



ORLANDIANA

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

Volume no. 50, Issue no. 10

Next meeting: October 18, 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 Photo: xSincoregelia 'Ralph Davis' - John Vecchitto

President's Message



October is a month of celebration for BSCF. This year we mark our 51st anniversary. It is a good time to recall all the good things we have accomplished. It is also a good time to consider what needs to be done so we thrive over the decades ahead.

The first step in thinking about a successful future is to decide what it means to be a success. I recently gave a talk at a brom society which is looking at raising dues in order to fund basic operations. They need the money. We have financial reserves sufficient to keep our dues low. It has been so long since we raised dues, people cannot remember when it was. We do not need to charge dues at all, but we still do. That small dues payment signifies commitment. Do our strong finances mean BSCF is a success? I say, "No". It's good that dues stay low so we encourage membership. It's good to have no serious financial concerns. But, having money in the bank is not the purpose of BSCF. Our financial health is not a measure of our success. It is only an indirect consequence.

We should never lose focus. Our purpose is to encourage learning about bromeliads, sharing knowledge about them, introducing more people to the shared addiction and creating opportunities to acquire bromeliads. A true measure of success would be to give all the members a test in January and again at year-end. How much did their bromeliad knowledge quotient increase? Did their brom collections grow? Are our members enjoying more satisfaction in raising their broms? These are real measures of success.

It is natural that when we hold plant sales we focus on how much money was brought in, but the better measure of success is how many people acquired a bromeliad who never grew one before? How many educational handouts were picked up? How many new members did we attract? How many people had conversations with our members teaching about bromeliads? How many saw broms they had never seen before? Were there Neoregelia Nuts who became Catopsis Crazies? These are the things that count.

Our success comes as a result of a lot administrative 'stuff', tasks performed by dozens of members. They did great. Sure, nearly everyone messed up something during the course of the year. There were i's not dotted and t's not crossed. But, that's not important. We all mess up. You do know that the little stuff is just little stuff, don't you? Administrative perfection is not a measure of our success. All those tasks were done well enough if they helped us to do the truly important things... teaching, learning, increasing awareness of bromeliads, spreading knowledge about bromeliads, expanding horizons, making bromeliads fun. That club I mentioned, the one needing to raise dues to make ends meet? They'll find a way to

make things work out. The members at the talk I gave had tons of questions. They eagerly acquired new broms. They brought in bunches of broms for everyone to see and share. There was enthusiasm for all things having to do with bromeliads, and their membership is growing. That's success.

As BSCF begins a New Year of its existence, take a moment to reflect. Just a few seconds. Do you know more because of something BSCF did this year? Has your interest in bromeliads broadened? Are your broms growing better for you? Did you share your experience with someone? Did you get introduced to bromeliads by something BSCF did? The more who answer "yes", the greater our success. Fulfilling our mission, that's success. Understanding what that means allows us to plan to succeed over the decades ahead.

Let us thank all the folks who lent a hand along the way doing all those tasks, big and little, that made it possible to pursue the mission the founders of BSCF set for us. Without each person's contribution, from creating a form, to helping a speaker, bringing a snack to a meeting, making a bank deposit and so much else, our reach would have been less. Our success would have been less.

Happy Anniversary, BSCF!

Mike McMahon



September Minutes

BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA, INC.

Meeting Minutes

September 20, 2023

Program: President Mike McMahon introduced speaker Bill Clark, who gave a presentation about the greenhouse he built. As bromeliad lovers, having a controlled space is something that we can all enjoy.

A Member's Market was well appreciated, along with a table displaying our plant of the month, the genus *Dyckia*.

The Business Meeting was called to order by President Mike McMahon at 8:00 pm. Mike found a clever way to call us to order and get us in our seats by randomly calling out a seat to pick a plant from the door prize table.

New Members and Guests: We welcomed guest Jonathan Skotak.

Minutes: The minutes of the August, 2023 meeting were published in the *Orlandiana*. A motion was made by Joyce Gibault and seconded by Paula Edwards that they be approved. The motion passed.

Treasurer's report: Joyce Gibault reported on our income and expenses for August. We continue to have healthy reserves in both our checking and money market accounts.

Holiday Party report: Teresa Eddy encouraged everyone to volunteer for tasks for our November party and gift exchange. Gift exchange plants should be valued at no less than \$20. Bring your gifts wrapped. We also need to know the total guests planning to attend, so we can order gift and centerpiece plants from McCrory's. Teresa also gave dates for her Fall class and Christmas classes. Contact Teresa if you are interested

President's Report:

Mike called on Julia Jensen from the Nominating Committee, who encouraged people to consider holding officer positions. A slate will be voted on in October.

Tillandsia utriculata: Numerous seedlings donated by Neil Sweetman, a native plant enthusiast, were made available. These are established small seedlings on Beauty Berry branches. Mr. Sweetman's goal is to have them spread around the region to overcome the devastation of the 'evil weevil'. Available for pick up on the Advice Table. Thanks to Katrina Kruse for putting us in contact with Mr. Sweetman. He posted in our Facebook Group and Katrina followed up to make this distribution possible.

There was no **Old Business**.

New Business: We will participate in the Mead Garden Growvember Sale, 11/10 & 11. Members must either bring their own tables to set up or put plants on the ground. The procedure is two plant tags so that the cashier can pull one of the tags.

Show & Tell Telka DiFate brought a beautiful Neoregelia 'Flame On.' John Boardman brought three Neo Skotak hybrids, including a new unnamed hybrid. Mike McMahon brought tills.

Door Prize/Raffle giveaways rounded out the evening.

Respectfully submitted,
Julia Jenson for Recording Secretary Katherine Vaccaro

Upcoming Events

GROWvember AT MEAD GARDEN

BSCF is once more participating in Mead Garden's Fall Festival. All members are able to sell bromeliads at this event, but let Mike McMahon know if you want to sell bromeliads so space can be arranged. He will send you the information you need to get your plants ready.

All members will want to check out the sale. Last year there were way over a thousand plants for sale. Brom-a-holics came from as far away as Tampa, Vero Beach, St. Augustine and Ocala because there were so many broms not usually found for sale. With Brom Crazies coming from all over, the folks selling are saving up special plants just for the Mead Garden sale. There will be some truly rare varieties, and there will be plenty in all price ranges. BSCF has worked to make the Fall Mead Garden sale as big as any brom sale in the area, and it is catching on. Plus, there will be numerous nurseries and specialty growers with booths... orchids, ferns, begonias and all sorts of exotic plants, trees and shrubs.

There is going to be something for everyone. Don't miss out! Mark your calendar.

WHERE: Mead Botanical Garden, 1300 S. Denning Drive, Winter Park, FL 32789

WHEN: Friday, November 10 (2:00 PM to 6:00 PM) and Saturday, November 11 (8:00 AM to 4:00 PM) (Those are the official times. We'll actually be ready by Noon on Friday for the brom-addicted. 😊)

Nov. 10
2 - 6 P.M.

Nov. 11
8 A.M. - 4 P.M.

FALL PLANT SALE AND MORE!

Mead Botanical Garden
1300 S. Denning Dr.
Winter Park, FL 32789

FREE ENTRY

FREE PARKING

VARIETY OF PLANTS

SPEAKERS & WORKSHOPS

KIDS ACTIVITIES

FOOD, MUSIC & BEER GARDEN

Visit MeadGarden.org
for more information!

MEAD BOTANICAL GARDEN

Marilyn's Garden

Raccoons, cute or not ???



Very young raccoons playing in the bromeliads a few years ago.



A young raccoon in the tree.



The same raccoon coming down the tree. Can you see it?



And the same young raccoon eating a Neoregelia 'Shelldance'!

I have lived in my home in Orlando for 31 years and never had a problem with nuisance raccoons until May 2023. Since then I have had 9 nuisance raccoons relocated. I haven't even counted the Neoregelias I have had to throw out. Here are pictures of some of the damage raccoons have done...



These pics are from Marty Folk who also had an issue with raccoons this summer.

I have learned raccoons basically don't like bromeliads with prickly spines. They like Neoregelias that are blooming.

Steve Hoppin wrote this:

I agree with your comments. The maturing button of the blooming Neoregelia is the meaty portion they are directly attracted to, rip out, and eat. The more ripe the bloom, the more attractive they are to the critter. I experienced many damaged Neos when living in North Fort Myers, Fla.

Bob Smedley wrote:

They ripped my porch screen then came into the house through the kitty door. They were eating the cat food in the kitchen.

My cousin, who lives close to Buffalo NY, told me a raccoon entered a lady friend of hers home through a doggie door. That raccoon bit the lady, her son and their dog. That raccoon had rabies so everyone bitten had to get rabies shots and be quarantined.

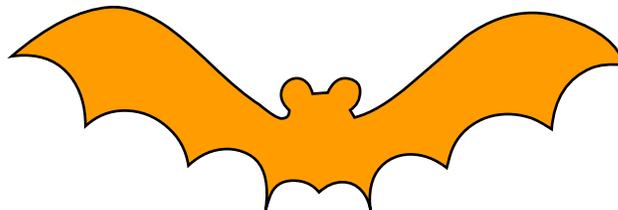
Last year a female raccoon gave birth to her young in one of my neighbors attic.

Nuisance wildlife management

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

[Wild animals that can qualify as a nuisance include¹²³⁴:](#)

- Raccoons
- Squirrels
- Skunks
- Rats
- Mice
- Snakes
- Birds
- Bats



If a wild or feral animal is a nuisance to the neighborhood, you should call animal control⁵. Nuisance wildlife may be damaging property such as buildings, crops, pets, livestock, gardens, or public parks, or may threaten human health or safety by spreading diseases or through direct attacks².

Guest Speakers



Our guest speakers for September will be Lee Magnuson along with Jonathan Lallier.

Lee has been collecting, growing and hybridizing bromeliads for over 13 years. Lee is a Member of Bromeliad Society International, current member and President of Bromeliad Society of the Palm Beaches. He was also a vendor at 2022 World Bromeliad Conference in Sarasota.



Jonathan is the owner of Brilliant Bromeliads along with his wife Nikole. They will be speaking on "Brilliant Bromeliads I Have Known And Loved".

Plant of the Month

The October Plant of the Month is '**Halloween Bromeliads**'. Any bromeliad can be the Plant of the Month, if **you** make it qualify. Turn a bromeliad into a **Halloween Bromeliad** by dressing it up. Give a simple plant real spark with sparkly Halloween decorations. Create a bromeliad Halloween-themed centerpiece. Dress your brom in a costume. Use a Halloween theme decorative pot. Create a seasonal arrangement in a vase using brom inflorescences, foliage, dried material and Halloween décor.



Courtesy: John Boardman



Your imagination is the only limit. Be as creative as you wish!

There will be a '**People's Choice**' winner selected by secret ballot. Each **Halloween Bromeliad** will be assigned a number. All members can cast a ballot by writing the name of their favorite **Halloween Bromeliad** on a piece of paper & placing in the ballot box. The entry with the most votes will

be the winner... and get a \$25 bromeliad purchased from our speaker in advance of the meeting. The Welcome Table folks will count the ballots. John Boardman will select the prize plant & it will be on display during the meeting.

All participating get to be first up to select door prize plants.

Francisco Oliva Books

Eloise Beach has made available through Florida Council some Francisco Oliva books at a deep discounted price. Rather than have interested BSCF members email their orders to the Florida Council rep handling it, and then the books getting shipped around, you can email Mike McMahon & Eloise will bring any ordered books to our October meeting (or when mutually convenient). You can pay her direct. These are high quality hardcover books with beautiful color photographs.

The quantity is limited and are being sold on a first come basis. (The Mountain Plants of Venezuela is available through Amazon as a used book for \$229. Save \$209 & get it new, too.)

Books are great gifts!

2023 FCBS SPECIAL – LOW LOW PRICES

By **Francisco Oliva - Caracas, Venezuela**

Mountain Plants of Venezuela Orig \$119- Now \$20

Bromeliaceae III (Green Book) Orig \$95- Now \$15

Bromeliaceae III (Spanish) Orig \$95- Now \$10

Chiggers & Spanish Moss

I cannot begin to say how many times I have had people tell me that they hate Spanish Moss because it hosts chiggers. They will tell me that they have their oaks sprayed with copper to kill the Spanish Moss so chiggers do not have a place to live. No matter how much I tell them chiggers live on the ground, not in Spanish Moss, they refuse to believe me. Their mothers, grandmothers and probably their long gone great-great-grandmothers said chiggers lived in it, so they must. Well, those stories were wrong. Having suffered from chiggers plenty enough in my younger days of exploring shady wetlands to find Osmunda ferns and other natural wonders, if Spanish Moss hosted chiggers, I'd want to kill it too. Chiggers, a/k/a Red Bugs (as in Red Bug Lake Rd. in Seminole County), like moist humusy ground. There they lie in wait for any passing creature, jump on board and burrow into the skin. The itching is horrible and continues for days. You can find chiggers in Spanish Moss that has fallen on the ground where chiggers are already living, but you'll not find those pests in the streamers of moss hanging

up in the trees. I have wished I had something I could hand out to folks to convince them that killing Spanish Moss was not going to solve a chigger problem. Now I do. I came across an item on the website of the Gainesville Bromeliad Society referencing scientific articles on the subject: Rosenfeld, A.H. 1911, "Insects and Mites in Spanish Moss", Journal of Economic Entomology 4: 398-309; Whitaker Jr., J. & Ruckdeschel, C. (2010), "Spanish Moss, The Unfinished Chigger Story", Southeastern Naturalist. 9 (1): 85-94. So, if someone tells you the Spanish Moss in your tree hosts red bugs, you can set them straight.

Mike McMahon

Snacks

October will be a special month and meeting! It will be the 51st Anniversary of our society. We should all be proud of this and we will celebrate with a delicious cake. Thank you Marilyn for ordering this.

Now, for our treats, Halloween is a scary day. Fright and fear is to be expected. Try to incorporate some scary elements in your treat---like baked finger cookies with almonds dyed in red for nails, red dye on eggs. Use your creativity and keep on bringing the food.

All of you have been so generous in your contributions and the membership has enjoyed your donations! See you in October for cake, fright and fear!!



Holiday Party

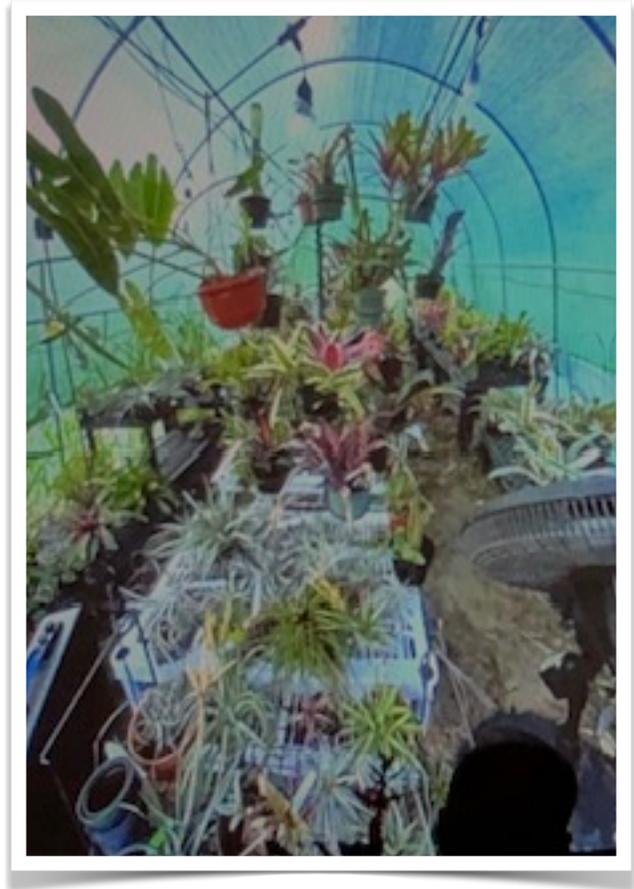
Holiday Party Sign-Up: There will be a table next to the Welcome Table for folks to RSVP that they will be attending the Holiday Party in November and sign-up for helping with the various tasks. We base food requirements on how many say they are coming, and the Society buys florist quality gift plants from McCrory's Bromeliads for all attending. We need to know how many are coming to place our order.

Pictures





Member Bill Clark presented the October program: Building A Greenhouse in Your Backyard



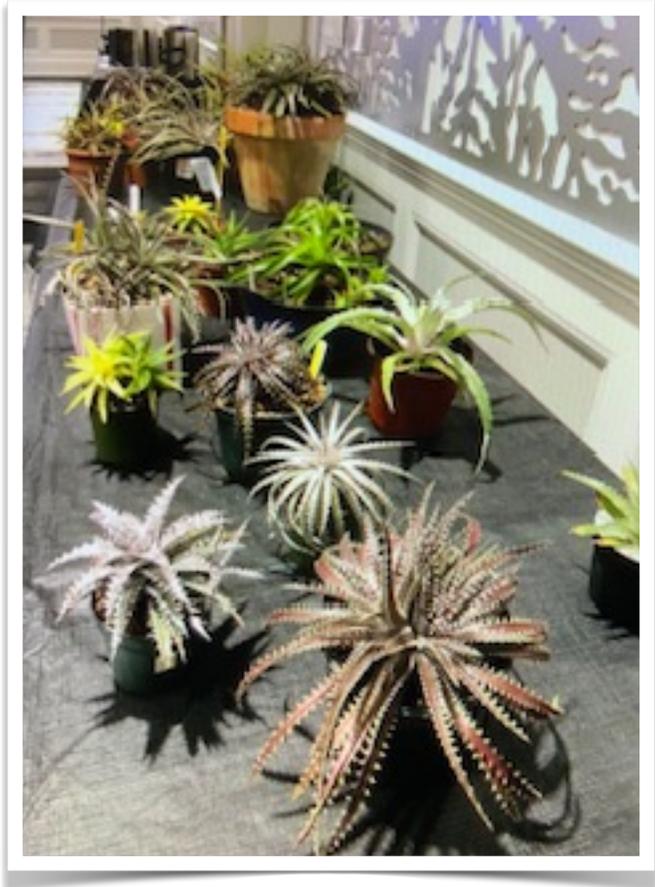
Inside Bill Clark's greenhouse.



Dyckia 'Tito'

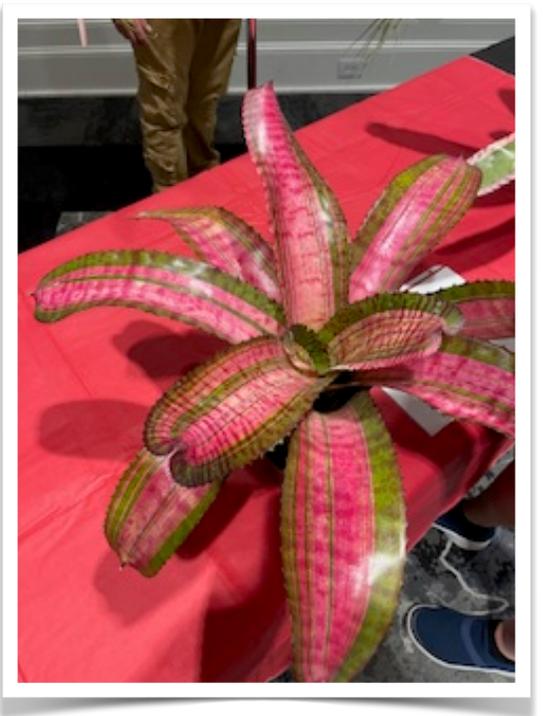


Dyckia 'California', a Bill Baker Hybrid



Jonathan Skotak from Costa Rica, son of Chester & Lorena Skotak, was in town for an internship at Deroose Plants in Apopka, FL.

September Plant of the Month was the genus *Dyckia*.



John Boardman, Pam Marion, Jonathan Skotak



Neoregelia 'Flame On'



Dyckia 'Slick Willie', a Greg Spak hybrid



2024 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

Permission to reprint is granted with acknowledgment. Please send all correspondence to the address below:

Bromeliad Society of Central Florida, Inc.

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Orlando, FL 32853-6961

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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.