



Orlandiana

Newsletter of the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida

Volume No. 31

Issue No. 10

October 2006

Next Meeting: Monday, October 23, 2006

6:30 pm Refreshments, Members A - F

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

NO Member Market

7:00 pm Meeting Starts

Speaker: Dave Johnston

Program: "Cryptanthus" To Know Them is to Grow Them

Mr. Johnston will have "plenty" of different plants available for purchase beginning at 6:30.

There will be a Silent Auction this month, please donate a plant.

Welcome New Members

Michelle DuVall-Rubin, Lake Mary

Virginia Loy, Apopka

Charles R. Morris, Jr., Apopka

Did You Win the BSI Membership in September?

The person who won the BSI membership at the last meeting needs to get with Betsy, the treasurer, so she can get your membership started. Also, please return the piece of paper that showed you won the membership.

Thank You

The following people donated plants for the September raffle table;

Terri Bert, Grant and Magali Groves, Greg Spak, Steven Wagner

If you donate a plant please be sure to sign your name on the list so that you may be recognized.

Thank You Grant and Magali Groves

BSCF Members had a great time visiting Color Zone Tropical Nursery. After touring the greenhouses, the field trip ended with a pot-luck picnic.

The meeting started at 7:10 P.M with Treasurer, Betsy McCrory.

Two guests were present, Chuck Morris from Apopka and Jean Patterson from the Orlando Sentinel.

Vice President, Butch Force, will not be here tonight as he is out of town.

Grant Groves presented the Show and Tell plants.

The program for the evening was The ABC's of Growing Uncommon Bromeliad Genera presented by Dr. Terri Bert. The club always enjoys Terri's programs.

After the program, Betsy announced that she had the forms for members who would like to donate plants to the Extravaganza.

At 8:15 P.M. there was a 15 minute break. Everyone returned at 8:30 P.M.

There were no corrections to the minutes and a motion was made to accept the minutes by Carol Holland and second by Sudi Hipsley.

Betsy gave the Treasurers report. We have \$990.00 in the checking account, \$11270.41 in the Money Market Acct and \$35 on hand for total Assets of \$12295.41. There being no questions the report was filed for audit.

A thank you letter was read from Joyce Brehm, President of the Bromeliad Society International (BSI). Joyce thanked the club members for their donations to the BSI.

The club went on a field trip to Color Zone Tropical Nursery owned by BSCF members Grant and Magali Groves. Twenty six members attended. They enjoyed seeing the many different bromeliads in the nursery and around the outside of Grant and Magali's home. Afterwards the members had a covered dish lunch together. Thank you, Grant and Magali.

We need 3 volunteers to form a nominating committee. No one volunteered.

The Extravaganza is next weekend. We need plants to donate. BSCF member, Magali Groves will be giving a program on Bromeliads in Spanish. Betsy said the Extravaganza is a lot of fun and worth the drive to Miami.

The BSCF Holiday Party is scheduled for December 9 at the Azalea Lane Recreation Center in Winter Park. Mark your calendars. We will need to get a committee together next meeting.

A reminder that Tropiflora is having their Fall Festival and Open House, October 6,7, & 8.

Door Prize and Raffle tickets were drawn. Gary Signs helped with both.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Flesher, Acting Secretary

Copper Poisoning

Bromeliads are all very susceptible to being fatally poisoned by absorbing copper and copper compounds into their systems. Copper is often used in commercial treatments for plant diseases and MUST be avoided at all times. Another unexpected place copper is widely used is the treatment of timber used in and around the garden. Direct contact of the leaves on the treated timber, the water dripping from or running over the treated timber and onto the bromeliads will poison them.

Out & About With Pam Flesher

November 11 & 12

Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden 66th Annual Ramble

10901 Old Cutler Road, Coral Gables, FL 33156

Phone 305-667-1651 www.ftbg.org

Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. both days

Admission: \$20 for adults, \$15 for Seniors 65 and older, \$10 for children 6-17 yrs., 5 and under free. Free parking. The Ramble offers over 15,000 plants to choose from such as bromeliads, orchids, fruit trees, native plants, crotons, bamboo, aroids, ferns, bonsai, flowering trees, and more. The Ramble Farmers Market offers honey, mango salsas, tropical fruit jams and jellies, herb & spice plants.

November 18 & 19, 2006

Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society Annual Sale

Terry Park, 3410 Palm Beach Blvd., Fort Myers, FL

Hours: Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Free Admission. For more information contact Larry Giroux, email: DrLarry@comcast.net or Betty Ann Prevatt, email: bprevattpcc@aol.com

December 9

BSCF Holiday Party

The Holiday Party will be at a new location this year, Azalea Lane Recreation Center, 1045 Azalea Lane, Winter Park FL 32789
Maps and directions will be available at the meeting.

Contact: BSCF member Melissa Taylor 407-657-2125

Hours: 6:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.

Bring a covered dish to share, the club will provide the dinner meat. Also bring a Bromeliad plant if you would like to participate in the plant exchange. Please bring your plant completely wrapped so as not to reveal what it is.

Word Puzzle

Grant Groves Hybrids

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

CLARET
CRANBERRY
DEBBIE
DWARF
GRACE
KATHLEEN
MAGALI
MARGARITA
MARIBEL
MICHIE
PASSION
TANGERINE

The Pitcairnioids are the oldest, therefore least developed of the bromeliad subfamilies, but already among them are examples of the adaptability which is so characteristic of the bromeliad family. *Pitcairnia atrorubens* (Lat. "dark red") was first described by Beer, 1857, and given its present name



by Baker, 1881. The grassy leaves are 2-3' long and the plant stands equally high in bloom. The color of the inflorescence bracts is brownish purple to bright red; flowers are a gleaming pale yellow in striking contrast to the floral bracts. It grows as a terrestrial and saxicole (on or among rocks) as well as an epiphyte in the rain forest and edges of woodlands from Mexico to Colombia. When the seed capsules burst open the inflorescence is covered with fluff, very reminiscent of a *Guzmania*, *Vriesea* or *Tillandsia*. Like the seeds of these tillandsioids, *P. atrorubens* seeds are also carried by the wind but they differ from tillandsioid seeds. *Tillandsia* seed has a tuft of hair similar to the dandelion seed,

whereas the *Pitcairnia atrorubens* seed has a single hair extending from each end. The tillandsioid seed uses the tuft of hair to cling to the

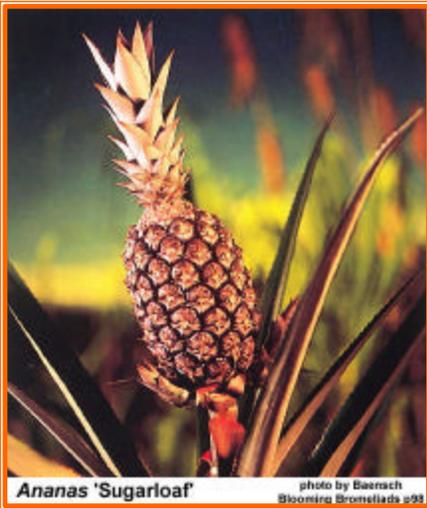


rough surface of a tree limb until the seed germinates and



roots can hold the seedling in place. Since the *pitcairnias* are predominantly terrestrial the hairs are needed only to transport the seed, which they do very effectively. This is a slow grower but decorative, good-natured (no teeth), and willing to bloom as a smaller plant.

This article first appeared in the South East Michigan Bromeliad Society's Newsletter. The plant and inflorescence photo, are courtesy of the FCBS.org photo index. The ripe seed on inflorescence photo was taken by Penrith Goff.



The pineapple or the genus, *Ananas* was first introduced to Europe by Christopher Columbus as a gift from the island of Guadalupe in the West Indian Islands to Queen Isabella. On future visits to the Americas, he was instructed to bring back many more. For hundreds of years prior to the arrival of Christopher Columbus, this genus had been traded from portions of South America and had reached the island where Columbus has found it growing. Besides the obvious value of its fruit, fiber is obtained from its leaves. A chemical called Bromelain has been extracted from this bromeliad and has served medicinal purposes even up to modern day.

Bromelia balansae among others of this genus is another benevolent Bromeliad in spite of its dangerous appearance. The bidirectional spines of the leaves, produces a barrier few creatures can penetrate. In Central and South America these Bromeliads are planted as fences. Similar uses can be found around the house to prevent access to first story windows and to keep unwanted



animals from digging under fences protected by these plants, In spite of their fierce spines, this is probably one of the most beautiful Bromeliads when it is in bloom. The center turns vivid red with an upright inflorescence covered with a furry growth from which arise purple-blue flowers. The flowers eventually turn into grape size yellow fruits. In South America these fruits are used for eating raw, making jellies and are fermented to produce liquor similar to Tequila



In the desert highlands above the tree line, where few other plants grow, the natives harvest one of the largest Bromeliads, *Puya raimondii*. Where there is no other source of wood, the dried leaves are used for firewood. The fiber is extracted and used for weaving baskets, mats and even clothing.

With the loss of thousands of acres of habitat and all its animals and plants, occurring everyday, we have to wonder if we're not losing many potential chemicals and medicinal cures. Losing the rainforest has many more implications than we will ever know.

This article was taken from The Caloosahatchee Meristem, (January 2002), newsletter of the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society. The pictures are courtesy of The FCBS.org photo index

“Why is it called that???”

In order to understand better and appreciate the plants one grows or studies, it is often useful to determine where their names came from and what they mean. The name “Bromeliad” can be traced directly to a Swede who likely never saw a living plant of the family that bears his name.

In 1703, Charles Plumier, French Missionary, botanist and renowned explorer of the West Indies, proposed the name Bromelia in his Nove Plantarum Americanarum Genera in honor of his contemporary, the prominent Swedish medical doctor and botanist, Olof Ole Bromell. The names Plumier published, including *Bromelia*, became valid when the International Botanical Congress fixed 1753, the publication date of Linnaeus’s Species Plantarum as the starting point of binomial nomenclature. The result was that Linnaeus is credited with the naming of Bromelias instead of Plumier.

Derivation of the names of the genera in the bromeliad family can be interesting and sometimes provide additional insight into the genus. Genus names for bromeliads have been created in three ways:

Names honoring botanists, patrons, discoverers or other persons

Billbergia-For Gustavo Billbergia, a Swedish botanist

Guzmania-For Anastasio Guzman, Spanish Pharmacist and naturalist

Hechtia-For Julius Gottfried Conrad Hecht, German consular to the King of Prussia

Tillandsia-For Dr. Elias Tillandz (originally Tillander), Swedish physician and botanist

Vriesea-For William Henrik de Vriese, Dutch botanist and physician

Descriptions composed of Greek or Latin components

Cannistrum-From the Greek “kanistron” (a kind of basket carried on the head)

Catopsis-From the Greek “kata” (hanging down) and “opsis” appearance

Cryptanthus-From the Greek “cryptos” (hidden) and “anthos” (flower)

Nidularium-From the Latin “nidus” (nest) and “arius” (pertaining to)

Orthophytum-From the Greek “othon” (straight) and “phyton” (plant)

Common names used for the plants by the indigenous people

Ananas-From the Guarani Indian name for the pineapple (Brazil & Paraguay)

Puya-From the Mapuche Indian (Chile) word meaning “point”

This article was taken from, The BSGC News, August 2005, newsletter of the Bromeliad Society of Greater Chicago

A Trip to the Fahkahatchee Strand with the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society

By: Larry Giroux

Most Southwest Floridians do not know about one of America's premier reserves right here in our own backyard, the Fahkahatchee Strand. We are very fortunate that our government had the foresight to preserve this natural paradise from further destruction. It was not too many years ago when loggers looking for the virgin bald cypress, nearly decimated this swamp. They dug canals and using the removed earth created hundreds of trams. On these trams railroad cars would move the cut trees. These trams now make it possible to explore this regrown wilderness. Our guide, Mike Owen, repeatedly reminded us that the only reason that the plants that are there today remain, is that surface water is retained over much of the year. This provides the high humidity necessary for the continued

Fahkahatchee Strand cont. from page 6, propagation and growth of orchids, Bromeliads and tropical plants. The Fahkahatchee Strand is 84,000 acres of swamp made up of multiple sloughs and ponds. Located about 30 miles east of Naples, Florida, it is accessible off of Alligator Alley on Highway 29. The Fahkahatchee Strand is a long trough cut into the limestone, through which water runs slowly north to south, finally emptying into the Gulf of Mexico in the Ten Thousand Islands area. Since the cessation of logging of this area, few of the larger cypress trees remain. However, along the trams exist the only living stand of native American Royal Palms.

This unique environment is home to numerous native Florida orchids. Although I am not versed in the various Florida orchids, some of the orchids which can be found here include *Epidendrum nocturnum*, *Encyclia cochleatum*, *Ionopsis* and the cigar orchid, *Cryptopodium punctatum*. We were lucky enough to find a plant of the "ghost" orchid, *Polyrrhiza lindenii*, although not in bloom. This orchid has obtained notoriety recently in the book "The Orchid Thief". It was from the Fahkahatchee Strand that these orchids were removed for illegal sale. This orchid has an extensive root system and since there are no leaves on this plant, roots contain chlorophyll necessary for its growth. A semi transparent white flower, giving it its name 'Ghost Orchid', about 1 1/2 inches across with too long projections from the lip, develops from the roots. Since the plant consist of roots most of the year, and since the roots are securely attached to the bark of branches and the trunk, the only way to procure one of these orchids is to remove that portion of the tree on which the plant grows.

The specific interest of the 17 members of the CBS on this tour, was mainly the native Bromeliads. Most of the native Florida Bromeliads can be found in the Fahkahatchee Strand. During our five hour walk we encountered hundreds of [*Guzmania monostachia*](#), [*Tillandsia fasciculata*](#), [*Tillandsia balbisiana*](#), [*Tillandsia setacea*](#), [*Tillandsia recurvata*](#), [*Tillandsia variabilis*](#), formally *Tillandsia valenzuela*, and [*Tillandsia usneoides*](#). Although less frequent but still identified on our trip were *Catopsis floribunda*, [*Tillandsia flexuosa*](#), [*Tillandsia pruinosa*](#) and [*Tillandsia x smalliana*](#), formally *Tillandsia polystachia*. Present in the Fahkahatchee Strand but not found on this visit are [*Catopsis berteroniana*](#), which normally grows near the tops of trees, *Catopsis nutans*, which may only be endemic to the Fahkahatchee Strand, [*Tillandsia bartramii*](#), formally [*Tillandsia juncea*](#) and *Tillandsia paucifolia*, formally *Tillandsia circinnata*.

Were we lucky enough to find *Guzmania monostachia* 'Variegata'? No! I went back and looked at articles written about the Fahkahatchee Strand and the discovery of the variegated *Guzmania monostachia*. Reportedly this mutation has developed in limited hammocks. We found several hammocks where thousands of the normal *Guzmania monostachia* grew but none of the variegated form. The trees were covered with mature plants and numerous seedlings; at this time of the year the blooms were spent and sending out millions of their airborne seeds. My readings noted that Dennis Cathcart on his numerous treks to the Strand has found the variegated *Guzmania*. The following is a reprint of Dennis's discovery.

"This *Guzmania* is found in the southern most swamps of the Florida Everglades, in the deep water hammocks. The plants are growing everywhere on the trees except the last two feet of the trunk...most of this area is underwater for nearly half the year. This section of the Everglades is the most conducive to the growth of these *Guzmanias*...the plant is extremely plentiful where it is found, and not in existence outside its favorite habitat. This particular hammock is the habitat of the variegated *Guzmania monostachia*, which is known only in this one hammock. It's the only place in the world were this variegated *Guzmania* is found, and the incidence of variegated ones... well, it's impossible to say because there are millions and millions of plants...but the incidence of variegated plants is very low."

Our trip was made more enjoyable by the lack of mosquitoes, finding several alligators (one of which posed for our cameras from a distance of only a few feet), and numerous birds including a nest of Anhinga chicks.

Although not for everyone, I recommend that Bromeliad lovers who feel they can walk several miles should take advantage of the proximity of the Fahkahatchee Strand and see our native Florida Bromeliads up close while enjoying the many other natural treasures of the Everglades.

This article originally appeared in the April 2000 issue of the Caloosahatchee Meristem, and can also be found with pictures on the FCBS web site under Bromeliad Habitats.

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.



President			
Vice President	Butch Force	LForce6766@aol.com	407.886.4814
Secretary			
Treasurer	Betsy McCrory	betsymccrory@aol.com	407.348.2139
Librarians	Phyllis Baumer	Phylbau@aol.com	407.851.1635
	Sudi Hipsley	sudii@earthlink.net	352.728.5002
Editor	Steven Wagner	TDWAMMER@cfl.rr.com	407.766.7875
Mailing	Betsy McCrory		
FCBS Rep	Betsy McCrory		

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



Bromeliad Society of Central Florida, Inc.
 PO Box 536961
 Orlando, FL 32853-6961
 Address Correction Requested

October 2006

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Time: 6:30pm Refreshments

6:30pm **NO Member Market**

7:00pm Meeting begins

Refreshments: A - F

Speaker: Dave Johnston

Program: "Cryptanthus" -

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