

# Scurf

Bromeliad Society of Broward County

December 2003

*Special Holiday Edition*



**NEXT MEETING IS THE "HOLIDAY PARTY" DECEMBER 15, 2003**

TROPICAL ACRES RESTAURANT  
2500 GRIFFEN ROAD

January's guest speaker will be

**"Tom Wolf"**

**January 21st, 2004**

Members plant sales will be **CLOSED**

We meet the Third Monday of every month (**except January**)

at 7:30 p.m. in the Broward Agricultural Extension Building

3245 College Avenue, Davie, Florida

## **Calendar of Events**

**July 26th - August 2nd 2004** - 16th World Bromeliad Conference hosted by the Bromeliad Society International and the Greater Chicago Bromeliad Society Westin O' Hare Hotel in Rosemont (Chicago), IL.

**April 2004** - **The Plant Affair**, more info to follow

## President's Message



To everyone, I wish a Happy and Healthy Holiday. Our party on December 15th at Tropical Acres will start us off for the Holiday season. We have a wonderful meal planned and then our plant exchange, (bring your plant in a brown bag). We will end the evening by giving each of you a plant as our gift from the society.

We've had a wonderful year and I want to thank each of you for jobs well done. I especially want to thank the Hendrix's, Tim, Colleen and Matt for an amazing job they have done with the Scurf.

Happy Growing your Bromeliads

My Best Always,

Polly

On the Front Cover: Tillandsia ionantha

Grown By: Ann Schandlemeyer

Photographed By: Tim Hendrix

## The Care of Bromeliads in Cold Weather

By Bill Frazel

Now that winter is coming it is time to think about protecting your plants. Many of the bromeliads can take the cold down to 40 degrees without damage. If it is colder than that or if there is a danger of frost you should cover the plants or bring them inside.

If you cover your plants outside **DO NOT** use plastic as this will cause the leaves to burn. Use old sheets or bed spreads as they hold the heat in. If by chance we have a hard freeze and your plants are unprotected, there will be ice in the cups. Many people think this will kill the plant but actually the ice protects the meristem. The leaves will turn brown but the plant will survive. There is a list of plants in the BSI journal and the amount of cold each could take, we will try to provide copies for you.

In general, however, we have found cryptanthus and sechmies to be the most cold sensitive. In part sechmies *Magdalena quadricolor* should be brought inside below 50 degrees. The *Sechmies fulgens* group is also sensitive below 50 degrees. The hardest seem to be the *Dyckias* followed by *Vrieseas*.

Cold damage is manifested by white spots and browning. Browning should be trimmed so as not to introduce bacterial growth.

To get more tips for the cold see Bill Frazel at our next meeting.



Dr. Terrie Bert educates our members on the wide variety of Aechmeas, along with tips on how to grow beautiful healthy plants.





Bonus Plant  
Winner

Diabe Tuttle

Fasciata Politi



Name Tag Winner

Jim Keays

Neo... "Martini"



## COLD WEATHER PROTECTION

Our last few winters have been mild, but don't be lulled into forgetting to protect cold sensitive plants. There are some common sense guidelines which should be observed. If you have a plant that is valuable to you, protect it. If you're not sure about its sensitivity, be on the side of caution. Because plants haven't had time to become acclimated, damage can occur if there is a sudden temperature drop after a mild spell. Pay attention to weather forecasts that indicate a sudden drop. Be wary of the wind chill factor. If you have wind protection on the north and west, so much the better. Large trees also provide protection.

Grant Groves wrote the following suggestions for the Newsletter of the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay, July 1988.

- If you are not using ice to protect your plants, water them well a day before expected cold.
- Cover to prevent frost from settling. Never leave the cover on after the sun comes up.
- Plants in containers are more susceptible than plants in the ground.
- Less nitrogen, more potassium will increase cold hardiness.
- In general, the most cold hardy bromeliads come from southern Brazil, Bolivia, Paraguay to Argentina.
- Frost can be as damaging as a freeze and forms at temperatures above 32 degrees and as high as 38 degrees.

- Duration of cold is as much a factor as actual temperature.  
(NOTE: This article was originally published in the December 2001 issue of Potpourri)

Some years ago in the newsletter of the Bromeliad Society of Broward County (before becoming the Scurl) Nelson Redfern provided these tips:

1. Keep plants warm. This can be achieved by bringing them indoors or by providing heat where they grow.
2. Provide cover to plants. This prevents heat loss by convection air currents and prevents evaporative heat loss. If plants are on or in the ground, it also prevents ground heat loss and creates a warm pocket.
3. Keep plants out of the wind when possible. Convection air currents will lower surface and core temperatures of plants. Keeping plants close to the ground as well as moving plants next to buildings or other larger plants that will shield the wind.
4. Place plants in areas where warmth is likely to be preserved. Close placement to the ground or on the ground where conduction from the warm ground will help. Close placement to bodies of water, large trees or buildings will also help.
5. Cover open shade structures. This allows for the retention of warm air by entrapment. This also allows the warm air to be stratified (warm air tends to rise)







