

# Orlandiana

Newsletter of the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida

Volume No. 31

Issue No. 09

September 2005

Next Meeting: Monday, September 26, 2005

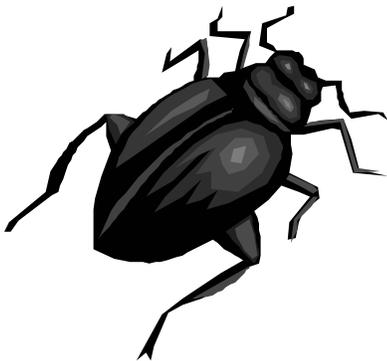
6:30 pm Refreshments

Members M - R

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

Member Market 6:30 – 6:45

7:00 pm Meeting Starts



**Teresa Cooper from the University of Florida in Gainesville, will be our speaker this month. Her program is about the Mexican bromeliad weevil.**

## **President's message – September 2005**

Many of you have expressed interest and concern about the Mexican bromeliad weevil that threatens both Florida's native bromeliads and our collections. This month's guest speaker is

Teresa Cooper who works with Dr. Howard Frank at the University of Florida in Gainesville on the Mexican bromeliad weevil project. The weevil has not yet been found in Orange County but it is present in Brevard and Osceola. Teresa will update us on the latest developments and what we can do to safeguard our collections.

October is a busy month for bromeliad lovers! The annual Extravaganza, the statewide bromeliad sale, banquet and auction, is October 22 in Sarasota. It's a great opportunity to get together with bromeliad lovers from all over the state, find great bromeliads at great prices, and catch up on all the news. The banquet is a fun social event, followed by the rare plant auction. More information is in this newsletter. That is not the only bromeliad event for the month, however. Tropiflora has its Fall Festival on the first weekend of the month; the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual USF Fall Festival is on the 8-9; Caloosahatchee has its annual show and sale on the 15-16.

In spite of our hot temperatures and blazing sun, it is time to start looking ahead towards winter and getting our collections ready for cooler weather. Next month, Betsy McCrory will be taking orders for freeze cloth; details will be available in the next newsletter.

See you Monday night!

**Karen Andreas**

## **BSCF Minutes**

**August 22, 2005**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 by president Karen Andreas. New members and visitors were introduced.

Vice president Bob Stevens conducted the show and tell. He will have a table each month for unidentified bromeliads.

Karen Andreas gave the program on how to find bromeliad resources on the Internet.

A break was called at 8:00.

When the meeting reconvened, Carroll Holland made a motion to approve last month's minutes; Betty Salvas seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Betsy McCrory gave the Treasurer's Report. As of the end of July, a total income of \$169.00 was received; \$1228.24 was disbursed (including the annual donations required by the Standing Rules - \$375.00 to the BSI Color Fund (\$25 was previously sent, making our total annual contribution \$400), \$100 to the Bromeliad Identification Center, and \$400 to the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies); ending balance in checking account was \$1289.90. There is a total of \$12046.10 in the money market account. Total assets are \$13,371.00. The report was accepted and filed for audit.

The board will be discussing the supply store since there is continuing interest in offering supplies; however no one has volunteered to take over the store so the board will consider some options and report back to the members next month.

Bob was asked about a trip to Grant Groves' nursery. He expects that to happen in late September or October. He also asked if there was any interest in having a program on orchids, since most bromeliad growers also have some orchids and vice versa. The members expressed interest in learning about orchids. In response to several members' concerns, Bob also is arranging a program on the Mexican bromeliad weevil.

The silent auction results were announced and door and raffle prizes awarded.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:40.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Andreas

## **BSCF Supply Store**

There are still some supplies remaining in our Supply Store. If you want any of the items listed below, please let Bob Stevens know which ones and how many by noon on Friday, September 23. Contact Bob at [stevensbobl@aol.com](mailto:stevensbobl@aol.com) or by phone, 352-516-2710. You can pick up your order at the meeting.

3" pots 25 for \$1.00

4" pots 15 for \$1.00

Dyna-Grow fertilizer 8oz. For \$4.00

There are also osmunda fiber slabs available, individually priced.

If there is continuing interest in making supplies available through the society, the inventory will be expanded.

We still need a volunteer to handle distributing the supplies at the meeting. Please let Bob know if you can help.

## Bromeliad People

Congratulations to Magali Groves who is now a U.S. citizen! Best wishes to the BSCF's newest citizen.

A get well card was sent to Bill McCrory, who had knee surgery on September 13.

A card also was sent to Carolyn Schoenau, whose knee is bothering her. Rumor has it that the injury was caused by housework. Another reason to spend your time in the garden!

George Aldrich continues to recover at home in Ocala. He hopes to see everyone at the Christmas party.

## Bromeliad Family

By Moyna Prince

Bromeliads belong to the family Bromeliaceae. The Bromeliaceae family is divided into three subfamilies: Pitcairnioideae, Bromelioideae and Tillandsioideae.

Almost all the Pitcairnioideae subfamily bromeliads are terrestrial, have spiny leaves and extensive root systems. Examples are Pitcairnia, Dyckia and Hechtia.

The Bromelioideae subfamily has the most genera (plural of genus). The species form rosettes which hold water and are mostly epiphytic. The leaves are usually spiny and the seeds are in berry-like fruit. Aechmea, Billbergia, Neoregelia, and Portea are just a few of the over 30 genera in this subfamily.

The Tillandsioideae subfamily contains just a few genera, but a huge number of species. Most of these bromeliads are epiphytic. The leaves are spineless and the winged, feathery seeds are dispersed by wind. The best-known members of this subfamily are Guzmania, Tillandsia, Vriesea, Alcantarea and Catopsis.

This article was originally printed in [The BromeliAdvisory](#), the newsletter of the Bromeliad Society of South Florida.

### Bromeliad Subfamilies and Genera

#### Pitcairnioideae

Ayensua  
Brewcaria  
Brocchinia  
Connellia  
Cottendorfia  
Deuterocohnia  
Dyckia  
Encholirium  
Fosterella  
Hechtia  
Lindmania  
Navia  
Pepinia  
Pitcairnia  
Puya  
Steyerbromelia

#### Tillandsioideae

Alcantarea  
Catopsis  
Glomeropitcairnia  
Guzmania  
Mezobromelia  
Racinaea  
Tillandsia  
Vriesea  
Werauhia

#### Bromelioideae

Acanthostachys  
Aechmea  
Ananas  
Androlepis  
Araeococcus  
Billbergia  
Bromelia  
Canistropsis  
Canistrum  
Cryptanthus  
Deinacanthon  
Disteganthus  
Edmundoa  
Fascicularia  
Fernseea  
Greigia  
Hohenbergia  
Hohenbergiopsis  
Lymania  
Neoglaziovia  
Neoregelia  
Nidularium  
Ochagavia  
Orthophytum  
Portea  
Pseudaechea  
Pseudananas  
Quesnelia  
Ronnbergia  
Ursulaea  
Wittrockia

## Portea – A Bromeliad for Full Sun

By Karen Andreas

In Central Florida, members of the genus *Portea* are excellent landscape plants, especially for areas with bright or full sun. Found along the coastal regions of Brazil, between Rio de Janeiro and Bahia, these bromeliads grow saxicolously (on rocks), terrestrially (on the ground) as well as epiphytically (as ‘air plants’). It is a small genus, with only ten species and three varieties.

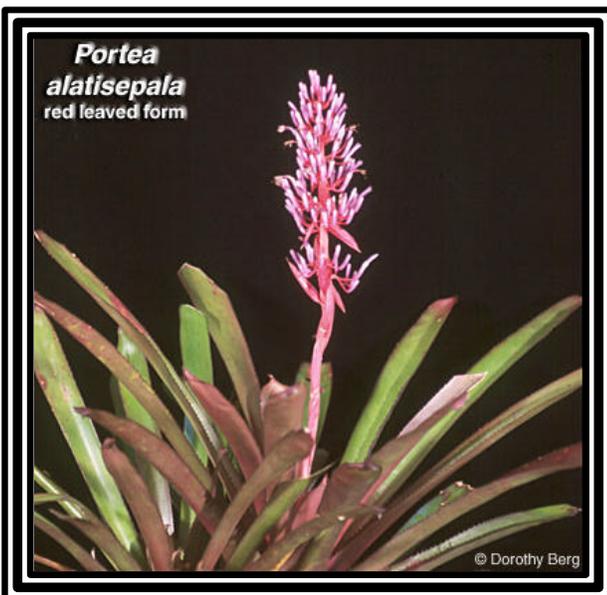
Many *Porteas* will grow to four or five feet tall, and they need room in the landscape to accommodate their growth into clumps. Often a clump will grow for a few years before the first *Portea* blooms; once the clump has bloomed, it will bloom regularly after that. It’s hard to beat the dramatic impact of a clump of *Portea* in bloom.



Rauh advised growing in the same conditions as *Aechmeas*. Most *Porteas*, however, will take full sun and should be grown in high light in order to get the best growth. Be sure to plant them in areas with good drainage – they are found in Brazil growing in full sun in the sand, on rocks and mangrove roots – and so will not tolerate wet feet.



*Portea petropolitana* var *extensa*



*Portea alatisepala*, not commonly found in collections, offers fire red flowers and inflorescence.

*Portea fosteriana* was discovered by BSCF’s Mulford Foster, growing in full sun in the sand in Brazil. It is smaller and more compact than the more widely recognized *petropolitana*.

*Portea kermesina* grows as a terrestrial in the coastal forests near sea level. This is one *Portea* that is small enough to adapt to pot culture. It flowers in the winter and is named for the crimson red of its bracts. Its foliage sometimes has red spots on the upper leaves; it may turn red in full sun.



*Portea leptantha* grows saxicolously, terrestrially and epiphytically. It is closely related to *petropolitana*, with the difference being that its flowers are orange and its inflorescence has more ample branching. It grows to five feet tall.

Perhaps the most common *Portea* is *petropolitana* and its varieties. One reason why *petropolitana* var. *petropolitana* grows so well for us in Central Florida is that its native habitat is by the ocean in Brazil. It grows to four feet tall. *Portea petropolitana* var. *extensa* has a taller inflorescence than var. *petropolitana*. The stalk of the inflorescence is a coral color, the berries turn purple as they ripen. This variety often is found growing on the roots of mangrove



s in swamps. *Portea petropolitana* var. *noettigii* is smaller than the other two varieties.

*Portea silveirae* grows as a terrestrial in Brazilian forests. Similar to *petropolitana*, it is rare in cultivation although Padilla thought it a “highly decorative” bromeliad.

Porteas are great landscape bromeliads for our area. Allow room for your *Porteas* to grow and strong light to full sun, and you will be amply rewarded with eye-catching color and interesting foliage and form in your garden. ***Portea kermesina***↓



***Portea fosteriana***



Sources:

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

Padilla, Victoria. Bromeliads. 1973.

Rauh, Werner. The Bromeliad Lexicon. 1979.

Smith, Lyman B and Robert Jack Downs. Flora Neotropica Monograph No. 14, Part 3, Bromelioideae. 1979.

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

All pictures are from the web site of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, fcbs.org

# My Adaptable, But Crooked Bromeliads

By Steven Wagner

Threatened by a frost this past winter, I began the all day project of moving the large collection of potted plants growing in my yard to my screened porch. The porches metal roof offers protection from freezing temperatures, as do the canvas blinds that may be lowered to cover the screen windows. In past years when severely low temperatures were promised by the weather man, I have even used my propane heater on the porch creating a 70 degree micro-climate.

On any given day there are about 200 plants, from Bromeliads to Succulents, growing on my porch. New favorite plants bump older acquisitions into the yard, as does the search for “ideal” growing conditions. My collection grows by leaps and bounds every year. Not just from new plant purchases, but from a cutting here, a seed from there, and a lot of pups from bromeliads.



Adding an additional 1000 (give or take a few), plants to my porch for a cold spell quickly turns the porch into a “jungle”.

This year my collection overtook the porch. The over flow of plants were tightly packed into the small patch of grass left in my back yard, where they were covered with a tarp and blankets.

The scare of a frost is good for my plant collection. I find plants that I have been thinking about, and wondering where they disappeared to. I find plants growing in too much light and I find plants growing in too much shade. After the cold spell, everyone is moved back into the yard to a better growing spot.

After having a very busy eight months, it is now September, and I decided to conquer the “over flow” plants still huddled together in the back yard. Thirty or so bromeliads have been moved onto the porch for dividing and repotting. The first two plants I divided became eight plants, so this process may take me several days to accomplish. “Working” before I go to work!

The good thing is, the small patch of grass died. That was the last of the grass in my back yard. I hate grass! Grass requires a huge amount of water, fertilizer and pesticides to grow, only to be cut down by a loud mower.

All of my bromeliads adapted to their eight months of neglect. The *Aechmeas* and some *Billbergias* stretched their leaves for light, *Nidulariums* bloomed, and some of the *Neoregelias* turned to green dogs. Everyone pupped like crazy! Not one plant was lost.

The bad thing is, some of the bromeliads fell over pot and all. In some of the severe cases, like the *Nidularium rutilans* in the picture to the right, there is no way to repot these crooked plants, (notice how the inflorescence is pointing towards the bottom of the growing container). They will be placed back in the garden the way they were found, on their sides. Fortunately bromeliads correct themselves when they tip over. Yes the mother grows crooked but her pups grow in the normal vertical direction.



Last winter I took the advice of the weather men and their predictions of frost (and doom for most of my collection); three times I moved my plant collection onto the screened porch.

Not once did temperatures drop below 32 degrees F.

**2005 Bromeliad Extravagana**

***Presented by Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies***

***Hosted by Sarasota Bromeliad Society***

***Saturday, October 22, 2005, 9:00am – 4:00 pm***

***Free Admission***

**Sale location:**

Sarasota Garden Club, Inc.  
1131 Blvd. of the Arts  
Sarasota, FL 34236  
941-955-0875

**Banquet and Rare Plant Auction:**

1540 Ben Franklin Dr.  
Lido Beach, Sarasota, FL  
941-388-2181 or 800-225-2181  
The Helmsley Sandcastle  
[www.helmsleyhotels.com](http://www.helmsleyhotels.com)

Special room rate is \$79-99. Reservations **deadline is September 21, 2005**. Mention the Bromeliad Extravaganza when making reservations.

Bring your family for a fun weekend! Enjoy the tropical paradise on Lido private beach!

Banquet is at 7:00 PM, followed by the Rare Plant Auction (proceeds benefit the Florida Council).

**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	Fruit Display
Mixed Greens Salad with Assorted Dressings	Fresh Baked Breads
Chocolate Banana Cake, Key Lime Tart, Banana Strudel	Coffee, Decaf, Tea, Iced Tea

**\$22.00 per person    Deadline is October 8, 2005**

**Banquet starts at 7:00 PM on October 22**

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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 \_\_\_\_\_

Number 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 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>	<b>karen@fcbs.org</b>
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Permission to reprint is granted with acknowledgment. Please send all correspondence to the address below:



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*Address Correction Requested*

September 2005

**Next Meeting: Monday, September 26, 2005**

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

**Refreshments: M - R**

**Speaker:** Teresa Cooper from  
The University of Florida in Gainesville

**Program:** the Mexican bromeliad weevil