

# Orlandiana

Newsletter of the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida

Volume No. 31

Issue No. 04

April 2005

Next Meeting: Monday, April 25, 2005

6:30 pm Refreshments, Members A - F

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

7:00 pm Meeting Starts

Member Market This Month 6:30-6:55

## **30<sup>th</sup> Annual Mothers Day Weekend**

### **Show and Sale**

**May 6-8**

**New location!**

**Orlando Fashion Square Mall**

**3201 East Colonial Drive (SR 50)**

**Friday-Saturday 10:00-9:00**

**Sunday 11:00-6:00**

This is our weekend for fun and bromeliad fellowship! Plan on spending some time with your fellow members during this Mothers Day Weekend!

Set up is on Thursday night. Come to the mall at 9:00 PM to help set up, bring your sale plants and enter your bromeliads into the judged show. Judging starts promptly on Friday morning; notify one of the show chairmen 24 hours in advance if your entry will be late.

The Show Schedule (show rules), Plant Sale Rules and entry tags will be available for you on Monday night. Monday night also is the deadline for letting us know if you will be selling.

Your help is needed for the set up and for the sales and show areas throughout the weekend. Sign-up sheets will be at the meeting on Monday night.

The year, two dozen awards will be presented to the bromeliad show winners. You can be a show sponsor by sponsoring an award (no limit!) for a minimum of \$15 each. Your donation will defray the society's expenses for the show and provide a nice award. Send your award sponsorship to BSCF, P.O. Box 536961, Orlando, FL 32853-6961, or bring it Monday night. Your generous contribution will be noted on the Show Sponsor sign at the Mall as well as acknowledged in our newsletter.

This is our biggest fund raising event of the year, one that allows us to continue to support activities and organizations such as the BSI, the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies and Harry P. Leu Gardens. We also get new members from this show and sale – and we get the best bromeliad prices in town!

Thank you for your help!

## Show Committee Chairmen

**Chairman:** Betsy McCrory and Karen Andreas  
**Awards:** Karen Andreas  
**Classification:** Michael Andreas  
**Clerks:** John Boardman  
**Entries:** Pam Flesher  
**Host/Hostess:** Society Members

**Judges:** George Aldrich  
**Placement:** Bob Stevens  
**Plant Sale:** Ron and Carolyn Schoenau  
**Publicity:** Karen Andreas  
**Schedule:** Karen Andreas  
**Security:** John Hiatt

### Be a Show Sponsor!

Each year at our annual Mothers Day weekend show, awards are presented for the winning bromeliads. You can be a show sponsor by sponsoring an award (no limit!) for a minimum of \$15 each. Your donation will defray the society's expenses for the show and provide a nice award. Send your award sponsorship to BSCF, P.O. Box 536961, Orlando, FL 32853-6961, or bring it Monday night. Your generous contribution will be noted on the Show Sponsor sign at the Mall as well as acknowledged in our newsletter.

Help our bromeliad society by becoming an award(s) sponsor today!

## President's Message

The Bromeliad Season is in full swing as we move into May – already! Of course our big event is our annual show and sale on Mothers Day weekend. I encourage you all to enter your bromeliads in the show and enjoy the friendly competition with your bromeliad friends. The success of this event, our most important fund- and membership-raising event, depends on your support and help. You are needed to help with the set up, as well as with the show and sale throughout the weekend. Sign up sheets will be available at this month's meeting. Show award sponsors are still needed – more information on how to sponsor an award is in this issue.

You will be able to get the Show Schedule (show rules) and Plant Sale Rules as well as the entry tags on Monday night.

The weekend after our show, treat yourself with a trip to Russell's Bromeliads in Sanford. We have been invited to go with two other societies, Seminole, and Florida East Coast. Let's get together for a visit to a wonderful Tillandsia nursery, followed by lunch on the river. See the announcement, also in this issue.

See you on Monday night!  
Karen Andreas

## This Month's Program: How to Dress Your Plants for the Show

Pam Flesher, John Boardman and Karen Andreas will present a workshop on getting your bromeliads ready for our upcoming show. Bring your questions and your plants, if you like, and learn how to clean, pot and groom your bromeliads for show.

The meeting was called to order by president Karen Andreas at 7:00 PM. Karen introduced new members Sue Price, Jay Maxwell, Steve Abele and Carol Hirvi.

Steven Wagner and Shawn Shamrock conducted the Show and Tell.

Dottie Mahler showed members several products that are available for protecting arms and hands from thorny bromeliads. She had a set of sleeves, heavier arm guards and soft leather gloves, all at very reasonable prices. If anyone is interested in buying this protective gear, contact Dottie.

Karen introduced BSCF member and long time bromeliad grower John Russell. John's mother, Mrs. Catherine Russell, also was present. John gave an informative program on growing *Tillandsias* and the various ways to mount and display them. He also gave an overview of growing from seed, describing the methods he has had most success with. John was warmly received and the members really appreciated his program.

The members then took a break at 8:10; the meeting was reconvened at 8:25. Members enjoyed a cake in honor of Nancy and Ed Hall, BSCF Life members, who are moving to Georgia.

Betty Salvas made the motion to approve the minutes as published; Sue Rhoads seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Betsy McCrory presented the Treasurer's report. With disbursements of \$393.89 and income of \$340.00, the total assets are \$12,651.82.

Karen reported that the Leu Gardens Sale was a successful event. She thanked everyone who sold bromeliads as well as those who helped out. Eloise Beach was thanked for arranging for tents to be loaned for the weekend so the sales table and cash register were covered. Betsy reported that the receipts from the sale totaled \$6687.14; total profit to the society, after the vendors were paid, was \$1401.86.

Karen and Betsy also reported on the upcoming Mothers Day Show and Sale. The chairmen for the committees are in place: Show Chairman - Betsy McCrory and Karen Andreas; Awards and ribbons - Karen Andreas; Classification - Michael Andreas; Clerks - John Boardman; Entries - Pam Flesher; Hospitality - Everyone; Judges - George Aldrich; Placement - Bob Stevens; Publicity - Karen Andreas; Sales - Ron and Carolyn Schoenau; Security - John Hiatt; Show schedule - Karen Andreas. The entry tags and show schedules are now available. See Karen to get them. Members will be needed for set up on Thursday night as well as for working throughout the weekend. Sign up sheets will be available at the next meeting. Karen also announced that show awards sponsors are needed. Sponsorship of an award costs \$15; a sign will be posted with the names of supporters. Let Karen or Betsy know by April 25 if you intend to sell.

Under new business, Karen told members that the Mexican bromeliad weevil is now on Merritt Island in Brevard; that puts the weevil to the south of Orange County in Osceola and even closer to the east. She asked everyone to remain vigilant and to take care where they get their bromeliads.

Next month, the new membership roster will be available as well as an inventory of our library, compiled by Sudi Hipsley.

The April program will be the annual workshop on how to clean and prepare your bromeliads for the show. The workshop will be conducted by John Boardman, Pam Flesher and Karen Andreas.

Karen pulled the tickets for the door prizes and raffle plants; there was no silent auction.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Andreas



*Guzmania sanguinea* var. *brevipedicellata* Shown by Jackie Johnson  
 14th World Bromeliad Conference, San Francisco, California June 26 - July 5, 2000

# Gorgeous Guzmanias

By Karen Andreas

Named for naturalist Anastasio Guzman, the genus *Guzmania* was first described in 1802. Its range extends from Florida, the West Indies, and Central America to Brazil but is mainly found in Columbia, Ecuador, Costa Rica and Panama. When Padilla wrote about *Guzmania* species in 1973, she lamented that, “despite their beauty and desirability, comparatively few are to be found in cultivation.” Twenty-one years later, Baensch made the same

observation. While we are all familiar with the eye-catching good looks of *Guzmania* hybrids, it is worth taking a look at the species, which are, of course, the sources for these man-made beauties.

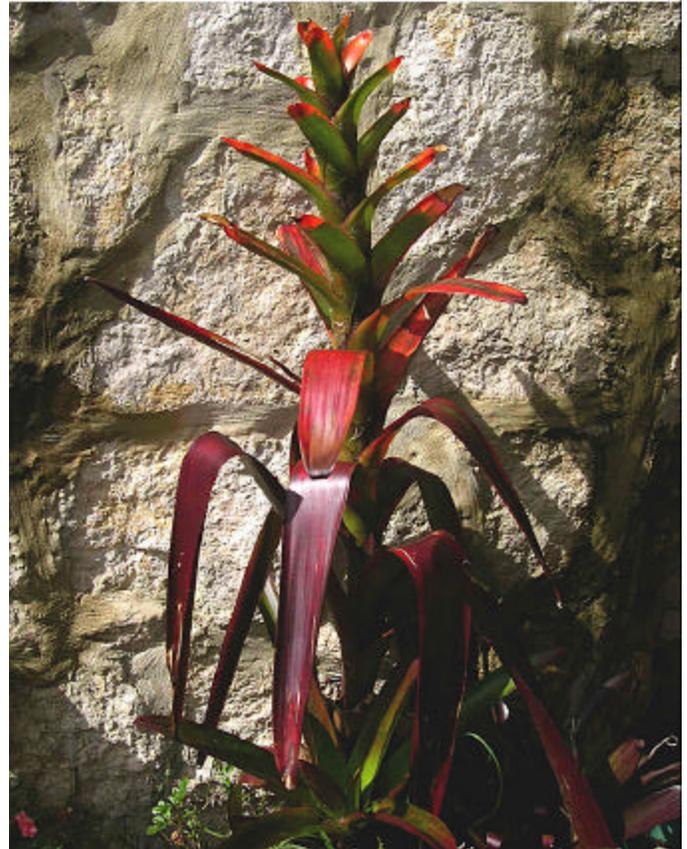
*Guzmania* is found in the damp and shady habitat of rainforests where it generally grows epiphytically (as an air plant) in trees and bushes. Larger species mostly grow as terrestrials (in the ground) on the rainforest and jungle floors. *Guzmanias* have smooth leaves – no spines – and the leaves grow upright to form a water tank. Baensch notes, “Fine reddish brown longitudinal stripes are particularly obvious at the bases of the leaves and typical for many species of this genus.”



*Guzmania lingulata*  
 var. *minor*  
 Ecuador

1995 Ecuador  
 © Wally Berg

*Guzmania gloriosa* in habitat, Bogota Colombia cloud forest photo by Ignacio Moreno



(This is often a defining characteristic that distinguishes *Guzmania* from *Vriesea* when not in bloom.) The bracts are often brightly colored with shades ranging from yellow to orange to flaming red with flowers that are generally white or yellow. The inflorescence is especially long lived, making *Guzmania* and its cultivars so popular for the interiorscape.

Do not over-pot these bromeliads. Use a shallow pot just a bit larger than the existing root ball. The potting mix should be well draining but still retain some moisture. These bromeliads especially do not want wet feet in the winter because this can lead to rot. During winter, water plants early in the day. Not only can watering late lead to wet feet and rot, Steens warns against "cold burn" from wet leaves during low temperatures. During our hot summer months, do not water during the heat of the day as this also can burn the leaves; watering early to mid morning is best. If your water is hard, alkaline or salty, consider flushing your Guzmanias with rainwater or bottled water. If you want to fertilize this bromeliad, use a low strength solution once a month during the warm growing seasons and not during the winter when the Guzmania rests. When grown indoors as a houseplant, mist two to three times a week.



Guzmanias like light shade to semi-shade conditions. In my yard, they get morning sun filtered by oak trees (and a lot more light these days than before last year's hurricanes). While Guzmania species do not tolerate cold well, the hybrids are a bit hardier. All the Guzmanias in my yard have been exposed to temperatures in the low forties and survived with some foliage damage. Still, it is best to protect Guzmanias from cold temperatures, cold wind and frost, which will damage the leaves.



There are more than 200 species of Guzmania. You can find more pictures of this gorgeous bromeliad in the Photo Index of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies website, [fcb.org](http://fcb.org), the source of the pictures in this article.

*Guz. conifera* grows both as a terrestrial and epiphyte in rainforest habitat in Ecuador and Peru. Its cone-like inflorescence stays in color for months.

**Continued on page 6**

## Gorgeous Guzmanias, from page 5

*Guz. gloriosa* is found in Ecuador in dry sandy regions as well as in forests in Colombia and Peru. This large Guzmania grows 3-5 feet high. Its green leaves have dark red stripes at the base.

*Guz. lingulata* is the base for many hybrids; *Guz. lingulata* v. *minor* is the most commonly grown form. It's an excellent beginner Guzmania. *Lingulata* v. *minor* is both epiphytic and saxicolous (grows on and between rocks) in forest habitat. There are five varieties of this species, all having the star shaped inflorescence. Pups generously.

*Guz. monostachia* "has the greatest geographical range of the genus," wrote Padilla. It grows epiphytically in the Everglades and is found in the West Indies, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Ecuador, Bolivia and Brazil. *Guz. monostachia* var. *variegata* is Florida's native Guzmania, with green and white leaves.

*Guz. remyi*, found in Ecuador is easy to grow in a warm shady spot in your collection.

*Guz. sanguinea* v. *sanguinea* and *Guz. sanguinea* v. *brevipedicellata* have brilliantly colored foliage and they flower in their centers. They grow epiphytically in Costa Rica, Columbia, Trinidad, Tobago and Ecuador. Both are stingy with pups, generally only yielding only one for v. *sanguinea* and two for v. *brevipedicellata*.

*Guz. sprucei* grows epiphytically although sometimes is saxicolous in the forests of Panama and Columbia.

### Sources:

Baensch, Ulrich and Ursula Baensch. [Blooming Bromeliads](#). 1994.

Padilla, Victoria. [Bromeliads](#). 1973.

Pleber, Herb and Joyce Brehm, editors. [Bromeliads: A Cultural Manual](#). Bromeliad Society International. 2003

Smith, Lyman B and Robert Jack Downs. [Flora Neotropica Monograph No. 14, Part 2, Bromelioideae](#). 1979.

Steens, Andrew. [Bromeliads for the contemporary garden](#). 2003.

Williams, Barry and Ian Hodgson, editors. [Growing Bromeliads](#). 1990.

## Bromeliad People in the News - April

BSCF Life members **Ed** and **Nancy Hall** have moved to their new Georgia home. Throughout the years, Ed and Nancy have assumed leadership roles not only in our society but also in the Seminole Bromeliad Society and the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies. Ed has donated untold hours to Leu Gardens, working with bromeliads and palms. We will miss them! You can write Ed and Nancy at 122 Ravenal Court, Macon, GA 31210.

BSCF members **Ron** and **Carolyn Schoenau** have moved into their new home in Gainesville. Ron anxiously awaits the most important move – getting the bromeliads into their new greenhouse. Their P.O. Box address remains the same.

**Jay Thurrott**, of the Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society, who has given several interesting programs for our society, and Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society president **Steve Hoppin** have completed all the BSI Judges Schools. They take the final exam this fall, after which Florida will have two more judges. Congratulations to them both and thanks for their service to all the Florida bromeliad societies!

With Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies chairman Ed Hall moving out of state, **Karen Andreas** has been appointed the acting chairman of the Council, to fill the position until January when the normal rotation will pick up once again.

## Field Trip to [Russell's Bromeliads!](#)

John and Jimye Kaye Russell have graciously offered to open their nursery for members of the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida, Seminole Bromeliad Society and Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society on Sunday, May 15. Plan on meeting at the nursery between 9:30 and 10:00 AM and shopping until lunchtime. While we are at lunch, our purchases will be inventoried and the bills drawn up. When we return, check out will be easy!

Lunch will be at Gators on the river. John has offered to call to make arrangements for our party. We will need a head count, so let Karen Andreas know on Monday night that you will be on the field trip.

Treat yourself to this great opportunity to visit the Russell's' nursery. You won't believe the selection of Tillandsias before your eyes!

Directions:

From 417, cross Lake Jessup; go through the tollbooth (\$1.50) and take the next exit – Lake Mary Blvd. The first stoplight is Sanford Avenue; turn right. Go 2-3 miles to the intersection with Hwy. 46/25<sup>th</sup> Street; there is a stoplight and a veggie stand facing you. Turn right onto 46. The third caution light is Beardall Avenue: turn left onto Beardall. Go ½ mile. Russell's Bromeliads is on the left – you will see a big sign. Phone number: 407-322-0864.

## Out & About with Pam Flesher

### April 24 & 25, Bromeliad Show & Sale

Presented by the Bromeliad Society of South Florida Location: Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, 10901 Old Cutler Rd, Coral Gables, FL 33156 Phone 305-667-1651 [www.ftbg.org](http://www.ftbg.org) Hours: Both Days 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Admission to the Garden & Show: \$10 Adults, \$9 Seniors 65 and older, \$5 Children 3-12, and free for members and children under 3.

### MAY 6, 7, & 8 BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA ANNUAL SHOW & SALE

Mother's Day Weekend New Location: Fashion Square Mall, Orlando, FL More details to follow in upcoming newsletters and at the meetings. Volunteers needed.

### MAY 12 - 15 THE 9th INTERNATIONAL CRYPTANTHUS SHOW

Hosted by & in conjunction with the Sarasota Bromeliad Society's Show & Sale. Marie Selby Gardens, Sarasota, FL For more information call Bob Stickney at 941-922-9533 or Inez Dolatowski at 941-748-2120 after Feb. 1 for more information.

## Welcome New Members

Carol Hirvi-Apopka FL  
Jay Maxwell & Steve Abele-Orlando FL  
Lee Morris-Prescott AZ  
Hjordis Owens-Archer FL

## Some Bromeliad Trivia

1. The smallest bromeliad is probably [Tillandsia bryoides](#), mature at less than one inch tall.
2. The largest bromeliad is probably [Puya raimondii](#), which reaches nearly 30 feet tall in flower.
3. The most wide ranging bromeliad is Spanish Moss, [Tillandsia usneoides](#), which grows from Virginia southward to Argentina.
4. With the exception of a single species in tropical West Africa, all bromeliads are native to the New World.

The above is from the March edition of [Potpourri](#), the newsletter of the Greater New Orleans Bromeliad Society, the full article originally appeared in The [Bulletin](#), a quarterly publication of Marie Selby Gardens

**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.



<b>President</b>	<b>Karen Andreas</b>	karen@fcbs.org
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Bob Stevens</b>	Use above address to contact officers
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Quyless Force</b>	
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Betsy McCrory</b>	
<b>Librarians</b>	<b>Phyllis Baumer</b>	
	<b>Sudi Hipsley</b>	
<b>Editor</b>	<b>Steven Wagner</b>	
<b>Mailing</b>	<b>Betsy McCrory</b>	
<b>FCBS Rep</b>	<b>Karen Andreas</b>	

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*Address Correction Requested*

**April 2005**

**Next Meeting: Monday, April 25, 2005**

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Member Market  
7:00pm Meeting begins

**Refreshments: A - F**

**Speakers: Karen Andreas,  
John Boardman &  
Pam Flesher**

**Program: How to Dress Your Plants for the Show**