



# Orlandiana

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**Newsletter of the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida**

Volume No. 30

Issue No. 01

January 2004

**Next Meeting Monday January 26**

## *Puya raimondii*



*Puya raimondii*, one of the world's most remarkable bromeliads, is the largest known bromeliad, forming a dense rosette of bayonette-like leaves six feet or more in diameter. Legend has it that a plant takes 150 years to flower. More recent estimates reduce the time for maturity to between 80 and 100 years. The plant flowers just once in its life, flowering usually takes place in the month of May, when a huge central stem (the largest inflorescence in the plant kingdom), is pushed up thirty feet or more into the sky, covered in some eight thousand individual blooming flowers. It is an unbelievable sight set against a spectacular snowy mountain backdrop, but is seldom seen because it grows in remote high altitude habitats rarely visited by travelers. Enormous energy is required to produce such a massive flower, a feat this plant can only accomplish once in a lifetime. After it blooms, it dies without forming offsets.

*Continued on page 6*

## President's Message

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a safe and good holiday season.

We certainly finished 2003 with a great Holiday Party. Thank you, Betsy McCrory and Phyllis Baumer for coordinating the party, the food, the decorations and the bromeliads – a big thanks to Paul DeRoose and Buddy McCrory for their generous bromeliad donations. Thanks also to all who attended and brought bromeliads for the exchange. Once again you all outdid yourselves – we sure do put on a good buffet!

A big thank you to last years' officers and volunteers who make our meetings work: Herbert Henry, president; Pam Flesher, vice president; Helen Kwiat, treasurer; Steven Wagner, newsletter editor; Ed and Nancy Hall for printing and mailing the newsletter; John Boardman, Eloise Beach and Jim Pearce for the supply store, which they will continue to operate this coming year; Dale and Eileen Laird for handling the refreshment table; Phyllis Baumer and Sudi Hipsley, librarians; Sudi, Eloise and Jim for once again handling our annual audit. So many of you volunteered on committees and to do various things at each meeting – thank you one and all!

Spring is a busy time for our society. Eloise Beach is chairman of the Leu Gardens Sale and Betsy McCrory is chairman of the Mothers Day Show and Sale. Both are important events for our society, not only because of plant sales but also because we always get new members from both events. Please volunteer to help when they ask for your participation.

This summer also is the Bromeliad Society International's World Conference in Chicago. I encourage you all to attend – it is always an exciting event!

In the meantime, we have another active board and slate of volunteers for this coming year. Vice president Bob Stevens is lining up an impressive list of programs. Secretary Betty Salvas has agreed to be chairman of a committee to review our Bylaws and Standing Rules. Betsy, our treasurer, will be

busy with the Mother's Day Show. Steven Wagner has agreed to continue as newsletter editor, so send him your ideas, recipes and items for the newsletter. Sue Rhodes and Kathy Phinney are handling the refreshment table for us. Sudi and Phyllis are our librarians.

Join us this month for a program by George Aldrich and be sure to bring those Show and Tell plants, for bragging on blooms, identification or cultivation questions!

I look forward to working with you all for another great year at the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida!

*Karen Andreas*

### Next Meeting January 26

**6:30 PM Refreshments**

**7:00 PM Meeting Starts**

**Where: Leu Gardens,**  
1920 N. Forest Avenue, Orlando, Fl

**Speaker:** George Aldrich

**About our program:** George will be presenting a slide program on his bromeliad hunting expedition to Central Peru in 2002.

**About our speaker:** George & his wife Irene are longtime members of our society. They live in Ocala. George is an award winning bromeliad grower.

### **George will be bringing plants to sell.**

**Refreshments:** Last names beginning with **F - H**

**Raffle Plants:** All members  
Raffle plants are a good way to increase your Bromeliad collection, and they help the society raise money. If you have an extra plant or pup, think about donating it to the raffle table or silent auction.

## **For Those Feeling a Little Wilted and Under the Bench**

If you know of any BSCF member who is not feeling well, who is experiencing an illness or is in the hospital, we want to know about it. The Society will send a card on behalf of its members to any member who is unwell or who has experienced a death in the family. There will be a sheet of paper at the sign in desk if you want to write down the name of the member who could use a card; you can also notify Karen Andreas by email ([karen@fcbs.org](mailto:karen@fcbs.org)). We care about all our members - please help us let them know!

### **Freeze cloth**

Some members are still looking for more freeze cloth so I am working on getting enough orders to order another roll (250'). If you would like some freeze cloth please let me know as soon as possible. I will try to have your requests done by the meeting. The price is still .80 a foot. It is 15' wide. You can reach me though Karen at [karen@fcbs.org](mailto:karen@fcbs.org).

### **Leu Gardens Plant Sale**

BSCF will have a sales booth in this very popular annual spring gardening event held on the grounds of beautiful Leu Gardens. Mark your calendar: March 27 – 28, open 9-5 both days with special early admission for Leu Gardens members March 27 from 8-9 am. Admission and parking are free. More details will appear in next month's newsletter. Contact: Eloise Beach - [FloridaPRO@aol.com](mailto:FloridaPRO@aol.com).

## **Bromeliad Society International News**

The BSI's Sixteenth World Conference is in Chicago this summer, August 11-15. You can register by using the form in this newsletter or online at <http://bsi.org> > Events > Chicago 2004.

A chairman for the Rare Plant Auction is needed. The chairman coordinates the donations and the volunteers who assist in the event. Gentleman Herb Hill and the colorful Len Trevor are this year's auctioneers.

Volunteers are needed to help with security and sales at the plant sales area and at other activities during the Conference. Donations also are needed to sponsor awards for the judged show, the rare plant auction and advertising. There will be forms at our meeting if you are interested in helping or you can email conference chairman Jack Reilly at [jar56@dtmspeed.net](mailto:jar56@dtmspeed.net).

The revised edition of the BSI's Cultural Manual is now available. We will be ordering copies for our society for members to purchase and also to sell at our sales this spring.

Contributed by Karen Andreas



### **Baking With Bromeliads**

Do you have a favorite recipe that uses pineapples - either as a main ingredient or just to kick up the flavors of the dish? Please send your recipes to [TDWAMMER@cfl.rr.com](mailto:TDWAMMER@cfl.rr.com).

# Why Bromeliad?

By Lyman B. Smith

Obviously "Bromeliad" is simply a shortening of the scientific name "Bromeliaceae" to indicate any member of the Pineapple family. We might call them all pineapples since they are members of that family, and not bother to find a new term. However, it would cause confusion to associate such diverse forms as the giant Puya and the Spanish moss under a name for which we have already a sharp and narrow concept. As the Bromeliaceae were unknown before the discovery of America, we did not have any such ancient general term for the family as there was in the case of grasses, sedges, lilies or orchids, and one had to be manufactured.



Photo courtesy of [www.fcbs.org](http://www.fcbs.org)

It is not possible to say now who first coined the word "Bromeliad" but it was probably some fairly recent botanist or horticulturist who was tired of having to use the phrase "species of Bromeliaceae" after the cumbrous and stately fashion of the old

school. French and German botanists of the nineteenth century regularly used such single words for members of one family, had a standard way of making them, and seemed to find nothing undignified in the process.

The second step in tracing our genealogy is to find the origin of "Bromeliaceae" and this is very clear. With few exceptions the scientific name of a plant family is derived by combining the name of one of its genera with the ending "aceae." Thus in 1805 the French botanist, Jaume Saint-Hilaire, defined the Bromeliaceae and formed the family name from the genus Bromelia.

Our next step takes us back to Linnaeus the father of systematic botany for he it was who established the genus Bromelia in 1754 according to the rules we now follow in making scientific names. The name was taken from the family name of Olaf Bromelius, a Swedish botanist. Since Linnaeus also was Swedish, we might at first suppose that he had named the genus for a friend, but Bromelius died before Linnaeus was born.

Actually it was Plumier, the early French explorer of the West Indies, who first had the idea of renaming for Mr. Bromelius the genus that previously had gone by the Indian name of Karatas, and Linnaeus so credited it. Plumier was on familiar terms with the genus Bromelia in the West Indies. Bromelius, on the other hand, was famous mainly for the fine Flora that he wrote for his hometown of Goetheborg and it is by no means certain that he ever laid eyes on a single plant of the great group that was to bear his name.

*Associate Curator, Div. Phanerogams, Smithsonian Institution.*

[Taken from Journal of the Bromeliad Society - Volume 1, Number 2]

## Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies News

This year's Extravaganza is hosted by Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society and will be held October 22-23.

In the last issue of the FCBS newsletter, in the center, was a Membership Survey. Please take the time to fill it out. You can either mail it to Karen Andreas or bring it to the BSCF meeting. The deadline for submitting the survey is March 31.

The invasive Mexican bromeliad weevil has now been found in Osceola County, bringing to 18 the number of counties with confirmed infestations. It is in southern Brevard County (north Melbourne) as well and continues to move north which puts Orange County at risk. Please be careful when acquiring bromeliads from any of the infested areas – accept only bromeliads from commercial growers with ongoing chemical treatment programs or from individuals who are treating bromeliads before exchanging or selling them. The transportation of infested bromeliads by people is the main way these destructive weevils are being spread.

Remember to visit the Bromeliad Encyclopedia, the website of the Florida Council, at <http://fcbs.org>. The number one bromeliad web site in the world, it has more than 10,000 pictures in its Photo Index, as well as articles and information on bromeliads and bromeliad cultivation. Check under "What's New", for the latest postings.

Contributed by Karen Andreas

## Mark Your Calendar

### March 27-28

LEU GARDENS PLANT SALE

9 am – 5 pm both days

(March 27 only:

Early admission for Leu Gardens members: 8-9 am)

BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

Sales Booth – Please support your society.

Contact: Eloise Beach - FloridaPRO@aol.com.

### Sixteenth World Bromeliad Conference

August 10 -15, 2004 Chicago, Illinois

<http://bsi.org/events/chicago2004.html>

Contact: Jack Reilly, Phone: 217.486.5874 or

E-mail: jar56@one-eleven.net

Tues. Aug.10, 2004 BSI Board Meeting  
(open to members)

Wed. Aug.11, 2004 Scientific Seminars,  
Judges School, Show Registration.

Thurs. Aug.12, 2004 Show Judging, Sales  
Setup, Tours

Fri. Aug. 13, 2004 Tours, Show & Sale,  
Seminars, Rare Plant Auction.

Sat. Aug. 14, 2004 Tours, Show & Sale,  
Seminars, Crypt. Auction, Banquet.

Sun. Aug. 15, 2004 Tours, Seminars, Crypt.  
Board Meeting, Show & Sales  
Close, Conference Closes.

## **Puya raimondii, continued from page 1**

A specimen flowered in the University of California-Berkeley Botanical Garden from August through November of 1986 - in the somewhat milder California climate the plant took only 28 years to flower from seed.



These strange plants look more like mutated cacti. This species is considered to be one of the oldest in the world, and can be found in only a few isolated areas of the Andes of Peru and Bolivia. In Peru, *Puya raimondii* is found in the Huaraz region, 10,000 feet above sea level. Huaraz is a six-hour bus ride north of Lima. The region surrounding Huaraz is covered with several peaks that are over 22,000 feet. *Puya raimondii* is said to be threatened with extinction.

*Photos courtesy of [www.fcbs.org](http://www.fcbs.org)*

## **The Fibonacci Sequence and Pineapples**

**By: John Catlan**

Look at any plant - tomato, strawberry or pineapple, count the number of petals, or the way the leaves are arranged. You will find them set out in pairs, threes, fives, eights or thirteen's, but never fours. Plants don't like four.

Plants stick to numbers in the series 1,2,3,5,8,13,21,34 where each number comes from adding the previous two together. The series is called The Fibonacci Sequence. Mathematicians love this string of numbers, as do plants. You will find these numbers in the five seed chambers you find when you cut across an apple, or the 34 or 55 spiral whorls in a sunflower head. We do not have four-leaved clover or a four-leaved anything else.

### **Phyllotaxis; Arrangement of Leaves on Stem**

In the following, note how the Fibonacci Sequence seems to rule: the flowers of a pineapple and thus bromeliads have three petals.

When I seriously started to look at the shape of Neoregelias and what made the shape appealing and what was right for the plant, the work on pineapples was the benchmark to copy. Once you understand how leaf shape is formed you do not have to strip a plant, you can line up leaves and count, but I will explain in detail. The leaf phyllotaxy can be determined by removal of the leaves and marking the growth bud at the base of the leaf then noting the number of leaves which have to be removed before another leaf bud appears on a line on the stem extending vertically above the first number bud, and also noting the number of spirals that have been made around the stem. We find the leaf phyllotaxy is 5/13. The five is the number of spirals around the stem and thirteen the number of leaves removed in the five spirals until another bud, the fourteenth is found directly above bud number one.

When a pineapple is formed hormones change the phyllotaxy from 5/13 of the leaves to 8/21 of the fruit. In normal fruit the number of rows of each type of spiral is constant, there being eight of the long gently sloping rows and thirteen of short steep ones.

The fruit hormones cuts out and the phyllotaxy changes from 8/21 of the fruit to 5/13 of the leaves abnormalities in fruit and top development, such as double fruit, fan tops, multiple tops are the results of irregularities in these hormone driven phyllotaxis change.

*From, [www.fcbs.org](http://www.fcbs.org) Believe It or Not*

# World Conference Registration Form

For the Chicago, My Kind of Town  
Sixteenth World Bromeliad Conference  
Of the Bromeliad Society International  
Hosted by The BSI & Bromeliad Society of Greater Chicago  
The Westin O'Hare, Rosemont, Illinois  
Aug. 10 to Aug. 15, 2004

\$130.00 July 1, 2003 to May 1, 2004 \$155.00 after May 1, 2004  
and at the door

Add \$15.00 if you are not a BSI voting member. (You do not  
currently pay dues and receive the Journal)  
Please print or type (We want to be able to reach you.)

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
Country \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Name on badges membership will be  
verified. \_\_\_\_\_

BSI Member Yes No

Name on badges membership will be  
verified. \_\_\_\_\_

BSI Member Yes No

Your BSI Affiliate (if  
applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Due \_\_\_\_\_  
Payment by check: Make check in US Dollars payable to WBC  
2004

Payment by Credit Card: Visa? Master Card? (circle one)

Account Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration  
Date \_\_\_\_\_ MM/YY

Your name as it appears on your CARD  
(print) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

All registration fees paid after July 1, 2002 and until May 1, 2004  
are 70% refundable.

After that no refund will be given (except in cases of illness or  
death)

Send to WBC 2004 c/o John Atlee, Membership Secretary, 1608  
Cardenas Dr. NE,  
Albuquerque, NM 87110-6628

## Bromeliad Society of Central Florida MEMBERSHIP FORM

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

NEW MEMBER ...

RENEWAL ...

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

City, \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip +4 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to receive the newsletter by email? \_\_\_\_\_

**\$10 for first member, plus \$2 per each additional family  
member at the same address.**

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to BSCF

MAIL TO:

**Bromeliad Society of Central Florida  
PO Box 536961  
Orlando, FL 32853-6961**

Treasurer: Date \_\_\_\_\_

Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Cash \_\_\_\_\_

The Bromeliad Society of Central Florida, Inc. was formed in 1972 to encourage the exchange of information concerning the culture, identification and hybridization of the plant family *Bromeliaceae*; to promote & maintain public interest in bromeliads and to assist in the preservation of all bromeliads for future generations.

Meetings are held the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of every month from 7-9 PM at Harry P. Leu Gardens, 1920 N. Forest Avenue in Orlando. For directions: 407.246.2620 or [www.leugardens.org](http://www.leugardens.org). You'll enjoy informative programs, Show & Tell, plant sales, refreshments & door prizes. Members also receive a monthly newsletter — all for only \$10 per member, plus \$2 per additional family member (no charge for full-time students). Visitors are always welcome.

**BSCF is a nonprofit Florida corporation recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations to this society are tax deductible in accordance with IRS regulations.**

BSCF is an affiliate of the Bromeliad Society International, Inc. and a member of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, Inc. and the Cryptanthus Society.

<b>President</b>	<b>Karen Andreas</b>	<a href="mailto:karen@fcbs.org">karen@fcbs.org</a>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Bob Stevens</b>	use address above to contact all officers
<b>Secretary,</b>	<b>Betty Salvas</b>	
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Betsy McCrory</b>	
<b>Librarians</b>	<b>Phyllis Baumer</b>	
	<b>Sudi Hipsley</b>	
<b>FCBS Reps</b>	<b>Karen Andreas</b>	
<b>Editor</b>	<b>Steven Wagner</b>	
<b>Printing &amp; Mailing</b>		

Permission to reprint is granted with acknowledgment.  
Please send all correspondence to the address below:



Bromeliad Society of Central Florida, Inc.  
PO Box 536961  
Orlando, FL 32853-6961  
*Address Correction Requested*

**January 2004**

**Next Meeting: Monday, January 26**

**Time:** 6:30 pm Refreshments  
7:00 pm Meeting begins

**Speaker:** George Aldrich

**Program:** Slide show of a trip to Peru

**Show & Tell:** All members

**Refreshments:** Last names beginning with **F -H**

**Raffle Plants:** All members



2004 is the year of the monkey on the Chinese Zodiac