



Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies

Aechmea blanchetiana 'Wally Berg'

Brazil: Bahia



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This newsletter is a quarterly publication of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies. Contact the editor for permission to reprint articles from this publication.
Send all requests to karen@fcbs.org.

On the cover: *Aechmea blanchetiana* 'Wally Berg' Brazil: Bahia - Photo Carol Wolfe



CATCHING UP, STAYING EVEN

by Carol Wolfe

When you opened your newsletter, I am sure you expected to see Karen Andreas' handiwork in this newsletter and Karen expected to bring you Part II of Bromeliad Pioneers; however, she was involved in Michael's care and was unable to complete the issue for this publication. You can look forward to reading it in the very near future as Michael is making a great comeback for which we are all very, very grateful.

While on vacation in Beech Mountain NC the first of November, I received an email notifying me that I would be responsible for putting together this issue of the newsletter. Ok, so I thought it will be tight since I am on vacation, Thanksgiving is at the end of the month, and I work fulltime at the firm but I will do it for Karen and Michael, who have done so much for others. Little did I know that a snow storm was already on the way and our return would be delayed, my kitchen remodeling would not be finished until the end of the month...oh how true-the saying "ignorance is bliss."



We, my family and I, went to see the fall turning of the Carolina leaves, and after the third day it began to snow, and snow, and snow! The ski slopes opened historically early as the snow was totally unexpected and we were stuck on the top of the mountain. It was a beautiful winter

wonderland and we watched deer, turkeys, and other wildlife seeking shelter and food. We were cozy and warm inside only venturing out to play occasionally in the snow or to take our 18 month old granddaughter outside. But we had one big problem: the driveway to the main road was iced from the rain and then covered with snow. There was no way to get the car out to the main road. A few days after the snow, a good Samaritan came

along with a tractor and snow plow and for a reasonable contribution would clear the driveway and within the hour we were on the road!



This is what the golf course looked like on Saturday morning after 7" of snow. Some areas nearby were 10 to 20 inches deep.

THE ANDREAS: I remember meeting Karen and Michael Andreas at the unforgettable birthing of their first "Cyber Coffee" held at a BSI World Conference (which I think was Houston in 1994 but not really sure of the date). Tom already knew the Andreas and I was wowed by their computer knowledge. At the time, computers had made inroads into the home and everybody had to have one. I was a busy mom with two children and home schooling but was anxious to learn as much as possible. The Andreas were knowledgeable, confident public speakers and eager to share that knowledge with others, patient with questions from newbies like myself and they did a great job relating "cyber space to bromeliads." And to this day, they continue contributing to bromeliad knowledge of others in maintaining the web site, FCBS.org, and publishing the FCBS newsletter. It is not an easy job to come up with new, creative and interesting articles for the newsletter month after month as Karen does. I admire Michael and Karen for the many hours they contribute to FCBS which brings many hours of pleasure for thousands of folks as they surf and search FCBS.org's website.

THANK YOU MICHAEL AND KAREN FOR ALL YOU DO FOR ALL BROMELIAD GROWERS AND BROMELIAD LOVERS ALL OVER THE WORLD. OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU!



DORTHY BERG

October 17, 1929 – September 23, 2014



We thought it fitting for this issue to use *Aechmea blanchetiana* var. 'Wally Berg' on the front cover due to the passing of his beloved wife Dorothy. Dorothy Berg was born October

17, 1929 and died peacefully on September 23, 2014 at age 84. She leaves two sons, Warren and William. Dorothy was a member of the Sarasota Bromeliad Society and worked tirelessly as long as she was able helping wherever she was needed.

WALLY BERG

February 8, 1927 - March 27, 2000

Wally was born "Walter H. Berg February 8, 1927 in Chicago and came to Sarasota in 1965 from Park Forest, Illinois. He was the former owner and operator of Gulf Gate Hardware. He was a volunteer at Selby Gardens, a member of the Sarasota Bromeliad Society and a charter member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. He was a Navy veteran of World War II.

Southern Hospitality at it's best

The Berg's hospitality was unforgettable. They welcomed friends and strangers into their home to see their bromeliad collections – and what a fine collection it was!

Wally could tell you everything you ever wanted to know about bromeliads, tell you where he and Dennis Cathcart collected the bromeliads, show you his inside and outside collection of bromeliads and answer all your questions. He was full of energy and his plants were immaculate and his potting area was clean as a whistle.

Wally had a very artistic flair for landscaping and his plants were attractively arranged inside his lanai and outside in the landscape. Visitors and BSI Judges said it was like attending a Judged Show because the plants were grown and groomed so beautifully.

After you were through looking around and usually hot from the Florida sun, it was Dorothy who made the lemonade and set out a plate of cookies to refresh those that came to their home. If it was near dinnertime, you probably didn't leave without having a sandwich and drink.

Many people were recipients' of their wonderful hospitality and entertained overnight individuals judging their shows, and they welcomed bromeliad groups by the bus loads.

Their guest list was like a Who's Who of the Bromeliad World. After judging one of the Sarasota Shows, Tom stayed overnight with the Bergs. When he got home, he told me about meeting Dr. Frank Sherman and other overnight guests, Ed and Moyna Price all from Miami. They had neat conversations about bromeliads until the wee hours of the morning.

We realize that many of our new bromeliad friends and society members did not have the opportunity to know the Bergs or visit their home but those who did, count themselves very blessed indeed!

The BSI Board of Directors, under the leadership of Tom Wolfe, President at the time, established a "Wally Berg Award for Excellence" to be awarded at future BSI World Conferences. In 2002 at the World Conference held in St. Petersburg, Florida, Dennis Cathcart was the worthy first recipient of that award.

The letter below from Dennis Cathcart, read at Wally's funeral, expressed for all of us our love for Wally and it is with fond and warm remembrance of the Bergs that we publish it again:

A Letter from Dennis Cathcart to his friend Wally Berg

As a member of the bromeliad community, Wally's 'second family,' I want to express the great sense of loss that we feel at Wally's passing. Within this group of his peers, Wally was a superstar. His achievements were many but the enduring memories are of Wally's humanity. His love for bromeliads, for adventure, for his friends and the strangers he met on his many expeditions were and will remain an inspiration to all those who share Wally's love of the bromeliad hobby.

Wally Berg exemplified all that was good and decent, hardworking and honest, caring and generous, thankful and reverent. His actions spoke louder than his words and he left everything better than he found it. Wally colored our world with the beauty of his bromeliads, enlightened us with his knowledge and spread good will and friendship wherever he went.

I knew Wally as a frequent traveling companion to some of the wildest places in Central and South America, and saw many aspects of Wally's personality. I was constantly inspired by Wally's energy, by his enthusiasm and by his respect for nature and people alike. Wally took great pleasure in giving to the less fortunate in remote villages, passing out clothing, toys and food, often with tears of sympathy and love in his eyes. He loved the beauty of the earth and frequently expressed his feeling of nearness to God when in a beautiful wild place.

Once while on a trip to Ecuador, we were exploring a remote desert valley. The parched earth supported few shrubby trees and some sun baked bromeliads, and we wondered what one might find if he were to climb to the top of the surrounding hills. We decided to find out and started our way up the steep slope. Loose rocks underfoot and thorny vegetation made climbing difficult, and the relentless sun sapped our strength. As we climbed higher, I asked Wally if he was okay to go on; after all, there was

likely nothing different at the top. Wally wanted to press on, and with his seemingly boundless energy, made the trip seem easy. Reaching the top after more than an hour's climb, we stepped out of the thorny thicket into a landscape transformed. Massive boulders were covered with a carpet of glistening white *Tillandsia tectorum*, interrupted by cherry-red rosettes of *Puya lanata*. Everywhere between the boulders were clusters of *Tillandsias*, cacti, orchids and succulent plants of all kinds. A cool breeze was blowing and the view across the valley was magnificent. We stood in silence for a while, basking in the breathtaking beauty, when finally Wally said "And to think, some people don't believe in God!" That was Wally, revered by many as a master grower, but humble before the works of his maker.

Wally will be terribly missed by all who knew him and by many who knew of him. His contributions to the bromeliad world are immeasurable and his loss will be felt for years to come. Many count among their most cherished memories their time spent with Wally. His legacy will live on and his memory will remain alive in our hearts forever.

Farewell my dearest friend.
Dennis Cathcart

(Information and photo courtesy of FCBS.org)

So we bid farewell to Dorothy as she has joined Wally in their eternal home with the Lord, never to be separated again.

They were people of strong faith who loved the Lord and worked faithfully in Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and School in Sarasota where Wally was a charter member.

They did their jobs so well here on earth that it will be no surprise to us when we reach Heaven, to see that God has put Wally in charge of the bromeliad beds and Dorothy is working in hospitality welcoming everyone to their eternal home.

BLANCHETIANA

Have you ever wondered why your blanchetiana is not as brilliant red as some that you have seen in others collections? Some are brilliant red while others look gold, orange and still others look green.



Photo: Carol Wolfe

The answer may be in the variety as shown in these pictures. This beautiful golden blanchetiana, in bloom, has been a focal point in our home landscape for many years.



Aechmea blanchetiana var. 'Wally Berg'

Photo: Carol Wolfe

The picture above was taken in front of Selby Gardens in Sarasota and where the blanchetiana is growing in full sun. I am sure that many of you have enjoyed seeing these bromeliads at the entrance of the garden.

I remember seeing my first blanchetiana while on the home tours at the Miami conference in 1988 at the home of Mike Keyes. Before we left Mike's, Hazel Quilhot and Tom Wolfe had purchased one to divide. Hazel took the plant and Tom took the pup and we have loved blanchetianas every since. There has not been a year since then that we haven't had them in our yard.

Our funniest story about blanchetianas is a sale at Bromeliad Society of South Florida. Tom was a vendor for the show and we had arrived early the day before the show to get things set-up and then visited the members' sale area. Although the show didn't open until Saturday morning at 9 AM, member sales were already doing a brisk business. A BSSF member had brought blanchetianas and marked the price right on the gold leaves with a large bold, black magic marker.

We immediately purchased all that were for sale and put them in our empty cardboard boxes excited to carry them home after the show.

For the next two days during the sale, we were constantly trying to keep people out of the boxes stacked behind our sales area. They looked past the bromeliads for sale and wanted to know what those golden leafs sticking out of the boxed were. Try as we might, we could not keep people out of the boxes. Some very diligent plant nuts pulled them out of the boxes, when our backs were turned, and insisted that we must sell them. So we tripled the magic marker price on the leaves. Although the price was clearly marked on the leaves, (who could miss a bold, black magic marker on golden leaves) they purchased them at a triple markup and went away as happy customers!



Photo: Carol Wolfe

Aechmea blanchetiana var 'Orange' (Brazil)

HOW TO PLANT A TERRARIUM

In Seven Easy Steps

By Tom Wolfe



1. Place 1" to 2" layer of pebbles at bottom on container taped with a thin layer of activated charcoal.

2. Fill with standard bromeliad mix to one and a half inches to a quarter of the container height (including drainage materials).



3. Make holes in the mix with a long stick.



for new growth.

4. Select bromeliads and/or companion plants that can tolerate low light conditions and remove them from pots, shake excess mix from roots and plant in holes. Be sure to allow room

5. Firm mix around plant roots and add decorative items or fine ground cover.



6. Use spray bottle to mist lightly.

7. Place terrarium in a shady area for a few days before moving it to its permanent location.

Plants used in the terrarium are: Tillandsia ionantha, Cryptanthus warren-loosi, Kalanchoe beauverdii, and Billbergia Casa Blanca.



THANK YOU

**Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society for hosting the September, 2014
Quarterly Meeting of the
Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies**

NEXT MEETING OF THE FCBS

**Next Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies Quarterly Meeting
Saturday, January 10, 2015
Bromeliad Society of South Florida, host**

2015 FCBS OFFICERS

ACCORDING TO THE

ROTATION SCHEDULE OF OFFICERS FOR FCBS 2015

THEY ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Chair – from Seminole Society

Vice Chair from Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society

Secretary – Florida East Coast Society

Next Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies Newsletter

February 2015

2014 FCBS TAX DEDUCTIBLE RECEIPTS

**The Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, Inc. is a 501 (c) 3 Non-Profit
Corporation, Incorporated in the State of Florida**

**Please make your contributions for 2014 year's tax deductible receipts no later
than the end of the year by mailing to:**

**Sudi Hipsley
6616 Tusawilla Drive
Leesburg 34748-9190**

Questions????

Please call Sudi at 352-504-6162

2014 FCBS Officers and Representatives

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FLORIDA COUNCIL OF BROMELIAD SOCIETIES
QUARTERLY MEETING
APRIL 12, 2014

Hosted by the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida
at the home of Ben and Kay Klugh
111 East Greentree Lane, Lake Mary, Florida 32746.

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Ashley Graham, at 1:00 p.m.

1. Roll Call/Appointment of Parliamentarian for 2014-Betsy McCrory was appointed as Parliamentarian for 2014 by Chairman, Ashley Graham.

2. Introduction of Guests and New Members-Members and Guests introduced themselves and were welcomed by the Chairman

3. Reports and Updates---

Secretary---Minutes of January 11, 2014-The minutes were discussed and accepted with minor revisions, minutes will be posted to the FCBS Website.

Treasurer---Financial Status---Sudi Hipsley-A financial report was given and filed for audit.

Webmaster---FCBS Website--Michael Andreas- Michael Andreas gave a report, new pictures of the Lisa Vanzant Collection are being uploaded to the site.

FCBS Newsletter---Karen Andreas- Karen Andreas gave a report, the February Newsletter, the first in the new digital format was well received. Karen Andreas was thanked for all her hard work.

Weevil Research---University of Florida-Theresa Cooper gave a report, a copy of which is attached hereto. Discussion ensued about funding for a trip to Belize, Susan Sousa moved to approve the funding in the amount of \$2,000.00 which was seconded by Tom Wolfe. The council voted unanimously to approve the request for funding in the amount of \$2,000.00.

4. Old Business---

Report of Auditor-Rick Ryals audited the books and records in accordance with the bylaws and as always, Sudi's books and records are in order.

Maintenance of FCBS Roster-Susan Sousa was appointed by the Chairman to Maintain the FCBS Roster. Extravaganza Committee Report—Rick Ryals reported on the progress made at the January meeting, discussion of interim year event for 2014 ensued. Discussion tabled.

Extravaganza 2014—Caloosahatchee cannot host interim event, Rick Ryals reported on the progress made at the January meeting, discussion of interim year event for 2014 ensued. Discussion tabled

Extravaganza 2015—Bromeliad Society of South Florida- Michael Michalski gave a report, the BSSF is in the early planning stages of Extravaganza 2015, more details to be announced.

FCBS Recognition Program Committee Report—Discussion ensued and a decision was made that the FCBS will not create a Recognition program at this time because individuals are more appropriately recognized on the local club level.

Newsletter Editorial Board—Concerns of Current Editor—Karen Andreas-Discussion ensued about the appointment of an editorial board, some members supported a board of multiple people whereas the current editor preferred the appointment of only one co-editor, a vote took place to determine the number of persons on the editorial board, by majority vote the Council decided to appoint on a co-editor rather than multiple persons.

Appointment of Initial Members of Newsletter Editorial Board— The Chairman appointed Carol Wolfe, of the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay to serve as co-editor.

Appointment of Standing Rules and Bylaws Review Committee—The Chairman will review and propose revisions to the Standing Rules and Bylaws. The Chairman asked everyone to review the Standing Rules and Bylaws and advise the Chairman as to any changes that they are aware of that were not memorialized.

Appointment of Weevil Committee—The Chairman appointed volunteers, Karen Andreas and Ben Klugh, to join Jay Thurrott on the Weevil Committee.

Bank Signature Card-Discussion ensued, Sudi to research with the bank, discussion tabled.
Other Old Business

5. New Business---

Resignation of Broward County Bromeliad Society-Discussion ensued, we hope that Broward decides to rejoin in the future, we need to revise the rotation schedule and create a rule that would retroactively apply the prior rotation schedule if a society resigns and rejoins within a short period of time.

Proposed Change to Meeting Frequency to Two Meetings Per Year—Sudi Hipsley

Proposed Change to Dues Structure—Rick Ryals presented various options, discussion ensued, discussion tabled.

Creation of Informational Materials for New Members, Officers-Completed by the Chairman and distributed to all via email, no changes were necessary. FCBS will give a printed copy of these materials to each new member.

Societies News—A report was given by each member society.

Previous Speakers at monthly meetings— A report was given by each member society.

Show Dates for all Societies—

Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society Sale, August 16-17, 2014. The Garden Club of Sanford (on 17-92, one block south of Lake Mary Blvd), 9:00 - 4:00, in air-conditioned building. Huge selection of bromeliads in many genera, orchids, aroids, ginger, other tropical plants, gift baskets, hand crafted slat baskets in several sizes.

Members will be available to answer your questions.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

The next meeting of the council will be hosted by the Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society at a location to be determined. Lunch is at noon with the meeting immediately following lunch at 1:00 p.m.



Canopy walkway at Myakka River State Park

Photo: Teresa Cooper

MEXICAN BROMELIAD WEEVIL REPORT JULY – SEPTEMBER 2014

Teresa M. Cooper and Ronald D. Cave

¹Indian River Research & Education Center,
UF, Ft. Pierce, FL

Research on the host bromeliad effect on the Mexican bromeliad weevil's oviposition rate, growth and development, and survival continues. We have collected much data on pineapple tops as well as on Central American and Florida forms of *Tillandsia utriculata*. We are in the process of organizing and analyzing the data. We will continue with this research over the next several months. Dates for the trip to Belize (to examine a Central American *T. utriculata* population coexisting with the Mexican bromeliad weevil) have been set for 18 to 26 November 2014. Applications for permits to bring weevils and bromeliads from Belize back to Florida have been submitted and so far about half of those have been processed and allowed.

We continue to collect samples from Florida *T. utriculata* and Central American *T. utriculata*, with the goal to determine if these two forms of *T. utriculata* are the same species, using DNA analysis. Two large Florida *T. utriculata* were sampled at Myakka River State Park in July and 14 Florida *T. utriculata* were sampled at Selby Botanical Gardens and 15 at Naples

Botanical Gardens in August. The specimens from Selby and Naples Botanical Gardens originally came from Fakahatchee Strand State Preserve. The Mexican bromeliad weevil arrived in Fakahatchee a few years ago and was wiping out the *T. utriculata* population. In order to save the remaining *T. utriculata*, the plants were moved from Fakahatchee to the Botanical Gardens, where they are being protected from the weevil. All plant samples were sent to Ryan Moraski at the Florida Museum of Natural History.

More field trips have been made to Myakka River State Park to get *T. utriculata* samples as well as to count the *T. fasciculata* and *T. utriculata* populations in those areas of the park that were monitored for mortality caused by the Mexican bromeliad weevil, from 2001 to 2005. Two to three more field trips will be required to finish data collection at Myakka.

Publications and Presentations Cooper TM, Frank JH. 2014. Description of the larval instars of *Lixadmontia franki* (Diptera: Tachinidae). Florida Entomologist 97(3): 1002-1014.

Cooper TM. The Mexican Bromeliad Weevil. Presentation at the Indian River Bromeliad Society in Vero Beach, Florida on 11 August 2014.

Cooper TM. The Mexican Bromeliad Weevil. Presentation at the Sarasota Bromeliad Society in Sarasota, Florida on 8 September 2014.