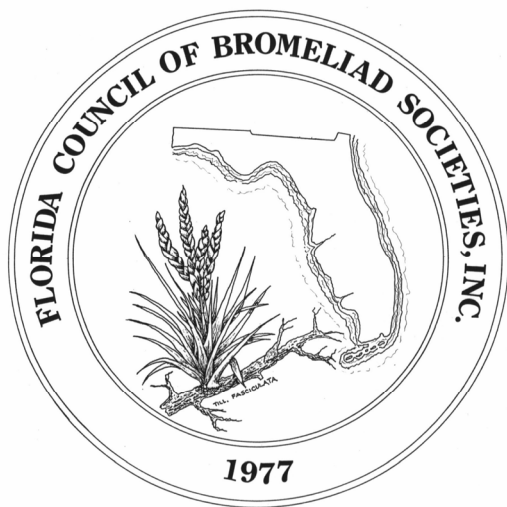


**Florida Council
of
Bromeliad Societies, Inc.**



**Final Newsletter in Print
1978-2013**

**The NFL and Bromeliads
Oscar's Gift**

Vol. 33 Issue 4

November 2013

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(continued on the inside back cover)

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Letter from the FCBS Chairman



In January this year, the Council began a lengthy discussion about the future of this newsletter: to continue with a printed version or to go digital.

Florida Council Representatives polled each of you to determine what you want from the Council. The result was a showing of support (9 of 10 societies) from the members of each affiliate society to go digital, leaving behind our paper format we have received quarterly for years, the first such issue having been published by our original editor, Carol Johnson in 1981.

Discussions ensued throughout the year, and in October, the Council Representatives voted for the digital format with the full support of our long standing, current editor in chief, Karen Andreas, who has bravely agreed to lead us digitally into 2014.

Please enjoy this last paper issue of the FCBS Quarterly Newsletter and look forward to what 2014 will bring.

The digital format will allow the incorporation of more information and full color photographs supporting and furthering the purpose of the Council in promoting bromeliads through growing, showing and research.

For those of you who do not have the ability to access the newsletter in an electronic format, each society will individually ensure that you receive a paper copy of the digital material.

I wish everyone a healthy and happy holiday season.

Ashley Graham

Catching Up ... Staying Even



This newsletter marks the end of an era. After more than 30 years, this is the last issue of the newsletter to be printed and mailed to our members. Starting in February, the Council newsletter will be produced digitally; you will be able to read it online.

Carol Johnson created the format for this newsletter and filled it with news. Authoritative, sometimes acerbic, she wrote the news, dispensed advice and opinions and made the newsletter always worth reading.

The newsletter format will change: it will no longer be in book format. Instead, it will be 8.5" x 11", in .pdf format. If you need the (free) Adobe Acrobat reader, you will find it at fcbs.org, under the new Newsletter button in the menu on the opening page. There you will also find back issues of all the Council newsletters, starting with the original FCBS publication, Grande.

The biggest change, of course, will be pictures and color for the newsletter!

Don't forget that the Florida Council has a page on Facebook. You are welcome to post society news on that page, including promoting your meetings, guest speakers and events for your society. You may also post pictures of your own bromeliads, either to brag or ask for identification or help. It's your page – please use it!

Happy Holidays to one and all, and Happy New Year!

See you in virtual print in 2014!

News from FCBS Affiliated Societies



Holiday News

Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay, Harold Sisco reporting: The Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay (BGTB) celebrates the Holiday event with a Christmas "pot-luck" dinner with an auction following. We also have a plant gift exchange for those who wish to participate. Everyone dresses up for this event and brings a dish for the Christmas "pot luck dinner". One of our members roasts a turkey and another member bakes a ham. We usually have our Christmas Party the second Monday of December.

Bromeliad Society of South Florida, Mike Michalski reporting: Our Christmas party is the third Tuesday in December. All members and guests get a free plant. Members bring in veggies or a dessert, and the meats are furnished by the society or one or two members who donate their time to cook a turkey or pork. Someone always brings in a ham I bring a bottle of rum.

Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society, Ashley Graham reporting: FWCBS will celebrate the holidays on December 3, 2013, with a pot luck dinner which is held at the regular meeting location. Each member brings a dish to share and the club supplies a main dish. We love to eat! Tables are typically adorned with centerpieces. The club also purchases enough plants for each member. The plants are wrapped in paper. Each member receives a free raffle ticket for a drawing to receive a free plant. Everyone ends up with a surprise plant to take home. Some plants are donated for a paid raffle opportunity and the FWCBS also has an optional member plant exchange.

Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society, Larry Giroux reporting: Caloosahatchee members are party animals. Every April we celebrate our birthday in lieu of our April meeting, and each of our general meetings are more like a party with sale plants, raffle and lots of food, but it is our Holiday party in December, which is most memorable each year. This year it is being held at the Orange River home of Bill and Betsy Burdette. Beneath the canopy of dozens of 60 foot trees, thousands of tropical plants await their discovery by the party visitors. A huge raffle is created by the donation of unique plants of all kinds. Games and contests all associated with bromeliads in some way commence. Canoeing, exploring, fishing or just relaxing along the river can occupy your quiet time.

The food, did I mention the food...our guests out do themselves, it seems, each year with unusual dishes. All bromeliad enthusiasts are invited to our parties...admission is a dish to feed a few people and a love of bromeliads...Oh don't forget to bring an up mood.

Bromeliad Society of Broward County, Jose Donayre reporting: BSBC will celebrate the Holidays on December 16, the day of our regular meeting at the renovated Deicke Auditorium. A pot luck dinner is planned with the Society providing the meat dish. In addition, plants donated by members will be exchanged using the "Chinese" torture method.

Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society, Calandra Thurrott reporting: Our club traditionally meets for a pot luck dinner with the club providing the main entrée and drinks. FECBS will have dinner at 11:00, December 8 at the Colony in the Woods, Port Orange. A holiday dinner planning committee was formed in October. Our hostess Hedy is excused from this committee because she will not need to take part other than to enjoy the dinner. There will be a judged bromeliad centerpiece competition. There will be gifts for the winner, the out-going officers and hostess as well as the club members.

Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society, Kay Klugh reporting: The Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society has an annual Christmas party in lieu of a December meeting. Members bring pot-luck dishes and the society provides ham for the luncheon. Participating members bring gift wrapped plants for a plant swap. This celebration is well received and good fellowship is enjoyed by all attending.

Bromeliad Society of Central Florida, Lisa Robinette reporting: At our annual Christmas party location, we always enjoy a turkey, ham and all the delicious holiday sides including exchanging of gifts. There's a surprise distribution plant that everyone brings home with them along with who will get the table centerpieces.



News

Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society, Calandra Thurrott reporting: FECBS members turned out for the Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society sale at the Sanford Garden Club. In September, Rick Ryals, Jay and Calandra Thurrott attended the SW Bromeliad Guild show and sale in Dallas, Texas, also the Cryptanthus Society's International Cryptanthus Show and the BSI's annual meeting. Jay was reelected president of BSI for another three-year term. Rick was named as a new director for Florida. Calandra judged the show and took the Judge's Challenge award. The Bromeliad Extravaganza was attended by 11 members of FECBS. Rick, Jillian and Calandra assisted with the Rare Plant Auction. In October, we held a special raffle for one of our own, Billy McBride who is currently in a nursing facility recovering from a stroke. We took in a record amount with exceptional donations from Sudi Hipsley, Bryan Manion, Butch Force, and Gary Signs among many, many others.

Bromeliad Society of Central Florida, Lisa Robinette reporting: BSCF moved its meeting place to Reeves Methodist Church, approximately one mile from Leu Gardens. Our new meeting address is now 1100 North Fern Creek Ave. 32803. We had our annual Wind Down picnic from all the hard work we did at the mall for May. Lisa brought her wheel barrel into the A/C in June for a basic potting course. July we had an extended show and tell and plant sales. Our annual Christmas party location is still to be decided which we always enjoy a turkey, ham and all the delicious holiday sides including exchanging of gifts. There's a surprise distribution plant that everyone brings home with them along with who will get the table centerpieces.

Bromeliad Society of Broward County, Jose Donayre reporting: While our regular meeting place, the Deicke Auditorium in Plantation, continues its renovation, the Society agreed to reduce its activities during the summer. In the meantime, the Broward Society has been using the facilities at the Plantation Community Church for some of our meetings. It is expected that the Auditorium will be reopened this month after which we will restart our regular programs and proceed to deal with our Board elections. A Community Outreach activity took place on Saturday, September 7, at the Plantation Community Church, in grateful acknowledgement for being our hosts for the summer. Several members donated an array of colorful plants and, in spite of the weather, worked tirelessly helping in designing and planting a bromeliad landscape area. Tim and Colleen Hendrix gave a program, "The Basics of Bromeliads" at the Flamingo Orchid Society in Plantation showing how to cultivate these plants, pupping and potting techniques and their general care.

Oscar's Gift

by Karen Andreas

New Year's Day brings to fcbs.org the premier of Oscar Ribeiro's Chapter 9 of his ongoing series about bromeliads, their Brazilian environment, and the perils in the environment to both plant and people. This annual gift by Oscar to the Council and its web readers not only showcases magnificent ecosystems and the diversity of the plants that occupy those spaces, but also illustrate in uncompromising terms the impact of man on land as well as the beauty of the architecture created by man.

This latest installment features the "extravagant landscape and diversity of biomes of the area surrounding Jacobina." Indeed, see for the first time, pictures of a newly discovered *Hohenbergia lativaginata*. This makes three new *Hohenbergia* species discovered by Oscar in Bahia to date (*igatuensis* and *magnispina*, both in 2003).

To say that the terrain is rough is an understatement. The journey starts out with rugged, challenging roadways into glorious and magnificent lands. Bromeliads share the landscape with orchids, antherium, amaryllis, cactus as well as plants unknown to us. Trees are massive and some in bloom with bright and delicate looking flowers. If you have ever wondered about the term 'saxicollic', here you will find dozens, and, in some cases, hundreds of *Hohenbergia*, *Vriesea*, *Aechmea*, *Billbergia* and *Tillandsia* thriving on rocks under brutal sun. An exquisite, striated pink rock formation is crowned by *Encholirium spectabile*.

The pictures will, as always with Oscar's work, blow your mind. "Prepare your heart," he writes, "for the photos of the population of *Orthophytum navioides*, THE most amazing I have ever seen in nature! It was well worth the effort

dispensed to find it on top of a big mountain.”

Hundreds of pictures accompany this installment, of brilliant, amazing, stunning ecosystems. In these lands, the ruins of churches and abandoned huts have integrated into the landscape, nature growing up and around abandoned walls, windows embracing impossible views. In the midst of stony landscape, pools of icy blue water flows in captive pockets.

Fauna is not neglected. An insect captures a bee; a gorgeously colored snake moves through foliage; a brilliantly green grasshopper seems to mug for the camera; birds move in and out of the camera’s range; a butterfly lights on a finger. Drought raises its ugly head.

On January 1, Chapter 9 will be posted at fcbs.org. Look for it under What’s New. The previous chapters of this series are found in Bromeliad Habitats on fcbs.org.

Thank you, Oscar!



The NFL and Bromeliads

The Name Conundrum

by Karen Andreas



What's in a name?

Neoregelia 'Burgundy' is an obvious name, given the deep red color of the leaves. Aechmea 'Candy Corn' is even more obvious as its inflorescence resembles the Halloween treat. Billbergia 'Beadleman' is an appropriate homage, given its origins in "Domingos Martins", Don Beadle's favorite Billbergia for hybridizing. The inflorescence of Aechmea 'Blue Tango' is striking and richly blue. So naming for the color of foliage, the character of inflorescence, or to honor an individual seems to be a generally accepted rule of thumb.

It sounds so simply straightforward, however recent events in the NFL show that a name can become a conundrum. Believe it or not, this conundrum is also found in the bromeliad world.

The NFL is faced with a name dilemma. At its inception, the Washington Redskins was an acceptable name and a common place term in the everyday vernacular. It was from a time when such terms were used condescendingly to describe minorities who had not the ability to object or to demand respect rather than characterization based on race. In the 21st century, however, the term "redskin" has been recognized as a pejorative term, offensive to many.

One glaringly obvious example in the bromeliad world, a hold-over from those times, is Neoregelia 'Tar Baby'. Although its picture in the Photo Index at fcbs.org shows only red leaves,

its registration documentation states that its leaves are black when grown in strong light. Another is Aechmea “Pickaniny”, whose Photo Index picture shows black banding on deep red leaves. ‘Tar Baby’ and ‘Pickaniny’ are terms that are insensitive and racially motivated to many in the United States, although not necessarily offensive or known to those in other parts of the world.

So what to do? As the NFL contemplates a name change for the Washington team, there are no policies in place to address racially insensitive terms for bromeliads officially registered.

This is more than being about “political correctness”. It is about a conscious decision not to be offensive. At a time when all bromeliad societies seek to expand their memberships, it is important to be inclusive and welcoming. Imagine being an African-American at a bromeliad society meeting where ‘Tar Baby’ or ‘Pickaniny’ is held up and identified. Would that person be uncomfortable, offended? Would those around that person feel the same?

Context also becomes part of the discussion.

What if the bromeliad being named with an offensive name is a personal provocation: the name does not fit the color of the leaves, the color or appearance of the inflorescence. The name, however, has racial overtones in one region or a country.

There are no easy answers. First and foremost, the matter must be brought to the notice of the BSI cultivar registrar, who cannot be expected to be knowledgeable or sensitive to this issue if the name is offensive in another country or culture. However, once the name is brought forward as being an issue, how to proceed becomes the big issue.

While ‘Tar Baby’ and ‘Pickaniny’ were not commonly acknowledged as offensive in their day, they are now. Should history be rewritten by renaming the plant, with a notation of the change and its reason? Should the name be allowed to stand, with or without such a notation?

Football or bromeliads, it is a conundrum. It also is deserving of acknowledgement followed by thoughtful discussion.



Speakers List

Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

Charlie Birdsong spoke to the club about Hylaeicum, a sub-group of Neoregelia

Terri Bert - O & P

Jay Thurrott - “Growing Bromeliads from Seed.”

Bromeliad Society of Central Florida

Jay Thurrott - Seedlings

Marty Folk gave an excellent program on how he saved his bromeliad collection from the evil weevil.

Terrie Bert - O & P part II.

Tom Wolfe - Unique ways to display bromeliads.

Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society

Barbara Whittier - Bromeliad Pioneers of Central Florida

Bromeliad Society of Broward County

Tracy Moulton - “A stroll through Selby Gardens” with photo material from her recent visit to the Gardens. In addition, she complemented her talk with Selby Gardens produced video showing its history and current activities.

Mexican Bromeliad Weevil Report

Ronald D. Cave¹, Teresa M. Cooper¹, and
J. Howard Frank²

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

²Entomology & Nematology Department, UF, Gainesville, FL



Our *Lixadmontia franki* fly colony has declined due to a spider infestation, so no fly releases were made in the spring or summer of 2013.

We will be receiving new fly shipments from Honduras in October, November, and December of this year. These flies will be used to rebuild the colony and, hopefully, we will be able to make fly releases beginning early next spring.

We have slowly been able to continue research on the fly's response to host weevil and bromeliad odors. The new flies will allow us to speed up this research.

We have collected several tissue samples from Central American and Floridian forms of *Tillandsia utriculata*, to be genetically tested to determine if these two forms of *T. utriculata* are the same species. We will continue to collect and test more samples.

We have begun testing the host bromeliad effect on the weevil's development and reproductive behavior, using whole bromeliads. Bromeliads being tested are the Central American and Floridian forms of *Tillandsia utriculata*, as well as *Tillandsia fasciculata*, *Guzmania monostachia*, and pineapple tops.

(continued next page)

Publications:

Cooper TM, Frank JH. Description of the larval stages of *Lixadmontia franki* (Diptera: Tachinidae). Florida Entomologist. In press.

Presentations:

Cooper TM, Frank JH, Cave RD. 21 September 2013. The invasive species *Metamasius callizona* (Mexican Bromeliad Weevil): problems and prospects. 2013 Bromeliad Extravaganza, Indian Rocks Beach, Florida. [Poster.]



Weevil Report Archive

An archive of all weevil reports, from 2006 to the present, can be found on the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies' website at fcbs.org. Click on Weevil Information.



**Thank you,
Bromeliad Society of Broward County,
for hosting the October meeting
of the
Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies.**

The FCBS Newsletter in Print 1978-2013



In 1978, the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies embarked on its first print publication, the large format, full color Grande. James Elmore was its first editor, leading a group of dedicated and creative people to produce this magazine. For many of us, the names are a walk down Memory Lane; they also invoke the pioneers of our Florida Bromeliad Community:

James Elmore	Bud Martin
Bob Puterbaugh	Ralph Quilhot
Ellen Jay Peyton	Thomas Crocker
Bill Radford	Murline Lydon
Jody Speer	Helen Wright
Prentice Bond	Daris Cathcart
Herb Hill	Bunny Hendrix
Carol Johnson	Norman Pettigrew
Tracy Jones	Vicky Chirnside
John C. Ruth II	

Other people, notable in their day and even more notable today, contributed articles, photographs and commentary, as well: Maureen Frazel, Harry Luther, H. Alton Lee, Nat DeLeon, Peggy Rowe, Bert Foster, Dennis Cathcart, Robert B. Marlatt.

In addition to its wonderful photographs, the editors did not hesitate to take on issues of the day – issues which resonate even today. Check the last two issues of Grande for a series of articles on responsible hybridizing which, Elmore stated,

“minced no words” and which ignited a heated rebuttal from Bert Foster: “The Case for Responsible Hybridizing” by Nat DeLeon; “The Case for Responsible Hybridizing Revisited” by James Elmore; and “In Defense of Prostitution” by Bert Foster.

Due to the cost of the publication, Grande lasted only one year.

In 1981, Carol Johnson edited the first Council newsletter in the format we have used for the last 30 plus years. She did it all before the advent of computers, thus, by hand, pasting each article on boards for photocopying. After her death in 1998, her son Geoff took over the editor’s position; upon his death in 2000, Inez and Len Dolotowski stepped up and kept the newsletter going until early 2004. After a year’s hiatus, the newsletter resumed publication in 2005, with Karen Andreas as editor.

Carol left her mark on the newsletter, creating the format, the type of content, the often chatty Catching Up and Staying Even. And so, in this last printed issue of the newsletter, here is a brief biography in tribute to this remarkable woman and her son who entertained and informed us for so many years. (For more articles and tributes to Carol Geoff Johnson, go to fcbs.org, Bromeliad Information, Bromeliad People.)

Carol and Geoff Johnson The Legends of Pineapple Place

Carol Johnson and, later, her son Geoff were owners of the now legendary bromeliad nursery 'Pineapple Place' in Longwood, Florida. Their nursery was renowned for the variety and the rarity of the bromeliads they grew, loved and often reluctantly sold. Both Carol and Geoff had a long history of

service to the bromeliad community, both at home and around the world.

Carol was a member of the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida (BSCF) and one of the founding members of the Seminole Bromeliad Society. In 1977, she also was one of the forces behind the creation of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, which she saw as the best vehicle for coordinating statewide efforts for bromeliad education, encouragement for hobbyists and assisting local societies in their efforts. She was the first and only editor (until her death) of the Council's quarterly newsletter, which is still sent to every member of a bromeliad society in Florida. The Council's newsletter was a compendium of bromeliad cultivation information, Council news, and promotions for bromeliad related events throughout the state. In addition to being the editor, she also served as the Council's treasurer.

Upon her death, Geoff took over the newsletter duties. He also served the bromeliad community in a number of roles. He was a member of both BSCF and Seminole County Bromeliad Society. He was president of BSCF for a couple of years, and his programs were popular. He was the programs chairman for the BSI World Conference, Orlandiana 1996. As with his mother, Geoff was renowned for his memory and his ability to identify any bromeliad presented to him. He was also known for his jokes, some good and some bad, but always told with good-natured humor.

Carol died in December 1998 and Geoff died in February 2000. On March 4, 2000, the entire contents of Pineapple Place (more than 10,000 plants) were sold, down to the greenhouses. Both Carol and Geoff made lasting marks on the bromeliad community, and their legacy endures in the memories of their friends and in bromeliad collections around the world. Their untimely deaths closed the chapter on one of the most famous bromeliad nurseries, Pineapple Place.

Weather, Water and Wind

by Karen Andreas

The cold snap that much of the state experienced around Thanksgiving was a reminder that winter is on its way. While it often comes as a surprise to our friends up north, Florida does experience cold weather and, in some parts of the state, even freezes. Preparation and weather forecasts are keys to our bromeliads' survival.

Lower humidity is a relief this time of the year, especially after our seemingly endless summer. However, when combined with wind, it can dry out bromeliads quickly. Take the time to water your bromeliads thoroughly, allowing for the water to cascade through the leaves so your plants can get a good drink.

Hydration is key to cold weather survival. Pay mind to weather forecasts; usually we get at least five days' notice of cold fronts heading our way. Watering the ground around bromeliads during sunny days helps the soil retain heat as the temperatures cool at night. When you cover your bromeliads, it is imperative that the covers are anchored firmly in the ground.

Plastic is a no go for all plants: it will burn foliage wherever it comes in contact. Freeze cloth is best; sheets and blankets will do in a pinch. Bromeliads that live under canopy already have some natural protection – use your lighter weight covers for those plants if you have limited freeze cloth.

On fcbs.org, under Bromeliad Information, Culture, you will find two articles about the cold sensitivity of bromeliads. Both articles include lists of bromeliads with their cold tolerances. These lists are not all inclusive; they are general guidelines.

Cryptanthus are always unforgiving of cold weather. Always cover when frost threatens. It is worth the effort.

Plan ahead. Know your bromeliads. Have your freeze cloth, covers and anchors on hand.

After the cold has passed, rehydrate your bromeliads and be patient. Do not rush to trim out burned leaves – save that activity until spring when foliage grows out. In case cold weather returns, the burned foliage may offer protection for the healthy tissue. If the centers of bromeliads are loose, don't lose faith. Often, especially with *Aechmea blanchetiana*, the centers will reattach.

Your best resource for cold weather survival is your local bromeliad society. Long time growers in your area are familiar with cold tolerances, cold pockets, and the local conditions that have an impact on bromeliad survival.

Corrections to the August 2013 Roster

Send changes to the FCBS roster to the person in your society who keeps the list of members and encourage that person to contact the FCBS person in charge of rosters (Ashley Graham adglaw@gmail.com). If your original society roster is not updated, the mistake may be carried over to the next year.

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FCBS Meetings in 2014

January 11

Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society

April 12

Bromeliad Society of Central Florida

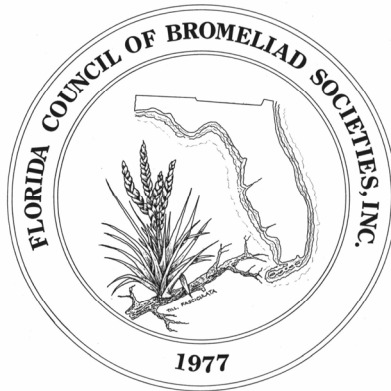
July 12

Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

October 11

Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society

See your Council representative for meeting locations.



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(continued from inside front cover)

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**Happy
Holidays!
Happy
New Year!**