



# Orlandiana

Newsletter of the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida

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**Next Meeting:** Monday, March 26, 2007

**Refreshments: I - M**

**Where:** Leu Gardens, 1920 N. Forest Ave. Orlando

**This Month's Speaker:** Craig Morell, Horticulturist, Pinecrest Gardens

**This Month's Program:** "Breathing New Life into a Tired Garden"

**Time:** 6:30pm Refreshments

6:30pm Member Market

7:00pm Meeting begins

This is our first Member Market for 2007. Time for Spring cleaning, bring your 15 plants for sale.

## "Breathing New Life into a Tired Garden"

In 2002, the Village of Pinecrest purchased the old Parrot Jungle site, and opened the doors soon after purchase, to become the public park called Pinecrest Gardens. I arrived in late 2004, to start the long process of restoring almost every horticultural facet of the place, and quite a number of associated faculties as well. I had NO idea that there would be so many pipes to fix, sprinkler valves to discover, plants to uncover, water to move around, and things with spines at almost every turn. In short order, we found that a great many things had been untended in the last years of Parrot Jungle's life at this site, and we're continually finding creative construction techniques they used in years gone past.

Fortunately, I have an energetic Pinecrest Garden Club to supply help on occasions, and my 2 gardeners and 1 repairman are former PJ employees, and lend a lot of help. Our goal is to turn the place back to the middle 80s, when the gardens were at their peak. My own goal is to restore the epiphyte gardens that Nat Deleon had here some decades ago, and Nat has been hugely helpful in donating both plants and expertise. He is one of the last great collectors left and is a wellspring of historical information. I hope I can accomplish enough reparations to this site to do justice to his monumental work of 40 years' duration here.

Our first job is to remove a vast quantity of both weed species material and hurricane debris. The garden is built "close-in" and all labor and debris removal is by hand; no machinery can fit through the tight walkways. We've made some ground space, and are continuing to plant and replant many of the palms, bromeliads, ferns, orchids, and epiphytes of different sorts on trees and fallen trunks. As we receive donated orchid and bromeliad collections, we can get them planted or staged in nursery areas until we clear even more space. The local societies and nurseries have been outstandingly generous with donations, and many societies have done work days here.

As a great friend said when I took the job, "everything you've ever learned about horticulture has prepared you for this job". True in many ways, but I have a LOT more to learn before I can say I've mastered this old garden and her many secrets.

Craig Morell, Horticulturist, Pinecrest Gardens

## **President's Message**

Thanks to the 60 plus people who attended the February meeting. Thanks to Dennis Cathcart the guest speaker for his presentation on Tillandsias and plants for sale.

Monthly Plant Tables: The more plants available makes for a better variety of plants and more interesting tables. Each member is encouraged to bring some plants to donate to the society for the door prize, raffle and silent auction tables. This is one source of income for the society.

Don't forget to bring your blooming plants for "Show and Tell". You may also bring plants for identification OR get help with specific problems. We'll call it "Ask the experts".

BSCF gets the majority of their revenue from two plant sales each year. I would like to encourage members to volunteer as helpers at the two upcoming sales. You will have a lot of fun and learn a great deal about the plants. Please contact the chair persons:

Leu Gardens Sale / March 24 & 25

Magali Groves at 321.287.5373 or [maggiegroovie@aol.com](mailto:maggiegroovie@aol.com)

Mother's Day Show & Sale on May 12 & 13 at Fashion Square Mall

Quyles Force at 407.886.4814 or [Leorchid511@aol.com](mailto:Leorchid511@aol.com), or

Bob Smedley at 407.896.9850 or [cully808@aol.com](mailto:cully808@aol.com)

Thanks to all the officers and other people who give their time and talent to BSCF. You are appreciated more than you can know.

Please support your society by Volunteering to help or simply attending the Sales. DON'T FORGET!! the Leu Gardens Sale March 24 & 25.

Your President,  
Butch

## **Award Sponsors Needed**

You may become an awards sponsor for the Mother's Day Show & Sale with any amount. Previously sponsors have donated an average of \$15-\$20 each. Please contact the Awards Chairperson: Sudi Hipsley, at the next meeting with your donation and name. Sponsors will be recognized at the Mother's Day Show & Sale.

## **Just How Durable are Bromeliads?**

Well, they can be pretty tough if given a chance. One Australian grower had the misfortune of a greenhouse heater exploding on a cold night. The greenhouse burned to the ground leaving the plants scorched and leafless, as well as exposed to the cold. Throw them away? No! A careful cleanup resulted in literally hundreds of pots of "stubs". It took months, but green began to show. In a year and a half after the tragedy there were healthy pups growing from the stubs. Patience, care, and the plants natural will to survive resulted in a truly phoenix-like happy ending. The moral to the story? Your bromeliads will do great if you give them a chance.

This article originally appeared in the July/August 1982 issue of Bromeletter, Journal of the Bromeliad Society of Australia.

## **Out and About with Pam Flesher**

### **March 24 & 25**

Gainesville Bromeliad Society Spring Garden Festival  
Kanapaha Botanical Gardens  
4700 S.W. Archer Road (SR 24) 1 mile west of Interstate 75, exit 384,  
Gainesville. Call: 352-372-4981 or <http://www.kanapaha.org>  
Hours: Saturday 9:00 am to 6:00 pm, Sunday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

### **March 31**

Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society Master Gardener Sale and Plant-a-Thon  
Volusia County Fairgrounds, 3100 East New York Ave, Deland  
Hours: 8:30 am to 12 noon Free admission & parking

### **April 5-June 3**

Epcot International Flower and Garden Show  
Regular park hours. Epcot admission required. Information: [www.disneyworld.com/flower](http://www.disneyworld.com/flower) or 407-934-7639

### **April 6, 7, & 8**

Central Florida Orchid Society 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Orchid Show & Sale  
Central Florida Fairgrounds Main Building, 4603 W. Colonial Dr. (Hwy. 50), Orlando.  
Hours: 9 am – 5 pm Admission: \$5.00 Free Parking  
[www.cflorchidsociety.org](http://www.cflorchidsociety.org) or 407-249-1731

### **April 14 & 15**

Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society Spring Plant Sale  
Sanford Garden Club Building, 200 Fairmont Drive, Sanford  
Hours: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm both days Contact: Sudi Hipsley 352- 504-6162.

### **April 14 & 15**

Bromeliad Society of Broward County 11th Biennial Show and Sale  
"Everything's Coming Up Bromeliads"  
Trinity Lutheran Church Hall, 11 S.W. 11th St., Ft. Lauderdale  
Admission: Free Hours: Saturday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Sunday 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm  
Contact Telephone: 954-925-5112, Jose Donayre at [jcadonayre@bellsouth.net](mailto:jcadonayre@bellsouth.net)

### **April 21 & 22**

Bromeliad Society of South Florida Annual Show and Sale  
Fairchild Tropical Gardens, 10901 Old Cutler Road, Miami.  
Hours: 9:30 am to 4:30 pm Admission: \$20 Garden entrance fee includes  
Dale Chihuly exhibit throughout the Gardens [www.ftbg.org](http://www.ftbg.org)  
Chairman: Robert Meyer, [Robertcmeyer@compuserve.com](mailto:Robertcmeyer@compuserve.com)

### **April 21 & 22**

26th Annual Sarasota Bromeliad Society Show and Sale  
"Pirated Bromeliads" Exhibits, sales, food, rare plant auction.  
Marie Selby Botanic Gardens, 811 S. Palm Ave., Sarasota  
Hours 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Admission: \$12 Show and Gardens  
Show Chairman: Dr. Theresa Bert 941-795-6012

### **April 28 & 29**

Apopka Foliage Festival  
Kit Land Nelson Park on Park Ave., Apopka.  
Hours: 9 am to 5 pm Admission: Free  
Contact: Mary Francis Mancuso 407-884-6488

*Racinae*, refers to the discoverer of this plant, Racine Foster, who along with her husband, Mulford B. Foster, found this plant in Santa Teresa, Espirito Santo, Brazil in 1939.

My first knowledge of *Vriesea racinae* came in the following paragraphs by Mulford and Racine Foster from their book, Brazil: Orchid of the Tropics.

“A long tedious walk through dense jungle brought us to what proved to be a paradise for the air-minded bromeliads and orchids which were thriving in tremendous quantity in glorious air gardens. Almost a dozen genera of epiphytic bromeliads were represented here.... Although there were also so many on the low trees and on the fallen branches that we seldom had to cast a wishful eye up to the heights. It was the first time in Brazil that collecting was fairly easy!



“It was here that Racine found her first new species, a most interesting little curly leaf, spotted vriesea, a dwarf type. Although the one she found was on the ground, they normally grew high in the treetops. After several difficult climbs for more, Mulford came down with but a few of the little green gems, to find that only a few feet away a fallen branch held several within easy reach.”



The size of *V. racinae* is such that anyone could find room for it. It grows in a dense rosette, the leaves are 10-12 centimeters long and slightly recurved with ocellated spots. The inflorescence reaches a height of approximately 17 - 19 centimeters and slightly bends. It is a cool growing plant found at 775 meters. The ocellated spots are on the flower spike and on the floral bracts that bear 4 to 5 ivory flowers with a slight fruity smell, opening over a period of two weeks,, lasting several days each. It seems that the seed self-set, or most of us who grow this plant

are unaware of the night visitor. In most of northern California we are gifted with four or five offshoots, which when treated properly will bloom the following year.

This article first appeared in the September 1979 newsletter of the Bromeliad Study Group of Northern California. All photos courtesy of FCBS.org.

# Clumping in Tillandsias

by Herb Plever

In their natural habitats many tillandsias grow in large masses and clumps on trees, shrubs, and on the side of cliffs. This is especially true of the smaller species that we have been growing in our homes and greenhouses.

Those plants with clumping tendencies continue to grow in clumps in greenhouses though not so densely as in habitat. Indoors, however, only a few small tillandsias produce large clumps. This suggests that the humidity of the greenhouse is responsible for the better clumping over the indoor environment. Add the factor of constant moving air in the outdoor habitat and you get large masses of plants.

Other factors that seem to contribute to clumping are;

1. The tendency of some species to produce large numbers of offsets.
2. The tendency of some species to produce offsets long before they flower. This may be augmented by the reluctance of some species to flower.
3. Frequent fertilizing for cultivated plants appears to increase clumping.



There are many species of tillandsia which clump in nature. From the smaller plants in my collection which clump in habitat but not in my apartment, I can list *Tillandsia erubeescens*, *T. arhiza*, *T. montana*, *T. neglecta*, and *T. tectorum*. The dry growing *T. tectorum* which grows in solid masses of thousands of plants on cliffsides, produces one or two pups after it flowers when grown indoors. Yet *T. argentina*, *T. bergeri*, *T. disticha*, *T. recurvata*, *T. usneoides*, *T. funckiana*, *T. bartramii*, *T. caliginosa*, *T. capillaris*, *T. crocata*, *T. diaguitensis*, *T. edithae*, *T. heteromorpha*, *T. lorentziana*, *T. ionantha*, *T. mallemonitii*, *T. bandensis*, *T. funebris*, *T. rectangula*, *T. retorta*, *T. narthecoides*, *T. paleacea*, *T. remota*, and *T. schiedinana* all produce large clumps of plants. Some species, such as *T. bergeri*, seem to be reluctant to flower indoors, and instead produce really large numbers of offsets before they bloom after three or four years. I have one clone whose offsets have produced several hundred plants after flowering six or seven years ago.

Other clumping plants that are very reluctant to bloom indoors for me are *T. diaguitensis*, *T. heteromorpha*, and *T. remota*. I am confident that I would be able to flower them if I had a chance to experiment by changing watering, light exposure, and fertilizing regimens for each plant.

I have been experimenting with ethylene gas on tillandsias. If I'm successful, I will try to force the reluctant bloomers with ethylene pills. It would be a boon for us if they work as we could then mount a huge wall of blooming tillandsias in our spring flower show exhibits. Stay tuned for further developments.



# Minutes of the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida

February 26, 2007 Regular Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by President Butch Force and it was announced to all that the meeting would be taped to insure accuracy of the minutes. No members objected to the taping of this BSCF meeting. All officers were present which included Vice President, Neal Ekengren; Treasurer, Rick Rector; and Secretary Daniel Almaguer. A total of 62 members and guests were present.

We welcomed new members which included Kathy Andrews of Winter Springs (Kathy's new dog is named Bromelia), Mike Blair & Randy Austin of Kissimmee. We welcomed visitors Barbara Dellonte, Angela Demo, Ann Guerra, Andrew & Margaret Cooke from England.

Vice President, Neal Ekengren introduced guest speaker Dennis Cathcart who gave a fantastic program: "Tillandsias in the Wild". Dennis has traveled to more than 25 countries collecting rare species of plants. In the process he has had broken bones and hit by a falling boulder. He has won the Wally Berg Award of Excellence in 2002 and is the first recipient after Wally himself. The award recognizes growers of their Bromeliad expertise and diversity of species cultivated, their activities in the community, and their advancement of Bromeliad sciences. Dennis has spent the month of December setting up a Bromeliad Exhibit in Asia, which included shipping 2 ½ tons of bromeliads air freight to Singapore. The power point presentation showed us many breathtaking Tillandsias from Costa Rica, Ecuador, Columbia, Brazil, Belize, Honduras, Venezuela, Mexico and Panama. Dennis explained "Monocarpic" species reproduce from seeds since they don't produce pups. They produce many seeds which are quick to germinate and grow relatively quickly in comparison to other bromeliad species. Visit Dennis's website as [www.tropiflora.com](http://www.tropiflora.com) to receive his Tropiflora CARGO REPORT or to order plants.

Break from 8:08pm to 8:25pm

The minutes of the January meeting were approved and the Treasurer, Rick Rector gave the treasurer's report that will be filed for audit.

**Old Business:** Magali Groves, chair of the Leu Gardens show, March 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> announced that set up for the sale would be Friday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> from 1-7pm. She passed around a sign up sheet for more volunteers and stated that all sellers must work the plant sale at least 8 hours. We have 7 vendors to date. The rules and regulations for this show will be in the March newsletter. If you want to sell at this show please contact Magali Groves at (407) 877-6791.

**New Business:** Butch asked for a show chair for the Mother's Day Show. Quyless Force and Bob Smedley volunteered to Chair the annual show Mother's Day Weekend May 11-13. This will be our 32<sup>nd</sup> show. Betsy McCrory will be assisting with the show details.

**Announcements:** Treasurer Rick Rector reminded all paid members to pickup their renewal BSCF membership cards at the front table before leaving the meeting. Renewal dues for 2007 must be paid by the end of March to insure your monthly newsletter.

Vice President Neal Ekengren announced next month's guest speaker will be from Parrot Jungle, Miami.

Steven Wagner, Editor of Orlandiana, newsletter of our society was commended for a job well done.

Pam Flesher, Out & About, announced the upcoming Orchid Show & Sale, April 6-8 at the Fairgrounds on Hwy 50

Door Prizes and Raffle plant winners were announced.

Raffle donations were from Butch Force, Sudi Hipsley, Daniel Almaguer, Greg Spak, Pam Flesher, Eloise Beach, Jim Pearce, Lisa Robinette and Steven Wagner. Thank you for all the bromeliad raffle donations. We encourage all members to bring nice bromeliad raffle donations to every meeting. We only have two sales a year to generate revenue and the monthly raffle is a great money maker for the club. Please remember to identify each raffle or door prize donation as a courtesy to all our BSCF members.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm

Respectfully submitted, Daniel Almaguer, Secretary

# PLANT SALE RULES - LEU GARDENS – 2007

**YOU MUST REGISTER BY MARCH 22, IF YOU WANT TO SELL AT THIS EVENT.**

Register with Magali Groves, chair at 321-287-5373 or [maggiegroovie@aol.com](mailto:maggiegroovie@aol.com)

Confirm your BSCF Membership/ID Number and approximate times you will be working in the Sales Booth.

**The chair will have the final authority on any matters not covered.**

SALE HOURS: Saturday, March 24 8 a.m. - 5 p.m (SETUP FRIDAY 1 - 7 p.m.)

Sunday, March 25 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

1. Everyone who sells plants MUST:

A. Be a member in good standing of BSCF as of March 1, 2007

B. Abide by these Sale Rules

C. Work in the Sales Booth during sale hours:

At least **4 HOURS** (50 or fewer sale plants) At least **8 HOURS** (51 or more sale plants)

(You do not have to work the entire time yourself, if you designate someone else to work in your place.)

◆◆◆ **ANYONE FAILING TO SATISFY THE ABOVE WORK REQUIREMENT  
WILL FORFEIT AN ADDITIONAL 25% OF THEIR GROSS SALES**

2. Only Bromeliads may be sold by members. The bromeliads may be sold bare root, potted or mounted using decorative or non-decorative materials. Only the Society may sell books, mounting materials, pots & other items.

3. Setup will be Friday afternoon March 23 1 - 7 p.m. You may be able to carry in plants before 7:45 a.m. Saturday morning. There is no limit to the number of plants you may bring, but please be courteous to others. SPACE IS LIMITED. You must furnish your own table, if desired. Part of your plants may be displayed on the ground.

4. **25% of your gross sales will be deducted as a donation to BSCF.**

Florida sales tax will be collected from the customers.

5. **Plants must be priced in EVEN DOLLARS.** The minimum price shall be \$1.00.

Plants should be priced & labeled BEFORE they are brought to the sale.

6. **Your BSCF Membership Number will be your seller ID number.**

Top of label

Bottom

7. All plants must be CLEARLY marked with two labels:

A. Label with PRICE and ID number on SAME side of label

B. Label with correct plant name (stays with plant)

PRICE	ID
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Sellers are strongly urged to affix a small self-adhesive PRICE STICKER prominently on a leaf. Plants usually sell faster when the price is easily seen.

8. Plants must be clean & in good condition, free from insects or disease. Potted plants should be well rooted, and pots should be cleaned. You may also sell mounted or bare root plants, but labels must be secure. Bare roots with soil attached may be bagged for neatness. (Bring some empty pots or boxes for displaying bare root plants.) Questionable plants will be removed from the sale by the Sale Chairman. Plants will be inspected by the State.

9. **Members are encouraged to DONATE plants in good condition for the sale.**

Label them as described above and simply write "BSCF" instead of an ID number.

10. The BSCF expects its members to be respectful of each other and of the public, to behave in an appropriate manner and to resolve any problems in a calm, rational matter. Inappropriate behavior includes, but is not limited to, verbal abuse, using obscenities or other vulgarity, verbally or physically threatening or harassing other members, fighting or challenging to fight, pushing, shoving, throwing things, or other threatening behaviors, violence, sexual misconduct, or any other behavior that threatens the safety and security of others.

11. Plants not claimed by 5:00 p.m. on Sunday will be considered a donation to BSCF. Reasonable care will be taken, but the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida cannot assume any responsibility for loss or damage to your plants.

The Bromeliad Society of Central Florida, Inc. was formed in 1972 to encourage the exchange of information concerning the culture, identification and hybridization of the plant family *Bromeliaceae*; to promote & maintain public interest in bromeliads and to assist in the preservation of all bromeliads for future generations.



Meetings are held the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of every month from 7-9 PM at Harry P. Leu Gardens, 1920 N. Forest Avenue in Orlando. For directions: 407.246.2620 or [www.leugardens.org](http://www.leugardens.org). You'll enjoy informative programs, Show & Tell, plant sales, refreshments & door prizes. Members also receive a monthly newsletter — all for only \$10 per member, plus \$2 per additional family member (no charge for full-time students). Visitors are always welcome.



BSCF is an affiliate of the Bromeliad Society International, Inc. and a member of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, Inc. and the Cryptanthus Society.

BSCF is a nonprofit Florida corporation recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations to this society are tax deductible in accordance with IRS regulations.



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Permission to reprint is granted with acknowledgment. Please send all correspondence to the address below:



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 Address Correction Requested

## March 2007

**Next Meeting: Monday, March 26, 2007**

**Time:** 6:30pm Refreshments

**Member Market**

7:00pm Meeting begins

**Refreshments: I - M**

**Don't Forget**

**March 24 & 25**

Bromeliad Society of Central Florida

Harry P. Leu Gardens Annual Plant Sale

1920 North Forest Avenue, Orlando

Hours: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Free Admission