

# Scurf

Bromeliad Society of Broward County

March 2006



NEXT MEETING: FEBRUARY 20TH, 2006

*Guest Speaker: IGNACIO MORENO  
"High Altitude Bromeliads"*

*Get a birds eye view of spectacular bromeliads that you may have never seen before. These bromeliads grow at extremely high altitudes. Ignacio will be giving us a better understanding of these unusual plants. This will be quite a show for all of us!!!!!!!*

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

**Plant sales will be open!**  
**We will also have our plant raffle**

*About our Guest Speaker*

Ignacio Moreno was the CEO for a large construction group. His territory being Colombia, Ecuador and the Caribbean. However, he was bitten by the Bromeliad Bug and for more than 25 years now, Ignacio has been a hobbyist and collector of High Altitude Bromeliads, 9,000 ft above sea level at his own farm near Bogotá, Colombia and some at medium altitude 4,000 ft above sea level at another farm near Bogotá, Colombia. He has received many notable visitors specializing in Bromeliads among which was Prof. JASON GRANT from Switzerland. Many of these Bromeliads are on the PCBS website "High Altitude Bromeliads from Colombia" and on the website of Prof. Charles Dicks of California.

# Calendar of Events for 2006

## **March 25-26 - Bromeliad Society of Central Florida**

Harry P. Len Gardens Sale  
1920 Forest Avenue, Orlando  
Saturday 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
Sunday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

## **March 31-April 2 - Tropiflora Spring Festival**

3530 Tallevast Road, Sarasota  
Friday and Saturday 8:00 AM-5:00 PM  
Sunday 10:00 AM-3:00 PM  
941-352-2267

## **April 1 - Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society**

Master Gardeners Sale  
Volusia County Fair Grounds  
9:00 AM (half day only)  
State Road 44, just off I-4

## **April 9 - Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society**

Annual Bromeliad Bonanza  
Blossom World Gardens  
4225 Bloom Lane, Sanford  
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM  
End Martin at 321.363.7351  
Public is invited, admission is free

## **April 22-23 - Bromeliad Society of South Florida**

Annual Show and Sale  
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens  
10901 Old Cutler Road, Miami  
Show Chairman: Robert Meyer, 305-668-3344  
Commercial sales: Peter Kouchalakos, 305-461-2367

**May 12-14 - Broward Society of Central Florida**

Mothers Day Show and Sale  
Orlando Fashion Square Mall  
3201 East Colonial Drive, Orlando  
Friday and Saturday 10:00 AM - 9:00 PM  
Sunday 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM  
Betsy McCroxy 407-348-2139

**June 6 - 11, 2006**

**Bronelands on the Border**

**17th World Bronelnd Conference**

Town and Country Resort & Convention Center  
500 Hotel Circle North, San Diego, California 92108  
<http://www.towncountry.com> More info: <http://febs.org/>

**June 7 - World Conference Judges School 3** - The all-day school will be held in San Diego. Pre-registration, including a small fee is required. For more information, contact Betty Ann Prevatt, JCC Chairman, at 239-334-0242 or email [bprevatt@pc@aol.com](mailto:bprevatt@pc@aol.com).

**August 19-20 - Seminole Bronelnd and Tropical Plane Society**

Fall Tropical Plane Sale  
Garden Club of Sanford  
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM  
Sudi Hipsky at 352-728-5002 or Bud Martin at 321-363-7351  
The public is invited. Admission is free.

**September 30 - Florida Council of Bronelnd Societies' Extravaganza**

Sale, banquet and rare plane auction. Miccosukee Indian and Gaming Resort Convention Center, Miami, Florida USA. For more information visit [www.febs.org](http://www.febs.org).



## The Presidents Message

This time I would like to bring to the attention of our members, three important administrative matters discussed by the Board in the last two meetings.

One refers to the deadline for dues. According to our By-Laws our year starts with our general meeting in May when new officers take their assignments. However, the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies to which we belong, require that Societies report their rosters, and pay their dues by April 1<sup>st</sup>. For that to be done we need our members to pay their dues in advance of May, in fact, by our meeting in March. Therefore, we would like you all to come to the meeting, money or check in hand, ready to pay. This will allow the Council to include your name in the list to receive your quarterly Bulletin. Otherwise you will be missing it for the whole year. So, please, advance your dues.

The second matter refers to the upcoming elections. The Board has agreed to regularize the election process. The nominating Committee, hard at work since January, will announce the slate of officers at the next meeting on March 26. Nominations from the floor will be considered at the April meeting and voting will ensue immediately so the new officers will preside at the May meeting.

Finally, a reminder that the Board has decided the Society will participate in the plant sale at Heritage Park April 22-23. All members are invited to sell plants at this affair which has been very productive in the past. If you need any help to prepare and prep your plants, just let us know. We will keep you posted. In the meantime, enjoy your beautiful plants!

Pepe



Above, Dr Terri Bert selling an assortment of great plants to Sydney Sator.

Right, Terri always giving an enthusiastic program.

Below, Sara winning the Bonus Plant two midnight.



## Members Gallery By Jesse Donayre

This time our feature is Fred Sutton's garden (he calls it his Jungle) who presided over the Society in 1992. He came to Florida in 1925 from Brooklyn where he had developed a taste for orchids and bromeliads and was introduced to bromeliads by the Frazels. Since then he has been collecting bromeliads, spectacular orchids and many other plants.



Whoever visits his place is amazed at the location. One is truly surrounded by tropical plant life, bromeliads holding, as you can see, a place of honor. On the left, a pair of *Ae. Mexicana*s, with several nees and a *Nidularium*. On the right, several *Ae. Mendocana* and a large dark tree.

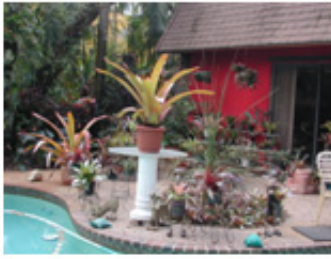


A striking part of Fred's garden is the arrangements he has made of plants around natural areas particularly around trees or where he has enhanced the views with pieces of scenery or, as in the case of the plants hanging on a wall, mixed effectively nees, tillandsias and small rockers.

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In the background two beautiful specimens of the variegated  
Edmundon Lindenii.

Near the pool two Ac.  
Blanchetianus require  
the deep orange glow with  
the reflecting light and a  
bed of numerous two  
Guzmania surround a  
striking plant on the  
patio.



Some individual plants  
were impressive for their size and coloring, like the  
Aloemeria imperialis Extensa at the bottom, whose leaves had  
an intense iridescent copper tinge; the large Ac. Mulfordii  
near La Malva in bloom with its typical dark leaves; and  
the particularly large Guzmania cordata in full bloom.





Bill Frazel winning the Auction Plant for February



Auction Plant  
for the Month of March



### Book of the Month

We will bring to the meeting the large format "Bromelíneas III", the latest book by Francisco Olibo Esteve published in 2002. This elegant book adds to his previous publications on the bromeliads of Venezuela, his native country. He prefaces this excellent collection of color photos and his own illustrations with a short history of exploration in Venezuela going back to the first bromeliad findings at the time of the Spanish conquest. These were followed by the more scientific botanical expeditions by Dutch and German naturalists in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries..

Stunning color pictures of well known and rare bromeliads are organized following the three sub-families i.e. Bromeliaceae, Tillandsiaceae and Pitcairniaceae, under which you will find the genera we are more familiar with. Each plant is described in great detail identifying the person and the year it was registered, its native habitat and characteristics. It also offers spectacular views of the geographical settings where they grow. This is a beautiful book to browse but also an informative one for the serious student of bromeliads.

# NEOREGELIA PUPS

## Believe It or Not

By John Dotlan, From Bromeliad #5 2001

Why should growers consider the first pup the best?

In humans historically the age of maturity is 21, although in those times males stopped growing around 16 or 17 and females a year earlier depending on diet. The modern man is 17 or 18 for males and a year earlier for females. The age of maturity was pegged at 21. This allowed a fighting soldier when he stopped growing four or five years to put on bulk and muscle and be trained. He then could remain quick (and alive) while using offensive and defensive weapons for the length of the battle. If we accept 21 years for a human to reach their peak and for argument sake, we pegged 21 months as a suitable time for producing a mature Neoregelia (Show not Sale). The varieties of Neoregelias that are large, that is in excess of one metre across, take over two years say 33 months to reach the maturity we are discussing. Accepting this as a starting point, read on and think.

### MOTHER NEOREGELIAS AND FLOWERING

Increased day length is usually the accepted trigger that initiates the flowering of Neoregelias. The hormone that produces growth at that growing centre stops and a hormone that produces flowering takes over. The growth hormone that was concentrated at the growing centre of the Neoregelia is distributed throughout the plant and within days triggers a growth eye and a pup is being formed (usually two at a time). Also consider that to get good colour in Neoregelias you are helped by cool nights, warm days and low nitrogen levels. For the sake of the argument, we will select August the first (March in the Northern Hemisphere) as the day that flowering is initiated. By this date, day length is obviously increasing and we have warm days and cold nights.

In the next three months, the potting mix is warmed up, soil bacteria die and break down in increased numbers making the fertilizer (their decomposing bodies) readily available to the Neoregelias. (Keep in mind the initial build up of bacteria reduces nitrogen as it is tied up within the bodies of the increasing number of soil bacteria.) This increased availability of fertilizer is then used by the Neoregelia to finish the growth of the existing leaves and finish off the flower tract.

In pineapples the stem of the pineapple accumulates stored up energy ready for flowering which requires relatively intense energy. I assume weevilkins could do the same but to a lesser extent because of the proportion of the weevilkin plant stem to pineapple plant stem and the requirements of the finished product, the weevilkin tree versus pineapple tree.

The readily available fertiliser from the decomposing treekin and the natural fertiliser is being dissolved in the water and sucked up by the plant and used up rapidly in leaf extension and tree growth.

During this stage the new pups are mere pimples on mother's tree. Once all this is completed by the first of December (a nominal date), the fertiliser/growth has only three destinations. First - seed production if any, second - pup production and third (the least important) - nurturing mother.

The leaves only have a finite life expectancy but a poor nutrient supply means mother will suck nutrients from her lower leaves to honour her commitments. This hastens the demise of mother.

What happens if mother runs out of energy/fertiliser in producing the first one/two pups and can't replace energy/fertiliser because it is not readily available and if it has fed off the lower leaves these cannot now function at peak efficiency. It means the quality of nutrients in the first generation pups may be lower than that of the second generation. By nurturing mother plants in good condition will result in pups having better quality of nutrients, faster pup production and more pups faster. The discrepancy in nutrient levels would be less.

Conclusion of opinion at the end of part one about 'is the first pup the best?' it is probably YES but not necessarily so.

### Reminders

March Birthdays please bring goodies!

Happy Birthday to.....

Jose Donayre, Richard Konefal, Judy Moses,

Jim Sharpsteen, Susanna Walker

Anyone we missed? Then Happy Birthday to you!

### Announcements

**Dues are Due!!!!!!**

Welcome All New Members & Guests

Mike Mathews, Shirley and Richard Konefal,

Judy Moses

A big Thank You goes to.....

The Nominating Committee for all their diligent work

### On the Cover.....

Androlepis skinneri x Aechmea fasciata

Grown by: Bud Hendrix

Photographed by: Colleen Hendrix

### Editors Disclaimer

Any spelling errors or wrong identifications  
will be corrected in the following Surf!

sculptures, urns, water gardens, fountains, benches

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