

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, Inc.



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Wally Berg Nominations
Presidents List**

Vol. 27 Issue 4

November 2007

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(Continued on the inside back cover.)

**Congratulations
and
Thank you,
Members of**

Bromeliad Society of Broward County

Colleen Hendrix Jose Donayre
President Extravaganza Chairman

for an
Outstanding Extravaganza
October 19, 2007

Thank you to the Affiliated Societies of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies and their members who volunteered their time and for their generous donations.

Thank you to the Vendors for an outstanding array of bromeliads and for their generous donations.



Extravaganza 2008
Hosted by
Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay

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Catching Up ... Staying Even



What an exciting autumn this has been with the extravagantly successful Extravaganza just last month. Broward Society members worked long and hard to plan this event and it was simply outstanding. Even better, bromeliad events did not stop with the Extravaganza; it was followed by South Florida's own annual auction; and Caloosahatchee is hosting its judged show and sale at the end of this month. We are not done with our bromeliad shopping for the year – yet.

Next month you will receive a special issue of the Council newsletter. The December issue will be a three-year Index of the Council newsletters, 2005- 2007. I hope you will find it helpful. The Council has directed an Index to be prepared every three years so you will be able to keep track of your favorite articles.

At its recent quarterly meeting, the Council representatives considered printing one issue a year with color pictures. Unfortunately, the cost is almost three times the cost of a non-color issue. This newsletter cannot accept advertising, which many societies use to defray costs; we would lose the not-for-profit bulk-mailing permit. The question also arose about putting black and white pictures in the newsletter. Black and white pictures on uncoated paper vary quite a bit in quality. The Council representatives agreed that if we were to use pictures, it should be done well, so for now, the newsletter will be text only.

There are still copies of Starting with Bromeliads available from many of the affiliated societies and directly from the Council as well.

Happy holidays and happy bromeliads to everyone!

News from FCBS Affiliate Societies



Gainesville Bromeliad Society

The GBS put on a one-day sale at Kanapaha Gardens on October 13th. This was a "first" for us without the support of Al Muzzell's professional materials. Prior to the sale we rounded up miscellaneous planks, plywood and sawhorses from various members. In addition, a 10' x 10' canopy was donated by a member. A layout was proposed and the evening before the sale we set it all up in an hour and a half. Six members brought plants to sell and display space was at a premium. We made some dollars for the Society and learned a lot to be applied to the big spring show and sale in March 2008. – Bob Neubaur

Treasure Coast Bromeliad Society

Members were honored by Dr. Ronald D. Cave as guest speaker, giving a talk on the Mexican bromeliad weevil. A field trip to Valkaria (Dr. Frank Brown) was thrilling with treasured bromeliads going to gardens of members and an additional seven new members. Our in-house auction was quite successful. The Extravaganza, as always, was enjoyed. A tour of member David Williams' lush gardens and wonderful displays of bromeliads and Tillandsias was held in September. We will participate at the Heathcote Fall Festival on November 17 with a clinic station. A post Christmas holiday party will be in mid-January with a fun-filled Bromeliad Puppy exchange. - Terry Quillen

Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society

We enjoyed our most successful plant sale ever in August 2007. We will have two plant sales in 2008: April 19-20 and August 16-17 (see page 19 for details). Our September meeting was held at Claudia and Wayne Walworth's home in Oviedo, and after refreshments, we toured their one-acre

garden, a hurricane-revitalized jungle of palms, tropicals, orchids and, of course, bromeliads. December's meeting is a luncheon, 1:00 pm (earlier than our usual meeting time), with covered dishes provided by our society and members, and "wrapped" plants to be provided by members attending, for hilarious "musical plants exchange." – Claudia Walworth

Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

In August, president Bradley Rau demonstrated how to mount bromeliads. In October, members took a trip to George and Irene Aldrich's nursery in Ocala and had a wonderful time. The November meeting will be an open house at the Thurrott's house. – Calandra Thurrott

Bromeliad Society of Broward County

Broward received three proclamations declaring October 19, the day of the Extravaganza, Bromeliad Day. These proclamations, from the cities of Plantation and Dania Beach and Broward County raised a lot of interest in bromeliads. BSBC has been approached about landscaping with bromeliads in a botanical garden, museum, golf course, and medians. – Colleen Hendrix

Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society

CBS is holding its judged show and sale at the end of November, beginning of December; while the society has its sale every year, the judged show is held every other year. (For details, see page 19) In October, CBS hosted the BSI Judges Symposium. – Tom Foley

Bromeliad Society of South Florida

On the Tuesday after the Extravaganza, the society held its annual auction. Lynne Fieber and Michael Schmale put together a slide show of the award winning plants from the BSSF show, which is always a popular program.— Juan Espinosa-Almodovar

Florida West Coast

In August, six members sat on a panel and conducted discussions about potting media, fertilizer and propagating. It's good to take advantage of the resources in a society and tap into local knowledge. Society members also participated in the semi-annual sale at the University of South Florida in October. – Linda Sheetz

Bromeliad Society of Central Florida

BSCF celebrated its 35th anniversary in October, with a beautiful and artful cake made by one of its members, Bob Smedley. In September, the society held an auction where the proceeds went to the donors of the bromeliads. The holiday party will be held at Dean Fairchild's home this year; there is no regular meeting in December.—Betsy McCrory



What is the Florida Council?

The Council is a confederation of bromeliad societies in Florida; it is a non profit organization registered with the state. Each member bromeliad society has two representatives to the Council, both of which are voting members. Any person belonging to any Florida bromeliad society affiliated with the Council is automatically a member of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies. The meetings are held quarterly throughout the state and are hosted by a different society each time.

Among its ongoing activities, the Council sponsors an annual Extravaganza, a state-wide gathering of bromeliad enthusiasts hosted by a different society each year.

Culture Tips: A Return to Normalcy

by Jay Thurrott



Do you hear that collective sigh of relief? That's the sound of everyone in Florida finally exhaling and relaxing with the knowledge that the '07 hurricane season is now behind us. The weather this summer has been a bit unusual by providing an August that was "bone-dry" rather than one with the usual afternoon thunderstorms, but fortunately, we have been spared from tropical storms and hurricanes. September gave us relief from the heat and dryness with some sorely needed rainstorms, and now October pretty much resembles what we see every October (if you live in the Daytona Beach area, that means thousands of black leather-clad people riding brightly painted and chromed motorcycles). Add all of this together, and it looks like 2007 will end up with about average rainfall and average temperatures for the area where I live.

Of course on any given month, rainfall amounts have been far below normal and far above normal – depending on the month. This has led to news personalities this year gleefully reporting record high temperatures, record low temperatures, and sounding alarms for both flooding and severe drought. These extremes are newsworthy, attention-getters, headline-grabbers that may appear alarming...until you realize that weather is rarely normal. "Normal" means not falling outside average boundaries...and averages are made up of numbers above and below a calculated mean. So, where does that leave us? The year 2004 was remarkable for most of us in Florida because we were affected by several hurricanes. The three years that followed have been billed as unusual, because we have not been struck by a similar number of storms despite many dire predictions. Every time it rains, it is quite likely to be an "abnormal" occurrence for that given day or for that given time of day. And every time it doesn't rain, it is likely to be

considered as “unusually dry” for this time of year. All that we can do, as bromeliad enthusiasts who are at the mercy of the weather and, as Mark Twain noted, can’t do anything about it, is look at long term weather records and plan our growing activities accordingly.

Going by past records, we are entering our dry season now, so pay a little more attention to your watering practices, particularly with respect to any seedlings and newly established offsets that you may have. These are a little more sensitive to drying out than your more mature plants which can put up with unfavorable growing conditions without ill effects. These fall months can not only be dry, but they signal the beginning of reduced humidity in the air during the daytime hours – that’s one of the reasons why everything looks so crisp and clear in the fall. At the same time, these plants are not growing as actively as they were several months ago and will not tolerate excessive watering like they would have in the middle of summer, so don’t over-do that watering thing!

If past experience is any predictor for what to expect during the next few months, we are likely to see at least one incident where the temperature will suddenly plunge to either flirt with or drop below freezing in parts of the state. If you live in those parts, you should be planning now to protect your more cold-sensitive plants when this happens. You have a number of choices to consider, including frost cloth protection, heating with strings of lights, moving your plants to a warmer area of your yard, moving your plants indoors, or even taking the “Darwinian” approach of doing nothing and letting the strongest survive and the weakest plants perish. When it comes to cold weather planning, keep in mind that it has been more than 20 years since the last hard freezes swept through the state. Was that unusual? Of course it was, but a more important thing to consider is that it is *normal* to have such *unusual* weather. Could this be the next year of killing freezes? Hopefully not, but if it is ...that’s normal too!

2007 Bromeliad Extravaganza Chairman's Report (Summary) by Jose Donayre



Besides detailing the planning, implementation and results of the 2007 Extravaganza, the objective of this report is to contribute to the organization of future Extravaganzas, pointing at the complexities, obstacles and pitfalls that have to be overcome by any society accepting the challenge.

Aside from the hard work of many members of the Bromeliad Society of Broward County (BSBC) spanning more than one year, several factors contributed to the success of our event. Among them, the fact that we were preceded by the 2006 Extravaganza hosted by the Bromeliad Society of South Florida which was considered as the most successful one ever. Add the fact that we took full advantage in our promotional materials of the absence of any major bromeliad event in the US until 2010 except for this and succeeding Extravaganzas. And the donation by Ed and Moyna Prince of 30 copies of the well sought after Elton Leme's volume "Bromeliads of the Atlantic Forest: Canistropsis," offered to guests coming from the farthest points and making two banquet reservations. We also decided to approach other societies in states other than Florida in an effort to expand the reach of the event. This proved to be a very effective decision as people came from California, Hawaii, Illinois, Louisiana, New York, Missouri, Texas and the Bahamas. Our enhanced communication and advertising strategy played an important role in ensuring their participation.

The selection of the hotel was a key element in the success of the event. The Fort Lauderdale Airport Hilton Hotel was easily reached by air and road travelers and had ample newly-renovated spaces. We negotiated special rates for parking and

for the rooms, expanded to up to six days, a definite attraction for those interested in a long weekend. While our initial projections were for a total of 100 room nights, the demand went far beyond our expectations. By the deadline of September 14, the hotel had committed 114 rooms for more than 200 room nights and 175 guests. Additional ones registered but could not enjoy the special rates.

As people started taking rooms on Wednesday and vendors delivered their plants on Friday, a poolside reception for about 150 guests allowed people to meet each other enjoying cocktails, hors d'ouvres and some good jazz. The festive start of the event made the success of the program on Saturday predictable.

On sale day, the traditional large crowd waited anxiously for the doors to open and invaded the sales room to frantic buying and selling. By noon some vendors were sold out. At the 4:00 pm closing, few plants were left for vendors to pack up. During the day, the four seminars organized by Maureen Frazel and delivered by Larry Giroux ("The Jim Irving Designer Collection"), Michael Young ("The Artistic Bromeliad"), Terrie Bert ("Bromeliad Evolution; Tepuis and Highlands to Lowlands, Seashores, Mountains and Deserts") and Harry Luther ("Bromeliads at Their Home and Yours") were heavily attended requiring the enlargement of the seminar space.

The banquet was held in the same space, seating a total of 240 guests paying \$35 for the meal. The banquet was dedicated to the memory of Ed Prince and his wife Moyna in grateful acknowledgement of their generous help. The function included the presentation by keynote speaker Chester Skotak, "Chester on Chester," who was introduced by Bill Frazel; the presentation of Internationally Accredited Bromeliad Judges Certificates to seven new judges by Betty Ann Prevatt; and the presentation by BSBC President Colleen Hendrix of plaques to

Bill and Maureen Frazel, Bud Hendrix, Anne Kauffman, and Polly Pascal who became Honorary members of the BSBC. The proceedings were turned over to the chairman of the Florida Council of Bromelaid Societies, Jay Thurrott, for the final stage of the event, the Rare Plant Auction. A record 134 plants and items had been donated by societies and individuals, requiring a section of them to be dealt with in a silent auction. Auctioneer Tom Wolfe managed to conduct the long auction single-handedly. He was effectively assisted by Larry Giroux and Jay Thurrott, the note takers Betty Ann Prevatt and Martha Goode and the runners, Calandra Thurrot, Karen Andreas, Sandy Roth and Lori Weyrick.

At the end of the event, plants had been sold for US\$ 45,158 and other items for US\$ 3,416 for a total sales of US\$ 48,574 leaving an income of US\$ 11,393.50. Although records were not kept for the raffle and the silent auction, it is estimated that the former may have rendered US\$ 650 and the latter US\$ 1,900 for an income to BSBC of US\$ 2,450. Additional income from sponsors, special raffles conducted over the year allowed us to cover expenditures of US\$ 11,957.66 leaving a total net income for our Society of more than US\$ 6,000. The Auction resulted in an income of US\$6,253.75 for FCBS.

Acknowledgements. Gratitude is a noble feeling that characterizes any respectable human being and is a motive of great joy for the one who records his or her thanks. So, it is with a deep sense of happiness that I thank the dozens of people who contributed to the success of the 2007 Extravaganza in ways small and large. They belong to the always supporting people of the FCBS, our colleagues from the BSSF, the members of the BSBC and the many supporters, vendors and buyers who made E007 the success it was.

Finally, it is always difficult to thank in public your own spouse but it may be easier in writing to thank Sara not only for her dedicated work but for her abundant spirit during the

more than a year we labored together in this enterprise.

**Mexican Bromeliad Weevil Biological
Control Report
October 13, 2007**

by

**Ronald D. Cave¹, J. Howard Frank²,
Teresa Cooper² and Michael S. Burton¹**

Production of fly puparia in the Honduran colony steadily increased and is now operating at optimal level. Fly puparia shipped to Ft. Pierce totaled 300 in four consignments. The relatively low number received is due to reduced need in the Ft. Pierce colony, which is very strong, and potential loss of viability during shipment. Flies emerged from three shipments but not from a fourth sent in August. Since fly emergence has been excellent in the Honduran colony, the lack of emergence may be due to possible overheating while in the FedEx delivery truck. For this reason, puparia were received only when necessary (one in September). Deliveries will be resumed regularly at the end of October so that more Ft. Pierce -produced flies will be available for release.

The fly colony at the Biological Control Research & Containment Laboratory (BCRCL) in Ft. Pierce is producing large numbers of puparia weekly (see graph). Weekly puparia production averaged 152, with a maximum of 240. Emergence of adult flies varies between 85 and 90%. Therefore, with only 60 flies needed per week to maintain the colony, about 70-80 flies per week are available for release in the field.

To obtain adequate data for analysis by PhD student Teresa Cooper (this analysis will form most of her dissertation, due in summer 2009), four release sites were selected, and five releases were planned at each site. There was a second release at Lake Rogers Park last month, and the second release at

Loxahatchee was yesterday, the 12 of October.

Location	Date	Male Flies	Female Flies
Lake Rogers Park Hillsborough Co.	6/29/07	29	27
Loxahatchee NWR Palm Beach Co.	7/20/07	35	60
Enchanted Forest Brevard Co.	8/3/07	63	63
Big Cypress NP Collier Co.	8/29/07	44	54

***Lixadmontia franki* releases, first set of four:**

Six weeks after each release, Teresa revisits each release site to hang out “sentinel pineapple tops,” each one loaded with a weevil larva of the right growth stage. Two weeks later, she brings the pineapple tops back from the field and puts them in a cage. She checks the cage daily for flies. And now for the exciting news: **on 31 August, Teresa found two newly-emerged flies in the cage with sentinel**



Nominations for BSI Directors for Florida Needed

2009-2011 Term

by Theresa M. Bert

Each year, the Bromeliad Society International's (BSI) Nominations Chairperson asks BSI members to nominate BSI Board of Directors representatives from their respective regions. If more nominations are made than are open positions for a region, the BSI members in that region are asked to vote on the nominees. The first important step is to nominate people for the directors' open positions. This year, three positions are open for Florida directors for the three-year, January 1, 2009-December 31, 2011. (Yes, that's the term; the BSI plans ahead!) If you are a BSI member, please help the Florida district by finding a willing person to nominate for an open position. Nominations to serve on the BSI Board of Directors for the three-year, 2009-2011, term will open January 1, 2008. You can even nominate yourself, but it's better to get a friend to nominate you.

Serving on the BSI Board is both fun and interesting. The Board makes decisions that influence the direction and activities of the BSI. Board meetings are held annually, usually sometime during the summer. Board members are expected to attend these meetings and do so at their own expense. The cost need not be prohibitive because Board members can share hotel rooms. One of the Board's activities is to co-sponsor and actively participate in the semiannual world conferences.

The details for nominating follow. The BSI bylaws (standing rules) also describe the requirements and procedures for nominating.

Who may nominate? Any voting member of the BSI who

resides in a region for which there is an opening in that region. **Who may be nominated?** A nominee must have the following credentials: (1) be a voting member of BSI and have been a voting member for the three consecutive years prior to nomination; (2) reside in the region for which he/she has been nominated; (3) not have served two consecutive terms as a director immediately preceding nomination; (4) agree to being nominated; and (5) agree to serve as a director if elected and to remain a member of the BSI for the duration of his/her term.

Procedure for nominating: (1) obtain the consent of the prospective nominee and verify compliance with the qualification criteria; (2) mail or email nominations to the chairman of the Nominations Committee between January 1, 2008 and March 15, 2008, inclusive. (Nominations must reach the Chair of the Nominations Committee by March 18, 2008.) Nominations by telephone will be accepted through March 15, 2008 but must be confirmed in writing within two weeks; (3) supply with each nomination the full name, address and telephone number of the nominee, the position for which the nomination is being made, the local society affiliation, and a brief “bromeliad biography” of the nominee.

You can email your nominations to Larry Giroux, who will be the BSI Nominations Committee Chair as of January 1, 2008. Send the nomination and “bromeliad resume” of your nominee to nominations@bsi.org. Or, you can call or write to Larry; his address and phone number are in the FCBS roster. Remember that you must be an active BSI member to nominate someone, that the nominee must have been a BSI member for three years, and that

**Congratulations to the
newest BSI Judges!**

John Boardman	Tim Hendrix
Larry Davis	Steve Hoppin
Jose Donayre	Jay Thurrott
Colleen Hendrix	

Speakers List



Allen Bennett

July at Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society

Claudia Walworth reports: “Long-time member Alan Bennett gave a presentation on best methods of separating pups from various genera. Alan knows this subject well and we found his presentation interesting. He also discussed a couple of his favorite fertilizers; a couple of experts present at the meeting agreed that Billbergias ought not be fertilized.”

Terrie Bert

September at Bromeliad Society of Broward County

Topic: Bromeliad Evolution: From Tepuis and Highlands to Lowlands, Seashores, Mountains and Deserts.

Lynne Fieber and Michael Schmale

Bromeliad Society of South Florida

Juan Espinosa Almodovar reports: “The program was a beautifully edited collection of photographs about the 2007 BSSF Annual Show, including registration, set-up, judging, as well as all the major winning specimens and a good number of lovely plants from about 400 entered. This documentation is produced yearly by Lynne Fieber and her photographer husband, Michael Schmale, with Lynne doing the narration live during the presentation.”

Bruce Holst

At Florida West Coast

Topic: Six Year Project to Categorize Plants in Venezuela

Dave Johnston

July at Bromeliad Society of Central Florida

Topic: 20 Years Later

Ray Lemieux

July at Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay

Topic: Terrestrial Bromeliads

October at Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society

Topic: Terrestrial Bromeliads

Peter Kouchalkos

October at Broward Bromeliad Society

Topic: Bromeliad Landscaping Outside of the Box

Ken Marks

July at Bromeliad Society of Broward County

Jose Donayre reports: "Ken Marks' presentation was on his trip to Costa Rica. A well illustrated and entertaining travelogue."

July at Bromeliad Society of South Florida

Juan Espinosa Almodovar reports: "We had Ken Marks, with a beautifully prepared PowerPoint presentation on Florida's Native Bromeliads. Each view included pertinent plant identification and his images were focused, well lighted and documentary of the subject. Needless to say, his oral delivery was animated, ample and seamless."

Betsy McCrory

August at Gainesville Bromeliad Society

Bob Neubaur reports: "Betsy covered culture basics from the mix up so to speak. She talked about light conditions; watering protocol; airflow; heat problems; pests and over-crowding. She also handed out printed material covering culture basics. Response was good from members and Betsy expertly answered numerous questions addressed to her. Her program was well received by all because, apparently, it never hurts to be reminded of basic care where we may have faltered."

September at Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society

Topic: General Bromeliad Care

Craig Morrell

September at Bromeliad Society of South Florida

Juan Espinosa Almodovar reports: "Craig Morrell, presently the director of Pinecrest Gardens, previously known as Parrot Jungle -- of Nat de Leon's fame-- always gives a great talk. Mr. Morrell is man of long horticultural and administrative experience, which he is able to articulate elegantly and with crisp diction. His sets of slides

are usually good documentation and varied in range. Well versed in the use of chemicals in horticultural applications at large, Mr. Morrell also differentiates their effects, advantages and faults for specific groups of plants, with practical examples drawn from personal knowledge for illustration. Craig Morrell is also an animated speaker --no one falls asleep while he speaks!-- and good with the jokes. Did I mention he is very good?"

Ron Schoenau

September at Gainesville Bromeliad Society

Topic: How to set up a judged show

Jay Thurrott

July at Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

Calandra Thurrott reports: "'Bromeliads Seed to Seed" was interesting and there were a LOT of questions. Several members took seeds to try and we will have a follow up at our next meeting."

September at Bromeliad Society of Central Florida

Topic: John Anderson, The Largest Private Bromeliad Collection in Texas

Tom Wolfe

September at Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society

Linda Sheetz reports: "Our speaker for this month was Tom Wolfe, "What's Blooming in the Wolfes' Garden?" His emphasis was to view actual blooms/flowers on bromeliads (not just foliage or inflorescence). He showed numerous slides of the many plants on his 2.5 acres and greenhouses, with pictures taken by his wife, who also had, for sale, note cards with photos of bromeliads she had taken."



What is the Florida Council (continued from page 6)

The Council also supports the ongoing program to control the invasive Mexican bromeliad weevil, an imported pest that imperils Florida's bromeliads, both native and in collections.

To learn more about the Council, visit its website at

Upcoming Events



2007

Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society Show and Sale

November 30 Judged Show

December 1 and 2 Sale

Terrie Park, Fort Myers

2008

Bromeliad Society of Central Florida

Leu Gardens Sale

March 29-30

Harry P. Leu Gardens, Orlando

Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society Sale

April 12-20, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Sanford Garden Club

US 17-92 and Fairmont Drive, Sanford

Bromeliad Society of Central Florida

Mothers Day Show and Sale

May 9-11

Orlando Fashion Square, Orlando

Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society Sale

August 16-17, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Sanford Garden Club

US 17-92 and Fairmont Drive, Sanford

Bromeliad Society International World Bromeliad Conference

June 24-29

Cairns, Australia

Information at <http://bsi.org>



Next Florida Council Meeting

January 12, 2008

Hosted by Seminole Bromeliad
and Tropical Plant Society

See your Council representative
for more information.



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**2008
Shows and
Sales Schedule**