



Orlandiana

Newsletter of the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida

Volume No. 31

Issue No. 08

August 2005

Next Meeting: Monday, August 22, 2005

6:30 pm Refreshments, Members F - L

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

Member Market 6:30 – 6:55

7:00 pm Meeting Starts

President's Message August 2005

There was a great deal of interest at last month's meeting about the Mexican bromeliad weevil, known as the 'evil weevil'. The northernmost range of the weevil on the east coast is central Brevard, specifically, Merritt Island. It also is in Osceola County. If you buy bromeliads from any nurseries or individuals from these areas south, ask if the nursery has any kind of ongoing program to control the weevil. If it does not, you should treat the plant when you get it home with either Sevin or Merit, an ingredient found in insecticidal sprays at garden centers such as Home Depot. Aside from vigilance, there is no preventative treatment. We will have a program on the weevil soon. In the meantime, you can find a wealth of information, including a slide show, about the weevil on the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies' website at <http://fcbs.org> on the opening page.

At last month's meeting, vice president Bob Stevens asked for program ideas. One suggestion was for a program on how to find bromeliad information on the Internet – so that is what we will talk about (and demonstrate) on Monday night. The Internet is a great resource for bromeliad enthusiasts. It offers opportunities to network through email groups, find pictures and help identifying bromeliads, and access to articles and cultural information.

I hope to see you Monday night when we talk about Bromeliads in Cyberspace!

Karen Andreas



Growing Bromeliads from Seed

By Odean Head

Most of my experience has been with *Neoregelias* but the procedure should be similar for most of the genera in the *Bromeliodeae* sub-family. Growing seeds from the *Tillandsioidae* sub family (*Tillandsias*, *Vrieseas*, *Guzmanias*, etc.) is quite different and its procedure is not included here. We must have some mature seeds before we can plant them. If our pollination was successful, we should have some mature seeds in three to six months. Remember, many bromeliads do not self pollinate and therefore depend on birds, insects or us to do the job before any seeds will develop. The seeds will form in a berry-like ovary located beneath the pollinated flower. The ovary will begin to swell in a month or two and will usually change to darker colors as the seeds mature. The best way to tell when they are ready to be harvested is to pull lightly on the seed pod. If it releases easily, the seeds should be ripe.

To harvest the seeds just squeeze the pod between your fingers and the seeds will squirt out the bottom end. The seeds will be in a sticky jelly substance that will make them harder to separate because some of them will try to stick together. Most people recommend that you wash and dry the seeds before planting. Squeeze the seeds into a small closeable container, add an inch or two of water and a drop of detergent, let them soak for an hour or two and shake it periodically. Strain the seeds and remove any pulp that came from the seed pod. Wash the seeds again with clean water and spread them on a paper towel to dry. When thoroughly dried spread those evenly on another paper towel cut to fit the container you are going to plant them in. If you prefer to plant them later just store in a dry, cool place and they should remain viable for several months. If you have more than you can use, Harvey Beltz would love to have them for the BSI seed bank. Just be sure to label them properly so that he knows what he is distributing.

Usually I am either too lazy or in too much of a hurry to use the seed drying procedure. I just squeeze seeds directly on to a paper towel for planting. I use a plant label for the mass spread and a toothpick to separate seeds that are stuck together and to remove any pulp squeezed from the pod. This has been successful for me and expedites the overall procedure.

The planting medium should have fine texture. I use a mixture of one-half peat moss and one-half vermiculite. Since this mixture is hard to wet I presoak it before using. A good preventative measure is to add some fungicide to the water when you pre-soak the medium. Since the germinating and growing area for the seedlings will remain very humid for a long time it is susceptible to growing fungus. Starting with a sterile medium will help prevent this. Fill the pot (I use a 5" or 6" pot) about half full and firm it so that the top is smooth. Place the piece of paper towel containing the seeds on top of the mix and smooth it out. Do not cover the seed. Cut a piece of plastic or saran-wrap and fit it on top of the plastic pot securing it with a rubber band or strip of panty hose. I prefer the panty hose because it does not deteriorate like the rubber bands do.

Put the pot in a warm, reasonably good light (not full sun) and wait for the magic to begin. In about a week to ten days you should see the seeds begin to germinate. Very little care is needed in the next two or three months. The covered top will hold sufficient moisture in the pot for some time which will be evident by the moisture clinging to it. The seedlings like continuous humidity so if the mix appears to be drying out, don't wait too long to re-wet it. Watering at this stage should be done from the bottom by setting the pot in about an inch of water. Top watering when the plants are small could wash up the tiny roots and cause considerable damage. When the plants get about one inch tall I will remove the plastic and begin top watering using a weak fertilizer solution (one-fourth strength). The plants are still fragile so I use a suction cup (used in cooking for basting) and apply the solution very carefully around the tiny plants. I do this every two or three days. When the plants become crowded in the pot I will move them

to a community tray to keep their roots from becoming too entangled. Plant them about one inch apart which will provide space for additional root development while staying close enough to aid in retaining desirable humidity. I will continue to water with the baster until the root systems get well established and the plants appear to be strong enough to support overhead watering. I will also continue to water with the weak fertilizer solution often enough to keep the mix from completely drying out. If the seedlings are not already growing in good light (filtered sun), they should be moved there when placed in the community trays. This will reduce the legginess which would result from continuous fertilizing.

I let the seedlings grow a long time in this community tray. In fact some of them may never leave the tray. As the plants grow and start to crowd each other they begin to differ in appearance. This is where the culling procedure should start. Select only those that are beginning to show good potential and pot them into individual pots. You may go back to the tray several times as the plants grow for more selections or you may decide to throw the rest away. Look closely before you throw them away because sometimes the runts become the best cultivars. You may grow most of the ones you selected to maturity before making the final selection(s). Grow them under ideal conditions so that you can be sure of their potential. This will make it easier to cull. Try growing some.

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This article was taken from *The Bromeliadvisory*, newsletter of The Bromeliad Society of South Florida, it appeared in the July/August 2004 newsletter.



Out & About with Pam Flesher

October 14th, 15th & 16th

Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society 2005 Standard BSI Show & Sale

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

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, capebrom@aol.com or Brian Weber at (941) 355-2847 or

brianweber1b@aol.com respectively.

October 22

Bromeliad Extravaganza

Presented by the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies

Hosted by the Sarasota Bromeliad Society

Location: Sarasota Garden Club, 1131 Blvd. of the Arts, Sarasota, 941-955-0875

Sale 9:00-4:00 PM Free Admission

Banquet and Rare Plant Auction: The Helmsley Sandcastle, Lido Beach, Sarasota, 7:00 PM

941-388-2181 or 800-225-2181 www.helmsleyhotels.com

Banquet reservations: Dorothy Berg 941-924-0060

This annual event is an opportunity for bromeliad enthusiasts from around the state to get together for plant sales, camaraderie, a great dinner and a rare plant auction. Look for more details in your Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies Newsletter and in the mail this September.

Deuterocohnia

By Karen Andreas

The species of the genus *Deuterocohnia* grow in dry, hot conditions, on rocks and in sandy soils in Peru, Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Brazil and Paraguay. In its native habitat, it often is found growing as ground over the sides and slopes of mountains. The members of this genus are considered to be primitive bromeliads; you may remember that last month's featured genus, *Pitcairnia*, also is a primitive – or early form – of bromeliad. Ranging in size from small to large, many *Deuterocohnia* have spiny, succulent-appearing leaves. The leaves form no rosette or tank for water storage; these bromeliads are terrestrial and saxicolous (growing on rocks).



Deuterocohnia brevispicata ↓

There are 20 species in this genus, including five species formerly listed under the genus *Abromeitiella* (no longer in use): *brevifolia*, *lorentziana*, *lotteae*, *scapigera* and *brevifolia* ssp. *chlorantha*. These five bromeliads do not have inflorescences that rise on stalks – rather, the bromeliad flowers bloom from between the leaves. As for the original species of *Deuterocohnia*, the inflorescence comes from the side of the bromeliad, not its center, and has a loosely branched structure. *Deuterocohnia* does not die after blooming but goes on to produce more inflorescences.



Deuterocohnia grow in a round habit, often creating mounds (also called polsters). Grow in small pots, using well draining potting medium, with little water and bright light. Remember where these bromeliads are found – in very dry, bright areas, often growing on rocks – so do not overwater. If you plan on repotting the mound, do so before the individual bromeliads start to grow over the edge of the pot.

The shape, growth habit and enduring growth of *Deuterocohnia* make it an interesting addition to any collection.



D. brevifolia is saxicolous in its native southern Brazil and northwestern Argentina. This is a small member of this genus with a green flower when in bloom.

D. lorentziana, formerly an *Abromeitiella*, grows nicely in a clump, with green flowers.

D. longipetala – is found on dry rocky slopes in northern Peru to northwestern Argentina. It has a stalk-type inflorescence and yellow flowers.

The inflorescence of *D. meziana* has an inflorescence that grows to six feet tall. This bromeliad blooms from the same scape for up to eight years. In its native habitat (southeastern Bolivia, southwestern Brazil and Paraguay) this is found growing saxicolously.



Pictures are from the Bromeliad Encyclopedia, the web site of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies at <http://fcbs.org>.

***D. meziana* inflorescence**



Sources:

Baensch, Ulrich and Ursula Baensch. Blooming Bromeliads. 1994

Padilla, Victoria. Bromeliads. 1973.

Plewer, 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 1, Pitcairnioideae. 1974.

Williams, Barry and Ian Hodgson, editors. Growing Bromeliads. 1990.

For Those Feeling a Little Bit Wilted or Under the Bench

Our sympathy goes out to Shawn Shamrock, whose grandmother passed away.

Get well wishes for George Aldrich, recovering from surgery, and to Bill McCrory, who will have surgery next month.

Deuterocohnia

When the genus *Deuterocohnia* was named after the German botanist Ferdinand Cohn, there was already an Orchid genus named *Cohnia*. *Deuterocohnia* is Greek for second *Cohnia*.

Some *Deuterocohnia* have perennial bloom stalks, and will bloom two or three years on the same inflorescence.

Welcome Back

Ginny and Carey Oliphant, Melbourne

MINUTES OF MEETING

BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

July 25, 2005

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

Visitors were introduced: Mr. and Mrs. Lawson from south Brevard County.

Bob Stevens conducted Show and Tell.

Program: Karen introduced guest speaker, Terrie Bert from Sarasota, who spoke on growing more bromeliads than you ever thought you could.

Break 8:20. Karen reconvened meeting at 8:30.

There were no corrections or changes to the June Minutes. Motion to accept minutes was made and seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Betsy McCrory presented the Treasurer's Report. There were no questions.

Old Business:

Supply Store needs volunteer to be in charge of this for group; there are left over supplies to sell. Florida Council roster will be in next issue (August) of the Council newsletter. Please let Karen or Betsy know if there are corrections or changes.

New Business:

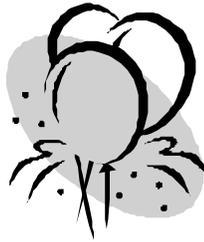
Announcements: Bob announced auction results.

Upcoming Programs: In the near future a trip to Grant Groves is planned. Bob asked for program ideas from the members.

Bob Stevens conducted door prize and raffle.

8:50 PM with no further business, Karen adjourned meeting.

Submitted, Quyless Force, Secretary.



2005 Bromeliad Extravaganza

Saturday, October 22, 2005

Presented by the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies

Hosted by the Sarasota Bromeliad Society

Banquet Reservation Form

Banquet and Rare Plant Auction at the Helmsley Sandcastle, Lido Beach/Sarasota
Banquet starts at 7:00 pm on October 22nd

Caribbean Luau

Citrus Crusted Seared Snapper with Tropical Fruit Salsa
Guava Ribs, Chicken Skewers
Roast Suckling Pig in Jerk Seasonings
Carrots and Spring Onions, Herb Roasted Potatoes
Seafood Pasta Salad, Grilled Vegetable Salad, Potato Salad
Mixed Greens Salad with Assorted Dressings
Fruit Display
Fresh Baked Breads
Chocolate Banana Cake, Key Lime Tart, Banana Strudel
Coffee, Decaf, Tea, Iced Tea

\$22.00 per person

DEADLINE October 8, 2005

Please make check or money order payable to: SBS and mail to:

Dorothy Berg

5146 Northridge Road, #107

Sarasota, FL 34238

941-924-0060 DotBerg2k@aol.com

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Society _____

of dinners _____ Amount Enclosed \$ _____

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	

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Address Correction Requested

August 2005

Next Meeting: Monday, August 22, 2005

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



Refreshments: F - L

Speaker: Karen Andreas

Program: Bromeliads in Cyberspace

Don't forget to bring a plant for Show & Tell