

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



**In This Issue:**

**Culture Tips  
Mexican Bromeliad Weevil Report  
Gorgeous Guzmanias**

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(continued on the inside back cover)

# **2009 Bromeliad Extravaganza**

Sponsored by Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies  
Hosted by Bromeliad Society of Central Florida

**November 13-15**

## **Renaissance Orlando Airport Hotel**

5445 Forbes Place, Orlando

(just north of the Orlando International Airport,  
off SR 436/Semoran Blvd.)

Special Room Rate of \$109 per room

**24 hour shuttle service from Orlando International Airport**

Reservations by phone at (407) 240-1000 or (800) 545-1985  
or online at <http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/mcora>

### **Friday night**

8:00-9:00 pm Dessert Social

9:00-10:00 pm Plant Sales

Open to Conference Registrants Only

### **Saturday**

Plant Sales, Seminars, Raffles, Silent Auctions,  
Banquet, Rare Plant Auction

### **Sunday**

Home tours

**Check <http://fcbs.org> for up to the minute  
information.**

Betsy McCrory, Chairperson  
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## Catching Up ... Staying Even



As this newsletter goes to press, Bromeliad enthusiasts in Florida – and even some outside of the state – are preparing for the annual Bromeliad Extravaganza. Hosted by the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida, it promises to be another stellar event with an outstanding list of speakers, fabulous bromeliad sales, dessert social, banquet, and the exciting Rare Plant Auction.

A year ago, the Council had its logo copyrighted to protect against its improper use. (Believe it or not, someone on the Internet was using the logo as a link to his own personal blog.) Soon, the Bromeliad Extravaganza name will be trademarked as well. By these efforts, the Council continues to protect the integrity of its name as well as its signature event.

At its October quarterly meeting, Council representatives also voted to purchase cash registers for use at the Bromeliad Extravaganza. As many of you know from your own sales events, renting cash registers can run into significant money. Starting next year, the Council cash registers will be available, at a much more reasonable cost, to its affiliated societies to use for their sales. More information will be available at the next Council meeting in January.

This summer brought some controversy to the Council as the Bromeliad Society International Board of Directors voted to end its ten-year collaborative effort with the Council webmaster to provide a searchable Bromeliad Cultivar Registry online. There has been a good deal of misinformation passed around about the BCR and how it came to be on the Council website. Concerned about all this inaccurate information, the Council directed both its webmaster and its editor to publish a history of the BCR on the Council site.

You will find that article in this issue.

New FCBS officers will take their positions at the January Council meeting. Bromeliad Society of Central Florida will provide the chairman; the vice chairman will come from the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay; the secretary will be from the Sarasota Bromeliad Society.

Thank you, Juan Espinosa-Almodovar (Bromeliad Society of South Florida) for your service as chairman this year; Betsy McCrory (Central Florida), serving as vice chairman; and Tom Wolfe (Tampa Bay), serving as secretary and keeper of the records. Sudi Hipsley continued as Treasurer this past year; thank you, Sudi, for your diligence in managing FCBS finances and financial records.

This newsletter relies on the able assistance and contributions of many people; their support and encouragement are greatly appreciated. Three people make continuing contributions to this newsletter and without them, it would be a more difficult task. Thank you to Jay Thurrott, assistant editor, for his wonderful articles; Betsy McCrory, assistant editor, for her precise eye and for all her help with the mailing; and to Sudi Hipsley, FCBS treasurer, for her assistance with the mailing – and paying the bills!

Happy Holidays,  
Year!



everyone, and Happy New

### **Thank you**

Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society  
for hosting the July quarterly meeting of the  
Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies  
and  
Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society  
for hosting the October quarterly meeting.

## News from FCBS Affiliated Societies



### **Gainesville Bromeliad Society**

In early summer, members donated, delivered and supervised the planting and hanging of bromeliads to form a special collection and landscape appeal at University of Florida's Wilmot Gardens. This garden is being restored and enhanced to provide respite for those who must visit the nearby Cancer Center. There is wheel chair access to accommodate patients. The park is open to the public as well. A permanent marker is being established in the bed to acknowledge Gainesville Bromeliad Society's gift to the restoration project. Peggy Mixon

### **Treasure Coast Bromeliad Society**

In July, members brought rare and unusual bromeliads for identification and discussion. In October, member Alexis Smith did a program on mounting Tillandsias. They are looking forward to their January program with Dennis Cathcart, who will be speaking about Hechtia and Dyckia. The society now has t-shirts and tote bags for sale. Mark Peters

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

At the September meeting, FWC member Alton Lee presented a program in tribute to Dr. and Mrs. Dexter. In October, members participated in their annual cleanup of the bromeliads at Florida Botanical Garden. Linda Sheetz

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

In August, the society held its plant sale at the garden center. This year's sale featured "The Peoples' Choice" award. Bromeliads were entered and displayed on the stage inside the garden center, and people in attendance voted for the best bromeliad. George Aldrich won The Peoples' Choice Award. In September, Seminole members joined Florida East Coast

and especially enjoyed the barbeque lunch. The next bus trip is planned for Michael's Bromeliads. In November, Seminole members will have their annual clean up of the gardens at the Garden Center. Recently they made a \$1000 donation to the Council of Garden Clubs towards the cost of a new roof for the building. Jerry O'Keefe

### **Sarasota Bromeliad Society**

Sarasota has enjoyed an increasing membership. In August they had a potluck lunch that was great fun. In September, the society held its auction.

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

In October, the Miami Ramble came to Broward – bromeliad enthusiasts from Miami visited the Hendrixes, Frazells and Sunshine Bromeliads. In March next year, the Ramble will go to the Bahamas via a cruise ship. They plan on visiting two islands and six houses. Sara Donayre

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

Currently Central Florida members are finalizing plans for the Bromeliad Extravaganza. There is no speaker planned for the November meeting, rather they will have an "Extravaganza wind down" and review the event, get feedback and look at pictures. This year's Holiday Party will be at the home of Dean Fairchild. Betsy McCrory

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

Tampa Bay will hold its first judged show in five years, April 15-16, 2010, at the Garden Club where they meet. There will be a tent and a rare plant auction on the lawn in the evening. Tom Wolfe

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

This society recently donated \$500 towards the International Reception at the World Bromeliad Conference. Jerry O'Keefe, Calandra Thurrott, Rick Ryals and Eve Krauth attended the

BSI Judges School. Calandra Thurrott

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

In October, South Florida held its most successful auction ever, raising several thousand dollars. They are looking forward to November's program by Ron Cave, on the Weevil project. Mike Michalski

### **Caloosahatchee**

In August, Carole Richtmyer and Steve Hoppin did a workshop on growing Cryptanthus. In September, Larry Giroux presented "A Primer on Preparing Decorative Containers" to inspire members to enter that category in the December show.

## The Bromeliad Exchange

The Bromeliad Exchange will be offered again in the February, May and November issues of the Council newsletter. Deadline for the February issue is January 15.

The Bromeliad Exchange is for members of FCBS affiliated societies only; you must be included in the roster on file with the Council from your society. Commercial growers and retailers may not use this service for commercial purposes or promotion. Bromeliad Exchange items will be accepted on a first-come first-served basis and will be published on a space available basis.

Submit your listing for the Bromeliad Exchange by email to [bromexchange@fcbs.org](mailto:bromexchange@fcbs.org). Include your name, conventional mail address, and phone number. Keep your listing to 35 words or less.

The Florida Council of Bromeliad societies warrants no claims; the Council does not derive any financial benefit from the Bromeliad Exchange.

# **History of the BCR on the FCBS Site**

by Michael Andreas, FCBS Webmaster and  
Karen Andreas, FCBS Editor



Most bromeliad growers are familiar with the Bromeliad Cultivar Registry (BCR), the official listing of all hybrids/cultivars that are registered and recognized by the Bromeliad Society International (BSI). During recent months, rumors have flown around the state and misinformation published about what happened to the BCR and why it disappeared from both the Council and BSI websites. Because the BCR “lived” on the Council website and in light of the many questions about its fate, the Council directed its editor to publish a history of the BCR on the Council website.

In 1998, BSI Cultivar Registrar Don Beadle published, in book form, the Bromeliad Cultivar Registry for the BSI. Don recognized the potential for bromeliads on the Internet, so he approached the BSI and asked if the BSI webmaster (then Dan Kinnard) would post the BCR on the BSI website. Neither Dan nor the BSI were interested.

In 1999 Don gave Michael Andreas the electronic files for the BCR and asked him to try to do something with it. Michael built a database for the BCR and posted it on the Council site as a demonstration project. The BSI board members all were sent the address (this was not yet released to the public); they were invited to spend several months exploring the database. In three months’ time, not one BSI board member visited the demonstration site or commented about it.

Once Michael worked out the bugs in the BCR, he attended a BSI board meeting at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens to discuss the BCR with the BSI board members. Again there was no interest from the BSI board, however there also was no

objection to Michael running the BCR from the Council site since the Cultivar Registrar (now Derek Bucher) would manage the actual records. Ken Marks by now was the BSI webmaster, and he had no interest in being responsible for the database on the BSI site. Furthermore, Michael and Ken agreed that there was no sense in creating a separate photo database (in addition to the existing FCBS Photo Index) for the registered cultivars. They both agreed that the registration photos would be incorporated in the FCBS Photo Index. Thus the BCR came to occupy a small niche on the Council site, at no cost to the BSI.

Out of deference to the BSI's ownership of the BCR, Michael designed the BCR to look as though it was "living" on the BSI website, although when you clicked on the link on the BSI site, you really were viewing a database on the Council site.

At no time did the BSI lose control of the BCR in the ten ensuing years. The Cultivar Registrar was the only person modifying, updating and changing records. Once the records were entered, Derek sent the photographs to Michael who then posted them in the Photo Index and added a link to them in the BCR database. The BSI Cultivar Registrar was completely in control of the BCR.

Neither the Florida Council nor the BSI played a role in the development of this database. Neither organization encouraged or discouraged this effort. In the end, the Council webmaster deemed it a service to the bromeliad world to offer this document in an accessible, searchable format on the Internet.

At some point, Derek attempted to get the BSI to ratify an agreement with the Council on the operation of the BCR; again, the BSI board failed to act. Michael and Derek collaborated for ten years on this document on a gentlemen's agreement, without a hitch. On several occasions the BSI told

Derek to cease his collaboration with the Council; Derek always refused.

Several years ago, BSI president Joyce Brehm decided that the BSI must take the BCR off the Council website. Originally her reason was so that the BSI would have total control (although it always had total control through Derek). A little more than a year ago, prior to the World Conference in Australia, Joyce called Michael to tell him she was taking the BCR away from the Council site and that action would be taken at the BSI board meeting. The Florida Council was put on notice and discussed this at its quarterly meeting. The Florida delegation to the BSI board meeting was unified in its opposition to any change in the working arrangement between Derek and Michael. During that BSI board meeting, however, no action was taken. At the end of last year, Derek retired as the Cultivar Registrar, and Geoff Lawn took that position for the BSI.

At the 2009 BSI board meeting, there may or may not have been some action to enforce Joyce's directive. What actually occurred at that meeting remains in question. Geoff Lawn, current BSI Cultivar Registrar, had submitted in his report to the BSI board his recommendation that the BCR stay in its FCBS location. Apparently the BSI Board did not agree.

In August this year, Geoff notified the FCBS webmaster that he had been directed by the BSI board to cease making the registration updates (so Geoff would no longer be modifying the BCR on the Council site) and no more photographs would be forthcoming. The Council webmaster recognized that this meant the BCR would immediately become stale and obsolete – with no way to stay current with any changes – which would impact the integrity and reliability of the information offered by the Council site. This in effect implemented Joyce's position from the year before – ending the BCR's life on the Council site.



## **Culture Tips**

### **A Stitch in Time, Don't Cry Over Spilled..., and other Maxims**

by Jay Thurrott

OK, I'm a procrastinator...I admit it. I have a tendency to postpone doing things until the last minute, with sometimes unfortunate results. Just take a look at some of my plants – there's the upended pot with the Vriesea 'Poelmanii' happily blooming but growing at right angles to the pot. I saw that it had tipped over some time ago and just never got around to standing it back up. Then there's the 3 inch pot with eight *Aechmea recurvatas* spilling over the sides that I've been meaning to separate and pot up. I'll get to it, don't rush me! It was only after I had set aside a recently potted *Neoregelia* offset that should have been set in a little more shade but instead was showing the effects of sunburn that I recalled the saying "never put off until tomorrow what you can do today". It's as true today as it was when Ben Franklin published it along with other fundamental truths, sayings and general common sense centuries ago. In fact, there are many saying and platitudes that are not only commentaries on daily life, but are also quite appropriate for the bromeliad enthusiast. Consider the following few examples:

*There's No Use Crying Over Spilled Milk* – We've all had misfortune strike in our collections – the unexpected cold spell that damages or kills some of our favorite bromeliads, the marauding insect that decides to mow down that pot of carefully nurtured seedlings, the tree limb that fell unexpectedly and flattened the plants below. It's easy to give up and decide to take up some other, less stressful hobby like stamp collecting or perhaps raising ferrets, but you will run into obstacles in any endeavor so you may as well pick up

lots of healthy offsets). Get over it and move on!

*Don't Put All Your Eggs in One Basket* – Growing bromeliads has always struck me as a bit of a science experiment and maybe that's why there are so many chemists, biologists and other scientists in the bromeliad community. We are constantly evaluating different potting mixes, fertilizers and pesticides. We experiment with lighting, watering practices, and even adjust the alkalinity of the mix in hopes of producing that imagined "perfect plant". With so many variables to control, it's important to keep in mind that some of your adjustments in culture will likely produce the opposite effect from what you are trying to achieve. This is fine when you have three or four or five bromeliads of the same species or cultivar to work with. In the worst case, if one of your plants suddenly falls over dead because of your experimenting, there are others remaining to compare your results to. This can be catastrophic, however, when you experiment on your one representative of a species or cultivar and things go wrong... and that's what the Clone Preservation Project is all about. Sometimes bad things happen to good bromeliads with the result of uncommon varieties being lost forever. Never make changes to your growing techniques to all of your plants at the same time.

*A Penny Saved is a Penny Earned* – Most of us have been affected in some manner by the current downturn in the economy. In fact, as a result of this recession the term "thrifty" has actually been coming back into vogue! For many of us this now means that we don't have to be ashamed of using second-(or third or fourth) hand pots for our plants or making our own tags from discarded items like those mini-blinds rescued from the neighbors garbage can. Even little things like reusing your potting mix or adding components to stretch it (like shredded bark from that pine tree that fell in your back yard) can make a big difference in keeping costs manageable. The number of ways to save on expenses related

*An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Cure* – How many of you routinely treat newly acquired plants to ensure that you haven't accidentally imported the Mexican weevil into your collection? I'm not seeing many hands raised. How many treat for scale at the first appearance of this pest on a bromeliad before it spreads to other plants in the area? Taking care of these things early can save a lot of aggravation later on. Have you ever considered repotting newly acquired bromeliads using your own potting mix? I know, that's a lot of extra work, but often you'll find that the best potting mix for the previous grower's conditions is not the best choice for your own collection. The mix may be too loose and retain very little moisture (the previous owner watered more frequently than you) or it may retain too much moisture and create fungus and rot problems (the previous owner watered less frequently than you). In either case, simply repotting with your own mix can avoid culture problems that can easily progress to the detriment of your new plant.

*Take the Time to Smell the Roses* – For most of us, this is a hobby and we pursue our interest in bromeliads because we enjoy it. Don't lose that joy by getting caught up in the many chores, worries and concerns over whether you are "doing the right thing" in the culture of your plants. This isn't a contest. You don't have to keep up with your neighbors. One of the fascinating characteristics of bromeliads is that they are survivors – they will grow, mature and bloom quite nicely without any assistance from you, so don't work yourself to exhaustion taking care of your collection. Relax, enjoy their beauty, don't worry about all of the work that you should be doing. It doesn't have to be done today...or tomorrow...or the next day. Oh wait, that's a bit like procrastination isn't it? That's ok. Rome wasn't built in a day, don't you know!



# The Clone Preservation Project

## by Nat DeLeon



Almost anywhere I go in the state and talk about the clone preservation project, the most frequently asked question is, "what kind of bromeliad are you looking for?" Then they say "give me some examples." So without further ado, I give you a list of some fifty plus examples of species and, or, hybrids that you don't see much of anymore.

Most of the plants in this list have been taken from the book "Blooming Bromeliads" by Ulrich Baensch and almost all are listed in the order they appeared in the book. The color photos are excellent. The more I see and talk with people around the state, the more convinced I am of the importance of our Clone Preservation Project. I wish I had thought of it 10 or 15 years ago. When I see or hear of collections no longer important in size or scope of their past, I know we are on the right track. Hopefully we can enlist the aid of volunteers from all over the state to pitch in and help. So how about it Florida? Let's remember the past as well as the present.

### Aechmea

|                              |                       |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 'Fascini'                    | caesia                |
| aquilega                     | poitaei               |
| tessmanii                    | nidularioides         |
| correia-araujoi              | moorei                |
| paniculigera                 | hoppii                |
| corymbosa var. discolor      | kertesziae            |
| nudicaulis 'Silver Streak'   | purpureorosea         |
| abbreviata                   | retusa                |
| nallyi                       | flavoresea            |
| dactylina                    | multiflora            |
| dichlamydea var. trinitensis | chantinii x corymbosa |
| filicaulis                   | 'Orange Sherbet'      |
| pineliana var. minuta        |                       |

**Ananas**  
'Golden Rocket'

**Billbergia**

leptopoda  
magnifica

tessmannii

**Bromelia**  
scarlatina

**Neoregelia**

concentrica 'Plutonis'  
pabstiana  
mooreana  
carolinae 'Princeps'  
kautskyi  
smithii  
'Wango Tango'  
'Painted Lady'  
'Vulkan F2'

'Medium Rare'  
'Perfection'  
'Color Parade'  
'Bronze Beauty'  
'Grande'  
'Big Blue'  
'Pinwheel'  
'Amazing Grace'

**Guzmania**

desautelsii  
blassii  
berteroniana  
'Amaranth'  
scherzeriana  
donnell-smithii  
musaica  
conifera  
squarrosa  
zahnii (variegated)  
wittmackii (color forms)  
bismarckii

lindenii  
bipartita  
rosea  
melinonis  
remyi  
rhonhofiana  
'Fleur D'Anjou  
lingulata x sprucei  
'Orangeade'  
'Star Fire'  
'Mini Exodus'  
'Marlebeca'

(This list continues on the next page.)

## **Tillandsia**

foliosa  
neglecta  
sprengeliana  
albertiana  
concolor  
edithae  
dyeriana  
jalisco-monticola  
leiboldiana  
lapropoda  
roland-gosselinii

guatemalensis  
vernica  
magnusiana  
jucunda  
langlasseana  
xiphioides  
purpurea  
complanata  
tomasellii  
mooreana

## **Vriesea**

michaelii  
barclayana  
monstrum  
philippo-coburgii

kupperiana  
'Rose Marie'  
'Velva Wurthmann'  
'Vulkana'



## **2010 Calendar of Events**

Is your society holding a sale, show or participating in other plant events in 2010?

In the February issue, a list of all bromeliad related events in which our affiliated societies either host or participate will be published.

Please send all information, including dates, times, locations and contacts, to [karen@fcbs.org](mailto:karen@fcbs.org) or by January 15, 2010, so your society's events can be promoted in the next newsletter. These dates and events will also be included on the Council website (<http://fcbs.org>) under Upcoming Events.

# Floridians Attend BSI Judges School

by Betty Ann Prevatt



On September 19, 2009, twelve students met in Fort Myers for School 1 of the 5th Judge's School series in the Eastern Judging District. Instructors for the class were Bill and Maureen Frazel, Betty Ann Prevatt and Vicky Chirnside. Jay Thurrott ran the power point presentation for us.

The new students are:

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Calandra Thurrott (FEC)           | Lee Behrhorst (Caloosahatchee)           |
| Eve Krauth (FEC)                  | Gary Nelson (Caloosahatchee)             |
| Rick Ryles (FEC)                  | Steve Seals (Caloosahatchee)             |
| Linda Sheets (FWC)                | Lisa Robinette (Central Florida)         |
| Ofelia Sorzano (BSSF)             | Jerry O'Keefe (Central Florida,          |
| Juan Espinosa-Almodovar<br>(BSSF) | FEC, Seminole)<br>Jorge Rodriguez (BSSF) |

School 1 teaches Point Scoring, Scales of Points, Introduction to the Bromeliacea Family, Correct Nomenclature, and studies the subfamily Pitcairnioideae, including species, hybrids and intergenerics that include a member of that subfamily. It also reviews the two BSI committees that deal directly with judges and BSI shows: Judges Certification Committee and Affiliate Shows Committee as well as BSI Judges.

This group of students is every enthusiastic and eager to learn. They followed instructions and came prepared. It was a good class and received positive feedback. School 2 will be in Fort Lauderdale on March 20, 2010.

We are happy to announce that all 12 students passed their first exam!

# Mexican Bromeliad Weevil Report

July – September 2009

**J. Howard Frank<sup>1</sup>, Ronald D. Cave<sup>2</sup>,  
and Teresa Cooper<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Entomology & Nematology Department, UF, Gainesville, FL

<sup>2</sup>Indian River Research & Education Center, UF, Ft. Pierce, FL

The production of *Lixadmontia franki* pupae improved significantly after the down period of the previous six months. Average weekly production of pupae was 110, with a maximum of 225. In July, 684 pupae were produced; in August 321 pupae; and in September, 541 pupae. The trimestral total was 1,546, a decrease of 26% from the previous trimester. Inconsistency in availability of pineapple tops from grocery stores is making fly production difficult at times.

Only two field releases of *L. franki* were made during the reporting period. Both releases occurred at a new infestation site in the Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park, with 33 females and 28 males released on July 14, and 34 females and 24 males released on July 30. Hot weather, the need for flies to build up the laboratory colony, and the need for flies for laboratory research (by Teresa Cooper) did not allow for any releases during August and September. Depending on availability of flies, field releases may resume on October 27.

To date, 1,589 females and 1,424 males of *L. franki* have been released in the field. No recent recoveries of the parasitic fly from any of the release sites have been made.

Exploration to find potential biocontrol agents took place as follows: Belize - Cave 2002; Guatemala - Larson 2001, Frank and Giardina 2005, 2006, 2008 (and 2009); Honduras - Cave 1993 through 2002 as a resident, Frank and Salas 1998, Frank 1999, 2000; Mexico - Frank and Thomas 1992, Frank and Owen 2002; Panama - Frank and Muzzell 1994. The only

potential biocontrol agent detected to date is *Lixadmontia franki* Wood & Cave (Diptera: Tachinidae) (<http://www.fcla.edu/FlaEnt/fe89p239.pdf>) a fly from Honduras and Guatemala.

Graduate student Teresa M. Cooper, in 1996, completed MS research on a study of the destruction caused to Florida native bromeliads especially in the Myakka River State Park (Cooper, T.M. 2006. Ecological and demographic trends and patterns of *M. callizona* (Chevrolat), an invasive bromeliad-eating weevil, and Florida's native bromeliads [thesis, University of Florida, Gainesville]. She wanted to continue studying toward a PhD degree and wanted to make the fly *Lixadmontia franki* the subject of her study - in the hope that she could demonstrate the beneficial effect of this fly in beginning to suppress the weevil population in Florida, and to learn about some obscure aspects of the fly's behavior and development.

Teresa's draft PhD dissertation is called "An assessment of a biological control agent, *Lixadmontia franki* (Diptera: Tachinidae), to control *Metamasius callizona* (Coleoptera: Curculionidae), an invasive herbivore destroying Florida's native bromeliads." It consists of the following items: Titlepage; Copyright page; Dedication; Acknowledgments; Table of contents; List of tables; List of figures; Abstract; Ch 1. Introduction and literature review; Ch 2. Seasonality, abundance, and biological control of an invasive herbivore, *Metamasius callizona*, on its host plant, *Tillandsia utriculata*, in the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary; Ch 3. Release and monitoring of a potential biological control agent, *Lixadmontia franki*, to control an invasive bromeliad-eating weevil, *Metamasius callizona*, in Florida; Ch 4. Indirect assessment of host density by *Lixadmontia franki*, a parasitoid of bromeliad-eating weevils; Ch 5. Description of the immature life stages of *Lixadmontia franki*, an endoparasitoid of bromeliad-eating weevils; Ch 6. *Lixadmontia franki*: ovoviviparity versus viviparity; Ch 7. Conclusions; List of references; Biographical

# Gorgeous Guzmanias

by Karen Andreas



Named for naturalist Anastasio Guzman, the genus *Guzmania* was first described in 1802. Its range extends from Florida, the West Indies, Central America to Brazil but is mainly found in Columbia, Ecuador, Costa Rica and Panama. When Victoria Padilla wrote about *Guzmania* species in 1973, she lamented that, “despite their beauty and desirability, comparatively few are to be found in cultivation.” Twenty-one years later, Baensch made the same observation in “Blooming Bromeliads”. While we are all familiar with the eye-catching good looks of *Guzmania* hybrids, it is worth taking a look at the species, which are, of course, the sources for these man-made beauties.

*Guzmania* is found in the damp and shady habitat of rainforests where it generally grows epiphytically (as an air plant) in trees and bushes. Larger species mostly grow as terrestrials (in the ground) on the rainforest and jungle floors. *Guzmanias* have smooth leaves – no spines – and the leaves grow upright to form a water tank. Baensch notes, “Fine reddish brown longitudinal stripes are particularly obvious at the bases of the leaves and typical for many species of this genus.” (This is often a defining characteristic that distinguishes *Guzmania* from *Vriesea* when not in bloom.) The bracts are often brightly colored with shades ranging from yellow to orange to flaming red with flowers that are generally white or yellow. The inflorescence is especially long lived, making *Guzmania* and its cultivars so popular for the interiorscape.

Do not over-pot these bromeliads. Use a shallow pot just a bit larger than the existing root ball. The potting mix should be well draining but still retain some moisture. These bromeliads especially do not want wet feet in the winter because this can

lead to rot. During winter, water early in the day. Not only can watering late lead to wet feet and rot, Andrew Steens (“Bromeliads for the contemporary garden”) warns against “cold burn” from wet leaves during low temperatures. During our hot summer months, do not water during the heat of the day as this also can burn the leaves; watering early to mid morning is best. If your water is hard, alkaline or salty, consider flushing your Guzmanias with rainwater or bottled water. If you want to fertilize this bromeliad, use a low strength solution once a month during the warm growing seasons and not during the winter when the Guzmania rests. When grown indoors as a houseplant, mist two to three times a week.

Guzmanias like light shade to semi-shade conditions. In my yard, they get morning sun filtered by oak trees. While Guzmania species do not tolerate cold well, the hybrids are a bit hardier. All the Guzmanias in my yard have been exposed to temperatures in the low forties and survived with some foliage damage. Still, it is best to protect Guzmanias from cold temperatures, cold wind and frost, which will damage the leaves.

There are more than 200 species of Guzmania. You can find more pictures of this gorgeous bromeliad in the Photo Index of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies website, fcbs.org. Below are listed several worthy of consideration for the Florida garden.

*Guz. conifera* grows both as a terrestrial and epiphyte in rainforest habitat in Ecuador and Peru. Its cone-like inflorescence stays in color for months.

*Guz. gloriosa* is found in Ecuador in dry sandy regions as well as in forests in Colombia and Peru. This large Guzmania grows 3-5 feet high. Its green leaves have dark red stripes at the base.

*minor* is both epiphytic and saxicolous (grows on and between rocks) in forest habitat. There are five varieties of this species, all having the star shaped inflorescence. Pups generously.

*Guz. monostachia* “has the greatest geographical range of the genus,” wrote Padilla. It grows epiphytically in the Everglades and is found in the West Indies, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Ecuador, Bolivia and Brazil. *Guz. monostachia* var. *variegata* is Florida’s native *Guzmania*, with green and white leaves.

*Guz. remyi*, found in Ecuador is easy to grow in a warm shady spot in your collection.

*Guz. sanguinea* v. *sanguinea* and *Guz. sanguinea* v. *brevipedicellata* have brilliantly colored foliage and they flower in their centers. They grow epiphytically in Costa Rica, Columbia, Trinidad, Tobago and Ecuador. Both are stingy with pups, generally only yielding only one for v. *sanguinea* and two for v. *brevipedicellata*.

*Guz. sprucei* grows epiphytically although sometimes is saxicolous in the forests of Panama and Columbia.

To look at *Guzmania* pictures, go to <http://fcbs.org>. Click on Photo Index in the menu on the left hand side of the home page, then select *Guzmania*. The species list will appear first under *Guzmania*.



## Speakers List

### Bromeliad Society of South Florida

**Terrie Bert**

“DEFG. Diving Even Further into Unusual Bromeliad Genera

**Dennis Cathcart**

“Travels to South of the Border”

“Lithophytic Bromeliads”

**Jay Thurrott**

“Frost Protection and Winterizing Your Bromeliad Collection”

**Lynn Fieber**

“Bromeliad Photographs”

### Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society

**Mike Owen**, Park Biologist, Fahkahatchee Strand Preserve  
State Park

“Florida’s Native Bromeliads”

**Ray LeMieux**

“Propagation, potting and growing techniques used at  
Tropiflora”

### Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay

**Dave Johnston**

“You Must Have Species”

**Jay Thurrott**

“Frost Protection and Winterizing Your Bromeliad Collection”

Tom Wolfe says, “This is the best program on the subject.”

**Dennis Cathcart**

“Saxicollic Bromeliads in South and Central America”

**Terrie Bert**

“DEFG. Diving Even Further into Unusual Bromeliad Genera

**Al Muzzell**

“Al’s Favorite Bromeliads”

**Betsy McCrory**

“Bromeliad Extravaganza”

**Guillermo Rivera**

“Bromeliads of Peru”

**Terrie Bert**

“Diving Even Deeper into Bromeliad Genera”

**Sarasota Bromeliad Society**

**Ray Lemieux**

**Harry Luther**

Spoke about his new book

**Bill Timms**

“Tillandsias”

**Tom Wolfe**

“Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania”

**Jay Thurrott**

“Getting Ready for Winter”

**Paul Isley**

The Newest and Greatest in Tillandsias

**Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society**

**Tom Wolfe**

**Terrie Bert**

“Diving Even Deeper into Bromeliad Genera”

**Central Florida Bromeliad Society**

**Grant Groves**

“Variegated Bromeliads”

**Terrie Bert**

“Diving Even Deeper into Bromeliad Genera”

**Gainesville Bromeliad Society**

**Terrie Bert**

“Diving Even Deeper into Bromeliad Genera”

**Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society**

**Terrie Bert**

“Diving Even Deeper into Bromeliad Genera”

**Dean Fairchild**

“What Is Taxonomy, Where Will It Grow, How Will It Grow”

**Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society**

**Grant Groves**

“Variegated bromeliads”

**Terrie Bert**

“Diving Even Deeper into Bromeliad Genera”

**Brian Weber**

“Selling for Fun and Profit – Preparing Your Bromeliads for Show”

**Dennis Cathcart**

“Saxicollic Bromeliads in South and Central America”

**Al Muzzell**

“Al’s Favorite Bromeliads”

**Betsy McCrory**

“Bromeliad Extravaganza”

**Guillermo Rivera**

“Bromeliads of Peru”

**Bromeliad Society of Broward County**

**Paul Isley**

The Newest and Greatest in Tillandsias

**Upcoming Events**

**November 21-22**

Treasure Coast Bromeliad Society

Clinic and Sales Booth 10:00-4:00

Heathcote Botanical Gardens

210 Savannah Road, Ft. Pierce 34982

**December 4-6**

Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society Show and Sale

Terry Park. Ft. Myers

Judged show on Friday, December 4. Show and sale open to the public, Saturday 9:00-5:00; Sunday, 10:00-4:00.

# Get Ready for the Cold Weather

by Karen Andreas

It's hard to believe that, with average temperatures this month in the 80s (at least in Central Florida), winter weather will ever arrive. Inevitably it will, in some part of the state so now is a good time to plan for the cold.

Pay attention to the weather reports. Often cold weather is predicted as far as a week in advance. On sunny days prior to a dip in the temperature, be sure to water your bromeliads (as well as other plants in your yard). This not only hydrates the bromeliads, water insulates the heart of the bromeliad. Water the ground around the plants at the same time; this also will help the ground retain heat. Just a degree or two can make a difference.

A word about watering. We are used to watering more frequently during the summer months than in the winter. Lower humidity and wind, however, can quickly dehydrate bromeliads. If you keep them hydrated, they will be hardier when cooler weather hits. Monitor your bromeliads' water needs to keep them healthy through the dryer months. As plant growth slows throughout this season, do not fertilize bromeliads so as not to encourage any tender growth.

Know the cold tolerances of your bromeliads. In the February 2007 issue of this newsletter, Tom Wolfe and Eileen Kahl wrote "Cold Sensitivity of Some Bromeliads". The article offered a list of bromeliads with their cold tolerances. This article has been posted on the Council website at [fcbs.org](http://fcbs.org) (under "What's New" and "Bromeliad Information") and is available for your reference.

Certainly your experiences and those of your fellow bromeliad society members will tell you which are the more hardy bromeliads in your area. Once you identify the more cold

sensitive bromeliads, you will know which are the most tender and must be protected first.

The ideal response to cold weather is to move your collection into your garage or shed. Most of us, however, have way too many bromeliads – and too many in the ground – to move them. The next best thing to do is to cover your bromeliads.

Plastic is not recommended for covering any plant. The plastic will burn foliage where ever it touches, and the sun – even on a cold day – can bake your bromeliads under plastic. Some people use blankets and sheets. The ideal material is frost cloth. Many bromeliad societies in areas with cold weather buy frost cloth for their members. In spite of its light weight, frost cloth is able to trap the heat as it rises from the ground and allow some air movement and protect from sun baking.

The trick to what ever covering you use is to anchor it firmly in the ground, all around the plants or the garden. It is essential that it be anchored in order to trap the warm air and not allow cold in. Frost cloth can remain over bromeliads for weeks at a time with no damage to the plants. Other materials should be removed once the cold has passed.

Cut your frost cloth or set aside your blankets and sheets so when the cold arrives, you will not have to fuss with cutting and fitting your covers. With some advanced planning, your bromeliads will survive winter in Florida.





## **Next Florida Council Meeting**

January 9, 2010

Hosted by the Bromeliad Society of South Florida

See your Council representative  
for more information.



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(continued from inside front cover)

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