
Scurf

Bromeliad Society of Broward County

March 2003



NEXT MEETING: MONDAY, MARCH 17, 2003, 7:30 P.M.

SPEAKER: GRANT GROVES

Grant has been a part of the bromeliad world since he was nine. A manager for twenty years for Bert Foster's Tropical Arts bromeliad nursery in Orlando, he decided to step out on his own and open Colorzone Tropicals, eight years ago. Colorzone specializes in bromeliads for the interior landscape industry.

He will be bringing plants to sell at this meeting, so come early for first choice. He has also been on several collecting trips to South America

TOPIC: "LATEST" TRIP TO PERU"

Please note – Member Sales will be OPEN this month

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

March 15-17, 2003 Selby Botanical Gardens

Spring Plant Fair 10-5 811 S. Palm Ave., Sarasota
Admission \$10 www.selby.org

March 22-23rd, 2003 Palma Sola Botanical Park Spring Garden Festival, 9800 17th Ave. North West, Bradenton, FL 941-761-2866 palmaso-labp@aol.com

April 11-13 23rd Annual Sarasota Bromeliad Show and Sale

"Bromeliads On the Net". Standard show, sales, banquet, rare plant auction at Selby Botanic Gardens, 811 S. Palm Ave., Sarasota, 10:00-4:00 Rob Branch show chairman 941-358-4953 or ldolatow@tampabay.rr.com. Plant sale only on April 11th, Show and Sale 12-13th. Reduced admission if you were a Bromeliad Society name tag (or membership card).

April 12 – 13, 2003 – BSBC Show and Sale

International Fishing Hall of Fame, Dania Beach, FL

This is our biannual big event. Start getting ready now.

For questions, please call Ann Schandelmayer, 954-583-1124

April 12, 2003 – Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies meeting in conjunction with the BSBC Show and Sale at the International Fishing Hall of Fame

April 12, 2003 – Friends of the Deerfield Beach Arboretum will hold its annual Arbor Day Sale in the Arboretum, Constitution Park, 2841 W. Hillsboro Blvd. 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Info is available by calling 954-480-4494.

May 3rd and 4th, 2003 – Plant Affair held at Heritage Park more info to follow

May 3rd & 4th 2003 Bromeliad Society of South Florida Show & Sale,
Fairchild
Tropical Garden, 10901 Old Cutler Road, Miami, FL. Karl Green show chair-
man

**May 9th & 11th 2003 Central Florida Bromeliad Society's 28th Annual
Mother's Day**

Show and Sale at Florida Mall in Orlando, 8001 S. Orange Blossom Trail.
10:00-9:00 May 9th & 10th and Noon - 6:00 on May 11th Free parking and
admission. For more info FloridaPRO@aol.com

July 26 - August 2, 2003 - 16th World Bromeliad Conference

Hosted by the Bromeliad Society International and the Greater Chicago Bro-
meliad Society Westin O'Hare Hotel in Rosemont (Chicago), IL

President's message



I feel we are at an all time high in our collec-
tive activities. The programs have been
great. The raffle table has been excel-
lent as you can tell by the sales. The food
has been delicious and plentiful. New
member Gini Vy Fvinkel brought us a lus-

icious lime cake and Harry Sperling brought one of his fabu-
lous chocolate cakes.

The banana nut bread was excellent. I will find out in
March who the baker was. Also, the anonymous donuts
and lemon creme cake were appreciated. Remember March
birthday people, we are counting on you.

This meeting will be on St. Patricks day. John Irvine must
be congratulated for organizing over fifty people for the
bus trip to Tropiflora.

The show table popularity contest was won by Bud Hendrix's
Guzmania Whitmackii purple, followed by Colleen Cope's
Guzmania Torch and Frazal's Aechmea Manzanaresiana with
orange bracts.

This months show table will be for decorative containers
and pre- show entries. We will have identification and tips
to improve your ribbon, so bring lots of plants to talk
about.

Jay's Thurrot's program was very well received. A basic program has been long overdue. March will bring a pro with slides and unbelievable Plants for sale.

The behind the scenes work is underway. The schedule and entry cards will be given at the next meeting. We are counting on at least one entry from each of our members.

From our experienced growers we hope for five and for those for those sweepstakes hopefuls you must enter at least 20 plants. Any of our active members our encouraged to participate in the set-up, show day and hosting in 2 hour segments any and all. This participation will mean the show is representative of all members and not just a few, even if you have to dig up something from the landscape.

I would now like to take this opportunity to thank Larry Davis and Susan Gutman for all of their hard on the Scurf, they came though for us and worked diligently each month to give us a newsletter. As some of you may know the Scurf was produced last month by Colleen Cope and the torch has now been passed to her. I would like to welcome her on board and thank her and her staff for taking on this endeavor. She can be reached at Timbo-169@attbi.com or our mailing address attention Editor.

Again, thank you to all.

Moreen Frazel, president

April's Guest Speaker

Bill Frazel

Don't miss this meeting, as always it will be
informative and note worthy!!!!

Editors Note

Hello again,

First, I would like to thank all of you for your wonderful and supportive comments on the Scurf. I want to also remind you that your garden stories and comments are welcomed. In this issue we will have a blank page representing our new

"Advertising Page"

We are very excited to bring to you this feature in the Scurf, it will give you a chance to advertise your business or services to the other members of the Society. Use this vehicle as way to grow your business, as you may not know the Scurf reaches over 90 people and growing every month. The cost will be \$10.00 per month and all proceeds will go to the society.

See you at the next meeting,

General Store

Our general store will be open at the meeting. We have pots, identification tags, cork, and other items to help raise your beautiful bromeliads.

New Members

Michael Lipman
3140 N.W. 69th CT.
Ft. Lauderdale, Fl 33381
Sig2me3@msn.com

Mounting Bromeliads

By Odean Head

I have chosen mounting as a subject for cultural tips because it plays such an important role in the displaying of our beautiful bromeliads. After all, there are very few plant families that have plants that will grow as epiphytes so we need to take advantage of this capability in our displays. These tips have not changed that much since we published them last year and are directed primarily at the newer growers. However, I hope that this will serve to motivate some of the older growers to make some new mountings. We really need to have more quality mountings entered in our shows so the public can see the full capabilities of bromeliads. This ability to grow on wood is one of the qualities that attracted me to bromeliads so I am sure that many others have had the same experience. So let's create some exciting conversation pieces ourselves and maybe we can attract some more of our friends to grow bromeliads. Growing, working and sharing plants with friends becomes the most enjoyable experience we have in our hobby.

The first steps are to find some good mounts and some good plants that are ready to be mounted. I will select my mount first because those resources are usually more limited. Once you get started mounting you will always be on the look out for good mounting material. Mount material should be rot resistant, salt free and contain no wood preservative. Some good woods to use are cedar, juniper, oak, mesquite and rosewood. Tree fern slabs and cork bark also make good mounts. Some of the most beautiful mounts that I have found are stumps from juniper or cedar trees. You can also purchase some interesting designs made from tree fern and grape vines at some of the nurseries and pot places. Once you have selected your mount, take a little time deciding which plants you are going to use. Pick something that will improve in appearance as it is allowed to grow and multiply on your mount. Most Tillandsias and Billbergias form attractive clumps. Other genera such as Neoregelias, Aechmeas, Canistrums and Vrieseas that have stolons will make nice displays.

The mount for your selected plant should provide balance between it and the plant(s) and space for the plant to form its natural shape. I prefer to mount pups so I must visualize how they will look when they have matured and multiplied, covered with sphagnum moss and will need to be watered regularly to continue the nutrient flow to the plant. The reason I prefer to mount pups is because they form different kind of root systems when they are mounted. When mounted, they will form a small number of hard, strong roots that just serve as holders and do not provide nutrients to the plant. When grown in soil they form large, soft root systems which provide additional nutrients to the plant. If you choose to mount a plant that has already formed the soft root system, the mount should be able to accommodate the plant's root ball. This root ball should be covered with sphagnum moss and will need to be watered regularly to continue the nutrient flow to the plant. Once I have selected my mount and plant I must decide the best way to achieve a good firm fit. This is important because roots will not attach to the mount if the plant is loose. Larger plants are easier to mount if they have stolons. I attach these plants by nailing two staples around their stolons into the mount. Several sizes of staples are available to accommodate the different sizes of stolons. I use juniper or cedar mostly which is so hard that I have to drill holes for the staples to penetrate deep enough to hold the plant tight. I will use some pantyhose strips on larger plants for extra support. When using tree fern slabs or cork bark it is best to put holes in the mount and tie the plant on using plastic coated wire. Most of your smaller tillandsias can be attached by only using hot glue, liquid nails or plumber's goop. You can also use these to secure any existing roots on all your mounts. When using the hot glue be careful not to damage the plant. Apply the glue to the mount and allow to cool a few seconds before pressing the plants roots against it. Do not glue the tender part of the plant above its roots.

Now that you have the basics, all that is left is to practice. Each mounting you do will be better than the one before; each artistic masterpiece will please you more than previous one.

Letters to the Editor

Got a Shade House?

Good question! If you have filtered sunlight coming through the trees in your yard then the answer is probably no; but if you have direct sunlight and want healthy happy plants, you need a shade house . A shade house can be built and located just about anywhere, big or small, freestanding or attached. You can be as creative and elaborate or as simple as you want. On a scale from 1 to 5 the job is about a 4. In future issues of the Scurf I will be writing about shade house basics and taking photos to help you build one yourself.

-Tim Hendrix

Show Tips for your Bromeliads To get that Blue Ribbon

Plants should be:

- 1) selected with good growth configuration and color.
- 2) whether in a pot or mounted - very clean with no scale.
- 3) in a pot proportional to the plant size.
- 4) centered in a good clean pot with clean potting mix.
- 5) properly identified - help is available if needed

-Bud Hendrix

March Special Show Table

The show table this month will be:

"Get those beauties ready for the show"

It's open to everyone. This is the perfect chance to get that one **tip** that could put you on the road to winning "**Best in Show**"

- 1) Bring your Bromeliad that you believe could be a winner
- 2) If you need it identified - someone will do that too!
- 3) Tips to increase your chances of winning!!!!

The "**Show Schedule**" will be in your hands by the time we have our meeting. The Show Schedule will include: entry eligibility, rules, categories, registration requirements, show hours and judging.

February's Show Table Winners "Anything in Bloom"



1st place winner
Bud Hendrix
Guzmania
"Wittmackii purple"



2nd place winner
Colleen Cope
Guzmania
"Torch"

Members Page



Bonus Plant Winner

Chuck Nicholl

Vriesea - hybrid

Name Tag winner

Colleen Cope

Can-Mea "Jaspe"

Don't forget.....you too can bring your plants, crafts, any plant related item to sell on the plant table. 20% of your earnings goes to the BCBS. It's a great way for everyone to buy great stuff that you have to offer!!!!!!



Happy St. Patrick's Day

Special Thanks

Larry Davis for his past efforts of the Scurf

Susan Gutman for her past efforts of the Scurf and continued efforts with the Show Schedule.

Matt Hendrix for his computer skills and helping with the Scurf

Reminders

March's Birthdays: Please bring goodies for the refreshment table.

Announcements

New Advertising Page

**Please don't forget to advertise in the Scurf
Only \$10.00 per month for 1/4 page !!!!!**

We want your garden story!

Including pictures (If possible). Participation in The Scurf is welcome. We would like to have a special interest section dedicated specifically for our members in order to share and enjoy each others own personal backyard of treasures.

E-Mail your backyard fun to:

Timbo-169@attbi.com

Or submit to editor at meeting.