



# Orlandiana

Newsletter of the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida

Volume No. 32      Issue No. 02      February 2006

**Next Meeting: Monday, February 27, 2006**

**Where: Leu Gardens, 1920 N. Forest Ave. Orlando**

**6:30 PM Refreshments S – Z & A – C Member Market**

**7:00 PM Meeting Begins**

## **February Speaker**

James (Jay) Thurrott has been employed with the City of Daytona Beach for over 30 years as chief chemist and, most recently, as manager for the Daytona Beach water utility system. He has been growing bromeliads since the 70's and, although not a charter member (he missed the first meeting), he has been a longtime active member of the Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society (FECBS). Jay has served as secretary, vice president and president in his local society and is the FECBS newsletter editor. He has served as their representative to the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies for many years and is currently Vice-chairman to that organization. Also active in local garden club activities, he is a past president of the Halifax Council of Garden Clubs (a consortium of 7 garden clubs in the Daytona Beach area) and is currently on their board of trustees. Jay grows over 500 varieties of bromeliads in Port Orange and in addition to serving on the Board of Directors for the Bromeliad Society International, is a BSI accredited bromeliad show judge.

Jay will be taking us to South Florida via a PowerPoint presentation where we will see the operations of one of the growers, including the process of forcing blooms, plus a tour of one of the southern gardens. Be sure to come and enjoy the trip to *warm* South Florida!

## **Membership Dues Are Due!**

Membership dues for 2006 are now due. You don't want to miss a single issue of our excellent newsletter or any of the informative programs scheduled for the New Year. If you have any questions, please see or call the Treasurer Betsy McCrory. Work (407) 859-4390 or Home (407) 348-2139 after 7pm.

**DUES ARE DUE!**

If you have not paid your due yet, now is the time. All dues need to be paid by the end of this month. If you need a 2006 Membership Form please see Betsy at the meeting.

## Bob's Rambling

Today I had to go out and cover up my vulnerable plants; I was really hoping to go through the winter without having to do that. Actually, if I didn't have family visiting in a couple weeks I probably would have stayed in, out of the cold and gotten around to pruning off the frozen parts later on. It's kind of ironic that with all the time we spend sweating over bugs and other nuisances that a few days of cold can cause much more havoc with our plants. Here's hoping that everyone comes through the cold weather as well as possible.

I hope everyone is giving their sweetheart a nice red bromeliad for Valentine's Day. I sure hope I get one.

Gary Signs our Vice President and Program Coordinator has been working hard to fill up the program schedule and he has to call on a lot of resources, some of which are not very cooperative. We keep asking and no one volunteers much assistance about what kind of programs to plan and even worse some of you that are capable of presenting programs have turned us down, interesting. Finding Speakers who are willing to travel very far with today's gas prices has presented even more of a problem. Help us out, give us some ideas.

We really appreciate Russ Greg taking on the Chairmanship of the Leu Gardens Plant Sale. Yes, is the word he needs to hear when he asks you to help out with the different responsibilities? Betsy McCrory will be looking for your help with the Mother's Day Show also, so remember the good word YES.

It was nice to hear that everyone is happy with the Member's Market. More of you should bring in plants to sell or trade. I know everyone thinks that it is just a sale but trading or bartering is just as good. Other than the generosity of Dorothy Mahler, recently we don't seem to have anyone bringing in plants for the Silent Auction Table anymore. What if we tie together a Silent Auction Plant together with the refreshment assignments in the newsletter? Hopefully you all will be checking the newsletter in anticipation of your turn. Thank you.

Be thinking about if the State should volunteer to host the 2008 World Conference; it seems to be building up a head of steam. It is a difficult task to consider but there seems to be some interest and if so, should the Central Florida Bromeliad Society take a lead role in it?

Bob Steven



### **Welcome**

#### **New Members:**

Cathy and Neil Christie-Mount Dora  
David Kayo-Orlando  
Susan Ruble-Geneva

#### **Welcome Back!**

Dean Fairchild-Apopka  
Craig Allen-Apopka  
Mary Rogers-Melbourne Beach

## **Out and About with Pam Flesher**

### **March 4 & 5**

Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay  
"A Patchwork of Bromeliads" Show and Sale  
Tampa Federation of Garden Clubs, 2629 Bayshore Blvd., Tampa  
Hours: Saturday: 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM Sunday: 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM  
Contact Tom Wolfe 813-961-1475

### **March 16-19**

Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society "Everybody's Flower Show"  
Daytona Beach Ocean Center, 101 N. Atlantic Ave., Daytona Beach  
Hours: 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM (Sunday until 4:00 PM)

### **March 25 & 26**

Bromeliad Society of Central Florida  
Harry P. Leu Gardens Spring Plant Sale, 1920 Forest Avenue, Orlando  
Hours: Saturday 8:00 AM (Garden members only admitted) 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM Sunday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM  
[www.leugardens.org](http://www.leugardens.org) or 407-246-2620

### **March 31 - April 2**

Tropiflora Spring Festival, 3530 Tallevast Road. Sarasota  
Hours: Friday and Saturday 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Sunday 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM  
For information: 941-351-2267 or [www.tropiflora.com](http://www.tropiflora.com)

### **April 1**

Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society, Master Gardeners Sale  
Volusia County Fair Grounds State Road 44, just off I-4  
Hours: 9:00 AM – till? (half day only)

### **April 8**

BSCF field trip to McCrory's Sunny Hill Nursery

### **April 9**

Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society, Annual Bromeliad Bonanza  
Blossom World Gardens, 4225 Bloom Lane, Sanford  
Hours: 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM Contact: Bud Martin at 321-363-7351  
Public is invited. Admission is free

### **April 22 & 23**

Bromeliad Society of South Florida Annual Show and Sale  
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens, 10901 Old Cutler Road, Miami  
Show Chairman: Robert Meyer, 305-668-3344  
Commercial sales: Peter Kouchalakos, 305-461-2367  
Contact the Gardens or the show chairman for hours and admission.

### **April 29 & 30**

Apopka Foliage Festival  
Kit Land Nelson Park in Apopka on Park Ave. ¼ mile north of Hwy. 441  
Hours: 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM Free Admission  
Local nurseries will be selling their blooming plants and other foliage with an Arts and Craft Show also in the park. Plant sitting available while you walk through the show.  
Bus tours both days to local nurseries.  
Information: 407-886-0155



# Growing Alcantarea Species: Illustrating Terrie Bert's Article

by Karen Andreas

In the February issue of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies newsletter, Terrie Bert wrote an article on the genus *Alcantarea*. Since the Council newsletter does not have pictures, I thought it would be fun to provide some illustration in our newsletter. Even better yet, BSCF member John Boardman's *Alcantarea imperialis* has bloomed and below you will find the picture of his remarkable bromeliad. With the exception of John's photograph, these pictures come from the web site of the Florida Council, fcbs.org.

If you did not receive a copy of the Florida Council newsletter, there will be some available at the meeting.



BSCF Society member John Boardman, and the *Alcantarea imperialis* he is growing in his yard. John acquired this plant as a 6 inch seedling from at one of our Societies Mother's Day Shows at the Florida mall. John has been growing this plant for approximately 9 to 10 years. This large bromeliad began blooming last May and is still in flower. John is famous for growing bromeliads that make you go wow!



"Most [*Alcantarea*] are very large (3-5 feet in diameter at full size) and have brightly colored, or white and green inflorescences that are spectacular - up to 7-8 feet tall, with multiple branches." *A. edmundoi*. ↑ Photo by Dr. Peter Sack.

← "*Alcantarea* have] lovely three-petaled, yellow or white flowers with long protruding stamens." *Al. nevaesii*. Photo by Luiz Felipe Nevaes de Carvalho. ↓



"I grow them in my yard, in full sun or partial shade, and in a shade house, sitting high above all other plants." ↪ A. *extensa*. Photo by Peter Tristram.

"They eventually become so heavy that the bases lean and press against the edge of the pot... Sometimes I also need to counterbalance the base of the plant by putting a brick or two... on the side opposite the plant base." A. *heloisae*. → Photo by Jason Grant.



"Several large species available for cultivation are cold-tolerant, easy to grow, and spectacular (e.g., *A. imperialis*, *A. odorata*, *A. extensa*, *A. brasiliiana*, *A. vinicolor*, and *A. heloisae*)."



*A. odorata*. Photo by Ken Marks.



*A. vinicolor*. Photo by Michael Schmale and Lynn Fieber

## ***Aechmea lamarchei***

Eloise Beach and Jim Pearce donated the large blooming *Aechmea lamarchei* plants on the January raffle table. *Ae. lamarchei* is a great cold hardy bromeliad for the yard. You may already have *Aechmea lamarchei* growing in your collection as *Aechmea chlorophylla*. Harry Luther of the BSI's Bromeliad Identification Center (Sarasota) swears they fit *Ae. lamarchei* best. This is just an ID change to a plant that has been in cultivation for a very long time. There is also a green form of *Ae. lamarchei*. (It is a variable species.)

The "botanists" are always coming up with new information to justify re-classification of some species. It will always be that way. It's tough for hobby growers to keep all the names straight.

A helpful reference can be found at [fcbs.org](http://fcbs.org) under

Classification/Taxonomy:

[\*\*SYNONYMS OF BROMELIAD SPECIES\*\*](#)

this web page lists name changes.



Photograph taken by Michael Andreas & courtesy of [fcbs.org](http://fcbs.org)

[\*\*AN ANNOTATED CATALOGUE OF THE GENERIC NAMES OF THE BROMELIACEAE\*\*](#) is available to BSI members. As a member you can access Harry Luther's latest BINOMIAL LIST thru the BSI web site, with all the latest valid names (up to that date). This is a great reference for spelling and to find valid species names.

Don't forget to get your pencil out and change those plant tags! And don't forget to join (or renew your subscription) to The Bromeliad Society International!

## **Bromeliad Society International**

### **BSI FACT**

The Bromeliad Society Int'l publishes its colorful 48-page *Journal*, 6 times per year. You can keep up-to-date on the latest bromeliad research, cultural practices, nomenclature changes and bromeliad-related events staged by affiliated societies throughout the world.

### **BSI "Members Only" Benefits**

Members of the **Bromeliad Society Int'l** who have internet access can view the current Membership Directory listing contact information for all current BSI members on the **[bsi.org](http://bsi.org)** web site. Periodic updates are posted. Also members may access the current Bromeliad Binomial List compiled by Harry Luther listing all currently recognized species. This is an excellent way to keep up with nomenclature changes and correct spelling of names. Back issues of the *Journal* are also available online.

The user ID for the "Members Only" area is listed on the inside back cover in the current issue of the *Journal*.

### **JOIN the BSI – only \$30 per year**

Receive 6 colorful *Journals* from the Bromeliad Society Int'l and keep up with the latest bromeliad news, events & discoveries. You can join online at **[bsi.org](http://bsi.org)**

# Harry P. Leu Gardens Spring Plant Sale    March 25 & 26, 2006

The Leu Gardens Plant Sale is fast approaching. Society members may sell bromeliads at the society's booth. The people that visit this sale are SERIOUS, they arrive early and they bring wagons that they fill with their purchases!

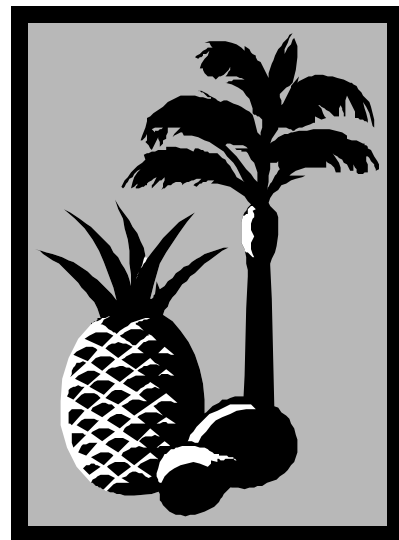
This is a fun sale to work, and we need volunteers.

Hours: Saturday 8:00 AM (Garden members only admitted) 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM Sunday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

## Alcantarea

Y U K E E X P G R A G M U T L  
H E D M U N D O I L N H R R K  
J E R C B W L Z A V I I C O Z  
A B L U F O R Z E G I R G I L  
N L P O C O I C P E S P G E H  
A J C I I O I U Q N E W O I R  
P N N A U S I L A I R E P M I  
L I A A N O A E H C A N C H M  
V P N E F T X E T U V A Q N M  
H A K I T T A Z I L E H A P B  
P W N F E R P R V A N O Q X N  
E P G N A I A L E T H U R E U  
A L S K S I L U O A K M R C Y  
H A T A R O D O D A B I I U A  
C N J X Y T Q R F O W I I L J

ALCANTAREA  
DUARTEANA  
EDMUNDOI  
EXTENSA  
GENICULATA  
GLAZIOUANA  
HELOISAE  
IMPERIALIS  
NAHOUMII  
NEVARESII  
ODORATA  
REGINA  
VINICOLOR



**The Bromeliad Society of Central Florida, Inc. was formed in 1972 to encourage the exchange of information concerning the culture, identification and hybridization of the plant family *Bromeliaceae*; to promote & maintain public interest in bromeliads and to assist in the preservation of all bromeliads for future generations.**



Meetings are held the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of every month from 7-9 PM at Harry P. Leu Gardens, 1920 N. Forest Avenue in Orlando. For directions: 407.246.2620 or [www.leugardens.org](http://www.leugardens.org). You'll enjoy informative programs, Show & Tell, plant sales, refreshments & door prizes. Members also receive a monthly newsletter — all for only \$10 per member, plus \$2 per additional family member (no charge for full-time students). Visitors are always welcome.



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.

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.



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February 2006

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6:30 PM Refreshments S – Z & A – C  
 6:30 PM Member Market  
 7:00 PM Meeting Begins  
 Speaker: Jay Thurrott

