

# Scurf

## The Bromeliad Society of Broward County



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings!

I was very pleased to hear that everything went smoothly during my vacation. A special thanks to Caroline Plechac and Larry (Smiling Larry) Davis. We're off to a great start for what is going to be a great year. The cruise and garden tour to Nassau, March 3-5, 2010 has been received enthusiastically and there are only a few spots left. Any questions call Stephanie at 954-384-2122.

#### PRIVATE SALE OF SUCCULENTS, CACTI, DYCKIAS HECTIAS and DEUTEROCOHNIA

On July 25, 2009 we will be attending the private sale of former member Stan McMillan in Palm Beach, Florida. Stan, a judge and meticulous grower, is moving to Louisiana. He has donated his library to us and we will be going to this sale. We plan to leave our home at 8:30 a.m. We have room in our van for 3 or 4 persons. Let us know if you are interested in driving with us or if we have enough interest we can possibly follow each other up to Palm Beach.

#### SHOW AND TELL TABLE

Please share your interesting plants with us and see Richard for a raffle ticket for a chance on a special plant. The drawings for "name tags" and "show and tell" will be drawn at 6:55 P.M. before the meeting begins. It would be much appreciated if those generous donors to our tables could also put a label in the plant. It will help us to correctly identify your plants if necessary.

Maureen

## BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF BROWARD COUNTY

P.O. BOX 17272  
 PLANTATION, FL. 33312

### 2009/2010 Officers and Directors

President	Maureen Frazel	954-474-1349
Vice President	Caroline Plechac	954-927-0015
Recording Secretary	Richard Sedlak	954-296-5633
Corresponding Secretary	Gail Shirlaw	954-437-5219
Treasurer	Tami Newett	954-316-8902
Directors:		
3 year	Marcia David	954-321-9229
2 year	Larry Davis	954-434-8466
1 year	George Henderson	954-630-8635
Immediate Past President	Colleen Hendrix	954-530-0076
Editor	Marcia David	954-321-9229
Photographers	Tim Hendrix	954-530-0076
	Bill David	954-321-9229

Our meetings generally offer a speaker on timely and noteworthy topics, member plant sales, a plant raffle, special holiday plant auctions, diagnosis of disease and pest problems. We also offer a Country Store with selected bromeliad and gardening supplies. We meet the third Monday of every month (except January)

at 6:30 p.m.



The Bromeliad Society of Broward County is a member of, and supports:

**The Bromeliad Society International**

<http://bsi.org>



The Bromeliad Society of Broward County is a member of, and supports:

**The Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies**

<http://fcbs.org>



Billbergia tessmannii

Photo by Dorothy Berg

Permission: FCBS

### NEXT MEETING:

Monday, July 20, 2009

Plant viewing at 6:30 p.m. (new time)

Meeting begins promptly at 7:00 p.m. (new time)

Where: Jim Ward Community Center

301 NW 46th Ave. (Park East Drive)

Plantation, Fl. 33317

\*\*\*\*\*The Member Sales Table will be CLOSED\*\*\*\*\*

We will have our Raffle Table.

Our speaker for July 20, 2009

will be Peter Kouchalakos

He will speak on

USING BROMELIADS in your LANDSCAPE

and offer his bromeliads for sale.

Peter is a native of Coral Gables, Florida. He is a 15 year member and past President of the Bromeliad Society of South Florida. A lawyer by education, Peter devotes time between his nursery duties and operating a private orchid maintenance service that has enabled him to observe numerous backyard collections in all sizes. Peter is a Certified Horticultural Professional with the Florida Nursery Growers Association. He is a licensed Commercial Landscape pesticide applicator and also is a Miami-Dade County Code Violation Appeals Hearing Officer.

He and his wife Clara own PCK Orchids & Exotic Plants.

Peter and Clara are a dynamic duo. They have been in the middle of the Bromeliad scene for quite a few years since Peter left his legal career for full time devotion to their plant passion. They have served regularly in all phases of landscaping as well as the BSSF. They have always been well received as speakers.

Our speaker from last month, Dennis Giardina, has sent along the following web address for information on controlling Bromeliad Weevils.

<http://entomology.ifas.ufl.edu/frank/bromeliadbiota/wvbrom9.htm>

### AUGUST INDOOR PICNIC

August 17, 2009

See Harriet Abo if you plan to attend and bring food for the potluck. Remember this is at no charge to paid members, Non-members and guests will pay \$5.00 each. The club will purchase the meat entree.

There will also be a silent auction of some of Stan McMillans' books and distribution of plants from Stan McMillans' sale. You won't want to miss our picnic which begins at 6:30 P.M.

Happy Birthday and many more

to

Becky Blackwood

Marcia David

Fred Fazio

Harry Ferguson

Jim and Nancy Ferguson

July birthdays - please bring a contribution to the Refreshment Table.

Get a **free** raffle ticket for a special drawing.

If we missed your birthday or have you listed in the wrong month, please correct me!!

**CO-LIBRARIAN'S NEEDED**

We have an outstanding library that we would like to see used. We need somebody with an interest in books and room for a standard bookcase. Two people would be perfect so that there would be a responsible person at every meeting. Most of these books are out of print.

See Maureen Frazel to volunteer!

**JUDGE'S SCHOOL**

An opportunity is coming your way to attend a BSI accredited school which will not be given again for at least 5 more years. The 1st of 5 schools will be given on September 19th in Ft. Myers. Generally the schools are given every 6 months in Ft. Myers or Ft. Lauderdale. There will not be make-up schools for the first two schools. After the two schools are completed you would be eligible to student judge at the WORLD CONFERENCE in New Orleans which will be held in July of 2010.

CALL MAUREEN FRAZEL FOR FURTHER INFO.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

Place Saturday, December 12th on your calendars now for our annual Christmas Party at the Plantation Preserve.

Time is: 11:00 A.M.

The price remains \$30.00 per person and includes a voucher for one free drink.

**NOTICE OF BOARD MEETING**

The Board will meet on July 27, Monday at 7:00 P.M.

Jim Ward Community Center

Please make every effort to attend.

## Growing *Alcantarea imperialis* - Part 1

by Alan Herndon



*Alcantarea imperialis* is one of the perfect landscape plants for southern Florida. It is an imposing specimen that can grow in full sun, will last for years in prime condition and is incredibly tough once established in the right spot. There are no marginal leaf spines to contend with, so even non-bromeliophiles can love the plant. Furthermore, several clones with different leaf colors (green to red to a dark purple) are now available, so you are not limited to a single color palette.

There are a few potential pitfalls you need to be aware of in growing these plants. First, this is not a water-loving plant. The fastest way to kill an *Alcantarea imperialis* is to plant it in an area receiving supplemental water every day or in a poorly drained soil. On the other hand, *Alcantarea* is not as drought resistant as many succulents, so you cannot expect it to grow to full potential in an unwatered cactus bed. Second, these are large plants. In full sun, an *Alcantarea imperialis* will be 6 foot across; in shade it can be 10 foot across. Additionally, these plants typically do not stay in one place, but slowly creep along the ground surface over time. Finally, this species does not normally produce offsets after flowering. Of course, once reaching flowering size, the plant will usually take 5, 10 or even 15 years before flowering. You grow this species for the shape of the plant and color of the leaves. *Alcantarea* is dependent upon healthy roots for good growth. When the roots remain too wet or too dry, they are stressed and quickly die. At this point, a fungal infection usually invades the base of the stem and the crown of the plant eventually falls over. Early signs of trouble are a rapid increase in the number of dead lower leaves. If you have a small plant with several 'hair pups' around the base of the stem, a clear sign of trouble is the death of some of all of the 'hair pups'. You can minimize the possibility of this root death through proper watering.

The plants survive quite well when watered once a week. Just be sure to water the ground under the plant well so the roots get some water too. However, all is not lost even if the crown is completely loose. As long as there are several live leaves in the crown, it is usually possible to resurrect the plant by treating the affected portion of the stem with a broad-spectrum fungicide and thereafter keeping the base of the stem dry (placing it in an empty pot is usually sufficient).

**Just be sure to water the ground under the plant well so the roots get some water too.**

Check periodically for new root growth from the base. When you see new roots, plant in a well-drained soil mix or well-drained patch of soil in the garden. (This procedure will displease the impatient because you can expect several months to pass before new roots are produced and then several more months before the crown reaches its original size and shape.)

As mentioned before, *Alcantarea imperialis* does not normally produce pups after flowering, but usually produces a profusion of hair pups around the base while small. These pups can be successfully removed and grown with 4-6 leaves that are 2-3 inches long. If left on the parent plant, the pups will grow faster, but you run the risk of the parent putting out roots that envelope the base of the pup and make removal impossible.

The hair pups usually disappear once the parent nears full size. (Hair pups are still being produced in the lower leaf axils, but the overwhelming presence of the parent deprives them of water, nutrients and light.) Under certain conditions (not under grower control), one or more of the hair pups will survive and grow attached to the parental stem, but you should not depend on this to replace a plant that flowers.

Terrie Bert, in a presentation to BSSF, suggested that flowering plants may be induced to produce pups near the center by adding small amounts of controlled release fertilizer to the axils of the lower leaves. This technique is certainly worth trying.

You will have to be patient with any pups produced by this method. Even with species of *Alcantarea* that normally produce central pups, these pups do not grow quickly enough to match the decline in the parent. You will have a period of a year or more before the pups reach sufficient size to replace the original parent. You will also have to keep an eye on the parent during the entire process. If the stem of the parent begins to rot, the pups may be infected and killed. Usually, stem rot starts at the base of the stem and moves slowly towards the tip. It is almost always safe to leave pups attached until the rot moves within a few inches of the pup base.

Of course, you can always keep several full-size plants around (if you have the space) since they are unlikely to all bloom during the same year. Alternatively, you could keep a smaller plant or two on hand in case your big plant decides to bloom. In any case, you should have this plant in your collection. Even if you don't have room for a full-size plant, you can grow smaller plants in pots. The smaller plants (1-2 feet across) have the same appearance as the full-size. If you grow the plants slowly by withholding fertilizer, you can enjoy them for at least a few years. When the plants outgrow their allotted space, you can always donate them to the BSSF (or the BSBC) auction and start over with smaller plants.

**Reprinted with permission from Alan Herndon and the Bromeliad Society of South Florida**



Greetings from your new Raffle-Meister, Larry Davis.

This year we are restructuring our raffle to make the raffle faster and more interesting. We will use Chinese Raffle cards. These are 4 inch by 8.5 inch colored cards containing 25 individual perforated tickets, all with the same ticket number. These will be sold at **\$5.00 per card of 25 tickets.**

Each of the plants or items on the raffle table will be accompanied by a colored, plastic cup. You will separate the ticket or tickets and place them in the cup designated for the plant you hope to win. You can place one ticket in 25 different cups, all 25 in one cup or distribute them among those cups representing any plants you hope to win. One ticket will be drawn from each cup to designate the winner. You need keep track of only one number, since all of your 25 tickets have the same number. You will only win plants that you really want. You may buy multiple cards for more chances to win or if you do not choose to distribute all your tickets, you may save some tickets for future raffles. All tickets submitted will be held to draw for any plants not having any tickets.

**If you have any questions, I will be at the table before the meeting.** Thanks for the read and 'good luck' to all of you! Larry



Billbergia euphemiae  
Photo by Bromeliario Imperialis  
Permission: FCBS



Cryptanthus latifolius  
Photo by Bromeliario Imperialis  
Permission: FCBS





BSBC Country Store

The Garden Shop has the following items for sale at great prices!

See Bill Frazel to purchase.



ITEM \_\_\_\_\_ PRICE

Five and Six inch pots	5 pots for \$1.00
Plant Name sticks	50 sticks for \$1.00

Other supplies may be purchased direct from:

Universal Enterprises Supply Co.

2171 Blount Rd.

Pompano Beach, Fl. 33069

954-979-0600 or 1-800-432-3009



Location

Directions from I-95:

Exit onto Copans Rd. west (exit #38), drive two miles west; turn left at the light for Blount Rd; as you're heading south, stay in your far right lane; it is actually a turning lane; stay in it, then make a right hand turn as it ends; pass the Coca-Cola plant and follow the road to the end.

Directions from the Turnpike:

Exit at Pompano Beach (exit #67) - Coconut Creek Pkwy & Martin Luther King Blvd.; after the toll booth make a left at the light onto Martin Luther King Blvd., then make an immediate left turn; you'll be heading north parallel to the Turnpike; go .08 of a mile; turn left when you see our sign - we share the road with a Coco-Cola plant; they are at the end of the road.



NEOREGELIA Franca

Photo and permission by Harry Sperling

**EMAIL ADDRESSES NEEDED**

The Scurf has gone GREEN and your email address is needed if you wish to receive your SCURF online. The price to mail the Scurf has now risen to 44 cents.

Email your address to [marbilld@comcast.net](mailto:marbilld@comcast.net)

Thank You !!

BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF BROWARD COUNTY  
Membership Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Month of your birthday \_\_\_\_\_

Would you be willing to serve on a committee or otherwise assist?

Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

Permanent Name Tag? No\_\_\_ Yes\_\_\_ Paid\_\_\_

Membership Dues are:

**\$20.00** per year for individuals.

**\$25.00** per year for more than one member at the same address.

Please make your check payable to:

Bromeliad Society of Broward County and mail this page to:

Gail Shirlaw, Membership Chairman

P.O. Box 17272

Plantation, Fl. 33318

**We meet on the 3rd Monday of the month at 6:30 PM at:**

Jim Ward Community Center

301 NW 46th Ave.

Plantation, Fl. 33317

954-585-2353