

May 2006

Remember

Please bring a friend.
Guests are always
welcome!!

Bring a raffle plant! Plants
must have names and be
sure they are free of scale.

Wear your name tag!

Another Reminder

Even if you haven't
signed up to bring
a dish, we always
welcome any last
minute food item
you may want to
bring for the
refreshment table.
You can pick up an
extra raffle ticket
for your food
contribution.



Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society

This Month's Meeting Is The Annual Auction!

This month's meeting will be the first Tuesday of this month, May 2, 2006, at Hope Presbyterian Church, 1698 S. Belcher Road, Clearwater. The doors open at 7:00 p.m. The auction will begin at 7:30 p.m.

There will be no show & tell, no business meeting, and no friendship table. Refreshments will be served throughout the auction. We are expecting a larger crowd than usual, so please be generous with food donations.

Each member is requested to bring at least one plant to the auction. The plant must be of saleable quality (clean, free of scale and insects) and have a name. There are three parts to our auction:

1. **Live auction:** Bids are taken from the floor, and the highest bidder wins.
2. **Silent auction:** This is for plants of special quality or rare plants. You place your number and bid amount on a sheet of paper in front of the plant. Check back as often as you can to see if you have been outbid.
3. **Raffle table:** Plants that are not of superior quality can be placed on the raffle table. Each member who brings a plant to the auction will receive a free raffle ticket.

Additional raffle tickets will also be for sale.

Last Month's Meeting

We would like to thank Terrie Bert for an outstanding presentation. We had the pleasure of viewing photos from the fcbs.org website, bromeliads grown at Terrie's home, as well as pictures of bromeliads in their natural habitats in Central and South America. We learned much about these Rare bromeliads, some of which have just 1, 2, or 3 species in their genus. Dr. Bert also brought some of these for sale, giving our members the opportunity to own unusual bromeliads for our collections.

Good Luck
and
Happy Bidding!

A cartoon illustration of a blue die with white pips and a yellow coin with a smiley face on it. The die is tilted, and the coin is positioned as if it has just been rolled or is about to be rolled.

Show & Tell for April 4, 2006

- Bob Dalzell: *Aechmea fosteriana*
Aechmea chantinii
- Kathy Jenkins: *Guzmania zahnii* (variegated form) (also known as
Guzmania 'Omer Morobe')
Aechmea distichantha
- Jerry Kavanagh: *Vriesea* 'Mon Petit'
Vriesea bituminosa x *saundersii* (registered as
Vriesea 'Highway Beauty')
- Alton Lee: *Guzmania vittata*
Aechmea burle-marxii
Neoregelia 'Medusa'
Vriesea (a Grant Groves hybrid—unnamed and unregistered)
- Paula Lee: *Guzmania sanguinea*
- Gyula Nemeth: *Ursulaea tuitensis*
- Linda Sheetz: *Pitcairnia* 'Flaming Arrow'
Vriesea saundersii
- Helga Tarver: *Tillandsia schiedeana* subspecies *schiedeana*
Tillandsia schiedeana subspecies *glabrior*
Tillandsia vernicosa
Tillandsia capitata 'Red'

Upcoming Events

20th Annual Green Thumb Festival

April 29 + 30, 2006

<http://www.stpete.org/fun/parks/greenthumb.htm>

Bromeliad Society of Central Florida, Mother's Day Show & Sale

May 12 - 14, 2006

Orlando Fashion Square Mall, 3201 E. Colonial Dr., Orlando

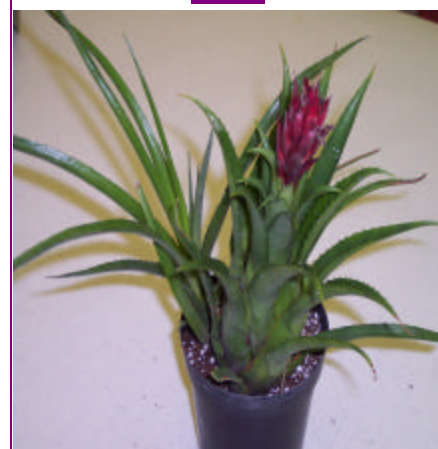
[For details call Betsy McCrory 407/348-2139](#)

Bromeliads on the Border

June 6 - 11, 2006

17th World Bromeliad Conference, San Diego, CA

<http://www.bsi.org>



Aechmea recurvata

From Terrie Bert's collection. About 6" tall. The inner leaves will turn bright red when placed in high light during flowering.

Refreshments

Bill & Marianne Schumacher are again in charge of the refreshments. Food for the refreshment table is being provided this month by: Nancy Dennis, John & Janet Bankhead, Chip Hill, and Joseph Amon.



*Bromeliads are the plants
that keep on giving.*

Horticulture Tips

Charcoal is the forgotten ingredient for potting mixes. It has no food value but has several important uses to plants and potting mixes. It acts like a magnet and a sponge, collecting and conserving ammonia. It has been shown that if pieces of charcoal are in the soil, roots will cling to them to absorb the collected ammonia. When organic fertilizer decomposes, one of the products given off by bacteria is ammonia gas, which is extremely volatile and easily escapes. A grain of charcoal next to a grain of fertilizer will absorb 80 times its own bulk in ammonia and will hold it, for use by the plant. Sources of ammonia we add to potting media are bone meal, fish meal, natural manure, compost and organic fertilizers. Charcoal has other valuable plant properties. It is a perfect purifier, acts to destroy harmful acids and will absorb the odor given off by organic gases. In potting mixes, it sweetens the soil and saves fertilizer. It helps open up the potting mix as well as helps in drainage. Do not use charcoal intended for grilling, but only from a nursery supply store.

Adapted from: POTPOURRI, Greater New Orleans Bromeliad Society, January 2002