



BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF GREATER CHICAGO

# THE BSGC NEWS

JANUARY , 2013

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WEB SITE

<http://bromeliad-chicago.org>

Webmaster

Lori Weigerding

This is the time to renew your membership. We have not increased the rate so it is still a bargain. Please send your dues to Paula as soon as possible.

The Officers have voted to award Jack and Ardie Reilly a Lifetime Membership in the Bromeliad Society of Greater Chicago in recognition of all the work they have done for our Society.

## *President's Column*

*WOW what a crazy winter we're having this year! I don't mind it a bit, but I'm sure the farmer's are going to be hurt by it since we were short water all year. Hope not though! I hope and pray that most of you have remained healthy and have avoided contracting this awful flu! I am just recovering from a 4 week bout with it! I don't think I really had any fevers, but I sure coughed a lot, made sleeping a very hard thing! Unfortunately I seem to be getting sick again - no, no!!*

*That last newsletter was something else! I so enjoyed looking at all those wonderful pictures! Steve you do a wonderful job of picture taking, as we all know from the slide presentations too!*

*I'm looking forward to more sunshine and slightly warmer days! I hope this year I can find a way to put my plants outside for some needed airing! I guess I'll have to put them on the front porch as that's the only covered area and pray no one bothers them! So are you all looking forward to warmer days? I just had an idea, we could share what we're planning on doing*

*with our plants come warmer times and maybe give each other ideas! We can share them at a meeting and/or send an email so we can put it into the newsletter. What do you all think about that? :-)*

*Well Martha was kind enough to send out an email about who could come to the meeting in February and only one person responded that they expected they could, so we'll hold off having a meeting in February and work towards March. Julie did do some checking into us renting a school bus and having a tour of the Mitchell Park Conservatory. The cost of the school bus is pretty expensive and the lady at the Conservatory wants a minimum of 15 people, which we probably won't have. So we'll have to do some more talking and see if we can figure out some way to do it. So put on your thinking hats, because it really sounds like a great place to visit!! Thanx very much to Julie for taking on this task!!*

*Lori Weigerding*

Have you wondered where they came up with the genus names in the Bromeliad Family? One of the early bromeliad plant people asked the question in Volume 1, Bulletin No. 6 of the Bromeliad Society Bulletin. I found it reprinted in the Long Beach Lakewood Bromeliad Study Group Newsletter of June 10, 1976.



From [www.fcbs.org](http://www.fcbs.org)

Until I started writing up the bromeliads for Dr. F. C. Hoehne's "Flora Brasílica," I had taken the scientific names pretty much for granted. However, the format of his monumental series requires an explanation of the generic name. This would seem a simple matter of locating the original publication of each genus and reading what the author said about it, but it usually turns out that he gave little or no clue to the ingredients of his name.

Of course it is fairly obvious when the name has been taken from a person as is the case in twenty-two of the thirty-five genera of Brazilian bromeliads. When it comes to finding who they were or even when they were born and died it is often not so easy. At the time they were so well known that no explanation seemed needed, while now we know of Guzman's A. Guzman only that he was a Spanish apothecary

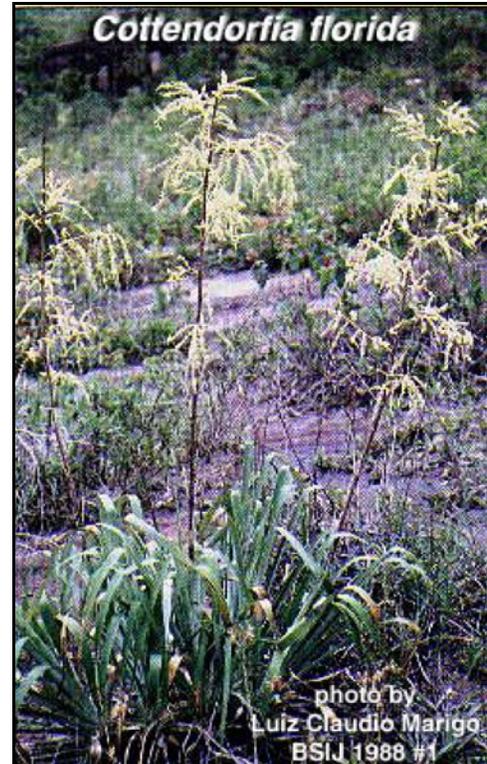
who must have lived before 1802, and can only conjecture that Quesnelia honors a certain E. Quesnel who was a french horticulturist.

A further puzzle is why so many of these men do not seem to have left any botanical records of their own. I suspect that they were patrons rather than active botanists. Notice that five names, Cottendorfia, Navia, Dyckia, Fernseea, and Hohenbergia were from Germanic nobles, a class that supported art and science notably in the period when these genera were made. It should be admitted that Prince Joseph Salm-Reifferscheid-Dyck fully merited the recognition as a horticulturist and that Wawra von Fernsee was distinguished both as a collector and writer. Fernseea, a genus of a single species, found on a single mountain in Brazil, is indeed a fitting memorial to the man who discovered, described and colorfully illustrated it in writings of small quantity and high quality.

An interesting item in the personal name category is the matter of encores. Many men have had one genus named for them but a few were so popular or so famous that they have had more. Or it may be that someone else with the same name has been so honored. For instance, there was already a Cohnia in the lilies, so Mez used the Greek “Deuter” meaning a second time to make Deuterocohnia for Dr. Ferdinand Julius Cohn. Neoregelia is for Edward August Von Regel, Director of the Botanic Gardens of St. Petersburg, Russia, and discoverer of a number of highly ornamental bromeliads. In this case the same species were listed under the generic name Aregelia, until a flaw was found in that title, and now Neoregelia (meaning new regelia) is the recognized name. With Neoglaziovia we have the top in bromeliad encores, for A. Glaziou, the French botanist and landscape architect, who lived in Brazil many years, collected so many new genera that his name is used to form not only Glaziovia in the palms and Neoglaziovia in the bromeliads, but six others as well. Before the Fosters invaded Brazil, Glaziou also held the record for discovering new species of bromeliads in that country.

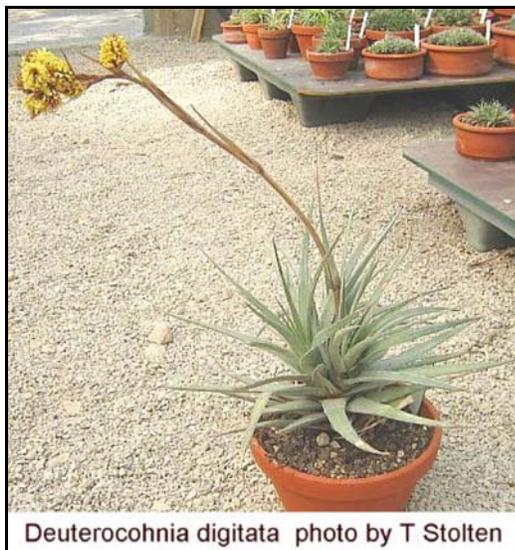
The remaining genera have Indian or classical names. There are but two Indian names represented in the Bromeliads: Puya (meaning point) from the Mapuche Indians of Chile and Ananas from the Guarani of Brazil, Pseudananas, the imitation pineapple, is sort of Greek-Indian hybrid.

The other names are from Greek or Latin and most of them them are apt and



obvious like Streptocalyx, twisted calyx, Nidularium, nestbearer, Encholirium, Sword-lily, Acanthostachys, spiny spike, and Araecoccus, air berry. Cryptanthus, hidden flower, was more aptly named than it's author ever lived to realize, for it was in cultivation well over a hundred years before Mulford Foster pointed out that it had two types of flowers. Some names take a little explaining like Canistrum, little basket, referring to the inflorescence, and Aechmea, long point, referring to the large spines on the sepals of Ae. Paniculata, the original species. However, your guess is as good as mine as to what was intended by Orthophytum, meaning straight plant, or what flight of fancy is back of Catopsis, meaning a view. Maybe since it was an epiphyte it had a good view.

Lyman Smith



As time goes by, we continue to lose details in almost every subject about the history of things. There is a lovely two volume set Stapeliads of Southern Africa and Madagascar by Peter V. Bruyns. This set also includes a history of the discoverer and details about the namesake of many plants. In many cases, pictures of the discoverer or the namesake are included. One of the many features of this work which makes it exceptional.

I personally have heard stories where people have passed away and their children have destroyed papers, blueprints and books which were important historical records lost to historians and collectors. . At least today, we can sell “worthless” items on Ebay. We should inform our children what to do with the items that are important to History.

If you like pineapple then you may be interested in the Australians new creation, ‘pina colada’ pineapple.  
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/agriculture/geneticmodification/9723258/Scientists-create-coconut-flavoured-pineapple.html>

This is about a coconut flavoured pineapple called AusFestival. Very Interesting.

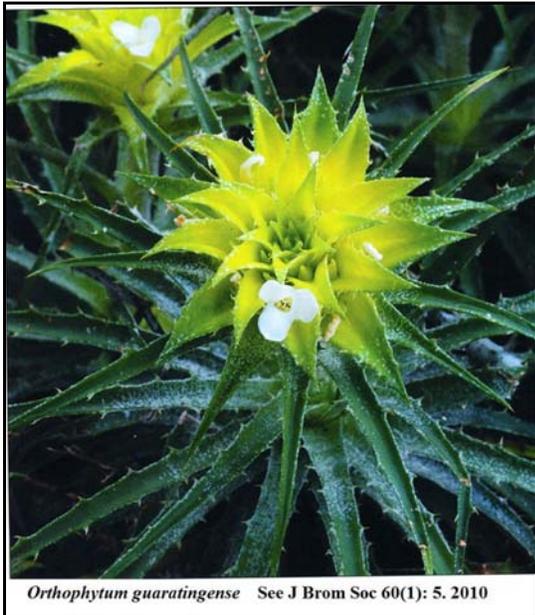
How are you and your plants doing this winter? Did it get as cold as the weather experts predicted? The following article is from The Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society, November 2012 newsletter.



## Do We Believe Them?

I've read it in the local paper and I've heard it on the evening news – it's even on the Internet, so it must be true! We are predicted to have a *colder than normal Winter*. Who “they” are who have made this prediction is hard to determine - some years we hear of the forecast made by The Old Farmers Almanac, some years it's the National Weather Bureau, and some years it's someone's solemn statement based on the appearance of those lovable experts in meteorology – the woolly bears. Regardless of who you believe or doubt (my money is on the caterpillars), we would all be wise to have our cold weather protection plans in place before that first blast of arctic cold drops the temperature below freezing. It's been my experience that in Port Orange we can expect at least several occasions each Winter where the temperature will drop below freezing. During those Winters that are referred to as “mild” we still have several nights where the mercury dips below 32 degrees F for a few hours. During those Winters that people call “cold”, we have several nights that are well below 32 and those temperatures persist for enough time that tropical plants become severely damaged. So, whether we have a mild Winter or you believe this year's predictions for a severe one, it really doesn't

matter – unless we take some precautions, we’re going to have some cold damage (or worse) done to our bromeliads. The only issue is ‘what can we do to protect our bromeliads and avoid cold damage that is nearly certain to threaten our plants this Winter?’ Fortunately, there’s quite a lot that you can do, depending on the amount of effort that you wish to put into it. Probably the first thing that you should do is to identify those bromeliads in your collection that are most likely to suffer when those cold fronts sweep through the state. This isn’t necessarily as easy as it might seem. There are quite a number of plants in my collection that have been severely damaged or worse (I like to say that I “lost” them - it sounds so temporary!) at temperatures that friends in other areas tell me have no effect on the same species and then there are those in my collection that have survived temperatures that others say should certainly cause extensive damage unless they are protected. Why the discrepancy? It may be that different clones of the same species exhibit different levels of cold tolerance or the difference may be due to microclimates that exist in some areas of my yard and are responsible for slightly colder or slightly warmer conditions from where my outdoor thermometers are placed. Obviously, the number of hours that temperatures dip below the freezing point is important,



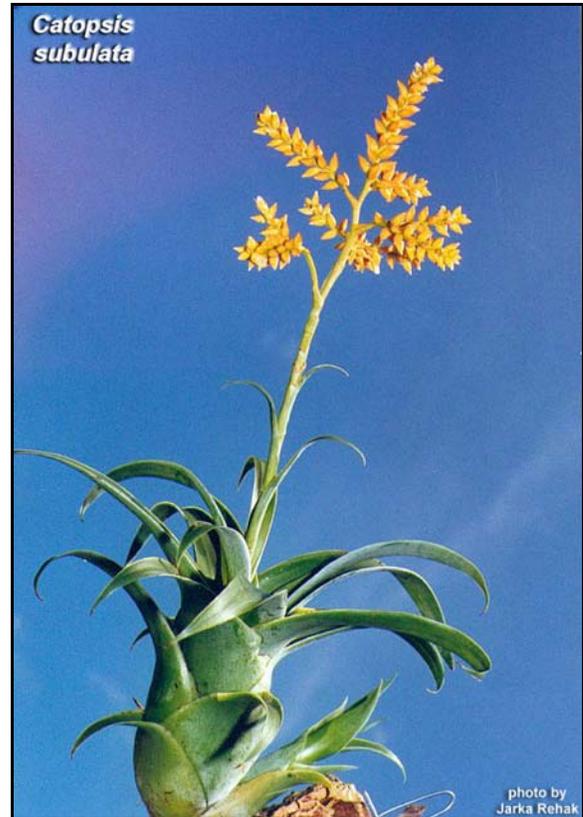
*Orthophytum guaratingense* See J Brom Soc 60(1): 5. 2010

Orthophytum guaratingense from  
[www.fcbs.org](http://www.fcbs.org)

but we might also keep in mind that the exact temperature often is not as critical as the condition of the plant that is exposed to the cold. A bromeliad that has been seeing temperatures in the mid-80’s and is being pushed into putting out new growth by being fed large amounts of fertilizer will be damaged by a sudden cold snap more than a similar plant that has experienced numerous days of cool weather, has had fertilizer withheld recently and is consolidating existing growth. It is also often noted that bromeliads that have been well watered before the temperatures plunge below freezing survive better than those that have been stressed by dry growing conditions. Then there are those plants that are simply *unpredictably* more affected by a brief exposure to cold weather than others. That’s

why there are so many, sometimes contradictory lists circulating that reflect each author’s personal experiences with cold weather. What should you do to identify the cold-tender plants in your collection? Start with some generalities. First - None of your bromeliads will tolerate more than brief exposure to below freezing

temperatures. Most will be unaffected by temperatures in the 40's (F). It's those in the range of 32 degrees to 39 degrees that we are most concerned with. This doesn't leave much room for error and it means that you either have to place a great deal of trust in your local weatherman's predictions or you should be prepared to put your cold protection plan in place whenever he or she says that temperatures may fall into the upper 30's. Some other generalities: Members of the **Cryptanthus** Genus do not tolerate temperatures approaching freezing very well – protect them. Some will even suffer at temperatures below the mid-40's (F). Fortunately, they are small and don't take up too much room if you decide to bring them into your house. Treat your **Orthophytums** as you would Cryptanthus.



They are not quite as sensitive as the Crypts, but I've had some bad experiences with members of this group that I expected to be a little hardier than they proved to be. **Aechmeas** range widely from cold-tolerant to cold-tender, depending on the species. Some of the biggest, toughest looking Aechmeas develop cold damage at the first hint of cold weather, so ask your fellow club members what their experiences have been with this group before leaving their fate to chance. **Tillandsias** tend to be pretty cold tolerant and will not need heroic measures for their comfort during the passing of a cold front... with some notable exceptions – I can recall some years ago when a club member purchased several *T. xerographicas* and lost them all when temperatures fell to the mid-30's. He left them outside...at the advice of another club member. Many **Vrieseas** survive very cold temperatures quite well and, although they may look similar in appearance when not in bloom – members of the Genus **Guzmania** do not tolerate cold nearly as well. One exception that I've found to this is in the *Guzmania lingulata* minor group. **Dyckias** survive very low temperatures very well - **Hechtias** do not!

There you have it; some very general guidelines to get you started thinking about what you need to do to prepare for Winter weather. Of course there are exceptions to each of these generalizations, but if you start by thinking that you need to protect all of your Cryptanthus and Orthophytums, some of your Aechmeas and all

of your Guzmanias and Hechtias you might have a good idea of how much frost cloth you need. Don't know what frost cloth is? More on this next month



Jack Reilly's Picture of his Blooming  
*Aechmea mulfordii* cv 'Malva'

All pictures except for the last one by Jack Reilly came from the [www.fcbs.org](http://www.fcbs.org) website. That is the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies.

# Bromeliad Society of Greater Chicago Membership Application

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Make your check or money order out to the Bromeliad Society of Greater Chicago

Simply fill this form out and mail with payment to:

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