



# Orlandiana

Newsletter of the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida

Volume No. 31

Issue No. 12

December 2006

**Next Meeting: SATURDAY, December 9, 2006**

**Where: Azalea Lane Recreation Center,  
1045 Azalea Lane, Winter Park, FL 32789**

Please RSVP to Betsy McCrory to let her know you will be attending. She can be reached by phone **after** 6:00 p.m. at 407-348-2139 or by email at [betsymccrory@aol.com](mailto:betsymccrory@aol.com)



**What to Bring:** Please bring a covered dish to share, and a serving utensil. Bring cold dishes “cold” and hot dishes “hot”. We would appreciate a card by your dish listing the ingredients such as meat, seafood, vegetarian, nuts, sugar, spicy, etc. for those who have a dietary concern. The society will provide the turkey, baked ham, drinks, plates and dinnerware.

**Plant Exchange:** If you would like to participate bring a nice, clean, labeled plant, a plant that you would enjoy receiving yourself. Please bring your plant **completely wrapped up to disguise its identity** so it will be a surprise! You will receive a ticket when you bring your plant in and the numbers will be drawn at the end of the party. There will not be a plant show and tell, raffle drawing or silent auction.

## **Frost cloth**

Protect your plants this winter with 2.1 oz Frost Cloth. The cloth is 15' wide and maybe purchased in any length you desire. Frost clothe can be layered with each layer adding 5- 7 degrees.

Cost: \$1.00 per foot, example a piece of Frost Cloth 20' long x 15' wide will cost \$20.

Contact Betsy McCrory, Boggy Creek Bromeliads, Home 407.348.2139, Work 407.859.4390

Betsy will bring your order to the Holiday Party or it may be delivered to your home for a \$15 delivery fee.



**Thank you to everyone who helped make Orlandiana a GREAT newsletter in 2006!**



...Another piece of interest revolved around a bigeneric named x*Androlaechmea* ‘Dean’ where we had a large photograph and floral parts to hand around. These were thanks to Lynn Hudson of Cairns, and is the closest members will get to such a plant; not only is it a large spiny beast (with a great inflorescence) but it likes to live in warm, wet climates. Lynn had written about “her” plant in the Cairns Newsletter, but as always there are two sides to a tale! I got involved when Lynn sent me photographs and a query as to why it was not in the Bromeliad Cultivar Register. This had me contacting [Bromeliad Society of Central Florida member] Dean Fairchild who had done this hybrid in 1989 and left the seedlings with Bullis Nursery in Florida. These were grown on by Bullis and

interestingly are currently called *Aechmea* ‘Dean’ on their website. I did get confirmation that the seed came from a female *Androlepis skinneri* and the pollen from a male *Aechmea mariae-reginae*.

Dean mentioned **apomixis** as a possible cause for the seed setting but then pointed out where he saw the influence of the pollen parent! I hope you are going to ask: “What is apomixis?” because I am going to tell you as much as I know!

This work is not strange to me because Bullis used the same term when describing *Aechmea* ‘Little Harv’ which is why I put “alleged apomitic” in the records. Some plants have the ability of setting seed without sex – the dandelion is one example. The seedlings have the same chromosome count and DNA as the mother! If the report of a male plant doing the same thing in North America is correct, then females don’t have it all their own way and cannot suggest that human males be phased out!

Whether the DNA are in the same order I do not know but the resultant plants would be very similar to an offset.

Does it happen in *Bromeliaceae* I don’t know, but it would be nice to know, that the dioecious Bromeliads (separate male and female plants) had this as a backup. I can think of nothing more frustrating than waiting for pollen to arrive and you know you do not have a male in your floral bed and therefore can’t use him as a last resort! Alas, nobody has written up on this subject of apomixis for Bromeliads. Great advances are being made in food crops because that is where the money is.

So, due to the actions by an inquisitive grower we now have a cultivar registered 16 years after its conception.



*Androlepis skinnerii*



*Aechmea mariae-reginae*

Photos courtesy of FCBS.org. This article first appeared in the Sept/Oct 2005 issue of the Bromeliad Gazette, published by The Bromeliad Society of South Australia, and most recently was published in Bromeliana, newsletter of The New York Bromeliad Society.

## BSCF Meeting Minutes

November 27, 2006

The meeting started at 7:05 P. M. with Treasurer, Betsy McCrory, presiding.

Vice President, Butch Force will not be here tonight as he is out of town.

There was one Show and Tell plant. A beautiful and well grown Billbergia 'Poquito Mas' owned by Penny Bullard.

The program for the evening was on 'What's Blooming in the Wolfe's Landscape' by Tom and Carol Wolfe of Lutz, Florida. Tom and Carol are members of Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay. Tom is the past President of the Bromeliad Society International (BSI).

Listed here are a few of the Bromeliads Tom talked about: Aechmea distichantha var. schlumbergeri, Aechmea rubens cv. 'Peaches and Cream', Aechmea aquilega, Aechmea blanchetiana, Aechmea penduliflora, Aechmea weilbachii forma pendula (grown in a basket with blooms hanging down 2 feet), Aechmea 'Vin Rose', Aechmea winkleri, Aechmea organensis, Aechmea recurvata, Aechmea ramosa, Aechmea ornata var. nationalis, Aechmea caudata, Aechmea gamosepala (the matchstick bromeliad), Aechmea 'Little Harv', Aechmea kuntzeana, Aechmea 'Jeanne Eunice' (named after Mulford Foster's daughter), Billbergia eloiseae (named after BSCF member Eloise Beach), Neoregelia fluminensis, Neoregelia cruenta, Neoregelia macwilliamsii, Neoregelia johannis cv. fairchild x cruenta, Neoregelia Isabel 'Las Vegas', Neoregelia sanguinea, Nidularium rutilans, Protea petropolianna var. extensa, Quesnelia quesneliana, Quesnelia testudo, Tillandsia fascicula alba (found in the Everglades, a white form rare to find in the wild) Tillandsia chiapensis. Most of these Bromeliads are cold tolerant. For a list of more cold tolerant Bromeliads look on the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies website [www.fcbs.org](http://www.fcbs.org) Click on Bromeliad Information then click on Culture then click on Cold Sensitivity of Bromeliads.

Break from 8:00 P. M. to 8:15 P.M. Meeting resumed at 8:15 P.M.

### Old Business

The nominating committee Butch Force (not present), Neil Ekengren, and Pam Flesher reported they had two of the four offices filled but needed 2 more volunteers. One for Secretary, and one for Treasurer.

Daniel Almaguer volunteered for Secretary and Rick Rector volunteered for Treasurer. Butch Force volunteered for President and Neil Ekengren for Vice President. Phyllis Baumer will stay on as librarian for a few more months but would like a break. If you are interested in helping with this position please talk to Phyllis or Butch.

Kathy Phinney will stay on as Refreshment Chairman. Steven Wagner will stay on as Newsletter Editor. Thank you very much to each of you who care enough about your club to volunteer! Your dedication is appreciated!

A motion was made by Phyllis Baumer and a second by Shirley Jones to accept the slate of officers for 2007 as presented.

The holiday party will be held on Saturday, December 9, 2007, at the Azalea Lane Recreation Center, 1045 Azalea Lane, Winter Park, FL It will start at 6:00 P.M. Please contact Betsy McCrory to let her know you will be attending. Call this number after 6:00 P.M.: 407- 348-2139 or email: [betsymccrory@aol.com](mailto:betsymccrory@aol.com)

Thank you Melissa Taylor for finding and getting this place for the club party!

The application for the Leu Gardens Plant Sale in March was sent in to Leu Gardens. The Gardens informed us that they will not be supplying tables and chairs this year so we will need to get them. They will supply electricity.

No new Business.

Neil Ekengren asked if anyone had or knew of anyone that had any carnivorous Bromeliads for sale. Contact Neil if you do.

The winners of the silent auction were announced and the tickets were drawn for the door prize and raffle tables. Congratulations to Neil Ekengren who won the BSI membership.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Pam Flesher

**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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**Next Meeting: Holiday Party**  
**Saturday, December 9, 2006**  
**Time: 6:00 pm**  
**Azalea Lane Recreation Center**

