



Orlandiana

Newsletter of the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida

Volume No. 32 Issue No. 01 January, 2006

Next Meeting: Monday, January 23, 2006

Where: Leu Gardens, 1920 N. Forest Ave. Orlando

6:30 PM Refreshments & Member Market

7:00 PM Meeting Begins

Dean Fairchild to Speak at January Meeting

This month's guest speaker is Dean Fairchild, a name well known to those who have been involved with bromeliads over the years. Dean has been growing and loving bromeliads for over 45 years and has continued doing so after having moved to Apopka from Miami in 2004. He is a Life Member of the Bromeliad Society International, Bromeliad Society of South Florida, and the Cryptanthus Society. He has worked to become a BSI Master Judge and is a past member of the BSI Board and past president of BSSF. His program this month will be on identifying common genera and has asked that members bring plants to the meeting for use in the program. It's a pleasure and an honor having someone with Dean's experience and background to take the time to spend an evening with us.

Membership Dues Are Due!

Membership dues for 2006 are now due. If you received a membership application in this newsletter please fill it out and return it with your dues. If not, your dues for 2006 are already paid. You don't want to miss a single issue of our excellent newsletter or any of the informative programs scheduled for the New Year. If you have any questions, please see or call the Treasurer Betsy McCrory. Work (407) 859-4390 or Home (407) 348-2139 after 7pm.

Phorid Fly

The South American phorid fly, *Pseudacteon*, is a highly specific, natural enemy of fire ants.

Because the Brazilian flies are natural enemies of fire ants in South America, Agricultural Research Service scientists brought the flies to this country. The scientists are hoping the flies will lower currently high fire ant densities to the levels normally found in South America.

Fire ants will do anything to resist attack by the tiny phorid fly measuring only about one-sixteenth of an inch. The flies swoop down on the ants and pierce their outer cuticle, depositing an egg inside the ant. The egg hatches into a larva within a day or two. Weeks later, a maggot has moved through the unlucky ant's neck into its head-and eaten the contents. The head falls off after an enzyme-made by ant or maggot (scientists don't know which)-dissolves its connecting tissue.

This and more information on the Phorid Fly maybe found at <http://www.ars.usda.gov>

Bob's Rambling

I've been the President of other organizations in my past but I have never had to provide a message. I'm sure I will not be as eloquent or informative at this as Karen has been, heck; I just hope to help Steven out and provide enough filler material for the newsletter. Anyway, it has been a fun past two years serving as the Vice President. It was a real challenge to find twenty-two programs that were interesting enough to bring people out to the meetings and not bore you with repetition. Gary has his hands full but he has already made me feel more comfortable by securing speakers and even planning field trips for us. I know I've said this before, but please help Gary out by giving him recommendations for programs or speakers that you would like to hear. I really want to thank Karen and Betsy for helping me along over the past two years. I was a charter member of the Caloosahatchee Society in the late 70's and I first joined the Central Florida Society in 1988 but I have never been very involved. I just came to meetings, listened to the speaker, ate the snacks and hoped to win some plants to take home. It just seemed like the time to get involved two years ago and they made it much easier. As a member of several organizations over the years, they are all the same. It is hard to find new people who are willing to take on responsibility in the organization. My basic goals for the next year are to make sure that people enjoy the meetings, that we are able to provide a learning atmosphere, and that we find some new people to replace the current officers and committee chairs. It is critical to any organization that it is able to bring in new members and encourage them to assist in some way, so don't be shy, just let us know that you are willing to help. Many thanks to Sudi, Phyllis, Kathy and Sue for your tireless efforts at every meeting, and huge thanks to Steven Wagner, our Newsletter Editor. Our Newsletter is the best that I have ever seen or read and he does it all so quietly and humbly. I hope you will all take the opportunity to thank him every time you see him. And if there is anything that you would like to see in the Newsletter please tell him, he would appreciate your input.

As all past President's have reminded you, the spring is a busy time for the Society; we will need your assistance for the Leu Gardens Plant Sale and the Mother's Day Show and Sale. There are lots of responsibilities to be handled, so volunteer, or when you are asked to help, jump up and down with youthful enthusiasm and say YES, YES.

Bob Stevens

**MINUTES OF MEETING
BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA**

November 28, 2005

President Karen Andreas called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. New Members Marty Folk and Jim Canterby were introduced.

Bob Stevens conducted Show and Tell.

Program: Jerry Steele, from Krull Smith Nursery and President of the Central Florida Orchid Society, gave an overview on growing orchids.

Break 7:45 to 8:10. Karen reconvened meeting at 8:10.

Old Business:

Minutes - There were no corrections or changes to the September Minutes. Motion to accept minutes was made and seconded, carried unanimously.

Betsy McCrory presented the Treasurer's Report \$483.44 in checking; \$12072.49 in the money market; \$35.00 cash on hand. There were no questions.

Election of Officers:

Due to Hurricane in October, we will elect officers this month. Nominations are: President, Bob Stevens; Vice President, Gary Signs; Treasurer, Betsy McCrory, Secretary, Karen Andreas. Request for further nominations from the floor, none made. The slate was unanimously accepted new officers to the positions.

Leu Garden Donation of \$900:

Karen reviewed past donations to the Gardens and informed society that Leu Gardens had submitted a wish list for a mirror for the demonstration kitchen here at the gardens. Leu Gardens will pay for the mounting. The mirrors cost \$900. Karen asked if there was any discussion before voting. A few members felt the money should be spent in a way to more directly benefit members of the society. A member felt we should help Leu Gardens because they do not have a head charge for the meetings and do not charge for parking. One member felt the society should definitely receive recognition for the donation. Motion passed to give Leu Gardens \$900, 20-11. It was voted to donate this time however in the future the society will look at spending money in ways which more directly benefit the society members.

New Business:

Holiday Party – Tuesday, December 20. Bromeliad sales for the next month were reviewed with some flyers available on back table.

Bob Stevens made motion to make Karen and Michael Andreas Life Time Members of Society. Their involvement has been extensive. Karen has served as BSCF president 1997, 2004- 2005, chairman of the Florida Council and editor of its newsletter, BSI director, Co-chair last Mother's Day Show; assisted on all the others. Michael is Web Master for BSCF, BSI board member and developed several data bases online, including the BSI Cultivar Registry. Motion passed by show of hands unanimously.

There was no other old business.

Announcements: 1. Thanks for Cake. 2. Russell Gregg will open his yard to members December 3, 2005 8-5 Saturday.

Bob Stevens conducted plant exchange. Note! Contact Christmas Party Panel to offer assistance.

Bob Stevens conducted door prize and raffle. 8:55 PM with no further business, Karen adjourned meeting.

Our Holiday Party Was a Success!

Thanks to everyone who brought delicious dishes and wonderful bromeliads for the exchange!

Thank you to Kathy Phinney, Sue Rhoads, Betsy McCrory, Phyllis Baumer and Pam Flesher for planning and setting up the party.





After-the-Cold-Care

By Karen Andreas

We've had our first round of seriously cold weather so now is a good time to talk about after-the-cold-care for bromeliads.

If you covered your bromeliads in freeze cloth, you can leave the cloth on for as long as is necessary. The bromeliads will still get air and light and moisture; the fabric of the freeze cloth will not damage any foliage. If you cover with plastic, make sure that the plastic does not touch any foliage as that can cause burn. As soon as the cold has passed, remove the plastic so your bromeliads do not bake.



You may notice foliage damage; it may be apparent immediately or it may take some time to show up. The leaves may look burned or very dry. Do not trim away any of the damage – it may help to insulate the leaf from further damage in the next cold snap. It will be some time before you know if your bromeliads have survived. Even if they are burned, in all likelihood, by spring you will have pups popping up. One phenomenon we have noticed in our yard: after a cold snap, we noticed that the centers of almost every *Ae. blanchetiana* appeared to have detached from the plant. We left them alone and by spring, the centers had reattached and new growth was coming up. So be patient and don't give up on bromeliads that appear to be damaged.

During the warmer months, we are very aware of our bromeliads' water needs. While it is not necessary to water as often as we do during July and August, the cooler air this time of year can dehydrate bromeliads, especially when conditions are windy. You want to water only when it is a sunny day and the leaves will dry before nightfall. Also, tree leaves can clog up the centers of bromeliads, absorbing water or preventing enough water from being maintained in the cups. An occasional flush with the garden hose can help. (Billbergias and oak leaves are a bad mix. As the oak leaves deteriorate, they will burn through the leaves, so it is especially important to keep Billbergias flushed clean.)

This time of year, refrain from thinning out bromeliads, removing pups or trimming any over story that provides protection. Be aware especially of the cold spots in your yard and where you need to provide extra protection (such as freeze cloth) from the cold or frost. It's good to stay on top of the weather and know the long-term forecasts for cold systems. During conditions like we just had, where temperatures preceding the cold snap were in the mid-70s and the days were sunny, give your bromeliads a thorough watering. The ground around them, when wet, will also absorb heat more readily. The bromeliad will be healthy and hydrated and better able to withstand the cold when it comes.

BSCF E-Mail List

An e-mail listing has been compiled from the available e-mails provided by the members. A test mailing was sent out several weeks ago; if you did not receive an e-mail "BSCF Membership Test Mailing" and wish to be added to the list please contact me, Gary Signs, via e-mail at gsignsorlando@hotmail.com. Hopefully this listing will be a help in notifying members of upcoming events that don't make it into the newsletter.

Mark Your Calendar

March 25-26, 2006

Harry P. Leu Gardens Spring Sale

April 22-23, 2006

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

June 6 - 11, 2006

Bromeliads on the Border

Bromeliad Society International

17th World Bromeliad Conference

Town and Country Resort & Convention Center

500 Hotel Circle North, San Diego, California 92108

Information at <http://bsi.org>.

September 30, 2006

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies' Bromeliad Extravaganza

Presented by the Bromeliad Society of South Florida

Miccosukee Resort and Convention Center, Miami

Bromeliads on the Border 17th World Bromeliad Conference

June 6-11, 2006

SEMINAR SPEAKERS

The following is the current list of speakers for the conference. This list is subject to change in the future. The current plan is for 6 talks on Friday, 6 on Saturday, and 2 on Sunday morning.

Speaker Name	Proposed Topic
Dennis Cathcart	????
Len Colgan	Bolivia
Bruce Holst	Venezuela
Peter Wong / Joe & Kay Quijada	Argentina
Phil Bunch	Columbia
Jeffery Kent	????
Tom Knapik / Grant Groves	Peru
Jogn Arden & David Shiigi	Vriesea Hybrids



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 4th 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. 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 an affiliate of the Bromeliad Society International, Inc. and a member of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, Inc. and the Cryptanthus Society.



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.

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January 2006

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6:30 PM Refreshments & Member Market
7:00 PM Meeting Begins
Speaker: Dean Fairchild
Topic: Identification of common genre
Please, bring plants to the meeting for examples in identification