



Orlandiana

Newsletter of the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida

Volume No. 31

Issue No. 06

June 2005

Next Meeting: Monday,, June 27, 2005

6:30 pm Refreshments, Members M – S

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

6:30 – 6:55 Member Market

7:00 pm Meeting Starts

President's Message

June 2005

Without a doubt, it is summertime in Florida! This is our peak season for growing, and it is important to keep some safety tips in mind while working in the garden.

With the increase in heat and humidity, remember to drink plenty of liquids while outdoors. Water still is the best for slaking thirst – save that icy cold beer as your end of chores reward! Be aware of the effects heat may have on your body. Light-headedness, faintness, spots appearing before your eyes, clammy skin or shaking are indications that you may be heat sick. Always keep your cordless or cell phone near by in the yard, in case you need to call for help. Protect your skin with sunscreen, and use bug spray to keep those pesky mosquitoes at bay. Take care, take it easy, and remember to give yourself a break in air conditioning!

This month's guest speaker is Jay Thurrott, a long time friend of this society. Jay grows a yard full of beautiful bromeliads in Port Orange, with Vrieseas being his particular interest. Jay is the editor of the Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society newsletter, an editor on the Florida Council Newsletter and a director for Florida on the BSI Board of Directors. His program this month is on mounting bromeliads. If you have a bromeliad you would like to mount, bring it to the meeting along with the mounting material you want to use, and Jay show you what to do. It's always a pleasure to spend an evening with Jay Thurrott.

See you Monday night!
Karen Andreas

Welcome New Members

Pat Klein-Leesburg
Jack Williamson-Winter Park

In This Issue;
Ananas, by Karen Andreas, page 4
Out & About With Pam Flesher, page 2
Ananus Crossword Puzzle, page 6
New Standing Rule, page 6

Name badges can be purchased from Betsy for \$3.00 if anyone is interested.
There is a choice of swivel clip, pin or magnet.

Bromeliad People in the News

Carmen Morgan is pleased to announce the graduation of daughter **Carmen Blanco** from high school. Carmen Blanco also won a scholarship to the University of Central Florida where she will major in history. Congratulations, Carmen!

BSCF members visiting the Sarasota Bromeliad Society were pleased to see that other BSCF members took top honors at both the Sarasota Show and the International Cryptanthus Show. Even more fun was to see familiar bromeliads take the awards. **Eloise Beach**'s awesome *Tillandsia funckiana*, BSCF Best of Division III, was Sarasota's Best of Show. **John Boardman**'s BSCF Best of Show, *Cryptanthus microglaziouii*, was Division II winner in the International Cryptanthus Show. Eloise also took the best Cryptanthus Horticultural award for her impressive *Cryptanthus lacerdae* 'Menescal.' Hats off to Eloise and John!

Out & About with Pam Flesher

July 9 & 10 TROPICAL PLANT FAIR

Saturday 10am - 4pm; Sunday 10am - 3pm

Located at the University of South Florida Botanical Gardens

Admission is \$3 for adults. Free for USF Botanical Gardens members and children under 12. Free parking. A wide range of vendors - local plant clubs, societies, and commercial growers including the USF Plant Shop - selling plants, books, and plant-related items.

Available plants include tropical gingers, plumerias, carnivorous plants, rare and popular fruit trees, orchids, bromeliads, and MANY more! Dozens of varieties of pepper plants will be featured.

Pepper Beauty Contest at 1pm Sunday. Bring a pepper for the contest and get in FREE! Salsa, hot sauce and barbecue sauce vendors (with plenty of samples) will be selling their unusual creations. FREE Children's activity area with fun activities for children of all ages.

Sponsored by The Tampa Tribune

For more information, please contact
University of South Florida Botanical Gardens
4202 E. Fowler Ave., SCA238
Tampa, FL 33620 Phone Number: (813) 974-2329
Fax: (813) 974-2184
<http://www.cas.usf.edu/garden/contact.htm>

From I-275: Exit Fowler Avenue. Head east to Bruce B. Downs Blvd./30th Street and turn left. Go north one block to Pine Drive (1st light) and turn right. Go east one block to the first traffic light and turn left. Go north one block to the Garden entrance on left at the intersection with Alumni Drive.

From I-75: Exit Fowler Avenue. Head west to Bruce B. Downs Blvd./30th Street and turn right. Go one block north to Pine Drive (1st light) and turn right. Follow Pine to left and Garden entrance is on left at the intersection with Alumni Drive.

August 20 & 21, 2005

Bromeliad Fantasy, with display and sale
9 AM - 4PM at Sanford Garden Club, 17-92 & Fairmont Drive, Sanford.
Sponsored by Seminole Bromeliad Society.
For more info: Sudi Hipsley 352 504-6162.

Jingle Lutz

Jean Bell Lutz, known to us as Jingle, died May 25 after a long battle with pancreatic cancer. Jingle originally was from Roanoke, Virginia, and made her mark wherever she lived, in education, with youth organizations, and in gardening communities. She was a Life Member of the Winter Park Garden Club, and among her many volunteer activities were Habitat for Humanity, Orlando Rescue Mission and the Orlando Science Center. Jingle is survived by her husband Jerry, son and daughter-in-law Steve and Tianna, six-month-old grandson Charles, and daughter Tracy. Our deepest sympathy goes to the Lutz family. We will miss Jingle and her enthusiasm for bromeliads.

MINUTES OF MEETING BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA April 25, 2005

President Karen Andreas called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Visitors and new Members were introduced.

Bob Stevens conducted Show and Tell. Pam Flesher assisted.

Karen Andreas, John Boardman and Pam Flesher presented program: Grooming plants for show and discussed rules for plant sale.

A break was called from 8:10 until 8:25.

Motion was made to accept the minutes; Bob Stevens seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Betsy McCrory reported income (\$7160.56), disbursements (\$5714.14), and assets (\$14,106.72.)

Karen asked how many were interested in the trip to Russell's bromeliads on May 15; 9-10 people indicated they wanted to go.

Mother's Day Show and Sale. Setup Thursday starting at 9PM. Flyers and sign up sheets are on back table. Show details were discussed.

Karen is Acting Chairman of Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies until the end of 2005 and editor of the quarterly newsletter. One will be published in June.

Sarasota Brom Society/Cryptanthus Society Show and Sale will be May 13-15 at Selby. African Violet Soc, meeting across hall asked us to announce their sale on April 30, 9:00-4:00.

Bob Stevens announced Robert Bowden, director of Leu Gardens, is speaking next month. June speaker will be Jay Thurrott. Bob Stevens conducted door prize and raffle plant drawings. There was no silent auction. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted, Quyles Force.

Ananas: First Bromeliad from the New World

Karen Andreas

The first bromeliad discovered by Europeans, *Ananas comosus*, the pineapple, is probably the best-known bromeliad in the world. It already was in wide-scale production over most of the tropical New World by the time Columbus arrived in 1493 and discovered this bromeliad with the edible inflorescence. Because Europe at the time had no access to sugar and refined sweets, the pineapple was an immediate hit. It took another 200 years for Europeans to figure out how to grow the plant commercially, and so it remained a rare and treasured treat. Believe it or not, in Colonial America, a hostess' reputation was often made on whether or not her table was crowned by a pineapple, which more often than not had been rented for only the day! Today, the commercial pineapple crop yields more than a half a million tons of fruit annually. There is, however, more to this genus than just *Ananas comosus*.



In its native habitat, which includes Brazil, Suriname, Argentina, Paraguay, Columbia, and Peru, local people have practical uses for *Ananas*. In the rural areas of Brazil, *Ananas* species as well as *Bromelia* species are used as hedges and fences. Mulford Foster reported seeing fabric and clothing made from the fibers of *Ananas* and *Bromelia* species, an ancient source known even in the West Indies where *Ananas lucidus* was introduced in pre-Columbian times for its fiber. Bromelien, a digestive enzyme and sometimes used as a meat tenderizer, comes from *Ananas*.

Ananas is a small genus, with less than ten species listed, most of which are large and require ample space in the garden. Full sunlight or very bright light is required for the best foliage and fruiting. A true terrestrial bromeliad, the leaves of the *Ananas* do not form a water holding rosette; *Ananas* depends on its roots for food and nutrients. Most members of this genus do have spiny leaves; however the variety of *Ananas comosus* known as “Smooth Cayenne” is spineless. All the inflorescences of this genus are characterized by a pineapple-like inflorescence.

Grow in well-draining potting medium and do not allow the soil to dry out completely. *Ananas* likes moist – although not heavy or mucky – soil. Water two to three times a week in the summer time (depending on your own growing conditions) and sparingly in the winter months. If you are growing *Ananas comosus*, the commercial pineapple, allow 18-24 months (some sources say up to three years) for the inflorescence to develop fruit. *Ananas* pups at its base, in between the leaves and often even from the base of the pineapple-like inflorescence. Remove the crown of leaves on the fruit, clean away any fruit flesh from the base and grow yet another *Ananas*.

Ananas nanus grows in the open forest in Suriname and in central and northern Brazil in cool and arid climates. Padilla referred to it as a “true pygmy,” one of the smaller members of the genus, whose fruit grows only 1-2” high. This *Ananas* will grow comfortably in a 4” pot.

Ananas ananassoides is another small bromeliad bearing edible red or purple fruit that is also full of seeds.

The leaves of *Ananas lucidus*, when grown in bright light bring will turn pink.

Ananas bracteatus is a large species, with 30-50 leaves. Grow in high light for the best color. Padilla wrote, "This species is more spectacular when in fruit, truly one of the most dazzling of all bromeliads when well grown." *Ananas bracteatus* var. *tricolor* is "known from the type collection only," first grown and identified by Mulford Foster who, Smith and Downs wrote, was growing it in Orlando in 1939.

Pseudoananas sagenarius is known as the "false pineapple." While it looks like an *Ananas*, it reproduces through long rhizomes and does not have a crown of leaves at the top of the pineapple-like inflorescence.



xAnagelia 'Madam Lash' photo by John Cullen

There are *Ananas* hybrids as well as bi-generic crosses available. *Ananas* 'Golden Rocket' is a cultivar of *Ananas comosus* var. *variegata*. *Ananas* has been crossed with *Neoregelia* (*xAnagalia*); with *Aechmea* (*xAnamea*) and *Cryptanthus* (*xCryptananas*).

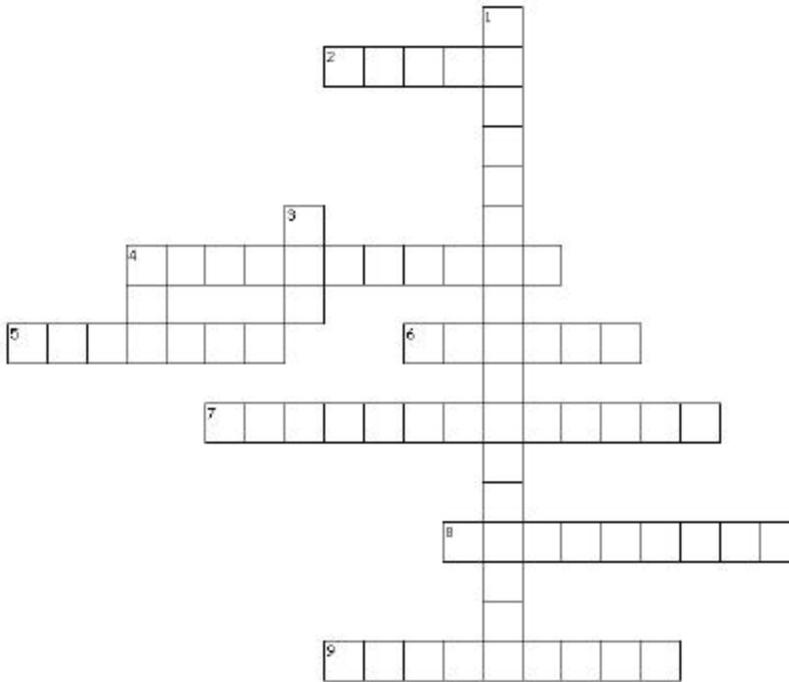
Who can resist the fragrance of a freshly picked pineapple from the back yard? Consider expanding your *Ananas* collection, however, with another species or one of the elegant cultivars now available. Space permitting, of course!

Sources

Baensch, Ulrich and Ursula Baensch. Blooming Bromeliads. 1994.
Foster, Mulford B. and Racine Sarasy Foster. Brazil: Orchid of the Tropics. 1945.
Levins, Hoag. <http://www.levins.com/pineapple.html>. 6/01/2005.
Leme, Elton M.C. and Luiz Claudia Marigo. Bromeliads in the Brazilian Wilderness. 1993.
Oliva-Esteve, Francisco. Bromeliads. 2000.
Padilla, Victoria. Bromeliads. 1973.
Smith, Lyman B and Robert Jack Downs. Flora Neotropica Monograph No. 14, Part 3, Bromelioideae. 1979.
Steens, Andrew. Bromeliads for the contemporary garden. 2003.
Williams, Barry E., editor. Growing Bromeliads, Second Edition. The Bromeliad Society of Australia. 1990.
Pictures are from the Bromeliad Encyclopedia, the web site of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies at <http://fcbs.org>.



Ananas



Across

2. This Ananas species is a "true pygmy"
4. All Ananas are _____
5. The first Ananas species discovered by Europeans
6. In the rural areas of _____, Ananas species are used as hedges and fences
7. Spineless pineapple
8. Bi-generic _____ 'Madam Lash'
9. This digestive enzyme sometimes used as a meat tenderizer, comes from Ananas

Down

1. Pineapple
3. Ananas is a small genus, with less than ___ species listed
4. It may take _____ years or more for an Ananas comosus inflorescence to develop fruit

New Standing Rule

The following standing rule was passed at the May meeting and is now Standing Rule 9:

“The society may provide a complimentary Bromeliad Society International Single membership for use as a door prize or raffle prize at regular monthly meetings. The winner of the BSI membership must be a current member of the BSCF with a limit of one winner per household per calendar year.”

How to Grow a Pineapple

1. Grab the crown of leaves where it is attached to the fruit. Firmly twist the crown off of the fruit.
2. Remove some of the lower leaves. You may see roots already beginning to develop.
3. Place the plant in a container with potting soil, water and place in a shady spot. When the plant begins to grow, move it to a brighter location.
4. Water and wait!

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

May 23, 2005

President Karen Andreas called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Visitors Rich and Joann Richter were introduced.

Herbert Henry, Grant Groves, Bob Stevens and John Boardman conducted Show and Tell.

Minutes of the April meeting were not in the newsletter; copies on the back table. They will be published in the next newsletter and approved next month. After June, John Boardman, Eloise Beach and Jim Pierce will not be doing the Supply Store Sales. Karen asked if anyone would like to volunteer to continue the store; let her know.

Karen reported on field trip to Russell's Bromeliads last month. There were approximately 30 people who attended between the Seminole, Florida East Coast and BSCF societies; 11 people from BSCF.

Program: Bob Stevens introduced the guest speaker, Mr. Robert Bowden, Director of Leu Gardens for the past 11 years. Mr. Bowden is responsible for the (horticultural) operation of the garden. The gardens are operated by the City of Orlando under Family Parks and Recreation Department. Harry P. Leu donated the gardens to the city 45 years ago. The Garden House was built 10 years ago. The goal of the gardens is to show ordinary home gardener how to grow without chemicals and to evaluate plants for tolerance for heat-cold. The Home Demonstration Garden is newest building and has a Home Demonstration Kitchen to show how to select plants best for nutrition with cooking demonstrations and classes. The Butterfly Garden was added to teach young people about metamorphosis. Alternative treatments have eliminated 95% of the chemical spraying. In fall, Mr. Bowden will have available for sale the Florida Top 10 Guide, which he wrote. Admission on Mondays to the gardens is free. On the fourth Sunday of every month, there is folk music. In July, there is a Members only Sale. In the future, conservatory is planned for the present location of the clock. Mr. Bowden answered questions from members.

8:20 PM, Karen called for a break: the meeting reconvened at 8:30.

Bob Stevens announced the Silent Auction winners.

Dale Laird proposed the following Standing Rule: "The society may provide a complimentary Bromeliad Society International Single membership for use as a door prize or raffle prize at regular monthly meetings. The winner of the BSI membership must be a current member of the BSCF with a limit of one winner per household per calendar year." Butch Force seconded. The cost will be \$30.00 a month to the Society. There was no discussion. The motion was carried by show of hands unanimously.

Betsy McCrory gave Treasurer's Report: copies on back table. Checking Account: \$484.00 income; \$1,865.42 disbursements; balance \$172.23. Money Market Fund: \$500.00 Disbursements; \$8.04 interest income; \$12,026.11 balance. Total Assets: \$12,233.34.

Betsy McCrory and Karen gave report on the Mother's Day Dale. It was a great success! Income from sale was \$15,524.68; expenses \$13,309.16 (vendors and other). BSCF profit \$2,215.52. One new member, so far from sale. Karen Andreas did great job on publicity. Security was great at the Mall. Show was expanded this year to include Art Section. Suggestion was made for next year to extend sale for Mall Employees. Karen will work with the new owner of mall for next year's sale. Suggest judging area be roped off during judging.

There will be a Florida Council Newsletter in June, edited by Karen, Betsy, and Jay Thurrott.

There was no additional new business. Bob Stevens conducted door prize and raffle.

At 8:45 PM with no further business, Karen adjourned meeting.

Respectfully Submitted, Quyles Force, Secretary.

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.



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

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

June 2005

Next Meeting: Monday, June 27, 2005

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

Refreshments: M - S

Speaker: Jay Thurrott

Program: Mounting bromeliads

Mr. Thurrott will be selling plants at the meeting, but he would also like us to hold our Member Market this month.