

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, Inc.



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**Cryptanthus - Terrestrial Jewels
Winter Cultivation Tips
Speakers List**

Vol. 30 Issue 4

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(continued on the inside back cover)

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

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Bromeliad Extravaganza
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Larry Giroux, Show Chairman
The Cryptanthus Society
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(239) 997-2237

**The Florida Council of
Bromeliad Societies**

is pleased to announce that the

**2012 Bromeliad Society International
World Bromeliad Conference**

will be hosted by

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies

in

**Central Florida
Fall of 2012**

**Betsy McCrory
FCBS World Conference Chairman**

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(407) 348-2139**

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Catching Up ... Staying Even



By now you have noticed that the Council was not able to host a Bromeliad Extravaganza this year. However, the next Bromeliad Extravaganza is set for 2011, hosted by Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society. A very exciting addition to this event will be the 12th Annual Cryptanthus Society Show and, in conjunction with the Council's Rare Plant Auction, the Cryptanthus Auction. This is a great opportunity to expand your bromeliad experience with this prestigious event from The Cryptanthus Society. For more information about The Cryptanthus Society and how to join, go to the Council website (fcbs.org) and click on the Society's name on the front page.

In 2012, the Council will host the World Bromeliad Conference. The location will be in Central Florida, date and location to be determined. People will be coming from all over the country and from around the world to this event, and we will show Florida at its bromeliad best. There are plenty of volunteer opportunities to be part of this great event. Contact chairman Betsy McCrory for further information on how you can help. It's a wonderful opportunity to show off Florida's bromeliad treasures.

Rumors have been circulating about the future of the Mulford B. Foster Bromeliad Identification Center at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens since the departure of Harry Luther. This summer, delegates from the Bromeliad Society International attended a meeting with the Selby director on the future of the BIC. BSI president Jay Thurrott reported to Council representatives at the October Council meeting that the results of this meeting were inconclusive. Jay appointed former Council chairman Terrie Bert to be the liaison with the Council on this matter. Should you have any questions or want

to check out rumors, check with Jay or Terrie. Their contact information is in your State Roster.

On January 1, be sure to check What's New on the Council website (fcb.org) for another installment in the great series by Oscar Ribiero on the Espinhaço Range of Eastern Brazil. Oscar once again showcases bromeliads in habitat and the fragile relationship between man and land. This will be a three-part presentation showcasing the Sempre Vivas National Park. The second part, "Eucalyptus versus Biodiversity" will explain how Brazil is destroying native habitat by promoting Eucalyptus farms. The third part will be about the Fazenda Buriti region of Brazil.

At the January meeting, new officers will take over in the Council. The chairman will be from the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay, the vice president from the Sarasota Bromeliad Society and the secretary from Treasure Coast Bromeliad Society.

As you plan for your bromeliad shows and sales in the coming year, please do let the Council webmaster know so your dates can be added to the calendar on line (webmaster@fcsb.org). Also, remember that the Council has cash registers you can rent at a nominal cost for your bromeliad sales. Contact Council treasurer Sudi Hipsley for information.

In the meantime the holiday season is upon us. Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!



Thank you, Sarasota Bromeliad Society for hosting the July Council meeting.

Thank you, Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society for hosting the October Council meeting.

News from FCBS Affiliated Societies



Treasure Coast Bromeliad Society held its first Pineapple Party. Bernadette Howell reported: “We had a great selection of yummy pineapple dishes and drinks – Pineapple-upside-down-cake, Pineapple Chicken Salad, Ham and Pineapple Pizza, Pineapple Soup, Pineapple and Fruit Salads, Pineapple Casserole, Pineapple Pina Colada, Pineapple Champagne Punch – just to name a few, but the dish that received the most votes was the “Pineapple Casserole” made by Pat Hetzler! She won a nice beautiful ornamental Pineapple plant! (Recipe on Page 8.) In addition to good food and good drinks, TCBS members were all decked out in snazzy Pineapple attire! Cassandra wore a great Pineapple T-shirt that she handcrafted; Heddy and Suzanne were wearing very cool T-shirts from Pineapple Joe’s, a local restaurant in Ft. Pierce; even our TCBS Coconut girl took her coconut head off and replaced it with a Pineapple. But the best “Pineapple Attire” went to Barbara Miller! Barbara was wearing very festive attire, with a headdress for her hair and lei around her neck; her outfit was simply grand! She was also the winner of a beautiful ornamental Pineapple plant! Thanks to all for wearing great pineapple out-fits!!”

At the October meeting of the **Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society**, Kathy Risley put together a “Members Showcase”, a series of short workshops and presentations by ten FWC members to share their bromeliad knowledge. Topics included the genus *Aechmea*; *Neoregelia* in decorative pots; mounting bromeliads on wood; growing spectacular *Neoregelias*; how to grow miniature *Neoregelias*; cold weather preparation for bromeliads; why collect and grow *Billbergia*; *Hechtia* care and feeding, love/hate relationship; why collect and grow bromeliad species; the genus *Ananas*; growing bromeliads in small places.

Bromeliad Society of Broward County members enjoyed a picnic in August. In October, they held their big fundraiser auction. The holiday party will be held at the Jacaranda Golf and Country Club this year. Looking ahead, the society will be holding its show and sale in March at Volunteer Park in conjunction with the Plantation Women's Club.

Bromeliad Society of South Florida raised more than \$4000 at its annual auction! They held their second ramble in November. Members are looking forward to their April show at Fairchild Gardens.

Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay held a field trip in early November to Michael's Bromeliads, Tropicflora and Marie Selby Botanical Gardens. The Guild will be holding its annual sale on April 2-3 in conjunction with the Tampa Federation of Gardens Clubs. Tampa will also be participating in the Florida State Fair the second week of February and contributing a 10'x10' bromeliad display.

Gainesville Bromeliad Society participated in the fall sale at Kanapaha Open House. Bud Martin did a program for the society, "What's in a Name?" Bud brought five boxes of assorted bromeliads; GBS members, in teams, went through the bromeliads and identified what they thought they were. Later, Bud gave the correct answers and everyone scored themselves. Betty Neubaur reported, "It was a lot of fun and everyone circulated, talked, guessed and visited."

Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society enjoyed good sales at its August plant sale. Members are participating in the Master Gardeners Sale at Redbug Park this month. They have seen an increase in membership through the plant sales events.

Central Florida Bromeliad Society is holding a workshop for new members in November and planning their annual holiday

Party at Leu Gardens. They also held a Garden Ramble to the homes of two of their members this month.

Sarasota Bromeliad Society is working hard on membership education and recruitment. They hold a 45-minute workshop at 6:30 before their meetings each month. The Society also sets up booths at Tropiflora and Selby sales to recruit new members, with a beautiful raffle bromeliad; raffle participants give their email contacts and, after the sales, receive an email from the society inviting them to the meeting, with a promise of a free bromeliad at that meeting. The Sarasota Society holiday dinner will be held at Selby Gardens.

Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society had a "pot-luck" meeting with a picnic lunch in July with photographs (taken by Jerry O'Keefe) of the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida Mother's Day Bromeliad Show and a "pot-luck" raffle of plants that have lost their identification tags. The December meeting will be a holiday party held at the "Colony in the Wood" clubhouse in Port Orange.



Pineapple Casserole

Pat Hetzler

Treasure Coast Bromeliad Society

1/2 c. sugar

3 tablespoons flour

3 eggs

1 16 oz. can of crushed pineapple

5 slices of bread cubed (crusts removed)

1 stick of butter melted

Beat sugar, flour and eggs with a spoon. Add pineapple with juice. Stir melted butter into bread cubes until bread is soaked with butter and stir into pineapple mixture. Pour into a greased 2 quart casserole. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour. Serves 8.

Culture Tips: It's Time, Once Again... **by Jay Thurrott**



Fall is here and it's time to get ready for those few days of bone-chilling cold weather that descend on Florida each year. It really doesn't matter where in the state you call home, when those cold fronts sweep down the peninsula everyone and everything suffers. For those of you in the southern portions of the state, your bromeliads that are accustomed to warm weather seem to suffer from temperatures dropping into the low 40s and upper 30s just as much as those in the mid-portions of the state when the temperatures plunge into the low 30s and upper 20s. And for those of you in the northern portions of the Sunshine state, your temperatures may not get much lower than in Central Florida but the low temperatures can persist for many more hours than what we see elsewhere – and with devastating effect. After enough hours of low temperatures there is no longer any ground heat to preserve by using blankets and frost cloth and bromeliads begin to develop cold damage or in the worst case, simply don't survive.

So, what should you do to prepare your collection for cold weather? You really have two options to consider. First, there is the “survival of the fittest” approach in which you decide to let the cold settle in your collection and those that survive the cold will be stronger for it and those that don't ...well, you shouldn't have been trying to grow them anyway. If you subscribe to this option and treat many of your bromeliads like annuals, I'm sure that bromeliad vendors everywhere applaud you.

Your second option, and the one that most of you will choose is to cold-proof your bromeliads using whatever means are at your disposal. This can be as simple as bringing your plants indoors where they can escape the temporary cold weather. Of

course there is a downside to everything. Plants relocated to the indoors will have to contend with the low humidity and low light levels found in most Florida homes in the winter months - not to mention the peril posed by indoor pets once they discover that they have a new source of vegetation to add to their diets.

For those who have allowed their bromeliad addiction to get the better of them and now have extensive collections, cold weather protection becomes a bit more complex. Efficient use of materials to trap residual ground heat can be very effective for those *occasional* and *short-term* drops in temperature. Last year's killing cold spell however, made it very clear that for *longer-term* occurrences supplemental heat, whether it be provided by Christmas lights, space heaters, or setting the yard on fire are needed to offset those arctic temperatures.

Whichever means you intend to use, finalize your plans and have materials easily accessible NOW. Don't wait until temperatures are already in the 30s and still on their way down to find that your strings of twinkling lights that you had intended to use for heat have a short in them or that you can't find an extension cord long enough to reach where it is needed the most. Develop a plan to protect your plants, secure all of the materials that you will need to carry out that plan, and test it to make sure that everything will work the way you intend it to.

It's time to begin thinking about what measures you need to take to protect your plants during the approaching winter season. If we're fortunate enough to have a mild winter, you won't have to worry too much about cold damaged plants, but if we have a repeat of last year's weather (and just where is that global warming when you need it?) you will be glad that took the time and made the effort to provide some protection.



Mexican Bromeliad Weevil Report

July-September 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

The *Lixadmontia franki* colony improved greatly during this trimester. A second cage has been started, which means more growth is expected. Grocery stores are supplying good quantities of highly quality pineapple tops. The production of *L. franki* pupae was up 133% from the previous three months. Average weekly production of pupae was 104 (134 over last 7 weeks), with a maximum of 157 (more than double last trimester's maximum). In July, 288 pupae were produced, in August 537 pupae, and in September 527 pupae. The trimestral total was 1,352 pupae.

A new permit for importing *L. franki* and other bromeliad-eating weevil parasitoids from overseas was received in July.

A second fly release was made at Oxbow Eco Center on August 4. Fifteen females and 17 males were released. No flies were recovered from the sentinel plants that were placed in the field for monitoring. The next fly release at Oxbow is scheduled for October 15. A fly release is also scheduled for Big Cypress National Preserve on October 26.

The first study to look at the developmental time of *M. callizona* at different temperatures has been completed. The amount of tampering with the weevil's habitat to see when the weevil molted for each instar caused a mortality rate that was so high the data was unusable. A new study has been started, but we will watch only for the developmental time from egg to pupation and then to adulthood, rather than watching for the developmental time for each instar. This study will require several more months to complete.

Preliminary studies have begun to determine what substances attract *L. franki* flies to weevil-infested bromeliads. Early results show that the plants are emitting volatiles that are attractive to the fly.

Publications:

No new publications. One is still under review by Biological Control and one was submitted to Florida Entomologist in September. Two are still in preparation.

Presentations:

Greater Everglades Ecosystem Restoration. July 13. The Mexican bromeliad weevil (*Metamasius callizona*): Changing Florida's canopy. T. Cooper.

Annual meeting of the Florida Entomological Society. July 28. The effects of two host bromeliad species on a bromeliad-eating weevil, *Metamasius callizona*. T. Cooper.

Epcot Science Center. September 28. Mexican bromeliad weevil (*Metamasius callizona*) kills bromeliads in Florida. J.H. Frank.

**The Florida Council of
Bromeliad Societies
thanks
The Cryptanthus Society
for its donation of \$100
in recognition of the support of FCBS
to The Cryptanthus Society
through its website and Michael
Andreas, FCBS webmaster**

Cryptanthus – Terrestrial Jewels

by Karen Andreas



Commonly known as “Earth Stars,” the members of the genus *Cryptanthus* are true terrestrials; these bromeliads need soil to grow. *Cryptanthus* species are found in eastern Brazil where they grow in sun and shade, wet conditions and, sometimes dry, on the coast and in forests. First described in 1836, the name *Cryptanthus* comes from “*crypt*”, meaning “hidden” and “*anthos*” which means flower. *Cryptanthus* do not have inflorescences that extend above the leaves; the white flowers bloom from the center of the plant; hence they are “hidden flowers.”

Cryptanthus come in a surprising variety of colors and forms. Colors include brown, rose, green, chartreuse, gray, copper, pink, black, and red. Scurf – that dusty looking substance on the leaves – appears as silver or white stripes, chevrons or other markings. Examples of its various forms include *Crypt. microglazioui*, *Cryptanthus beuckeri* with its spoon shaped leaves, *Cryptanthus lutherianus* which has long narrow leaves, *Cryptanthus* ‘Elaine’ with its broad, long, leaves. There are small forms, long forms, cascading forms and twisted forms like *Cryptanthus* ‘Whirlygig’.

These terrestrials like to be on or near the ground. From my own growing experience, I’ve seen major improvements in *Cryptanthus* when we plant them in the ground or sink the pot or simply place the pot on the ground. Provide them bright light such as morning light or filtered sunlight, and you will be rewarded with strong color and good form. *Cryptanthus* do not have water tanks as their epiphytic bromeliad cousins do. Consequently, *Cryptanthus* depend on moisture from the potting media as well as from watering the leaves. Do use a potting media that drains well but does not stay soggy wet. I

capillary mats on the Cryptanthus bench in the shade house and have seen good results from providing a constant source of moisture without saturating the soil.

Do not under-pot these bromeliads. “If grown in pots, the pot should be wider than it is deep, as the root systems prefer to spread out rather than go downwards,” notes Andrew Steens in *Bromeliads for the contemporary garden*. Use a slow release fertilizer such as Nutricote in the soil mix when potting Cryptanthus. I have also had good luck using Miracle Grow soil in my Cryptanthus medium because of the time-release fertilizer that comes with that mix. As true terrestrials, they absorb nutrition from their roots.

Frost and cold winds are damaging, as you would expect in bromeliads from the forest floor. However, the canopy of trees or other over story such as shrubs or a *Philodendron selloum* often provide enough protection. To be safe, be prepared to provide cover or move the Cryptanthus to a protected place in case of frost or freeze. Cold damage will show up quickly in the leaves.

Removing pups from Cryptanthus is very easy. The pups will come from the base of the mother plant as well as from between the leaves. After the pup reaches about half the size of the mother plant, tug gently on one of its leaves. If the pup resists, do not force it to release. When it is ready, it will release easily. You may need to peel off the very small lower leaves so it will plant easily. Use a root stimulator such as RootTone to provide fungus protection and encourage root growth. You may also need to stake the Cryptanthus until its roots grow, often a slow process.

Some Cryptanthus, such as ‘Menescal’, send pups out on long stolons (stems). Rather than cut off the stolons to plant the pups, you can place a pot nearby, let the stolon grow into the pot and allow the pup take root. Again, you may need to stake

the pup or the stolon so the roots will grow.

Cryptanthus used as accent and companion plants in the landscape can have quite an impact. Their colors and low growth habit provide a dramatic look in any garden.

If you would like to learn more about Cryptanthus, consider joining The Cryptanthus Society, which publishes a Journal four times a year. More information about The Cryptanthus Society is available at fcbs.org on the opening page.

To see pictures of the Cryptanthus mentioned in this article – and to browse these wonderful, colorful bromeliads - go to fcbs.org and click on the Photo Index, then Cryptanthus.

Next year, we will have a wonderful opportunity to be a part of The Cryptanthus Society's International Show, being held in conjunction with the Bromeliad Extravaganza. Not only will you have an opportunity to enter your beautiful Cryptanthus into the show, you also will be able to expand your collection at the sale and auction!



Corrections to the FCBS State Roster

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.BSI News
by Jay Thurrott, BSI President



The Newsletter Editor has graciously offered to provide space for a few words from the BSI. I would like to take her up on this offer and will attempt to provide news about BSI in a short column for each issue – JT

This is indeed a year for ‘firsts.’ This is my first year as president of the Bromeliad Society International, and I would like to thank everyone who encouraged me to pursue this position and have already provided support as the organization strives to improve on the services it provides to its members.

Another ‘first’ - plans are now underway for the 2012 World Conference, and it will be hosted not by a single society, but by the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies – a consortium of bromeliad societies in Florida that many years ago banded together and have since demonstrated the ability to set aside their differences to work for the common good. This is the first time that such a group of societies has volunteered to host a World Conference and with such a pool of enthusiastic, “can-do” people drawn from the Florida Council member societies working together on this event, it can’t help but be a resounding success!

I would also like to announce that the Florida Council voted at its October meeting to become an affiliate of the BSI – another ‘first’ and another example of how societies with common interests can come together to form a stronger whole. This was a wise decision by the Florida Council and one that will serve to strengthen both organizations in the future.

Speakers List



Gainesville Bromeliad Society

Dean Fairchild – “Bromeliad Taxonomy”

Bud Martin – “What’s in a Name?”

Tom Wolfe – “Roberto Burle Marx” and “Longwood Gardens”

Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society

Dennis Cathcart – “Singapore’s Gardens By the Bay”

Jay Thurrott - “Bromeliads in the Big Easy, World Bromeliad Conference 2010”

Bromeliad Society of Broward County

Alan Herndon

Joe Libertucci – “How Not to Cultivate Bromeliads”

Dr. Bruce McAlpin – “Tips, Tricks and Techniques of Bromeliad Culture”

Bromeliad Society of South Florida

Pete Kouchalakos – “Where and How to Plant Bromeliads for Landscaping”

Mike Michalski – “A Review of the Spring Show”

Jay Thurrott – “Preparing Your Bromeliads for the Cold”

Treasure Coast Bromeliad Society

David Williams – “Tillandsias”

Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay

Terrie Bert – “Here’s Looking at More Novel Bromeliad Genera”

Dennis Cathcart – “Singapore’s Gardens by the Bay”

Al Muzzell – “Terrestrials”

Mike O’Leary – “25 Best Bromeliads to Start a Collection”

Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society

George Aldrich – “Cryptanthus”; “Collecting Bromeliads in Peru”

Jay Thurrott – World Bromeliad Conference 2010

Bromeliad Society of Central Florida

Terrie Bert

Pepe Donayre – “Billbergias”

David Johnston – “Must Have Bromeliad Species”

Sarasota Bromeliad Society

Terrie Bert

Guillermo Rivera – “Bromeliads of Central Brazil”

Jay Thurrott – World Bromeliad Conference 2010

Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

Dennis Cathcart – “Singapore Gardens By the Bay”

Grant Groves “Trips to Hawaii and Experiences with Hawaiian Bromeliad Growers”

Jay Thurrott - “Bromeliads 101: the Basics of Bromeliad Culture Techniques”

On January 1, 2011

Three new chapters in the continuing series by Oscar Robiero on the Espinhaco Range of Eastern Brazil will be posted on New Year’s Day.

Look under What’s New at fcbs.org.

Read about it now in *Catching Up...Staying Even* (page 5)

2011 Calendar of Events



March 26-27

Broward Society of Broward County 13th Biennial Bromeliad Show and Sale
in conjunction with the Plantation Women's Club Garden Fest
Volunteer Park

April 1-3

Tropiflora Spring Festival
3530 Tallevast Road, Sarasota
(941) 351-2267
<http://www.tropiflora.com>

April 2-3

Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay Show and Sale
in conjunction with Tampa Federation of Garden Clubs Show
2629 Bayshore Boulevard, Tampa
Set up March 30; Entries March 31; Judging April 1
Open to Public April 2-3
Bromeliad Show Chairman: Tom Wolfe (813) 961-1475
Flower Show Chairman: Kathy Echevarria (813) 877-3357.

April 16-17

Bromeliad Society of South Florida Show and Sale
Fairchild Gardens, Miami

April 17

Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society
12th Annual Volusia County Master Gardener Faire
8:30 am- Noon

April 30 – May 1

Sarasota Bromeliad Society Show and Sale
Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, Sarasota



Next Florida Council Meeting

January 8, 2011

Hosted by the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay

See your Council representative
for more information.



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(continued from inside front cover)

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Happy Holidays!
Happy New Year!