



Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society

President: Greg Kolojeski
Vice Pres.: Sudi Hipsley
Secretary: Paula White
Treasurer: Sudi Hipsley
Librarian: Ginny Fortenese
Plant Sales: Alan Bennett
Publicity: Marty Folk
Hospitality: Brunilda Wicker
Landscape: Barbara Whittier
FCBS Reps: Sudi Hipsley & Greg Kolojeski
Website: <http://bromeliads.club>

Copyright © 2017, Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society, All Rights Reserved.

40th Year Anniversary: 1977-2017

October 2017 Newsletter

Meeting Announcement:
Sunday, Oct. 15, 2017 at 2 PM
200 Fairmont Dr., Sanford

Our October meeting features Prem Subrahmanyam with his presentation: **Orchids in Our Backyard: Florida's Wild Orchids.**



Copyright © 2008-2014, Prem Subrahmanyam. All Rights Reserved.

Prem's presentation will include stunning photography, detailed information and anecdotal stories. He will bring a number of high-quality matted photographic prints for sale. Be sure to check out his [Florida's Native and Naturalized Orchids website](#) which includes 377 photos!

Please bring your plants for Show & Tell and donate your extra ones to the raffle table to benefit our society.

There will be a member sale at the October meeting with members able to bring up to 5 plants each for a silent auction (10 plants for dual memberships).

Diane Corrao will be providing the refreshments for the October meeting.

Prem Subrahmanyam bio

I have been studying Florida's native orchids for approximately 30 years. I have, over the past few years, been giving presentations on my experience with native orchids at native plant and orchid societies all across the state of Florida.

A true Florida native, I was born and raised in the Tallahassee, Florida area, where I have lived most of my adult life. I have since become a resident of the Orlando area, moving here in 2005. When I'm not at home spending time with my family, out photographing native orchids, growing my own collection of (legally purchased) orchids, developing my orchid-related websites, collecting fossils or geocaching, I make my living as a software engineer, primarily in the field of 3d simulation and video game development. I am also a graphic designer and 3-d computer animator. Perhaps my most widely seen animations are in the series "Florida, the Outdoor Adventure" and "Florida Takes to the Trails", both of which have aired on PBS nationally. I have also worked on or contributed to TV effects shots for many broadcast and film productions.

I became interested in orchids in a rather atypical way. While I always thought their flowers are pretty, there didn't seem to be anything more special about them than, say, a lily or a rose. It wasn't until as a young teen when I read an article in National Geographic on orchids that my eyes became opened to the uniqueness of this family of plants. I was intrigued by all the clever ways these flowers attract and often trick their pollinators into servicing their needs. I read about orchids that nearly drown their would-be pollinator in a bucket of sticky fluid before allowing them to escape right beneath the pollen. I read about the bee orchids that mimic females of a species well enough that male bees will often show a preference for the flower! On it went, parading a number of wild and wonderful shapes before my eyes. When I was done, I had completely fallen in love with this group of flowers.

President's Message

October Meeting

It has been awhile since we had a meeting. We had the plant sale in August and September's meeting was cancelled in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma. We have a first-time speaker for a SBTPS meeting this month and we have heard great things about his presentations. Prem is an expert on Florida native orchids and is a great photographer. As enjoyable as Bromeliad presentations can be, it is a nice break to have an excellent speaker on a different topic.

Silent Auctions at October Meeting

We will have a member sale at the October meeting with the sales proceeds, as usual, going to the member who offers the plants for sale. However, we are going to try something new. The sale will be in the form of silent auctions with two variations. We will have different tables with different closing times. Each member can bring up to 5 plants for the silent auction. Dual memberships are for two members, so each of those members may bring 5 plants each.

Our newsletter email will include two silent auction forms. One form will be for the usual silent auction where bidders write the bid on the form and everyone can see what the highest bid is. We suggest that most of the plants offered be shown on these forms. A second form will be for a *blind silent auction*. Each *blind silent auction* form will be accompanied by an envelope in which a bidder may place a bid. Therefore, you will not be able to see what the other bidders have done! We suggest that each member offer one plant in the *blind silent auction* format.

We recommend bringing a variety of plants for the silent auctions. They need not all be pricey plants, but may be at any price level you desire. You should set a starting bid (maybe 1/3 to 1/2 the actual value?).

Bromeliad Collectors are Different

How much do Bromeliad collectors value their collections? The answer is: quite a bit! With the approach of Hurricane Irma, one of our members set up instant shelving in his garage using plywood sheets and concrete blocks. And he moved the two family cars out to fend for themselves! Although seven trees came crashing down, the two cars survived undamaged.

Another collector spent two days bringing in as many plants as he could into the family room inside the house. Then, after the hurricane passed and much of the debris was removed, he finally found enough clear space to set up those two outdoor wine racks he had bought earlier in the year at a Renninger's event in Mt. Dora.

Who are these peculiar wonderful people? Your fellow members, of course! Their identities will be revealed at the October meeting.

**November 17th Meeting: Jay Thurrott
Mounting Bromeliads**

Business Matters for October Meeting

Two business matters are scheduled for a vote at this month's meeting: a Charitable Policy and a Refreshment Policy. We will be emailing info on this again before the meeting. It is hoped that we may have quick votes on these matters after short discussions. ---Greg Kolojeski



Instant shelving with plywood & concrete blocks



Wine racks converted to plant stands