

**Florida Council  
of  
Bromeliad Societies, Inc.**



**In this issue:**

**Kiti Wenzel  
After the Bloom Has Faded  
Oscar Ribeiro's Brazilian Journey**

**Vol. 31 Issue 4**

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(continued on the inside back cover)

**Thank you,  
Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society,  
for hosting the**

**2011 Bromeliad Extravaganza**

**and**

**Thank You,  
The Cryptanthus Society**

**for participating with  
Your Show And Auction**

**The Next Bromeliad Extravaganza  
will be in 2013**

**Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies  
is hosting the  
2012 World Bromeliad Conference  
In Orlando  
September 24-30**

See pages 2, 24 and go to [fcbs.org](http://fcbs.org) for more details



**Sponsored by  
The Bromeliad Society International**

**Hosted by  
Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies**

**September 26 - 30, 2012  
Caribe Royal  
8101 World Center, Orlando, Florida  
888-258-7501**

**A link to hotel reservations is  
at [fcbs.org](http://fcbs.org)  
Rooms starting at \$119 US**

**This world-class event includes outstanding sales, a Rare Plant Auction, seminars, tours, and an opportunity to meet bromeliad collectors and growers from all over the world!**

**Great Sales!  
Rare Plant Auction!  
Banquet!**

**Speakers include:  
Harry Luther  
Francisco Oliva-Esteve  
Peter Bak  
Dennis Cathcart**

**Tours include:  
Color Zone Tropicals  
McCrorry's Sunny Hill  
Russell's Bromeliads  
Deroose Bromeliads  
Home Tours**

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## Catching Up ... Staying Even



It's the end of the year already and members of our societies are planning their holiday parties. And keeping an eye on the temperature as well. Our warm autumn belies the fact that we still have the potential for cold weather in most of our state. Remember that your bromeliad societies are the best source of information for cold protection for your area.

The 2011 Bromeliad Extravaganza was quite a success, thanks to the efforts of the host society, Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society, The Cryptanthus Society and the members of the Florida Council. An added feature this year was the judged art show, with cash prizes awarded by FECBS. To see photographs of some of the art, go to the Council website ([fcbs.org](http://fcbs.org)) and click on What's New.

There are still artful role models around us, from Florida's own uber-talented Steve Littlefield (who has designed so many World Conference posters) to Penrith Goff, another wonderful artist who designed our WBC 2012 logo, to the incomparable Kiti Wenzel. Look for the article in this issue, written by Dr. Larry Giroux, as a tribute to the late Kiti Wenzel. After this newsletter's publication, this article will be posted on the Florida Council website ([fcbs.org](http://fcbs.org)) under Bromeliad People and will feature some of Kiti's artwork.

Please encourage your members to explore the art of botanical, especially bromeliad, illustration. Many botanical gardens and often even local libraries offer classes that are inexpensive and a good way to get started.

Speaking of Bromeliad People, there also is a memoriam to Dr. Helen Dexter in this issue. We were saddened to hear of

the passing of this iconic member of our community this fall. This article will also be added to the Bromeliad People section online, along with the article (by Alton Lee) published so long ago in Grande Magazine about the Dexters' gardens.

The February issue of this newsletter will include the Calendar of Events for 2012. Please be sure to send information about your society's shows, sales, and any other events in which your society participates to Karen@fcbs.org by January 20 so your event will be promoted in the newsletter and on the Council website.

In the meantime, keep up with information on next year's World Bromeliad Conference, to be held in Orlando, by checking the Florida Council website at fcbs.org. There you will find registration information, schedules and a direct link to the hotel, which has posted special reservation page for conference attendees.

Best wishes for the holiday season and a happy new year!



**Thank You,  
Bromeliad Society of Central Florida  
for hosting the fall meeting of  
The Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies!**



## News from FCBS Affiliated Societies



**Bromeliad Society of Central Florida** held a workshop in April on preparing plants for show. One half of the program we viewed plant entries that had previously been judged. The other half of the program Bob Smedley and Lisa Robinette scrubbed, potted up and described tricks of the trade, even putting together a decorative container. In May was our 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Show and Sale at Fashion Square Mall on Mothers Day weekend, and it was a great success. There are some pictures in our June newsletter and on our website ([mybscf.org](http://mybscf.org)). We had a picnic with Marty Folk presenting us with the pictures of the show and sale with music from different themes of movies. June was entitled "Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Bromeliads But Were Afraid to Ask". Dean Fairchild led us through a great show and tell; we had everyone involved in discussion. Our society celebrated its 39<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with all the officers supplying the refreshments with a cake and a lot of great treats. We voted on the slate of new officers for 2012: Kay Klugg and Carol Webb as our continuing Treasurers, Marty Folk continuing as Secretary, Lisa Robinette as our new Vice-President, and Ben Klugg as our new President. December we're having our Christmas Party at Dean Fairchild and Craig Allen's lovely home with their 14' Christmas tree decorated with thousands of ornaments that Craig puts his heart into every year! Lisa Robinette

In August, **Bromeliad Society of Broward County** held a Pot Luck Dinner and local artist Wanda Lee showed some of her whimsical backyard toys made from common materials like aluminum cans, garden tools and other discarded objects. Our Annual Auction was held on October 17. Starting October 22, the Society will have monthly rambles to nearby nurseries and

gardens. The first visit was to Jessie Derko's Nursery and Sunshine Bromeliads in Hollywood. Prospective rambles to Jeffrey Block's establishment and gardens in Fort Lauderdale are being programmed. Of course our annual Christmas Party will be in December. We look forward to Peter Bak who will present "The Art of breeding and producing millions of seedlings" in January. Jose Donayre

**Sarasota Bromeliad Society** is growing its membership and now has a workshop at 6:30 for 45 minutes at every meeting. This year's Christmas dinner will include a plant drawing. Members bring plants completely wrapped and are assigned numbers and then numbers are drawn for each person to get a plant surprise. Our 2012 Show and Sale will move from Marie Selby Botanical Gardens to the Manatee Convention Center on April 20 - 22 where we will share space in the building with a huge craft and hobby show, which draws 2,500 to 3,000 persons on Saturday and Sunday. We hope to get more of the public learning about and buying bromeliads. David Johnson

**Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society's** sale in August went very well. Fifteen members participated. The gross income was almost as much as the sale in April. Not only bromeliads attracted the customers; orchids, aroids, gingers, other tropical plants, gift baskets and hand crafted wood- slat baskets were also the draw. We were told that our prices were very reasonable! September Program was presented by Tom Wolfe. It was his first visit to our society. We enjoyed his presentation on his "Backyard Landscaping" so much that he definitely will be invited again. October was a program on "Weevil vs. Marty Folk." Marty's collection was attacked by the Evil Weevil a few years ago. He walked us through how to look for the sign of troubles, the damages, how to get rid of them, how to prevent them if you think they are getting close to your area, and what weevils look like. It was a very informative and entertaining

**Bromeliad Society of South Florida** held its Annual Auction and raised more than \$4000. Members also held their second ramble in November. Our Christmas party is on December 20. In February, we are planning a lunch for all members who have 15 years or more with the society. Mike Michalski

Tom and Carol Wolfe visited **Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society** for a program on Neoregelias, featuring Carol's photographs. Many beautiful Neos were brought in by club members for this meeting and selected several to be judged by all present in the competition devised by our Vice President Rick. There were several categories and a winner was ultimately chosen for each with a prize for each winner! Thanks Rick for organizing this – good idea and I think everyone enjoyed the contest. On August 20, there was a Native Plant Exchange at Virginia Dornbach's house. In August, members also participated in the Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Sale. In September we discussed Tillandsias. September 30 – Oct. 2nd was the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Southwest Bromeliad Guild Show and Sale at the Crown Plaza hotel in Austin, Texas. Rick Ryals, Jay Thurrott, and Calandra Thurrott attended and judged. October's topic was the Genus Vriesea. Mike Michalski was our featured guest conducting a game of bromeliad bingo. In November was the 2011 Bromeliad Extravaganza "The Art of Bromeliads," hosted by FECBS! Calandra Thurrott

**Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society** had a busy summer. Our meeting location was changed to Covenant Presbyterian Church, 2439 McGregor Blvd., Ft. Myers. We have workshops with each meeting. Our June workshop was on Mounting Bromeliads. In July, Amending Your Garden Soil. The August workshop was on entering plants into our show and preparing plants for the show. In September, the workshop was slides of members' gardens. Our December show was themed Bromeliad Peddler so that we could take advantage of Old World charm. Vicky Chirnside

**Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay** will hold its 2012 show the second week of April, in conjunction with the Florida Federation of Gardens. We also will once again have a 10' x 10' bromeliad display at the Florida State Fair during the second week of February. Tom Wolfe

**Gainesville Bromeliad Society** participated in the Kanapaha Open House. Sales were not as brisk as they were during the spring sale.



## **2012 Calendar of Events**

**Promote your society's shows, sales and events in which you participate in the February issue of this newsletter and online at the Council website, [fcbs.org](http://fcbs.org).**

**Send the dates, times, locations, and descriptions (optional) to [karen@fcbs.org](mailto:karen@fcbs.org) by January 20.**

## **Dr. Helen Dexter**

1908-2011

by Karen Andreas

Longtime bromeliad grower and friend Helga Tarver writes of the passing of a legendary bromeliad grower and friend, Dr. Helen Dexter, who died on September 20 of this year.

“What a wonderful lady and what an interesting life she had. Dr. Helen Dexter and her husband, Dr. Morris Dexter, joined the Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society and the Bromeliad Society International in the early 1950s. Both were our delegates to the Council for several years.

“Dr. Helen had a plant named for her: *Aechmea* ‘Helen Dexter’, a cultivar of *Aechmea apocalyptic*a with creamy margins. [A picture of this *Aechmea* is on the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies’ Photo Index, [fcbs.org](http://fcbs.org), click on *Aechmea*, then Cultivars then H.)

“A description of their yard in Belleair, Florida, was published in the Grande Magazine (“A Visit to a Collection, The Doctors Dexter” by Alton Lee).”

The Doctors Dexter were well known to bromeliad enthusiasts for their love of bromeliads and their impressive and renowned collection. Many of our bromeliad friends, however, have little idea of the very full and interesting life Dr. Helen Dexter lived.

Born in Cincinnati, Dr. Dexter lived and traveled throughout the world, from France to Russia, to Alaska, where her interest in archaeology was born. She majored in archaeology at Bryn Mawr College and worked in her first profession in Russia. Upon her return to the United States, she studied medicine at the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia University, one of only four women in her class. She was one

first female doctors in the Clearwater area, where she did not tolerate discrimination and treated her patients with compassion and accepted creative payments such as produce or chickens.

She married Dr. Morris Dexter in 1935 and worked as a physician during the Second World War while Dr. Morris Dexter served in the Navy. After the war, she completed her training as a dermatologist, and the family moved to Belleair in 1954. Dr. Helen Dexter was active in her community, serving as a Commissioner on the Belleair City Council for three terms.

The bromeliad community has lost a stalwart and legendary friend in Dr. Helen Dexter. Dr. Morris Dexter died in 1992 and their daughter Katharine died in 2001. Dr. Helen Dexter is survived by her son William Dexter, daughters Helen Dalzell (Robert) and Lissa Dexter and four grandchildren.

To read the Grande article mentioned above, go to [fcbs.org](http://fcbs.org), Bromeliad People and look for “Dr. Helen Dexter.”



**Extravaganza 2011**  
**The Art of Bromeliads and the**  
**2011 International Cryptanthus Show**

By Tom Wolfe, Chairman  
Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies



For starters I congratulate the Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society for an extraordinary event. All the hard work and many hours of planning really paid off.

Congratulations are also in order to The Cryptanthus Society for the excellent 2011 International Cryptanthus Show. The Cryptanthus Society's judged show was downstairs, filling a room full of great Cryptanthus specimens.

The Plaza Resort and Spa on Daytona Beach was a great venue choice with very spacious meeting rooms and beautifully renovated guest rooms.

The sales room was also huge and packed full of plants from almost every commercial vendor in Florida plus some outside Florida. In addition there was a large membership sales area.

First was an ice cream and cake reception at the Peabody Auditorium on Friday evening. The array of art and the variety of medium was outstanding. All the walls of the auditorium were covered with some form of art. Best in Show was won by Urszula Dudek with her oil painting of a Cryptanthus. First Place was won by Darleen Hunt with her watercolor of a Florida Tillandsia, and Second Place was won by our own Carol Wolfe with her photo of the inflorescence of *Ursulaea macvaughii*. A large group of FCBS members and artists were in attendance. Thanks to Mary McBride, Judy Gilmer and Calandra Thurrott for encouraging, organizing and

of the  
this unique event.

The banquet room was filled with some 160 registrants and table centerpieces created by internationally known floral designer Mr. Terry Dyson of Daytona Beach.

There were 98 donations for the rare plant auction plus all the Cryptanthus plants for the Cryptanthus auction. This amount of plants would equal some World Conference auctions.

There were four well-attended seminars throughout the day on Saturday presented by Dean Fairchild, Carole Richtmyer, Dr. Terrie Bert and myself.

I'm sure all who attended had a great time buying plants, listening to speakers and enjoying old friends and meeting new ones!



### **Additions to the State Roster:**

Chris George: [chrisg7989@yahoo.com](mailto:chrisg7989@yahoo.com)  
Bobby Ing: [bobbying1@aol.com](mailto:bobbying1@aol.com)  
Nancy Mason: [ngmason@att.net](mailto:ngmason@att.net)  
Hjordis Owens: [hjordan@bellsouth.net](mailto:hjordis@bellsouth.net)  
Freida Sessions: [sessionsf@earthlink.net](mailto:sessionsf@earthlink.net)  
David Silverman: [nmvr1is8@hotmail.com](mailto:nmvr1is8@hotmail.com)  
Lois Wood: [lawood@ufl.edu](mailto:lawood@ufl.edu)

### **New Email Addresses:**

Karl Green: [bromdad@att.net](mailto:bromdad@att.net)  
David Smith: [smithd188@gmail.com](mailto:smithd188@gmail.com)

### **New Address:**

Marion Trzecink  
827 North Peninsula Drive



## **After the Bloom Has Faded**

by Kenneth L. Stokes



Eighty to ninety percent of the plants that are sold at the retail level are dead within one year of sale. This is because, after the bloom has faded, the plant is thrown away. The bulk of plants propagated are grown for their bloom only.

Chrysanthemums, poinsettias, annuals such as petunias, nasturtiums and marigolds and bromeliads make up the bulk of these plants. Commercial bromeliads come with a tag that says that propagation is prohibited. Also, the cost to separate and grow offsets from commercial bromeliads that have finished blooming is greater than buying new ones at the perfect stage of growth. Trashing the plants is the easiest way to deal with them. The greenhouse conditions, under which commercial blooming plants are grown, produces perfect plants which the home grower can't easily duplicate. Some people cut back their former holiday decorations and plant them out in their yard. They're seldom worth looking at the next year, being sparse, gangly and poorly developed. Often, retail buyers don't have the patience to wait over a year for new blooms to form.

The avid bromeliad collector should not follow the practice of trashing their plants after the blooms have faded. Knowing what to do to get future generations from your initial one plant is the difference between 'buyers' and 'growers'. The following information will help you determine what course you should take, after the bloom has faded.

There are primarily four different ways bromeliads bloom and then continue to reproduce.

The first is when the bloom arises from the center and is the last of the growing tip. When the bloom fades, new shoots

start at the base, and the bloomed plant begins to deteriorate, eventually dying. Customers who are told that the bromeliad only blooms once and then dies will invariably throw it away when the bloom fades. Growers know that to remove the spent bloom is the best thing to do. The mother plant is then able to transfer nutrients to the pups, rather than supporting a dying bloom. There are exceptions. Some bromeliads go from a blooming to a fruiting stage, with attractive bracts and berries. This is typical of some *Aechmeas* and *Porteas*. If you intend to grow bromeliads from seed, you need to leave the bloom on until the seeds are formed, either within the bracts or fruits. The seeds you collect from such yard grown plants may be honey bee hybrids. The plants will most likely not be exactly like the seed parent.

The second way is when the plant blooms in the center, but then divides into two plants on either side of the bloom. The old leaves then die off, leaving a branched caudex. This is most typically found in the genus *Vriesea*. A similar but different thing happens with *Cryptanthus*, where new plants emerge from the bloom area, but the mother plant retains its vitality. New offsets may also form at the base. At least one *Cryptanthus* only reproduces via base offsets.

The third way for a bromeliad to bloom is from between the leaves. This is referred to as blooming in an axillary manner, or radiating out from the center, rather than from the center. Because the bloom is not the growing tip, such plants do not die after blooming. They may even bloom regularly, rather than just once a year. The spent inflorescence can be removed as soon as the color fades from the petals. There is at least one exception. *Deuterochonia meiziana* will bloom several times on the same inflorescence. Some plants in this category may also multiply or divide after they bloom. Many *Dyckias* and *Hechtias* put on pups, even when they are small or not even a blooming size.

The fourth is when the bloom inflorescence becomes a host for baby plants. They are known as being viviparous plants. Some orchids and lilies also produce plantlets on their bloom stalk.

The most obvious genera of bromeliads that are viviparous are Orthophytum and Tillandsia. The bracts around the white petals on an Orthophytum look like leaves, but are not. Eventually true leaves will develop beneath them. It's best to leave the little plants on the scape until it begins to wither. In nature, the baby plants become so heavy, the inflorescence droops to the ground and plants the babies close by the mother.

Plants are growing things and are never static in their appearance. Even without a bloom, most bromeliads are attractive. Learn to recognize the various stages of growth and appreciate the qualities of an ever-changing plant. If you want it to always look the same, buy plastic flowers or throw your plants away when the bloom fades and buy another perfect one already in bloom.



**Next Florida Council Meeting**  
**hosted by**  
**Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society**  
**January 14, 2012**

**See your Council representative for  
more information.**

**Bromeliad People:  
Kiti Wenzel  
1908-2007  
by Dr. Larry Giroux**



Kiti Wenzel was an extraordinary woman, teacher and artist. On Friday, September 14th, 2007, she was taken from us, four months shy of her 100th birthday.

Kiti was already demonstrating her artistic talents in high school; it was a series of drawings in her high school paper that earned her a full scholarship to the Moore College of Art and Design in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Here she started her artistic career after graduation. Much of her time was spent educating children in the principles of art. Kiti moved from Philadelphia to Florida in 1956; during the 1960s, she and her husband owned and operated a restaurant, art studios and gallery on Fort Myers Beach, while still teaching art to a limited number of students. After a move to Sarasota, where she continued her career as a professional artist, she moved back to Fort Myers.

It was in 1981 that Kiti did her first drawing of a bromeliad, *Billbergia pyramidalis*, which was given to her by a friend. In 1985, she joined the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society and was intrigued by the wonderful and varied forms of bromeliads and other botanicals. Her switch from impressionistic and abstract painting to the realism of growing plants was fueled by the various plants she intentionally grew for the purpose of using for study and as models. Kiti once wrote “the surprise of each different and individual inflorescence is enough excitement to inspire drawing to record the many varieties nature produces.”

There are hundreds of her original watercolors and colored pencil drawings of bromeliads adorning homes throughout the world. Kiti's collection of horticultural print greeting cards remain cherished gifts when sent by a friend. Her numerous Art Exhibitions held over the last four decades here in Florida were memorable events. Her generosity is well documented by her contributions of her works to many auctions of local and international organizations as well as providing posters and original designs for World Bromeliad Conferences' publications.

Although we will never see her picture surrounded by the Smucker's logo on the "Today Show" with Willard Scott... announcing to the world her 100th birthday, Kiti has still left her own unique label on canvases, cards, tee-shirts and most importantly on the hearts of all who knew and admired her. For more than 75 years, she constructed a legacy as a teacher and creator of beauty. The diversity of Kiti's work has distinguished her as a truly exceptional artist and especially as a master of "botanical art." She captured nature with pencils, ink and paint so that many others could enjoy it; and in so doing, Kiti Wenzel, in spite of her passing, allows us to keep her creativity and inspirations close to us for a long time to come.

Thanks to Dr. Larry for contributing some of Kiti's artwork for this article. You will find it online at [fcbs.org](http://fcbs.org). Look for it under Bromeliad People.



**Mexican Bromeliad Weevil Report**  
**July – September 2011**  
**Teresa M. Cooper<sup>1</sup>, Ronald D. Cave<sup>1</sup>, and J.**  
**Howard Frank<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Indian River Research & Education Center, UF, Ft. Pierce, FL

<sup>2</sup>Entomology & Nematology Department, UF, Gainesville, FL



The *Lixadmontia franki* colony produced 307 puparia this quarter (193 in July, 41 in August, and 73 in September). The fluctuations in the population are decreasing; there was only one week in August when no puparia were collected. With a more stable fly population, we will be able to make more regular releases and to continue with some research which has been put on hold pending the recovery of the colony, including temperature studies on the fly and testing what volatiles the female flies cue in on to find host weevil larvae.

A fly release was made at the Fakahatchee Strand State Preserve on August 31. Six gravid females were released. Sentinel pineapple tops (pineapple tops inoculated with weevil larvae) were placed in the field on October 4 to monitor for F2 flies. The tops will be retrieved on October 20 and the weevil larvae watched for parasitism.

Data for the temperature tolerance, developmental rate, and survival rate of the weevil have been collected and are in the process of being analyzed and reported.

We are still in the process of testing the weevil on Florida forms of *Tillandsia utriculata* versus Central American forms of *T. utriculata*. Preliminary data have been collected but is still in the process of being analyzed.

From October 11 to 18 Ron Cave, Howard Frank, Dennis Giardini, and Teresa Cooper went to Honduras to search for

wild *L. franki* puparia to bring back to the lab. These specimens will bring new genetic material and increased fly numbers to our lab colony.

We have lost our supply of free pineapple tops (used to feed the weevils in our weevil colony) that we had been getting from Winn Dixie stores because Winn Dixie is now having the fruit shipped in with the leafy tops cut off. There is still one store (Fresh Market) from which we can get pineapple tops, but they do not provide enough tops to maintain the weevil colony. We began a pineapple patch in an outdoor field plot as well as pineapple plants in pots in a greenhouse last year and are starting to use these plants to feed the colony.

### Presentations

Presentation given by J. Howard Frank at Leu Gardens for the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida: Hunting bromeliad-eating weevils in Belize.

### Publications

Cooper Teresa M., Frank J. Howard, Cave Ron D., Burton M. S., Dawson J. S., Smith B. W. 2011. Release and monitoring of a potential biological control agent, *Lixadmontia franki*, to control an invasive bromeliad-eating weevil, *Metamasius callizona*, in Florida. Biological Control. Available online at: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1049964411002489>



# Oscar Ribeiro's Journey in Brazil Continues

by Karen Andreas



On January 1, 2012, Oscar Ribero will publish another chapter in his ongoing story of Brazil and the homes of its people, its bromeliads and flora on the website of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies.

Approximately 170 photographs take you on a journey to a region where you will see saxicolous growth habitat that blows the mind. We all intellectually understand that some bromeliads are saxicolous in growth – that is, grow on rocks – and there we expect to find *Dyckia*, *Orthophytum* and *Encholirium*. But to see the diversity and the tenacity of *Aechmeas*, *Tillandsias*, *Vrieseas*, *Billbergias* and even *Neoregelias* not only clinging to life but thriving in the harshest and rockiest conditions is stunning.

In this stark landscape there is unexpected beauty in blooming trees, cactus with the bluest flowers, orchids, and unfamiliar native plants in bright bloom. Even lichens range from frosty silver-gray to brilliant orange and red. Find a grasshopper so thoroughly camouflaged that it takes a close up photograph to identify it. A brilliant butterfly is captured in another picture.

This photographic trip takes yet another unexpected turn in a forest and wetlands so lush that you for a moment suspect you have wandered into another story.

In his introduction to this chapter, Oscar writes: “In the closing of Chapter 6, I said that this would be the last chapter covering the Espinhaço Range in the state of Minas Gerais. Well, I was wrong! In August 2011, I decided - for no specific reason but gut feeling - to explore a tiny locality called São Gonçalo do



Rio das Pedras, near Diamantina, of which I had no information save for the fact that there was a small inn I could stay. The Internet offered little help, besides the geographical location, that is, in the Estrada Real and relatively close to the Serra do Cipó, a good sign in biodiversity. In similar circumstances in the past, I learned to trust my instinct so I hit the road.

“The decision to dedicate Chapter 7 to São Gonçalo do Rio das Pedras is a tribute to its spectacular scenery and diversity. It is the habitat of many species of bromeliads, orchids and cactii of splendid forms and exquisite colors. The people are nice and one is instantly involved by a glorious silence, a characteristic of the savannas. This said, I am confident this addition will please you.”

Once again, the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies is grateful to Oscar Ribeiro for sharing his fantastic journey with us.

To read this and the previous chapters in Oscar’s photographic journey, go to [fcbs.org](http://fcbs.org), click on Bromeliad Habitats. You will find these chapters under Brazil. Or, on January 1, go to What’s New and the link will be posted there.



# Orlandiana World Bromeliad Conference Report

by Betsy McCrory, Chairman



The 20<sup>th</sup> World Bromeliad Conference is right around the corner. We have had two organizational meetings so far, and plans are coming along. The speakers have been selected, the commercial growers tours are almost complete, and the schedule of events will be posted shortly on the websites, [fcbs.org](http://fcbs.org) and [bsi.org](http://bsi.org).

If you haven't gotten in your registration, now is the time. The price is \$160 if paid by February 28, 2012. You can save \$10 per registration if you group them with other members of your society. You need to have three or more registrations per envelope to get the discount. Your society can send in more than one envelope, hopefully one per month would be nice. The registration form is on the websites.

Our sales area for this conference is 26,000 sq. ft. so we shouldn't have any trouble with being able to see everything that the vendors bring for sale. Start saving your money because I hear that the growers will have some very special plants for you to buy.

We will be having a raffle for the first 10 people to get into the sales area before anyone else. Be sure to get your ticket(s) near the registration desk when you get to the hotel.

The convention space is not located near the lobby of the hotel, but in the back of the hotel; all of our space is located on the west side of the convention center. The registration desk is located near our convention space. You will know you are there because of all of the displays that are planned for the hallway.

The theme for the show is “Kaleidoscope of Bromeliads.” The banquet will be casual with everyone encouraged to wear Pineapple shirts.

Be sure to check the websites for the latest details on the conference. I hope to see everyone here in Orlando.



## **Speakers List**

### **Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society**

Al Muzzell – “Pitcairnioideae – Have We Forgotten Them?”

### **Sarasota Bromeliad Society**

Peter Konchalakos gave an outstanding presentation on bromeliads and landscaping with them. He discussed how light, temperature conditions, what types of pests in your yard you might have and what commitment you are willing to make using bromeliads in your landscape. He gave some creative and informative ideas for using bromeliads and how to grow them. It was enjoyed by all. Inez Dolotowski

Terrie Bert - "Insights on How to Make Smart Purchases of Bromeliads"

Ray Lemieux - "Terrestrial Plants"

Guillermo Rivera – “Bromeliads of Central Brazil”

### **Bromeliad Society of Central Florida**

Terrie Bert - “Best Buy Bromeliads: More Bang for Your Buck”

Marty Baxley humored us with “What a Novice Sees On a Collecting Trip,” including slides from 19 years ago when he visited Costa Rico with Michael Kiehl, meeting up with Chester Skotak and Peter Bak. Lisa Robinette

Dr. Howard Frank talked about his favorite subject, The Weevil, adding his amusing antics to the program while he was in Belize. Lisa Robinette

Dennis Cathcart - "Singapore Project"

### **Bromeliad Society of Broward County**

Theresa Bert - "Best bromeliads, how to shop for them and find the best price"

Dave Johnston spoke about *Cryptanthus* and showed photos of species plants from his own collection.

Craig Morrell - "Pest control in Horticulture"

Tim and Colleen Hendrix - "Bromeliads 101"

Joe Libertucci - "How Not to Cultivate Bromeliads"

### **Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society**

Tom Wolfe - "Backyard Landscaping"

George Aldrich - "Cryptanthus"

- "Collecting Bromeliads in Peru"

Jay Thurrott - "World Bromeliad Conference 2010"

Marty Folk - "The Weevil v Marty Folk"

Marty's collection was attacked by the Evil Weevil a few years ago. He walked us through how to look for the sign of troubles, the damages, how to get rid of them, how to prevent them if you think they are getting close to your area, and what weevils look like. It was a very informative and entertaining presentation. Sudi Hipsley

### **Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society**

Grant Groves

Tom Wolfe- "Neoreglia's" with photos by Carol Wolfe

Mike Michalski - "Bromeliad Bingo"

Jay Thurrott - "Bromeliad 101"

Dennis Cathcart

Dean Fairchild

### **Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society**

Dennis Cathcart – “Garden by the Sea”

Guillermo Rivera – “Destination Brazil - A Bromeliad Adventure”

Betty Ann Prevatt and Eleanor Kinzie – “Native Florida Bromeliads.” They brought in living specimens of almost all of our native plants. Vicky Chirside

Bruce Hoist – “The Lost World.” This was an intensely interesting presentation. Vicky Chirside

### **Bromeliad Society of South Florida**

Mike Michalski – “Preparing Plants for the April Show”

Pete Kouchalakos – “Where and How to Plant Bromeliads for Landscaping”

### **Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay**

Al Muzzell – “Terrestrials”

Mike O’Leary – “25 Best Bromeliads to Start a Collection”

### **Gainesville Bromeliad Society**

Dean Fairchild – “You Too Can Be a Bromeliad Taxonomy Expert.” It was a Q and A format and a great exercise. Ron Schoenau

### **Bromeliad Society of Central Florida**

Jose Donayre – “Billbergias”

Dave Johnston – “What Species You Must Have”



# Calendar of Events 2012

**April 2**

**Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society**

Master Gardeners Sale

Volusia County Fairgrounds

**April 14-15**

**Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Sale**

The Garden Club of Sanford 9:00 – 4:00

Event questions: 407-539-4314

**April 22-21**

**Bromeliad Society of South Florida**

Show and Sale

Fairchild Gardens

**April 20-22**

**Sarasota Bromeliad Society**

Manatee Convention Center

**August 18-19**

**Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Sale**

The Garden Club of Sanford 9:00 – 4:00

Event questions: 407-539-4314

**September 26-30**

**Orlandiana 2012 World Bromeliad Conference**

Caribe Royal

Orlando, Florida

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(continued from inside front cover)

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#### **Secretary**

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#### **Treasurer**

Sudi Hipsley

Seminole Brom./Tropical  
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**Happy  
Holidays!  
Happy  
New Year!**