

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, Inc.



In this issue:

**2011 Show and Sale Schedule
Ed Hall's Greenhouse
Florida Native Bromeliads**

Vol. 31 Issue 1

February 2011

FCBS Affiliated Societies and Representatives



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Bromeliad Society of Central Florida

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Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society

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(continued on the inside back cover)

**The Art of Bromeliads
2011 Bromeliad Extravaganza**

**Sponsored by the Florida Council
of Bromeliad Societies**

**Hosted by Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society
and**

**The 12th Annual International
Cryptanthus Society Show**

November 2011

The Plaza Resort and Spa

600 North Atlantic Avenue (A1A) Daytona Beach

www.plazaresortandspa.com

Sales

Seminars

Banquet

Judged Cryptanthus Show

Extravaganza Rare Plant Auction and
The Cryptanthus Society Rare Plant Auction
to be held jointly on Saturday night

Oceanfront Rooms \$99.00 a night

Free Parking

Jay Thurrott, Chairman
Bromeliad Extravaganza
Cajat@aol.com
(386) 761-4804

Larry Giroux, Show Chairman
The Cryptanthus Society
DrLarry@comcast.net
(239) 997-2237

**2012 Bromeliad Society International
World Bromeliad Conference**

hosted by

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies

at

**The Caribe Royal
8101 World Center
Orlando, FL 32821**

September 24-30, 2012

**Betsy McCrory
FCBS World Conference Chairman**

betsymccrory@aol.com

(407) 348-2139

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News from FCBS Affiliated Societies



Bromeliad Society of Central Florida

In October the Society enjoyed Dave Johnston's very informative presentation of 'Must Have Species.' In November, we voted our new officers in: President, Lisa Robinette; Vice-President, Bob Smedley; Secretary, Marty Folk continuing. November 13, we had two exceptional garden rambles. Steven Wagner, our long time editor, has a National Wildlife Federation Certified Backyard. Information on certifying your yard can be found at nwf.org. Tina and Steven Farsetta had a beautifully landscaped yard complete with a homemade pergola. Members from the Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society joined us for this event. In December we had our annual Christmas party at Leu Gardens. Russell's Bromeliads donated wood and Tillandsias that Lisa Robinette made into beautiful centerpieces with each member going home with a nice plant. Marty Folk created a neat slide show of recent bromeliad events to Christmas music along with our plant exchange. In January, BSCF started planning for the Leu Gardens sale for March 19th and 20th. Reported by Lisa Robinette

Bromeliad Society of Broward County

BSBC finished the year quite well. In October we had our Annual Auction, which brought plenty of good plants and buyers. In December we had our Christmas Party at the Jacaranda Country Club with plant raffle, distribution and games. Our Annual Show "Garden Fest" will take place March 26 - 27 at the Volunteer Park Community Center in Plantation, cosponsored by the Plantation Woman's Club. We proposed that the next FCBS quarterly meeting take place simultaneously with our Show and the Council approved it. Reported by Jose Donayre

Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

At the October BSI Judges School in Ft. Myers, Eve Krauth, Rick Ryals, and Calandra Thurrott attended. Jay Thurrott was invited to help. Jay and Calandra Thurrott also participated in the November BSI Judges Symposium in Sebring. In November, FECBS had its first Artistic Challenge with the Best in Show going to Eretta Morris. The Christmas Pot Luck dinner was held at the center in Colony in the Woods in Port Orange. Eve Krauth, Rick Ryals, Calandra Thurrott, Jay Thurrott, and Steve Provost from our club attended the quarterly meeting of the Florida Council in January, hosted by the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay. Reported by Calandra Thurrott

Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay

In November, members had a field trip to Michael's Bromeliads, Tropiflora and Marie Selby Gardens. Tropiflora provided a barbeque lunch. Members held a gift exchange and plant auction at the Christmas dinner. Herb Hill generously donated beautiful Vrieseas for centerpieces and Kay Miller contributed gorgeous arrangements. Beverly Sisco received the Distinguished Service Award from the Guild. This month, Guild members set up a display booth with plants and props at the Florida State Fair. Their booth came in fourth place.

Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society

Following their October meeting, a group of members spent some time cleaning up the CNS Bromeliad Garden at the site of the Lee County/Ft Myers Garden Council Building. The Holiday party was at the home and gardens of Bruce McAlpin in LaBelle. The party included a raffle and members brought favorite holiday dishes. This year the raffle donations were opened up to other plant families such as orchids, ferns, fruit trees and native plants. The January Issue of the society's newsletter, the Caloosahatchee Meristem, included a profile on Eleanor Kenzie who has been an active member of the society for almost 30 years and who is the immediate past president.

Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society

This year's Holiday Season Party included a free bromeliad pup for each member, prize plants (including x *Vriecanthera* 'Inferno', a John Arden hybrid, and a large *Billbergia rosea* with multiple plants) provided by several growers and the usual fantastic spread of food. There also was a Gift Plant Swap.



Thank you, Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay
for hosting the
January quarterly meeting of the
Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies

**Name the
2012 World Bromeliad Conference**

**The winner of the Name the World
Bromeliad Conference contest will
receive a free membership to the
BSI or an extension of the
winner's existing membership.**

**Email your proposed name to
Betsymccrory@aol.com
by March 31.**

**2011 Calendar of Events
Shows and Sales of
FCBS Affiliated Societies**



March 19-20

Bromeliad Society of Central Florida
Harry P. Leu Gardens Spring Sale
1920 N. Forest Avenue, Orlando 32803
9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Gardens free both days

March 20

Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society
Annual Rare Plant Auction
St. John the Apostle Church
3049 McGregor Avenue, Ft Myers
2:00 PM

March 26-27

Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society
Green Fest Plant Sale
University of Tampa, Tampa
<http://tampagreenfest.com/>

March 26-27

The Bromeliad Society of Broward County
and the GFWC Plantation Women's Club
Annual Garden Fest
Bromeliad Show and Sale
Volunteer Park Community Center
12050 West Sunrise Blvd., Plantation 33323
Saturday 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Sunday 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

April 1-3

Tropiflora Spring Festival

3530 Tallevast Road, Sarasota

Friday and Saturday 8:00AM – 5:00 PM

Sunday 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

(941) 351-2267

April 2-3

Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay

In conjunction with the Federation of Garden Clubs

Annual Garden Show

Tampa Garden Club

2629 Bayshore Blvd, Tampa

March 30 – Set up

March 31 – Entries

April 1 – Judging

April 2-3 Open to the public

April 2

Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

13th Annual Volusia Master Gardeners Plant Faire

Volusia County Fairgrounds

April 9-10

Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay

USF Botanical Gardens Spring Plant Sale

University of South Florida, Tampa

<http://cas.usf.edu/garden>

April 16-17

Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Sale

The Garden Club of Sanford (on 17-92, one block south of Lake Mary Blvd.)

9:00 – 4:00

Huge selection of bromeliads in many genera, orchids, aroids, gingers, other tropical plants, gift baskets, hand crafted slat baskets in several sizes. Members will be available to answer your questions. Free admission and

and free parking- Shop in air-conditioned comfort.
Event questions: 407-539-4314

April 16-17

South Florida Bromeliad Society Show and Sale
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens
10901 Old Cutler Road, Miami

April 29-30

Sarasota Bromeliad Society 30th Annual Show and Sale
“Bromeliad Gems”
Marie Selby Botanical Gardens
811 South Palm Avenue, Sarasota 34236
Friday 9:00 AM – 10 PM; judging, outdoor sales,
banquet and Rare Plant Auction
Saturday 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM: show and plant sales
For more information, contact Selby Gardens (941)
366-5731 or show chairman, Terrie Bert

April 30 – May 1

Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society
Green Thumb Festival
Walter Fuller Park
St. Petersburg
<http://www.stpete.org/parks/greenthumb.asp>

May 6-8

Bromeliad Society of Central Florida
Bromeliad Show and Sale
Orlando Fashion Square Mall, Orlando

June 24-25

Tropiflora Summer Sale
3530 Tallevast Road, Sarasota
Friday and Saturday 8:00AM – 5:00 PM
(941) 351-2267

August 20-21

Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Sale

The Garden Club of Sanford (on 17-92, one block south of Lake Mary Blvd)

9:00 – 4:00

Huge selection of bromeliads in many genera, orchids, aroids, gingers, other tropical plants, gift baskets, hand crafted slat baskets in several sizes. Members will be available to answer your questions. Free admission and free parking- Shop in air-conditioned comfort.

Event questions: 407-539-4314

November 5

The Art of Bromeliads: 2011 Bromeliad Extravaganza

The Plaza Resort and Spa

600 North Atlantic Avenue (A1A) Daytona Beach

December 2-4

Caloosahatchee Show and Sale

Terry Park, Fort Myers

For information, contact Dr. Larry Giroux at

DrLarry@comcast.net

Send information about your societies shows, sales and events to Karen@ fcbs.org for publication in the next newsletter (May) and also for posting on the Council website.



Mexican Bromeliad Weevil Report

October—December 2010

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

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

²Entomology & Nematology Department, UF, Gainesville, FL

Average weekly production of *Lixadmontia franki* pupae was 121, with a maximum of 164 and a minimum of 82. In October, 536 pupae were produced, in August 526 pupae, and in September 610 pupae. The trimestral total was 1,571 pupae.

Two shipments of fly pupae were received from Honduras. On 1 December 2010, 53 pupae and on 10 December, 23 fly pupae were received. Adult flies emerged from about 70% of the pupae. Of these adults, 17 females have mated and are at an age to be larvipositing. The females are being supplied with weevil infested pineapple tops on which to larviposit.

From 29 October to 8 November, Howard Frank, Dennis Giardina, Tim Andrus and Erwin Williams traveled to the coastal lowlands of Belize to search for alternative biological control agents to control the Mexican bromeliad weevil. 187 weevils, all *M. callizona*, were collected (mainly in *T. utriculata*) and carried to the quarantine facility at IRREC and monitored for parasitism. All larvae have pupated or reached adulthood. No weevils were parasitized. Adult weevils have been mated and paired. Eggs are being collected from mated females. Resulting adults will be added to our laboratory Mexican bromeliad weevil colony.

A fly release was made at the Oxbow Eco Center on 14 October 2010 (25 female and 18 male flies) and at Big Cypress National Preserve on 26 October 2010 (22 females and 20 males). No fly recoveries were made from either release.

The weevil temperature study (comparing the developmental

time of the weevil from egg to pupa and from pupa to adult at different temperatures) has been completed at three temperatures (20, 25, and 30 °C). Eggs are being collected to test at 15 and 35 °C.

Publications:

No new publications.

Presentations:

FCBS Sanford Meeting. 9 October 2010. Controlling the Mexican Bromeliad Weevil. T. M. Cooper.

Potential Invasive Pests Workshop. 11 October 2010. Bromeliad-eating Weevils as Pests of Bromeliads. T. M. Cooper.

Big Cypress Research Symposium. 10 November 2010. Controlling the Mexican Bromeliad Weevil in the Everglades. T. M. Cooper.



Dr. Howard Frank is offering a program to bromeliad societies on his trip to Belize. Any society interested in Dr. Frank's program can contact him at jhfrank@ufl.edu.

Growing Bromeliads in Macon, Georgia

by Edward Hall



Six years ago Nancy and I decided to relocate to Macon, Georgia, a serious move from our tropical garden in Central Florida to a climate that dictated a greenhouse. This required that we reduce the size of the collection. About 200 of our most favorite plants were identified, and Al Muzzell volunteered to store them until we were prepared to care for the plants.

Now came the challenge of finding a greenhouse. Where could I purchase a good quality, small (non-commercial) one? What are the subdivision and zoning requirements? What heating and cooling capacity should I plan for? Fortunately I told the real estate agent of our plan, so she included the approval for a greenhouse as a stipulation to purchase the house. Being a new subdivision with building inspectors present, I applied for a building permit. The requirements were the greenhouse could not exceed 200 square feet; maintain a minimum of 20 feet between the house and greenhouse; centrally locate it side to side on the lot; and incorporate a back flow valve in the water line to the greenhouse.

After considerable investigation and inquiries, I received a catalog from Growers Supply in Dyersville, Iowa. There I found the perfect greenhouse. The unit was defined as a “top-quality greenhouse for the serious gardener, clubs, schools or any group that requires a larger growing area.” I chose Pro Greenhouse 1. The dimensions are 11’8” wide x 8’10” high (in center) x 16’6” long with a sidewall height of 5’3”. The floor area is 192.5 square feet. The frame is extruded aluminum with 2-foot wide side and roof panels of 6 mm thick twin-wall polycarbonate and four roof vents. Instead of selecting the

base. This allowed me to accommodate the slope in the yard. The catalog listed a number of schools that were pleased with the unit. This was enough encouragement to place an order. Within two weeks a semi arrived with seven large numbered boxes and a 54-page instruction manual. Now the real work began. I read the manual and cautiously opened the boxes per the instructions.

The site was selected so the long dimension of the greenhouse was essentially east-west. Being in an open area, the site is exposed the sun all day and thus, artificial shade is required. The soil is clay with solid granite below. To ensure adequate drainage, the concrete form included drain holes. The floor of the greenhouse consists of a minimum of an 8" thick layer of 1" granite stone. This ensures the lack of any standing water, helps hold the heat in winter and improves the humidity.

Assembly of the aluminum was easily done on the garage floor. Once setting on the concrete foundation, the walls were connected together and secured to the foundation. The roof beams were installed and finally the polycarbonate panels. Spring clips secured the panels prior to caulking with silicon RTV. Next, the double doors were installed. Each door is 23" wide and 6' high. Thus, relatively large items can be moved in or out of the greenhouse.

Each door has two openings for polycarbonate panel. One opening was fitted with an exhaust fan shutter. The other three were covered with wire mesh. At the opposite end of the greenhouse I installed a 16" direct drive exhaust fan with shutters. The maximum/minimum thermometer readings during several hot days suggested a second fan was necessary. During the cold weather, the other three openings are closed with removable polycarbonate panels. Also only one exhaust fan is operating during the winter months. This allows the exhaust fan to run longer instead of starting/stopping so frequently and extends the motor life.

During the summer months the four roof vents are open in addition to both exhaust fans functioning. This sometimes results in a bird nest in the bromeliads, but the birds have left the nest by the time I need to close the roof vents.

The size of the heater was selected utilizing the following steps:

Define the minimum desired inside temperature (40 F) and the worst case outside temperature (15 F). The difference or Delta T is (25).

Calculate the area (A) in square feet of the outer walls and roof keeping each material surface separate. I ignored the small areas composed of the concrete and the aluminum frame. This required some safety factor because aluminum has about two times greater heat-transfer coefficient (H). Heat loss through the floor was ignored.

The ASHRAE Handbook of Fundamentals (published by the American Society of Heating, refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers) lists the heat-transfer coefficient for building materials. From the limited list available I chose double pane glass with 3/16 inch air space as an equivalent material to the twin-walled polycarbonate. That material has a heat-transfer coefficient (H) of 0.69.

The product of $\Delta T \times A \times H$ gave a heat loss of 9722 BTU. Adding a 10% factor for wind loss yielded a total heat loss of 10,694 BTU.

In the Northern Tool and Equipment catalog, I found an electric heater that produces 12,795 to 17,060 BTU. The specifications are 12" W x 10 1/2" D x 12 1/4" H, adjustable louvers, stainless steel heating element, 300 CFM fan and adjustable thermostat. The electrical requirements are 240V single phase at 21A. This provided about a 20% safety factor.

Watering the plants is automated, utilizing the controller for

the lawn and shrubbery. Fortunately one of the six zones was available and is now assigned to the greenhouse. The desired light level was achieved by painting the polycarbonate panels with two coats of white latex primer. Shade cloth was considered but rejected.

The greenhouse was operational about a month before our planned departure for the summer. A small number of plants were selected for the test. Four months later, the condition of the plants was good so I decided to move in the remainder of our collection. The several hundred plants consist of a few Aechmea, one Bromelia, about ten Billbergia, one Canistrum, two Catopsis, about 20 Guzmania, about 20 Neoregelia, about five Nidularium, several Pitcairnia, about 100 Tillandsia and about 20 Vriesea.

Since putting the greenhouse into operation, I have been very pleased with the unit. It should be noted that I tend to the plants twice a year (spring and fall), removing weeds and dead leaves, repotting as necessary, fertilizing, etc. In May, I lock the door and depart for Wisconsin where Nancy and I spend four months. In September, we return and begin enjoying the plants again.

Success has been as good as growing in Florida. Some of the large clump Tillandsias seem to respond better. This summer Tillandsia spiraliflora bloomed, about twenty years after purchase. The temperature extremes are +40 F to 105 F. My setting of the heater thermostat is the controlling factor, not the heater capacity. The 105 F temperature is common in the summer. A couple of the plants died due to not choosing a higher temperature in the winter. Several died due to either over or under watering. Maintaining the diverse selection of plants in a confined space is the biggest challenge.

With the exception of seeing bromeliads in Home Depot, Lowes and one mom and pop nursery, I discovered only one

person in the Macon area who grows them. An article in Macon Magazine entitled “The Bromeliad Man” described Sam Hedgepath with pictures of his greenhouse. I arranged a visit. During one of Sam’s trips to Orlando he visited Mulford Foster. In his greenhouse I had the sensation of being in a time warp. The collection consisted of plants not common today but typical of one or two generations ago collection like you could have seen in Mulford’s greenhouse.



Presidents of FCBS Affiliated Societies

Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay: Beverly Sisco

Bromeliad Society of Broward County: Colleen Hendrix

Bromeliad Society of Central Florida: Lisa Robinette

Bromeliad Society of South Florida: Carl Bauer

Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society: Vicky Chirside

Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society: Bradley Rauch

Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society: Kathy Risley

Gainesville Bromeliad Society: George Aldrich

Sarasota Bromeliad Society: Kenneth Stokes

Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society: Butch Force

Culture Tips: The Best Laid Plans...

by Jay Thurrott



Each year when the weather turns cool, there are those people who will remark how much they like the cooler weather that comes with the season change. They enjoy cold weather when they can turn the air conditioning off, drive with the windows down in their cars, and wear boots and sweaters. They like winter...a lot. I'm not one of those people. Winter to me is that time of year when I have to pay close attention to the weather reports so that I can protect my plants whenever an arctic air mass is about to descend on us. If you haven't noticed, it's a lot of work moving plants around and covering them up, and it's a lot of work moving them around and uncovering them after the cold front passes. Repeat this several times each winter and you can see why I'm not a big fan of winter. It's a time when the bromeliads in my collection that aren't fortunate enough to be housed under shade cloth are pummeled by falling acorns (and this seems to be a banner year for acorns) that leave random pale areas in some leaves while others are neatly split from tip to base. It's also a time when it's either so wet and cold that my plants suffer or the air is so dry that it's difficult to keep them hydrated - and the plants suffer.

The one redeeming feature of winter is that its arrival usually means that spring is not too far away, and I can start planning for all of the improvements that I intend to make just as soon as the warm weather arrives. First, I'm going to repot all of my bromeliads that have been sitting in the same mix for so long that their roots are poking out of the drainage holes. Do you have any like this, where water poured onto the surface of the potting mix immediately runs back out through the bottom of the pot? That's not a good situation, and the correction to

make is to repot the plant in fresh mix. I plan to do something about it as soon as spring arrives. Of course that means I'll have to go to the garden center and pick up some more potting mix. I plan to do that just as soon as I have some free time and while I'm at it, my supply of slow release fertilizer is running pretty low so I need to stock up on that as well.

Then, I plan to separate those Neoregelia pups that are getting so large that they are becoming a bit deformed as they press up against the mother plant (or vice versa). There's always that option of removing the mother plant and letting the pups continue in the same pot, and I plan to do this with some of the smaller Neos. They can make a very impressive hanging basket, but somehow mine don't want to produce pups in the open areas and instead spill over one side of the pot – making for an uneven display. I also plan to separate some of the larger Neos and repot them. I suppose that I could go to work on this now, but spring is just around the corner so I may as well put it off for another month or two.

Next, I plan to go through my entire collection and look at each of the identification tags. Any tags that are nearly illegible, I'll replace with fresh ones and any that are missing – I plan to consult with other bromeliad hobbyists and come up with a likely identification. Those are my plans.

Will I complete all of these chores that I've laid out for myself...not very likely, but at least I've identified what needs to be done and as I find the time, I can work toward these goals. What needs to be done in your collection?

On these cold winter days when you can't work in the garden, give some thought to what those needs are, develop a plan and then, when the opportunity presents itself – go to work! The best laid plans may often go astray, but that's still far better than no plan at all.

International Cryptanthus Society Show

by Dr. Larry Giroux

Cryptanthus Society Show Chair



Cryptanthus Society members already know that this is the year for our International Cryptanthus Show. This BSI Standard Show of one bromeliad genus is held in the years between World Conferences. All Cryptanthus growers who will be attending the FCBS Bromeliad Extravaganza, whether you grow one or a thousand Cryptanthus, are welcome to enter Horticultural, Horticultural Display and Artistic Divisions of this International Cryptanthus Show. The Show will be judged by BSI Panel Judges, and entries will be eligible for awards.

We now have a location, showrooms and Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies and Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society support to proceed with our 2011 International Show in conjunction with the 2011 Bromeliad Extravaganza in Daytona Beach.

In the upcoming months, further details as to a time schedule for entries will be provided as well as a formal Show Schedule. Watch for information at www.fcbs.org, the Cryptanthus Society Web page on fcbs.org, the Florida Council newsletter, and the quarterly Cryptanthus Society Journals.

Because of the limited time span of this event, out of town attendees who wish to show plants should plan on coming into town early Friday afternoon to enter plants, so exhibitors, show workers and judges can still enjoy all the other activities planned for this weekend.

I have another plea: The Cryptanthus Society and FCBS Rare

on donations from attendees. So please be generous and plan on bringing Cryptanthus, other bromeliads and bromeliad related items for this combined auction.

See you in November!



Speakers List

Bromeliad Society of Central Florida

Dr. Teresa Cooper – Evil Weevil

Dave Johnston – Must Have Species

Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society

Peter Bak of Cornelis Bak B.V. Nursery - Bromeliad Growing in Amsterdam. Peter Bak owns one of the world's largest growing operations.

Dennis Cathcart

Dr. Terrie Bert – Here's Lookin at More Novel Bromeliad Genera (HLMN)

Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society

Jay Thurrott - 19th World Bromeliad Conference (2010) in New Orleans

George Aldrich – Collecting Trip in Peru with Grant and Magali Groves

Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

Dennis and Linda Cathcart – Singapore's Gardens by the Bay

It was a great program and a great selection of plants for sale.

Calandra Thurrott

Dean Fairchild - Identifying Bromeliad Genera

Speakers List continued on next page

Bromeliad Society of Broward County

Bruce McAlpin "Basic Horticultural and Cultural Tips for Bromeliads"

Ray Lemieux Terrestrial Bromeliads

Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay

Mike O'Leary Twenty-five Bromeliads Every Beginner Should Have in The Garden

Al Muzzell - New Terrestrial Bromeliads

Dr. Terrie Bert – Here's Looking at More Novel Bromeliad Genera

Dr. Teresa Cooper - Update on Evil Weevil Research

Dr. Howard Frank - Collecting (weevil and pupae) trip in Belize

Bromeliad Society of South Florida

Jay Thurrott - Preparing Your Bromeliads for The Cold

Dr. Terrie Bert - Here's Loooin' at More Bromeliad Genera (H, L, M, N)

Nat DeLeon - Tips on Growing Better Bromeliads – Pups and Suckers

Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society

Andrew Hahn, Chief Grower and Manager of Roy Batty Nursery in Naples – Growing Pineapples

Gainesville Bromeliad Society

Al Muzzell – Small Bromeliads

Bud Martin – Bromeliad Identification

Doug Hopkins (Alachua County landscaper) – Dyckia and Agave

Tom Wolfe

Terrie Bert – Bromeliads by Genus

Dean Fairchild – Simplified Bromeliad Taxonomy

Florida's Native Bromeliads

by Karen Andreas

Tillandsias comprise the majority of Florida's native bromeliads. Five of our native bromeliads are found nowhere else in the world while others range as far north as Georgia or Virginia and down into South America. These species and their habitats mirror the diverse environments of our state as they range in size and form from 4 to 51 inches and grow in strong light to moist and shady conditions of cypress swamps. One is carnivorous, and all are interesting in their own right.

Catopsis berteroniana

This tank type bromeliad is considered rare and endangered and is found in south Florida. Its full distribution is Florida, Mexico, West Indies, Central and South America. It prefers bright, open habitat and is found in rockland hammock (areas of soil on top of limestone substrate on the border of forests or prairies in south Florida), slough and marine tidal swamps. It is one of three carnivorous bromeliads. *Catopsis berteroniana* has wide, tapering green leaves with a tall, branching inflorescence with yellow bracts and yellow and white flowers. It grows from 16-51 inches tall and flowers all year round, especially from the fall into winter.

Catopsis floribunda

Also found in south Florida, its range mirrors that of *Catopsis berteroniana*. It grows in humid, shady habitats, rockland hammocks, strand swamps (where cypress grow). It is rare and endangered. It is a tank type bromeliad, growing to 28 inches with many leaves and a tall, branching yellow inflorescence. It flowers from fall to winter.

Catopsis nutans

This is the most rare of the Florida *Catopsis*, found only in Collier County and nowhere else in the world. It is

distinguished from *Catopsis floribunda* by its smaller size (to 12 inches) and fewer leaves. It is a night blooming bromeliad, flowering from fall to spring, and in all likelihood pollinated by moths. It is found mainly in deep cypress swamps.

Guzmania monostachia

Another endangered bromeliad, its range is south Florida, West Indies, Mexico, Central America to northern Peru and Brazil. In rockland hammocks, it is terrestrial although it grows epiphytically in slough and strand swamp habitats, most often found in abundance on pop ash (*Fraxinus caroliniana*) and pond apple (*Annana glabra*). Its leaves are soft and spineless, and there is a variegated form as well. *Guzmania monostachia*'s simple inflorescence has red bracts and white flowers. Including its inflorescence, it grows to 16 inches tall and blooms February to August although it mostly flowers in May and June.

Tillandsia balbisiana

This bromeliad is threatened. Its habitat is scrub pinelands, strand swamp, hammocks, mangroves, shell ridges/mounds (often in open woods). Its distribution is Florida, West Indies, Mexico, Central and South America. It has been found as far north as Seminole County. Its base is bulbous in shape; its inflorescence is branching with red bracts, violet petals. It grows to 28 inches and flowers from fall to summer.

Tillandsia bartramii

This *Tillandsia* is found from central Florida north to Georgia, also in the Caribbean and Mexico. Its habitat is generally hammocks and pinelands but can be found in urban areas as well. It grows in clumps of narrow, grayish-green leaves with a simple inflorescence and violet flowers. This cold tolerant *Tillandsia* is not threatened.

Tillandsia Fasciculata

This *Tillandsia* is highly endangered because it is a target of

the Mexican bromeliad weevil. Its distribution is Florida, West Indies, Mexico, Central and South America; in Florida, its northernmost range is Volusia County. It is found in hammocks, cypress swamps, and pinelands. There are three varieties found in Florida: *T. fasciculata* v. *fasciculata*; *T. fasciculata* v. *clavispica*; and *T. fasciculata* v. *densispica*, as well as one form, *T. fasciculata* v. *densispica forma alba*. This Tillandsia can grow from 12 to 28 inches and flowers all year round.

Tillandsia flexuosa

This threatened species is a grayish leaf Tillandsia, often with a red-brown color in high light, with white banding on its leaves. It has an inflorescence that is simple or with only a few spreading branches. Its range within Florida is confined to the south part of the state. Its distribution also includes the West Indies, Panama, Venezuela and Columbia. *T. flexuosa* grows mainly in exposed coastal habitats, in pinelands scrub, maritime hammocks, marine and estuarine tidal swamps. It flowers mostly from spring to summer and grows from 8-31 inches tall (including the inflorescence).

Tillandsia x floridana

This natural hybrid between *T. bartramii* and *T. fasciculata* v. *densispica* is found only in Florida, in cypress swamps and hammocks. It has narrow gray-green leaves, red bracts on the inflorescence and violet flowers. It is found in counties north of Okeechobee to Flagler County. When in bloom, it grows to 24 inches and flowers from spring into fall.

Tillandsia paucifolia

The northernmost range in Florida for this Tillandsia is Brevard County. Its distribution also includes Mexico, West Indies, Central and South America, in coastal strand and hammocks and other brightly exposed habitats. Its leaves are silver gray because of its heavy scurf. It has a short, branching inflorescence with violet flowers. *T. paucifolia* generally grows from 4-14 inches and flowers from spring into summer.

Tillandsia pruinosa

This endangered species is found, in Florida, only in Collier County. It also is found in the West Indies, Central and South America. It grows to 10 inches tall, usually as a single specimen and not in a clump and flowers all year. It generally prefers shady habitat, humid hammocks and strand swamp.

Tillandsia recurvata

This ubiquitous Tillandsia has a broad distribution in the southern United States (Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, New Mexico, Texas) and its range extends to Mexico, Central America, West Indies, Argentina and Chile. Growing in mass clumps to 7 inches tall, its tiny violet flowers are often overlooked. It flowers in the spring and summer.

Tillandsia setacea

In Florida, this species is found as far north as Volusia County. Its range also includes the West Indies, Central and South America. Growing in grassy-like clumps to 12 inches, it generally is found in hammocks and swamps and flowers from spring to fall.

Tillandsia simulata

This species is found only in Florida, from north of Okeechobee to just north of Flagler County, usually in moist hammocks and swamps and often in bright light. It grows from 8-16 inches, with narrow, grayish-green leaves, a simple inflorescence with red bracts and violet flowers, blooming from spring to summer.

Tillandsia x smalliana

T. smalliana is another natural hybrid (*T. balbisiana* x *T. fasciculata*) found only in Florida, in hammocks and cypress swamps, often in strong light. It grows in south Florida to Indian River County, to 22 inches. From a rounded base, the leaves taper to points. The inflorescence is simple with red bracts and violet flowers. It flowers from winter to summer.

Tillandsia usneoides

One of the most commonly known bromeliads, *T. usneoides* grows from the southeastern United States (from Virginia to Florida, Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, Texas) to central Argentina and Chili. Its habitat ranges from hammocks (usually oak), pinelands and scrub. It tolerates brightly exposed habitats, endures extreme temperatures and low rainfall. In the spring, look closely for its green flowers that may be fragrant in early morning and late evening hours.

Tillandsia utriculata

This species is another favorite target of the Mexican bromeliad weevil and so it is highly endangered. Found in Florida, the West Indies, Mexico, Central and South America in dry and mesic hammocks, cypress swamps and pinelands, it is often silhouetted against the sky in high tree branches. With its tall, branching inflorescence, it can reach 6.5 feet in height. There are two forms found in Florida: *T. utriculata* ssp. *utriculata* forma *utriculata* and *T. utriculata* ssp. *utriculata* forma *variegata*. It blooms with white flowers from spring to fall. *T. utriculata* reproduces only by seed and does not make offsets/pups.

Tillandsia variabilis

This species is considered threatened. It is found in south Florida to just north of Okeechobee and in the West Indies, Central and South America. It grows in hammocks and cypress swamps, in moist, shady environments. It is a grayish-green leaf *Tillandsia* with a simple inflorescence, red bracts and violet flowers, blooming from spring to fall; it grows from 12-20 inches.

To see pictures of these bromeliads, visit the Photo Index of the Florida Council website at fcbs.org.





Next Florida Council Meeting

March 26, 2011

Hosted by the Bromeliad Society of Broward County
See your Council representative
for more information.



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