Schubert gave a briefing about the upcoming holiday party:

- The holiday party will be held at the November meeting (Nov 16<sup>th</sup>) at 6pm
- A food sign-up sheet was available for members to write down the dish they plan to bring in. There will be Turkey, dressing, gravy, etc.
- A bromeliad gift exchange will be held. Participation is purely voluntary and the suggested plant value is \$20. The bromeliad should be clean and wrapped.

- Each household will receive 1 bromeliad as a gift from BSCF. Members are encouraged to RSVP so as to get an accurate count of plants to get from McCrory's for the plant gifts.

If members want to RSVP, volunteer to assist or have any questions regarding the holiday party, please contact Dave and Cathy Schubert.

President Mike McMahon reminded everyone that BSCF annual membership dues are due in January. Everyone was encouraged to take care of their dues early because there will no December meeting and the Holiday Party was not the time for paying dues. Marilyn was there to take cash or check for anyone who wanted to pay their 2023 dues in advance. He asked members to be prepared to mail in their dues. Anybody who became a member from September 2022 on is already considered prepaid for 2023 and does not owe anything.

We will be participating in the Mead Gardens Growvember sale event, ten members have signed up to sell plants so far. President Mike McMahon expects the sale volume to rival that of the Leu Garden's plant sale. The sellers are expected to wear their BSCF green shirt during the sale. If any of the sellers need a shirt, they were asked to see Marilyn to get one in their size. BSCF green shirts are free for sellers.

Old business – none

New Business – Election of Officers for 2023

Phil Wright together with Katherine Vaccaro, Chair and member of the Nominating Committee respectively, presided over the election to 2023 board member positions. The following are the officers elected for next year:

Treasurer - Joyce Gibault  
Vice President – Tim Dreggors  
Secretary - Katherine Vaccaro  
President – Mike McMahon

Mike McMahon, President, proposed for our club to participate in the Leu Garden Sale in March 2023. Phil Wright made the motion to approve. Mike Saunders will be the chair of the Leu Garden Sale event.

Show and Tell:

David and Cathy Schubert brought in a *Neoregelia* 'Alpha'. This is a cross between a *N. compacta* and *N. tristis* by hybridizer Charles Coolbaugh. This plant was registered in 1969.

John Boardman showed a *Neoregelia* 'Linda Cathcart', he called Linda Cathcart who was in attendance during the meeting to come up beside him as he talked more about the plant. The wonderful neoregelia was hybridized by Chester Skotak and named for Linda Cathcart. The beautiful plant has won "Best in Show" in one of BSCF's shows in the past.

John brought in 3 more gorgeous plants namely:

- *Aechmea chantinii* 'A-1',
- *Aechmea chantinii* 'Fat Boy'
- *Guzmania sanguinea* 'Tricolor'

The meeting concluded with the drawings for door prize and raffle plants donated by members.

Adjourned at 8:55 PM

Respectfully Submitted,  
Liesl Haas, Secretary

## Holiday Party

*Hello Bromeliad Society members!* We hope everyone who came out and purchased lovely bromeliads at the Mead Gardens Growvember event has felt some relief and contentment with feeding their bromeliad addictions. As November and December are the last two months of 2022, the November holiday party will be held on Wednesday, November 16, 2022, which is the last member meeting of the year, and it will conclude the 50th anniversary of the 1972 founding of the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida. The holiday party will begin at **6:00 p.m.** which is one hour earlier than our normal meeting schedule.

*Approximately 70 guests have RSVP'd!* Thanks to everyone for your overwhelming enthusiasm and volunteering for this holiday party. There will be A LOT OF FOOD and a LARGE VARIETY OF FOOD with special family dishes to traditional holiday edibles and plenty of yummy desserts. This will be the first time that more members will be attending the holiday party than the general meetings.

The Bromeliad Society of Central Florida is providing the meat dishes to include turkey with mushroom gravy, ham with pineapple, butterfly shrimp with cocktail sauce, smoked sausage and traditional bread dressing. Since there will be many attendees, we have asked for doubles of same or like dishes, and what a way to sample the various recipes! In all of this FOOD excitement, please remember to bring a serving utensil for your dish and a warming plate, if needed. The holiday party will be kicking off right at the start, so arrive a few minutes early, if possible, to have your dish in place. The dinner will be buffet style with servers serving the first round of meats and hot dishes to help everyone to be served quickly. Second and third trips to the food buffet will be on your own. Any extra food will go home with the guests. The Bromeliad Society will also be providing beverages and ice, paper goods, and plastic ware.

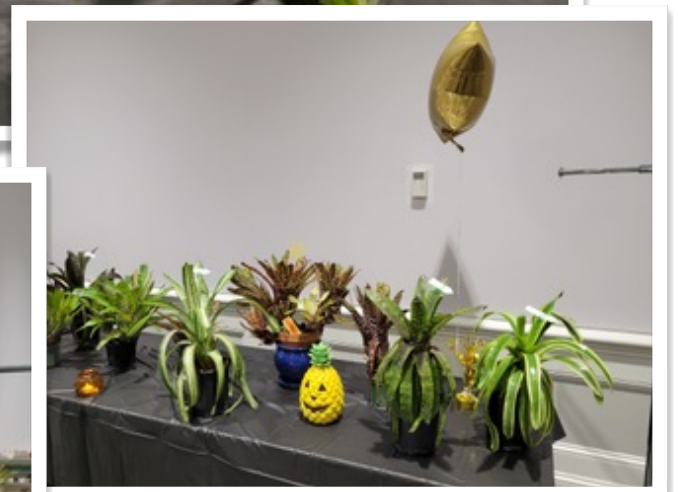
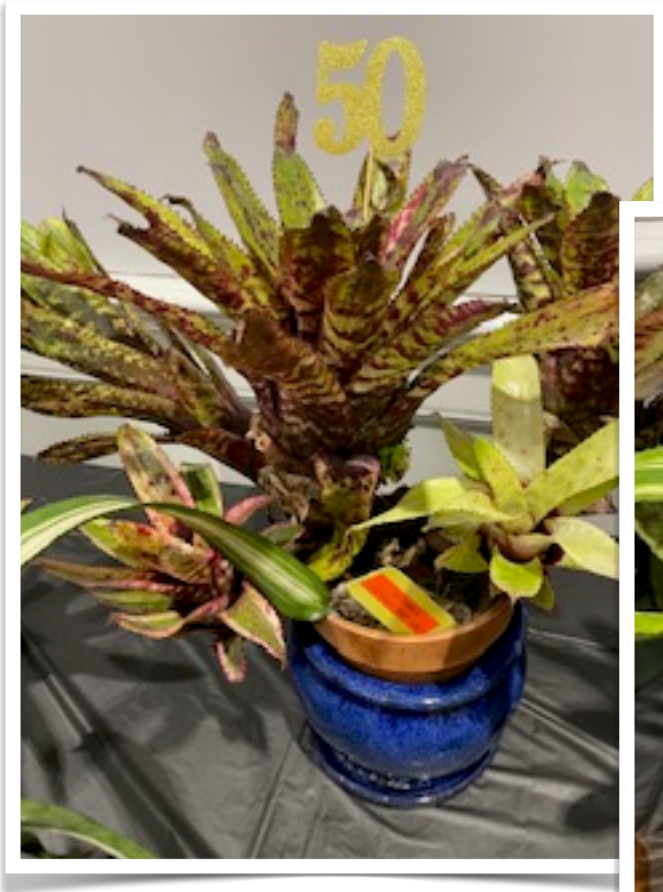
There will be a voluntary bromeliad plant gift exchange for all attendees during the holiday party. If you bring a plant, you will receive a raffle ticket to get a surprise gift plant. If you are going to participate, please wrap the bromeliad to disguise the gift plant. Remember to include a tag with the name of the bromeliad on the inside of the package. You do not need to include your name with the gift, but you are always welcome to do so. Bring a bromeliad that you would really enjoy receiving yourself as a gift. Some of our members took advantage of the recent plant sales opportunities to purchase nice bromeliads (and at great prices) for the plant gift exchange, so there are going to be very special and unique bromeliads in the plant gift exchange that are not common amongst our members' collections.

As a courtesy of the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida, the Bromeliad Society will be providing a gift bromeliad from McCrory's Bromeliad Nursery to each member household. A special thank you goes out to McCrory's for making this possible. So, whether you participate in the plant gift exchange or not, each member household will be going home with a beautiful gift bromeliad. What a wonderful holiday plant to display for your personal upcoming holiday get togethers!

This holiday party will be a time to relax and socialize with your member friends where you can get to know each other a little more and with whom you may not see until the new year at the next members' meeting in January 2023. There will be no agenda, no guest speaker, no plant sales, no show-and-tell, and no plant-of-the-month table. This will be a gathering of socializing, food, fun, and games. Oh, yes, and there will be plant prizes for the game winners. How cool is that??!! So, everyone bring your appetites, bring your food dishes, and bring your plants! ***It's party time! - Cathy and Dave***

# Pictures







Scenes from the Growvember Sale



Scenes from the Growvember Sale





Scenes from the Growvember Sale

## 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.**

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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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Dues are due and payable January 1 and delinquent February 1. One notice of delinquency shall be mailed. Only those who have paid full annual dues, student members and Life members, will receive Society publications and will be listed in the annual FCBS Roster.



Donations to this society are tax deductible in accordance with IRS regulations.

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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.