

Orlandiana

Newsletter of the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida

Volume No. 31

Issue No. 10

October 2005

Next Meeting: Monday, October 24, 2005 Refreshments provided by The Board Members

Where: Leu Gardens, 1920 N. Forest Ave. Orlando No Member Market This Month

7:00 pm Meeting Starts

President's Message

October has been a busy month, with bromeliad events each weekend! We've had great opportunities to visit with bromeliad friends and to add to our collections.

This month we not only celebrate the 33rd anniversary of our society, but we also elect officers for next year. You will find the proposed slate from the nominating committee in this newsletter. Thank you to those individuals who have committed to serve our society and take care of our society's business; thank you to the nominating committee – Kathy Phinney, Sue Rhoads and Michael Andreas.

The temperatures may still be in the 90s and high 80s, but it's not too soon to be thinking of winter. Betsy McCrory will have information this month about ordering freeze cloth.

Last month's speaker was Teresa Cooper who presented an excellent program on the Mexican bromeliad weevil project. While there is no preventative product on the market to protect your collection from the weevil, you can treat new bromeliads coming into your collection with either Sevin or with a product containing the systemic chemical 'Merit' (imidacloprid) available in spray form from garden centers. Look for the line of Bayer Advanced Garden sprays – Tree and Shrub or Rose and Flower. The latter contains a lower percentage of imidacloprid than the Tree and Shrub spray.

A couple of months ago, you all indicated you were interested in having a program on orchids, since bromeliads and orchids share similar cultivation requirements and most of us have some orchids in our collections. Our guest speaker this month is Jerry Steele from Krull Smith orchids. Thank you, Bob Stevens, for the informative programs you have arranged for us.

Come have cake and snacks at 6:30 on Monday night and help celebrate our anniversary!

Karen Andreas

BSCF is 33!

Plant Exchange!

This month, as part of our 33rd Anniversary celebration, we will have a plant exchange. Bring a bromeliad, wrapped so you cannot tell what it is. Everyone who brings a bromeliad will take home a bromeliad.

MINUTES OF MEETING
BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA
September 26, 2005

President Karen Andreas called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Visitors and guests were introduced.

Bob Stevens conducted Show and Tell. There were several spectacular plants in bloom.

Program: Teresa Cooper, a graduate student from the Department of Entomology and Nematology, University of Florida, Gainesville, spoke about her work with the Mexican bromeliad weevil. A great deal of research is being conducted into the life span, plants they are attracted to more than others and also research into finding a natural predator. "Sevin" spray has not eradicated the weevil. Karen spoke of her experience with "Merit". She had an infestation in her bromeliads collection and was successful in eradicating the weevil with "Merit".

Break 8:00. Karen reconvened meeting at 8:20.

Old Business

Minutes - There were no corrections or changes to the August minutes. Motion to accept minutes was made and seconded, carried unanimously.

Betsy McCrory presented the Treasurer's Report: \$1157.28 in checking; \$12055.36 in the money market; \$35.00 cash on hand. There were no questions.

Supplies from the society's store will be filled by advance orders. Look for the available inventory in the newsletter or contact Bob Stevens. A volunteer to distribute supplies at the meetings is still needed.

Bromeliad sales for the next month were reviewed with some flyers available on back table.

There was no other old business.

New Business:

Next month Karen will have a proposal from Leu Gardens for our annual donation.

It is time for the Nominating Committee to nominate new officers for next year. Currently someone has volunteered for all offices. However, nominations are still possible. Karen appointed a nominating committee: Kathy Phinney, Sue Rhoads and Michael Andreas. If you are interested in serving, contact the committee members; nominations will be taken from the floor in October. Currently, Bob Stevens has offered to serve as president; Gary Signs as vice president; Betsy McCrory as treasurer; Karen Andreas as secretary.

Announcements: Bob announced auction results.

Grant Groves has invited group to his place on October 8 for a covered dish dinner and tour his nursery.

Upcoming Programs: October - Jerry from Krull Smith Orchids will be the guest speaker. At last month's meeting, members voted unanimously for a program on orchids. Bob Stevens said it is getting rather difficult to get speakers for bromeliad related programs. In November, the program will be on Florida Backyards with a speaker from the Agriculture Extension Office. Tuesday, December 20 is our Christmas Party.

Bob Stevens conducted door prize and raffle.

8:45 PM with no further business, Karen adjourned meeting.

Submitted by, Quyless Force, Secretary.

BSCF Supply Store

There are still some supplies remaining in our Supply Store. If you want any of the items listed below, please let Bob Stevens know which ones and how many by noon on Friday, October 21. Contact Bob at stevensbobl@aol.com or by phone, 352-516-2710. You can pick up your order at the meeting.

3" pots 25 for \$1.00

4" pots 15 for \$1.00

Dyna-Grow fertilizer 8oz. For \$4.00

There are also osmunda fiber slabs available, individually priced.

If there is continuing interest in making supplies available through the society, the inventory will be expanded.

We still need a volunteer to handle distributing the supplies at the meeting. Please let Bob know if you can help.

Nominations for 2006 BSCF Officers

The nominating committee offers the following slate of officers for the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida:

President – Bob Stevens
Vice President – Gary Signs
Treasurer – Betsy McCrory
Secretary – Karen Andreas

Nominations also will be taken from the floor.

The Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies

The Council held its quarterly meeting on Saturday, October 8, in Ft. Pierce. The meeting was hosted by the Treasure Coast Bromeliad Society. Karen Andreas, Council chairman, and Betsy McCrory attended, representing BSCF. BSCF members Michael Andreas, who is also the Council webmaster and Bill McCrory also, were in attendance.

Ron Cave gave a report on the weevil program. Parasitic flies that are known to attack the Mexican bromeliad weevil larvae are being raised in Honduras and then imported to the quarantine facility in Ft. Pierce. There the research continues with the goal of eventually releasing this fly as a biological control of the Mexican bromeliad weevil. Meanwhile field research continues this month in Guatemala to identify any other biological controls for the weevil.

The 2006 Extravaganza is being hosted by the Bromeliad Society of South Florida. Next year's event will be held at the Miccosukee Resort and Convention Center in south Florida on September 30. Bromeliad Society of Broward County will host the Extravaganza in 2007; Tampa will host it in 2008.

The next chairman of the Council will be Vicky Chirnside from the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society; she takes office in January. Karen and Betsy will continue as editors on the Council newsletter.

Puya

By Karen Andreas

There are more than 170 species in this genus. They are, for the most part, high altitude bromeliads, growing terrestrially (in the ground) and saxicolously (on rock) in the highlands of the Andes where the days are hot and the nights are cool. Some even grow in snow and in drought conditions. Their leaves usually are green, gray or blue green in color. Flower petals are blue, green, red, or purple with the bracts pink, red, brown and green colors. The inflorescence can be simple or branching. They are often regarded as quite hardy and virtually indestructible.



Puya alpestris photo taken by S. Carter

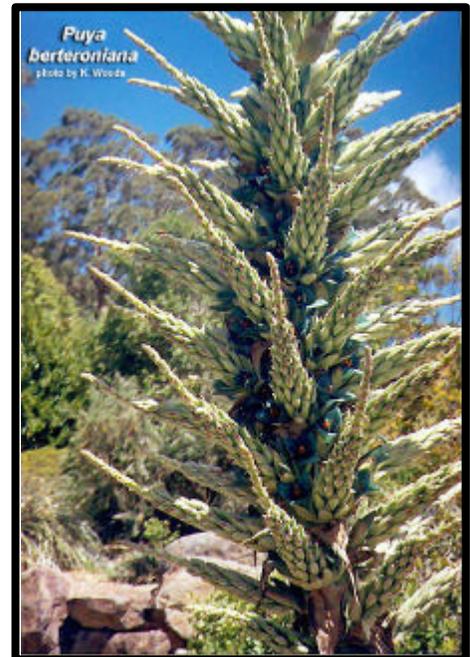
The largest known bromeliad is *Puya raimondii*; it takes 80-100 years to mature and bloom and often reaches a height of 35 feet. Among the more dramatic Puya, *Puya alpestris* stands out for its metallic teal blue flowers with brilliant orange pollen. Puya range in size from 1 to 30 feet, and they are known for their clumping growth habit, so space is necessary to cultivate these bromeliads.

Grow them in very sunny areas in soil that drains well. These bromeliads grow on the rocky slopes of the Andean highlands and so do not like wet feet.

[*Puya alpestris*](#) is found on the dry slopes of south central Chile. Its leaves are 2 to 3 feet with hooked spines and a sharp point. It takes 5-10 years to flower, with one clump having more than one inflorescence.



Puya mirabilis photo taken by Maurice Kellet



Puya berteroniana also is found in Chile. This species is larger than

P. berteroniana photo taken by K. Woods
alpestris for which it is sometimes mistaken. The leaves of *berteroniana* are covered in white scurf, making them look gray-green in color. The flowers are more dense than *alpestris* and their color is green.

[*Puya mirabilis*](#) is found on rocky slopes, from central Bolivia to northwestern Argentina. Its leaves have heavy scurf, giving them a gray-green color. The flowers are greenish white and scented.

Puya raimondii, the largest known bromeliad, grows in high altitudes, on shrubby rocky slopes in Peru and eastern Bolivia.



Puya raimondii photo taken by Jamie Bush

Puya spathacea comes from Argentina. Padilla referred to this as a “robust bushy plant, soon forming a clump 5 to 5 feet wide, with flowering stalks about 4 feet high.” The inflorescence is bright red with tubular flowers that have blue petals.



Puya spathacea photo by Derek Butcher



Puya venusta photo by Michael Romanowski

Puya venusta grows on coastal rocks and in sand in Chile. This small species is heavily armed and its branched inflorescence is less than two feet high. Its flowers are purple. Padilla regarded it as a “highly ornamental” bromeliad, well suited to the landscape.

Sources:

- Baensch, Ulrich and Ursula Baensch. Blooming Bromeliads. 1994.
- Orlandiana*. Newsletter of the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida. Vol. 30, No. 1, January 2004.
- Padilla, Victoria. Bromeliads. 1973.
- Smith, Lyman B and Robert Jack Downs. Flora Neotropica Monograph No. 14, Part I, Pitcairnioideae (Bromelioideae). 1974.
- Steens, Andrew. Bromeliads for the contemporary garden. 2003.



BSCF October Meeting

This Month's Speaker is Jerry Steele, from Krull Smith Orchids. Mr. Steele will be selling plants, so there will be no Member Market this month.

Some Interesting Puya Facts

The Name 'Puya' is from the Mapuche word meaning "point". Mapuche are the Pre-Hispanic Amerindian inhabitants of Central and Southern Chile and Southern Argentina. Mapuche people speak Mapudungun. Mapuche means "People of the Land"

Many *Puya* species are monocarpic. A monocarpic bromeliad dies after flowering and producing seed, without ever producing offsets or pups.

Speckled Bears living in the Peruvian Andes eat *Puyas*.

Kingdom: Plantae
Division: Magnoliophyta
Class: Liliopsida
Order: Poales
Family: Bromeliaceae
Genus: Puya

Mark Your Calendar

November 18, 2005

Independent Plant Breeder's Conference
Environmental Horticulture Department/University of Florida
Information at <http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/IPBC>

2006

March 25- 26, 2006

Leu Gardens Sale

April 23, 2006

Bromeliad Society of South Florida
Show and Sale
Fairchild Gardens

June 6-11, 2006

17th World Bromeliad Conference
Bromeliad Society International
San Diego, CA
Information at <http://bsi.org>

September 30, 2006

Extravaganza
Hosted by the Bromeliad Society of South Florida

Welcome New Members

Coddy Williams & Beth Glover, Melbourne Beach

"Uncle Derek Says"

Puya raimondii

"Towards the end of 1999 Jamie Bush of Palm Beach, Florida made a trip to Peru where he was lucky enough to visit one of the National Parks that have these extra-large bromeliads. Much has been written of these giants (only 9.5 metres high when flowering!) which in habitat take 50 to 100 years to flower and then slowly die, reproducing themselves only by seed.

In 1986 a plant flowered in the Berkely Botanic Gardens in California only 28 years old. (refer BSI Journal 1987 page 25).

In 1997 in the Brazilian Journal, Harry Luther named a *Puya pusilla* where the plant AND inflorescence equalled in length the flower of *Puya raimondii* showing there is great variation in the genus *Puya*! By the way, *P. pusilla* is now *P. minima*.

In 1999 a supplement to Die Bromelie on *P. raimondii* was published and discussed its widespread distribution in Bolivia.

Enough of this technical stuff! How do you get there? There are other National Parks but let us just visit one.

Rodales is about 300 kms north of Lima in a long south to north valley which has black mountains to the left (no snow!) but white capped to the right. At about 4000m altitude you are there."

From http://fcbs.org/butcher/Puya_raimondii.htm

BSCF Holiday Party

This year's Holiday Party will be on Tuesday,
December 20m at 7:00 PM.



The Bromeliad Society of Central Florida, Inc. was formed in 1972 to encourage the exchange of information concerning the culture, identification and hybridization of the plant family *Bromeliaceae*; to promote & maintain public interest in bromeliads and to assist in the preservation of all bromeliads for future generations.



Meetings are held the 4th 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. 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 an affiliate of the Bromeliad Society International, Inc. and a member of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, Inc. and the Cryptanthus Society.

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.



President	Karen Andreas	karen@fcbs.org
Vice President	Bob Stevens	use above address to contact officers
Secretary	Quyless Force	
Treasurer	Betsy McCrory	
Librarians	Phyllis Baumer	
	Sudi Hipsley	
Editor	Steven Wagner	
Mailing	Betsy McCrory	
FCBS Rep	Karen Andreas	

Permission to reprint is granted with acknowledgment. Please send all correspondence to the address below:



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Address Correction Requested

October 2005

Next Meeting: Monday, October 24, 2005

No Member Market this month

7:00pm Meeting begins

**Refreshments will be provided by
Our Board Members this month.**

Speaker: Jerry Steele

Program: Orchids

Plant Exchange This Month

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