



# Orlandiana

Newsletter of the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida

Volume No. 31      Issue No. 11      November 2005

**Next Meeting: Monday, November 28, 2005**

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

**6:30 pm Refreshments Provided by The Board Members**

**No Member Market This Month**

**7:00 pm Meeting Starts**

**Don't Forget to Bring a Wrapped Plant for the Plant Exchange**

## President's Message

Because of Hurricane Wilma last month, Leu Gardens was closed on our meeting night, so at this month's meeting we will catch up on some business. We need to elect officers for next year – the nominations are reprinted in this issue. It's also time to plan our holiday party which will be held on Tuesday, December 20. This is a covered dish dinner; the society will provide the turkey. There will be a sign-up sheet for food on Monday night, so be thinking of what you would like to bring. We always have great food – our members are serious about eating well!

We have so many members now that it is not practical for us to contact everyone by phone when a meeting is cancelled. I did send out email to notify as many as possible last month – please make sure we have up to date email addresses for you – and that you allow your spam filters to pass email from officers to your address. When in doubt during a serious weather situation, if you are not able to contact an officer about the meeting, you can always call Leu Gardens to see if they are open. If the gardens are open, you can be sure that every effort will be made to hold the meeting.

October marked our society's 33<sup>rd</sup> anniversary and so this month we will celebrate the occasion with a cake and snacks provided by your officers; there also will be a plant exchange. Bring a bromeliad wrapped so it cannot be seen and take home something new for your collection.

Come Monday night and celebrate our anniversary!

**Karen Andreas**

## Learn About Orchids

Our guest speaker this month is Jerry Steele from Krull Smith orchids

## Mark Your Calendar

### December 20, 2005

BSCF Holiday Party 7:00 PM

Bring a covered dish!

### March 25-26, 2006

Harry P. Leu Gardens Spring Sale

### April 22-23, 2006

Bromeliad Society of South Florida Annual Show and Sale

Fairchild Gardens, Miami

### June 6 - 11, 2006

Bromeliads on the Border

#### **Bromeliad Society International**

17th World Bromeliad Conference

Town and Country Resort & Convention Center

500 Hotel Circle North, San Diego, California 92108

Information at <http://bsi.org>.

### September 30, 2006

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies' Bromeliad Extravaganza

Presented by the Bromeliad Society of South Florida

Miccosukee Resort and Convention Center, Miami

## 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, November 25. 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

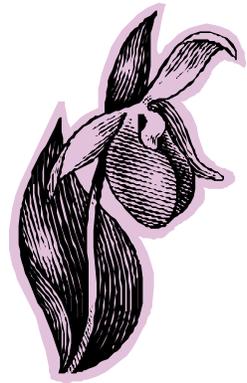
4" pots 15 for \$1.00

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.

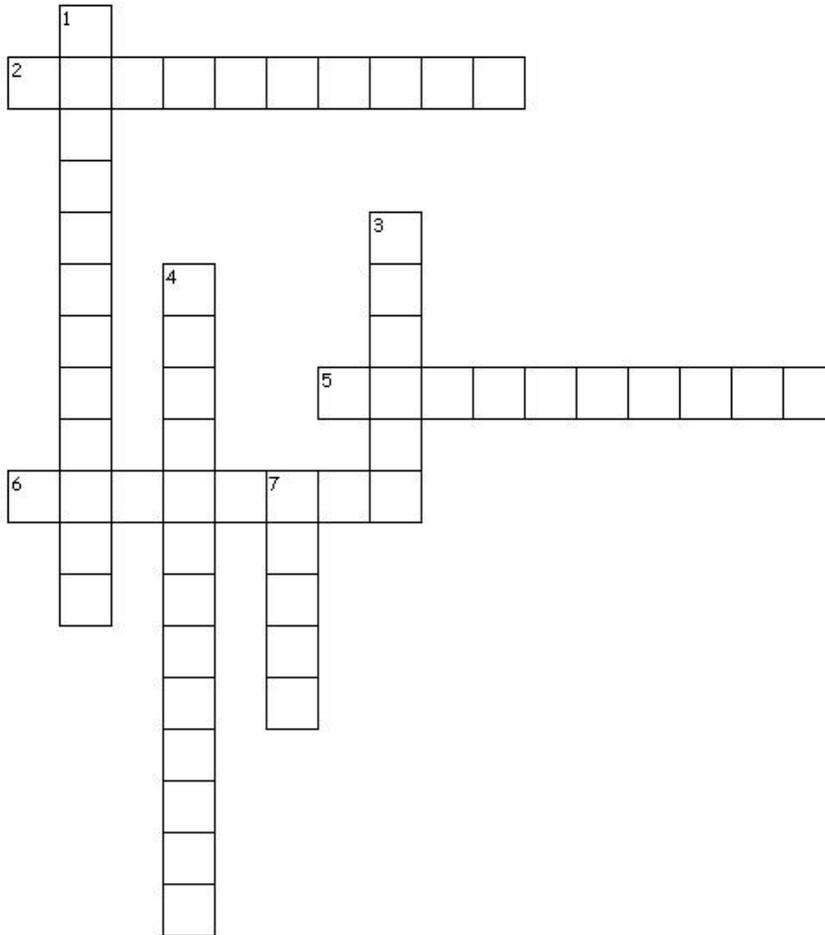




## BSCF Holiday Party

This year's Holiday Party will be on Tuesday,  
December 20, at 7:00 PM.

**Catopsis Crossword Puzzle** Before doing this puzzle read the Catopsis article on pages 4 & 5. The answers are on page 7.



### Across

2. White flowered species from Peru
5. Grows on rocks
6. From the Greek word meaning view

### Down

1. Catopsis species with fragrant white flowers
3. This small species grows only to about 7 inches
4. On Catopsis this may be simple branched erect or pendant.
7. The powdery substance often visible on bromeliad leaves

## Catopsis – A Quiet Bromeliad

By Karen Andreas

Not as flashy as other bromeliads, *Catopsis* is easy to grow and, because some are native to Florida, deserve a place in our collections.

First described in 1864, these bromeliads are often found growing epiphytically (as air plants) and sometimes saxicolously (on rocks) with *Tillandsias* and *Vrieseas* in Florida, Mexico, the Greater Antilles, the West Indies, Trinidad, Central America and northern South America. The leaves are soft, spineless and often described as waxy with “chalky” scurfing (the powdery substance often visible on bromeliad leaves). The flowers are white or yellow; the inflorescences are simple or branched, erect or pendant. The seed capsules of some *Catopsis* turn yellow or orange and stay in color for some time.



*Catopsis* generally grow in dense shade in forests but will grow well in filtered light, and sometimes is found in full sun. They can be mounted as well as potted. If grown in pots, make sure they are in well-aerated, well draining soil. They like a high level of humidity (perfect for Florida!) so in the dry winter months, you may need to mist them to keep their humidity levels higher.



The name ‘*Catopsis*’ comes from a Greek word meaning ‘view’. Padilla speculated that it was so named because of how these bromeliads look when they are in bloom in the trees. They may be the quiet bromeliads but their airy inflorescences and yellow or white flowers will add interest to your collection.

*Catopsis berteroniana* is found in southern Florida, the Greater Antilles,

southern Mexico to Venezuela and eastern Brazil, growing in shade but also found in full sun, even on telephone wires. Dr. Howard Frank suspects that those *berteroniana* growing in full sun may actually be trapping insects for its diet. Its leaves are about 12-16 inches; the inflorescence grows up to three feet high, with fragrant white flowers.



*Catopsis nutans*

*Catopsis floribunda* is also found in southern Florida, generally on trees in dense shade. This *Catopsis* is a medium size bromeliad with many leaves forming the tank. Its leaves grow 8-16 inches long. The inflorescence may grow as tall as 24 inches and bears many white flowers.

*Catopsis nutans*, another Florida native, grows in thickets and open woods. This is a small *Catopsis*, growing only to about 7 inches high, with leaves that may reach 10 inches in length. Its inflorescence is about a foot high, is generally simple in structure; branching is rare. The flowers are yellow.



and is easy to grow.

*Catopsis sessiliflora*, from southern Mexico and the West Indies to Peru, is a small bromeliad with a simple inflorescence, or one with only a few branches, and white flowers.



*Catopsis sessiliflora*

*Catopsis mooreniiana* comes from forests in southern Mexico and Central America. Baensch notes that this *Catopsis* flowers easily



*Catopsis subulata*, found from Mexico to Honduras, has light green leaves with silver scurf on the underside.

*Catopsis compacta* is found in southern Mexico. This *Catopsis* has many soft leaves that grow 8-12 inches long, with heavily scurf. It bears white flowers on the branched inflorescence.



*Catopsis mooreniiana*

**Sources:**

Baensch, Ulrich and Ursula Baensch. Blooming Bromeliads. 1994.  
Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies web site – <http://fcbs.org>. Species

Database. November 2, 2005.

Padilla, Victoria. Bromeliads. 1973.

Smith, Lyman B and Robert Jack Downs. Flora Neotropica Monograph No. 14, Part 2, Tillandsioideae (Bromelioideae). 1977.

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

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

**September 26, 2005**

President Karen Andreas called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Visitors and guests were introduced.

Bob Stevens conducted Show and Tell. There were several spectacular plants in bloom.

Program: Teresa Cooper, a graduate student from the Department of Entomology and Nematology, University of Florida, Gainesville, spoke about her work with the Mexican bromeliad weevil. A great deal of research is being conducted into the life span, plants they are attracted to more than others and also research into finding a natural predator. "Sevin" spray has not eradicated the weevil. Karen spoke of her experience with "Merit". She had an infestation in her bromeliads collection and was successful in eradicating the weevil with "Merit".

Break 8:00. Karen reconvened meeting at 8:20.

**Old Business**

Minutes - There were no corrections or changes to the August minutes. Motion to accept minutes was made and seconded, carried unanimously.

Betsy McCrory presented the Treasurer's Report: \$1157.28 in checking; \$12055.36 in the money market; \$35.00 cash on hand. There were no questions.

Supplies from the society's store will be filled by advance orders. Look for the available inventory in the newsletter or contact Bob Stevens. A volunteer to distribute supplies at the meetings is still needed.

Bromeliad sales for the next month were reviewed with some flyers available on back table.

There was no other old business.

**New Business:**

Next month Karen will have a proposal from Leu Gardens for our annual donation.

It is time for the Nominating Committee to nominate new officers for next year. Currently someone has volunteered for all offices. However, nominations are still possible. Karen appointed a nominating committee: Kathy Phinney, Sue Rhoads and Michael Andreas. If you are interested in serving, contact the committee members; nominations will be taken from the floor in October. Currently, Bob Stevens has offered to serve as president; Gary Signs as vice president; Betsy McCrory as treasurer; Karen Andreas as secretary.

Announcements: Bob announced auction results.

Grant Groves has invited group to his place on October 8 for a covered dish dinner and tour his nursery.

Upcoming Programs: October - Jerry from Krull Smith Orchids will be the guest speaker. At last month's meeting, members voted unanimously for a program on orchids. Bob Stevens said it is getting rather difficult to get speakers for bromeliad related programs. In November, the program will be on Florida Backyards with a speaker from the Agriculture Extension Office. Tuesday, December 20 is our Christmas Party.

Bob Stevens conducted door prize and raffle.

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

Submitted by, Quyles Force, Secretary.

## Plant Exchange!

This month, as part of our 33rd Anniversary celebration, we will have a plant exchange. Bring a clean, scale free bromeliad, wrapped so you cannot tell what it is. Everyone who brings a bromeliad will take home a bromeliad.

## Nominations for 2006 BSCF Officers

The nominating committee offers the following slate of officers for the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida:

President – Bob Stevens  
Vice President – Gary Signs  
Treasurer – Betsy McCrory  
Secretary – Karen Andreas

Nominations also will be taken from the floor.

## Catopsis Crossword Puzzle Answers

### Across

2. sessiflora
5. saxicolous
6. catopsis

### Down

1. berteroniana
3. nutans
4. inflorescence
7. scurf



## Carnivorous Bromeliads

*Catopsis berteroniana* At least two bromeliads seem to have evolved a greater ability to trap insects and to gain a substantial proportion of their diet from this source. The first to be noticed was *Catopsis berteroniana*. This species typically grows as an epiphyte, and its range is from southern Florida to southern Brazil. Sometimes it grows in partial shade of tree canopies, but sometimes its position is on a branch or twigs where it is not shaded. The same bromeliad has been seen growing on telephone lines where, again, it is unshaded. Those plants that are partially shaded may trap falling leaves, twigs and seeds, but those that are completely exposed might seem to have to rely on wind-blown materials from which to extract their nutrients. A glance inside the bromeliad tank often shows the presence of dead non-aquatic insects. It has been shown experimentally that *C. berteroniana* traps many times more non-aquatic insects than do other bromeliads of comparable size. A waxy powder which coats the leaf bases, and to a lesser extent the leaf blades, of the plant, may provide the means of entrapment. The powder reflects ultraviolet light and may confuse insects that fly during daylight into perceiving the powder (and thus the plants) as open sky - so that they crash into it instead of avoiding it. The powder is slippery, like talcum powder, and it appears to hinder fallen insects from escaping from the tank of the bromeliad. There is room for experimental confirmation of the assumed method of attraction.

**From;** <http://bromeliadbiota.ifas.ufl.edu/index.htm> The other “carnivorous bromeliad is *Brocchinia reducta*.

**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>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Bob Stevens</b>	<b>use above address to contact officers</b>
<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>	

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*

November 2005

**Next Meeting: Monday, November 28, 2005**  
**No Member Market this month**

**7:00pm Meeting begins**

**Refreshments will be provided by**  
**Our Board Members this month.**  
**Speaker: Jerry Steele**  
**Program: Orchids**  
**Plant Exchange This Month**  
**Details on page 7**