

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, Inc.



In This Issue:

**Florida Bromeliad Sources
Extravaganza 2008
Summer Cultivation Tips**

Vol. 28 Issue 2

May 2008

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(continued on the inside back cover)

Bromeliad Rainforest Fantasy

2008 Bromeliad Extravaganza

Sponsored by Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies
Hosted by Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay

August 30, 2008

at

Sheraton Suites Tampa Airport

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Friday August 29

1:00—6:00 PM Set up Sales

7:00 PM Reception

Saturday, August 30

9:00 AM—4:00 PM Sales, seminars

6:30 PM Banquet and Auction

Sunday, August 31

9:00 AM Bus tours

For further information, contact the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay, Tom Wolfe, (813) 961-1475, 5211 Lake LeClare Road, Lutz, 33558.

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Catching Up ... Staying Even



Spring is here and the shows and sales for many of the Councils' affiliate societies are in full swing. At the end of the summer, the annual Extravaganza will be held in Tampa. The Council held its April meeting, hosted by Tampa, at the Sheraton Suites where the Extravaganza will take place. It is a beautiful facility. The Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay has everything well in hand.

In 2009, the Extravaganza will be hosted by the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida. Betsy McCrory is the Extravaganza chairman for BSCF.

The Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society continues its generous support of the Florida Council. Each year, the society has an auction to benefit the Council; this year's auction resulted in a donation of \$1850.00! Thank you to all the members of Caloosahatchee.

The Cryptanthus Society now has a page on the Council website where you can find news and announcements as well as membership information. Visit the Cryptanthus home page at <http://fcbs.org/cryptanthussociety>.

The Council awarded a grant of \$500 to David Pick, a Fort Pierce High School student, to assist with his expenses as he attends the International Science and Engineering Fair in Atlanta. His research project holds promise for weevil research. Council representatives are to be commended for their foresight in supporting young people interested in bromeliad related research. Read more details on page 26.

Recently I attended a bromeliad society meeting where the program featured a speaker who was not a member. It was a

the presentation, several members were talking – not whispering – and it was most distracting as well as rude. Even more surprising, the president did not approach these people to ask them to be quiet. A few days later, someone who regularly gives programs around the state reported the same thing had happened – members talking throughout the presentation. This certainly reflects poorly on both the societies and the presidents who allow it to continue. Please show respect and consideration for people who make the effort to offer programs at meetings.

Best wishes to our friends in Australia for a successful World Bromeliad Conference in June. The Council has an ad in the conference program to support our fellow bromeliad enthusiasts Down Under. We all look forward to reports from the BSI's first international world conference!



Donations

Thank you, members of the
Caloosahatchee
Bromeliad Society
for your \$1,850.00 donation to
the Florida Council of Bromeliad
Societies.



News from FCBS Affiliate Societies



Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay

Members participated in the University of South Florida's spring botanical sale which is a huge event at the university's botanical garden. Currently Tampa members are busy planning for the Extravaganza. Tom Wolfe

Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society

This society celebrated its 28th birthday on April 20. The society held its annual auction to benefit the Council. Because of the holiday, only 36 members were present. Sixty-two items were donated and \$1,850.00 was raised! Vicky Chirnside, Tom Foley

Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society

Members are participating in the Green Thumb Fair, a sale and plant festival in St. Petersburg. In conjunction with the Festival, the Federation Flower Show is being held at the same time. Tom Wolfe is putting up a bromeliad display at the Flower Show. Barrett Bossick

Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society

The society held its spring plant sale at the Seminole Garden Club on April 19 and 20. It was a great success with people traveling from as far away as Vero Beach to come to the sale. A visitor from California stopped by to purchase bromeliads. The members who helped out made the two day sale run like clock work; there will be another sale in the fall. Seminole members also will be helping out at the Seminole County Master Gardener Association sale. They have had several field trips. Recently members visited Bud Martin's greenhouses. They also helped identify and label bromeliads at the Central Florida Zoo. Jerry O'Keefe

continued on the next page

Bromeliad Society of Central Florida

Members participated in the Leu Gardens sale and are now preparing for the 33rd Annual Mothers Day Sale at Orlando Fashion Square Mall. Central Florida will be hosting the Extravaganza next year. Betsy McCrory is the BSCF Extravaganza chairman. Betsy McCrory

Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

Members held their annual fundraiser at the Master Gardeners Sale at the Seminole Fairgrounds. The half day sale was successful for the society. Members also participated in the Everybody's Flower Show and won the Educational Display Award. The society finished one plant away from winning the most blue ribbons. There was a profile of the Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society in the BSI Journal. Calandra Thurrott

Treasure Coast Bromeliad Society

The society continues to meet quarterly. They have seen an increase in membership; many of the new members are master gardeners. Members had a booth at Heathcote Botanical Gardens in Fort Pierce, selling bromeliads and promoting the society. Treasure Coast member Mark Peters co-managed the Botanical Fest for Florida Institute of Technology (FIT) in Melbourne. Mark Peters

Bromeliad Society of Broward County

The society has a new, updated logo replacing its original one. In February the BSBC organized three visits by members to local nurseries and gardens: Bullis Bromeliads, nursery of Karl Green in Homestead plus Jeffrey and Michelle Block's nursery. The following week, members toured the Paul Humann's garden to see his large palm collection and ended at the Fort Lauderdale Garden Club Show. On February 23, we visited our member Jim Herm's garden where he specializes in Dyckias, Rose Butman's garden and the estate of Charles Slater on a bend of the New River in Fort Lauderdale. This is a

magnificent place with a collection of rare palms and other tropical trees and plants besides bromeliads. On the weekend of February 19th there was a bus trip to Sarasota to see Harry Luther's research greenhouse at Selby Botanical Gardens and attend the Sarasota Bromeliad Society Show and Sale. The following week, the Society participated in Green Day at Liberty Tree Park to promote our activities and recruit new members. In May, we will be selling member's plants at the Spring Plant affair at Heritage Park, a traditional annual event for us. The slate of officers take their positions at the May meeting: president, Colleen Hendrix; vice president, Tim Hendrix; recording secretary, Richard Sedlak; corresponding secretary, Gail Shirlaw; treasurer, Larry Searle. Directors: Steve Kalogerakis, 3-year; George Henderson, 2-year; JoAnn Heyer, 1 year. Jose Donayre

Bromeliad Society of South Florida

The Annual Show for the Bromeliad Society of South Florida seemed to be ever too good to be true. Turnout at the venue was exceptional, weather for the two days of outdoor activity were magnificent, and the show . . . well was excellent.

Judges spent most of Friday bestowing record Award of Merit ribbons on the plants. Ultimately, the variety and depth of entries seemed only to have dwarfed prior years. Among the other highlights were the tables of hybrids presented by Nat DeLeon - all seemingly with lollypop colored inflorescences. Bullis Bromeliads delivered a floor exhibit where *Alcantarea* inflorescences touched the ceiling. The blooming *Alcantaria imperialis* awed all spectators as the flowers within the bract made it more than large and interesting. Special thanks must be given to Alan Herndon, Rhonda Herndon, Kris Green, Karl Green, Peter Kouchalakos, Clara Kouchalakos, Moyna Prince, Barbara Sparling, Joy Von Wald, Harlo Von Wald, Sandy Roth, Judy Pagliarulo, Jeri Parish, Joy Parish, Mike Michalski, Patty Gonzalez, Juan Espinosa Almodovar, Barbara Partagas, Lynne Fieber, Michael Schmale, Jorge Rodriguez, Sharon Biddix-Maessen and Antonio Abelaez. The members

of the BSSF worked countless hours in this endeavor, and as chairman, I cannot thank them enough for their energy and enthusiasm which could be felt and seen at this premier annual event at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden. Robert Meyer

Sarasota Bromeliad Society

David Johnson, president of Sarasota, showed off the society's new T-shirt that has their logo nicely embroidered on it. They are actively campaigning for new members. David Johnson

This year's Sarasota Bromeliad Society annual show and sale, held April 18-20, was a great success and lots of fun. The weather was perfect and, thanks to the excellent publicity efforts of Inez Dolatowski and David Johnson, the event was well attended throughout the weekend. The show was graced by numerous "Bromeliad Legends," including Jane Dahlin, Don (no, he's not dead) Beadle and his lovely partner Joann Buehl, Vi Abel, and Polly Pascal and other members of the Broward County Bromeliad Society. The Saturday night banquet and auction were loaded with fun and brisk bidding, particularly for Donna and Michael Kiehl's contributions and multiple rare and unusual bromeliads donated by SBS members. Nineteen exhibitors showed a total of 195 plants. Multiple award winners included Terrie Bert (8), Michael Kiehl (6), Bill Timm (6), Ken Phelps (4), and Len Dolatowski (2). Among those awards, Terrie received the Mulford B. Foster Best of Show Horticulture, Ken received the Morris Henry Hobbs Best of Show Artistic and also Sweepstakes, Bill received the Best Cryptanthus Hybrid and Len received the Best Cryptanthus Species. Other winners were Shirley Evans (Artistic Expression Division), Ray Lemieux (Best *Orthophytum* or *Dyckia*), Nick Mavrikas (Members' Choice), and Tim Hendrix (Best Judges' Challenge). Buddy Worley, using the many varieties, cultivars, and hybrids of *Aechmea orlandiana* as examples, contributed an informative educational display on bromeliad nomenclature. Terrie served as General Chair of this event and Ken as co-chair. In total, 30

SBS members contributed time, money, or effort to make this show the success that it was. Bob Stickney chaired the Plant Sales Committee, Gloria Lowe the Judges' Luncheon and Banquet committees, Julie Finn the Clerks and Awards committees, Natalie Gundrum the Hosting Committee, and Bill Timm the Plant Auction and Placement committees. Dorothy Berg, Bill Timm, Inez and Len Dolatowski, Julie Finn, Ken, and Terrie donated money for special awards. Linda and Dennis Cathcart and Bill Timm contributed many beautiful plants for display. Terrie thanks everyone in the society who helped with the show. Terrie Bert



**The Florida Council
of Bromeliad Societies
sends its best wishes to the
bromeliad enthusiasts
Down Under
for a successful
World Bromeliad Conference
in Cairns, Australia.**

Details at <http://bsi.org>

Eureka!

by Nat DeLeon



I woke up one morning and said aloud, “That’s it!! That’s it!” This was odd for me as I am usually pretty tight-lipped first thing in the morning, but I had had an operation on my lower back and was in a rehab facility having physical therapy twice a day. The rest of the time I was laying on my back, so I had plenty of time to think. Some of that time was spent thinking about our local bromeliad society and what could be done to better it.

Then it hit me that morning that we needed a suggestion box. It took me fifty years to think of something so simple...better late than never!! The box is for all members on any subject. Societies have a real balancing act trying to please old members and new members at the same time. And most members, particularly new members won't speak of any problems at an open meeting.

One night, Moyna Prince, one of our hardest workers, and Mike Michalski, another society stalwart, came to visit me, and I brought up the idea to them and ask that they bring up the suggestion at the next board meeting. Moyna mentioned that she talked with a somewhat new member and asked him why he wasn't renewing his membership. He told her he joined the society to learn how to grow bromeliads and he was not learning that. Had we had a suggestion box, that problem would have been solved. We used to have a cultural meeting for a half hour or more before the main meeting, but we hadn't for a long time.

The suggestion box should take in any subject, mostly what kind of meeting programs you want to hear, since good programs are the mainstay of any society. An empty box for a

long time should mean that the society is doing pretty well, but the president of a society should remind members of the option they have.

So, if your society doesn't have a suggestion box, the time is now!

By the way, the first night the box was available to members, five suggestions were dropped in before the meeting's end. Members, your suggestions should be prepared before coming to the meeting.



What is the Florida Council?

The Council is a confederation of bromeliad societies in Florida; it is a non-profit organization registered with the state. Each member bromeliad society has two representatives to the Council, both of which are voting members. Any person belonging to any Florida bromeliad society affiliated with the Council is automatically a member of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies.

Among its ongoing activities, the Council sponsors an annual Extravaganza, a state-wide gathering of bromeliad enthusiasts hosted by a different society each year.

The Council supports the Bromeliad Encyclopedia, the number one bromeliad destination on the Internet. The Council also supports the ongoing program to control the invasive Mexican bromeliad weevil, an imported pest that imperils Florida's bromeliads, both native and in collections.

To learn more about the Council, visit its website at <http://fcbs.org> or talk with your Council representative.

Where Are My Pictures?!

by Karen Andreas

The most frequently asked question about the website of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies is, “Where are my pictures? I sent them in ages ago and they have not been posted yet.” Here’s the answer.

Webmaster Michael Andreas receives pictures, via email, from all over the world, every day. In addition to that, he manages, with Derek Butcher, the BSI’s Cultivar Registry and posts the pictures submitted by hybridizers as they register their bromeliads. It is not unusual for Michael to have a backlog of hundreds of pictures. We lost count of how many photographs are in the Photo Index when we passed the 15,000 mark.

Each picture takes approximately 15-20 minutes to process. That process includes making a thumbnail picture so you can readily see it in the Photo Index, checking the name for accuracy and labeling the picture, coding then uploading the information and picture to the website. It sounds as though it does not take that much time – until you multiply it by the hundreds of pictures waiting to be posted. The fact of the matter is, Michael’s full-time job gets in the way of him staying caught up with the pictures.

Do please continue to send your pictures. The Photo Index is a living document, constantly being updated, added to, corrected and changed thanks to the generosity of its contributors. Rest assured, your pictures will be taken in order and they will – sooner or later – be posted for the world to see. If you get impatient, you can always email us and ask, “Where are my pictures?”

Who Can Use FCBS Pictures

Throughout the Council’s Photo Index, you will see the following notice: “Copyright notice. All photos are (c) and

may only be used by permission. Commercial use of these photos is strictly prohibited.”

The Council has promised those people who generously share their pictures on the website that they will not be used for commercial purposes. No one should profit from the work of others, without permission and attribution. That is the heart of the copyright issue.

Societies affiliated with the Council may use pictures and articles from the Council site for non-commercial purposes, such as newsletters, as long as both the author/photographer and Council are credited. Everyone else needs to ask permission.

Who may not use Council pictures

Those people who are selling pictures on eBay may not use Council pictures. Anyone selling bromeliads or bromeliad related items (such as T-shirts with bromeliad pictures on them) may not use pictures from the Photo Index or material from anywhere else from the Council site. The only exception is that the original photographers may use their own pictures however they please, even if they are posted on fcbs.org.

Use of pictures without permission constitutes copyright violations and theft of intellectual property rights. The Council protects the integrity of its site and its promise to the contributors by pursuing the unauthorized use of its material. Under current applicable copyright law, the willful infringement of copyrights and intellectual property rights can result in the award of damages of \$100,000 per violation. It is, as you can see, a very serious issue.

The majority of people who visit the Council site respect the work of the people who have made the site possible. The Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies is grateful for their

Florida Bromeliad Sources

2008



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continued on next page

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Sunshine Bromeliads is a family owned nursery which was started by Jorge's grandmother, Josefa Leon, over 24 years ago. What first started out as an amazing private collection has grown to an amazing nursery with 25,000 square feet of shade house and the largest selection of bromeliads in Broward County. Sunshine Bromeliads tailors to both the retail customer as well as to commercial landscape companies. Come visit our incredible selection of bromeliads. We promise you will not be disappointed.



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Visit

the new home page of

The Cryptanthus Society

at

<http://fcbs.org/cryptanthussociety>

Culture Tips for the Summer

by Jay Thurrott



2008 is shaping up to be one of those years resembling an old car with a balky transmission. Earlier in the year we were moving forward through the calendar quite nicely when all of the sudden we shifted into Summer. And then, we were just becoming accustomed to warm weather when we abruptly down-shifted into Winter again. I feel like I'm getting whiplash from these sudden 40 to 45 degree shifts in temperature! Weather changes like this are hard on everyone – plants included, but I suspect that it won't be long before we settle into a more consistent pattern of warm, followed by hot! What should this approaching season change mean to the bromeliad enthusiast in Florida? This is the time of year when you can still work in the yard without immediately breaking into a sweat, and it's also the time of year when there is quite a lot of work to be done in the bromeliad patch. Generally this means that we need to get up from the couch, turn off the tv and get busy...or at least consider the following:

* Inspect each plant in your collection for pest problems. This should include a check for mealy bugs in the roots of the plants, for chewing insects and snails hiding in the leaf axils, and for the beginnings of a scale infestation. You will be amazed at what comes out of those plants when you just turn them upside down and hose them out! But don't stop there. Unpot each plant to inspect the root system for problems. Now is an excellent opportunity to correct any of these problems before they get out of hand. Even scale is easily controllable, but you have to catch it early!

* Now that you've taken each plant out of its pot, why not separate those pups that have been developing all Winter

before you replot the mother plant. No matter what anyone tells you, all bromeliads don't look good when grown in clumps. If the pups are still too small to remove, it's a good idea on many of your larger bromeliads to trim the center leaves away on the parent plant before they affect the conformation of the offsets. That parent plant is never going to look its best again, so don't feel bad about trimming or removing leaves that are pressing against the pups. The pups will reward you with a much better symmetry as they mature.

* Now that you have your plants to the right of you and pots to the left (unless you are left handed of course, then you may have the reverse) replace that old, dessicated mix with some fresh potting material to give each plant a good start to the upcoming growing season. Feeling especially kind hearted? Add some slow release fertilizer to the surface of the potting mix.

* Move your plants to different locations to match the changing angle of the sun. It's probably too late already, but with the change in seasons comes a change in duration and intensity of sunlight – ideal conditions for sunburned leaves. What? You didn't want sunburned leaves? Well, move your plants to new locations according to the amount of sun they can tolerate.

* It's almost here once again – hurricane season begins in June and those hurricanes of 2004 aren't quite as fresh in our minds as they once were. Don't become complacent – even a weak hurricane or tropical storm can make a real mess of yards and shade houses and you may not have a lot of advance warning when a storm approaches, so develop a plan for protecting your bromeliads and be prepared to implement it at a moment's notice. What should your brom-icane plan include? For starters, you need to take down all of your hanging plants. Even a stiff breeze can send them plunging to the ground or worse – through one of your windows, so remove them. Look

up. What you see is likely to come down in a storm, so you will need to protect any plants that are near to where you are standing from falling debris. Keep in mind that these storms are usually accompanied by torrential rain. Move your plants away from areas where the additional run-off may cause problems, where standing water may flood the media for prolonged periods of time, or even worse – where rising waters may carry your plants away to a new location...which may not even be in the same neighborhood...or zip code.

* As if you need reminding – Summer almost certainly will bring some days with high temperatures. If your collection includes plants that can't tolerate hot days and nearly as hot nights now is a good time to develop your plan to protect these plants either by locating them to a cooler area of your yard, installing a cool pad in your growing area, or getting rid of these plants before they disappoint you.

Finally, if all of this is a bit too much for you, consider the “Darwinian Gardener” approach. Your plants will either survive through adverse condition or they won't. Those that don't probably shouldn't be in your collection to start with and those that survive will probably look great no matter what adverse conditions they are faced with. After all, that's part of the appeal of bromeliads!



Report on the Eastern Judging District
by Betty Ann Prevatt
BSI Judge's Certification Committee Chairman



Those of you who attended the Extravaganza in September got to meet these people when they were presented their judge's certificates and pins. Our congratulations to our newest group of Internationally Accredited BSI Bromeliad Judges: John Boardman, Larry Davis, Dr. Jose (Pepe) Donayre, Colleen Hendrix, Tim Hendrix, Steve Hoppin and Jay Thurrott.

Congratulations to this group of judges who have successfully completed the requirements to become Master Judges: George Aldrich, Irene Aldrich, Terrie Bert, Carol Breen, Dr. Larry Giroux, Dianne Molnar, Moyna Prince, Virginia Schrenker, Bob Stickney and John Welsh.

We also need to recognize the rest of the judges who for years have given their time and talents to BSI and the world of Bromeliads:

Eloise Beach (MJ)	Eleanor Kinzie (MJ)	Jean Schnabel (JE)
DeeDee Bundy (AJ)	Tom Lineham (JE)	Roland Schnabel (JE)
Vicky Chirside (MJ)	Stan McMillan (JE)	Carolyn Schoenau (MJ)
Anne Collings (JE)	Polly Pascal (JE)	Ron Schoenau (MJ)
Dean Fairchild (MJ)	Jim Pearce (MJ)	Hattie Lou Smith (JE)
Bill Frazel (MJ)	Maggie Pearl (JE)	Dr. Sam Smith (JE)
Maureen Frazel (MJ)	Betty Ann Prevatt (MJ)	Bill Soerries (MJ)
Anne Kauffman (AJ)	Rose Schmidt (JE)	Nancy Steinmetz (JE)

Sadly we report the passing of Fred Ross on February 10. Fred lived in New Orleans, but was a member of the Eastern Judging District and a frequent visitor to Florida shows. Also we remember judges and friends Jim Schrenker and Ed Prince, who recently passed, and the many others before them who gave so much of themselves for the love of Bromeliads!

A is for Aechmea

by Karen Andreas



The genus *Aechmea* has the most diversity in form and inflorescences of all bromeliads. Size ranges from a few inches to 9' in diameter (*Ae. conifera*); growth habit may be upright and tubular or an open rosette. Leaves may be soft or rigid; plain or scurfed; one solid color or bicolored; barred, striped, or mottled. The leaves of all species in this genus have teeth, however there are some spineless cultivars (such as 'Eileen,' 'DeLeon,' 'Frederike' and 'Maya'). Generally the inflorescence is on a long stem, although in some *Aechmeas* it does not rise above the throat of the bromeliad. The form of the inflorescence itself is varied: branched, cylindrical, or globular; erect or pendant. After blooming, the often long-lived inflorescence will produce berries; seeds are carried inside in a gel-like substance, which needs to be rinsed off from the seeds if you want to grow from scratch. *Aechmeas* grow terrestrially, epiphytically and sometimes are saxicolous.*

There are a few general rules of thumb when it comes to this genus. *Aechmeas* can be grown in the ground, in containers, in trees and mounted. Soft leaved *Aechmeas* (such as *discolor*, *racinae*, *warasii*, *fulgens* var. *discolor*) need more shade and no direct sun light. For *Aechmeas* with stiff, leather-like, thick or tough leaves, bright filtered light is best; when these *Aechmeas* are grown in shady conditions, they tend to have long, strappy leaves and poor overall form.

You will notice a difference in how the same *Aechmeas* grow when given differing levels of light. *Aechmea blanchetiana*, which has been seen in front of the primary dune line in Canaveral National Seashores, grows compactly, with broader leaves and a tighter water tank when grown in hard sun.

Grown in filtered light, the leaves are longer as is the inflorescence.

Some Aechmeas can tolerate temperatures down to mid-30°F, although those with thin and flexible leaves are damaged below 50°F. (See vol. 27, issue 1, 2007, for a list of some cold tolerant Aechmeas.) Even if there is some damage, all might not be lost. *Ae. blanchetiana*, grown in central Merritt Island, was nipped by cold during the winter of 2001. In early spring, the center leaves of the bromeliad were loose, and it was possible to pull out the core. By late spring, the center leaves were settled and attached to the rest of the plant once again, and the bromeliad was sending out new leaves. Patience is key while you wait for your bromeliad to recover from cold damage.

Aechmeas seem to be fairly generous in throwing pups. Faithful *Ae. fasciata* will throw pups until it is down to dry brown leaves. Removing the pups when they are half to two thirds the size of the mother plant seems to stimulate the production of more pups. Aechmeas can be grown in clumps as well as separated and planted or mounted individually. Some Aechmeas such as *orlandiana* and *nudicaulis* and their cultivars have a stoloniferous type growth habit and will climb over a piece of wood or on a tree to dramatic effect.

For specific information about growing Aechmeas in your location, ask your fellow bromeliad society members. Their experience is the best source for how to grow in your part of Florida.

Where to Find Aechmea Pictures

The Photo Index of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies has a good selection of photographs of Aechmea species and cultivars. To see examples of the variations in growth habits of Aechmea species, go to <http://fcbs.org>, click on the Photo

species:

Ae. aculeatosepala. In the second habitat shot by Wally Berg, you can see the stoloniferous growth of this bromeliad.

Ae. beeriana. Notice the tough, armored leaves and the brilliant inflorescence.

Ae. biflora. This Aechmea blushes an intense red; its bright yellow inflorescence does not rise above the leaves. Other Aechmeas with inflorescences nestled in the leaves are *echinata* and *magdalенаe*.

Ae. blanchetiana. Dramatic yellow- orange leaves when grown in good light, its red branching inflorescence stays in color for months. For another dramatic inflorescence, see *Ae. leptantha*.

Ae. involucrata is interesting because its inflorescence appears to vary, depending on if it is growing epiphytically or terrestrially.

Ae. lasserii has a dramatic, pendant inflorescence. Its leaves are red when grown in sunlight; more green when in shade. This species grows both terrestrially and epiphytically in Venezuelan cloud forests.

Ae. mariae-reginae is notable for having two forms, male and female.

Ae. perforata is something different. Smith and Downs describes the inflorescence as “bearing a dense white wool between the flowers”.

Ae. pineliana comes in two forms – variety *pineliana* and variety *minuta* (a smaller form). A colorful addition for the garden when in bloom.

And for something completely different, *Ae. tayoensis*. Look for yourself!



What are these words?

Scurf

The white or silver, often powdery looking substance on leaves; they are specialized cells that absorb water. Scurf makes up the silvery bands on *Ae. fasciata*.

Terrestrial

Growing in the ground, in soil.

Epiphyte

“Air plants”; growing on tree branches or on other material, not parasitically.

Saxicolous

Growing on, over or between rocks.

Stolon

Woody stems; attach quite easily to trees or mounting material. *Neo*. ‘Fireball’ is an example of a bromeliad with “stoloniferous” growth.



Mexican Bromeliad Weevil Report

**Ronald D. Cave¹, J. Howard Frank²,
Teresa Cooper² and Michael S. Burton¹**

Production of fly pupae in the Honduran colony was relatively good during January and February, but dropped in March due to the normal low availability of weevil larvae and low rates of parasitism in the field. Fly pupae shipped to Ft. Pierce totaled 300 in four consignments. The Honduran colony will be discontinued in April and early May because field material and parasitism is low; shipments of pupae during the hot months run the risk of becoming overheated during transit and killing the pupae; the Ft. Pierce colony is doing well and is self-sustainable; and the funding cycle has reached the end.

The Ft. Pierce colony is healthy. Average weekly production of pupae was 113, with a maximum of 231. In January, 602 pupae were produced; in February, 181 were harvested; and in March, 798 were collected. The low production in February was due to humidity control problems and the adult fly population was low and old, but both problems were solved before March production began. Average daily emergence of adult flies is about 14, which provides adequate numbers for colony maintenance and field releases.

One hundred and thirty flies (68 females, 62 males) were released at the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge on January 11, the third release conducted at that site. At the Enchanted Forest, 109 flies (54 females, 55 males) were released on January 18, also the third release for that site. Also in January, Ron Cave gave a talk on the weevil biological control program to the Bromeliad Society of Broward County.

On February 1, 78 flies (39 females, 39 males) were released at the Seminole Collier State Park in Collier Co., the first time flies have been released at this site. On February 13, a third release was made at the Big Cypress National Preserve,

consisting of 110 flies (55 females, 55 males). Ron Cave gave a talk on the weevil biological control program to the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society.

Only one release was scheduled during March but it was delayed until early April because specimens for an initial pathology exam were not preserved in alcohol soon enough after dying and specimens for a follow-up exam were misrouted by FedEx.

David Pick, a high school student working in the Ft. Pierce laboratory, presented his research project “Evaluation of Artificial Diets for Rearing *Metamasius Callizona* (Cloeoptera: Dryophthoridae)” at the Treasure Coast Science Fair in early February and won first place in his category. He has been invited to present his project at the Florida State Science and Engineering Fair in Lakeland in mid-April and at the International Science and Engineering Fair in Atlanta, GA in mid-May. Results from his project will be useful in managing the weevil and fly colonies.

¹Indian River Research and Education Center, Ft. Pierce, Florida

²Entomology and Nematology Department, Gainesville, Florida



Extravaganza 2008

Rules for selling

1. There is no charge for sales space, cubicles, booths or tables.
2. Vendors must be members of a society affiliated with the Florida Council of Bromeliad Socialites. All societies are encouraged to bring their plants and participate in the Members Section of the sale.
3. All vendors must have an Extravaganza ID number. Call or email: Eileen Kahl 813-835-9337 or email ekahl@tampabay.rr.com to obtain an ID number. Please use Extravaganza Vendor number in the subject line when addressing emails. Whenever possible previously used numbers will be assigned to vendors who have sold in previous years.
4. Plants must be clean and free from disease, insects, etc. Potting material should be clean and weed free and all water removed before entering the hotel.
5. Only bromeliads and bromeliad articles can be sold.
6. All plants, including bare root specimens **MUST** have two (2) tags. One must have the plant name (this will stay with the plant); the other must have the price on the top portion of the tag (whole dollar amounts only) and the assigned vendor number below it.
Please do not put the price on one side of the tag and the vendor number on the other side of the tag - use one side of the tag only. Price tag should be a color other than white if possible. The exception to this rule is for vendors that have pre-printed commercial labels that include plant name, price and vendor's name/number.

brought into the sales room as space becomes available.

8. Plants will be received Friday, August 29 from 1:00 to 6:00 PM or before 8:30 AM on Saturday, August 30. Vendors can be present in the sales area to set up or just leave their plants to be arranged by our designated members in the space allocated. Only vendor staff and designated members will be allowed to enter the sales room on Friday and before 9:00 AM on Saturday.

9. Once the plants are deposited in the sales room, no plant holding, or transactions can be carried out between vendors or with others. All plants are to be sold through the cashier.

10. Sale hours will be Saturday, August 30, from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

11. The BGTB shall retain twenty five percent (25%) of the gross sales of each vendor. Sales tax will be collected as patrons check out. Patrons will be able to pay with credit cards, checks, or cash.

12. Bromeliad related items (art, t-shirts, crafts, etc.) might be offered for sale, subject to the preceding rules. These items should be labeled the same as plants (Rule #5).

13. All unsold plants must be removed between 4:00 PM and 4:30 PM. Plants remaining in the sales area after 4:30 PM will be considered a donation to the BGTB.

14. FCBS and BGTB will not be responsible for loss of plants or craft items. However, all reasonable precautions will be taken to ensure their safety. Security will be provided during nighttime hours.

Tom Wolfe, Chairman 2008 Extravaganza
(813) 961-1475 or email: BromeliadSociety@juno.com

Speakers List

A list of who is giving programs throughout the state as reported by the societies



Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay

Guillermo Rivera gave a program on the “Bromeliads of North Argentina.” (April)

Bromeliad Society of Broward County

Ron Cave presented “The Evil Weevil. Releasing the Fly,” a presentation showing the advances being made in trying to control the pest. (January)

Ken Marks presented photos of his latest trip illustrating the characteristics and vegetation of “The Tepuis of Venezuela” with its striking geological formation and the bromeliads growing there. (February)

Long-time BSBC member **David McLean**, a well known landscaper, teacher and nurseryman, delivered a “Bromeliad Primer” presentation in his usual entertaining and informative style. (March)

Shirley and Richard Konefal showed how to develop “Driftwood Applications for Bromeliad Collectors.” They are steep in driftwood work and she is an excellent photographer of bromeliads. (April)

Bromeliad Society of Central Florida

Marty Folk gave a program “Marty vs. The Weevil: One Person's Battle with the Bromeliad Destroyer.” The program was a power point presentation. Marty did a great job on this program. His successes and disappointments when fighting the Weevil. He had excellent resources.

Bromeliad Society of South Florida

Craig Morrell spoke on water quality.

Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society

Ron Cave spoke on the biological control of the weevil.
(February)

Guillermo Rivera gave a program on the “Bromeliads of North Argentina.” (April)

Florida West Coast

Betsy McCrory presented “Bromeliad Basics,” including potting mix, fertilizer light, temperature and the correct way to take off the top of a pineapple.

Sarasota Bromeliad Society

Gyula Nemeth, a member from Land O Lakes, spoke on his Special Approach to Growing Bromeliads. (January)

Ken Marks presented "The Lost World-Islands in the Sky"...
A super slideshow! (February)

Members **Terrie Bert** and **Ken Phelps** talked about
“Preparing for the Upcoming Show.” (March)

Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society

Bud Martin, our Lifetime Member, presented a program on basic bromeliad culture, including potting and potting media, lights, watering, fertilizing, safe temperature ranges, offsets, and disease and pest problems. Many bromeliad genera were shown. The program was very informative and was very appreciated by many new members of our society.



Upcoming Events

May 9-11

Bromeliad Society of Central Florida Mothers Day Show and Sale, Orlando Fashion Square 3201 E. Colonial Dr. (SR 50), Orlando

Contact Betsy McCrory (407) 348-2139,
betsymccrory@aol.com

June 24-29

Bromeliad Society International World Bromeliad Conference
Cairns, Australia

Information at <http://bsi.org>

August 16-17

Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society Fall Plant Sale

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM Sanford Garden Club

Contact (407) 366-4860 or (321) 377-2189

August 30

Bromeliad Rainforest Fantasy - Bromeliad Extravaganza

Sheraton Suites Tampa Airport, Tampa

See page 1 and 28 for details

October 11 – 12

Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay

Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society

University of South Florida Fall Sale

4202 East Fowler Ave., Tampa

**Next Florida Council Meeting**

July 12, 2008

Hosted by Treasure Coast Bromeliad Society

See your Council representative

for more information.

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(continued from inside front cover)

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