



Orlandiana

Newsletter of the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida

Volume No. 32

Issue No. 06

June 2006

Next Meeting: Monday, June 26, 2006

6:30 pm Refreshments

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

& Member Market

7:00 pm Meeting Starts

Refreshments & Silent Auction Plant, Members O – Z

This Month's Speaker - Phillip Hamilton - Orchids

Mothers Day Show

May 12-14, 2006

Number of entries in Category I – Horticulture: 79

Number of entries Category II – Artistic: 5

Number of ribbons: Award of Merit (95-100 points) 44

Blue Ribbons (90-95 points) 34

Red 6

Number of Exhibitors: 17

Bromeliad Society of Central Florida

Mothers Day Show

May 12-14, 2006

Awards

Mulford B. Foster Best of Show – Horticulture

Best Neoregelia – in memory of Audrey McCrory

Award of Cultural Excellence

Neoregelia 'Linda Cathcart'

John Boardman

Best of Show – Artistic, The Morris Henry Hobbs Award

Billbergia 'Hallelujah'

John Boardman

Sweepstakes – in Memory of Geoff Johnson

Blue Ribbons: 19

John Boardman

Mothers Day Show Awards continued on page 2

Mothers Day Show Awards continued from page 1

Best Division I

Neoregelia melonadonta

John Boardman

Best Division I, Section A

Billbergia 'Calcite'

John Boardman

Best Division I, Section B

Guzmania 'Loja'

Evan McCrory

Best of Division II

Best Cryptanthus Hybrid

Cryptanthus 'Cosmic Storm'

Eloise Beach

Best Species – In Memory of Wally Berg

Best Division II, Section A

Vriesea erythrodactylon 'White Cloud'

John Boardman

Best Division II, Section B

Best Cryptanthus Species

Cryptanthus microglazoui

John Boardman

Best Artistic Expression

John Gilbert

Best Division III

Quesnelia marmorata

John Boardman

Best Division III, Section A

Tillandsia duratii

Eloise Beach

Best Division III, Section B

Tillandsia funckiana

Eloise Beach

Best Judges Entry

Vriesea erythrodactylon

Carolyn Schoenau

Minutes of the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida

April 24, 2006

Gary Signs called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. New Member Steve DeCresie was introduced. Guests Jane Russo & Bridget Starchier were introduced.

Gary discussed the fact that some members had voiced a concern about the plants being brought in for raffle, auction, etc. The concern is that the plants are not tagged with name of plant and are not designated as raffle, auction, or door plants. Gary asked for a discussion on this matter. After discussion and a request that an effort at least be made on the part of the members bring in plants to tag them and id them for placement. Gary also requested that plants be clean as possible and free of pests. After a discussion period a vote was taken that the plants may be brought, even if not tagged. Yes votes carried the vote.

Show and Tell: Gary had a member talk about their plant.

Program: Gary introduced Dave Christiano from Springfield, Mo. Dave compared growing Bromeliads in the North compared with the South. His presentation was very interesting and he gave a slide presentation of his growing setup in the North.

Break 7:45 to 8:10. Gary reconvened meeting at 8:10.

Minutes - There were no corrections or changes to the March Minutes. Motion to accept minutes was made and seconded, carried unanimously.

Reports -

Betsy McCrory presented the Treasurer's Report: Leu Gardens Sales \$7205.68. Dispersements \$564.70 (does not include vendor reimbursements). Ending Balance in checkbook \$7802.05. Interest in MM \$9.90 MM Total \$11,218.77. PC \$35.00 Total \$19,055.82. There were no questions.

Copies available on back table for members. A Member questioned whether the report should be accepted. Betsy said it normally is not.

Leu Garden Sales \$5205.68 – total dispersements \$5688.75 = \$1516.93 funds to society from sale.

Mother Day Show and Sale: Location was changed to another part of the Fashion Sq Mall. New location will be the mall entrance near Sears. Entry to the mall for set up will be from the parking garage. Vendors and members arriving early or attending the show should use the parking garage entrance to the show Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Please sign up (clip board going around) to help with the show and sale. Setup will be Thursday after 9:00 PM. Sudi is in charge of Awards. Please see her for donations. Grant Groves is in charge of Classification. Steven Wagner is in charge of clerks. Quyles Force is in charge of Entry forms, tags and show schedules. We have 6 judges for the show. Bob Stevens is in charge of Placement. Eileen Laird is in charge of Plant Sales. If you are selling plants you must submit 5 plants for judging. There are handouts to advertise the show and sale; all members are needed to distribute flyers. Publicity has been very good through Orlando Sentinel and Fair, local grocery stores, newspapers, public library, work, church, etc. The Fashion Square Mall is requesting a copy of all locations where we advertise the sale and show, so please let Pam Flesher know where you distribute the flyers.

Minutes continued on page 6



The Mexican Bromeliad Weevil

The Rest of the Story

By Karen Andreas

At last month's meeting, you all were given erroneous information about the threat of the Mexican bromeliad weevil to Florida's native and backyard bromeliads. The weevil is not under control, it is not being managed, it can not be treated with just any chemical meant for beetles and chances are very good that you will not find the adult weevil in your yard, only the damage it causes long after it is gone.

Here is a picture of the Mexican bromeliad weevil, *Metamasius callizona*.

Picture by Barbra Larson

Accidentally introduced to Florida in the late 1980s, *Metamasius callizona*, the Mexican bromeliad weevil, is at Orange County's borders. Confirmed infestations place it in Osceola County to the south and central Brevard County to the east. This weevil decimates native bromeliads and also finds its way into backyard collections. It is rare to actually find the adult weevil, who looks for fleshy bromeliads, lays its eggs inside the center leaves, and then departs. The first sign of damage occurs long after the adult weevil has gone: generally, the bromeliads fall to the ground if they are in trees or out of pots if in cultivation. The larvae matures deep inside the bromeliad then eats its way out the bottom, leaving a telltale hole through the leaves and damaging the heart of the bromeliad. The center of the bromeliad pulls out easily and you will see clear chew



If the culprit is the Mexican bromeliad weevil, chew marks will be present at the base of the leaves.

-marks on the bottom of the leaves. If you do not see chew marks on the leaves, the bromeliad may have declined for other reasons. (Soft mushy leaves may indicate a rot problem; bromeliads can fall out of trees because of squirrels or high winds.)



The center of an infested bromeliad will pull out easily.

There is no control available for the Mexican bromeliad weevil in the wild. Currently, Dr. Howard Frank at the University of Florida in Gainesville and Ron Cave at the Agriculture Research Station in Vero are working on a project to introduce a biological control to the weevil. You can read updates on the weevil project in the Florida Council newsletter.

For the backyard grower, however, there are measures you can take to protect your collection. The main way this weevil is distributed is by people transporting bromeliads from an infected area. If you are acquiring a bromeliad from homeowner or small nursery in any area south of Orange County and from central Brevard south, ask if they are treating for the Mexican bromeliad weevil. If the source is not, isolate the bromeliad from the rest of your collection when you bring it home. Among bromeliad growers that have successfully fought this weevil, the chemical of choice is imidicloprid, made by Bayer and often called Merit; it is found in Gardener's Advantage, which you can find at garden centers as a spray. It is a systemic chemical, which means that it will last for several months in the bromeliad leaves. The larvae will ingest imidicloprid as it eats the bromeliad leaves and will die. Imidicloprid is not harmful to birds or animals. There is no point in treating your entire collection if you do not currently have a problem. Treat only new plants coming into your collection or only if you have a confirmed infestation.

What should you do if you suspect a problem? Contact me. Michael and I do on-site assessments in central Florida for Dr. Frank. We will come to your yard, inspect the suspect plants, take pictures and, if needed, send samples to Gainesville for further assessment. This exercise is solely for the purpose of tracking the progress of the weevil. Of great interest to the scientists in this project is the kind of bromeliads that the weevil will attack. In the wild, it likes *Tillandsia utriculata*, *paucifolia*, *fasciculata*, *balbisiana* and *flexuosa*. In back yard collections, it also has attacked, among other bromeliads, *Guzmania*, *Vriesea*, and even *Cryptanthus*.



The larva of the Mexican Bromeliad Weevil.



In the meantime, what can you do to assist with this serious threat to our bromeliads? Do not take, swap or buy plants from areas of known infestation unless you know they have been inspected and treated for the Mexican bromeliad weevil; if they have not been treated, then treat at home. Most commercial growers already have a management program in place; many small growers and hobbyists do not. Never take bromeliads from their habitat. Many of Florida's bromeliads are endangered or threatened. Collecting plants from lands such as parks is illegal. In addition, you could be helping to spread the Mexican bromeliad weevil.

More information is available at the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies website at fcbs.org.

Florida's native bromeliads are threatened by the Mexican bromeliad weevil (*Metamasius callizona*). In addition to the threat to the native population, the collections of bromeliad enthusiasts are also at risk.

April Minutes continued from page 2,

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Announcements: Eloise Beach explained the error in the BSI Journal, article submitted by her in the Nov/Dec issue. A revised copy was available tonight for anyone who would like it.

Gary announced winners of the Silent Auction.

The meeting was adjourned to conduct the raffle and door prizes.

Gary conducted the door prize and raffle.

Respectfully submitted, Quyles Force

Due to lack of space in this newsletter, the May minutes will be available at the June meeting.

Using Tillandsias as a Screen

by Bob Reilly (Queensland, Australia)

In southern coastal Queensland, Spanish Moss and *Tillandsia mallemonitii* can be used to form screens in the garden. In both cases, select locations which, at least, receive shade in the afternoon. This is especially important in summer. Good air movement, such as that occurring in “breezeways” or locations with a northeasterly aspect, is also important. This is especially true for *T.mallemonitii*. However, avoid locations which are exposed to cold, dry winds.

Build a framework for the screen out of wood or galvanized pipes. A wide variety of material can be used to form the lattice from which the *Tillandsias* are hung. Examples include: timber lattice panels (but not those which have been treated with a timber preservative), plastic garden mesh, weldmesh fencing panels, and galvanized wire netting (but avoid rusty wire).

For Spanish Moss, hang strands along the mesh. Use strands which are two or three plants “thick”, and hang down the full length of the framework. Leave a gap of two to five centimeters between each strand.

Tie two to five plants of *T.mallemonitii* to the lattice. Use plastic covered wire or strips of nylon pantyhose to do this job. Each cluster of plants should be separated at intervals of about five centimeters horizontally, and seven to ten centimeters vertically. (This job can be quite time consuming. However, you can do it when you are watching television or similar activities. In this regard, it is a bit like knitting).

Water the *Tillandsia* “walls” once a week in winter and twice weekly in summer. Use liquid fertilizer every fortnight.

The *Tillandsias* will form an effective screen within one year. They need “renovation” every three years, as they “thicken up” over that period. In turn, this results in plants, which have formed in the centre of the clumps, not receiving sufficient light, air movement, water or nutrients.

Bob Reilly is a long-time member of the Bromeliad Society of Queensland (Australia) and a frequent contributor to the Journal of the Bromeliad Society International. He points out to take into consideration that his growing conditions could be different from the ones prevailing in Florida.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Tillandsia ionantha* or any other small to medium size clumping varieties could be substituted for *T. mallemonitii

Out & About With Pam Flesher

July 8 & 9

Tropical Plant Fair

University of South Florida Botanical Gardens

4202 E. Fowler Ave., Tampa, FL 33620

Gardens Phone Number 813-974-2329

Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Admission: \$3.00 for adults, children under 12 free. Free Parking.

Many vendors including local plant clubs, commercial growers, and the USF Garden Shop.

Bromeliads, orchids, ginger, plumerias, fruit trees, and much more.

July 15 & 16

Sarasota Bromeliad Society Show & Sale

Marie Selby Botanical Gardens

811 South Palm Avenue, Sarasota, FL 34236

Phone: 941-366-5731 ext 221

Email: contactus@selby.org

Hours: 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM both days

Admission: \$12 to Gardens and Show , Free Parking

August 19 & 20

Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society

Fall Tropical Plant Sale at The Garden Club of Sanford

Hours: 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Contact: Sudi Hipsley at 352-728-5002 or Bud Martin at 321-363-7351

The public is invited. Admission is free.

September 30

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies' Extravaganza

Presented by the Bromeliad Society of South Florida

Miccosukee Resort and Convention Center, Miami

500 S.W. 177 Ave., Miami. Phone 305-251-5289 for information

E-mail: bromsmiami@aol.com

Albino Bromeliads

By Bob Reilly (Queensland, Australia)

Occasionally, variegated bromeliads (and much more rarely, non-variegated ones), produce a pup without any chlorophyll in its leaves. The leaves of these pups are usually completely white. This is a form of albinism.

Because their leaves lack chlorophyll, and thus cannot produce the sugars or “food” the plant needs, such pups will ultimately die if detached from the mother plant. So, if you wish to enjoy them, leave them attached to the mother plant and they may survive for several years. These pups can be quite attractive.

If you do not wish to keep the albino pup, then remove it as soon as possible, as it “drains” the mother plant’s resources and reduces the number of pups it will produce.

Some pups have a few leaves which are not entirely white. Depending upon the amount of chlorophyll they have, such pups may be able to be detached, and produce a mature plant. However, they will probably need careful attention as they are usually much “weaker” than normal plants. Unfortunately, the extra stress associated with flowering often kills these plants before any worthwhile pups are produced.

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 4th 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. 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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June 2006

Next Meeting: Monday, June 26, 2006

**Time: 6:30pm Refreshments
 7:00pm Meeting begins**

**There Will Be a
 Member Market This Month**

**Refreshments: O - Z
 Speaker: Phillip Hamilton
 Program: Orchids**