

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



**2006 Extravaganza
Statewide Sale
September 30
Details inside!**

Vol. 26 Issue 2

May 2006

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(Continued on the inside back cover.)

2006 Bromeliad Extravaganza
Presented by
Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies
Hosted by the
Bromeliad Society of South Florida

Saturday, September 30, 2006

at

Miccosukee Resort

and

Convention Center

500 S.W. 177 Avenue

Miami, FL 33194

305-925-2555 or 877-242-6464

305-221-8309 or 305-925-2556 (fax)

Room rates: single or double \$95.00; suites \$139.00

Rates in effect until August 29.

Sale, Banquet and Rare Plant Auction will be in the
same location.

Receive a free copy of Elton Leme's
Bromeliads of the Atlantic Rain Forest!

Receive a select bromeliad from Deroose
Nursery!

For more details, see pages 12 and 13.

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Catching Up ... Staying Even



Spring is a busy time of the year for bromeliad growers and this spring has been no exception. Many of the Council's Affiliate Societies have participated in sales and held their own shows and sales. Several societies held auctions which are lively events that are fun to visit.

Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society continued its long history of supporting the Florida Council in its endeavors by presenting the proceeds of its spring auction to the Council at its quarterly meeting. Caloosahatchee president Dianne Molnar and treasurer Betty Ann Prevatt gave FCBS chairman Vicky Chirside a check for more than \$1900. Council representatives were unanimous in their thanks to the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society for its generosity. (page 4)

Many of you know Helga Tarver and her pursuit of truth in bromeliad names, on behalf of Bromeliad Society International Cultivar Registrar Derek Butcher. The BSI and Derek honored Helga with a special award recently, and you can read about it on page 6..

Bruce Holst has left his position as editor of the BSI Journal. Editing journals and newsletters can be a daunting task, and Bruce handled it all with professionalism and good grace, maintaining the high standards set by previous editors. We thank Bruce for his stewardship of the Journal and all his efforts on behalf of the bromeliad world.

It's not too early to look ahead to this year's Extravaganza, hosted by Bromeliad Society of South Florida. There is a wealth of information on this annual event in this issue. Be sure to look for the separate banquet reservations form, inserted into your newsletter. If for some reason you did not receive it, please let me know.

In this issue of the Council newsletter you will find a list of bromeliad sources in Florida. Your next issue of the newsletter, due

News from FCBS Affiliate Societies



Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society in Fort Myers, Florida, set aside its March meeting for its annual fund raising auction to benefit the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies. The Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies is a unique organization founded in Florida nearly 30 years ago to join together approximately 12 local Bromeliad Societies and coordinate their activities. With its own board and representatives from each of the Societies, at quarterly meetings held at locations around the state, the FCBS has dealt with issues relating to bromeliads and hobbyists here in Florida.

Top on the agenda for nearly 15 years has been the support for the eradication of the Mexican Weevil, “The Evil Weevil,” which is devastating Florida’s native Bromeliad populations as well as plants in private collections. Ten years ago, with financial support from the Florida Council, the Website, fcbs.org, was created by Michael Andreas. Due to his enthusiastic, conscientious and persistent efforts as well as informational contributions from hobbyists and commercial growers from around the world, this website has become the greatest source of information about bromeliads on Earth.

This year the FCBS is contemplating a new challenge. Because of the hurricane devastation to New Orleans, the 2008 World Bromeliad Conference will not be held as scheduled in that city. Discussions are now under way among the member societies of the FCBS, to find a location and a Society or Societies to host the WBC here in Florida. If you think your society could help host this prestigious event, contact your Society’s Board and your FCBS Representative.

There was a great turnout of members and guests to see the nearly 100 items auctioned off by Dr. Larry Giroux, who was supported by a volunteer staff of members as runners, security, cashiers, record keepers and commentators. With generous donations of all kinds of bromeliads and bromeliad related items, more than \$1900 was raised at the March Auction and was donated at the April FCBS meeting to the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies in order to support their

continuing efforts here in our state. Caloosahatchee also donated \$500 to the Tillandsia Seminar being held just prior to the Bromeliad Society International's World Conference in June. This donation was made in the memory of Gene McKenzie.

Bromeliad Society of Broward County participated in the April quarterly meeting of the FCBS hosted by the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society, represented by the Donayres.

On February 9, Maureen Frazel participated in Kelly Craig's Florida Today program on TV Channel 6. The subject was "Bromeliads, Hardy Hurricane Survivors" where Maureen demonstrated how to grow a diverse sample of our plants.

BSBC elections took place at the April general meeting resulting in the approval of the slate worked out by the Nominating Committee. New members Becky Blackwood (Vice-President), Ann Schandelmayer (Recording Secretary) and JoAnn Heyer (Director) join the Board with Jose Donayre presiding for a second year.

On April 21-22, the Society participated in the Spring Plant Affair at the Heritage Park in Plantation. The members plant sale was very successful.

The Board has decided to submit a change of the By-Laws to the membership to modify the Society's fiscal year to better coincide with the FCBS deadline for annual dues. At present, BSBC dues are required at the end of May. The modification proposed would allow the deadline to be switched to the end of January.

Bromeliad Society of South Florida held another successful show and sale, its 28th, on April 22-24, 2006, at beautiful Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden in Miami, Florida. An added attraction this year was the Chihuly Glass Exhibit, which was installed in November and will run through the end of May.

Hurricanes Katrina and Wilma damaged the collections of many South Florida growers, so we had fewer entries than in the past. However, the tables looked impressive, due in part to the spectacular plants brought in by Nat DeLeon for display. A novice grower, Tom

Nielsen, impressed the judges with his *Tillandsia intermedia*, which won the Best Novice Award. Tom lives in the Keys and had considerable damage to his plants from Hurricane Katrina, but he managed to rescue the *Tillandsia*, a vast, proliferating network of stolons and plants, and displayed it on a discarded IV stand that he had repainted! It was an excellent addition to the table of major awards.

A new member, Jeri Parrish, who entered in the general competition, won the best Artistic with a charming display of *Cryptanthus* 'Starlight' on a ceramic angel.

The other Gold awards were won by Josefa Leon, who won Best Non-Blooming with *Canistrum triangulare*, and Moyna Prince, who won Best Blooming with *Billbergia* 'Oh Dear.' Other major awards went to Josefa (the Ralph Davis Memorial for Most Outstanding Culture) for her *Canistrum*, Shirley Allen (the Harvey R. Bullis Memorial for Best Variegated Bromeliad) with x *Neophytum* 'Galactic Warrior,' and Polly Pascal who won Best Judges Entry for *Vriesea michaelii*, a real showstopper. Moyna Prince won Sweepstakes.

Show Chairman Robert Meyer and BSSF President Sandy Roth are to be congratulated on another great show. Their hard work and the participation of all BSSF members really paid off!

Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society member Helga Tarver was recognized for her long-standing contributions and assistance to the Bromeliad Society International's Cultivar Registrar, Derek Butcher. Derek, who lives in Australia, awarded the Special Cultivar's Award to Helga; in his stead, BSI Director (Florida) Michael Andreas presented the framed certificate to her at Florida West Coast's May 2 meeting. Derek thanked Helga for helping to unravel numerous mysteries surrounding the names (and mis-naming) of bromeliads and for elevating his own standards. Harry Luther and Dennis Cathcart then presented Helga with a *Portea* species named in her honor, *Portea* 'Helga Tarver.' Florida Council chairman Vicky Chirnside also was on hand and graciously extended the Council's thanks and appreciation to Helga.

Immediately following the award presentation, Florida West Coast's

president Ann Kavanagh opened the auction, which was a lively event with an incredible array of bromeliads. In addition to the auction itself, there was a silent auction underway and regular raffles of bromeliads. Even better yet was the incredible array of food! It was a fun meeting with bromeliads and good humor all around!

Bromeliad Society of Central Florida embarked on its busy spring this year by participating in the annual Harry P. Leu Gardens Spring Sale. This two-day event draws quite a crowd, distinguished by the wagons they tow behind them as they acquire plants from a myriad of vendors throughout the park.

At the April meeting, members were treated to a fascinating program when Dave Christiano visited. Dave lives in Springfield, Missouri; his program was on the challenges of growing bromeliads in a northern climate, especially compared with Florida's conditions. He is a talented photographer and offered many great close ups of bromeliads.

Central Florida was preparing for its annual Mothers Day Show and Sale at Orlando Fashion Square Mall as this newsletter was going to press.

Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society participated in the Council of Garden Clubs Flower Show, an annual horticultural event held at the Daytona Beach Convention Center in March. They entered so many bromeliads this year that they won the award for the most plants shown. They also participated in the Halifax Master Gardens Sale, which lasted for only four hours and was tremendously successful.

Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society participated in the Bromeliad Extravaganza at Blossom World in April. Sudi Hipsley reported that Seminole had gained new members as a result of its diversification. The flower-arranging meeting, reported in a previous issue, drew many new members.

Sarasota Bromeliad
show, which was to be



Society has cancelled its
held in June.

Culture Tips

Springtime

by Jay Thurrott

I'm tired of hearing those-from-states-other-than-Florida (notice that I didn't use the word 'Northerners') complain about the lack of seasonal change in our state. We have plenty of seasonal change in Florida – you just have to know what to look for. Take Summer for example – that's the season when those-from-states-other-than-Florida become obsessed with their lawns and mow them three times a week. So, if you awaken to the roar of lawnmowers, it's probably Summer. Then there's Fall. This is when the cypress trees turn brown – probably a reaction in fear of approaching tropical storms and hurricanes. Winter is an easy one to spot – this is when the Intracoastal Waterway is clogged with yachts (presumably containing t-f-s-o-t-Fs) heading south and most of the cars clogging our highways have license plates...you guessed it...from states other than Florida. And that brings us to Springtime.

Springtime can be a very dry time in Florida. The risk of fire is usually at an annual high and the brisk winds that persist for weeks at a time can easily turn a small wildfire into a major conflagration. Spring is also a time in much of Florida when our bromeliads begin "waking up." Many of our plants in Central and Northern Florida began this process a little early this year, and that's probably why the few cold mornings in February caused so much damage to plants that were not protected.

If you haven't done it already, now is the time to assess your collection. Examine each plant for signs of cold damage. Unfortunately there is not much that you can do for a plant with damaged spots or ruined leaves, but you can at least trim them up so they're not quite so painful to look at. Check each plant for scale. You have probably kept your bromeliads in tight quarters during the winter, and this provides ideal conditions for scale insects to pass from one plant to another like squirrels in a forest of oak trees. Any

sign of scale? Treat it now before it gets worse and spreads to the rest of your collection.

You've been cautioned in the Fall and Winter to not separate your Neoregelia pups because they just don't seem to do well when removed during this time. Well, now it's time to roll your sleeves up and go to work! The old rule of thumb of $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{2}{3}$ the size of the parent plant is still a good one when deciding when to remove Neoregelia offsets and if you give them a little (a little... not a lot!) slow release fertilizer in the mix when you pot them up, they'll reward you with good growth and good color as they mature.

Spring is also a time when you need to keep track of how much sun your plants are receiving. The days are getting progressively longer and the angle of the sun is changing. For those of us growing bromeliads in the landscape, it's time to consider how much sun those plants are receiving now and for how long. This is often that time of year when we are so busy congratulating ourselves on protecting plants from cold damage that we don't notice the beginnings of sunburn on those same plants. Observe. If you notice that one location is receiving too much sun, move your plants from there to somewhere with a little less exposure. That's one of the advantages to growing bromeliads rather than pine trees. If you need to move them, you can pluck them from the ground and relocate them with no apparent trauma to the plant.

Yes, we have seasonal changes in Florida although the change in the landscape from Winter to Spring may not be as dramatic as what you may see in New England (a change from snow-covered ground to mud). Our change is a little more subtle – look for fresh greenery in the trees and shrubs, a fresh spurt of growth in our bromeliads... and the Intracoastal Waterway clogged with yachts heading north.



Hurricanes and Bromeliads

by Moyna Prince

After the storms of the past two years, probably everyone in Florida is resigned to another hurricane coming through, hopefully later rather than sooner.

What can be done to protect bromeliads in the landscape? Obviously your most valuable plants should be brought inside. If you leave your bromeliads in pots when you plant them, it's easy enough to yank the whole thing out of the ground. No plants should be left on benches or in stands when a hurricane threatens as the pots will become missiles. Hanging plants should also be taken down.

There is never enough time or space to bring in everything. After you've prioritized your collection, and still find too many on the benches, just lay them on the ground, preferably on the most sheltered side of the house. The wind strength is much lower at ground level. Putting them in a corner will also provide more protection.

There will be many large bromeliads that can't be moved and they're going to suffer damage. Even though the leaves may be shredded, be patient and wait for the pups to come. As the pups mature, trim the mother plant's damaged leaves to allow the pups to grow unimpeded. If the pups are also damaged, leave their leaves untrimmed as the damage will grow out.

The worst damage will probably come from falling limbs. The faster you can remove the limbs, the less permanent the damage. Cracked leaves are unsightly, but new leaves will grow and after a few months the damage won't look so bad.

Hurricanes can be devastating but you can minimize the losses if you have a plan in place before the warning flags are hoisted.

Mexican Bromeliad Weevil Biological Control Report

by Ronald D. Cave and J. Howard Frank

Progress continues to be made on establishing continual production of the parasitic fly that is the candidate biological control agent for the Mexican bromeliad weevil. The stock colony managed by the Escuela Agrícola Panamericana in Honduras remains strong and cared for very well. Financial resources for the rearing in Honduras from November 2005 to April 2006 have come from the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, Inc. Fly shipments received into the UF-IFAS quarantine laboratory in Ft. Pierce were as follows:

Date received	No. received	No. adults emerged
November 4	40	38
November 16	40	30
December 2	40	31
December 15	40	25
January 18	41	31
January 27	60	49
February 8	60	53
February 16	60	57
TOTAL	381	314 (83%)

Additional shipments from Honduras are projected to resume on April 11.

Survival of emerged flies in quarantine has been excellent. Fly longevity appears to be as long as 6 weeks. One F₁ female survived about 2 months. We have been able to get successful parasitization by F₁ flies in a smaller cage which might be used for mass rearing flies until a field release permit is approved.

Ron Cave is at the Indian River Research & Education Center, Ft. Pierce, Florida and may be reached via email at rdcave@ifas.ufl.edu; Howard Frank is with the Entomology & Nematology Department, University of Florida, Gainesville, and his email address is jhf@ifas.ufl.edu

2006 Bromeliad Extravaganza

Good News Department

by Ed Prince

How many times have you said something that sounds like this? If I had only (fill-in-the-blank) when (fill-in-the-blank) was first available I would be a wealthy man/woman today. It's not too late! Well, it might be too late to become wealthy but you certainly have time to make this year's Extravaganza just about cost free. It's really quite easy. Just select a dozen or so great looking bromeliads out of your vast collection and sell them at the Extravaganza. See "Rules of the Selling Game" elsewhere on the next page.

Registration date for securing your room at the Miccosukee Resort and Convention Center at the special rate of \$95.00 has been extended to August 29. For reservations call 305-925-2555 or 877-242-6464 or fax your request to 305-221-8309 or 305-925-2556. Make sure you mention to the Reservation Representative that you are attending the Bromeliad Society Convention & Exhibition.

The complementary copies of Elton Leme's *Bromeliads of the Atlantic Rain Forest* have arrived. We are indebted to Kerry's Bromeliads for their generosity and commitment to the FCBS. Get yours by spending one night at the hotel and buying two banquet tickets.

The Deroose nursery is donating 200 flowering miniature bromeliads for those attending the banquet.

Think about it! *Neo.* (your name, your wife's name, my name). Actually, any name you choose. Chester Skotak is donating a new hybrid to the rare plant auction that will be named by the high bidder. Said plant will be registered and henceforth will be called ???.

To entice those folks who enter the Miccosukee Resort and Convention Center to visit our sales area, DeLeon's Bromeliad Nursery is putting in an elaborate display in the lobby area with appropriate signage.

All events are under one (albeit a very large one) roof.



EXTRAVAGANZA 2006

Rules of the Selling Game

1. Vendors must be a member of a society affiliated with the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies.
2. You must have an Extravaganza ID number. Call Peter Kouchalakos (305) 461-2367 or email at cpkouch@cs.com to obtain an ID number. Please use the word "Extravaganza" in the subject line when addressing email. Whenever possible, previously used numbers will be assigned to vendors who have sold in prior years.
3. Plants must be clean and free from disease, insects, etc. Only bromeliads can be sold. Potting material should be clean and weed free.
4. All plants, including bare root specimens, **MUST** have two tags. One must have the plant name (this stays with the plant); the other must have the price on the top portion of the tag (whole dollar amounts only) and the vendor number below it. **Please do not put the price on one side of the tag and the vendor number on the other – use one side of the tag only!** The exception to this rule is for vendors that have pre-printed commercial labels that include plant name, price and vendor's name/number.

5. Vendor space will be allocated depending on the number of vendors participating in the sale. Additional plants can be brought into the sales room as space becomes available.
6. Plants will be received Friday, September 29, from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., or before 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 30.
7. You can be present in the sales area or just leave your plants to fend for themselves. It's your call.
8. Sales hours will be Saturday, September 30, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
9. The BSSF shall retain 25% of the gross sales of each vendor. Sales tax will be collected as patrons check out. Patrons will be able to pay with a credit card.
10. Bromeliad related items (art, t-shirts, crafts, etc.) might be offered for sale, subject to the preceding rules. These items should be labeled the same as plants. See rule #4.
11. All unsold plants must be removed between 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Saturday. Plants remaining in the sales area after 5:00 p.m. will be considered as a donation to the BSSF.
12. FCBS and the BSSF will not be responsible for loss of plants or craft items. However, all reasonable precautions will be taken to insure their safety. Hotel security is present 24 hours a day.



Florida Bromeliad Sources

Boggy Creek Bromeliads

Betsy McCrory

3615 Boggy Creek Road, Kissimmee, FL 34744

407-348-2139 By appointment only

Specializing in landscape bromeliads (Aechmea and Neoregelia)



Bromeliads Galore

Dave Johnston

6399 90th Avenue, Pinellas Park, FL 33782

727-544-9187 By appointment only

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



Dragon Fly Gardens

Michael and Barbara McCleary

148 S.W. Memorial Drive, Ft. White, FL 32038

386-497-1583 By appointment

barbsm@Bellsouth.net

Bromeliads, blooms and more.



Floridana Tropicals

Coddy Williams and Beth Glover

6630 Floridana Ave., Melbourne Beach, FL 32951

321-726-0800 Open by appointment only, via phone or email, 7am until 3pm

beth@bethglover.com

www.floridanatropicals.com

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

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



Lobo Landscaping

Tom Wolfe

(813) 961-1475 By appointment only.

bromeliadsociety@juno.com

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



Michael's Bromeliads

Michael and Donna Kiehl

973 First Dirt Road

Venice, FL 34292

941-488-4011 By appointment

Fax: 941-488-1002

info@michaelsbromeliads.com, website

michaelsbromeliads.com

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



Plants and Things by George

George and Irene Aldrich

746 NE 35th Street, Ocala, FL 34479-2712

352-629-1913 By appointment

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



Powell's Nursery

1002 Bay Vista Drive, Tarpon Springs, FL 34689
727-938-0831

Hours: 8:00 – 5:00 Daily – call first

Bromeliads and many tropical foliage plants including a variety of ferns, philodendrons, nephytis, spathaphyllum, corn plants, etc. Powell's sells many tropicals in one gallon pots, 3 for \$5.00 (wholesale or retail).



Russell's Bromeliads

John and Jimye Kaye Russell

1690 Beardall Avenue, Sanford, FL 32771

Telephone 407-322-0864 Fax 407-323-4190

Thursdays and Fridays 8:00 - 11:30/12:30 to 5:00 pm. Weekends by appointment

Email jrussell@rusbrom.com

Wholesale and retail. Specializing in Tillandsias, assorted Neoregelia. Grape wood, tree fern, slat baskets and other mounting supplies available as well as fertilizer and other bromeliad supplies.



Sunshine Ranches

Josefa Leon

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954-434-4148, Cell –954-249-2205

The largest and most varied stock of spectacular bromeliads in Broward County



Bromeliad Sources are continued on the next page.

T & C Tropical

Tim and Colleen Hendrix

21 Holly Lane, Plantation, Florida, 33317

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

Home email Timbo-169@comcast.net or office

uscplf@bellsouth.net .

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



Tropiflora

Dennis and Linda Cathcart

3530 Tallevast Road, Sarasota, Fl 34243

800-613-7520/941-351-2267 Fax 941-351-6985

sales@tropiflora.com website www.tropiflora.com

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

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



If you have a nursery with a certificate of registration with the Florida State Department of Agriculture and would like to be included in future Bromeliad Sources in this newsletter, email karen@fcbs.org.

What is the Florida Council?

The Council is a confederation of bromeliad societies in Florida; it is a non profit organization registered with the state. Each member bromeliad society has two representatives to the Council, both of which are voting members. Any person belonging to any Florida bromeliad society affiliated with the Council is automatically a member of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies.

The meetings are held quarterly throughout the state and are hosted by a different society each time.

Among its ongoing activities, the Council sponsors an annual Extravaganza, a state-wide gathering of bromeliad enthusiasts hosted by a different society each year. The Council supports the Bromeliad Encyclopedia, the number one bromeliad destination on the Internet. The Council also supports the ongoing program to control the invasive Mexican bromeliad weevil, an imported pest that imperils Florida's bromeliads, both native and in collections.

To learn more about Council activities, visit the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies' website at fcb.org or talk with one of your society's Council representatives.



Upcoming Events

June 6 - 11, 2006

Bromeliad Society International

Bromeliads on the Border - 17th World Bromeliad Conference
Town and Country Resort & Convention Center
500 Hotel Circle North, San Diego, California 92108
Information at <http://bsi.org>.

August 19-20

Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society

Fall Tropical Plant Sale
Garden Club of Sanford
200 Fairmont Drive, Sanford
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Sudi Hipsley at 352- 728-5002 or Bud Martin at 321-363-7351
The public is invited. Admission is free.

September 30

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies Extravaganza
Presented by the Bromeliad Society of South Florida
See pages 1, 12 and 13 for details.



Next Florida Council Meeting

July 8, 2006

Hosted by Bromeliad Society of Central Florida
See your Council representative
for more information.

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@fcb.org. Copyright 2006.

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(continued)

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