

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



**In this issue:  
Harry Luther  
Don Beadle  
Maturity/Immaturity  
in Bromeliads**

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(continued on the inside back cover)

# **2013 Bromeliad Extravaganza!**

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

**Hosted by  
Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society**

**September 21**

**Holiday Inn Harborside**  
401 2nd Street, Indian Rocks Beach 33785  
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## Catching Up ... Staying Even



As the year draws to a close, this issue celebrates two people so important in our bromeliad world. We mourn the passing of Harry Luther and recognize the contributions of Don Beadle.

Harry is remembered in an article by Dr. Larry Giroux, who shares personal memories as well as reminds us of the many ways in which Harry helped and mentored bromeliad people. Harry's untimely death was a shock to one and all. Many of us are still deeply distressed at his departure from Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, after 32 years of service, and of the apparent demise of the Mulford Foster Bromeliad Identification Center, an institution at Selby built by Harry. Within a short time, it is expected that Selby and the BSI will announce the formation of a Bromeliad Research Center at Selby, named after Harry in a belated attempt to honor his deep contributions. Equally distressing, however, is the apparent loss of the Mulford Foster name, a person of equal importance to our world and who was instrumental in the bromeliad movement in the United States. It is to be hoped that there will not be a rush to memorialize Harry in an attempt to alleviate guilty consciences and pay belated tribute to the man. Harry's legacy deserves to be memorialized in a fitting way at an establishment that will curate his extensive research, fully funded with staff resources committed in an ongoing and stable program.

Don Beadle, "Mr. Billbergia", also has made tremendous contributions to the bromeliad world in a lifetime of accomplishment: his photographs of Billbergia species and cultivars are now published on the Florida Council website at [fcbs.org](http://fcbs.org). His groundbreaking Billbergia cultivars brought the genus out of backbench status to being some of the most

about his many innovations in the bromeliad world in the profile published in this month's issue.

Gainesville Bromeliad Society also has created a fitting memorial to Al Muzzell (page 19).

With the World Conference behind us now, it is time to thank the affiliated societies of the Florida Council for their diligent efforts at planning and executing this exciting event. Their members stepped up and supported this effort in so many ways – and now can rest on their laurels. Betsy McCrory, Conference chairman, offers a look back at the event.

Kenneth Stokes raises an important point in his article – what makes a bromeliad a “mature” plant and how can you (or a judge) tell. This is especially important when entering your bromeliads in shows. The research team of Howard Frank, Ron Cave and Teresa Cooper continue to work on behalf of our beloved bromeliads and to fight the Evil Weevil. If you want to track their progress, all their Weevil Reports to the Council are available at [fcbs.org](http://fcbs.org).

Looking ahead, there is an Extravaganza planned for next year, hosted by Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society. In the February issue of this newsletter will be the annual list of shows, sales and other events in which our societies participate. Please send your show, sales and events dates (and information) to [Karen@fcbs.org](mailto:Karen@fcbs.org) so your society's activities can be promoted in the newsletter and on the Council website.

Thank you to all the authors and Council members who support this publication by providing articles and information to keep Florida bromeliad growers informed and up to date with developments, ideas and events that impact our bromeliad world.

## **News from FCBS Affiliated Societies**

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

The Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society sale at the Sanford Garden Club was heavily attended by members of FECBS in August. Bradley Rauch and his daughter Kimberly put together an excellent program on building shade houses by building one right in the clubhouse. At the World Bromeliad Conference, Eve Krauth, Rick Ryals, and Calandra Thurrott each received their judge's certification along with Dail Pearson, David Higgs, both from Nassau. Thirteen FECBS members acted as clerks for the conference show. Eretta Morris, Rick Ryals, Francisco Carand Eve Krauth put together a display in the lobby, which became a popular photo op. They each participated in sales. Rick Ryals, as our security chief, was also responsible for the banquet table arrangements and other responsibilities too numerous to mention. Mary McBride was curator for the bromeliad art show as part of the event. She and Calandra were among the four art judges. Calandra, Steve Provost, and Rick Ryals were rare plant auction helpers. Fourteen FECBS members took a fieldtrip to Tropiflora for the Fall Festival and to Michael's Bromeliads with an overnight stay in Sarasota and dinner on the bay. FECBS was involved as vendors and exhibitors in the Everybody's Flower Show. Jay Thurrott was the horticultural chairperson and Rick Ryals was in charge of vendors. The event was held at the Peabody Auditorium in Daytona Beach. Submitted by Calandra Thurrott

**Bromeliad Society of Central Florida** had to deal with Mother Nature in August with torrential rains and possible tornados, so instead of a speaker coming a member brought in videos of her bromeliads to share. In September, since all our officers were chairmen for the WBC, the meeting was canceled being so close to the conference. October was our club's 40th anniversary and, to celebrate, the officers brought

the birthday festivities. Our club was thrilled with Charlie Birdsong's program, Amazonian Neoregelias that are rarely seen, followed by a silent auction of Carole Richtmyer's Cryptanthus hybrids she donated to our society. Lisa Robinette was presented with her pin and official BSI Judges Certificate at the WBC, one of 6 new judges. November was a review of the WBC 2012 including tours, displays, show and just reviewing all the hard work that our members did and the fun we had. December we will be looking forward to our Christmas party at Leu Gardens with the traditional plant exchange, ham, turkey and all the trimmings. Submitted by Lisa Robinette

### **Gainesville Bromeliad Society**

We are continuing to enjoy the outstanding program of speakers arranged by our vice president Irene Aldrich. In May our guest speaker was Dennis Cathcart on the topic "Remembering Wally Berg." In the next meeting our local member Nancy Mason presented an informative talk on Tillandsias with many interesting plants to show us as examples. Dave Johnston came for a talk "A Tribute to Chester Skotak" in July. Ron and Carolyn Schoenau hosted our mid-summer meeting with tour to view their many beautiful bromeliads in the greenhouse near their home. We also had this autumn an in-house fundraiser in which local members brought plants for auction, an auction that was expertly conducted by Nancy Mason. All proceeds were contributed to our Society. Many of our members attended and enjoyed immensely the World Conference in Orlando. We thanked very much our local members Ron and Carolyn Schoenau of Gainesville for their roles in helping to organize that excellent and very successful meeting. We look forward to our next speaker Ray Lemieux who will talk to us about terrestrials. David Silverman

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

In August, we had our "Summer Potluck Supper", always a fun

ing to the future, on March 23-24 we will have our Garden Fest 2013 which, besides a wide ranging sale of bromeliads and bromeliad related items, this time comes with our biennial Bromeliad Show "Gone Wild with Bromeliads". Submitted by Jose Donayre

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

In June, members of the Society did a plant swap where each member was asked to bring one of his favorite plants to swap with another member. Our July meeting was held at Mead Gardens in Winter Park. Randy Knight, a Society member, discussed growing begonias. The semi-annual plant sale was held in August. It was one of the most well attended sales ever! The September program was on Florida Friendly Landscaping Principles. The speaker, Gabrielle Milch of the University of Florida IFAS Extension Service, spoke about rainwater harvesting and its use in Florida landscapes. In November, we had a "Back to Basics" program involving several Society members who will do workshops on planting medium, dividing plants, growing conditions, etc. December will be the Holiday Party. The Seminole Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society members participated in the World Bromeliad Conference with some working with registration and hospitality, some assisting with tours and several working on the Society's display. The display contained only member-grown plants and received a blue ribbon and honor of merit. One of our members, Virginia Fortenese, received the award for novice grower during the show. Our meetings are held at the Sanford Garden Club. We had a fundraiser for the Club in November. The fundraiser was a Granny's Attic sale. Submitted by Kay Klugh

**Thank you,  
Gainesville Bromeliad Society  
for hosting the October Quarterly Meeting  
of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies**

**In Memoriam**  
**Harry E. Luther 1952-2012**  
by Dr. Larry Giroux



Harry E. Luther, at the age of 60, passed away last month from a cerebral hemorrhage at a hospital in the Republic of Singapore.

Florida has been gifted to have several individuals through the years such as Mulford B. Foster and Wally Berg, to name just a couple, who have contributed in large amounts their time, expertise and generosity. Harry Luther, the former Director of the Mulford B. Foster Bromeliad Identification Center at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens (MSBG) and Assistant Director of Horticulture at the Gardens by the Bay, Singapore, is among that outstanding group of people.

After graduating from schools here in Florida, in 1978 Harry was hired by the first MSBG Director, Dr. Calaway H. Dodson, to develop the Mulford B. Foster Bromeliad Identification Center (BIC). In 1980, he was named Curator of Living Collections. After 32 years at the Gardens, his contributions and leadership to the Gardens' growth and prestige can be seen everywhere from the green-houses, public viewing areas, the vast outdoor gardens and even the pathways, overflowing with botanical treasures. Since those early years, my home society, the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society, has claimed him as one of their own.

Harry graduated from school with Victor Yingst, who became the chief horticulturist for the Agricultural Extension Office in Lee County. In 1980, Gene McKenzie and Victor along with a hand full of bromeliad enthusiasts started the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society. It was Harry who contributed his expertise and knowledge during those early years to give credibility to

the budding Fort Myers society by providing programs and consultations with Gene and Victor. I knew of Harry years before I became involved with bromeliads through Victor, who was my patient in my Family Practice Clinic. It was with Gene McKenzie that I first met Harry on a frequent trip Gene would make to his office; just a few years later, when I became the *Cryptanthus Society Journal's* Editor, my relationship with Harry who was the Chair of the CS Research Committee, became more involved. He taught me so much about bromeliads and about *Cryptanthus*...from nomenclature to plant anatomy and even writing tips.

Since 1978, Harry E. Luther was an integral part of the BSI organization, when he was appointed director of the Mulford B. Foster Bromeliad Identification Center (BIC) at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota. In recognition of his work as an author, conservator and taxonomist in the bromeliad world, he was elected an honorary trustee of the BSI by the Board of Directors in 1994. Later, these same qualities earned him the prestigious Wally Berg Award of Excellence from the BSI.

In his capacity at the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, he was responsible for managing the growth and propagation of an enormous diversity of species, including both epiphytic and terrestrial bromeliads. And fortunately for *Cryptanthus* enthusiasts, Harry was particularly diligent with the outstanding *Cryptanthus* collection. Even a casual observer is impressed by the quality, proliferation and quantity of these immense collections, which were under his direction.

Besides being the premier identification "expert" at the BIC, he was recognized as one of the most knowledgeable experts on the systematics of the bromeliad family. Using both live and dried specimens, either sent to him or from Selby's library, he described more than 100 bromeliad species new to science. He traveled on field trips to Brazil, Costa Rica,

for the recollection of described species and clarification and conformation of information of species in cultivation.

Besides the more than 200 published articles to be found in established hobbyist and scientific journals, Harry has also been recognized as a major contributor to many books and as a scientific and editorial adviser to several Journals; in particular the Journals of the BSI and The Cryptanthus Society. Included among this impressive list is his newest book co-authored by David H. Benzing, Native Bromeliads of Florida (Pineapple Press, Sarasota, 2009).

Whether it has been in consultation with an individual hobbyist or by a presentation to a bromeliad society, Harry graciously gave of his time and effort to educate and entertain any individual or group who approached him.

Besides his trusteeships in the Bromeliad Society International and the Cryptanthus Society, he was an active member of the Sarasota Bromeliad Society and the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies. Internationally, he was made an honorary member of the Brazilian Bromeliad Society and the Japanese Bromeliad Society.

Two and a half years ago, with the help of his longtime friends, Dennis and Linda Cathcart, to assure health and retirement benefits, which he was no longer guaranteed at MSBG, he was offered and accepted the position of Assistant Director of Horticulture at the Gardens by the Bay, National Parks Board in Singapore. It was here that he spent his last years doing what he loved and was so good at...helping plant hobbyists and professionals discover the tropical world and all of its treasures.

In spite of the loss of his proximity to us here in Florida, Harry continued to share his knowledge and expertise by letters and e-mail. So many of us are deeply indebted to Harry Luther for

his contributions these past 34 years. I'm positive that we in the Bromeliad World will be seeking out Harry's expertise as it is recorded in his publications, garden records and the notes taken of his presentations for a long time to come; I only wish it could be in person. Thank you for everything you have done for us, dearest teacher and friend.

This article was originally published in The Caloosahatchee Meristem, the newsletter of The Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society, November-December 2012. Article is reprinted with the kind permission of Dr. Larry Giroux, CBS Editor.

## **Calendar of Events 2013**

**March 23-24**

**Bromeliad Society of Broward County**

“Gone Wild with Bromeliads” Show and Sale

**April 20-21**

**Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society Sale**

The Garden Club of Sanford (on 17-92, one block south of Lake Mary Blvd) 9:00 – 4:00

**August 17-18**

**Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society Sale**

The Garden Club of Sanford (on 17-92, one block south of Lake Mary Blvd) 9:00 – 4:00

**September 21**

**Bromeliad Extravaganza**

Hosted by Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society

Holiday Inn Harborside, 401 2nd Street, Indian Rocks Beach 33785, 727-595-9484

Info contacts: Susan Sousa (susansousa1@yahoo.com) and Judy Lund (glund@tampabay.rr.com)

**Don Beadle**  
**Mr. Billbergia's Deep Legacy**  
by Karen Andreas



In the beginning, Billbergia was a modest little plant, often plain green with three leaves, a few spots and a quick-lived inflorescence. It was relegated to the back of collections, neglected and disrespected. Then Billbergia met Don Beadle; neither was ever the same again.

Born in Lafayette, Louisiana, Don Beadle never quite fit in. "I couldn't play the banjo and I couldn't talk Cajun," he says, so he booked out of Louisiana at age 19, joining the Air Force. College followed four years of military service, and Don Beadle was now a petroleum engineer. He started with Philips Petroleum and worked his way into smaller and smaller companies until he had his own, Macero Minerals in Corpus Christi, Texas.

In Corpus Christi, John Anderson and Don were neighbors, sharing coffee and cigarettes every morning before work. Thus began a lifelong friendship that, in later years, made them a popular duo of auctioneers, sought after as much for their stories and banter as their auctioneering skills.

It was during those early days that Don discovered bromeliads. He went to a bromeliad society meeting, and the addiction was immediate. His first bromeliad was *Aechmea* 'Black Jack'. "You just can't kill this plant," Don says with great fondness. John became a renowned grower of Aechmeas. "John never did anything half-assed," Don remembers.

Don was fascinated by the variety of bromeliads and wanted to collect every one in the world. The impracticality of it soon became apparent, and so he narrowed his focus on the lowly

and lonely Billbergia. “I collected all the species I could find – there were about 20 available at the time,” he says. He looked for cultivars although they were few and far between.

“Mulford Foster had made ‘Fantasia’ and R. Wilson had made ‘Catherine Wilson’ but, in general, Billbergias had not really caught on in popularity.” Don was fascinated by the idea of making hybrids and found the process exhilarating.

Preserving pollen was the first big challenge. After only two or so days, it would turn green and lose viability. Once he figured out that freezing the pollen kept it viable for up to two years, it became “compulsive, an addiction,” he remembers.

Still, he was growing green Billbergias. It was a limiting process, until Bob Whitman found ‘Domingos Martins’, the gorgeously spotted cultivar of vittata. “I lusted after that bromeliad with a passion,” Don says. After much coercion and a year’s wait, Don got a pup and went to work. He crossed ‘Domingos Martins’ with ‘Ed McWilliams’, and Billbergia ‘Hallelujah’ was born. Prized for its rich deep red leaves and its white and pink spots, its foliage appeal long outlasts its stunning magenta scapes and purple flowers. ‘Domingos Martins’ revolutionized hybridizing and today is found in many Billbergia cultivars.

Don continued to create better, more beautiful, sexier Billbergias to the extent that they soon moved to the forefront of sales and shows. Everyone wanted a Don Beadle Billbergia. Billbergias were no longer the red headed stepchild of the bromeliad world. ‘Afterglow’ with its rich, deep pink blush does literally glow as light shines through its leaves. ‘La Noche’s’ dark, banded leaves are dramatic and stunning. ‘El Capitan’ is another dramatic Billbergia whose sturdy leaves have both banding and spots.

Don quickly ran out of plant growing space and built his first greenhouse. More hybridizing soon followed, as did a larger

house and a larger greenhouse, where he lived and grew bromeliads for ten years. He came to Florida to visit Harry Luther and Wally Berg, who, as it turned out, were off in South America on a collecting expedition. Through happenstance, he ended up at a realtor's and told the agent he wanted a "house on the beach with room for some greenhouses." The agent later called him with news of a place with a fresh water pond and three greenhouses full of dead plants; Don made the deal over the phone.

So in 1986, Don sold his Corpus Christi house and moved to First Dirt Road in Venice, home to Los Milagros nursery. He fell in love with the place, rebuilding the greenhouses and growing like mad. To date, he has created more than 140 named cultivars and many more yet to be named.

While he continued to hybridize, Don was breaking ground in yet another area: photography. He set up a dedicated space for taking pictures and decided it would be more dramatic and compelling to photograph bromeliads in clumps rather than singly, then the norm. Every day he checked for blooms so he could catch the flowers at their (quick) peak. He experimented with lighting, finally settling on blue photo bulbs for the most honest light. Using a Nikon camera with a full array of lenses, he honed his photographic skills and incorporated double exposures into his photographic repertoire. When Don decided to create a photographic record of species, Harry Luther suggested that Don dissect the flower and capture its qualities in intimate detail. In those pictures, Don started using "that little white ruler that I love. I got unadulterated pleasure from the photography. It gave me a lot of satisfaction."

Don's presentations at World Conferences became standing room only events, as those who attended the recent one in Orlando can attest. Audiences sat in rapt silence as Don's slides were shown, with minimal but very often pithy commentary from Don and to the accompaniment of quiet

photographs set the standard for both scientific presentation and artistry. His technique and the quality of his legacy are evident today. The next time you see a beautiful picture of a bromeliad, you will catch the echoes of Don's influence.

The legacy does not end there, however. In 1998, Don Beadle compiled the last published Bromeliad Cultivar Registry for the BSI. This monumental work was the bromeliad bible of nomenclature and bloodlines of every known cultivar at the time. Don compiled this tome on a computer – it is hard to imagine now how revolutionary this technology was at the time – yet he understood that it was obsolete in many ways as soon as it was published. Beyond having taken on this labor- and time-intensive task for the bromeliad world, he recognized that changes, new information and new cultivars would overtake the publication within a very short time. He also believed that the Internet would be a way to offer accessible information.

To that end, Don first suggested to the BSI those digital files be made available on compact disk but he was ahead of his time with technology. That was an impractical suggestion as most people at that time did not have access to the kinds of programs that would handle such a document. So Don offered the files to Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies webmaster Michael Andreas. Michael was able to create the format for the Internet and make the living, flexible Cultivar Registry available for world access. Don's work at organizing, educating and providing information about bromeliad cultivars lives on.

In 2000, Don's life took another turn, and he sold Los Milagros, the nursery and the property, to Michael Kiehl who moved his nursery, Michael's Bromeliads, to First Dirt Road. Don now had time to indulge in other passions – tennis, his boat and Joann Buell, his lovely companion of so many years. "She makes all things so worthwhile," Don says of Joann with

that twinkle in his eye.

Today, Don can often be found at Michael's Bromeliads. Don has reorganized the Beadle Billbergia collection that lives and thrives there, sharing information and memories with Michael Kiehl. Don's amazing collection of photographs now live on the website of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies (fcbs.org) in yet another collaboration with Michael Andreas.

Don's passion for bromeliads led to ground breaking Billbergia cultivars that made this genus one of the most popular; his ground breaking bromeliad photography set the standard for bromeliad pictures; his passion for knowledge led to the Bromeliad Cultivar Registry; his vision for an accurate registry accessible and available to one and all took him beyond his peers and now serves the entire world.

Don Beadle's legacy has had a deep impact on our bromeliad world. We are all the richer for his being our friend and mentor.



## **The Don Beadle Collection**

The Don Beadle Collection, more than 1000 photographs by Don of Billbergia species, Don Beadle hybrids, Billbergia hybrids, bromeliad drawings, art and notes, is now posted online at fcbs.org, the website of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies.

You will find this article, illustrated, and the pictures under What's New, Bromeliad People and the Photo Index.

# Maturity and Immaturity in Bromeliads

by Kenneth Stokes



The diversity within the Bromeliad family is well recognized when it comes to appearance and original habitats. The diversity also extends to how they absorb nutrients, growth habits and how they reproduce. The time maturity is reached in a plant is as varied as the number of genera and the ways they are grown, yet a careful consideration of this situation is seldom addressed.

Immaturity is one of the characteristics judges look for when judging BSI shows, so for bromeliad growers who enter plants in shows, this is a subject to be considered. Terminology such as *juvenile* and *too small or immature to remove* is found in show schedules, yet definitions of such terms are often vague, as though everyone should know if a plant is immature. That is the problem, they don't. There are so many factors involved that even judges may not have all the information at hand to make an accurate assessment.

Plants in general are considered mature when they are able to flower and fruit. Some weeds are able to germinate, grow leaves, bloom and then go to seed in seven to ten days. This is an indicator that age cannot be used to determine if bromeliads are mature. Species in some genera mature and bloom in a year, such as *Fosterella*, yet others may take years, such as *Alcantarea*. Some bloom when small, do not die and continually grow and bloom. This characteristic is found in *Dyckias*. Some plants that are commercially grown are also force bloomed, such as *Tillandsia cyanea*. I recall putting Florel on a clump of *Vriesia ospinae* and having the smallest pups bloom, even though they were immature.

The most apparent factor to determine maturity in any plant is

the stage of growth. The first thing that indicates age is the leaf shape. When seeds first germinate or sprout, the first leaves are always different than the typical mature shape. It should be understood that the size of the leaf not at issue, only the shape. Bromeliad offsets typically begin with pointed leaves. Some offsets are thin and grassy, like *Neoregelia wilsoniana* and *abendrothe*. Huge *Alcantareas* do not make large offsets, only small grassy pups about three inches tall. The number of leaves a bromeliad produces is also a factor. Some genera have plants with only five to seven leaves at maturity, such as *Deinacanthon*, *Neogaziovia* and *Bilbergia*. On such plants, the first juvenile leaves are on the mature plant. Thus the presence of juvenile pointed leaves on a plant does not make it immature.

A mature form does not mean the plant is large. *Bilbergia rosea* can be thirty or more inches tall, yet the miniature *Bilbergia nutans* may only be three to four inches. With so many show plants being grown in greenhouses, with constant water and fertilizer, huge plants are possible. They may become the standard of maturity in some peoples' minds. Plants that are grown in full sun with no fertilizer and only natural rainfall will be smaller, but that does not make them immature.

To really know if a plant is immature requires a lot of knowledge and experience from growing bromeliads. To give some guidelines for the novice, consider these factors. The plant should be well established and more than six months old. That age is given because *Pitcairnia*s, *Pepinia*s and *Fosterella*s can produce mature leaves quickly. Most of the leaves should have the mature shape. The plant should have the full form if not the size of plants in the genus. If the plant almost resembles similar bromeliads that are in bloom or if they are beginning to produce offsets, the plant is most likely mature.

Bromeliads can be seen as attractive during most stages of growth, so maturity is not a prerequisite for displaying them in

# **Memorial Gardens Honor Al Muzzell**

by Peggy Mixson  
Gainesville Bromeliad Society



Wishing to honor our friend and mentor, Al Muzzell, who died in December 2011, Gainesville Bromeliad Society has created a memorial at Wilmot Gardens on the University of Florida campus, where Al received his degree in Horticulture. A memorial plaque will complete the installation of bromeliads from Al's nursery.

GBS has also arranged for a memorial marker and additional plants to join an existing collection at Kanapaha Gardens, also in Gainesville. Several years ago Al guided GBS in providing bromeliads and planting the original bed there, from which a taxonomy collection began.

Al was instrumental in the formation of the Jacksonville/ Gainesville Bromeliad Societies and was president of the Gainesville Bromeliad Society for many years. He eagerly shared his vast knowledge in many ways throughout the Florida Council Affiliates and his generosity and unique presence are missed.

## The Brazil Journey Continues

by Karen Andreas



On January 1, the next chapter in Oscar Ribiero's ongoing project on bromeliads and their habitats and human communities in Brazil will be published online. Chapter 8 retraces Mulford Foster's steps in Bahia, Brazil, as memorialized in Brazil, Orchid of the Tropics (1945). The photographs are stunning and show bromeliads in habitat as well as other flora and fauna and human habitation in this region.

At [fcbs.org](http://fcbs.org), click on Bromeliad Habitats to find this latest installment as well as the previous ones on Mata Atlantica, Atlantic Coast Restings, and Cadeia de Espinhacio. Under the last installment, you will find chapters on the Estrada Real, Serra do Cipo and Diamantina, the historic cities of Minas Geraus, Ouro Preto, Grao Mogol, National Park Sempre Vivas and much more! Oscar's journey goes beyond bromeliad pictures. Here you will gain an understanding of the geography and human habitat as well as the pressures these regions are experiencing.

The first ever photographs of *Orthophytum navioides* in habitat will also be published in January in conjunction with Oscar's article.

# Mexican Bromeliad Weevil Report

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

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<sup>2</sup>Entomology & Nematology Department, UF, Gainesville, FL



Forty-four fly pupae were collected from our *Lixadmontia franki* colony in July, August and September 2012. This is quite a decline in the number of puparia collected. We have made several changes in the conditions in which we rear the flies, including access to sunlight and increased moisture. We have begun receiving fly puparia from Honduras to supplement the colony. The first shipment (29 puparia) arrived on 9 October 2012. We will receive a few more shipments over the next few months.

The Mexican bromeliad weevil fecundity study is nearing completion. This study has been monitoring the number of eggs laid and the number of eggs from which weevil larvae hatched for the duration of a female weevil's life. We began January 2012 with 60 females. Now, only one remains alive. Data are being sorted and analyzed.

We have begun studies on the Mexican bromeliad weevils that came from Belize compared to those from Mexico. The Belize form is slightly larger, does not have the stripe across the wings and seems to have a slower growth rate than the Mexican form. We are testing the oviposition rate of the Belize form as well as developmental time at 25° C. We have already made these tests on the Mexican form (data are collected and analyzed and being prepared for publication).

Field trips are planned for October, November and December to return to sites with long-term weevil infestations to observe

long-term effects of the weevil on different bromeliad species. Sites will include Myakka River State Park, Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park, Hillsborough State Park, and St. Sebastian Preserve State Park.

### Publications

Cooper, T.M., Frank, J.H., Cave, R.D. Loss of phytotelmata due to an invasive bromeliad-eating weevil and its effects on faunal diversity and biogeochemical cycles. Re-submitted after revision to *Acta Oecologica* on 26 September 2012.

### Presentations

Cooper, T.M., Frank, J.H., Cave, R.D. The invasive species *Metamasius callizona* (Mexican bromeliad weevil): problems and prospects. World Bromeliad Conference. Orlando, Florida. 27 September 2012. Poster and presentation.



## **Weevil Report Archive**

An archive of all weevil reports from 2006 to the present can be found on the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies' website at [fcbs.org](http://fcbs.org). Click on Weevil Information.

# **Orlandiana 2012**

by Betsy McCrory,  
World Bromeliad Conference Chairman



Orlandiana 2012 is over and what a great time it was!

I want to thank all the committee chairmen and the volunteers for all their hard work in making the conference such a success. We overcame all the bumps in the road and put on an excellent event for everyone. I also want to thank the registrants for attending. We were happy to host you and hope you had a fun-filled and educational experience.

Big thank you to the people and companies who placed ads in the program and who donated to the raffles. Thank you also to the award sponsors. We really appreciated your generous support.

The BSI Board of Directors was able to conduct its business prior to the conference opening; their annual board of directors meeting was held on Tuesday of conference week. A Judges School was also held prior to the start of the conference.

There were 303 conference registrants and 45 exhibitors who entered 282 bromeliads in the show. New to this conference was a judged art show. Both adults and children's art were accepted, and prize money was awarded.

We had 14 commercial vendors and 21 member sales vendors. The area was big enough to handle the crowds with approximately 45,000 square feet of space. Sales brought in \$112,211, and 5945 items were sold.

Nine seminars and six poster sessions were presented. We had 11 displays, seven from societies, three commercial and one on the Mexican bromeliad weevil.

Conference registrants went on a variety of tours. There were three home tours of yards of Bromeliad Society of Central Florida members. Leu Botanical Gardens and Florida's Natural Habitat comprised a second tour. Another tour went to Color Zone Tropicals (Grant Groves) and Russell's Bromeliads. A fourth tour went to Deroose Plants and McCrory's Sunny Hill Nursery.

The Rare Plant Auction saw 185 bromeliads sold for a total of \$10,825. The Cryptanthus Society Auction raised a total of \$2721.00.

The conference ended with the banquet, with stunning centerpieces and a power point presentation in memory of those who have passed since the last conference. Nat DeLeon and Herb Plever were honored by the BSI for being members for fifty years. Deroose provided everyone with a seedling to take home.

A DVD will be available by the end of this year featuring the show plants and other aspects of Orlandiana 2012. The Florida Council will be handling this sale; more information will be forthcoming.

Finally, thank you to the Bromeliad Society International for sponsoring Orlandiana 2012 and to the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies for hosting.



## Major Award Winners

### Hobbyist category

**Best of Show** – Hobbyist (Mulford Foster Award)

*Vriesea (hieroglyphica x fosteriana) x ('Nova' x fosteriana 'Rubra')* exhibited by David Fell

**Best of Division I** – *Tillandsia biflora* exhibited by Jerry Raack

**Best of Division I, Section A** – *Neoregelia* 'Sunny Delight' exhibited by Paul Wingert

**Best of Division II** – *Vriesea fosteriana* 'Red Chestnut' exhibited by Dr. Jeff Block

**Best of Division II, Section A** – *Neoregelia* 'Small Wonder' x 'Loke Lani' exhibited by Paul Wingert

**Best of Division IV** – *Deuterocohnia brevifolia* var. *brevifolia* exhibited by Bryan Windham

**Best of Division IV, Section A** – *Cryptanthus* 'Ebony Beauty' exhibited by Larry Giroux

**Best of Division VI** – *Quesnelia marmorata* 'Tim Plowman' exhibited by Ann Jenkins

**Best of Division VIII, Section A** (Best Judge's Entry) – *Pitcairnia rubronigriflora x smithiorum* exhibited by Terrie Bert

**Runner-up Division VIII, Section A** – *Vriesea correia-araujoi* exhibited by Steve Hoppin

**Best of Division VIII, Section B** (Best Novice Entry) – *Neoregelia* 'Painted Delight' exhibited by Virginia Fortenese

**Best of Division IX - Artistic Arrangement** "Kaleidoscope of Color" exhibited by Jackie Johnson

**Best of Division IX, Section B** - Miniature Artistic Arrangement "Gold Burst" with *Cryptanthus warren-loosei* exhibited by Larry Giroux

**Best of Division X** - *Cryptanthus* 'Ruby' in Chinese Tea Pot exhibited by Vicky Chirnside

**Best of Division X, Section A** - *Cryptanthus warren-loosei* in square pot exhibited by Larry Giroux

**Morris Henry Hobbs Award for Best Artistic Entry** -

Artistic Arrangement "The Geometry of Bromeliads" exhibited by Jackie Johnson

## Commercial category

**Best of Show (Mulford Foster Award – Commercial) –** *Alcantarea* 'John Stoddard' exhibited by Michael's Bromeliads

**Best of Division VII, Section A** (Best of Division I – commercial) – *Aechmea* 'Fantasy' (variegated 'Fantasia') exhibited by Bullis Bromeliads

**Best of Division VII, Section B** (Best of Division II – commercial) – *Hohenbergia edmundoi* exhibited by Bullis Bromeliads

**Best of Division VII, Section C** (Best of Division III – commercial) – *Vriesea* 'Vogue' exhibited by Georgia Orser

**Best of Division VII, Section D** (Best of Division IV – commercial) – *Dyckia* 'Brittle Star' f3 exhibited by Michael's Bromeliads

**Best of Division VII, Section E** (Best of Division V – commercial) – *Neoregelia eleutheropetala* exhibited by Michael's Bromeliads

**Best of Division VII, Section F** (Best of Division VI – commercial) – *Tillandsia duratii* exhibited by Tropiflora

**Sweepstakes Award – Hobbyist** – Larry Giroux

**Sweepstakes Award – Commercial** – Michael's Bromeliads



# Speakers List



## **Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society**

Dennis Cathcart - Singapore and the Gardens by the Bay

Carole Richtmyer - Earth Stars

Dean Fairchild - Bromeliad Taxonomy: The New Subfamilies

## **Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society**

Terri Bert - Genera O & P

Bradley and Kimberly Ranch - Building Shadehouses

## **Bromeliad Society of Central Florida**

Charlie Birdsong - Amazonian Neoregelias

## **Gainesville Bromeliad Society**

Dennis Cathcart - Remembering Wally Berg

Ray Lemieux - Terrestrials

## **Bromeliad Society of Broward County**

Terri Bert - The Outstanding and Obstreperous...O & P  
Bromeliad Genera, Part I

Chip Jones of Jones Landscaping - Landscape Design with  
Bromeliads

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

Tom Wolfe - Roberto Burle-Marx/Longwood Gardens

## **FCBS Meetings in 2013**

January 12 Sarasota Bromeliad Society

April 13 Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society

July 13 Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay

October 12 Bromeliad Society of Broward County

## **2013 FCBS Officers**

Chairman – Florida West Coast

Vice Chairman - Gainesville Bromeliad Society

Secretary - Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society



This newsletter is a quarterly publication of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies. Contact the editor for permission to reprint articles from this publication. Send all requests to [karen@fcbs.org](mailto:karen@fcbs.org). Copyright 2012.

## **FCBS Affiliated Societies and Representatives**

(continued from inside front cover)

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### **Sarasota Bromeliad Society**

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

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David Johnson

B.S of Sarasota

#### **Vice Chairman**

Ashley Graham

Florida West Coast B.S.

#### **Secretary**

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**Happy  
Holidays!  
Happy  
New Year!**