

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, Inc.



In This Issue:

**2007 Extravaganza
Bromeliad Sources List**

Vol. 27 Issue 2

May 2007

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(Continued on the inside back cover.)

2007 Bromeliad Extravaganza

Presented by Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies
Hosted by Bromeliad Society of Broward County

Saturday, September 29, 2007

at the

Hilton Ft. Lauderdale Airport Hotel

1870 Griffin Rd.

Dania Beach, FL 33004

954-920-3300

954-920-3348 (fax)

Room rates: Single or double \$89.00

Rates in effect until September 14, 2007

Sale, Banquet, Raffle and Rare Plant Auction will
take place
at the same location.

This Extravaganza and others which may follow will
be the only major Bromeliad event in the Continental
US as the 2008 World Conference will take place in
Australia.

There will be seminars and a special banquet
presentation as well as an a/v presentation on the
upcoming
2008 World Bromeliad Conference
June 24-29, 2008 Cairns, Queensland, Australia

More Extravaganza information on pages 17 and 18.

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Catching Up ... Staying Even



Spring is a busy season for many bromeliad societies, with shows and sales throughout the state. These events offer more than bromeliad sales; they are opportunities to socialize with other bromeliad growers as well as attract new growers to these plants we love. The Council's affiliated societies are all to be commended for their efforts to further interest in bromeliads – and for their excellent venues showing off the best we can grow.

The Council is most fortunate to have the support of its affiliated societies. Each year, Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society holds an auction, the proceeds of which are donated to the Council. This spring's auction raised \$2,127.00 for the Council. Thank you very much, Caloosahatchee!

Probably the most difficult and time consuming position in any society is that of the program chairman. After all, programs and guest speakers draw members to the meetings and often attract newcomers as well. At the last Council meeting, BSSF member Nat DeLeon asked the Council to publish information about guest speakers and programs at the society meetings. You will find the first such report on page 14.

This summer, the Council will be offering an exciting new bromeliad book to its members. A review is on page 22. Check with your Council representative for details.

Don't forget the Extravaganza coming in September. Sales rules are on page 18 and an update is on page 17.

The next issue of this newsletter will be the state roster, published in August. Please be sure your contact information with your society is up to date. In the meantime, happy bromeliad growing to all!

News from FCBS Affiliate Societies



Everything's Coming Up Bromeliads for the members of **The Bromeliad Society of Broward County** at their biennial show held at the Trinity Lutheran Church Hall in Fort Lauderdale on April 13- 15. Twenty-six entrants and 227 entries demonstrated the show far exceeded those of previous years due to the efforts of show chairperson Anne Schandelmayer. The Best in Show was Bud Hendrix's *Tillandsia pseudobaileyi*. A plant sale was featured with two outside vendors and a members table. Public attendance was very responsive and many plants were sold.

New Society officers were elected for the coming year at our April 16 general meeting. Newly elected President Colleen Hendrix, Vice-President Tim Hendrix, Treasurer Larry Searle, Recording Secretary Harry Sperling and Corresponding Secretary Gail Shirlaw will preside over our Society with the assistance of Directors Jack Meharian, JoAnn Heyer and George Henderson. Due to Broward County budget constraints, our Society changed its meeting location, beginning with our May 21, 2007, monthly meeting. Our new meeting location is the Jim Ward Community Center, 301 N.W. 46th Avenue, Plantation. Our warmest thanks to the Broward County Extension Education Division for its many years of support, providing a meeting location and the staff to assist us.

A bromeliad garden tour was organized and hosted by members Maureen and Bill Frazell on Saturday, January 27. The tour started at the Frazell's greenhouse. Afterwards, Maureen served lunch to all of the 22 attendees - an exceptional feat with exceptional food. It continued to Jim Kerns' bromeliad and orchid garden. Next was an exclusive waterfront residence with rare palms, bromeliads, plants and

an exotic landscape and water gardens. Our five-hour tour ended at Fred Sutton's bromeliad garden. [Reported by Becky Blackwood.]

Bromeliad Society of Central Florida members participated in the annual Leu Gardens Sale. Central Florida's annual Mothers Day Show and Sale is May 11-13 at Orlando Fashion Square Mall. This show usually brings in new members to the society. They also are setting up a Ramble program, visiting members' yards throughout the year. [Reported by Neal Ekengren.]

Bromeliad Society of South Florida members have been making the most of the cooler months. Rick Cohen led an interesting tour of the wild areas at the Deering Estate in South Dade, where we saw several native Florida bromeliads in flower. The following weekend, a group of us enjoyed a tour of Bullis Bromeliads, the largest retail bromeliad nursery in Miami-Dade. Two of our members also joined Ken Marks on a visit to the Fakahatchee where many native epiphytes were spotted. BSSF hosted the quarterly FCBS meeting in April, and reps were invited to visit a couple of backyard growers nearby and attend a party at president Sandy Roth's home in the evening. This was a great opportunity for local members to meet other affiliate members.

Our annual Show and Sale was the weekend of April 21-22. There were just under 400 entries, 300 for competition. Thirty-two BSSF members entered plants. Nat DeLeon had a table full of gorgeous *Guzmania* and *Vriesea* hybrids, all in bloom. Bullis Bromeliads put in an incredible display that left visitors with their mouths open. President Sandy Roth threw another unforgettable party for the judges and show workers - Greek food this year - very yummy!

Best Blooming Bromeliad award went to Karl Green for *Aechmea brassicoides*. Best Non-Blooming went to Shirley Allen for his *Pitcairnia tabuliformis*. There was a wonderful

display of art done by students at Southwood Middle School, and also some lovely pieces by professional artists. [Reported by Moyna Prince.]

Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society, in March, came through for the Florida Council by raising more than \$2000 for use in the Weevil eradication program. Dale Laird, a member of both the Central Florida Bromeliad Society and the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society, traveled on his motorcycle, accompanied by his wife Eileen, to Fort Myers to serve as auctioneer. More than 80 plants, works of art and bromeliad related items were eagerly bid on by the audience of members and guests from the southwest Florida area.

The CBS's 27th birthday was celebrated at the Orange River home of Betsy and Bill Burdette on our normal meeting date, the third Sunday of April. In spite of weather problems, nearly 40 members and guests enjoyed great food, games and a raffle.

With the support and encouragement of webmaster and manager, Michael and Karen Andreas, the new expanded version of the Meristem, the Newsletter of the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society, is available, monthly, at www.fcbs.org. The new format contains 20 colorful pages packed with news, informative articles and photographs. It is in Adobe PDF format. The Adobe Reader, necessary to view the document, is offered on the fcbs website. Surfers are also able to download and print each issue. Nearly 25 percent of the membership of the CBS have now opted to receive only this new electronic journal, instead of the limited printed edition, which is still mailed to members who prefer a hard copy or do not have Internet access. The savings to the CBS is greatly appreciated. Larry Giroux, the Editor of the Meristem invites all to read the new and past issues available at www.fcbs.org. [Reported by Larry Giroux.]

Florida East Coast members had a good time participating in Everybody's Flower Show, where FEC members took lots of blue ribbons. FEC members also were at the Master Gardeners four hour sale at the Volusia County Fairgrounds, where people from all over the state came and sales were brisk. A visit to George and Irene Aldrich's nursery, Plants and Things in Ocala, is coming up. [Reported by Calandra Thurrott.]

Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society participated in the University of South Florida Sale in April as well as in the Green Thumb Festival in Tampa. Their annual auction was held on May 1. Terrie Bert will be giving a program on "The Evolution of Bromeliads and How They Got Where They Are" in June. Alton Lee's program, "Bromeliads for a Tropical Island – what would you take?", was a great deal of fun as members discussed which bromeliads they would take if they had to evacuate. [Reported by Linda Sheetz.]

Gainesville Bromeliad Society's sale in March was quite successful. Gainesville members are looking forward to hosting the Council's July meeting. There is a wonderful butterfly garden at the University for Council representatives interested in visiting. Gainesville's next sale will be in the fall, at the Kanapaha Garden Sale. [Reported by John Moxley.]

Sarasota Bromeliad Society held its 2007 show and sale April 20-22 at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens. All participants, judges, and guests agreed that this year's show and sale were great fun and a big success. This year's theme, *Pirated Bromeliads*, was well represented in several beautiful flower arrangements entered into the show, in the top-awards table by antique artifacts as decorations, and in the banquet centerpieces graciously made by Linda Cathcart and donated by Tropiflora. Twenty-two exhibitors entered a total of 196 bromeliads, bromeliad-related artwork, and exhibits. Terrie Bert won the Bromeliad Society International (BSI) Mulford

B. Foster Best of Show, Horticulture award for a blooming *Alcantarea extensa*; Shirley Evans won the BSI Morris Henry Hobbs Best of Show, Artistic award for her arrangement entitled "Star Search"; and Linda Cathcart won the SBS Wally Berg Award of Horticultural Excellence with a huge *Tillandsia duratii*. Winners of other BSI and SBS awards were Terrie Bert (6 other awards), Linda Cathcart (2 other awards), Shirley Evans (2 other awards), Larry Giroux (2 awards), Rich Kosmacki (1), Ray Lemieux (1), Gloria Lowe (1), Nick Mavrikas (3), Jason Mellica (1), Ken Phelps (2), Bob Stickney (1), Bill Timm (4), and Diane Worthen (1). The banquet and auction were a blazing success and a great deal of fun. The food was great and about 30 bromeliad enthusiasts, including ten from distant locations, eagerly bid on more than 60 plants and bromeliad "stuff" for sale. Plant sales were brisk and fun. Plans are already enthusiastically being discussed for next year's show and sale. [Reported by Terrie Bert.]

Springtime is Here Again How Much Longer Until Fall?

by Jay Thurrott



I truly believe that humans are unique among all of the members of the Animal Kingdom – but not for the usual reasons. Certainly there's that “opposable thumbs” thing and walking upright (although I'm acquainted with some individuals who barely fit these categories) and, of course, the self-awareness concept (humans are supposedly the only animals that blush...or have reason to), but what I believe really distinguishes humans from all other creatures, is their propensity to avoid the present. Who hasn't heard a Winter visitor's comments on “...the way we used to do it up North”? This remark tells you that the originator is living in the past and rather than adapting to new surroundings and new ways of doing things chooses to dwell on sometimes distant and frequently inaccurate memories. If you doubt this, just talk to one of these newcomers who decides to return “up North” – they frequently return to Florida because it's not the way they remembered it to be – time didn't wait for them and they don't want to deal with the new, present conditions of their hometown.

There is also the other extreme, where we long for the future. We all do this. In the Winter we say “I can't wait until Spring arrives – it's too cold”, and in the Summer it's “I can't wait until Winter returns - it's too hot.” The present never meets our expectations, so we do our best to drift away from today and either get mired in the past or long for the future. In contrast, all other “lesser animals” are firmly rooted in the present. They live exclusively for today, have no expectations for tomorrow, and are not frequently noted to be lost in thought, reminiscing about the past. I am not necessarily suggesting that we need to act more like animals and live for the day, but sometimes I think we overlook the importance of making the best of current conditions and the opportunities that are provided – if we just look for them.

Case in point - in the Spring, we're faced with extremely dry and windy conditions in Florida. We know this, it's always dry in the Spring and, without getting into the global warming debate, it's probably accurate to say that it will continue to be dry each Spring. Instead of worrying about whether it will ever rain again (it will, trust me!) and spending all of our free time watering the yard and our plants (they'll survive quite nicely without this additional water), we should adjust our bromeliad culture techniques to match the current conditions.

Examine your potting mix – if the dry weather has turned the mix into something resembling concrete that no longer retains any moisture, now is a good time to repot your plant in a fresh mix... and while you're at it, add a little slow release fertilizer to the surface of the mix (but not for your Billbergias of course!). Your plant will reward you with a fresh burst of growth. If the wind is constantly blowing your plants over, it may be time to either move up to the next size larger pot or to consider “overpotting” using a large clay pot to provide stability. If there is an area in your yard that is constantly damp in the rainy season, this dry weather provides the opportunity to do something about it! Consider building raised beds for your plants. Any of the big home improvement stores will be more than happy to give pointers on how to do this - after all, they'll not only be selling you the supplies to build your beds, they'll also be cultivating a repeat customer to return to their store again and again (add at least two more “agains” if you are like me and forget everything on the first trip). Feeling even more ambitious? Consider bringing in some fill material and with a little effort you can easily change the drainage in your yard, but keep in mind that the runoff from a rainstorm has to go somewhere! You can redirect it away from one corner of your yard that may have been too low, but this may affect a different portion of your yard...and please, don't just route this water to your neighbor's yard. I'm sure that he has enough of his own problems without you adding to them!

Yes, we're in the middle of a dry spell at the moment but please don't spend your productive time longing for the beginning of the rainy season – there's plenty of work to be done right now. Once the rains begin, the same request applies – don't become paralyzed with longing for the next dry season... or the next cold weather...or the next warm weather. Time is passing quickly enough. Seize the day!



Florida Bromeliad Sources 2007



Boggy Creek Bromeliads

Betsy McCrory

3615 Boggy Creek Road, Kissimmee 34744

407-348-2139 By appointment only

Specializing in landscape bromeliads (Aechmea and Neoregelia)

Bromeliads Galore

Dave Johnston

6399 90th Avenue, Pinellas Park 33782

Home: 727-544-9187; cell: 727-481-5962

Call for appointment

e-mail johnston28@tampabay.rr.com

Approximately 2000 different species and hybrids in pretty much all genera across the board, including bi-generics.

Floridana Tropicals, Inc.

6630 Floridana Ave, Melbourne Beach 32951

321-726-0800 By appointment only

beth@bethglover.com

www.floridanatropicals.com

The purpose of our gardens is to increase interest in gardening on the Central East Coast of Florida. We specialize in landscape bromeliads, but also include other tropical and native plants.

We are a husband and wife team who are native to the Melbourne area and have open up our gardens for biannual tours and sales. We are also a favorite site for local garden clubs to visit. We offer a variety of species in pots or bare root, and we love to trade.

Francis (Butch) Force

2812 Kelly Park Road, Apopka 32712

407-886-4814 Call for appointment

LFORCE@aol.com

10:00 AM –5:00 PM Monday to Saturday

Numerous types including large landscape

Continued on next page

Lobo Landscaping

Tom Wolfe

(813) 961-1475 By appointment only.

bromeliadsociety@juno.com

A collector bromeliad nursery specializing in full sun and landscaping specimens.

Michael's Bromeliads

Michael and Donna Kiehl

973 First Dirt Road, Venice 34292

941-488-4011; cell: 727-415-7276; fax: 941-488-1002

By appointment only

info@michaelsbromeliads.com; website: michaelsbromeliads.com

We specialize in Neoregelia and Billbergia varieties and also offer a wide range of other bromeliad types. Visitors are always welcome, please call or e-mail for an appointment. We are open daily except Monday and Thursday. Please contact us for our current catalog or visit our website at michaelsbromeliads.com.

Plants and Things by George

George and Irene Aldrich

746 NE 35th Street, Ocala 34479-2712

352-629-1913 By appointment

Bromeliads, ferns, gingers, carnivorous plants, orchids and other tropical and exotic plants and supplies.

Powell's Nursery

1002 Bay Vista Drive, Tarpon Springs 34689

727-938-0831

Hours: 8:00 – 5:00 Daily – call first

Bromeliads and many tropical foliage plants including a variety of ferns, philodendrons, nephtytis, spathaphyllum, corn plants, etc.

Powell's sells many tropicals in one gallon pots, 3 for \$5.00

(wholesale or retail).

Russell's Bromeliads

15100 Lost Lake Road, Clermont 34711

Tel: 407-656-5541; Fax: 407-656-7640

Monday - Friday 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Specializing in Quality Tillandsias (airplants)

Sunshine Bromeliads

Jorge Rodriguez and Roly Rodriguez

14601 Old Sheridan Street, Southwest Ranches 33330

Office: 954-252-3330 Fax: 954-252-2811

www.sunshinebromeliads.com

Sunshine Bromeliads is a family owned nursery which was started by Jorge and Roly's grandmother, Josefa Leon, over 23 years ago. What first started out as an amazing private collection has grown to an amazing nursery with 25,000 sq. ft. of shade house and the largest selection of bromeliads in Broward County. Sunshine Bromeliads tailors to both the retail customer as well as to commercial landscape companies. Come visit our incredible selection of bromeliads. We promise you will not be disappointed.

T & C Tropical

Tim and Colleen Hendrix

21 Holly Lane, Plantation 33317

954-931-1711 or 954-530-0076 By appointment only

timbo-169@comcast.net

Our nursery is located in the heart of beautiful historical Plantation. We have hundreds of different varieties of Neoregelia and Tillandsia.

Tropiflora

Dennis and Linda Cathcart

3530 Tallevast Road, Sarasota 34243

800-613-7520/941-351-2267; fax 941-351-6985

sales@tropiflora.com website www.tropiflora.com

Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Saturday, 8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Established in 1976, our nursery specializes in collectible plants such as bromeliads, but includes orchids, succulents, aroids and many more. Our bromeliad collection includes 4,000 varieties of species and hybrids, with an inventory of over 1,000,000 plants housed in 6 acres of greenhouses and shade houses. We are primarily a mail order nursery, but visitors are welcome. The Cargo Report, a color catalog-newsletter, is published several times annually and is available free of charge



Speakers List



This is a new feature for the newsletter. In the February, May and November issues of this newsletter, speakers who have given programs for the Council's member societies will be listed in the hopes of assisting bromeliad society program chairmen. Contact information for the speakers can be found in your Statewide Roster or through the society where the program was presented. (See the inside front and back covers on how to contact each society.)

George Aldrich – World Bromeliad Conference, Chicago 2004 (Gainesville, Jan.)

Karen Andreas - Yard Trekking (Tampa, Feb.)

Dr. Theresa Bert - The ABCs of Growing Unusual Bromeliad Genera (Seminole, Jan.)

Dennis Cathcart - Tillandsias (BSCF, Jan.)

Ron Cave – Mexican Bromeliad Weevil (Treasure Coast, March)

Neal Ekengren – Carnivorous Bromeliads – An Introduction (BSCF, April)

Dr. Larry Giroux - The Bromeliad Events of 2006 (Caloosahatchee, Jan.)

Alan Herndon - Basics of Potting Mix (BSSF, Jan.)

Dana Field - Cryptanthus, Vrieseas and Growing Bromeliads from Seeds (BSBC, Nov.)

Dr. Howard Frank - The Continuing Evil Weevil Saga (Caloosahatchee, FWC, Feb.)

Alton Lee - Bromeliads for a Tropical Island – what would you take? (FWC, April)

Harry Luther - Bromeliads for Tropical Landscapes (BSBC, March)

Guyla Nemeth – Helpful Info in Growing Bromeliads (BSBC, April)

Craig Morell — Breathing Life into a Tired Garden (BSCF,

March)

Al Muzzell - Techniques for Protecting Bromeliads from Cold Temperatures (FWC, March)

Cynthia Serchele - Florida Master Gardener Program – An Introduction (BSCF, April)

Jim Thomas - Bioscaping (Seminole, Feb.)

Jay Thurrott - A Visit to John Anderson's Epiphitimy Extension Station in Texas – Everything Grows Big in Texas! (FWC Jan.; Tampa, April); Freeze Protection (Tampa, April)

Tom Wolfe - What's Growing in the Wolfe's Backyard (Broward, Jan.; Gainesville, Feb.)



International Cryptanthus Show Moved

Because of scheduling problems, the 10th International Cryptanthus Show has been moved to the MCM Elegante Hotel in Beaumont, Texas on September 7 - 9, 2007. This event will be held in conjunction with the 2007 Southwest Bromeliad Guild Show, which is hosted this year by the Golden Triangle Bromeliad Society.

Hotel rooms are available for \$79 per night and a \$50 registration fee will include entry to the Show and Sale, Seminars, Tours and a Banquet, which will precede the Rare Plant Auction. For registration form and schedule of events, e-mail Larry Giroux at DrLarry@comcast.net or call Cynthia Johnson at (409) 753-3652.

World Bromeliad Conference

June 24-29, 2008 Cairns, Australia

by Lynn Hudson

The organizing is going well. The hotel is booked and deposit paid, the badges and mugs are ordered, the Speakers are eager but the Delegates are more eager – 182 were registered by April 1, so we are in for lots of fun.

The conference venue, Cairns International Hotel, has reduced its room rate to \$205 AUD per night. This is expensive, and I have requested some cheaper accommodation from other hotels close to the venue hotel. These rates should be available soon – late May/June. These details will be put on the website www.bromeliadsondownunder.com as soon as I am advised.

We have a local bus line, “Down Under Tours”, which has offered a 10% discount to all Delegates. This company has a wide range of vehicles and operates tours from one person to more than one hundred people, both Reef and Rainforest and Inland. They have programmed tours but gladly accommodate alternative needs.

Cairns is a tropical wonderland where hills wrap around one side and the reef wraps the other side. It is home to wonderful scenery of waterfalls, colourful plants, animal and bird parks. The Barrie Reef trips are always popular as the coral and fish are amazing. June is our winter, mild magical weather, very low humidity with warm days and cool nights.

Stay for a few extra days, have a good look around and you will take home many wonderful memories to colour your days and quiet times. Grab the next Early Bird Rate (\$140 US until June 30, 2007) and come on over. Spend the kids’ inheritance – you earned, you can spend it!



2007 Bromeliad Extravaganza An Update

by Dr. Jose Donayre

Preparations for the 2007 Bromeliad Extravaganza are proceeding apace. Five of our committees are working on committing vendors; pursuing sponsors; ensuring the availability of speakers for a good seminar program; developing plans for advertising; and collecting items for the raffle section. Up to this point we have enlisted 10 vendors aside from the society member sections.

We are encouraging societies to participate in the sales. Last year we made a point of participating in the event hosted by the Bromeliad Society of South Florida and have received assurances they will do the same. In spite of the distances that may be involved we expect other societies will join us for a profitable experience. After all, bromeliad fans are known to be capable of traveling long distances to catch the plants they crave. Being this a Council event, we want to have more than the usual involvement of the societies and more of them participating. The same applies to the contribution of special, striking, coveted plants for the banquet auction (note I do not say “rare”, a designation that, I am told, may have a counterproductive effect), which last year was unfortunately less than what was expected.

Since there will be no World Bromeliad Conference in the United States until 2010, we are paving the road for more substantial Extravaganzas. We hope we could go beyond the boundaries of the state and stimulate societies and individuals of other states to participate. With that in mind we are aiming at a broad, sustained advertising program which, within our still limited means, could be effective in promoting that kind of interest. Witness our upcoming ads in the BSI Journal.

We will be distributing a printed program in advance of the

Extravaganza. The central part of the program will be a series of about four seminars listed in the centerfold and for which we already have three speakers. But beyond that we are reserving time at the banquet for a very special program to be given by Chester Skotak who has recently accepted to be with us. We are sure his participation will attract many dedicated bromeliad collectors who have in the past and continue to enjoy his wonderful variegated hybrids. Among many others of his plants, of course.

And, not the least, thanks to the generosity of Ed Prince, who last year was able to offer complimentary copies of Elton Leme's *Bromeliads of the Atlantic Forest*, we have with us a donation of the remaining twenty copies of this book. He obtained them from Kerry's Bromeliads, and we acknowledge their donation. We are now discussing how best to offer this books to selected participants. If you have any ideas just let us know.

We have reserved a block of rooms at the Hilton Ft. Lauderdale Airport Hotel at the special rate of US\$ 89.00. You could enjoy this special price for up to six days around the event so plan your vacation around it. See the beaches, the casinos, shopping areas and the local nurseries. For reservations call (954) 920-3300 or fax your request to (954) 920-3348 and mention you are coming for the Bromeliad Extravaganza.



Extravaganza 2007 Rules of the Selling Game

1. There is no charge for sales space, cubicles, booths or tables.
2. Vendors other than commercial vendors must be members of a society affiliated with the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies.

All societies are encouraged to bring their plants and participate in the Members Section of this sale.

3. You must have an Extravaganza ID number. Call Jose Donayre, (954-925-5112), or email at jcadonayre@bellsouth.net to obtain an ID number. Please use "E2007" in the subject line when addressing email. Whenever possible, previously used numbers will be assigned to vendors who have sold in previous years.

4. Plants must be clean and free from disease, insects, etc. Potting material should be clean and weed free. Only bromeliads and bromeliad articles can be sold.

5. All plants, including bare root specimens **MUST** have two tags. One must have the plant name (this will stay with the plant); the other must have the price on the top portion of the tag (whole dollar amounts only) and the assigned vendor number below it. **Please do not put the price on one side of the tag and the vendor number on the other – use one side of the tag only!** The exception to this part of the rule is for vendors who have pre-printed commercial labels that include plant name, price and vendor's name/number. Two tags still must be used.

6. We expect ample vendor space to be available. It will be allocated according to the final number of vendors participating in the sale. Additional plants can be brought into the sales room as space becomes available.

7. Plants will be received Friday, September 28, from 1:00 p.m. on, or before 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 29.

8. You can be present in the sales area to set up or just leave your plants to be arranged by our designated members in the space allocated to you.

9. Sale hours will be Saturday, September 29 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

10. The BSBC shall retain 25% of the gross sales of each vendor. Sales tax will be collected as patrons check out. Patrons will be able to pay with credit cards.

11. Bromeliad related items (art. T-shirts, crafts, etc.) might be offered for sale, subject to the preceding rules. These items should be labeled the same as plants (Rule #5).

12. All unsold plants must be removed between 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. Plants remaining in the sales area after 5:00 p.m. will be considered a donation to BSBC.

13. FCBS and BSBC will not be responsible for loss of plants or craft items. However, all reasonable precautions will be taken to

Mexican Bromeliad Weevil Biological Control Report

by Ronald D. Cave, J. Howard Frank,
and Alonso Suazo

The colony of *Lixadmontia franki* at the Panamerican School of Agriculture in Honduras continues to be healthy and productive, but at this time of year production is not as high as during the months of July to December. Therefore, shipments occur once every three weeks rather than every two weeks. We received five shipments containing a total of 360 puparia from the Honduran rearing facility. One shipment in February was delayed in delivery due to problems with the FedEx plane leaving Honduras, so the consignment sat at suboptimal conditions and the result was 0% emergence of adults. Emergence of adults from the other four shipments was 70-86%.

The fly colony at the Biological Control Research and Containment Laboratory (BCRCL) in Ft. Pierce is well established. A larger cage was constructed to accommodate a larger fly population and a greater number of weevil larvae exposed. The fly population ranged from 40 to 120 adults. Production of puparia increased from an average of 3 per week in January to an average of 26 per week (maximum of 41 in one week) during March. Emergence of adults from these puparia has improved from 45% to 90% since the puparia are now held in an environmental chamber set at 20°C.

Research during the January-March trimester revealed the following observations:

- 1)** Parasitism of hosts in an artificial diet made of chopped Spanish moss is equal to parasitism of hosts in pineapple cores. Therefore, Spanish moss diet will serve as a satisfactory alternate resource when pineapples are scarce.
- 2)** Experimentation continues on optimal exposure time of weevil larvae (in Spanish moss diet) that produces a high rate

of parasitism but minimizes excessive super-parasitism resulting in premature death of the host, but preliminary results indicate 12 days is best.

3) When pineapple tops are in adequate supply, we can place three or more weevil larvae in an “artichoke” form and obtain nearly 100% parasitism with a 3-day exposure time and excess super-parasitism is not a problem.

Research at the BCRCL will continue to enhance production of *L. franki*. Teresa Cooper, a graduate student in Gainesville, will be conducting research on fly biology and establishment of fly populations in the field once releases are initiated.

The laboratory colony of the Florida bromeliad weevil, *Metamasius mosieri*, is very strong. When sufficient flies are available for experiments, we will be conducting host preference studies with *M. mosieri* and *M. callizona*. In the meantime, we are placing small *Tillandsia* plants infested with *M. mosieri* in the fly cage to determine if parasitism will occur with this more natural microhabitat.

The petition submitted to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for release of *L. franki* from quarantine has been approved by that agency. The field release petition is still being assessed by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). The US Fish and Wildlife Service was presented the petition and has stated that it will abide by the decision of APHIS.

Talks on the Mexican bromeliad weevil biological control project were presented at the Grassy Waters Preserve in West Palm Beach and to the Treasure Coast Bromeliad Society in Ft. Pierce.

Ronald D. Cave and Alonso Suazo are at the Indian River Research and Education Center in Fort Pierce, Florida.

J. Howard Frank is at the Entomology and Nematology Department, University of Florida, Gainesville.

Starting with Bromeliads

New Bromeliad Culture Book

Reviewed by Karen Andreas

The Bromeliad Society of Queensland, Australia, has published Starting with Bromeliads, A Guide to the Growing of Bromeliads, an excellent and comprehensive book about bromeliad culture. This soft cover book is 100 pages and is full of color photographs. In addition to information about the most popular genera, it offers advice about light, temperature and air movement; watering; potting mixes; fertilizing; pests and problems; and propagation.

How-to information, such as removing pups and growing from seed, are accompanied by helpful photographs. The landscaping with bromeliads section is full of useful tips and, again, is amply illustrated.

Although this book was published in Australia, its information is basic to all bromeliad growers and is easily applicable to our own varied growing conditions here. In fact, the Council was so taken by this book that it ordered 500 copies which will be distributed, at cost, to the affiliated member societies.

We haven't seen such a comprehensive publication in years, and this is a must-have book for any bromeliad library. The Bromeliad Society of Queensland is to be commended for providing such an inexpensive and valuable resource for our bromeliad community.

The Council is the only distributor of this book in the United States. The books will arrive this summer; see your Council representative for details on how you can obtain a copy.

Starting with Bromeliads, A Guide to the Growing of Bromeliads. Bromeliad Society of Queensland. October 2006. 100 pages. 36 pages of color photographs.

Upcoming Events



May 11-13

Bromeliad Society of Central Florida Annual Mothers Day Show and Sale

Orlando Fashion Square, 3201 E. Colonial Drive (S.R. 50), Orlando

Contact: Betsy McCrory, 407-348-2139 or
betsymccrory@aol.com

August 18-19

Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society
The Garden Club of Sanford

17-92 and Fairmont Drive, Sanford 32773

9 AM to 4 PM both days. Contact: 321-363-7351

Display and sale in great abundance of bromeliad, aroid, and other tropical plants.

Admission is free and open to the general public.

September 7-9

International Cryptanthus Show

In conjunction with the 2007 Southwest Bromeliad Guild Show

MCM Elegante Hotel, Beaumont, TX

For registration form and schedule of events, e-mail Larry Giroux at DrLarry@comcast.net or call Cynthia Johnson at (409) 753-3652. (See page 15 for more information.)

September 29

2007 Bromeliad Extravaganza

Hosted by Bromeliad Society of Broward County
Hilton Ft. Lauderdale Airport Hotel, Dania Beach

Contact: Jose Donayre at 954-925-5112 or
jcadonayre@bellsouth.net.

(See pages 1, 17 and 18 for more information)

Upcoming Events is continued on the next page.

Upcoming Events (continued)

November 30, December 1-2

Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society Sale and Show
Terry Park, 3410 Palm Beach Blvd (SR80), Fort Myers
Judged Shows - Friday, November 30 with Show and
Sale open to the public Saturday and Sunday,
December 1 and 2

Contact: Steve Hoppin at Steveandlarry@comcast.net or
239-997-2237

2008

June 24-29, 2008

Bromeliad Society International World Bromeliad Conference

Cairns, Australia (See page 16 for more information)



Next Florida Council Meeting

July 14, 2007

Hosted by Gainesville Bromeliad Society

See your Council representative
for more information.

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