



# Orlandiana

Newsletter of the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida

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**Next Meeting:** Monday, February 26, 2007

**Refreshments:** A - H

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

**This Month's Speaker:**

**This Month's Program:**

**Time:** 6:30pm Refreshments

**NO Member Market**

7:00pm Meeting begins

## **This Months Program: "Tillandsias in the Wild" by Dennis Cathcart**

BSCF hasn't had the privilege of a Dennis visit for many years so don't miss this meeting. He will be bringing many of his plants for sale. If you never get a chance to visit his Tropiflora nursery in Sarasota then this is your chance to make some purchases.

Dennis has traveled to more than 25 countries collecting rare species of plants. In the process he has had broken bones and been hit by a falling boulder. While sweet-talking his way past border patrols and head-hunters in Borneo, he also discovered many new plant species. Dennis won the Wally Berg Award of Excellence in 2002 and is the first recipient after Wally himself. This award recognizes growers for their Bromeliad expertise and diversity of species cultivated, their activities in the community, and their advancement of Bromeliad sciences.

## **President's Message**

Thank you to everyone that came to our Jan. meeting. We had some new members and guests present. The guest Speaker was Jason Mellica. His subject was on Bromeliad Hybrids and he had many plants to sell and show. Mr. Mellica presented a Very Good Program. The raffle, silent auction and door prize tables were all stocked with plenty of plants. Magali Groves volunteered to chair the Leu Garden Plant Sale. Thank you Magali. We will need many helpers, please volunteer to help with the sale on March 24 & 25. Your new board of directors had their first meeting in January; we have many interesting programs in the works for this year. I received many compliments on our newsletter. Many thanks to our editor Steven Wagner. Food items are always appreciated and thanks to Kathy for setting up and maintaining the food table. See you at the next meeting on February 26. Please bring in plants for the raffle, silent auction and to show. Every member's participation makes for a better society.

Thank you,  
Butch Force  
President

## **Minutes of the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida January 22, 2007 Regular Meeting**

The meeting was called to order at 7:10pm by President Butch Force. All new officers for 2007 were present which included Vice President, Neal Ekengren; Treasurer, Rick Rector and Secretary, Daniel Almaguer.

Membership dues were collected to begin the new fiscal year and all renewals are due this month. Dues are \$10 for the first member plus \$2 per additional family member at the same address. Make checks payable to BSCF. Please send your membership dues to The Bromeliad Society of Central Florida, P O Box 536961, Orlando FL 32853-6961 or pay in person at the next BSCF meeting.

The guest speaker for the evening was Jason Mellica whom has created over 50 Neoregelia cultivars in the last 12 years. Jason has degrees in Botany and Horticulture from the University of Florida and worked as an intern at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens. He has used choice hybrids from Grant Groves, Chester Skotak, and Jim Irvin. Jason is concentrating on producing stoloniferous plants with the colors and patterns of cultivars from these hybrids. Jason described the fascinating process of collecting bromeliad seeds that look like tiny pieces of pepper and described the pollination of bromeliads. He explained out of growing 50 to 100 seedlings only 1 to 2 bromeliad plants will be worth keeping. Every new hybrid bromeliad pattern is studied to see which one is the best and the single best bromeliad can be propagated from one bromeliad plant. Finally after the bromeliad with the desired characteristics has been created, tissue cultures are used to mass produce or clone this bromeliad plant. The process may take up to three years to complete and must be registered with Derek Butcher in Australia. Some of Jason's new cultivars include Neo. 'Tigershark, Neo. 'Lorax, Neo. 'Cat in the Hat', Neo. 'Levitation, Neo. 'Clingon', Neo. 'Faser', Neo. 'Pattis Aurora' (named after his mom).

Break from 7:45 to 8:00

The members thanked Betsy McCrory for all she did last year for the society. (Note: Betsy was presented with a plaque at the Holiday/Christmas Party for many years of dedicated service to BSCF).

Betsy McCrory gave the treasurer's report for November & December 2006. Total assets are \$10,798.60.

Grant Groves described the Show & Tell plants. New members and visitors were introduced.

### **Old Business:**

Magali Groves volunteered to Chair the Leu Gardens Plant Sale, March 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, 2007. She took a count of how many members plan on selling at the show. She also sent around a list for members to volunteer to help set up the sell area and to help sell on Saturday and Sunday. Remember Leu Gardens is NOT supplying tables or chairs but will be supplying electricity. If you want to sell at Leu Gardens please contact Magali.

The Society needs to have two representatives attend the Florida Council meetings this year. Betsy McCrory and Butch Force were nominated. Carroll Holland made the motion and Sue Rhoads seconded, motion carried. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the Florida Council please see Betsy or Butch.

**New Business:**

The Society needs a Show Chair for the Mother's Day Show. Please contact one of the board members if you are interested. Betsy McCrory gave a brief description on some of the duties.

Betsy McCrory discussed this years Extravaganza. It is being put on by the Bromeliad Society of Broward County and will be held at the Airport Hilton Hotel in Ft Lauderdale on September 29, 2007. When making your reservations be sure to say that you are with the Extravaganza. Rooms will be \$89. This is a mini bromeliad conference with great plant sales, rare plant auction, seminars, raffles, and a banquet. More information will be in the Council Newsletter which will be coming out soon.

Betsy also told the membership about a book that has been offered to the Florida Council for distribution to the United States from Australia. It is a paperback book for beginners with great plant information, cultural information and beautiful pictures. Butch Force has placed an order with the council for 100 books. They should be here in a few months and will cost between \$18-\$25. The Societies that are part of the Florida Council will get the first issues.

**Announcements:**

Steve DeCresie of Sanford Zoo is looking for bromeliad donations to help the zoo get a botanical garden certification.

The Master Gardener's Plant Sale in Orlando will be held on Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at the NEW Cooperative Extension Service office on South Conway Road.

The silent auction winners were announced, door prizes and raffle plants were drawn.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Daniel Almaguer, Secretary

**Thank You**

Thanks to Betsy McCrory for contributing many fine specimens to last months raffle table.

**Welcome New Members**

Hank & Barbara Whittier



***Tillandsia crocata* flowers have a strong fragrance.**

**Photo courtesy of fcbs.org**

San Jose, the capital of Costa Rica, lies on a plain between two high mountain ranges, and flying over them you get a good view of these mountains while keeping your fingers crossed that the landing isn't as perilous as it looks. At the end of the dry season you can see a lot of brown down below, caused partly by the clearing of the forested slopes as well as the lack of rain.



Costa Rica is one of the most advanced Latin American countries, but unfortunately the laws are not necessarily enforced and the result is oppressive pollution from vehicles, destruction of rainforests and heavy logging of valuable timber. San Jose has some lovely old colonial buildings, parks, and plazas, but the potholed roads and crumbling sidewalks, crowds and pollution detract from the city's charms. A sudden invitation to spend a few days with Chester Skotak outside the city was like a lifeline, and we grabbed the chance.

Chester's nursery, Duraflor, is located about an hour's drive north of San Jose. At 3000 feet the air is cool and fresh; the days are warm, the nights cool enough for a couple of blankets. His house is built on eleven acres of steep mountainside. When Chester acquired the property, it was a coffee farm. He cleared the land and replanted with hundreds of native trees that are now tall enough to provide the



canopy that birds and butterflies need. We saw dozens of birds, including the blue-crowned motmot (*Momotus momota*), a very beautiful bird with iridescent green and blue feathers, and a long "racket" tail. There is a spring at the top of the property that Chester has routed down the slope

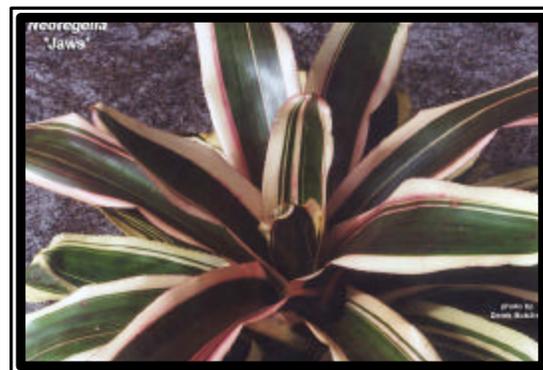
↑**Neo. 'Annick'** into a pond behind the house, the continuing into the valley. The birds and butterflies obviously appreciate this source of water. A brick pathway winds up the slope behind the house, perfect for early morning bird watching. Chester and Lorena's house is large and airy, and accommodates their five children and visitors easily. The walls are almost all windows. The guestroom, on the second floor, is surrounded by windows on three sides. There at dawn we saw the motmot up close, three or four feet away.

Chester Skotak is of course famous for his bromeliad hybrids, and we spent a lot of time in his nurseries oohing and aahing over his crosses. Most bromeliad hobbyist are familiar with his neoregelia hybrids, such as cultivars of *Neoregelia carolinae* x Fireball (Annick, Nonis, Little Debbie, etc.), cultivars of *Neoregelia (carolinae) x concentrica* (Chirripo, Sybil Jane, Jonathan), cultivars of *Neoregelia carolinae* x Painted Lady (Imperfecta, Morado), cultivars of *Neoregelia carolinae* x *carcharodon* (Jaws, Gummy, Grey Nurse, Yin, and Yang), and other well know names like Milagro, Pimiento, Dorothy, Mosquito, Lorena, Orange Crush, Sherba, Ultima, and Zacate. These are the glamour plants sold by TropiFlora and Paul DeRoose that flourish in Florida's landscapes. But the real business of Duriflor is guzmania and aechmea hybrids, and the beautiful crosses and species on display in the greenhouses stunned us. Among the guzmanias were tall ones, short ones, vibrant reds and oranges, delectable pinks of every hue. There were different clones of many species used in the crosses; for example every shade of *Guzmania witmackii*, *squarrosa*, *musaica*, and *lingulata*. Spineless *Aechmea fasciata* hybrids had enormous inflorescences in shocking pink and vivid reds.



↑**Neo. 'Milagro'** patented and released. All the guzmania and aechmea hybrids are for the European market. In the United States, the neoregelia hybrids, available from TropiFlora or Paul DeRoose, reign supreme.

The history of the variegated neoregelias is different. Chester acquired a group of variegated Meyendorffii neoregelias from Dennis Cathcart almost two decades ago. After making many crosses, Chester found a plant that passed the variegation on to its progeny. Dennis collected several thousand



↑**Neo. 'Jaws'** of the variegated neoregelia seedlings and took them back to TropiFlora to sell, which explains why so many of us have Skotak hybrids which look quite different even though they have the same parentage. For his part, Chester continued with his hybrid work, selecting desirable clones from both Dennis' and his own collections to work with. Of course, species continue to play an integral role in the creation process and recent hybrids have been made with *N. olens*, Fireball, *pendula*, and *eleutheropetala*.

This article first appeared in the May 2000 issue of The Bromeliadvisory, newsletter of the Bromeliad Society of South Florida. All photos courtesy of fcbs.org.

## **Out and About with Pam Flesher**

### **March 13**

#### **Update on the Invasive Bromeliad Weevil *Metamasius callizona***

Teresa Cooper, Department of Entomology, University of Florida  
Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, 900 South Palm Ave., Sarasota

Time: 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Teresa has been working at Myakka River State Park and other locations in Florida studying the effects of this harmful weevil on our native bromeliads. You will not want to miss this important session on the consequences of this silent invader. Contact: Donna Krabill, Phone: 941.366.5731, Extension 237  
Email: dkrabill@selby.org

### **March 15 - 18**

#### **Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society**

"Everybody's Flower Show" at the Ocean Center in Daytona Beach.

Standard judged flower show, horticultural displays. Many vendors selling garden related items. Hours:

Thursday thru Saturday 10:00 am to 6:00 pm, Sunday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Admission: \$5.00, children under 12 free.

### **March 17 & 18**

#### **Plant and Garden Festival**

Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, 900 South Palm Ave., Sarasota

Hours: 10:00 am to 5:00 pm both days.

Collector's choice plant fair, as well as select Selby Gardens' plants for sale.

Admission: \$6.00, children 12 and under \$3.00, and children under five free.

www.selby.org or Phone: (941) 366-5731

### **March 18**

#### **Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society**

#### **Blossom World Gardens Annual Bromeliad Bonanza**

4225 Bloom Lane, Sanford. Plant displays and plant sales.

Hours: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm Free admission Call 321-363-7351.

### **March 24 & 25**

#### **Bromeliad Society of Central Florida**

Harry P. Leu Gardens Annual Plant Sale

1920 North Forest Avenue, Orlando (407) 246-2620 or [www.leugardens.org](http://www.leugardens.org)

Hundreds of beautiful plants and garden related items for sale.

Hours: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Free admission

### **March 24 & 25**

#### **Gainesville Bromeliad Society**

**Spring Garden Festival** in Kanapaha Botanical Gardens

4700 SW Archer Road (SR 24) 1 mile west of Interstate 75,

exit 384, Gainesville Call: 352-372-4981 or <http://www.kanapaha.org>

Hours: Saturday 9:00 am to 6:00 pm, Sunday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

### **March 31**

#### **Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society at the Master Gardener Sale**

Volusia County Fairgrounds, 3100 East New York Ave, Deland

(Just off I-4 on the south side at the Deland exit)

Hours: 8:30 am to 12 noon Free admission & parking

Lots of plants, garden accessories, books and a silent auction.

## What is Wrong with My Bromeliads?

My *Tillandsia grandis* has **sympodial** (growth in which each new shoot, springing from the rhizome of the previous growth is complete in itself and terminates in a potential inflorescence) **dichotomy** (having divisions always in pairs, divide into two parts, classes, or groups).

My poor ole *Pitcairnia pusilla* has been diagnosed to be **annual-hapaxanthic** (having a single flowering period, and then dying).

Poor sad *Puya raimondii* is **pluriennial-hapaxanthic** (having several – see above).

My nice *Neoregelia ampullacea* has a **sympodial-monochasial** (single color) **dichotomy** (see above).

The dichotomy of my *Tillandsia capitata* is **basitonal** (away from the base).

My usually hardy *Tillandsia usneoides* have **brachyblasts** (inflorescence produced from short shoots).

My beautiful *Tillandsia bulbosa* is **ageotropic** (anti-gravity pattern of growth).

That crazy *Tillandsia caput-medusae* has a problem of **myrmecology** (ants).

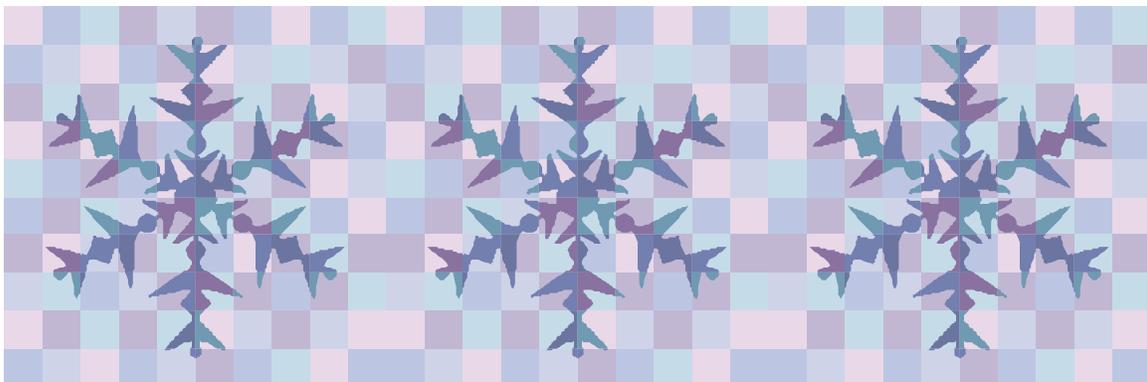
The first runner of my *Vriesea espinosae* grows **plagiotropically** (having the longer axes of roots or branches slanting from the vertical line), with **cataphyllic** (small scaly leaves covering stolons that often die when mature but remain as a tough indumentums) leaves.

My cute *Tillandsia crocata* shows **distichous** (arranged in two opposite rows) **phyllotaxis** (arrangements of leaves or branches on a stem).

The flowers of some of my billbergias are slightly **zygomorphic** (divisible into two similar halves in one plane only...said of an irregular flower in which the parts are not alike) because of twisting of the **perianth** (the floral envelope taken as a whole consisting of the calyx [sepals] and corolla [petals] tube.

PLEASE CAN ANYTHING BE DONE? WHAT SHALL I DO? WHO CAN HELP?

This article is by Bill Timm and gene McKenzie and was printed in the February 1998 Caloosahatchee Meristem, Newsletter of the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society and was edited by Roger Lane of the Bromeliad Society of San Francisco.



**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 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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## February 2007

**Next Meeting: Monday, February 26, 2007**

**Time:** 6:30pm Refreshments

**NO Member Market,**

**Dennis will be selling plants**

7:00pm Meeting begins

**Refreshments: A - H**

**This Months Program:**

**"Tillandsias in the Wild"**

**By Dennis Cathcart**