

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, Inc.



In This Issue:

**Harry Luther Leaves Florida
Post Winter Survival Tips
2010 Calendar of Events**

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(continued on the inside back cover)

**Congratulations
and
Thank you,
Members
of the
Bromeliad Society of Central Florida
for the outstanding
2009 Bromeliad Extravaganza
Betsy McCrory, Chairman
November 13– 15, 2009**

Thank you to the Affiliated Societies of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies and their members who volunteered their time and for their generous contributions.

Thank you to the Vendors for an outstanding array of bromeliads and for their generous donations.

See a list of all those who generously donated to the Rare Plant Auction on page 23.

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Harry Luther
Floridian Botanist and Horticulturist
Accepts Position in Singapore
by Dr. Larry Giroux

Florida has been gifted to have several individuals through the years such as Mulford B. Foster, Wally Berg and Nat Deleon, to name just a few, who have contributed in large amounts of their time, expertise and generosity. Harry Luther, the Director of the Mulford B. Foster Bromeliad Identification Center at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens (MSBG), is among that outstanding group of people.

Graduating from schools here in Florida, in 1978 Harry was hired by the first MSBG Director, Dr. Calaway H. Dodson, to develop the Mulford B. Foster Bromeliad Identification Center. In 1980, Harry was named Curator of Living Collections. After 32 years at the Gardens, his contributions and leadership to the Gardens' growth and prestige can be seen everywhere from the greenhouses, public viewing areas, the vast outdoor gardens and even the pathways, overflowing with botanical treasures.

Since those early years, the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society has claimed him as one of their own. Harry graduated from school with Victor Yingst, who became the chief horticulturist for the Agricultural Extension Office in Lee County. In 1980, Gene McKenzie and Victor along with a hand full of bromeliad enthusiasts started the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society. It was Harry, who contributed his expertise and knowledge during those early years to give credibility to the budding Fort Myers society by providing programs and consultations with Gene and Victor.

Since 1978, Harry E. Luther has been an integral part of the BSI organization, when he was appointed director of the

Mulford B. Foster Bromeliad Identification Center at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota Florida. In recognition of his work as an author, conservator and taxonomist in the bromeliad World, he was elected an honorary trustee of the BSI by the board of Directors in 1994.

In his capacity at the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, Harry has been responsible for managing the growth and propagation of an enormous diversity of species, including both epiphytic and terrestrial bromeliads. Even a casual observer is impressed by the quality, proliferation and quantity of this immense collection, which has been under his guidance.

Besides being the premier identification expert at the BIC, he is recognized as one of the most knowledgeable experts on the systematics of the bromeliad family. Using both live and dried specimens, either sent to him or from Selby's library, Harry has described more than 100 bromeliad species new to science. He has traveled on field trips to Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico and Panama in search of new species, for the recollection of described species and clarification and conformation of information of species in cultivation.

Besides the more than 200 published articles to be found in established hobbyist and scientific journals, Harry has also been recognized as a major contributor to many books and as scientific and editorial adviser to several Journals, in particular the Journal of the BSI and The Cryptanthus Society Journal. Included among this impressive list is his newest book, co-authored with David H. Benzing, Native Bromeliads of Florida, Pineapple Press, Sarasota, 2009.

Whether it has been in consultation with an individual hobbyist or by a presentation to a bromeliad society, Harry has graciously given of his time and effort to educate and entertain any individual or group, who has approached him.

Besides his Trusteeships in the Bromeliad Society International

and the Cryptanthus Society, Harry is an active member of the Sarasota Bromeliad Society and the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies. Internationally, he has been made an honorary member of the Brazilian Bromeliad Society and the Japanese Bromeliad Society.

With his acceptance of the position of Assistant Director of Horticulture at the Gardens by the Bay, National Parks Board in Singapore, we will lose his proximity, but I'm sure we will not lose his generosity in sharing his knowledge and expertise. We all want to thank Harry Luther for his contributions these past 32 years and wish him good fortune in his future endeavors.



Catching Up ... Staying Even



We have been privileged these so many years to have Harry Luther living in our back yard. World-renowned, universally respected, Harry has worked in the world of bromeliads in Florida for more than 30 years. His relocation to Singapore is not only a loss for the bromeliad world, it is a loss to our entire Florida community of bromeliad growers and enthusiasts.

That Harry is the go-to man for bromeliads is no secret. He has been generous with his time and his knowledge, with individuals and with bromeliad societies as well. No one generates as much excitement and anticipation as Harry does when he is to give a presentation. World conferences, Extravaganzas, bromeliad societies, everyone wants to hear Harry. And for good reason. Harry is the authoritative last word in the world of bromeliads, taxonomy and identification. His presentations are packed with information delivered with dry good humor and absolute certainty. We have been spoiled,

to say the least.

Why Selby let him go is beyond most of us. You have read the article by Dr. Larry Giroux, so I will not reiterate Harry's vast experience and accomplishments. Selby is simply diminished by Harry's loss. The Bromeliad Identification Center may indeed gain another director but it is hard to imagine who could be as respected and trusted as Harry.

All of the Florida bromeliad community wishes Harry all the best in his new position in exotic Singapore and its sincere thanks for his contributions and many efforts on behalf of those plants we love.

Representatives to the Florida Council have set several serious projects in motion. The first involves a bid to host the BSI World Conference in 2012. Discussion was held at the quarterly meeting in Miami in January although few details are available. The representatives present authorized Jay Thurrott to submit the proposal to the BSI board of directors for its consideration. Expect much more discussion on this at the next Council meeting in April.

Also up for discussion is the fate of the 2010 Bromeliad Extravaganza. No society has stepped forward to host the event for this year. In recent years, Extravaganzas have gotten, well, extravagant with Friday night events, seminars and tours. It is important to remember that not all Extravaganzas have to be so involved. A one day sale, banquet and rare plant auction is just as interesting and attractive as the busier events. There is room for many kinds of Extravaganzas – each society can certainly choose what kind it wants based on its own resources. The rare plant auction is the main fundraiser for the Council each year and funds the newsletter and the Council website. Such events are necessary for the financial health of the Council.

Representatives will be considering how to address this issue at the next meeting.

In November, the Council purchased three cash registers for the Extravaganza. These cash registers will be made available to the affiliated societies for use at their bromeliad events for a nominal fee. Expect a policy on use and rental fees to be passed in April, making the registers available for the spring shows.

Speaking of the spring shows (see the 2010 Calendar of Events on page 8), it will escape no one's notice that several societies have scheduled shows and sales for the same weekend in April. While they are all in different parts of the state, this still puts a strain on the limited number of BSI judges available to work the shows. One of the original functions of the vice chairman of the Florida Council was to assist in coordinating shows to alleviate conflicts, however societies have never taken advantage of the opportunity to coordinate. With the shortage of BSI judges and the desire to have BSI affiliated shows, perhaps it is time for the BSI to undertake such a coordinated effort. After all, it is the BSI that trains and certifies judges and approves the shows (for those that want BSI shows) through its Show Chairman. It would seem natural for that organization to step up to help out the societies.

It looks like another busy year for the Florida Bromeliad Community!

Thank you
The Cryptanthus Society
for its \$100 donation
in appreciation of
the support the society has received
on the Florida Council website.

2010 Calendar of Events



March 20-21

Gainesville Bromeliad Society
Kanapaha Spring Garden Show, Gainesville
Saturday 9:00-6:00; Sunday 10:00-5:00
<http://www.kanapaha.org/>

March 27-28

Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society
Green Fest Plant Sale
University of Tampa, Tampa

April 2-3

Tropiflora Spring Festival
3530 Tallevast Road, Sarasota
941-351-2267

April 10-11

Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society
USF Botanical Gardens Spring Plant Sale
University of South Florida, Tampa

April 16-18

Bromeliad Society of South Florida
Annual Show and Sale
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden
10901 Old Cutler Road, Miami
Entries - Thursday, Noon – 7:00
Judging – Friday, 9:00 – 4:00
Public show and sale, Saturday-Sunday, 9:30 – 4:30
Fairchild charges admission (visit the website at www.fairchildgarden.org for current pricing). Bromeliad show free after admission to Fairchild.

April 17

Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society
Master Gardeners Faire
DeLand Fairgrounds
8:00 - Noon

April 17-18

Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay
Judged Bromeliad Show and Sale
in conjunction with Judged Flower Show by
The Tampa Federation of Garden Club Circles
Saturday 9:00-5:00; Sunday 10:00-3:00
Tampa Garden Center
2628 Bayshore Blvd Tampa
Tom Wolfe 813-961-1475

April 17th - 18th

Sarasota Bromeliad Society Annual Show and Sale
Marie Selby Botanical Gardens
811 South Palm Avenue
Sarasota, Florida 34236
10:00 – 4:00 each day
Bromeliad sales each day (also Noon-5:00 on Friday)
Show admission free with Gardens admission price of \$17 for
adults, \$6 for children 6-11, free for Gardens members.
Banquet (\$20 per person) and rare plant auction Saturday
night, April 17
Contact Theresa M. Bert 941-795-6012 for information

April 17-18

Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society Sale
Garden Club of Sanford
9:00 – 4:00
200 Fairmont Drive (on 17-92, one block south of Lake Mary
Blvd., Sanford). Free parking, free admission, air-conditioned
shopping, Offerings will include bromeliads, gift baskets and a
wide assortment of tropicals.

April 24-25

Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society
Green Thumb Festival
Walter Fuller Park, St. Petersburg

May 7-9

Bromeliad Society of Central Florida
Mothers Day Show and Sale
Orlando Fashion Square Mall, Orlando

August 14-15

Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society Sale
Garden Club of Sanford
9:00 – 4:00
200 Fairmont Drive (on 17-92, one block south of Lake Mary
Blvd., Sanford)
Free parking, free admission, air-conditioned shopping,
Offerings will include bromeliads, gift baskets and a wide
assortment of tropicals.

October 1-3

Tropiflora Fall Festival
3530 Tallevast Road, Sarasota
941-351-2267

Late Fall 2010

Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society Show and Sale
Date will be posted, when determined, at fcbs.org

Thank You

Bromeliad Society of South Florida
for hosting the January quarterly meeting of
the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies

News from FCBS Affiliated Societies

Compiled by Jay Thurrott and Karen Andreas

Bromeliad Society of **Central Florida** had a very nice Christmas party hosted at Dean Fairchild's house. Dean had earlier hosted a reception for Francisco Oliva-Estevé at his home. Al Muzzell from Gainesville was the speaker for January.

The Bromeliad Society of **Broward County** was pleased to have Paul Isley as their speaker in Sept. The speaker's fee was shared among three clubs. Their auction was very successful and took place in October and they hosted a ramble the same month. The BSI webmaster was their November speaker. Their upcoming cruise to the Bahamas is scheduled for March and is sold out. Thirty-four people will be going for one day and two nights. South Florida came to Broward on a ramble which was great fun.

Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society had Bud Martin of Blossom World Bromeliads as their November speaker followed by their annual Christmas party in December. January's topic of mounting bromeliads on wood was conducted by past club president Bradley Rauch. Their annual sale will be on April 17th at the Volusia County Fairgrounds in Deland.

Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society will be having Terrie Bert as a speaker in February. New officers have taken office. Their annual sale will be the weekend of April 17 at USF. David Benzing spoke to the group in January.

The **Gainesville** Bromeliad Society did not participate in the fall sale at Kanapaha Gardens this year but will be at the Spring Festival. They have had some difficulty in recruiting officers for the society.

Gardens last month. The three Herndon families will have an open house of their nurseries in February.

The **Caloosahatchee** Bromeliad Society also had Paul Isley as a speaker recently. They had a very successful show and sale in November despite the inclement weather that weekend.

Treasure Coast Bromeliad Society has increased its meetings from quarterly to bi-monthly. President Terry Quillen and Secretary Heddy Hercane did a bromeliad presentation to the new St. Lucie County Master Gardener trainees in January.

The Bromeliad Exchange

The Bromeliad Exchange will be offered again in the May issue of the Council newsletter. Deadline for the May issue is April 17.

The Bromeliad Exchange is for members of FCBS affiliated societies only; you must be included in the roster on file with the Council from your society. Commercial growers and retailers may not use this service for commercial purposes or promotion. Bromeliad Exchange items will be accepted on a first-come first-served basis and will be published on a space available basis.

Submit your listing for the Bromeliad Exchange by email to bromexchange@fcbs.org. Include your name, conventional mail address, and phone number. Keep your listing to 35 words or less.

The Florida Council of Bromeliad societies warrants no claims; the Council does not derive any financial benefit from the Bromeliad Exchange.

Fairchild Botanic Garden

by Moyna Prince



Meander down the flower-bordered paths or rest beneath a shady tree, and you may find it hard to remember you're in the heart of that major metropolitan area, Miami. This 83 acre oasis is nestled in the upscale suburb of Coral Gables, also home to the University of Miami. It's located on historic Old Cutler Road, which was once the main north-south route between Miami and the Florida Keys. On the east side is Biscayne Bay, but there are no pretty waterfront views - the natural shoreline is mangroves, which provide essential protection from storms.

Fairchild's visitors come for the extensive plantings of such tropicals as palms, cycads, aroids, heliconias, orchids - and of course - bromeliads. In the last couple of years the bromeliad plantings have been extensively increased. Large plantings of *Aechmea blanchetiana* have been used at the entrance circle outside the Visitor Center and around the lawn outside the Garden House where the bromeliad show is held. They provide a nice splash of color and are among the few bromeliads that can take full Florida sun.

The Garden was designed in 1938 by William Lyman Phillips and named for his friend Dr. David Fairchild, who traveled the world collecting tropical plants. A Research Center was established about a mile south of the garden where the Garden's scientists have their labs. A prime focus for the scientists is conservation, for both local plants and also the tropicals of the world. Also located in the Research Center is the Herbarium, where dozens of volunteers are involved in mounting newly collected specimens and adding them to the Virtual Herbarium, an online record available to anyone with Web access.

Winter is the perfect time of the year to visit. The Orchid Festival is coming up on March 12-14 and the Tropical Flowering Tree show is May 8-9. The very popular annual show of the Bromeliad Society of South Florida will be April 17-18. And in July the Mango Festival comes along with dozens of rare cultivars to sample.

Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden's informative web site is at www.fairchildgarden.org. It's easy to use and will give you the latest information on many projects the Garden is involved in.



Plant Sales Tag Suggestions

by Ron Schoenau

Whether participating in a plant sale at the Extravaganza or your society's bromeliad sales, have mercy on those who actually tally the sale tags so the sellers can be paid. Having spent approximately nine hours (after the Extravaganza) sorting tags by grower number and tallying gross sales for each, I have a few suggestions for the growers to improve the accuracy of the final totals.

These are suggestions for any one grower: variation in tag size and color among growers is actually an advantage when tossing tags into piles by number or other ID.

Tags should be the same size and same color. Avoid dark colors. It's difficult, especially for old farts like me with failing eyesight, to read prices and grower ID off dark colored tags.

Grower ID and price should be on the same side of the tag. Precede price with a dollar sign, making it easy to

distinguish from grower number.

Be consistent with placement of price and grower number on the tag. It's not helpful to have grower number on top and price on the bottom with that being reversed on another tag.

Tags should lie flat. At the recent Extravaganza, one grower used price tags that were bowed. As I tossed them into a pile, they would flip over, sometimes leaping into an adjacent pile, leaving the price and grower number on the underside. It took longer to tally these.

If paper tags must be used, choose a sturdy stock that resists tearing. It's no fun sorting paper fragments to ensure grower ID and price are matched.

Why should it be necessary to plead for legibility? Print clearly. If your penmanship is terrible, surely you have friends (well...knowing some of you, maybe not) who can help.

Avoid price corrections. Changing a six to a seven, or a five to a nine, or... leads to inaccuracies and inconsistent results between the cash register totals and the tally off the price tags.

The bottom line is to help the person in charge of counting the sales tags and sending you money!



Culture Tips: Weather

by Jay Thurrott



Every summer you hear it – “will this hot weather ever end?” You hear it everywhere you go, but usually it’s from a sales clerk in a carefully climate-controlled, air-conditioned environment. “It’s soooo hot, I can’t wait for winter to arrive!” Well, winter is here now and what am I hearing (and it’s often from the same people in the same climate-controlled environment)?- “It’s soooo cold, I can’t wait for the warm weather to return.”

Most of us accept the fact that we are usually going to experience some warm weather in the summer and we are probably going to have some cold weather during the winter. The answer to the sales clerk’s first question is unequivocally ‘yes,’ the hot weather will end. It always has and, global warming aside, it probably always will. And yes, it is cold (this January we have seen an unusually long period of cold weather – global warming?), but the warm weather will once again return – you can count on it!

But hot weather and cold weather are not the only challenges that we face in growing bromeliads in Florida. We also have those drastic changes in available amounts of water. No, I’m not talking about the crazed, water-shortage-mentality of the State’s water management districts and their water rationing days – I mean Florida’s dry season and the wet season. During the dry season (and we can have zero rainfall for many months at a time) care must be taken to avoid drying out potting mixes. Those porous, quick-draining mixes that many of us swear by become mixes that we swear at during these times as they become so dry that they completely lose their moisture retaining properties. When you water your bromeliads, does the water immediately pour out of the holes in the bottom of the pots? It’s time to change out your potting mix! Plants can become severely dessicated and disfigured during these times if they don’t have access to sufficient water. During the rainy

season we have the opposite problem and plants set in dense, slow-draining potting mixes that served so well during the dry season now can be threatened by fungal and rot problems - few bromeliad varieties appreciate continuous wet feet. Is your potting mix constantly soggy and mold or algae coating the surface of the mix? Time to change out your potting mix!

Then there's the issue of lighting – as the position of the sun in the sky changes, plants that once were in shady areas now find themselves receiving increasing amounts of light and the possibility of sun-burned leaves develops. At the same time, plants receiving optimum amounts of light throughout the summer may now find themselves in much lower light conditions as the sun moves across the sky - with a subsequent change in color intensity in their leaves. It's time to move your plants to new locations!

And, let's not forget the threat of storms. Hurricanes aside, Florida faces the threat of severe storms throughout the year as cold fronts collide with warm air and vice versa resulting in severe thunderstorms with torrential rains, high winds, hail storms and even tornados. Each of these types of severe weather can have a devastating effect on our unprotected bromeliads. A little shade cloth stretched out over your plants can provide protection against sunburn and may even keep hailstones from making that interesting dimpled pattern on their leaves, but in a wind storm this same protective cloth becomes a sail and poses a whole new set of problems for you and your neighbors.

Out-of-state bromeliad enthusiasts often think that we have near-perfect growing conditions in Florida and that, somehow we don't have to work as hard at growing good looking plants as everyone else, but the truth of the matter is that our varying and extreme weather conditions make it a challenge every bit as great as that found in other locations throughout the country and I think that this same challenge is what makes our interest, hobby, passion, obsession, illness (pick the most appropriate word that applies) so appealing.

Mexican Bromeliad Weevil Report

October—December 2009

Ronald D. Cave¹, J. Howard Frank²,
and Teresa Cooper²

¹Indian River Research & Education Center, UF, Ft. Pierce, FL

²Entomology & Nematology Department, UF, Gainesville, FL

The production of *Lixadmontia franki* pupae was down 42% from the previous three months. This is probably due to a reduced level of infested pineapple tops being placed in the cage (due to less availability from grocery stores) and lab technicians not keeping the environmental conditions sufficiently wet. Average weekly production of pupae was only 69, with a maximum of 123. In October, 323 pupae were produced; in November, 213 pupae; and in December, 358 pupae. The trimestral total was 894.

Only two field releases of *L. franki* were made during the reporting period. Both releases occurred at Collier Seminole State Park. On October 27, 25 females and 21 males were released; on November 24, 27 females and 25 males were released. Hot weather, the need for flies to maintain the laboratory colony, and low numbers of adult emergence did not allow for additional releases. To date, 1,641 females and 1,470 males of *L. franki* have been released in the field. No recent recoveries of the parasitic fly from any of the release sites have been made.

Howard Frank, Dennis Giardina, Tim Andrus, and Jose Monzón spent the first ten days in November 2009 collecting weevil larvae from epiphytic bromeliads in Guatemala. Most of their time was spent in the lowlands near the Caribbean coast. The most productive sites were in (a) riverside trees along the shores of Lago de Izabal and Río Dulce and (b) roadside trees bordering cattle pastures north of Puerto Barrios. All the plants from which weevil larvae were collected were *Tillandsia utriculata* (or a species they could

not distinguish from *T. utriculata*). They brought almost 50 living larvae back to quarantine in Ft. Pierce, but the only creatures so far to be reared from those larvae were healthy adult *Metamasius rugipectus*.

Approximately 100 *Metamasius quadrilineatus* larvae were collected in Honduras in late November with the goal of obtaining *L. franki* pupae to send to Florida for invigorating the colony in Ft. Pierce. Based on previous experience, about 40 fly pupae were expected from these ~100 larvae. By the scheduled shipping date of December 1, only nine fly pupae were obtained. Nineteen living weevil larvae were also shipped and received into the Ft. Pierce quarantine, but from none of these were parasitized. One female and three males emerged from these nine pupae. Two males died soon after emergence, so only two healthy flies were incorporated into the fly colony.

Graduate student Teresa M. Cooper completed her research, presented and successfully defended, and graduated in December. Teresa's dissertation is called "An assessment of a biological control agent, *Lixadmontia franki* (Diptera: Tachinidae), to control *Metamasius callizona* (Coleoptera: Curculionidae), an invasive herbivore destroying Florida's native bromeliads." Chapter topics include seasonality, abundance, and biological control of *Metamasius callizona* on *T. utriculata* in the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary; release and monitoring of *Lixadmontia franki* to control *Metamasius callizona*; indirect assessment of host density by *Lixadmontia franki*; description of the immature life stages of *Lixadmontia franki*; and ovoviviparity versus viviparity. She was hired in January as a post-doctoral research associate to supervise the fly production, field releases, and research.

Publications:

Cooper, T. M. Cooper, J. H. Frank, R. D. Cave, M. S. Burton, J. S. Dawson, and B. W. Smith. Release and monitoring of a potential biological control agent, *Lixadmontia franki*, to

control an invasive bromeliad-eating weevil, *Metamasius callizona*, in Florida. Submitted to the journal Biological Control.

Presentations:

1. Ron Cave gave a talk to the Bromeliad Society of South Florida on November 3
2. Ron Cave displayed a poster at the Bromeliad Extravaganza on November 14
3. Bradley Smith, Ron Cave, Howard Frank, Teresa Cooper, and Jan Dawson presented a poster titled “Release history and biological information on *Lixadmontia franki* (Diptera: Tachinidae), a parasitoid of the Mexican bromeliad weevil” at the annual meeting of the Entomological Society of America in Indianapolis on December 15



Nidularium

by Karen Andreas



The genus *Nidularium* was first described in 1845. The name is derived from the Latin word *nidulus*, meaning small or little nest, describing the rosette shaped inflorescence that is found nestled in the center of some of the species. *Nidularium*'s native habitat is Brazil, where its 45 species are found in the lower parts of rain forests at sea level to the edge of cloud forests. They grow in the litter on the forest floor, on low tree limbs and sometimes are found on rock outcroppings.

Moisture is a key component in the native environment of *Nidularium*. In cultivation, the soil should be moist but well drained. Do not let the soil or the rosette of the *Nidularium* dry out completely. While *Nidulariums* grow well in semi-shade and shady conditions, a little morning light will ensure that the leaves do not grow long and strappy. They can be grown well indoors if they have some humidity, filtered or diffused light and consistent temperature. They do not like temperatures below 55°.

Pups can be removed when they are at least one-third the size of the mother plant. The pups do not like to be over-potted; start them in 4" pots. Mature *Nidulariums* will thrive in 6" pots.

Nidulariums make excellent landscape plants. They add texture, shape and color to collections and are good for low light conditions, including in the home or office. Leaf color may be light or dark green, green with white stripes, green on top, maroon on bottom, green mottled with purple, or maroon. The rosette-shaped inflorescence is long-lived, often for several months. In some *Nidulariums*, it sits nestled down among the leaves; in others, it rises on a stalk above the center

of the plant. The shape also varies, with some rosettes of densely formed leaves and other inflorescences having a spiky appearance. The inflorescence turns color when in bloom: rose, cerise or maroon. Its flowers are red, blue or white, and they open in sequence.

Nidularium is a rewarding bromeliad to grow. With its elegant leaves and intensely colored inflorescence, it is an attention getter in any collection.

To see pictures of Nidulariums, visit the Florida Council's website at fcbs.org, select Photo Index. *Nid.* 'Leprosa' can be found under Cultivars; others listed below are found under Species.

Nidularium linehamii was named for Tom Lineham, the former editor of the BSI Journal, in 1993. This handsome Nidularium has medium to light green leaves with a rose red center and violet-blue flowers.

Nidularium antoineanum grows both terrestrially and epiphytically in habitat. Its dense rosette is pink when it commences blooming and turns to purple or mauve as it ages. It is well regarded as a landscape plant for its dramatic impact.

The inflorescence of *Nidularium fulgens* is a long-lived (6 months or more), brilliant red; its dark green leaves are spotted.

The leaves and rosette of *Nidularium* 'Leprosa' are green, mottled with purple. Even the rosette has the spots.

Nidularium. meeanum has an inflorescence that is spiky as opposed to the dense rosette of other *Nidulariums*.

2009 Bromeliad Extravaganza Rare Plant Auction Donors



Seventy items were donated to the Rare Plant Auction by the following people and nurseries:

Michael and Karen Andreas	Jim Kearns
Marty and Bernie Baxley	Eleanor Kinzie
Brom. Soc. Central FL	and Betty Ann Prevatt
Suzanne E. Carnell	Steve Littlefield
Color Zone Nursery	and Kathy Risley
Brian Corey	Harry Luther
and Linda Sheetz	Miranda Maliborsky
Jose and Sara Donayre	Dorothy McDermott
Juan Espinosa-Almodovar	Michael's Bromeliads
Bud and Shirley Evans	Michael Michalski
Jim Ford	Al Muzzell
Bill and Maureen Frazell	Gerald O'Keefe
Randy Garcia	Sarasota Bromeliad Society
Ed Hall	Larry Searle
Tim and Colleen Hendrix	Alexis Smith
Heddy Herncare	Sunshine Bromeliads
Alan and Rhonda Herndon	Sunny Hill Nursery/ Evan McCrory
Sudi Hipsley	Sunny Hill Nursery/ Georgia Orser
Steve Hoppin	Jay and Calandra Thurrott
and Larry Giroux	Tropiflora
Robert and Lynn Hudson	Tom Wolfe
Dave Johnston	

Thank you for your generous donations in support of the programs of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies.

Speakers List



Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society

Terrie Bert – Florida Council of Bromeliads Website

David Benzing - Adaptive Radiation of Bromeliads

Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay

David Christiano - The Bromeliads of Northwestern Argentina

Eileen Kahl – Tips and Tricks, a workshop

Tom Wolfe - Longwood Gardens

Bromeliad Society of Broward County

Tom Wolfe – The Landscape Design of Roberto Burle- Marx

Bromeliad Society of Central Florida

Al Muzzell - Miniature and Small Bromeliads for Compact Collections

Treasure Coast Bromeliad Society

Dennis Cathcart

Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

Bud Martin of Blossom World Bromeliads

Bradley Rauch – Mounting Bromeliads on Wood

Al Muzzell

Bromeliad Society of South Florida

Tom Wolfe – Longwood Gardens

Bruce McAlpin - More Basic Horticultural and Cultural Tips

Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society

Paul Isley

Dennis Cathcart – Terrestrial Bromeliads/South American Explorations

Bruce McAlpin – Bruce’s Basic Botany

Sarasota Bromeliad Society

Kenneth Stokes - The Varying Growth Habits of Bromeliads

Harry Luther

Mike O'Leary – Favorite Varieties and Growing Techniques

Gainesville Bromeliad Society

Jay Thurrott – World Bromeliad Conference in New Orleans



What's New on the Florida Council Website?

This January marked another milestone in the journey of Oscar Riberio through the lands of eastern Brazil, this time to the historic cities of Ouro Petro and Diamantina. You may recall, we began this virtual journey with Oscar in January 2009, when he shared his trips to Mata Atlantica and the Atlantic Coast Restingas. Once again Oscar offers us a unique look into the architecture, history and culture in the land of bromeliads. Even more stunning is Chapter 5 of this series, Grao Mogol, with pictures of the landscape and flora of this remote area. Beyond the gorgeous pictures is Oscar's main mission, which is promoting the preservation and conservation of these historic and environmentally significant areas.

To find Oscar's stories, go to <http://fcbs.org>. On the menu on the left hand side of the opening page, click on Bromeliad Habitats. Oscar's contributions are under Brazil.

The Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies thanks Oscar Riberio for sharing his knowledge and his fabulous photographs with us.

Post Winter Survival What Now?

by Karen Andreas

From the Panhandle to south of Miami, the winter of 2010 has been brutal on all collections. Extended periods of cold, frost and drying winds have damaged not just bromeliads but many other landscape plants exposed to this unnaturally long run of cold weather.

If you covered your bromeliads with freeze cloth, chances are good that your plants survived. If you used plastic, sheets and blankets, or took your chances, even bromeliads with damaged foliage still might come back. If your *Aechmea blanchetiana* was fried and is now brown to the ground, patience is going to be key to its revival. More on that in a minute.

Do not start trimming damaged foliage or pruning out bromeliads that appear to be dead just yet. This goes for your other landscape plants as well. Should we get another freak streak of cold air, the dried out and damaged foliage might add one more level of protection. As difficult as it is, hold off on pruning and culling until all chance of frost has passed.

One important thing to do, however, is to rehydrate your plants: water them. If the air is still chilly where you are, water in the morning on sunny days to give the water and the ground/soil surrounding the bromeliads a chance to warm up (and retain that heat later on in the day). You certainly don't want to drown the bromeliads but do give all the leaves a good drink. Flush out any debris in the water cup – the bromeliads don't need leaves soaking up valuable moisture.

Next important step: practice patience. Do not prune until risk of frost has passed. Do not relax just yet – damage on bromeliads may take a while to show up. If and when the damage does appear, do not give up on even the most damaged

plant. Bromeliads struggle valiantly to survive and even the worst looking specimen may still throw at least one pup. I have said it before and so say it again here – the leaves of some bromeliads such as *Aechmea blanchetiana* will actually separate from the middle of the plant, in response to frost or severe cold. Give it some time – often the leaves will reattach themselves.

Once the warm weather returns, get your collection back on track with regular watering, trimming leaves, and even light fertilization to encourage pupping as well as new growth. Once you are sure a bromeliad has died and will not ever come back, prune it out. Give your bromeliads as much breathing room and space as you can manage; this will help with the plants' recovery.

Now is especially a good time to make note of what survived, what was damaged and what was untouched in the cold. You may find that bromeliads on capillary mats or under overstory came through better than in other parts of your yard. Those that survived without cover are especially noteworthy. Use this information in planning your bromeliad protection next year as well as grouping plants together with like cold tolerances which also helps in protection plans.

While we all grow many of the same bromeliads, growing conditions vary so much throughout the state that we are bound to have differing results in our collections. Given the severity of this winter, now is a good time to update the Cold Tolerances of Some Bromeliads List. Send information about what survived and at what temperatures in your collection to karen@digital.net for inclusion in the May newsletter.

Sharing this information with the other members of your bromeliad society (what a good program for a meeting) will help you not only make plans for the Freeze of 2011 but assist your fellow growers as well.



Next Florida Council Meeting

April 10, 2010

Hosted by the Gainesville Bromeliad Society

See your Council representative
for more information.



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(continued from inside front cover)

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