

# **Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, Inc.**



**In This Issue:**

**Bromeliads from Seed to Seed  
Extravaganza Wrap-Up  
Beautiful Billbergias**

**Vol. 28 Issue 4**

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(continued on the inside back cover)

**Congratulations  
and  
Thank you,  
Members  
of the  
Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay  
for the outstanding  
Bromeliad Rainforest Fantasy  
2008 Bromeliad Extravaganza  
Tom Wolfe, Chairman  
August 30, 2008**

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

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

**Extravaganza 2009  
Hosted by  
Bromeliad Society of Central Florida  
Betsy McCrory, Chairman**

# Table of Contents



<b>2008 Bromeliad Extravaganza .....</b>	<b>1, 16</b>
<b>Catching Up, Staying Even .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Donations .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Affiliate Societies News .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Culture Tips: Don't Do This! .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Sarasota Thank You .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Beautiful Billbergias .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>How Can I Find These Pictures .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Bromeliads from Seed to Seed .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>More Seed Resources .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>The 2008 Extravaganza .....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Mexican Bromeliad Weevil Report .....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Extravaganza Auction Donors .....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Speakers List .....</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Book Review: Lost Worlds.....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Upcoming Events .....</b>	<b>24</b>

## Catching Up ... Staying Even



First, a correction. In the August issue, in the announcement about Derek Butcher, Friend to the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, it was stated that Derek has been a member of the Bromeliad Society of South Australia since 1997. Actually, his tenure with that society dates from 1977. Apologies to Derek and to South Australia. For a picture of Derek and his award, go to the Florida Council's web page at <http://fcbs.org> and look for the announcement on the opening page.

At the October Council meeting, Jerry O'Keefe, representative of the Seminole County Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society, mentioned the burden that so many societies often place on only one or two members who end up volunteering to head committees and do the work that keep the societies working – because no one else will step up. Jerry was not the only one who has watched good, productive members burn out from too much work while many others sit on the sidelines. Other representatives at this meeting have seen the same thing happen at their societies. Jerry makes a good point: this is surely one way to lose good members. In the end, the society is diminished not only by the loss of these constructive members but also because others have not learned how things work. It is up to the society president – or who ever makes appointments for projects and committees - to spread the work around and encourage new members to step up.

Nat DeLeon, one of the founders of the Florida Council, was recently recognized for his lifetime of work in our bromeliad community by his own society, the Bromeliad Society of South Florida. BSSF also dedicated its November newsletter to Nat. Several of the articles from that newsletter are on the Council website, [fcbs.org](http://fcbs.org), under Bromeliad People. In the meantime, check out Society News (page 6) for a report on the

If you have ever wondered how the Florida Council selects its officers, or where the next Council meeting will be held, that information is posted on the Council website. On the opening page, go to the menu on the left and click on About FCBS. There you will find the officer and meeting rotations, as well as the bylaws and the minutes of the Council. Three of the officers will change in January. Since the next newsletter will be published in February 2009, now is a good time to thank Jose Donayre, chairman; Juan Espinosa-Almodovar, vice-chairman; Betsy McCrory, secretary; and Sudi Hipsley, treasurer. The first three positions will change. Sudi has been our faithful treasurer for several years now. Thank you all for all your work on behalf of the Council and its members. Thank you also, Betsy McCrory and Jay Thurrott, contributing editors, and Michael Andreas, keeper of the mailing list and formatter of the annual state membership list. Their work is critical to the success of this newsletter.

Happy holidays, happy New Year, and happy bromeliads!



## **Donations**

**Thank you, members of  
Bromeliad Society of Central  
Florida  
for your \$400.00 donation  
and  
Boca Raton Bromeliad Society  
\$500.00 to the Weevil Fund  
  
Thank you for your support!**

## News from FCBS Affiliate Societies



**Bromeliad Society of Central Florida's** October meeting featured a Chinese auction, a workshop on problem plants, potting soil and favorite plants. Betsy McCrory reported that this year's holiday party will be held at Leu Gardens. The society is busy planning for next year's Extravaganza. Betsy is the chairman for this event.

Tom Foley reported that **Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society** will be holding its annual sale at Terry Park in Fort Myers on December 6-7. Saturday hours are from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm; Sunday hours are 10:00 am – 4:00 pm.

Linda Sheetz reported that **Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society** held a panel discussion on Bromeliad Questions and Answers in September. New and long-time members enjoyed the discussion, which had a moderator. Florida West Coast participated in the University of South Florida Plant Sale in October. Also in October, members had a field trip to Selby Botanical Gardens followed by a trip to Michael's Bromeliads in Venice. On November 1, members participated in a clean up of the bromeliad section of the gardens at Florida Botanical Gardens. Florida West Coast recently reviewed and updated its Bylaws, for the first time since 1995.

Sara Donayre told everyone about the annual auction at **Bromeliad Society of Broward County**, always a popular event. In November, members will enjoy a field trip to two gardens. The society will hold a Christmas lunch in December. Members also will be participating in a show and sale with the Women's Club at Holiday Park in Plantation in April.

**Florida East Coast** members toured the gardens of Brad and

Marilyn Rauch in October, according to Calandra Thurrott. In November, members will visit the yard and shade houses of the Thurrotts in Port Orange. The December Christmas party will feature lots of good food and a plant exchange. In the spring, Florida East Coast members will participate at the Master Gardeners Sale at the Volusia County Fairgrounds.

Jerry O'Keefe reported that, in October, members of the **Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society** had a clean up at the Sanford Garden Club, where they hold their meetings. They removed and replaced bromeliads. Election of officers will be in November. December brings the annual Christmas party and plant exchange.

Dave Johnson reported that **Sarasota Bromeliad Society** had a very successful program, Bring Your Problem Plant. Sarasota recruited new members by passing out flyers at the Tropiflora Fall Festival. For their Christmas party this year, members will have a stand up function with heavy hors d'oeuvres for something different.

Tom Wolfe says **Bromeliad Guild of Tampa** will participate at the State Fair in February with an exhibit in the Horticulture Building. Bromeliads will be for sale, of course, as well as other plant life such as orchids and ferns. Tampa members were thrilled with the turnout at the Extravaganza and now are enjoying a well-earned rest!

Mark Peters says members of **Treasure Coast Bromeliad Society** are looking forward to participating at Bromeliad Presentation Day at Heathcote Botanical Gardens in Ft. Pierce on February 20. Recently they bought a tent to use for shows. They also now have a program committee to plan for field trips and speakers. Treasure Coast meets four times a year.

Mike Michalski reported that members of **Bromeliad Society of South Florida** volunteered plants and mulch for the

hospital grounds of the V.A. Hospital. The October auction at the society meeting was quite successful; it is always a popular event. Members also had a field trip to Tropicflora and Michael's Bromeliads this fall. They participated in the ramble at Fairchild Gardens earlier in this month. The society held a surprise dinner to honor **Nat DeLeon** and his many contributions to our bromeliad community. About 70 people attended. President Karl Green gave a speech after which several other people spoke, including past president Peter Kouchalakos, president-elect Robert Meyer, Pinecrest Gardens Director of Horticulture, Craig Morrell, friend and active member Mike Michalski, along with sons Donald DeLeon and Robert DeLeon, reports Robert Meyer. Nat's family was there to see him receive the accolades of so many people. Sandy Roth arranged the whole affair, and it was first class all the way, says Mona Prince.



## **2009 Calendar of Events**

Is your society holding a sale, show or participating in other plant events in 2009?

In the February issue of this newsletter, a list of all bromeliad related events, which our affiliated societies either host or participate in, will be published.

Please send all information, including dates, times, location and contacts to [karen@fcbs.org](mailto:karen@fcbs.org) by January 24, 2009 so your society's events can be promoted in the next newsletter. These dates will also be included on the Council website (<http://fcbs.org>) under Upcoming Events.

## Culture Tips: Don't Do This!

by Jay Thurrott



Usually culture advice involves suggestions passed on to the reader in the form of "do this". This month's tip is more of a "don't do this!"

Recently, I had a conversation with a long-time admirer of Tillandsias who had built an impressive collection of many hundreds of Tillandsias, a collection spanning a period of several decades. She noticed that her plants were being attacked by scale insects and, after waging a losing battle by going after the scale with Q-tips and alcohol, decided to step up her defense by treating her plants with malathion. She mixed up a batch of diluted malathion in a large plastic container, soaked all of her plants in the solution for a short time and then removed them to dry.

Within a few days the Tillandsias began to show ill effects from this treatment, and over the course of several weeks, she watched helplessly as a large portion of her collection died or developed severe damage. I seem to recall a similar story that was documented in the BSI Journal some time ago involving aerial spraying of malathion for mosquito control in South Florida and the effects of over-spray that had drifted onto a bromeliad collection. The obvious lesson to be learned from this heart-breaking incident is to not use malathion for scale control on bromeliads.

The less obvious lesson is this: whenever you make any cultural changes in your bromeliad collection, - and this includes using different potting mixes, fertilizers, pesticides and even watering techniques- start with only a few plants and then closely observe the effects before applying the change

any further.

This will take a little longer, and if your proposed culture change is a positive one, you will be itching to apply the change to the rest of your collection. You must be patient though. It's also possible that the result will not be favorable and you can avoid much grief by proceeding in a more cautious manner. It's far better to lose a few plants than an entire collection!

Incidentally, you may have noticed that many bromeliad enthusiasts don't kill plants. Instead, they lose plants (as in "I used to grow *Aechmea* 'Samurai', but I lost it"). Somehow that sounds a little kinder and gentler to them. I think I prefer to call it as it is. I've killed my share of bromeliads through inexperience, inattentiveness, and downright neglect. I've also lost plants (in the hurricanes of 2004, some *Tillandsias* just disappeared – I have no idea where they went, but they may very well be still alive). I like to distinguish between the two terms.

This article was originally published in the newsletter of the Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society, August 2008.

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The October quarterly meeting of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies was hosted by the **Sarasota Bromeliad Society** at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens.

Thank you, members of the Sarasota Bromeliad Society, for a delicious lunch in a great location.

Thank you, Harry Luther, for the tour of the bromeliad greenhouses after the meeting.

## Beautiful Billbergias

by Karen Andreas



The first bromeliads introduced into cultivation in the United States, Billbergias are common to many Florida landscapes. Billbergias are found throughout bromeliad collections across the country, especially in California, and in Australian gardens as well. There are 62 species, 25 varieties, and one form. Distribution is mainly in Brazil, Mexico and Central America but Billbergia is also found in Peru and Argentina.

This tubular tank type bromeliad was first described in 1821 when it was named for Gustav Billberg (1772-1844), professor of botany in Sweden. Billbergias generally have only five to eight leaves, which form a large enough reservoir to hold water for weeks with little evaporation. While the inflorescence is generally acknowledged as one of the most beautiful among bromeliads, its relatively short life span (two weeks, at most) make Billbergia growers all the more grateful for the variety in foliage that this genus offers. The inflorescences have long bracts, either red, pink or rose color, and the flowers are tubular in shape, usually purple, blue, yellow, green and white. The inflorescence may be either upright or pendant. Leaf colors include brown, green, gray and red; they are banded, spotted or variegated, with many variations in between.

Grow this bromeliad in high light; it can be acclimated to almost full sun over time. It can be grown epiphytically (mounted to a surface such as driftwood or cedar) or in soil. If grown in a pot, be sure that the soil drains well and is not heavy or soggy. Billbergias will not tolerate wet feet.

I grow many in wooden slatted orchid baskets. They will attach to the wooden slats or you can use soil. When using

soil in an orchid basket, line the basket with shade cloth to hold in the potting media. Be sure to use a soil mix that drains easily. The orchid basket provides good drainage as well as air circulation around the roots of the plants.

Hang your pots of Billbergias in trees. The light streaming down through the canopy and into the center of the Billbergias makes them glow. If you do hang them in trees, be sure to flush out the tree leaves that inevitably fall inside. Oak leaves especially become acidic as they deteriorate and will burn the leaves. If grown in low light, the leaves will become long and strappy; bright and high light brings out the very best in color in the foliage as well as overall form. Billbergias grow quickly into large clumps, making them desirable as foundation plants for the landscape and perfect for pots and hanging baskets.

Some Billbergis inflorescences are pendant, that is, they hang down as opposed to being upright. *B. rosea* is an example of that type. Both *B. nutans* and *pyramidalis* are quite common landscape bromeliads. You often see them burst into bloom during winter months. You can find pictures of these bromeliads in the Photo Index at <http://fcb.org>. In the picture of *nutans*, you can see the beauty of the flowers. *B. 'Domingos Martins'* is a fine example of a Billbergia with mottled and banded leaves as well as an upright inflorescence.

There are many attractive Billbergia cultivars. The most successful and well-known hybridizer of these bromeliads is Don Beadle, whose nursery is in Venice, Florida. Often referred to as Mr. Billbergia, Don made some of the most popular crosses in an effort to popularize this genus. His creations include 'Hallelujah,' 'Afterglow,' 'Milagro,' 'Dorothy Berg,' 'Catherine Waterman,' and 'Poquito Mas.' Don is retired now; his nursery, Los Milagros, was bought by Michael Kiehl who continues to release Don Beadle hybrids every year, often at the Extravaganza.

Billbergias are easy to grow and very rewarding. When they bloom, they provide eye-catching color in the yard and in your collection. When not in bloom, their foliage and upright growth add interest to your landscape.

You can see more pictures of Billbergias at the web site of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies at <http://fcbs.org>.



## **How Can I Find These Pictures on the Florida Council website?**

In the Photo Index on the Florida Council Website, each genus is divided into two lists; the first list is species; the second list is cultivars/hybrids.

A bromeliad with a Latin name generally is a species; the genus will be capitalized, the second name will be lower case. So to find *Billbergia nutans*, go to the Photo Index, click on Billbergia and, in the first list, click on “N”. The list will go to Billbergia species beginning with the letter “N”. Scroll down with your cursor until you find nutans.

Bromeliads whose second name(s) start with a capital letter and is in single quotes is a cultivar/hybrid. To find Billbergia ‘Dorothy Berg’, go to the Photo Index, click on Billbergia, click on Cultivars, then on “D” to pull up the names of Billbergia cultivars beginning with that letter.



# Bromeliads From Seed to Seed

by Jay Thurrott



All bromeliads produce flowers at maturity, and often bromeliads will produce viable seeds - depending on the time of year and the presence or absence of insects and other creatures willing to pollinate the flowers. Some hobbyists find a great deal of satisfaction in growing bromeliads “from seed to seed” or from seedling to mature, flowering plant. Many clubs have workshops addressing this topic where their members learn different ways that these seeds can be germinated and nurtured into mature plants.

One of the lesser known services provided by the Bromeliad Society International (BSI) is a member-accessible seed fund. BSI members can request seeds at the incredibly low price of \$1 per packet for any seeds that may be in stock...and this is where you come in. Whether you are a member of BSI or not (and you really should think about becoming a member if you are not currently one), you can help your fellow bromeliad growers by sending seeds to the Seed Fund whenever your species plants set seed. What may be a common plant to you may be rare and highly prized by growers in other parts of the world. But perhaps more importantly, at a time when many plants are facing extinction, whether by climate change or by man-induced habitat reduction, the distribution of bromeliads species through programs such as the Seed Fund ensures the continued presence of these plants and keeps the door open for possible future reintroduction to native habitat.

A few simple guidelines:

1. The Seed Fund is looking for seeds of species plants. Seeds collected from hybrids are not likely to run true to the seed parent, so please refrain from sending these. Also, if unpure

(crossed) seeds are suspected, please mark as such.

2. Seeds should be removed from the seed pods or berries and, in the case of those from the Bromelioideae group, the seeds should be thoroughly washed to remove any pulp that will promote fungus growth. These seeds should then be thoroughly dried.

3. Place the seeds in a small envelope with the correct identification of the plant.

4. Send seeds to Harvey C. Beltz, 6327 South Inwood Road, Shreveport, LA 71119-7260

Tel: 318-635-4980.

Need further incentives to participate in this worthwhile program? For each large packet of seed that you send in you will receive credit for two Seed Fund packets to be sent to you (a list of currently available seeds is maintained on the BSI website). If you are looking to receive seeds from the Fund, include a self-addressed, stamped envelope to receive an additional free packet of seeds. But don't be a taker, be a giver. Let's build up that stock of seeds available for distribution. Your donations of seed will be greatly appreciated, and you can rest assured that you are doing something positive for horticultural species conservation.



## More Seed Resources

by Karen Andreas



Another source for bromeliad seed is The Seed Exchange of Brom-L and the Dutch/Belgian Bromeliad Society. Brom-L is a long-running bromeliad email discussion group.

Information about seed currently available can be found at <http://botu07.bio.uu.nl/Brom-L/>. Go to Seed Exchange.

Prices are comparable to those charged by the BSI Seed Fund.

Information about growing from seed is posted on the Florida Council website at <http://fcbs.org>. Go to the menu on the left of the opening window and click on Bromeliad Information. Select Culture (the first topic listed), then Seed Raising. Here you will find four articles on growing from seed:

“The Kitchen Method of Seed Raising” by Derek Butcher;

“Different Ways to Grow Tillandsias from Seed” by Andrew Flower;

“Growing Tillandsia Seed Using Artificial Media and Sterile Techniques” by Dr. Gordon Slack;

“Growing Atmospheric Tillandsias from Seed” by Mark Dimmitt (BSI Journal #1, 1990).

For some of the fun and challenges of growing from seed, check out “Auntie Margaret Queries” on the Council website. Margaret Butcher offers some insights and lots of information on the surprises that spring from batches of seed labeled with one name but that actually grow into something else entirely different!

# **The 2008 Extravaganza**

by Tom Wolfe  
Chairman, Extravaganza 2008



The 2008 Extravaganza “Bromeliad Rainforest Fantasy” was a huge success mainly because sixty-seven percent of the membership of the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay participated in some way by performing tasks prior to the event or during the event. Also many members from societies around the state contributed their help. “Hats off” to all our great volunteers!

We had 197 registrants for 170 room nights at the Sheraton Suites Tampa Airport Hotel and a total of 36 vendors in the sales area. We also filled four buses for the Sunday morning home tours. We thought the hotel was the perfect botanical site for our conference with its beautiful palms, trees, and plants throughout the Atrium. The staff was very attentive and quick to respond to any of our needs, which contributed greatly to the success and enjoyment of the conference.

The seminars were conducted by some of the best speakers available. Harry Luther, Dennis Cathcart, Carole Richtmyer and Ray Lemieux did a fantastic job and attracted such large crowds that there was standing room only.

At the banquet on Saturday evening, Derek Butcher received a “Friend of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies” award in the form of a plaque.

One of the main highlights of the evening was an award presentation by the Chairman of The Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies to Michael and Karen Andreas on

behalf of all the Florida Societies. The plaque read for “*Exemplary service above and beyond the call of duty.*” They have worked tirelessly on the FCBS web site, *FCBS.org*, promoting bromeliads worldwide. In addition to the website, they produce the FCBS newsletter, they were the pioneers in establishing the cyber coffees at international BSI Conferences to train and educate bromeliad enthusiasts, and perform many other tasks at the local and state level. Our heartfelt congratulations to Karen and Michael.

Mary Whitmore, auctioneer and member of the San Diego Bromeliad Society, brought in \$4,600 plus from the Saturday night auction which goes to the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies. A big thank you for all who donated plants and other related items for the auction.

I believe it was a memorable occasion for all who attended and we are looking forward to next year in Orlando.



**Visit  
the home page of  
The Cryptanthus Society  
at  
<http://fcbs.org/cryptanthussociety>**

# Mexican Bromeliad Weevil Report

## April – September 2008

by Ronald D. Cave<sup>1</sup>, J. Howard Frank<sup>2</sup>,  
and Teresa Cooper<sup>2</sup>



The Ft. Pierce colony of the parasitic fly *Lixadmontia franki* is doing well. Average weekly production of pupae during the reporting period was 106, with a maximum of 249. In April, 469 pupae were produced; in May 635 pupae; and in June 391 pupae; the trimestral total was 1,495. In July, 405 pupae were produced, in August 513 pupae, and in September 299 pupae. The trimestral total was 1,217, down 19% from the previous trimester. Possible reasons for this reduction have been addressed.

To date, 2,370 adult *L. franki* (1,233 females, 1,137 males) have been released in the field.

**April.** Sixty-nine flies (33 females, 36 males) were released at Lake Rogers Park on April 3. At Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, 79 flies (36 females, 43 males) were released on April 11. In Enchanted Forest on April 28, 101 adults (53 females, 48 males) were released.

**May.** On May 12, 73 flies (41 females, 32 males) were released in Big Cypress National Preserve.

**June.** Ninety-four flies (48 females, 46 males) were released at Lake Rogers Park on June 4. On June 13, 54 flies (28 females, 26 males) were released at Fakahatchee Strand State Park, the first release at this site. In Enchanted Forest, 100 flies (52 females, 48 males) were released on June 23.

**July.** Sixty-seven flies (37 females, 30 males) were released on July 13 at the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, the fifth release at this site. On July 30, 68 flies (35 females, 33 males) were released in Big Cypress National Preserve, the fifth release at this site.

**September 2008.** On September 5, 110 flies (56 females, 54

males) were released at Fakahatchee Strand State Park, the second release at this site.

The method for evaluating establishment of flies at four release sites continues with weevil-infested sentinel pineapples tops left in the field for 2 weeks. No recoveries of flies were made during the reporting period.

The operations for producing pupae of *Lixadmontia franki* in Honduras were shut down in early May for three reasons: 1) shipments of pupae during the hot months of June to September run the risk of becoming overheated during transit and killing the pupae; 2) the Ft. Pierce colony is doing well and is self-sustainable; and 3) the funding cycle has reached the end.

Laboratory research on *L. franki* began in the Entomology and Nematology Department in Gainesville. The goals of this research are to determine what factors motivate the flies to mate, the females to oviposit, and the maggots to successfully find and parasitize a host weevil. The results of these studies will be used to increase fly rearing efficiency and to increase our understanding of the fly's ecology. Research will be approached by studying a population of flies in an experimental cage that has been designed to present the flies with choices and by performing artificial larviposition on host weevils that are prepared in the same manner in which they are presented to the flies in the cage.

Weevil and bromeliad monitoring in the Enchanted Forest revealed, on July 25, thirteen dead bromeliads, all killed by the weevil; two had weevil specimens, one a third instar larva and the other a pupa. The larva was not parasitized. On August 30, three dead bromeliads, all killed by the weevil, were found; one contained a fifth instar larva. The larva was not parasitized. A count was made of the visible, large bromeliads remaining in the canopy. The total was 99; this is less than 5%

of the first count made in March 2007, which totaled 2,176.

Howard Frank and Ron Cave were awarded a 2-year grant for \$46,762 from the Tropical Subtropical Agriculture Research Special Grant of the USDA-CSREES program. The funds will be used to pay Teresa Cooper's stipend and cover costs for two exploratory trips to Guatemala to search for new natural enemies of bromeliad-eating weevils.

David Pick, a high school student working in the Ft. Pierce laboratory, presented his research project "Evaluation of artificial diets for rearing *Metamasius callizona* (Coleoptera: Dryophthoridae)" at the Florida State Science and Engineering Fair in April and placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in his category (Zoology). He also displayed his project in May at the International Science and Engineering Fair in Atlanta, Georgia. His travel was facilitated in part by a generous donation from the FCBS.

Ron Cave gave a talk on the weevil biological control program to the Boca Raton Bromeliad Society on June 19. Teresa Cooper presented in a student paper competition at the Florida Entomological Society's annual meeting in July. The presentation "Post-release monitoring of a biological control agent, *Lixadmontia franki*, in Florida" was a summary of the fly releases that have been made, the methods for post-monitoring, and the recovery made at Lake Rogers. Teresa received first place in the competition.

#### Publications

Suazo, A., R.D. Cave & J.H. Frank. 2008. Reproductive biology and development of *Lixadmontia franki* (Diptera: Tachinidae), a parasitoid of bromeliad-eating weevils. Florida Entomologist 91: 453-459.

<sup>1</sup>Indian River Research & Education Center, UF, Ft. Pierce, FL

<sup>2</sup>Entomology & Nematology Department, UF, Gainesville, FL

## 2008 Extravaganza Auction Donors

The members of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies thank the following people and nurseries for their generous donations to the Rare Plant Auction at this year's Extravaganza. These generous people donated 96 items to the auction which raised more than \$4000.00.

George and Irene Aldrich	Shirley and Richard Konefal
John Bankhead	Sandra Kotlaba
Marty and Bernie Baxley	Jamie and Jackie Lawson
Alan Bennett	Ray Lemieux
Theresa Bert	Tom Lineham
Deb Booker	Stephen Littlefield
William Carr	Harry Luther, M. Selby Gardens
Color Zone Tropicals	Miranda Maliborski
Joseph and Leni Curd	McCrorry Sunny Hill Nursery
Jose and Sara Donayre	Jason Mellica
Butch and Quyles Force	Michael's Bromeliads
Bill and Maureen Frazel	Michael Michalski
Sally Gawler	Bob Neubaur
Larry Giroux	Gerard O'Keefe
Karl and Kris Green	Ken Phelps
Ed Hall	Rick and Carol Richtmeyer
Colleen Hendrix	Kathy Risley
Bud Hendrix	Ron and Carolyn Schoenau
Alan and Rhonda Herndon	Larry Searle
Steve Hoppin	David Smith
Lynne and Robert Hudson	Gregory Spak
Dave Johnson	Tropiflora
Dave Johnston	Jay and Calandra Thurrott
Dale Kammerlohr	Brian Weber
Anne Kauffman	Bryan and JoAnn Windham
Jim and Nancy Kearns	

**Thank you for your support!**

# Speakers List

A list of who is giving programs through the state, as reported by societies



## Central Florida

Ron Schoenau: "Where I found my bromeliads"

Tom Wolfe: "The Judges' Dilemma"

## Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society

Jay Thurrott: 2008 World Bromeliad Conference

Terrie Bert

Larry Giroux and Steve Hoppin

## Florida West Coast

George Aldrich: "Chicago World Bromeliad Conference"

Harry Luther: "Bromeliad Habitats in Brazil"

Michael Leary

## Florida East Coast

George Aldrich: "Chicago World Bromeliad Conference"

Jay and Calandra Thurrott: "2008 World Bromeliad Conference"

Terrie Bert

## Sarasota

Harry Luther

Dennis Cathcart: "Trip to South Africa"

Bruce Holst: "Trip to French Guiana"

Tom Wolfe: "The Judges' Dilemma"

## Bromeliad Society of South Florida

Michael Schmale: pictures from the annual show

## Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay

Tom Wolfe

Jay Thurrott: "2008 World Bromeliad Conference"

Michael and Karen Andreas: "Using the Florida Council Website"

Bruce Holst: "Horticulture Gold - Exploration of Gold Mines in Venezuela"

# **Lost Worlds of the Guiana Highlands**

A Book Review by Karen Andreas

Many of us who are members of Florida bromeliad societies have been fortunate enough over the years to have seen programs by Bruce Holst, Director of Research/Manager of Collections at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, on his adventures in the land of the tepuis, giant sandstone plateaus so inaccessible as to be known as the Lost World. Stewart McPherson has published a new book on this mysterious region, *Lost Worlds of the Guiana Highlands*.

Like his previous book, *Pitcher Plants of the Americas*, Mr. McPherson writes of *Brocchinia* and *Catopsis*, with a nod this time to *Tillandsia* as well. There is a concise and interesting description of *Brocchinia* colonizing the summits of tepuis. Unlike *Pitcher Plants*, bromeliads do not get an extensive write-up although there are many bromeliad photographs with *Brocchinia* being most often featured.

Mr. McPherson writes that his intent is to provide “a substantive and visually rich overview of the natural history and ecology of the tepuis,” and he certainly delivers. The photographs in this generously illustrated book are stunning, the text is easy to read and interesting as well. In this book, he continues to make a case for preservation and conservation.

The value of this book to bromeliad growers is the extensive descriptions and understanding of the geography and environment where our some of our favorite and least understood bromeliads grow. This is a habitat most of us will never visit, which certainly adds to its fascination.

*Lost Worlds of the Guiana Highlands* by Stewart McPherson

Published by Redfern Natural History Productions, LTD

[www.redfernnaturalhistory.com](http://www.redfernnaturalhistory.com)

388 pages, 248 images, seven maps/drawings

## Upcoming Events



### **December 6-7, 2008**

Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society Annual Sale  
Terry Park, Ft. Myers  
Saturday 9:00-5:00; Sunday 10:00—4:00

### **February 20, 2009**

Treasure Coast Bromeliad Society  
Bromeliad Presentation Day  
Heathcote Botanical Gardens, Ft. Pierce



## **Next Florida Council Meeting**

January 10, 2009

Hosted by Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society  
See your Council representative  
for more information.

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(continued from inside front cover)

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**Happy  
Holidays!**