

# Orlandiana

Newsletter of the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida

Volume No. 30      Issue No. 10      October 2004

**Next Meeting: Monday, October 25, 2004**

**6:30 pm Refreshments**

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

**6:30-6:55 Member Market**

**7:00 Meeting Starts**

**This month's Program:** Karen Andreas will show pictures from the Bromeliad Society International's 16<sup>th</sup> World Conference, held in August in Chicago.

**Raffle Plants: All Members**

**Show & Tell: All Members**

**Refreshments Provided**

## President's Message

What an extraordinary year we have had this year with three hurricanes and one tropical storm within two months! Thank you to all who came out for September's meeting, the day after Jeanne! We had an informal meeting with only one item of business, which was the appointment of the Nominating Committee.

Thank you, Lee Missavage, Kathy Phinney and Sue Rhoads for putting together the slate of officers for 2005. The position of secretary remains unfilled. If you are interested in taking this position, please contact a nominating committee member or me. The election will be held in November. The Nominating Committee offers the following slate:

President; Karen Andreas, Vice President; Bob Stevens, Treasurer; Betsy McCrory, Secretary; vacant

Believe it or not, it is time to look forward to the Holiday Party! This year, the party, which takes the place of a regular meeting, is scheduled for Tuesday, December 14. We need a chairman to coordinate the dinner and volunteers to help set it up.

Speaking of parties, October is the anniversary month of the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida. Your officers are providing refreshments for this meeting, so come at 6:30 for some treats and cake.

See you Monday night!

**Karen Andreas**

## **Plant Theft at Fairchild While Hurricane Frances Hit South Florida**

**Coral Gables, FL, September 9, 2004** – Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, one of the world’s premier tropical botanic gardens, suffered a serious theft of endangered cycads last week as Hurricane Frances passed through South Florida. Fairchild, situated in Zone 2 of Miami-Dade’s mandatory evacuation area, was closed to the public. During that time, thieves illegally entered the garden and stole over thirty highly endangered plants, representing twenty species of cycads. Some of the plants were old specimens that had been in the garden’s collection for decades.

Cycads are one of the oldest plant groups on earth, surviving over 200 million years of evolution. All cycads are endangered in their natural habitats and protected by CITES, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. Fairchild began collecting and conserving cycads since its founding in 1936, and now has one of the most important collections in the world. Researchers from around the world visit the garden to study these plants, and Fairchild scientists are actively working on cycad conservation and evolutionary studies.

Unfortunately, illegal poaching of these plants to supply a black market trade is an increasing problem for conservationists and botanic gardens. In August 2002, Fairchild had over forty cycads stolen from its conservatory and rainforest exhibits. This latest theft represents another severe blow to cycad research and conservation worldwide. Some of the specimens are irreplaceable.

“As we worked to protect Fairchild’s staff and property from the effects of Hurricane Frances, the looters saw an opportunity to take some of our most valuable plants,” said Dr. Mike Maunder, Director of Fairchild Botanic Garden. “Sadly these thieves are undermining the good reputation of Florida’s legitimate plant enthusiasts and nurserymen and have damaged Fairchild’s work in conserving endangered cycads; these plants are amongst the world’s most threatened plant species.

In an effort to recover the lost plants, Fairchild is offering a reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the persons involved in the theft. National and international authorities are cooperating with the investigation. “We’ve already received promising leads that are being investigated, and we intend on pressing charges and seeking full restitution,” added Maunder.

Anyone with any information of this theft is urged to contact the Coral Gables Police Dept. (Tel: 305.460.5434), or Dr. Mike Maunder, Director, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, (Tel: 305.667.1651 x3333, E-mail: [mmaunder@fairchildgarden.org](mailto:mmaunder@fairchildgarden.org))

### **About Fairchild**

Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden is dedicated to exploring, explaining and conserving the world of tropical plants. It is one of the premier research and education-based gardens in the world and a recognized international leader in conservation. Fairchild has the world’s greatest living collection of palms; an education program reaching more than 12,000 school children per year; hosts popular events like the International Mango and Orchid Festivals, the Ramble, concerts, affiliated plant society shows and sales and more; and, is a not-for-profit organization relying on the support of its 19,000 members and benefactors. Fairchild is located at 10901 Old Cutler Road, Coral Gables (Miami) Florida 33156. For more information, please visit [www.fairchildgarden.org](http://www.fairchildgarden.org).

### **Order Freeze Cloth**

Betsy McCrory will be taking orders for freeze cloth at the October meeting. Betsy will have the prices and sizes available.



## **Out & About With Pam Flesher**

### **OCTOBER 23, 2004 BROMELIAD EXTRAVAGANZA**

Hosted by: Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society

The plant sale will be held at the Florida Botanical Gardens, located at 12175 125 Street North, Largo, Florida 33774. The sale is from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, a holding area is available for purchased plants.

The Banquet is being held at the Holiday Inn Select, 3535 Ulmerton Road, Clearwater Florida 33762. The Banquet, a "Florida Style Buffet" starts @ 6:00 pm., the cost is \$19.95 for each individual.

Rooms are available for a reduced rate of \$79.00 per night, contact the hotel for reservations, mention the event the "BROMELIAD EXTRAVAGANZA on October 23rd.

Holiday Inn Select, 3535 Ulmerton Road, Clearwater, Fl. 33762, 727-577-9100

### **OCTOBER 30 & 31, 2004**

#### **Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society, Bromeliad Sale Only**

Sat. Oct. 30, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm and Sun. Oct. 31 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Location: Terry Park on Palm Beach Boulevard (FL 80) between Terry and Palmetto Avenues, Fort Myers, FL

For Information contact: Betty Ann Prevatt at 239-332-0210 or email: [bprevattpcc@aol.com](mailto:bprevattpcc@aol.com)

### **NOVEMBER 20 & 21 2004 FAIRCHILD TROPICAL BOTANIC GARDEN RAMBLE & GARDEN FESTIVAL**

Visitors to Fairchild's annual Ramble celebrate outdoor living in South Florida! Now in its 64th year, this popular family festival dates back to 1941 when Nell Jennings, wife of Fairchild's founder Col. Robert H. Montgomery, organized the first fund-raising event to buy a truck for Fairchild. The unique ambiance of the Ramble is a blend of old traditions and new introductions offering residents and visitors a festival of thousands of plants for sale, garden accessories, exhibits, shopping, food, music and activities for children and adults alike. Visitors arrive early and spend the entire day, or two.

Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden is located at 10901 Old Cutler Road, Coral Gables, Miami, Florida 33156 Phone 305/667-1651, [www.ftg.org](http://www.ftg.org) Fairchild is adjacent to Matheson Hammock Park, about 20 minutes by car from downtown Miami and Miami International Airport. Fairchild is open from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$9 Senior citizens 65 and older, \$5 for children 3 to 12, and free for Fairchild members and children under 3.

### **DECEMBER 14, 2004 BSCF HOLIDAY PARTY**

Our annual holiday party. Mark your calendars. This is on a Tuesday night at Leu Gardens

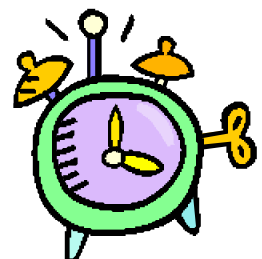
### **For Those Felling a Little Wilted or Under the Bench**

Get well cards were sent to Amy Ambrosch, Betsy McCrory and Carolyn Schoenau.

### **Welcome New Member**

Frank Mead - Winter Park

Under legislation enacted in 1986, Daylight Saving Time in the USA ends at  
**2 a.m. on the last Sunday of October**



# Billbergia

By Karen Andreas

The first bromeliads introduced into cultivation in the United States, *Billbergias* are common to so many Florida landscapes from Park Avenue in Winter Park to River Road in Cocoa and all points north and south. *Billbergias* are found throughout bromeliad collections across the country, especially in California, and in Australian gardens as well. There are 62 species, 25 varieties, and one form. Distribution is mainly in Brazil, Mexico and Central America but *Billbergia* is also found in Peru and Argentina.

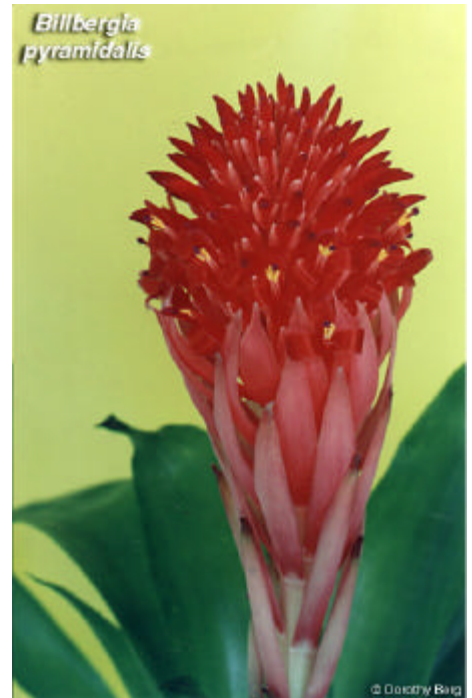
This tubular tank type bromeliad was first described in 1821 when it was named for Gustav Billberg (1772-1844), professor of botany in Sweden. *Billbergias* generally have only five to eight leaves, which form a large enough reservoir to hold water for weeks with little evaporation. While the inflorescence is generally acknowledged as



one of the most beautiful among bromeliads, its relatively short life span (two weeks, at most) make

### *Billbergia*

grows all the more grateful for the variety in foliage that this genus offers. The inflorescences have long bracts, either red, pink or rose color, and the flowers are tubular in shape, usually purple, blue, yellow, green and white. The inflorescence may be either upright or pendant.



Leaf colors include brown, green, gray and red; they are banded, spotted or variegated, with many variations in between.

Grow this bromeliad in high light; it can be acclimated to almost full sun over time. It can be grown epiphytically (mounted to a surface such as driftwood or cedar) or in soil. If grown in a pot, be sure that the soil drains well and is not heavy or soggy. *Billbergias* will not tolerate wet feet. I grow many in wooden slatted orchid baskets, lined in shade cloth, and in a soil mix that drains easily. The orchid basket provides good drainage as well as air circulation around the roots of the plants. Hang your pots of *Billbergias* in trees. The light streaming down through the canopy and into the center of the *Billbergias* makes them glow. If you do hang them in trees, be sure to flush out the tree leaves that inevitably fall inside. Oak leaves especially become acidic as they deteriorate and will burn the leaves. If grown in low light, the leaves will become long and strappy; bright and high light brings out the very best in color in the foliage as well as overall form. *Billbergias* grow quickly into large clumps, making them desirable as foundation plants for the landscape and perfect for pots and hanging baskets.



Photos courtesy of [www.fcbs.org](http://www.fcbs.org)

One of the most elegant of the *Billbergias* is *B. eloiseae*, named after BSCF member Eloise Beach who was the first to grow it. Its inflorescence is pendant with rose-colored sepals. Both *B. nutans* and *pyramidalis* are quite common landscape bromeliads. You often see them burst into bloom during winter months. In the picture of *nutans*, you can see the beauty of the flowers. *B. 'Domingos Martins'* is a fine example of a *Billbergia* with mottled and banded leaves as well as an upright inflorescence.



There are many attractive *Billbergia* cultivars. The most successful and well-known hybridizer of these bromeliads is Don Beadle. Often referred to as Mr. *Billbergia*, Don made some of the most popular crosses in an effort to popularize this



*Billbergia 'Hallelujah'* † genus. His creations include 'Hallelujah,' 'Afterglow,' 'Milagro,' 'Dorothy Berg,' 'Catherine Waterman,' and 'Poquito Mas.' His nursery was bought by Michael Kiehl who continues to release Don Beadle hybrids every year, often at the Extravaganza.



Billbergias are easy to grow and very rewarding. When they bloom, they provide eye-catching color in the yard and in your collection. When not in bloom, their foliage and upright growth add interest to your landscape.

You can see more pictures of Billbergias at the web site of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies at <http://fcbs.org> > Photo Index > *Billbergia*.

Sources:

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- Jack Kramer. Bromeliads. 1981.
- Leme, Elton M.C. and Luiz Claudio Marigo. Bromeliads in the Brazilian wilderness. 1993.
- Manzanares, Jose. Jewels of the Jungle: Bromeliaceae of Ecuador, Part 1. 2002.
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Pleaver, Herb and Joyce Brehm, editor. Bromeliads: A Cultural Manual.

Bromeliad Society International. 2003.

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*Billbergia 'Dorothy Berg'* †

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by president Karen Andreas. Twenty-four people were present.

Since the meeting was held the day after Hurricane Jeanne hit central Florida, the program for the evening was on a computer in a home without electricity, and the president was under an 8:30 PM curfew in Brevard County, the members agreed to have a short meeting.

Only one item of business was conducted, as required by the Bylaws. Karen appointed the nominating committee: Kathy Phinney, Sue Rhoads and Lee Missavage agreed to serve. The Bylaws require the proposed slate of officers to be published in October. Karen stated that nominations can be made from the floor at the October meeting.

Members traded hurricane stories and those who had attended the world conference talked about that event. The meeting concluded at 7:40 PM.

## **Florida Council Report**

**Karen Andreas**

The October 9 meeting was hosted by the Bromeliad Society of South Florida, in the home of Ed and Moyna Prince in Miami. Karen Andreas and Betsy McCrory represented BSCF.

Ed Hall, BSCF member and representing Seminole County, agreed to be chairman for next year. Sudi Hipsley, a BSCF member, BSCF librarian, also representing Seminole County, received unanimous approval for the office of treasurer.

Ron Cave, assistant professor at the Indian River Research and Education Center, Biological Control Research Containment Center, will share the position of weevil project liaison to the Council with Howard Frank. Ron reported success with rearing the parasitic fly in Honduras where some testing on other weevils is also being conducted. There is also research underway on finding ways to trap the weevil in order to measure its presence both before and after a control project is initiated. Ron reported that it appears that the fly that parasitizes the weevil is attracted to the infested bromeliad by an odor that comes from damaged leaves.

Michael Andreas is working on the pictures from the world conference and hopes to post them soon on the Council's web site at <http://fcbs.org>.

Sarasota is hosting the next Council meeting, which will be held on January 8.

## **Gene McKenzie**

Gene McKenzie, a founding member of the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society, long time editor of that society's newsletter, and a BSI Master Judge, died last month. She was passionate about bromeliads; her gardens were renowned for the variety and quality of the bromeliads she grew. Two bromeliads were named for her: *Billbergia* 'Gene McKenzie' and *Neoregelia* 'Gene McKenzie.' Gene started the tradition at the World Bromeliad Conferences of holding a newsletter editors meeting so that bromeliad societies from around the world could network ideas and information. In remembering Gene, Dr. Larry Giroux wrote, "With the passing of Gene McKenzie, her life has been taken from us, but there remains so much more of her existence for us to cherish. We will not forget her smiles and greetings to every new member walking into the Garden Council Building [in Ft. Myers]. We will not forget the gifts of her time, encouragement and plants."

The meeting was called to order by President Karen Andreas at 7:00 p.m.

Karen reminded members to sign in, pay dues and purchase raffle tickets at the back table. She invited members to visit the supply store, silent auction table, Members' Market and refreshment table.

No new members or guests were in attendance.

Pam Flesher, Karen Andreas and George Aldrich led the Show and Tell segment. George displayed his BSI World Conference award-winning plants, as well as the trophy each had won. Karen displayed several plants she had acquired at the rare plant auction.

Karen thanked Betsy McCrory for mailing the newsletters this month.

Pam Flesher distributed the pre-paid books "Bromeliads for the Contemporary Garden."

**Amended Bylaws and Standing Rules** - The members present reviewed the proposed amendments to the Bylaws and Standing Rules. After discussion, amendments were approved. The changes approved at this meeting will be incorporated into the present draft of amended Bylaws and Standing Rules. New proposed Bylaws and Standing Rules will be distributed to all members and discussed at a future meeting.

At 8:20 Karen Andreas announced a five-minute break.

**Minutes** – There being no discussion, the minutes of the July meeting were unanimously approved.

**Treasurer's Report** – Betsy McCrory reported that in the month of July BSCF received \$180.00 and disbursed \$511.34, for a remainder of \$1,770.05 in the checking account. The Wachovia Money Market Account received \$7.37 in interest for a balance of \$12,856.34. Cash on hand is \$35.00. Total assets are \$14,661.39.

**BSI World Conference** – Karen Andreas stated that the conference was smaller than in the past with 182 in attendance. She purchased Alphabetical Listing of Bromeliad Binomials for the BSCF library and ordered Jewels of the Jungle: Bromeliaceae of Ecuador, Part II by Jose Manzanares which will be published in November.

**Extravaganza** – The 2004 Extravaganza will be held on October 23 in Largo, Florida and will be hosted by the Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society. Forms were available with information regarding hotel and banquet registration.

The evening's silent auction results were announced, door prizes and raffle tickets were drawn and prizes distributed.

There being no further business to come before the membership, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Betty Salvas, Secretary

**Billbergia blooms are like a kiss, short and sweet!**

Meetings are held the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of every month from 7-9 PM at Harry P. Leu Gardens, 1920 N. Forest Avenue in Orlando. For directions: 407.246.2620 or [www.leugardens.org](http://www.leugardens.org). You'll enjoy informative programs, Show & Tell, plant sales, refreshments & door prizes. Members also receive a monthly newsletter — all for only \$10 per member, plus \$2 per additional family member (no charge for full-time students). Visitors are always welcome.

**BSCF is a nonprofit Florida corporation recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations to this society are tax deductible in accordance with IRS regulations.**



BSCF is an affiliate of the Bromeliad Society International, Inc. and a member of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, Inc. and the Cryptanthus Society.

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<b>Secretary,</b>	<b>Betty Salvas</b>		
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Betsy McCrory</b>		
<b>Librarians</b>	<b>Phyllis Baumer</b>		
	<b>Sudi Hipsley</b>		
<b>Editor</b>	<b>Steven Wagner</b>		
<b>Mailing</b>	<b>Betsy McCrory</b>		
<b>FCBS Rep</b>	<b>Karen Andreas</b>		
<b>Refreshment</b>			
<b>Coordinators</b>	<b>Kathy Phinney &amp; Sue Rhoads</b>		



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**October 2004**

**Next Meeting: Monday, October 25**

**Time:** 6:30 pm Refreshments  
6:30-6:55 Member Market  
7:00 pm Meeting begins

**Program:** Karen Andreas will show pictures  
From the Bromeliad Society International's 16<sup>th</sup>  
World Conference, held in August in Chicago.

**Show & Tell:** Bring your *Billbergias*

**Refreshments:** Provided

**Raffle Plants:** All members

The idea of daylight saving was first conceived by Benjamin Franklin in 1784

