



Orlandiana

Newsletter of the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida

Volume No. 30

Issue No. 02

February 2004

AECHMEA



Ae. aquilega



Ae pineliana



Ae. bromeliifolia

The genus *Aechmea* has the most diversity in form and inflorescences of all bromeliads. Size ranges from a few inches to nine feet in diameter (*Ae. conifera*); growth habit may be upright and tubular or an open rosette. Leaves may be soft or rigid; plain or scurfed; one solid color or bicolored; barred, striped, or mottled. The leaves of all species in this genus have teeth; however there are some spineless cultivars (such as 'Eileen', 'DeLeon', 'Frederike' and 'Maya').

Generally the inflorescence is on a long scape, although in some *Aechmeas* it does not rise above the throat of the bromeliad. The form of the inflorescence itself is varied: branched, cylindrical, or globular; erect or pendant. After blooming, the often long-lived inflorescence will produce berries; seeds are carried inside a gel-like substance.

This information compiled by Karen Andreas for the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida.

Photos courtesy of The Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, www.fcbs.org

Next Meeting: February 23

6:30 PM Refreshments

7:00 PM Meeting Starts

Where: Leu Gardens,

1920 N. Forest Avenue, Orlando, FL

Program: Aechmea: The Most Confused Genus

Speaker: Dr. Theresa Bert

About our program: Dr. Bert will be speaking about the very large and highly diverse genus of Aechmea. Because this genus is so large it is called the "garbage can" genus. Some taxonomists even want to divide it into up to 5 different genera. Be sure to attend this meeting and get the scope on this genus. If you have any flowering Aechmeas please bring them with you.

Terrie will have plants for sale from her greenhouse.

About our speaker: Dr. Theresa (Terrie) Bert is a Senior Research Scientist at the Florida Marine Research Institute where she directs the Biochemical Genetics Laboratory. She is also director of the Crustacean Research Program. She is a member of the Bromeliad Society International Board of Directors and Chair of their nominating committee. She is also an Internationally Accredited BSI Bromeliad Judge and a member of the Sarasota Bromeliad Society and the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society.

Refreshments

Last names beginning with J - N

Raffle Plants

All members

Door Prizes

All members

Minutes of Meeting Bromeliad Society of Central

Florida

January 26, 2004

The meeting was called to order by President Karen Andreas at 7:00 p.m.

Karen Andreas recognized the new officers for 2004, and welcomed new member Penny Bullard. Guests were introduced.

Bob Stevens and Karen Andreas led members in

presenting their Show and Tell items.

Bob Stevens introduced guest speaker, George Aldrich, who presented a beautiful slide show of his two-week trip to Peru with Grant and Magali Groves.

At 8:12, Karen Andreas announced the ten-minute break.

The Audit Committee has completed the 2003 audit in a timely manner. Many thanks to Sudi Hipsley and her committee, Eloise Beach and Jim Pearce, for a fine job.

The Treasurer's report for December reflects \$405.45 checking account balance, \$35.00 cash on hand, and \$14,606.21 money market account.

Leu Gardens Sale March 27 and 28. Eloise Beach has started some preliminary publicity for the sale. Eloise announced she may be out of the country at the time of the sale which would require a co-chair for the sale committee. Eloise will keep the officers advised regarding this trip. George Aldrich suggested the Society use a shade canopy at the sale this year and offered his canopy for that purpose. Sale rules will be in the newsletter.

Mothers' Day Sale - Betsy McCrory will have information regarding this sale at the next meeting.

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies Meetings - The President and Immediate Past President are supposed to represent our society at the FCBS meetings. Past President Herbert Henry is unable to attend, Karen Andreas asked the members to approve Treasurer, Betsy McCrory attending the meetings in Herbert's place. Helen Kwiat moved that Betsy McCrory attend the FCBS meetings; Ed Hall seconded the motion; and the membership unanimously approved Betsy McCrory's attendance at FCBS meetings instead of Herbert Henry.

Bylaws and Standing Rules - The bylaws and standing rules of BSCF will be reviewed and suggested changes will be presented to the membership for vote. Secretary Betty Salvas will chair the review committee. Members are asked to submit suggested changes and additions to Betty in writing via e-mail or at the next meeting.

Newsletter - The Orlandiana is now available on the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies' web site. Access at www.fcbs.org, or sign up to receive the newsletter directly by e-mail.

The evening's silent auction results were announced, door prizes were awarded and raffle tickets were drawn and prizes distributed.

There being no further business to come before the membership, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Salvas, Secretary

President's Message

Here's hoping that our winter weather is just about over and we can stop worrying about frost and freezes! We who live in Florida are lucky to enjoy an early spring, which is also the start of our busy bromeliad season. Our society is participating in the annual Leu Gardens Plant Sale, March 27 and 28. Eloise Beach will be updating us on the sale and asking for volunteers at this meeting. In May we have our annual Mothers Day Show and Sale, May 7, 8 and 9. It is not too early to start taking stock of your bromeliads and choosing the ones to groom for show and for sale. Both of these are important events for our society. Not only do they promote bromeliads and bring in new members, they also are wonderful opportunities for us to get together and enjoy our bromeliad enthusiasm with other.

One question that is frequently asked is where can you go to buy bromeliads? Your board of directors thought it would be a good idea to compile a list of bromeliad nurseries so our members know the best sources for these plants we love. If you know of any bromeliad nurseries, open to the public, let me know; the list will be published in the newsletter each month. You can email me at karen@fcbs.org.

Remember that your annual BSCF dues are now due. You can pay our treasurer Betsy McCrory at the meeting or mail your dues. The membership form is in the newsletter.

Last month we had a great program from George Aldrich who shared his adventures in South America, through slides and entertaining stories. This month, Dr. Terrie Bert returns with her excellent and informative program on Aechmeas. Please join us for another fun evening, talking bromeliads.

Karen Andreas

For Those Feeling a Little Wilted and Under the Bench

Get well cards were sent to Dorothy Mahler and to Homer Mann, both of whom were at our meeting in January but were recovering from being sick. A get well card also went to Melissa Taylor.

Greenhouse Program for the May Meeting

Program Coordinator Bob Stevens is looking for members who would be willing to participate in a greenhouse program for the May 24th. meeting. Members who have an interesting greenhouse that they would like to show off or who have gone through the building process and have good information to pass on to the Society. This would be a general session on types of greenhouses, building process, maintenance and operation, and associated costs. After a slide show there would be a round table question and answer period. If you would like to participate in some way, you can contact me via karen@fcbs.org.

Member Market Sales

Starting with the April 26th meeting the Society will allow members to bring in bromeliads for sale or trade at the meeting. One of our biggest concerns is that the sales corner does not interfere with the meeting. If it proves to be a problem then we will cancel the Market. Here are the rules. The Market will take place from 6:30 until 6:55, strictly. No sales after the meeting starts. A member can only bring twelve (12) plants for sale or trade. Sellers should bring a plant or plants to donate to the raffle table. Plants should be pest free and labeled. The Member Market will only be conducted on meeting nights where the speaker is not selling plants so watch your newsletter for notice. Questions or recommendations should be submitted to Bob Stevens.

2004 World Bromeliad Conference Volunteers Needed!

Volunteers are needed to help out at the World Bromeliad Conference this summer in Chicago. If you are planning to attend, think about being a part of this great bromeliad event and donating some of your time.

Help is needed for the sales area and also for security, for those times when the sales area is open. If you are interested in volunteering, for these jobs or for anything else, contact Jack Reilly at jar56@dtnspeed.net.

[Excerpt From:] Searching For Glorious Guzmanias

By: Mulford B. Foster

Racine and I made it a collecting goal when we spent six months in Colombia in 1946. We looked far and wide for a favorable spot around Ocana, where Wallis had found it and where he had lost his life, in search of this *Guzmania musaica*, but the mountains, once a lush jungle were now nude and dry. From one section to another we went by horseback, by truck and on foot. For days we searched and finally gave up. To add to the difficulties involved, a precious book of Traveler's Checks joggled out of my pocket while wrestling with the horse over a steep trail. Or they may have been lost when I climbed up into a tree using the horse's back to reach the first limb where lodged a bromeliad. My horse did not seem to approve of this effort and sauntered off just as I was dangling in mid-air. Finally, I was able to take a specimen of *Aechmea pubescens* from high up in the tree and then spent five frantic minutes beating

off hundreds of frantic, disturbed ants which literally covered me; possibly it was there that I lost our very much needed Traveler's Checks whose absence was discovered only much later. In disappointment that day we gave up hopes of finding the coveted *G. musaica*.

Two weeks later, however, on our way to the oil fields, we spied a tree trunk covered with just what we were looking for, *G. musaica*, but it was at dusk and we dared not linger, then, along the way as the fierce Motilone Indians haunted this area making it unsafe to be out even in the day time, not to mention after dark. All windows and doors in the cabins were covered with hardware cloth to prevent arrows from entering. All night I dreamed of those plants; at six in the morning I rushed out into the jungle and found the tree I had seen the day before. There, like a feast awaiting the hungry, were ten beautiful plants of *G. musaica* encircling the tree trunk in a spiral vine-like rhythm on their long stolons . . . and they were in flower! It was a rewarding sight, well worth all the discomforts and disappointments of the miles of dangerous searching.

[Taken from Journal of the Bromeliad Society -
Volume 7, Number 1]



Photo courtesy of Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies
www.fcbs.org

Welcome New Members

Penny Bullard
June Pulliam
Sandra L. Volpe

LEU GARDENS PLANT SALE

MARCH 27 – 28 Saturday & Sunday
9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Both Days
Leu Members Early Preview: Saturday 8 - 9 a.m.
FREE ADMISSION & FREE PARKING

Numerous plant societies and commercial gardening exhibitors participate in this annual event at Leu Gardens. It is really much more than a Plant Sale.

For many years our society has purchased a booth at this event. We have a bromeliad sale and sign up new members. We also distribute information about bromeliads, answer questions and have a lot of fun. Plan now to support your society. Get to know your fellow BSCF members and add some new plants to your collection. TROPIFLORA (Sarasota) will also be selling bromeliads!

HELP NEEDED: Sign up at the February or March meetings or contact Eloise Beach. **We need workers to sell & bag plants (easy- no experience required), to answer simple questions about our club & bromeliads, and to operate the cash register.** Save bags & boxes for packing plants. We usually need extra help on Saturday morning.

If you want to sell extra bromeliads from your collection, you must sign up by the March meeting. 25% of your gross sales will be deducted as a donation to BSCF. You will have to work a minimum of 4 hours and bring your own table, if you want one. Your bromeliads must be properly labeled, clean, in good condition, and be free from insects or disease. **NO SCALE!** Plants will be inspected by the Florida Dept. of Agriculture. Potted plants should be well rooted. You may also sell mounted or bare root plants. Set up is usually on Friday afternoon. **Copies of the official Sale Rules will be available at the February meeting and will be published in the March newsletter.**

Any questions? Contact: Eloise Beach at FloridaPRO@aol.com

Baking With Bromeliads

Honey Mustard Chicken

1 can (20 oz) pineapple slices in juice
4 boneless, skinless chicken breast halves
Salt and pepper to taste
2 large cloves garlic, pressed
1 t. thyme, crumbled
2 t. vegetable oil
1 T. cornstarch
¼ cup honey
¼ cup Dijon mustard

Drain pineapple, reserve juice.

Sprinkle chicken with salt and pepper to taste. Rub with garlic and thyme. Brown in hot oil in nonstick skillet.

Combine 2 T. reserved juice with cornstarch.

Combine honey and mustard. Stir into skillet with remaining juice. Spoon sauce over chicken. Cover, simmer for 15 minutes.

Stir cornstarch mixture into pan juices. Add pineapple. Cook, stirring until sauce boils and thickens.

Serves 4.

Bylaws and Standing Rules Review

The Review Committee, consisting of Betty Salvas, Bob Stevens and Lee Missavage, is presently updating the Bylaws and Standing Rules of BSCF. We need your input. Please send your suggested changes, additions and/or deletions to Betty Salvas before February 27, via Karen@fcbs.org.

Mark Your Calendar

March 27-28

LEU GARDENS PLANT SALE

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.

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 July 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**

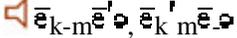
Treasurer: Date _____

Check # _____

Cash _____

aechmea

SYLLABICATION: aech·me·a

PRONUNCIATION:  ək-mē'ə, ək'mē'ə

NOUN: Any of various tropical American bromeliads of the genus *Aechmea*, grown indoors for their attractive, often patterned leaves and showy bracts.

ETYMOLOGY: New Latin, from Greek *aikhmḗ*, point of a spear.

Aechmea

By Penrith Goff, S.E. Michigan Bromeliad Society

Established as a genus 1794. Now divided into 8 subgenera. Given the name because of the characteristically sharp points of the bracts covering the flower buds and of the sepals (*Aechmea*, from Greek *aichme* "spear tip"). Comprises nearly 200 species.

HABITAT: Grows epiphytically in the rain forests of Brazil and neighboring countries. Also grows on rock and as a terrestrial. Some grow in dry areas. **CULTURE:** Some species flourish in full sun, others in deep shade. Can tolerate dry periods (because of impounded water) but they do enjoy humidity and regular watering. Many of these grow well on rock (the stolons grow roots along the entire length).

CHARACTERISTICS:

Form: leaf rosette ranges from a narrow tube to a widely flaring vase.

Leaves: toothed; often marked with cross-banding or patterned spotting, ends are rounded but with a sharp tooth at the middle.

Bracts covering flowering scape vividly colored (red, pink, orange)

Inflorescence: Wide range of form: cylindrical, cone-like, panicle; upright or pendant.

Flowers: small, ball-shaped even when open, opening small; flowers sometimes appear not to be open.

Petals have two small flaps at the base.

Fruits: berries form beneath the flowers. Berries (sometimes very colorful) may last several months.

What's in the name? Names referring to:

entire plant: *gracilis*, "delicate," *miniata* "small"

leaves: *angustifolia* "narrow-leaved," *dealbata* "dusted with white," *fasciata* "barred," *recurvata* "bent or curved back," *triangularis*, "triangular", *zebrina*, "zebra-like stripes."

bracts: *bracteata* "having bracts," *ornata* "decorated" (refers to intense red bracts)

inflorescence: *coelestis* "bluish" (i.e. the flower), *cylindrata* "cylindrical", *distichantha* "flowers in two rows" *filicaulis* "threadlike stems," *fulgens* "glowing" (in this case, red), *gamosepala* "sepals fused together," *nudicaulis*, "naked stem", *penduliflora*, "pendent flower"

Names denoting similarity to other plants: *bambusoides*, *bromeliifolia*, *nidularioides*, *tillandsioides*

Name Change: recently the genus *Streptocalyx* (18 species) was reclassified as *Aechmea*. The name *streptocalyx* is no longer in use.

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 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.

President	Karen Andreas	karen@fcbs.org
Vice President	Bob Stevens	Use the above address to contact officers
Secretary,	Betty Salvas	
Treasurer	Betsy McCrory	
Librarians	Phyllis Baumer	
	Sudi Hipsley	
FCBS Reps	Karen Andreas	Karen@fcbs.org
Editor	Steven Wagner	
Printing & Mailing		

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Please send all correspondence to the address below:



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

February 2004

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

Speaker: Dr. Theresa Bert

Program: Aechmea: The Most Confused Genus

Show & Tell: All members

Refreshments: J - N

Raffle Plants: All members



In the Gregorian calendar, 97 years out of every 400 are leap years.