



# Orlandiana

Newsletter of the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida

Volume No. 31

Issue No. 07

July 2005

Next Meeting: Monday, July 25, 2005

6:30 pm Refreshments, Members T - E

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

No Member Market

7:00 pm Meeting Starts

## President's Message

July 2005

President's message – July 2005

We have had impressive programs this year, thanks to our program director and vice president Bob Stevens. After starting the new year with Tom Wolfe from Tampa, we shared evenings with John Russell of Russell's Bromeliads and Leu Gardens director Robert Bowden. Last month, we had another great program by Jay Thurrott, from Florida East Coast, who shared his experiences and practical cultural information with us and was extremely generous sharing his mounted bromeliads.

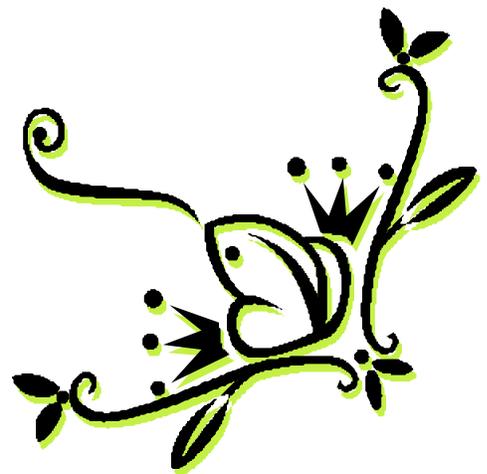
This month will be yet another good program by long-time BSCF friend, Terrie Bert, from Sarasota. She will be talking about growing lots of bromeliads in small spaces. Terrie's programs are always lively and informative, and she also brings unusual, collector bromeliads to sell. It's always a treat to visit with Terrie.

See you Monday night!

Karen Andreas

## Welcome New Members

Sharon Moxley, Williston  
Dennis L. Duncan, Apopka  
Rick & Joanne Rector, Apopka  
Neal Ekengren, Longwood





**MINUTES OF MEETING  
BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA  
June 27, 2005**

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

Visitor and New Members introduced: Neal Ekengren, Rick and Joanne Rector, Dennis Duncan, and Sharon Moxley. Welcome back to Carrol Holland, Amy Ambrosch, and Leroy Weaver.

Bob Stevens conducted Show and Tell.

Program: Karen introduced guest speaker, Jay Thurrott from Port Orange, who spoke on mounting bromeliads.

A break was called at 8:20; Karen reconvened meeting at 8:30.

There were no corrections or changes to the April or May Minutes. Motion to accept minutes for April and May was made and seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Betsy McCrory gave the treasurer's report. As of May 31, 2005, we have \$3329.29 in the checking account; \$12035.11 in the Money Market Account; \$35.00 on hand; for total assets of \$15399.40. Betsy also gave the final 2005 Fashion Square Mothers Day Show Report with \$14,584.17 in income and \$12,404.86 in expenses with a profit of \$2179.31.

**Old Business:**

Everyone should have received the June Newsletter for Florida Council. The Council represents 12 Societies, with two representatives each. July 9 is next quarterly Council meeting. October 22, 2005, Extravaganza will be held in Sarasota.

**New Business:**

Sorry to announce that Jingo Lutz passed away. Society will make donation in her name to the Bromeliad Identification Center at Selby Gardens in Sarasota.

Upcoming Programs: Bob Stevens announced that next month Terrie Bert is the guest speaker. He also said that in the near future, a visit to Grant Groves' nursery will be offered.

Bob Stevens conducted door prize and raffle. There was no a silent auction.

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

Submitted, Quyles Force, Secretary.



## **Birth of a Notion (How the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida Began)**

**By Brian Wood**

I am certain that he does not remember it but Mr. Julian Nally gave me my first bromeliads many years ago, a few seedlings. They grew well, but an illness in the family caused me to neglect all of my plants. Later a friend gave me a few other bromels and this revived my interest, so I joined the Bromeliad society.

Many of the pioneers of modern bromeliads live in this area, including the daddy of it all, Mulford B. Foster. The area contains a tremendous variety of bromeliads in various collections. It seemed desirable that all bromeliad enthusiasts should be able to meet and study and discuss their hobby. When I inquired about this, I was told that it had been attempted several times but without success. The reason for lack of success was not clear, but there were indications that there may have been an oversupply of chiefs and a shortage of Indians.

I decided that I would attempt to get such a group started. There was some selfishness in this as I felt that I would enjoy such a group – and indeed I have! Plans were made for a meeting. Invitations were sent to all members of the Bromeliad Society in the immediate area, some were sent to friends and some to people suggested by friends.

On October 30, 1972 the meeting was held in the Golden Room of the TG Lee Dairy in Orlando, FL. Since he was the host and had organized it, Brian Wood conducted the meeting. He assured all present that while they would not have to talk (unless they wanted to) nevertheless everyone would have the opportunity to talk. He expressed the hope that there would be enough interest shown to start a group to meet regularly. The agenda was explained so that the participants would know what was coming.

Everyone was asked to stand, give their name and tell how they first became aware of bromeliads and how they acquired their first plant. To recall one of these – Mulford B. Foster stated that he was looking for snakes in Florida when he noticed an odd looking plant in a tree – that was how he got his first bromeliad.

The invitation asked for plants for an exhibition table and one card table had been set up. When all were in there were four card tables and they were overcrowded. All plants were worthwhile and many were outstanding. For instance, Ed Ensign brought his variegated *Aechmea Orlandiana* ‘Ensign’ and Mulford B. Foster brought a number of outstanding plants. John Hall was asked to comment on the plants on the exhibition table and did so in his usual modest but authoritative manner.

Then came refreshments and an opportunity for all to talk to both those they knew and those they didn’t know. Naturally the chief topic was whether it was worthwhile to try to continue the meetings and what format to use.

The meeting was again called to order and each person was given an opportunity to talk if they wished to. The feeling of the group was that further meetings should be held and that the group would support them. A committee was appointed to plan for further meetings and for formal organization when the group was ready. The committee included Eloise Beach, Racine Foster, John Hall, Pat Hall and Casey Jones. Casey had to drop out later because of other commitments.

The committee made arrangements for a meeting place in the Central Florida Museum. For about two years the committee (with additions) ran the group. In the fall of 1974 they presented a constitution to the group. It was adopted and the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida elected Eloise Beach as the first president.

A feature of all our meetings has been the silent auction (and a few not so silent). Members donate spare plants and proceeds go to the society. This enables other members, especially those who are beginning the hobby, to acquire plants they do not have. Some plants show up here that are not available in any other way. As a result, the society is financially stable.

Sometimes, when I attend a meeting of The Bromeliad Society of Central Florida, I observe the forty or fifty attendants who are enjoying it and feel glad that I took the initiative to organize that first meeting in 1972.

**This article was originally printed in the Bulletin of the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida, Vol. 1, No. 1, September 1975.**

# Pitcairnia

By Karen Andreas

The Pitcairnia was the earliest bromeliad to evolve and is the second largest genus, after Tillandsia. There are more than 450 identified species and varieties with a range from Cuba and Mexico to Argentina; the largest concentration is in Columbia, Brazil and Peru. The only bromeliad ever discovered outside of the Americas is *Pitcairnia feliciana*, found in Guinea, Africa.

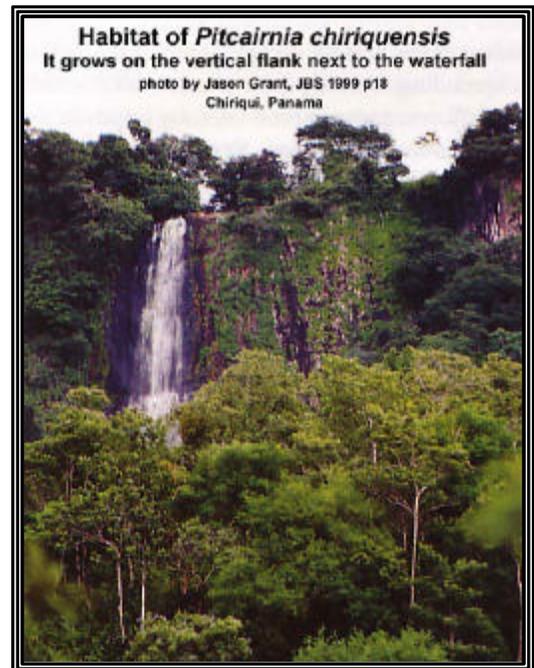
In general, this bromeliad thrives in areas of shade and moisture. It grows epiphytically (as an air plant), can be saxicolous (growing on rocks) but mostly is terrestrial. Many species have long, narrow grass-like leaves; some have short, wide leaves; some species (*heterophylla*, for example) grows both.



Steens wrote that “this genus is a collection of oddballs, as it contains many species that don’t conform to our expectations of what a bromeliad should look or act like.” For instance, some Pitcairnias are deciduous, as in the case of *P. heterophylla* whose inflorescence emerges first, the leaves following after the start of the rainy season. Compare the inflorescence of *P. xanthocalyx* with that of *P. tabuliformis*, and you cannot help but wonder what they are doing in the same genus.

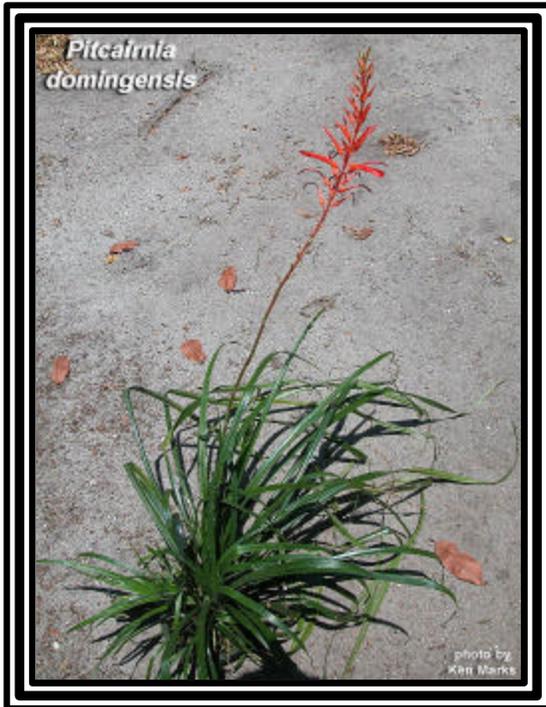
Pitcairnias thrive in the ground, especially in shady or semi-shady conditions and around moisture. Plant them around a fountain or a birdbath, and they will produce vigorous, healthy growth. They need room for their roots, so give them plenty of space or plant in a large pot.

Pitcairnias make interesting foundation plants. The flowers range from red to orange to blue and, although they are short lived, the inflorescences often last for several months. Next time you are pondering what to do in a particularly shady area of your yard, consider a Pitcairnia.



*P. chiriquensis* comes from Chiriqui, Panama, where it lives by waterfalls. This bromeliad loves moisture.

*P. domingensis* is saxicolous and epiphytic; it is found on the coastal rocks and woods, from sea level to higher altitudes in the



Dominican Republic.

*P. flammea* grows in wet conditions in the woods and on rocks in southern Brazil. Its leaves are spineless and grow 2 to 3 feet long. This bromeliad grows well in shade.

*P. heterophylla* is found from southern Mexico and the West Indies to



Venezuela and Ecuador, generally growing in wet and shady locations. Its flowers appear first in the spring, the foliage follows. While it makes a nice clump, beware of the nasty spines at the base of the plant. This Pitcairnia can adapt from full shade to full sun.

*P. tabuliformis* is an atypical member of this genus from Chiapas, Mexico. Its numerous leaves form a rosette that flattens at blooming. The flowers rise from the center of the bromeliad and are a brilliant orange-red color. This Pitcairnia does not like wet leaves; provide

moisture from below, as well as watering the soil only. Do not plant this species in the ground.



It is a smaller member of this genus and does best in a pot.

*P. xanthocalyx* clumps readily, loves moisture and makes good ground cover. The leaves of this bromeliad are green on top, silver on the bottom.

All pictures are from the Florida Council of Bromeliad

Societies' web site at <http://fcbs.org>.

Sources:

Baensch, Ulrich and Ursula Baensch. Blooming Bromeliads. 1994.

Padilla, Victoria. Bromeliads. 1973.

Smith, Lyman B and Robert Jack Downs. Flora Neotropica Monograph No. 14, Part 1, Pitcairnioideae. 1974.

Steens, Andrew. Bromeliads for the contemporary garden. 2003.

## Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies Report

The Florida Council held its quarterly meeting on July 9. The meeting was hosted by the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay at the home of Tom and Carol Wolfe in Lutz. In spite of the threat of hurricane Dennis, the meeting was well attended.

Each year, the Council sponsors a statewide bromeliad sale and get together, hosted by an affiliated society. This year's Extravaganza will be held in Sarasota, hosted by the Sarasota Bromeliad Society, on October 22. Information on the sale, banquet, auction, and seller rules will be in the next Council newsletter as well as in a special mailing to bromeliad society members. The 2006 Extravaganza will be hosted by the Bromeliad Society of South Florida; the 2007 Extravaganza will be hosted by the Bromeliad Society of Broward County.

The Council newsletter is back on track. An issue was published in June; the state roster was published this month; the next newsletter will be in August. After that, the newsletter will return to a quarterly schedule with the next issue in October.

The Council representatives voted to make a one-time donation of \$200 to the Bromeliad Identification Center (BIC) at Selby Botanical Gardens, in appreciation for and support of the important work conducted by BIC Director Harry Luther. The Council already makes an annual contribution of \$200 to the BIC.

BSCF has a strong presence in the Florida Council. Betsy McCrory and Karen Andreas are your Florida Council representatives. Karen is also the chairman of the Council until January 2006 and the editor of the Council newsletter with Betsy and Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society member Jay Thurrott. BSCF member (and Seminole County Bromeliad Society president) Sudi Hipsley is the Council treasurer. BSCF member Michael Andreas is the web master for the Council's web site at fcbs.org.

If you have any questions or would like more information about the Council and its activities, contact Betsy or Karen.

### Classification: *Pitcairnia* L'Her.

Kingdom	Plantae – Plants
Subkingdom	Tracheobionta – Vascular plants
Superdivision	Spermatophyta – Seed plants
Division	Magnoliophyta – Flowering plants
Class	Liliopsida – Monocotyledons
Subclass	Zingiberidae –
Order	Bromeliales –
Family	Bromeliaceae– Bromeliad family
Genus	<i>Pitcairnia</i> L'Hér. – pitcairnia

USDA, NRCS. 2004. The PLANTS Database, Version 3.5 (<http://plants.usda.gov>). [National Plant Data Center](#), Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA

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

### **August 12 and 13 Bromeliad Bonanza**

In The Plant Shop at the University of South Florida, Tampa

Lots of plants for sale. Saturday 9:00-4:00pm

Bromeliad talks in the conservatory at 10:00 am and 12:00 pm both days.

Free Admission. The Garden is located near the southwest corner of USF Tampa campus, at the intersection of Pine and Alumni Drive. For directions see last months Out and About section, or call the Gardens at: (813) 974-2329 or (813)974-5653 or go to the web site

<http://www.cas.usf.edu/garden/directions.htm>

### **August 20 and 21 Bromeliad Fantasy Sponsored by Seminole Bromeliad Society**

Beautiful displays and lots of plants for sale.

Sanford Garden Club, 200 Fairmont Drive, Sanford 32773

(Highway 17-92 & Fairmont Drive) For more information contact: Sudi Hipsley 352-504-6162.

### **October 14, 15, and 16**

#### **Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society 2005 Standard BSI Show & Sale**

Terry Park, 3410 Palm Beach Blvd., Ft. Myers

Friday, October 14, Registration, Exhibit Entry & Standard BSI Judged Show

Saturday, October 15 Open to public 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Sunday, October 16 Open to public 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

For further show and sale information please contact

Diane Molnar at (239) 549-3404 or [capebrom@aol.com](mailto:capebrom@aol.com)

Brian Weber at (941) 355-2847 or [brianweber1b@aol.com](mailto:brianweber1b@aol.com) respectively.

### **October 22 Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies Extravaganza**

Hosted by the **Sarasota Bromeliad Society**

To be held at the Sarasota Garden Club, 1131 Blvd of the Arts, Sarasota

Free Admission, Banquet and Rare plant auction (benefiting the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies) will be held at: The Helmsley Sandcastle, 1540 Ben Franklin Dr., Lido Beach, Sarasota, FL. Telephone: 941-388-2181

Special room rate of \$79 - \$99 Mention the Extravaganza



## **Pitcairnia**

The botanist L'Héritier named the genus *Pitcairnia* in honor of, William Pitcairn, an English physician who lived during the 1700's, and kept a botanical garden at Islington a district in North London.

**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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<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Betsy McCrory</b>	
<b>Librarians</b>	<b>Phyllis Baumer</b>	
	<b>Sudi Hipsley</b>	
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Permission to reprint is granted with acknowledgment. Please send all correspondence to the address below:



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PO Box 536961  
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*Address Correction Requested*

July 2005

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

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

**Refreshments: T - E**

**Speaker:** Dr. Terrie Bert

**Program:** Growing a lot of Bromeliads in a small space

**Dr. Bert will have plants for sale.**