Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, Inc.

In This Issue:

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(continued on the inside back cover)

2009 Bromeliad Extravaganza

Sponsored by Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies
Hosted by Bromeliad Society of Central Florida

November 13-15
Renaissance Orlando Airport Hotel

5445 Forbes Place, Orlando
(just north of the Orlando International Airport,
off SR 436/Semoran Blvd.)
Special Room Rate of $109 per room

Reservations by phone at (407) 240-1000 or (800) 545-1985
or online at http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/mcora
Group code: bsobsoa
Be sure to ask for the rooms under Bromeliad Society CF
Cut-off date is October 14, 2009
(24 hour shuttle service from Orlando International Airport)

Friday night
8:00-9:00 pm Dessert Social
9:00-10:00 pm Plant Sales
Open to Conference Registrants Only

Saturday
Plant Sales, Seminars, Raffles, Silent Auctions,
Banquet, Rare Plant Auction

Sunday
Home tours

Plan ahead now!

Betsy McCrory, Chairperson Betsymccrory@aol.com

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Catching Up … Staying Even

This month's issue of the newsletter is a result of great input from our members, both in subject matter and in new projects.

Nat DeLeon has proposed both. You will find an article by Jay Thurrott on Nat's exciting project, coordinated through the Florida Council, to identify and record those old time bromeliads that have fallen out of commercial production but may still exist in private collections (page 20). Nat also suggested a forum to exchange information on bromeliads and bromeliad items people are looking for or want to sell (page 9).

Larry Giroux asked for an article on what to do when the Mexican bromeliad weevil finds its way into your backyard collection. What works to eradicate this menace (page 14)?

The Florida Council representatives have been encouraging the Bromeliad Society International to start a new series of Judges Schools. In Florida, we need more judges to handle the annual shows sponsored by our affiliated societies. An announcement on the schools is on page 21; look for more information in your societies' newsletters in the upcoming months or contact BSI Judges Chairman Betty Ann Prevatt.

Finally, it looks to be a busy spring, as evidenced by the Calendar of Events on page 4. Many of our affiliated societies are participating not only in their own shows and sales but in other horticultural events in the state.

There is no reason to be bored when we have so many bromeliad activities! Enjoy the warmer weather and the camaraderie of our bromeliad community this spring.

Thank you, everyone, for your ideas and input! Keep them

2009 Calendar of Events

March 21-22
Gainesville Bromeliad Society
Kanapaha Spring Garden Show
4700 S.W. 58th Drive, Gainesville 32608
Saturday 9:00-6:00; Sunday 10:00-5:00

March 28-29
Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society
Greenfest/ H.B. Plant Park at the University of Tampa
401 W. Kennedy Blvd, Tampa
Saturday 9:00-4:00; Sunday 10:00-4:00

April 3-5
Tropiflora Spring Festival
3530 Tallevast Road, Sarasota 34243
941-351-2267
http://www.tropiflora.com

April 4-5
Bromeliad Society of Broward County and The Plantation Women's Club
Tropical Magic of Bromeliads
The 12th Biennial BSI Standard Show and Sale
Saturday 9:00-5:00; Sunday 9:00-4:00
Volunteer Park Community Center
12050 W. Sunrise Blvd, Plantation 33323
www.bromeliadsocietybc.com
Contact: Colleen Hendrix (954) 530-0076 or (305) 799-7037

April 4
Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society
Master Gardeners Sale
Volusia Conty Fairgrounds
8:30 - noon

April 4-5
Treasure Coast Bromeliad Society
Clinic and Sales Booth
10:00-4:00
Heathcote Botanical Gardens
210 Savannah Road, Ft. Pierce 34982

April 11-12
Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society
USF Botanical Gardens Spring Plant Festival
Saturday 10:00-4:00; Sunday 11:00-3:00

April 18-19
Bromeliad Society of South Florida Annual Show and Sale
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden
10901 Old Cutler Road
Coral Gables, FL 33156
For more information, call 305 498-2345

April 18-19
Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society Sale
Sanford Garden Club
200 Fairmont Drive, Sanford

April 24-26
Sarasota Bromeliad Society
Annual Show and Sale
Marie Selby Botanical Gardens
811 South Palm Avenue, Sarasota 34236
10:00-5:00; Sunday 10:00-4:00

April 25-26
Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society
Green Thumb Festival
Walter Fuller Park
7891 26th Ave N, St. Petersburg
9:00 – 4:00

May 5
Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society
Annual Auction (live and silent)
Hope Presbyterian Church, 1698 S. Belcher, Clearwater
7:30

May 8-10
Bromeliad Society of Center Florida
Mothers Day Show and Sale
Orlando Fashion Square Mall
3201 E. Colonial Drive (S.R. 50), Orlando

August 14-15
Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society Sale
Sanford Garden Club
200 Fairmont Drive, Sanford

November
Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society Show and Sale
Date to be announced

November 13-15
Bromeliad Extravaganza
Hosted by the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida
Renaissance Orlando Hotel Airport
5445 Forbes Place, Orlando

November 21-22
Treasure Coast Bromeliad Society
Clinic and Sales Booth
10:00-4:00
Heathcote Botanical Gardens
210 Savannah Road, Ft. Pierce 34982

News from FCBS Affiliate Societies

For information on future events mentioned in this article, check the Calendar on page 4.

Treasure Coast Bromeliad Society
TC President Terry Quillen proudly announces the new Treasure Coast Bromeliad Society website at www.tcbromeliadsociety.org. The society has a busy winter season at Heathcote Botanical gardens in Ft. Pierce, participating in plant sales and clinics. In May, they will be taking a field trip to Dr. Brown's Valkaria Tropical Gardens, just south of Melbourne. Terrie Quillen

Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society
In November, members toured the shade houses of Jay and Calandra Thurrott in Port Orange and enjoyed a lunch afterwards. The society will participate in the Master Gardeners Sale in April; this is a very popular half-day sale. Calandra Thurrott

Gainesville Bromeliad Society
Members recently enjoyed four BSI programs that were downloaded Power Point presentations. They visited the gardens of Gainesville vice president Peggy Mixon and thoroughly enjoyed the visit. They are preparing for the spring sales at Kanapaha. Bob Moxley

Florida West Coast
Once again, members will have a busy spring at GreenFest, the USF Botanical Gardens Spring Plant Festival and the Green Thumb Festival. Linda Sheetz

Sarasota Bromeliad Society
In November, members toured Nick Maurikes' yard. Christmas dinner was held at Selby Botanical Gardens. David Johnson

Bromeliad Society of Central Florida
The BSCF Holiday Party was held at Leu Gardens in December. The society is gearing up for a busy year with its annual Mothers Day Show and Sale in May and the Extravaganza in November. The society is holding an auction in February to raise funds for the Extravaganza. Betsy McCrory

Bromeliad Society of Broward County
In October, the society had its very successful annual auction. Members also enjoyed a January tour of Jeff Serrels' place. The show and sale is being sponsored jointly between the society and the Plantation Women's Club in April this year. Jose Donayre

Bromeliad Society of South Florida
The society held a surprise party to honor Nat DeLeon in November. It was the best party they ever had, said Mike Michalski. In November, members participated in the Ramble at Fairchild Gardens. The society also will be holding an auction to raise money for the crystal used as prizes at their show. This year also marks the 50th anniversary of the society. Mike Michalski.

Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay
The society will be participating in the Florida State Fair with a bromeliad display as well as sales this month.

The Bromeliad Exchange

Not too long ago, Nat DeLeon called with an idea for the newsletter. How about having a place where you could list bromeliads and bromeliad-related items you either want to sell or want to find, he suggested. It would be one way to network information about what people are interested in acquiring – or selling. Thus, starting with the May issue of this newsletter, The Bromeliad Exchange will be published three times a year (May, October and February). This service is along the lines of classified advertisements, however there will be no charge for your listing. There are, however, some rules.

This service is for members of FCBS affiliated societies only; you must be included in the roster on file with the Council from your society. Commercial growers and retailers may not use this service for commercial purposes or promotion.

You may place one listing twice a year, that is, in two out of the three issues that will carry the Exchange.

Bromeliad Exchange items will be accepted on a first-come first-served basis and will be published on a space available basis.

Submit your listing for the Bromeliad Exchange by email to bromexchange@fcbs.org. Include your name, conventional mail address, and phone number. All information must be verifiable.

Keep your Bromeliad Exchange listing to 35 words or less; be sure to include contact information in your listing.

The Florida Council of Bromeliad societies warrants no claims; the Council does not derive any financial benefit from the Bromeliad Exchange.

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To inaugurate the Bromeliad Exchange – and since it was his idea – the first listing of the Bromeliad Exchange is below. Thank you, Nat!

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The Bromeliad Exchange

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Wish to buy in reasonable condition a copy of the English version of the Baensch book, Blooming Bromeliads.
Nat De Leon - Nateile7@aol.com.

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Call for
Florida Bromeliad Sources

Do you own a state-inspected bromeliad nursery in Florida? If you would like to be listed in the Bromeliad Sources feature of the May 2009 newsletter, email the following information to karen@fcbs.org

Name of nursery
Name of owner(s)
Address
Hours of operation/if appointment is needed
Phone number
Email address
Webpage, if available
Description of your nursery and/or stock

Deadline is April 17

Culture Tips: …and sometimes you just have to throw them out

by Jay Thurrott

Winter is a good opportunity to take stock of your collection. It's a time when you can review what's in your collection (you do know what is in your collection…right? If not, put "inventory" on the top of your list of things to do for 2009). It's a time to note which plants are doing just fine (give yourself a pat on the back), which ones need a little more care (try them in a different location, try a little more or a little less water), and which ones are simply a lost cause.

Now I'm not talking about those plants that were damaged by the cold during this winter – that's another whole story (and it's too early to decide on the extent of that damage). No, you know the plants that I mean… when you look at a bromeliad that should have plain green leaves, but now has so many tiny black spots from scale that you are considering changing the tag to read 'variety, *leprosa*'- it's time to get rid of the plant. When you find that all of the leaves on your bromeliad resemble the paper that the butcher uses to wrap your favorite cuts of meat or when the only leaf that has any green color to it is the central one in the plant and when you tug at it, it comes off in your hand – it's probably too late to save the plant. Throw it out! Then, of course there are those plants that last year at this time appeared to be having near-death experiences and then took a turn for the worst during the summer and fall. Let me just say it now: "They're not going to get any better - throw them out!"

I think many of us view a severely stressed plant as a challenge and sometimes go out of our way to acquire these "bargains" from friends' discard piles and from discount bins in home and garden stores. Most commercial growers would

never even think of selling these plants for fear of besmirching their good reputation, but many "big box" stores have no such scruples. Not that I would consider purchasing any of these discounts, but I can say that I've had some remarkable successes in nursing ill bromeliads back to good health, and I've had some equally remarkable failures where the patient started with one foot in the compost pile and then followed a slow and steady decline. After a few similar experiences, many of us begin to learn the truth about bromeliads.

Truth #1 – *Many, if not most, bromeliads really do thrive on neglect*. When I first began acquiring these plants, the more experienced members in my bromeliad society told me this but I found it hard to accept. I babied my few bromeliads with careful watering and fertilizing and met with less than desirable results. When I finally realized that these same plants in their native surroundings were not carefully tended by anyone, yet bloomed reliably and looked great, I was inspired to take a more Darwinian approach to my collection – survival of the fittest…and found that the fittest not only survived – they thrived.

Truth #2 – *If you believe Truth #1, don't take it to extremes*. There is a difference between neglecting a bromeliad like *Ae. fulgens* that is growing under the filtered light of an oak tree and neglecting the same plant in full sun. This difference isn't *<u>like</u>* life and death, it *<u>is</u>* life and death. The result is the same as neglecting the same plant when you are warned of an impending freeze or throwing some frost cloth over it. One will live and one will die. Given *reasonable* care, tempered with some common sense most bromeliads will do just fine.

Truth #3 – *If you select a bromeliad that requires growing conditions that you are not prepared to provide, failure is a distinct possibility*. Sometimes that competitive spirit kicks in and the temptation to try to grow a plant that nobody else is currently growing can be very strong. But before you spend a

large sum of money acquiring one of these plants, stop and ask yourself why nobody else is growing it. Often there is a reason behind this. Few people in my area grow *Guzmania lindenii*, so when a friend gave me one, I was thrilled with the prospect. *G. lindenii* is one of those plants that doesn't really appreciate Florida's long, warm summers, and so it gradually declined and died – or maybe I should say "I lost that plant". Over the years I've learned that this is one of many plants that can be grown in this area, but only under very specific growing conditions. I don't care to go through the extremes to provide these conditions, so I have list of bromeliads that I simply do not try to grow. I find that for every plant on my 'don't try to grow this' list, there are many, many others that will do just fine under the growing conditions that I can provide.

Truth #4 – *Sometimes you just have to throw them out*. I know, this one is hard to believe, but it's true. When you have a lot of bromeliads in your landscape, there comes a time when you have to thin them out. You can bring some of your surplus to club meetings and sell or exchange them with other members but there is a limit to this as well. Sometimes you can give some to your neighbors, but at some point you will find that your supply exceeds the demand and you just have to throw them out. Often, if you leave a pile of bromeliads by the curb a few days in advance of the trash pick-up it will mysteriously disappear before the trash man arrives. This can be a very satisfying solution to your problem, since the plants have obviously found their way to another location where they will be appreciated…and it may eventually lead to that new owner joining a local bromeliad society to learn more about these intriguing plants!

The Weevil Is In My Collection! Now What?

by Karen Andreas

In each issue of this newsletter, Dr. Howard Frank and Dr. Ron Cave publish a report on the Mexican bromeliad weevil and their progress in the effort to control this menace. What can the back yard grower do if the weevil makes its way into your collection?

Because the bromeliad community occupies such a small niche in the world of big chemical companies, there are no chemical solutions labeled for use against the Mexican bromeliad weevil. In the absence of research and solutions by the chemical companies, we have to rely on anecdotal evidence – according to those who have fought the weevil, what has worked best to eradicate the weevil from back yard collections.

First of all, you cannot fend off the weevil with preventative spraying. You never know when and where the weevil will visit your collection, and if you are doing preventative spraying, you are wasting expensive chemicals for no sure reason.

Among bromeliad growers who have successfully fought the Mexican bromeliad weevil, the chemical of choice is imidicloprid, made by Bayer and often called Merit; it is in Advantage Garden, which you can find at garden centers as a spray. This is a systemic chemical, which means that it will last for several months in the bromeliad leaves. The larvae of the Mexican bromeliad weevil will ingest imidicloprid as it eats the bromeliad leaves and will die. Imidicloprid is not harmful to birds or animals (it actually is an ingredient found in some flea medicine). You can use the rose formula straight

Treat only new plants coming into your collection or only if you have a confirmed infestation.

By the way, one beneficial side effect of imidicloprid is that it works wonders on black scale.

Remember, the main way the Mexican bromeliad weevil is distributed is by people transporting bromeliads from an infested area. Do not take, swap or buy plants from areas of known infestation unless you know they have been inspected and treated for the Mexican bromeliad weevil. Most commercial growers already have a management program in place; many small growers and hobbyists do not. If you find that one fabulous bromeliad you just have to have and the source gives you no reassurance about the weevil, isolate it from your collection when you get home and treat it with imidicloprid.

Never take bromeliads from their habitat. Many of Florida's bromeliads are endangered or threatened. Collecting plants from lands such as parks is illegal. In addition, you could be helping to spread the Mexican bromeliad weevil.

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

Mexican Bromeliad Weevil Report April – September 2008

by Ronald D. Cave[1], J. Howard Frank[2], and Teresa Cooper[2]

The production of *Lixadmontia franki* pupae stabilized after the erratic period of the previous three months. Average weekly production of pupae was 71, with a maximum of 96. In October, 217 pupae were produced, in November 297 pupae, and in December 397 pupae. The trimestral total was 911, down 25% from the previous trimester.

During a three-month period, half of the weevil-infested pineapple tops in the fly breeding cage were oriented horizontally and the other half oriented vertically. Larvae exposed in these tops were kept separately in order to determine if parasitism rates differ significantly between the two orientations. Parasitism was 29.2% in the horizontal tops versus 14.4% in the vertical tops. We are not sure why the rate is lower in vertical tops, but it possibly explains why pupa production was lower during the period of the experiment. These results also imply consequences on the fly field establishment evaluation technique in which sentinel pineapple tops were oriented vertically in the trays. The difference in parasitism rates may also influence the fly's ability to control the weevil population in bromeliads on host trees.

Larvae of *Metamasius quadrilineatus* were collected in Honduras during October and November. From these larvae, *L. franki* pupae were obtained and shipped to Ft. Pierce in order to invigorate the laboratory colony with wild genes. Sixty pupae were received on December 11, and 12 pupae were received on December 24. From these pupae at least 53 adult flies have emerged and have been inserted into the colony breeding cage.

No field releases of flies were conducted during the reporting period in order to increase the fly population in the laboratory breeding cage. This enhancement has now been accomplished and field releases will resume in January 2009.

The final retrieval of pineapple tops was on 15 September from Big Cypress National Preserve. No recoveries were made from these traps or any previous traps except for the recovery in Lake Rogers Park in 2007. That part of Teresa Cooper's field research is complete. Dates of releases and monitoring trips can be found at: http://savebromeliads.ifas.ufl.edu/field/fly-release-chronology/fly-schedule-2007-2008.htm

Field research in the Enchanted Forest continues. Monthly monitoring trips are made to look for *M. callizona* and bromeliads killed by the weevil. Activity has been very low and the bromeliad population has remained steady. This is expected for this time of year.

Howard Frank and Dennis Giardina traveled to Guatemala in November to collect bromeliad-eating weevils for shipment to the Ft. Pierce quarantine for potential rearing of new parasitic flies or wasps. Fifty-one larvae were collected at Finca Los Tarrales and 46 larvae were collected at Finca Panama, both of them northwest of Patulul. The vast majority of bromeliads sampled were *Tillandsia polystachya*, but a few *Tillandsia flabellata*, *T. fasciculata* and *Catopsis* sp. were examined. Seven of the collected larvae do not belong to the genus *Metamasius*. To date, no parasitoids have emerged from the larvae.

Laboratory Research

In October 2008, 90 pupae were received from Ft. Pierce to start a fly colony in Gainesville. One hundred thirty-seven weevil larvae were exposed to the adult flies, of which 50 were successfully parasitized and produced a total of 89 pupae.

remaining 10 females were removed and used to artificially larviposit maggots on pineapple mash in a Petri dish containing two weevil larvae per dish. In five dishes, the weevil larvae were separated by a barrier and could not make contact. The other five dishes had no barriers and the weevil larvae could make contact. Ten maggots were deposited on each dish. In the five barricaded dishes, no weevil larvae attacked or killed other weevil larvae. Seven of the ten weevil larvae were successfully parasitized and produced 12 pupae. In the five dishes without barriers, three weevil larvae were killed by other weevil larvae and three weevil larvae were successfully parasitized, producing four pupae.

Weevil larvae were set up in similar dishes (five with barricades and five without barricades) but no maggots were deposited on these dishes. No weevil larvae killed other larvae in the barricaded dishes; three weevil larvae were killed in the non-barricaded dishes. At first glance, it would appear that parasitism by *L. franki* does not influence weevil killing behavior.

In total, 105 pupae were produced from the parent generation. Second-generation flies have emerged from these pupae and have successfully mated. The females are presently larvipositing and are being used in tests to assess the influence of weevil larval density on parasitism by systematically exposing host weevil larvae of variable density in pineapple mash to the fly population.

Examination of parasitized weevil larvae showed that *L. franki* maggots create and use a respiratory funnel for respiration. The funnel is attached to the host weevil larva's tracheal tube. Artificial larviposition will be used to parasitize weevil larvae which will then be dissected at regular time intervals to determine the physiological development of the maggot inside its host. The following questions will be answered: How many instars does the maggot have? Which instar creates and

uses the respiratory funnel? Does each instar have similar physiological features or are there significant changes between instars?

Publications

Cooper, T.M. 2008. Seasonality and abundance of *Metamasius callizona* (Coleoptera:Dryophthoridae), an invasive insect herbivore, on two species of *Tillandsia* (Bromeliaceae) in Florida. Journal of Natural History 42: 2721-2734.

[1]Indian River Research & Education Center, UF, Ft. Pierce, FL
[2]Entomology & Nematology Department, UF, Gainesville, FL

Speakers List

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

Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay
Bruce Holst: Flora of Gold Mines in Southern Venezuela
Terrie Bert
George Aldrich: Chicago World Bromeliad Conference

Bromeliad Society of Broward County
Ann Schandelmayer: Bromeliad Designs

Bromeliad Society of Central Florida
Terrie Bert: FCBS Website
Jay Thurrott: Australian World Conference

Bromeliad Society of South Florida
Alan Herndon: New Beginnings and Hopes for the Future

continued on page 24

Send in the Clones (and hybrids too)!
by Jay Thurrott

A proposal was presented before the Florida Council by Nat DeLeon and Alan Herndon at the January meeting to develop a long-term project with the intent to identify and preserve species and "old-time" hybrids and cultivars of bromeliads.

The background leading to this interesting proposal is the all-too-familiar tale of habitat destruction and a fear that bromeliad species may be lost forever as a result unless (1) strict conservation measures are imposed to halt the continued loss of habitat and (2) a concerted effort is made to grow and distribute species plants among bromeliad hobbyists for possible future reintroduction.

In addition to concern over the disappearance of some species plants, many hybrids and cultivars that were grown more than 20 years ago are no longer commonly seen and, in fact may no longer exist. Then again, they may very well exist in gardens and bromeliad collections of individuals, but have lost their identification and are essentially *lost*. Members of the Council recognized this, expressed their firm support, and appointed a chairman (Jay Thurrott) of a new *Clone Preservation Project* to act as liaison to the Council as this project takes shape.

If this sounds like a massive and somewhat daunting project, it <u>is</u> but like any worthwhile endeavor, it needs to start somewhere and the time to begin is now! The first element of this project will be to develop a database of bromeliads currently in cultivation around the state. This is where each of the member societies can contribute. We need to know what species and cultivars are currently to be found in collections – basically, an inventory. As simple as this sounds, it will be time consuming and will entail physical visits to collections

(preferably, the older collections first) and taking note of those plants with tags and tentative identification of those that do not have tags. We'll want to preserve the privacy of participants of course and will likely accomplish this by assigning an identification code, signifying the grower with the list of plants and developing a separate database that will not be readily accessible with actual names and addresses of the participants.

If this sounds a bit vague at this point, it is. This will be a work in progress and will likely change in shape as the project moves forward. Reports will be made on a regular basis to keep the Council informed and, at the same time to solicit their input. It's a big project, it's a project that will be reaching out to all of the Florida bromeliad societies for their help, and it's a project that can truly make a difference by conserving a rapidly diminishing biological treasure of the New World – the family *bromeliaceae*.

Want to Learn More About Bromeliads? Become a BSI Judge!

The BSI will start its next series of Judges Schools on September 26 in Florida. Schools will be held in the Ft. Myers and Ft. Lauderdale areas.

A minimum of sixteen students are needed and must sign up by June 1.

For more information, contact Betty Ann Prevatt, BSI Judges Chairman, (239) 334-0242, Bprevattpcc@aol.com and Vicky Chirnside, (951) 493-5825, vickychir@aol.com.

Catopsis – A Quiet Bromeliad

by Karen Andreas

Not as flashy as some bromeliads, Catopsis is easy to grow and, because some are native to Florida, deserves 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" scurf (the powdery substance often visible on bromeliad leaves). The flowers are white or yellow; the inflorescences are either 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.

Look for these Catopsis on the Florida Council website at http://fcbs.org. Click on Photo Index, select Catopsis and look under species:

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

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.

Catopsis mooreniana comes from forests in southern Mexico and Central America. Baensch notes that this Catopsis flowers easily and is easy to grow.

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

Speakers List (continued from page 19)

Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society
Dennis Cathcart: Travels in South Africa
Harry Luther
John Banta: "Those were the days"

Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society
Michael O'Leary: How to Have Beautiful Bromeliads without a Greenhouse
Jay Thurrott: Australian World Conference

Gainesville Bromeliad Society
BSI Power Point Presentations on bromeliads, Aechmeas, the Chicago World Conference and Florida Native Bromeliads. There was no cost to the society.
Jay Thurrott: Australian World Conference

Sarasota Bromeliad Society
Terrie Bert

Next Florida Council Meeting

April 11, 2009
Hosted by the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida
See your Council representative
for more information.

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(continued from inside front cover)

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2009 Calendar of Bromeliad Events inside